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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA,
8.00 o'clock P.M. February 20, 1964.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Department III--Treasury. We have before us now Resolution 8, Administration--

MR. MOLGAT: Before the Session adjourned this afternoon, Mr. Chairman, we were discussing savings bonds and so on. There were reports in newspapers earlier this week that the Premier had been to New York to negotiate additional borrowing for the government. I wonder if he could give us a report now on his negotiations and what was accomplished?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I'm a little surprised at my honourable friend. I told him all the facts about it yesterday afternoon at great length.

MR. MOLGAT: I hadn't realized that he had written that whole statement or had got it ghost-written in New York, Mr. Chairman. I was under the impression that my friend prepared his own speeches in this regard. Could he tell us what specific loan was covered at that point?

MR. ROBLIN: That was the one referred to in the Budget Speech, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MOLGAT: What was the rate of interest on that, Mr. Chairman?

MR. ROBLIN: Well it's stated in the Budget Speech, Mr. Chairman. If my honourable friend will---he'll find it.

MR. MOLGAT: The speech made by my honourable friend was so long, Mr. Chairman, that I think most members of the House probably wouldn't remember exactly where it was in his New York written one.

MR. ROBLIN: But, Mr. Chairman, those who didn't go to sleep heard what I said.

MR. MOLGAT: Could he give us the page reference on that?

MR. ROBLIN: The information has already been given to the Chamber in the Budget Speech.

MR. MOLGAT: My honourable friend is awful touchy, Mr. Chairman, on the matter of loans. Last year he was prepared to give us a great deal more information that he is this year. Is he in deeper trouble again this year? --Interjection--

MR. ROBLIN: I think my honourable friend is pretty nearly on the spot here. He has Page 34 and that covers it.

MR. PAULLEY: The difference is, Mr. Chairman, I didn't have to appear on T.V. last night and I had a chance to read it over a second time.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, in connection with loans in general, not any particular reference to the one that is under discussion at the moment, but without particular reference to it, I was interested in what the First Minister was mentioning this afternoon about the yield to the investor on the savings bonds. Now I'm aware that this is the language that is usually employed by people who are discussing loans --the yield to the investor is held on maturity and so on and so on. Well, what I think that most of the taxpayers are interested in is the cost to the government rather than the yield to the investor, and there is a small margin of difference there. In that connection I was checking in the current Public Accounts and I notice on Page 124 that we have the different items there that --there's a figure that shows that the discount on the new debt is \$496 - odd, almost \$497 thousand. I think this is a point that frequently escapes the attention of the people who have to pay this money, and that is that in addition to the interest rate that is mentioned, there's the fact that you're paying that interest on this amount of money that you don't get. Is that not correct?

The next point is that a little way after that, just at the top of the next page, we have the amortized debt discount as well. Now I take it that not both of those --yes, they do-- both apply in the same current year, that's correct. The one is the discount, I take it on the new debt during this current year under review in these public accounts, the other one is this year's payment on the amortization of debt discount. Is that correct?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend is correct when he says that debt discount has to be taken into consideration when figuring the actual cost to be lower, but I point out to him, and I'm sure he's aware of this, that debt discount is figured in when one quotes the yield to the investor, so that the expense is fully taken care of when those figures are quoted.

MR. CAMPBELL: But they are not. They are taken care of when you quote the yield to the investor; but they're not implicit in the statement that we're paying such and such an amount of interest, because actually the cost to the government, and through the government to the taxpayer, is a trifle more than that interest because of the fact that this discount prevails, just exactly the reverse of the reason that the investor gets the benefit of that discount.

MR. ROBLIN: That's true, Mr. Chairman, and we're very careful on the Debt page, as my honourable friend knows, to show that item for amortization of debt discount.

MR. CAMPBELL: That's right.

MR. ROBLIN: So those figures are faithfully reported in the estimates.

MR. CAMPBELL: That's correct.

MR. ROBLIN: But I agree that unless one knows of that one doesn't look for it, but it is there.

MR. CAMPBELL: Taking the public accounts for the year that has ended last March, we have the two figures, the one on Page 124 of nearly half a million dollars and the one on 125 of more than three-quarters of a million dollars, which both are charges because of this discount that we have faced on the borrowings. Correct?

MR. ROBLIN: Yes, those figures are shown there to give the actual cash sums received, as my honourable friend will appreciate, but I don't want him to confuse these statements with the annual costs. These statements are the once only total figure that have to go in calculating the cash received by the government. Any time my honourable friend wishes to obtain the information as to the annual cost of all the debt discount, which is another way of expressing interest in this case on the total of the provincial debt, he will find it on Page 33 of the Public Accounts where it is shown for the coming fiscal year as \$803 thousand. That is the annual charge that is provided for in our Debt Repayment structure.

MR. CAMPBELL: What is the page again, please?

MR. ROBLIN: think we understand one another. I'm sorry -- I mean Page 33 of our Estimate Book.

MR. CAMPBELL: Oh, of the Estimates -- on Page 33 of the estimates. I'm quite familiar with that statement and sometime I will of course have a word to say about that one, because looking at the comparable items here, one would think that the debt charge was lower this year than last year, which is in fact the case as far as direct debt is concerned. But as far as the total debt, that is not the case.

MR. ROBLIN: . . . are shown here for all aspects of debt, although I must point out we haven't come to this item yet, but as long as the honourable member wants to talk about it, I have no real objection.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I presume though that if it's in order any place, it's not one of the items that we have to vote.

MR. ROBLIN: Right. I'm not raising the point really.

MR. CAMPBELL: No, but if it's in order to discuss it any place it's on the Treasury. My only point is that where my honourable friend shows a decrease in the debt in the Public Accounts or in the statement that he gave us this year, there is a decrease shown in the debt in the Public Accounts that we have for this last year -- in the direct debt -- but there's a very large increase in the guaranteed debt. The same thing is true as far as this decrease is concerned here -- the decrease as far as the direct debt is because the guaranteed figures have increased.

MR. ROBLIN: Yes, I think that looking at the total on the page gives you the full cost of debt including interest, sinking fund, debt redemption, and amortization of debt discount, and the totals show that it's going to cost us \$150 thousand more in total this year than it did last year for all those items. My honourable friend is quite right on that.

MR. CAMPBELL: The one that I'm particularly interested though is the first one, the sinking funds and the debt redemption. Those, after all, are getting rid of the debt to some extent. The other figure is the one that I think we should watch pretty carefully, and the other one appears to have a reduction. My point is that the reduction that we show here is made possible only because the guarantee debt has risen.

MR. ROBLIN: I trust, Mr. Chairman, that that was clearly stated in the Budget Speech.

MR. CAMPBELL: Pardon?

MR. ROBLIN: I trust that point was clearly made in the Budget Speech itself. We're not trying to make any claim here or to take any credit that we're not entitled to.

MR. CAMPBELL: No, that's right, but though it may have been clearly stated, I would suggest to my honourable friend that it is not emphasized to the extent that the reduction in the direct debt is emphasized in the Budget Speech.

MR. ROBLIN: Well, I'll just read the paragraph and I think it's clear. I wouldn't like it to be thought to try to evade the point in the Budget Speech. On Page 29: "At the close of the calendar year our outstanding obligations on Capital Account, as represented by the net debt, had actually been reduced from a year ago by about \$1 million. This has been in large measure due to two factors -the transfer of maturing utility obligations to a guaranteed basis and the continued growth of the provincial sinking funds." So I trust we have been forthcoming in explaining the debt situation.

MR. CAMPBELL: Well that is correct --I haven't found the place yet-- but I think my honourable friend mentioned that the reduction in the direct debt was \$1 million. I think it does not mention the increase in the guaranteed debt.

MR. ROBLIN: It does, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to beat this point to death, but if you turn over to the next page, on Page 31 or Page 32.....

MR. CAMPBELL:my honourable friend read?

MR. ROBLIN: Well, you'll see that. I don't read all the charts out but we make it quite clear what the picture is. The figures are listed there, and earlier in another place in the Speech I pointed out that our requirements for utilities capital are not diminishing, they are increasing if anything and will probably continue to increase. I don't think there's any point trying to make any bones about it; that's what the situation's going to be.

MR. CAMPBELL: My only statement, Mr. Chairman, my only statement was that when my honourable friend said that all of this was disclosed in the Budget Speech, my only comment was that it is disclosed in the Budget Speech, but that he having mentioned that point, I thought that the growth in the guaranteed debt was not emphasized to the extent that the reduction in the direct debt had been. And just to reread what the honourable gentleman read, here's what it says: "At the close of the calendar year our outstanding obligations on Capital Account, as represented by the net debt, have actually been reduced from a year ago by the net debt, have actually been reduced from a year ago by about \$1 million. This has been in large measure due to two factors - the transfer of maturing utility obligations to a guaranteed basis and the continued growth of provincial sinking funds." The transfer of marketing maturing utility obligations --but there is no figure in there as there was with the \$1 million. It's true that the figures are given later on, but it is not emphasized in the way that the reduction is.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, all this talk of debt and the cost of same has prompted me to ask a question. We are still on 1 (a), I take it. Since a Tribune article dated December 23, 1961 suggests that the motel talks that the Cabinet had back in those days was so successful in cutting government costs, budgets, etc., I wonder if it is the practice of the government and the new Cabinet to hold motel talks. This article says that "millions of dollars were juggled during the unprecedented secret meetings which came to light only today", and then it goes on to say that "they refer to it as the Battle of the Bulge. It is understood that several millions of dollars were cut from next year's current estimates." --Interjection-- Three years ago. Well if it was so successful, Mr. Chairman, if this resulted in the Cabinet being able, because of the motel talks, to whack several millions of dollars off of the current estimates, then I suggest that we should continue with this practice. Now just yesterday the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources accused us on this side of of--Interjection-- Wasn't it yesterday? --of using lazy inaccuracies. He said that-- I think he was referring in particular to our honourable leader who always used these lazy inaccuracies. Well now surely, Mr. Chairman, the press are not guilty of using lazy inaccuracies and surely the press are not accusing the government of using these lazy inaccuracies in describing their actions. So I would like to know if it is the intention to continue with these motel talks and I hope that the costs might be cut as a result of them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a) --passed; (b)

MR. CHERNIACK: I think Item (b) deals with the portion to be charged to this department for the operation of a vehicle or vehicles. Unlike the previous speaker I did not have a clipping with me, but I do recall reading just recently a press report to the effect that there is a change in the manner in which vehicles will be made available to departments this year. If that is the case, I wonder if the Honourable Minister could enlighten us; and if that is not the case, possibly he could inform us as to the manner in which government vehicles are being made available to departments.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, if my honourable friend will look at the estimates of the Department of Public Works he will see a specific item on Provincial Garage, and my colleague will be glad to give him the explanation at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)--passed; (c)--

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, on (c), I believe that this is the item that is the amount required for premiums on automobiles specifically. I wonder if the First Minister could tell us the number of automobiles that are covered by the premium, \$42,500. I mean it is a fact that automobile rates are up. I think everyone knows who has had to pay a premium since the first of the year that this is a fact. Could we be given the number of automobiles that this item covers?

MR. ROBLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, 1639 vehicles.

MR. SCHREYER: It would be much more helpful if the Treasurer would give us the increase in automobiles over the number of last year.

MR. ROBLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we are providing for an additional 69 units over last year in this insurance figure.

MR. CAMPBELL: Will it be including some of the utilities as well as . . .

MR. ROBLIN: . . . inner service, Mr. Chairman, I think they handle their own.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, where would the 69 cars be allocated?

MR. ROBLIN: I can't give him that breakdown, or maybe-- I'm not sure that I can lay my hands on it right now. It's scattered through the various departmental estimates. Members will know that every year we have available for the information of the House a list of all the cars that we have in service and who's got them, and so if my honourable friend would like the latest list in that respect I'll be glad to get it for him.

MR. SCHREYER: It seems to me that if the government is planning for an increase of 69 units and budgeting for an increase of almost \$5,000 in premiums, that comes out to roughly to \$75.00 premium per unit. It seems rather high to me in view of the fact that surely there must be a special rate for getting insurance in large volume--\$75.00 per unit seems rather high.

MR. ROBLIN: I can give the member an explanation for that, Mr. Chairman. There are two factors in the increase, one of which was already mentioned by the Honourable Member for Neepawa. We are reckoning on a 10% overall increase in insurance costs. I'm not sure whether that will materialize or not but we are providing for it, plus the 69 cars, so that gives you the distribution of it.

MR. GUTTORMSON: The Minister may have answered this on a previous occasion, but how does the government buy their insurance? Do they buy it from a particular firm or do they tender? What is the procedure?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. John has asked for a Return with all that information, and my honourable friend will get a copy as the Whip of his Party.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, doesn't the cost per vehicle work out to about \$25.00 a vehicle rather than \$75.00?

MR. ROBLIN: It's not quite \$75.00. It's lower than my honourable friend. . .

MR. SHOEMAKER: 1639 vehicles for \$42,500.

MR. ROBLIN: I think we've got that point cleared now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c)-- passed. Resolution 8--passed. Resolution 9, Item 2, Taxation Branch(a).

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, I believe this is the item we deal with the coloured gas is it not, Mr. Chairman? The legislation that was introduced at the last session has caused a lot of concern in my constituency and I would like to bring to the attention of the

MR. GUTTORMSON, Cont'd). . . . House the particular segment of the area which are concerned. I am referring to the fishermen. It is my understanding that prior to this legislation coming into effect the fishermen were allowed to use coloured gasoline or tax-free gasoline when driving his vehicle on the lake. This year the fisherman --I believe there are no provisions which will allow the fishermen to do this in the province. It seems to me that surely if we can allow people who use boats for luxury on the rivers and on the lakes to use tax-free gasoline, surely we can make provision for people who are deriving their living to use tax-free gasoline, such as those that are travelling almost exclusively on the lakes. A situation was brought to my attention very recently with fishermen who were using bombardiers. Now these fishermen use these bombardiers almost exclusively on the lake and only during the fishing season, and very recently one of them was stopped by the RCMP --he had a breakdown with his machine and he came to a garage on the outskirts of town-- and because he didn't have a licence he was ordered to do so. I checked with the Taxation Branch and they advised me that if a man had a license-- he had to have or he wasn't able to use tax-free gasoline. And I just wonder if the government might consider introducing some sort of legislation which would allow fishermen to work on the lake with their vehicles with tax-free gasoline.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I want to point out to my honourable friend that absolutely no change was made in the law. I don't know what the practise has been. I make no comment on that, but there was no change whatsoever made in the law when coloured gasoline was introduced. So what was legal before is legal now, and so that situation hasn't changed. I haven't heard any representations although I now take note that he's making one that the law should be changed in this particular, but I want to assure him that no change was made with respect to the law affecting fishermen.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, prior to this legislation coming into effect, as I understand it --if my information is incorrect you can tell me so-- but that a fisherman was allowed to deduct or he was allowed to declare the use of gasoline and he could get a rebate if he used it on the lake. Now there is a new legislation there are no provisions which will allow him to do so. For instance as I understand it, a fisherman, he could make a submission to the government that he used X number of gallons of gasoline during his fishing operation and he would get a rebate. Now he can't do this. There is no provisions for him to do this. If he has a licensed vehicle he can't use coloured gas and so there is a different situation.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I don't know what the practice has been, as I said I don't know what the fishermen were doing and I'm not inquiring about that, but there has been no change made in the law or in the regulations respecting the use of tax-free gasoline in this respect --no change whatsoever. So whatever was going on in the past - I don't know about that-- but I'm just telling you there is no change made whatsoever.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, that's what I'm asking for, a change to be made, because as I understood it they could apply for a tax rebate prior to last year and get it. Now they can't apply for a tax rebate, because if they have a licensed vehicle they must use the regular gasoline which has a tax on it. Now that's why I say there is a difference as far as the fisherman is concerned. He could use tax-free gasoline in previous years; now with the new legislation he cannot use it and there are no provisions for him to make a claim for it.

MR. ROBLIN: For the third time, Mr. Chairman, there has been no change made whatsoever. If people have been claiming for tax-free gasoline under the former circumstance that my friend mentioned, then I think their claim was probably not a proper one under the law. Now if it was allowed --well some claims get away-- but I want it stressed that there has been no change in the law or regulation whatsoever. So what was legal before is legal now and vice versa.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to belabour the point, but it was my understanding that they could make an application to the government and get a remission if they declared it was being used on the lake. Now they can't do that.

MR. ROBLIN: They were giving a declaration which I'm afraid might not have been legal. If my honourable friend has got a particular instance and he wants to bring it to me, I'll try and investigate the legality of the previous claim and straighten the matter out, but I just repeat my statement that there has been no change made in the law.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Has the Minister any comments to make with regard to the use of bombardiers? I mean these men are using the bombardiers strictly on the lake and, as I say, recently the Mounted Police stopped them and said they couldn't operate these without a licence. Of course as long as they didn't use the licence they could use tax-free gasoline, but the minute they put a licence on it, on their vehicle, they were forbidden from using the coloured gas.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, if my honourable friend has a case where he thinks the law ought to be changed for a particular reason, and if he is kind enough to give me a written statement of what he is interested in, we will always look at it. I make no undertaking as to what we might decide on but I certainly don't rule out the possibility, and I will undertake to examine it on the understanding that there is no undertaking at this stage as to what the result will be. But if my honourable friend feels that there is some adjustment that should be made in the law here, I'll be glad to hear what he has to say about it suggest he give me a written memorandum so I can understand exactly what he is driving at and point out to him what the law is and consider whatever representation he wants to make.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, this is why I was speaking and raising this point, but I have no objection to proceeding in the manner that the First Minister suggests and if he will do me the courtesy, as he says he will, of listening to the propositions, I'll be very happy to do it.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I understood my honourable friend the First Minister to say that there were no changes made, but I think he must admit that it is now impossible to make application for tax rebate. There is no provision to make application for a rebate. Now I would like to ask the First Minister if there has been any changes since January 1 on the special permits that were issued to certain construction workers in certain groups. Has there been a change in that regard? Because I understand that there are several dozen or so special permits issued where there is a tax of two cents a gallon levied in certain cases.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, if my honourable friend is speaking about coloured gasoline, then you can't make a claim for rebate in respect of coloured gasoline, but there are certain provisions in the Act for people to use plain gasoline and still ask for a rebate. For example, someone mentioned pleasure motorboat --it's still possible-- and in connection with motor fuel oil or whatever it is called, there are some instances there where one may still make a claim rather than use coloured fuel. There are a few relatively isolated categories which can't be covered on the coloured basis. So to that extent claims are still being processed, but I will agree they are a very small number all things considered. Now with respect to those situations, no changes have been made whatsoever in the regulations or rules respecting those things. It is on exactly all fours with what it has been in the past.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, I have reason to believe that it is possible for certain users of diesel fuel in the province, by obtaining a special permit, to pay two cents a gallon rather than the full price and that there are in total a dozen or more such permits issued since January 1st. Is that the same as it's been before? I'd like to ask my honourable friend if he anticipates a change in this regard? It seems to me that we are losing several thousands of dollars annually. Last year the statement was made, I think, by the Honourable the First Minister that he was sorry to inform the House that it appeared that the farmers of the province were --I'm not quoting him now- gyping the Treasury of half a million dollars or something like that. Well it looks to me as if we could be losing nearly that amount from these special users here. Are they entitled to this special concession, Mr. Chairman? Are they entitled to this special concession?

MR. ROBLIN: Well, Mr. Chairman, according to the law they are. They are all listed in The Motor Fuel Act. If my honourable friend wishes to turn up the Act he will see the kind of people who are entitled to make this claim and under what circumstances. That remains as I said completely on all fours with what it always has been in that respect. There are in the course of the year possibly some one thousand individuals or what not who make this kind of a claim and the members of the House can understand that it is a comparatively straight-forward business to keep track of that small number of claims for this special rebate of tax and to make sure with a pretty close investigation that the claims are completely as they should be, so that I don't brush off the possibility that there may be some claims made that are

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . not legal but we are in a position to give pretty close attention to these relatively few number of claims submitted in this way and we are satisfied that, generally speaking, the claims are adequately handled.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, there may be some confusion in the cases that I am referring to here and what the Honourable the First Minister has in mind, but I understand that if a construction company, for instance, or a railway company and so on, produces a special permit, that that enables him to buy gasoline from a bulk dealer for the price plus two cents rather than the 14 or whatever the case is. I know that the information that I have states that you must have used 200,000 gallons last year -- I believe that's it. Now a lot of the other contractors are objecting to this because they say, well if I used 190,000 gallons last year I'm not entitled to a five-cent piece, whereas the fellow that uses 200,000 gallons is able to purchase his gasoline, all his requirements for the year by paying a two cent tax, and it strikes me that it's rather unjust.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I would agree with my honourable friend if that's the case, but it's not the question of how much is used but a question of what particular category you fall into, and there are some eight or nine special categories that are laid down in the act. As far as I'm concerned, if you use one gallon in this particular circumstance you are entitled to the same right as the man that is using 100,000 gallons, so this quantitative cut-off doesn't fit. The facts are that a type of operation which is entitled to make this claim are those that have been set out in the act since 19 -- well, for many years.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Does it cover specifically road construction contractors?

MR. ROBLIN: Would my honourable friend like me to read the categories?

MR. SHOEMAKER: Yes, I would.

MR. ROBLIN: Here's an extract from the act. These are the people who are entitled to the two cent arrangements: Operation of motor boats, operation of stationery engines, operation of portable engines and tractors when used otherwise than on a public highway, operation of trucks when used otherwise than on a public highway, operation of railway cars and other motor vehicles running only on tracks and rails, any industrial purpose other than the operation of motor vehicles, propelling aircraft, operation of machinery for making or repairing road or drainage work. That's the categories.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my honourable friend for that list there, but that doesn't satisfy me yet. I have a copy of a letter and I don't mind filing it if I have to, but it is addressed to a contractor in Neepawa and he made application for a special permit because he knew that some of his friends had a special permit, and he was told in this letter that because of the fact that he did not use 200,000 gallons last year but only used 9,000 gallons, that he could not qualify for a permit.

MR. ROBLIN: I see what my honourable friend is after. The man is entitled to his rebate all right. There are two different ways of getting it: one is in advance, and when we are dealing with the railway or TCA or some large consumer like that it makes sense to give them the permit in advance because the situation is a standard one; but if there is somebody who is entitled to it but is not a user of that scale, instead of getting it in advance he makes his application afterwards. It's just two ways of doing the same thing, but he is entitled to his refund.

MR. SHOEMAKER: I want to thank my honourable friend for that information. Now on this same item but not on the same subject, I note that under (b) -- I guess we are not at (b) yet are we, Mr. Chairman? Are we still on (a) --

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a) or (b). We are on Item 2.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Thank you. Well I notice that there is a substantial increase, very substantial here, and I would have thought that by reason of the fact that it was no longer possible to make rebates, that is in the past there have been thousands -- I imagine thousands and thousands of applications to deal with, there would be a saving here. I wonder if there is an explanation for this?

MR. ROBLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the money is required for the dye that goes in the gasoline.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, would the government give any reconsideration to assisting the farmer with allowing him to use tax-free gasoline, particularly those that are

(Mr. Guttormson, cont'd.) . . . using vehicles that never use them on any public road, that just use them on their fields to haul the grain into the granary and for the farm work. It seems unfair that we should charge these people the full tax while we allow luxury craft -- admittedly they are not using highways -- to not pay this tax. I think they should consider the people who are making their living with these vehicles to be exempted, more so than those who are using luxury craft and who do get the tax-free gas. -- (Interjection) -- I'm sorry I can't hear you.

MR. ROBLIN: This matter has been discussed on a number of occasions and it is no secret that we have had very many representations on this point, but I think that as far as the government is concerned we would like to give this system a full trial based on the well-understood unchanging law with respect to tax-free gasoline. I'd like to give that a full trial before we make any commitments to change it.

MR. JOHN P. TANCHAK (Emerson): Mr. Chairman, the Minister stated that they have relatively very few claims to be processed now in the gasoline tax office, therefore we could deduce that there would be quite a reduction in the personnel in that department was, if any -- what saving.

MR. ROBLIN: I doubt that there has been any reductions. I am just looking at the details of the staff here under 2 (a). The estimates provide for the abolishing of 9 -- I'm wrong here -- provide for the abolishing of 9 permanent positions and two term positions -- abolishing of 11 posts with respect to the gasoline tax situation. Now you say, well why doesn't the amount go down for the estimates? The answer is that we have to have another seven new positions for administering the Tobacco Tax and things like that, which is a new function that we didn't perform, so what you win on the swings you lose on the roundabout.

MR. SCHREYER: The Premier makes the point that those who use the fuel on a larger scale are able to obtain a permit which allows them to buy the fuel at a lower rate of tax. I would ask him if there is any fee connected with that permit, or obtaining that permit, and if there isn't I suggest that perhaps there should be since these people are given a slight advantage in that they have no money tied up for several months, which seems to be an advantage of sorts. The question is is there no fee for obtaining this permit?

MR. ROBLIN: I believe there is no fee but my honourable friend gives me a suggestion.

MR. ALBERT VIELFAURE (La Verendrye): On the same subject I would like to ask the Honourable First Minister -- he said that a certain amount of gas, certain gallons, had to be established in order to get a certain permit. Could you tell us what the amount is? Is it 100 thousand, 200 thousand? That is, for road contractors that do buy without paying the 15¢ tax in advance. Those that have the special permit, what total amount of gas do they have to buy in order to qualify for this.

MR. ROBLIN: I haven't got that information. I daresay I can get it. It merely is an effort to establish those like the railways or the TCA which we know are big users in this respect. If my honourable friend the Member from Neepawa says the cut-off is 200 thousand gallons, he may well be right on that method of handling it. I can't confirm that though from my own knowledge at the moment.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Before we get off that subject, I would just like to ask one question for clarification. I see there is a list here from one of the oil companies outlining who can obtain tax free gasoline and one of the items is Commercial Fishing and Transportation of Fish over iced surfaces may purchase purple gasoline exempt from tax without a permit. Does this include a vehicle that has a license, perhaps, let us say, a truck who may be working on highways and hauling gas on the ice as well?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I'm not responsible for any piece of information an oil company gives out without examining the paper. I wouldn't like to make any comment on it. I would just say that the fishermen were never entitled to use it in motor vehicles as such. Now they have certain concessions of another nature that we have been discussing but unless my honourable friend gives me that statement from the oil company, if I have a chance to examine it I will examine it for its accuracy, but it's impossible for me to do so standing on my feet here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2(a) passed, 2 (b) . . .

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, an article that I have before me dated August 20th

(Mr. Shoemaker, cont'd.) . . . last year 1963, points up the difficulty that the government of the province were having at that particular time to convince the oil companies that the government should proceed with the colouring of gasoline at the first of the year, and apparently the objection raised by the oil companies was that it was going to cost them something like \$4 million to provide this extra storage space and so on. Now, I wonder if the government has done anything to try and prevent the oil companies from increasing the price of gasoline as a result of this, because my guess is that if it does cost, as they state here, \$4 million to provide additional storage facilities, it will be reflected in the price of gasoline very shortly, and it is to be hoped that the government might do something to prevent this increase in gasoline if there is going to be one.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, the government can take no responsibility for the statements made in the press or for the observations of the oil companies in this respect. My personal opinion is, if it's any use, is that that figure is a very considerable exaggeration. The oil companies and those who are responsible are paid a commission of 1/10th of 1 percent per gallon for collecting the gasoline tax in Manitoba and we feel that the money they get by way of commission is adequate to take care of the running costs that they incur in connection with this matter. So I do not anticipate that the introduction of coloured gasoline changes the situation or that it imposes the degree of pressure on prices that my honourable friend fears, and I think one will find that borne out by practice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2(a) passed. (b)

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman . . . might explain the huge increase in (b).

MR. ROBLIN: I have already done so. It's the price of the dye that goes in the gasoline.

MR. PAULLEY: \$75 thousand worth of dye.

MR. ROBLIN: \$70 thousand.

MR. MOLGAT: What type of dye is being used in there that costs so much money?

MR. ROBLIN: Well this is the same kind of dye that is used in the other provinces in connection with this matter. It has two characteristics: one is the colour which some clever people can remove under certain circumstances; the other is a chemical marker which cannot be removed, so we have a double protection there.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, does the government intend to have inspectors of its own checking on this, or will it rely on RCMP?

MR. ROBLIN: With respect to enforcement in the part of the people of the motoring public, enforcement in the motoring public will on the whole, be carried out by the regular law enforcement officers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b) passed. Resolution # 9 passed. Item B . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I realize that there isn't an appropriation in No. 3 because it's wiped out by recoveries from departments and agencies that's dealing with Data Processing Services Branch. I wonder if the Minister could give us an outline in respect to the department, whether this only applies within the Treasury Dept. itself where the work is done for other Crown Corporations and Agencies, and the likes of that, and the extent of the data processing equipment the government owns, what it rents and a general rundown of the . . .

MR. ROBLIN: Well, this is going to take me longer than it did to read the budget speech because I have got a lot of material on this.

My honourable friend is quite right in thinking that this data processing centre serves the whole of the government itself and insofar as we have spare time on the machines, it's available to the Hydro or anyone else that wants to use it. We charge as the accounts indicate here. We make a charge for any services rendered by this Bureau to whoever uses the service to recover the costs that are involved in it. Now the way in which it operates is that we rent on the whole. We may have some few machines that we own outright but basically we rent them from the data processing manufacturing companies. That's the only way they will provide the service and we rent whatever machines are required and we have quite a wide variety. There are printing punches and card verifiers and card collectors and card sorters, various kinds of reproducers and interpreters under the electro magnetic section. Then under the electronic section, we have a type 1401 electronic data processing system. Those that are familiar with these terms, and they are pretty technical, will understand the kind of work that each one of these models can perform. We also rent a type of 1620 electronic data processing system. It

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . has a computer and card punchers, and all that kind of thing that goes with it. Now, as I say, we have this variety of machines which are centralized in one place and which are available for the use of any department. Now the departments that use them are almost all the departments of the government. For example, I don't need to tell you that the Department of Education examination results are run through these machines. When we first did it, the first year we had a little trouble making it come out right but we have now got it down to a good system and we believe that the use of these machines saves us a great deal of money in staff that we would otherwise have to spend.

The Agricultural Department uses this in statistics on the Crop Insurance Agency and matters of that sort. The Department of Health use it for their fluoridation survey for example, it was used there. Tourist information that comes into the Department of Industry & Commerce is run through this, showing the demand for literature and all that kind of thing. Vacation with pay credits in the Department of Labour are handled through this mechanized system; so is the annual wage survey. The Department of Municipal Affairs use it in their centralized assessment and tax role service that they render to the municipalities. The Department of Highways run their highway need studies -- they are always getting data on the number of vehicles on the road, etc. That's all computed and run through these machines. It saves a great deal of money. The Treasurer pays his bond interest too, on the Manitoba Savings Bonds in a mechanized way, using the services of this department. The Payroll Statistics are collated here as well. The Department of Welfare handle their Social Allowances cheques through the services provided here -- and I could go on and on. There are all kinds of different functions that are performed in that way but perhaps that would give my honourable friend a rough idea of the kind of service that is rendered in this way.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think it is very interesting when one looks into how these machines operate and the types of jobs they can do. It's fascinating. It's out of this world, or would have been a few years ago.

MR. ROBLIN: That's part of the problems that I load on the shoulders of my honourable friend here.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes. I thought the Honourable the First Minister mentioned that some of the agencies, Crown Agencies may use it.

Under Public Utilities I don't see any item that I could raise the question. Now, I don't know if my honourable friend pays his telephone bills and his Hydro bills personally like I do, but there is a difference in the billings in the Telephone System and the Manitoba Hydro. If I recall correctly, it's the Manitoba Telephone System that sends an additional envelope, and an additional card that you pay one and get one back and the other one has to go through because it has to go through a punching machine or a data processing machine of some description after you pay it -- you get the envelope along with it to send it back if you send it by mail. If you don't send by mail, then you throw it in the garbage can. I wonder sometimes whether we are not throwing away the price of the envelope because we are not using the same type of machine for each. I don't expect really that my honourable friend may have the answers to why the difference in the types of machines that are being used as between the Hydro and the Telephone Company, as to which is more costly or less costly, but I thought, Mr. Chairman, that this was the only item under which I could raise this point in the absence of anything I could see in the Utilities Branch. Now I don't know if my honourable friend can give me any answer on this, but it is a question that has been asked of me: why it is that with the Manitoba Hydro we get one bill and that's it; with the Manitoba Telephone Company there are two bills and in addition to that an envelope every time we get our accounts.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I really can't answer that for my honourable friend, because I wouldn't like him to think that that kind of, what I call routine service that is provided for government departments is provided for the utilities. The kind of service the utilities use is the kind that's provided by the electronic data computing machine. For example, the Hydro Board use it, because they haven't got a Computer of their own, to compute for example, if you understand what this means, the equations of cross sectional areas that channel cross section and calculates conveyance factors and things of that sort with which of course we deal every day.

MR. PAULLEY: That I can understand, but it's about the bills that I can't understand.

MR. ROBLIN: Well I'm in the same company with my honourable friend, I understand this very well too. But, with respect to the bills, I think that point should be looked into and this is one reason why we want the boards concerned to appear before the committee as suggested this afternoon, so that those questions may be raised and answered by people who can answer them. We can't answer them here because they're part of the operations of the company and we really don't go at all, but I'm sure the point can be ventilated if my honourable friend would care to.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, there's been persistent rumour that this government put one of these data analysis machines to the rather unroutine use of forecasting the election before going into the 1962 provincial elections. Is this right?

MR. ROBLIN: The data calculating machine that was at work on that occasion is standing before you on his own two feet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 4, Insurance Branch, (a) --

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, in connection with Insurance Branch, is this where the Honourable the First Minister answers to this Legislature in respect of risk insurance of automobiles?

MR. ROBLIN: Automobile insurance?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes. Risk -- oh what the heck's the name of it? -- Assigned risk plan.

MR. ROBLIN: Well I'll make a manful effort.

MR. PAULLEY: Well I want to know if there was some changes made in this. You may recall, Mr. Chairman, for a number of years I protested the fact that automobile insurance companies in the province arbitrarily terminated insurance of the policy holder, it seems to me at their whim and will. There were objections raised to that and eventually notice went out from the -- I believe as the result of my honourable friend across the way becoming convinced that I had more than just a moat point, instructing insurance companies that they could not do this until at the expiration of the policy year in which the policy payer has paid the premium. Now, I wonder if the First Minister in his position as Provincial Treasurer could tell us about how many -- has there been any violation of this edict that he's aware of? And what is the general situation now?

MR. ROBLIN: I can give my friend some facts on this situation. In 1962, which was the last calendar year for which the figures are available, the number of drivers on the Assigned Risk Plan was 3,959, and this is the lowest figure since 1958. It's come down almost 2,000 from the peak period in 1960 and I think it does reflect a considerable effort on the part of the insurance companies to play the game, if you would like to say, in connection with the assigned risk. But there's another aspect of the assigned risk which deserves to be mentioned and that is that if by chance, and there were some, the people who are referred to the Assigned Risk Plan who have not had any accidents, then they are given their new policy under the Assigned Risk Plan at the standard rate. In other words it is not used as a device to surcharge people who have not had accidents. Of the 39 hundred-odd for 1962, over 1,000 were Class A risks. In other words, they were on the assigned risk but they paid the standard fee for insurance that they would have paid, had they not been on the assigned risk. The remaining 3,000 or more -- a little less than 3,000 people -- who were on assigned risk, were in Class B and the surcharging on Class B is as follows: If for the first accident in Class B there is no surcharge, so you can get on the assigned risk plan with one accident and still have no surcharge for that reason. If two or more accidents, there is a large surcharge, a 50 percent surcharge. So that you can see that, according to a note that I have here, that that really is a penalty that's assessed against accident prone people, but I think the thing is relatively fair in this respect now.

Now, my honourable friend also asked about mid-term cancellation -- was that not the point you were concerned with? Yes. I have had a number of communications go out to the insurance people on this point, stressing the view of the government that in our opinion premiums should not be cancelled in mid-term, except for very specific reasons. For example, failing to pay the premium or going to gaol, or making a false statement on the insurance application -- and there's one other that I forget -- but one can see that those would be quite good reasons for a mid-term cancellation. And what has happened is that two of the companies -- two mutuals, Wawanesa Mutual and Portage Mutual -- have stated that they are going to adhere

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . to that policy willy-nilly and I have recently had a very satisfactory communication from the other insurance companies that are banded together in one group, to the effect that they too, are going to use the most careful discretion in this mid-term cancellation and will be fully prepared to give an accounting on any mid-term cancellations that they do make, to see whether they fit these four conditions that are now generally accepted as being reasonable terms for cancellation. So while we now have to see how this works out, my opinion is that we now have a much more satisfactory situation in respect to mid-term cancellations and I would like to say that I appreciate the co-operation that the government has had -- the voluntary co-operation that the government has had from the insurance industry in dealing with this point. And as my honourable friend has been very zealous about this matter on many occasions in the past, I'm happy to share any credit that might be coming our way in this respect with him, because beyond a shadow of a doubt he is the man who has kept this matter before my notice at any rate and had some responsibility at least for my interest in the matter which I think has led to a more satisfactory situation than we had.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Premier, particularly, of course and naturally for his last remarks. It isn't very often that we, in this corner of this Assembly receive any bouquets and even though it may be of the nature of one, I'm sure I was only acting as the spokesman for my group and I'm sure that my colleagues will share in the acceptance of my honourable friend's remarks. However, on this point, before the Session is over, we may be having a more full discussion on the question of automobile insurance, because, while I do recognize that headway has been made in some respects as outlined by the Honourable the First Minister, there are other areas that have to be considered. Once again the area, of course, of increasing costs of automobile insurance in the Province of Manitoba as against the statements that my honourable friend made when he was delivering his Budget Speech yesterday where he took pride in the fact that our automobile accident ratio was going down; that the number of deaths on our highways were going down. My -- (interjection) -- Pardon. -- (Interjection) -- Oh, I want to assure my honourable friend I have read his Speech and I got great enjoyment out of these factors.

MR. ROBLIN: You misunderstood me, I was thinking that you should save this speech for that occasion.

MR. PAULLEY: Oh, no! Oh no, I'll give it to you again, I'll give it to you again, no, it might be just a little different, but anyway the point that I'm getting at is that these other matters will come up.

Now then in reply to my honourable friend, I note that he mentioned on the assigned risk plan that the standard rates even under the Assigned Risk Plan that approximately -- I think it was about 1,000 -- were still Class A risks and receiving the standard rates -- they hadn't had any accidents. Now then, under the Assigned Risk Plan as I understand it, even though there is so called Class A risks and get the insurance at standard rates, they can't take the advantage of the three year period of being accident-free for discount off of the standard rate. So I suggest that maybe here is some thing that we've got to look into as well, if not withstanding the fact that they haven't had accidents that they would have had in effect if they had been accident-free. The advantage of the premium discount for no accidents, which apparently they're not getting under the Assigned Risk Plan at the present time. However, we can leave this to another day, Mr. Chairman.

MR. S. PETERS (Elmwood): Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister has had it brought to his attention, not cancellations in mid-term but threatened cancellations if automobile insurance premium is due and the agent has threatened to cancel the policy if he didn't get the rest of the insurance, or the house insurance and furniture insurance. Has this been brought to his attention?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, it has not. We do however, have a gentleman called the Superintendent of Insurance and one of his functions is to make sure that all insurance business is conducted in an ethical way, and if any member of the public or any member of the House feels that some violation of good ethical conduct has transpired in this connection, if they will report the matter either to me, if it's a member or, if it's the general public, to the Superintendent of Insurance. He is very careful to investigate any such cases and put matters to right. So if my honourable friend wants to give me some facts on that, I'll refer it to the

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) superintendent.

MR. PETERS: I can tell the Honourable Minister that I did refer two cases and I just wondered if it had been brought to his attention, but I have referred two people that this has happened to.

MR. ROBLIN: I hope they were satisfactorily dealt with.

MR. PETERS: As far as I know they were.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, I had a situation, and I don't know whether any legislation has been brought in to rectify it, but a chap had his licence suspended for some driving infractions and then he waited out the necessary period of time whereby the Department of Motor Vehicles would be able to issue a licence on the basis that he would get insurance. He went from one insurance company to another and they all refused to give him insurance. They said they were allowed to do this if you wait a certain period of time and it seems unfair to me that if the government feels that he can drive a car that he should be excluded from doing so just because the insurance companies won't grant him the necessary insurance.

MR. ROBLIN: That problem was settled by the government some little while ago, I'm surprised to hear mention of it, because somebody probably doesn't know that if that situation arises, the aggrieved person can go to the Licence Suspension and Appeal Board and they will hear his case and if they decide that he is able to drive, as far as they're concerned from a legal and technical point of view, then the Assigned Risk Plan will provide insurance. Now that's something that members ought to know, that if the insurance industry is not willing to provide insurance, either directly through an agent or through the Assigned Risk Plan, the individual concerned can take his case to the -- what do you call it -- the Drivers' Suspension and Appeal Board and they will hear it. If they rule in his favour insurance will be provided.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a) passed. (b) --

MR. SHOEMAKER: . . . I wonder if the Honourable the First Minister can tell me, and he'll probably say that I should know this, but I do not know it, who sets the premiums under the Assigned Risk Plan? Is it the insurance companies or the government, or a combination of both that sets the premium when an application is submitted to the Assigned Risk Plan?

MR. ROBLIN: The Assigned Risk Plan itself decides what the surcharges are under the plan. They are not set by the government. They're based on the calculations of risk that my honourable friend is acquainted with.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Well, I wonder then, if there must be a formula then used. That is, based on the conviction or number of convictions and so on, and it would be very helpful to the insurance agents to have that formula so that when a fellow comes into our office, for instance, and he's been charged two or three times with driving while impaired and we can say to him, "Listen, we'll make application to the Assigned Risk Plan and your premium will be X number of dollars, it'll be \$150 or \$200," because this happens quite frequently. We take \$4.15 from him for his application fee, his investigation fee, and then he receives in two or three weeks a registered letter saying that you have been assigned to insurance company so and so and the premium is \$150. He hasn't \$150 and never will have, not likely, because he's been drinking ever since. He's already charged -- had a couple of convictions for driving. Now, we might as well tell him when he comes in: well we don't mind taking your \$4.00 but it's going to cost you this much money to get your insurance and if you're not going to make provisions to have the premium on hand; then you might as well forget about it. The application is cancelled after 15 days anyway, isn't it? Unless he presents the premium within 14 or 15 days, the whole application is cancelled out anyway. So I suggest that it would be

MR. ROBLIN: he's a member of the Assigned Risk Plan, they'll give him that information. They have got a set of surcharge percentages and I'm sure that if he asks them, they'll tell him.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have a letter before me that suggests that this is secret information, or something. It is being

MR. ROBLIN: That's a matter for the industry to settle, you're a member of it. Take it up with your people.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Yes, I thought the Assigned Risk Plan though was part of the government. It's set up by the insurance industry, the Assigned Risk Plan?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 4 -- passed. Resolution 10 -- passed. Item 5, Fidelity, Hold-up,

(Mr. Chairman, cont'd.) Burglary and Safe Insurance Premiums.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, could the Honourable Minister inform us as to whether there have been any claims made or any recoveries in the last year under this insurance item?

MR. ROBLIN: I think my honourable friend that a statement is tabled in the House with respect to this matter. It's already been tabled, so if he cares to look at it -- to the best of my recollection no claims.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 11 -- passed. Item 6, Miscellaneous, (a) --

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, there are three questions here under 6 (a). I'd like to ask the Minister, first of all, what trusts or funds are included here? Specifically, does it include any of the trusts administered by the Administrator of the Estates of the Mentally Incompetent? Does that come under this? And thirdly, what is the total amount of trust and fund? Would it be somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$1 1/2 million?

MR. ROBLIN: My honourable friend can find the details of the trust account in the public accounts. They are all set out there in detail. Each one is referred to by name and the amount of the trust is indicated. What they are usually is that the Treasury is the banker for dozens of different government organizations or semi-government organizations whose money we are holding according to the provisions of the statute until they want to use it for a certain term. While we hold their money we can use it, so we should pay them interest on it. That's what this particular item is. And if you look at the public accounts -- I just can't find the page here at the moment -- but they're all listed in the public accounts and give the full details of the principal amount and the name of the trust. Also in the public accounts it will show the amount of interest paid to each trust that makes up the total that you see here. So it's all set out. It does not include the estates of the mentally incompetent. That's handled by the Attorney-General's Branch.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 12 -- passed. Item 7, Resolution 13 --

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I notice here that there's no provision at all for any increase in the amount that the province will pay. This means in effect then that it is not going to take into consideration the increase in population in certain municipalities. Is this correct?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure my honourable friend understands this matter very well because it was discussed at great length here two years ago, and the position is that we are governed by the statute. This is not something which the government has any discretionary powers to decide for itself and the statute, which was passed by my honourable friend the member for Lakeside, at least he was the man responsible in those days for statutes, I think -- if not when he was Premier, certainly when he was a member of the government bench -- provides that you take the population at a given date and then you use that population figure for the next five years until the next official census comes around and then if there has been an increase -- and I'm not sure about this, maybe it's retroactive for a decrease -- but if the population has changed then the calculation is made to catch up on anything that might be owed to people whose population has gone up. So this matter is covered by statute. It's been going along this way for quite some time and therefore we have no discretion to change these laws.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of course is quite free to increase the amount if he wishes and he says that this is statutory. It's statutory only insofar as the regulations and the methods of payment. It is not statutory as to the amount of money that the government is prepared to put into this because it has been increased on many occasions in the past and the result has been that the municipalities got more money. As it stands now, they will not be getting any more money from this source.

The other matter that I want to bring up here, however, is the manner of payment of this in the local government districts in particular and those areas where there isn't a formally organized body. This was changed last year and my experience with it so far is that it isn't as satisfactory a system as when it was handled through either the local school boards or through the Official Trustee, because in many areas there isn't any actual local body, or any organized group who can take care of these funds where previously where there was a school district, even if there was no municipality, at least there was a local group there. In those areas where it was under the Official Trustee there was a physical limit of fairly clear size that could be handled. In my own constituency, for example, we had established a local committee based on the school district boundary and this worked out very well. Since the change we have attempted, and I had the co-operation of the Minister of Municipal Affairs in this matter, to extend this to other areas, but it will not be possible, I am sure, in all of the local government districts. As it stands now, going simply in the hands of the administrator, he is not really in a position in some of these areas where there are wide differences in the area -- great distances to handle this efficiently. I wonder if the government would not consider

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd) returning to the original system where it was handled through local school boards or the Official Trustee.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I think my honourable friend will find that the amount is statutory and that if we wish to change it it's done by statute and not in any other way. Now I'm subject to correction if I should be wrong on that. The Honourable Member for Lakeside will probably be able to refresh my memory if I'm off base, but I think that is the way it's done.

Now regarding the method of distribution, where we have a responsible local taxing authority then we try to make sure that that taxing body gets it, but when you haven't got a responsible local taxing authority you do run into problems as to how this money can be expended for the benefit of the people of that area. Now I'm not aware of the complaints my honourable friend raises. I must confess that I've had no complaints to me in respect of this matter and we are, although we admit it may not be perfect, we are relatively satisfied with the way in which the money is dispersed at the present time.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Chairman, on this same point. Since the monies are paid over to the administrator of the various local government districts, does the government instruct the administrator as to how this money is to be spent or does the administrator allocate it to the various districts on the proportion of population, or just how is this money dispersed after it reaches the administrator?

MR. SMELLIE: I may be able to help, Mr. Chairman, by telling the honourable member that where there is an unincorporated village district or some other group of that nature that is organized for the purpose of looking after these sums -- in some cases a school board -- the local government district administrators have been instructed to turn over to that body their proportion of the amount received by the local government district. Now the Leader of the Opposition came in with a proposal to organize groups of school districts together so that they could administer these sums, for example, for building roads. I agree with him in his proposal and we have attempted to co-operate with them in this regard, but it is only where there is some organized body that's capable of looking after the administration of this sum that it is turned over to them. In other cases, the local government district administrator, if there is no local body, no school district with a school board or no unincorporated village district or anything of that nature, then he may use it for whatever purposes he would ordinarily spend in the local government district.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Chairman, that partially answers my question, but not altogether. I have instances of where there are school boards in the school districts. They have not received this unconditional grant in the past year. The money was paid over to the administrator and they never saw any part or parcel of it. That's what I'm interested in. Why has none of this money been paid over to the district that I'm talking about?

MR. SMELLIE: It won't be unless they make an application to the administrator. In some cases there is no organized body. Some of the school districts have been taken into consolidation and this sort of thing. There is no longer any school board there and where this has happened, unless the consolidated school district makes an application to the administrator, it won't be turned over to them. He will administer it himself, but if the school district, if there's still a school board or some body that's capable of administering this sum and they make application to the administrator, they'll get it.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Now I want to make absolutely certain of this point, Mr. Chairman, because I don't want to mislead these school boards. My understanding is that if there is a school board in a given school district and they apply to the administrator for their proportional share of the unconditional grant which he receives, that'll be paid over to the school board.

MR. SMELLIE: That is correct. That is the policy that has been followed for the grants for the 1963 year.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Minister for that assurance because this, I'm sure, is what was concerning a number of the areas. My own area, because of these commissions or local bodies that I have established with the agreements with the Minister, has not been so concerned, but in other areas of the province I've had letters wondering whether the school districts would get their proportional share and I appreciate this assurance.

There is a further problem, however, with those areas that are under the official -- not

(Mr. Molgat cont'd) the official trustee, but what we call the orphan schools, the special schools — those areas where there is really no local taxation levied at all. A large number of these are in many cases immediately adjoining Indian Reserves where the special schools operate the school with local co-operation as best they can but without a regular means of local taxation, and there is usually a nucleus of population in the area. Could the Minister indicate how these particular areas will be handled?

MR. SMELLIE: The administrator will look after it for those areas.

MR. MOLGAT: Meaning the local government administrator or the school administrator?

MR. SMELLIE: The local government district administrator.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder, with your sufferance, if I might ask the Provincial Treasurer a question relating to 6 (a) — if I could hark back to it. You referred me to public accounts and I looked up Page 298, and it seems to be the only page that applies, and if \$50,000 is all the interest that's being paid by the Treasury Department for all of this money that they can use, they're getting awfully cheap money. It seems that there's some \$35 million involved. Surely that can't be right.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend misunderstands it in some way. I haven't -- Page 128 -- I have a note here. Let him look at Page 128. I think there you'll see the names of the trust companies and who got the money. Turn to Page 128 of the Public Accounts and you will see listed there names of the trust accounts concerned and the amount of interest paid on each one. Now those are the ones that come under this particular definition of trust. There may be other definitions of trust that are not in the same category.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, before we leave the unconditional grant again, I just want to get one further point cleared with the Minister. Is it in order for us to say to people in local government districts where there is no school board and no local body at the moment, that if they do organize a local body with a properly called meeting and recognizing a certain specified area, that the Minister would be prepared in those cases to instruct the local government administrator to deal with these people as a regularly constituted body?

MR. SMELLIE: I wouldn't like to make any commitment on that score, Mr. Chairman, because at the present time we are considering a new policy in local government districts for the administration of these sums.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Well, Mr. Chairman, where does that put the specific answer to my specific question?

MR. SMELLIE: If you were dealing with the sums that were allocated for the last year, you had the correct answer a few minutes ago. If you're talking about some future year, we may have a different policy.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Then again, Mr. Chairman, we still haven't got this settled. Can this district still apply for its share before March 31st of this fiscal year?

MR. SMELLIE: If it has not already been spent -- yes.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Does that also mean that in any of these grants in the coming fiscal year -- what the Honourable Minister told us a moment ago about the districts applying for their allocated share, that they'll no longer be able to get them?

MR. SMELLIE: Not necessarily.

MR. ROBLIN: I think what he's trying to say is that the policy that's been outlined to the House is the one that is in effect at this moment. My honourable friend the Member for St. Rose tried to get a commitment out of him as to what would happen in the future. He very properly said: "I don't want to make this commitment because we are considering some change in policy." So until that change is made, the statements made by the Minister stand, but we don't want to be committed too far into the future in case some different arrangement is ultimately decided upon.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Chairman, I'm not interested in what my honourable leader had to ask here, I'm interested in my own question and I'm not asking for the distant future, I'm asking for the period that these estimates cover. That's what we're talking about at the moment and I would like to know whether a given school district who has a board can apply to the administrator for their proportionate share of the unconditional grants as per the estimates which are before the House at the moment?

MR. SMELLIE: They can apply. Whether they'll get it or not is another thing.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Well, Mr. Chairman, that's a senseless answer, with all due respect to the Minister. I think that the Minister should give the members of this House an explanation when he's asked to do so. If he doesn't know the answer or hasn't a policy, he might as well admit it.

MR. SMELLIE: Very well, I will admit that the policy is under consideration at the present time. When a decision is reached, we'll let the members know.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Well, Mr. Chairman, does the Honourable Minister want us to pass this item without knowing what's going to be done with it?

MR. SMELLIE: The local government districts are going to get their share the same as they have done in the past, and how it is administered within the local government district is under review. Unless there is a change in policy, it will be done in the same way it has been done for last year. The policy is under review. I won't give you any commitment that it will stay the same.

MR. MOLGAT: Well I appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister cannot bind himself forever in the future, but let's divide this problem into its component parts. First of all, let's deal with the money presently in reserve in the unconditional fund, and a number of school districts have some reserve now unexpended. Will the Minister assure us that this backlog will be covered through the same system as in the past, the assurance he gave us earlier that a school district could apply for its proportional share. Will he give us that assurance for the amounts presently in reserve which were earned over years past?

MR. SMELLIE: Well there has been no change in the policy up to the end of the current fiscal year. The sums in the estimates that we're discussing now are for the next fiscal year and I make no commitment for those.

MR. MOLGAT: But you do make a commitment for anything in reserve so far?

MR. SMELLIE: There has been no change in the policy up to the end of the current fiscal year.

MR. MOLGAT: But, Mr. Chairman, the point is this: at the moment the Official Trustee, for example, has in a number of school districts in the province a figure which is an accumulation over a number of years in certain cases, a fund that came under the unconditional grant. I'll give you a specific instance. The school district of Alonsa in my own constituency has accumulated over the years \$11,000 in unconditional grants. Now I want the assurance that the school district of Alonsa will get this money. This is the first assurance that I want, and this seemed to be what the Minister was saying. Now provided that we can say to these people and to the other people in the unorganized district, "Yes, that accumulation you will get on a proportional basis; you're guaranteed that amount", then we have this first step settled. After that we can discuss what's going to be done with the amount presently being held.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I think what I'd better do is check up on the statements my honourable friend has made about these reserves which I must admit is a little bit of news to me, because I'm not aware that these reserves are transferable to one fiscal year to the other. But I'll check into that matter after I've read his remarks in Hansard to see if I can divine exactly what he's driving at and get him his answer. I don't think I can do so at the moment.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, the situation is very simple. Every year the government pays out -- I think it works out now something like \$3.00 per person -- in unconditional grants. Is that roughly the amount -- \$3.00 per person? Fine. In the municipalities this \$3.00 goes to the municipal office and the Secretary-Treasurer includes it in his fund. This is money coming in to him. In the unorganized territories -- in the past the procedure was that this was handled through the school districts where there was a locally organized school district with a school trustee and a Secretary-Treasurer. Normally these people took this into their budget and used it for whatever they saw fit, either a reduction in taxes or road construction or what it was. Where there was no local school board, where the school was under administration of the Official Trustee, this money went to the Official Trustee as the representative of the people of the area. The Official Trustee quite properly did not want to spend this money without authorization from his ratepayers and in many cases then these funds simply accumulated in the account of each school district according to the population in that school

(Mr. Molgat cont'd) district. We may have to allocate a portion of it for supplies, expenses and renewals --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Twice in such a short time.

MR. CAMPBELL: I think you've brought down the House.

MR. MOLGAT: In any case the Official Trustee has for a number of school boards -- I don't know for how many but I know in my own area -- these funds, and he has been quite willing to spend them as long as he had some indication from the local people as to how they wanted them spent. We have done it in my own area by means of sometimes getting petitions from the local people as to certain projects that they wanted done. We have done it in other areas by setting up a local committee which I discussed with the Minister, and the Minister agreed and we proceeded -- I established one some three years ago and it's working well and I established another one recently. Now I want to know for sure that this money presently being held by the Official Trustee will be at the disposal of these people, because it is money that they have earned over past years and simply has not been spent. This is the assurance I want to begin with from the government.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I'll check my honourable friend's statement and try and get him the answer.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm led to believe that on these unconditional grants in the unorganized territory that, where there is a school board, the money has not been given in the last year or two. Is this correct or not?

MR. ROBLIN: Again I'll take note of that question.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Would the Minister consider letting this item stand then until he provides the House with the information he's getting?

MR. ROBLIN: Certainly, I'll be glad to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 13 -- passed. Department IV.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Chairman, No. 13 is not passed; it's stood.

MR. ROBLIN: I think the members would like this Item 13 to stand, Mr. Chairman, until I can produce the answers to the question. I must confess that the honourable member who rose succeeded in confusing me thoroughly on this. I'd like to have a chance to read what he actually said to try and get to the bottom of it and I'm happy to let the matter stand until I can perform that little exercise.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Well, Mr. Chairman, may I assure the First Minister that we didn't confuse them any more than they have confused us on this issue.

MR. MOLGAT: You'll find the situation to be very clear when you've checked it.

MR. ROBLIN: Yes, but I'm usually able to see through my honourable friend a lot easier than I have tonight.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Department IV -- Provincial Secretary. 1. Administration --

MR. ROBLIN: No speeches now.

MR. STEINKOPF: Mr. Chairman, in keeping with the fine spirit of the evening there'll be no speech.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Honourable the First Minister told us last evening that this was the department that centennial projects would be found.

MR. ROBLIN: Yes, now you'll see no item in the current estimates. It will appear in the capital estimates and I would appreciate it if my honourable friend would discuss the matter at that time, but it does come up in the capital estimates.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, is it correct then that all questions on centenary projects and so on are to be deferred to capital?

MR. ROBLIN: I think that would be the best idea, Mr. Chairman. That's where the item comes up and I'm sure the Minister will be prepared to answer any questions that there are on that point. It's better to do it there and have it in one place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a) ---

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I presume that the question that I wish to ask comes under the heading of Administration and it's the same one that I've asked on former occasions, and that is to try and get a reconciliation of the figures that have been furnished with regard to the total number of civil service employees at year end. The Honourable the First Minister was kind enough to furnish us yesterday with a list of the staff provided for in the

(Mr. Campbell cont'd) estimates that are now under consideration and I find this to be at only slight variance with the Civil Service Commission report that has already been given to us. In the Civil Service Report itself, on Page 15 we have the four columns headed: Schedule B; Total Number of Civil Service Employees at year end; Department -- under which are listed the various departments; and then the four columns, December 1961, December 1962, December 1963, and then the fourth one - Civil Servants in Established Jobs December 1963. Now what I would like to know is the reason for the discrepancy between the last two columns, December 1963 and Civil Servants in Established Jobs. Does this mean that only the number in the right-hand column, Civil Servants in Established Jobs December 1963, is the number that was actually working at that time?

MR. STEINKOPF: May I provide that information a little later and come back to it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a) -- passed, (b) -- passed, Resolution 14 -- passed. Item 2, Queen's Printer Office (a) --

MR. HILLHOUSE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could tell me whether or no the department is proceeding with -- last year I think it was decided, at least that was my understanding -- it was decided that you would be introducing a loose-leaf system in respect of your Statutes. Is it still the intention of the department to proceed with that idea?

MR. ROBLIN: I sort of think that question should be addressed to the Attorney-General. I think the answer is no, but I think we should.

MR. HILLHOUSE: I realize that part of it does come under the Attorney-General in connection with Revision of Statutes.

MR. ROBLIN: That's a policy matter that he would decide and my honourable friend can no doubt get the story from him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2 (a) -- passed. (b) --

MR. CHERNIACK: On item 2 (b), I notice that last year the Provincial Secretary had with him the information as to the volumes of dollars spent in printing in the classifications of Tendered Contracts, Non-Controlled and Allocated. I am wondering if that information is now available for this year

MR. STEINKOPF: I'll probably not give the information in the same order that the honourable member has requested it, but I'll try. The total amount of printing handled by the Queen's Printer was \$1,726,000 and some odd cents. Of this \$734,670.48 was spent on Printers outside of the Queen's Printer and spread over 297 different printers. All requisitions for printing in excess of \$200 are let by tender. Was there another figure that you wanted?

MR. CHERNIACK: No. Does this then mean that -- no, I think this does answer it, the \$200.00. Thank you.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, if I could just follow this up a bit further with the Minister. Did I understand him correctly to say that all requirements over \$2,000 were let out by tender?

MR. STEINKOPF: No, all that is let to private printing firms over the sum of \$200.00 that we don't do ourselves in the Queen's Printer are let by tender.

MR. MOLGAT: Is this a general tender, Mr. Chairman, or is there a selected list on the tender and what is the structure?

MR. STEINKOPF: Usually it's a very general tender.

MR. MOLGAT: By a very general tender, would the Minister mean that every printing establishment in the province say has an absolutely open invitation to tender?

MR. STEINKOPF: They have an open invitation to tender but the tenders wouldn't be sent to all the printers because some of them are specializing in certain types of work and many of them have indicated the type of work they would like to have and they are sent to those, but anybody who would like to get on the list for any kind of a tender is usually permitted to get on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 15 --

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure that this is the place where I should raise once again the question of our Hansard. I got some figures from the Honourable the First Minister last evening and I wanted to make a comment on them once again. I gather that the Queen's Printers office would be as good a place as any. My purpose is to just read

(Mr. Campbell cont'd) onto the Hansard, Mr. Chairman, the figures that I was furnished with by the Honourable the First Minister regarding the circulation of Hansard. I do this because of the fact that for many years when another government was in office here that government was asked to institute a Hansard system. I recall that my honourable and learned friend from Morris was one of the perennial sponsors of that resolution, if not the perennial sponsor, at least the perennial supporter of it and it had different sponsors. One of the arguments that was used, not only by my honourable friend from Morris but from many others who supported the institution of Hansard, suggested that it would result in a very wide distribution, that a great many people would want to have the opportunity of revelling in the gems of wisdom that fall from the lips of we folks in this Chamber. -- (Interjection) -- My honourable friend is probably suggesting that maybe some of us would be casting them before the traditional animals.

Whatever the reason that impelled the sponsors of this resolution, the fact was that they almost invariably insisted that the public was just waiting to get an opportunity and would subscribe in great numbers. Now the fact is that the complimentary distribution of Hansard is more than double what the total paid circulation is. The complimentary copies go to just a very few: five to the Premier's office, six to the Executive council; seventy to the Clerk of the House for distribution to we folks -- and I presume other officers of the House because there are seventy; ten to the press; five to the party room; Members of Parliament at Ottawa get them - they need them; Ministers and department heads get thirty-nine; Federal Government Departments get five; newspapers and radio stations get seventy-five; city press and dignitaries -- I'm not just sure who they are but I guess we have some some place, thirty-one; making total complimentary copies of 260, and the paid subscriptions to Hansard are 124. The expected rush to subscribe to Hansard hasn't materialized as yet. As one who sits here and listens I don't wonder greatly, but this is something that must be a disappointment to the folks who had the view --. I remember farm organizations, both of them urging the government that if this Hansard institution were established that it would be of great benefit throughout the country because so many people would subscribe to it.

Well oftentimes our hopes don't materialize and I'm not complaining too much about that, but the other thing that I predicted at that time I'm sure has come true, that the introduction of Hansard has increased the reading of speeches in this House. I've mentioned that before and I repeat it now. I think it's a retrograde step. I was very proud of the Honourable Member for Virden this afternoon when he stood up on his feet and, admitting that he was a bit nervous, said he was still going to go to work and make his comments on this subject that was before the House at that time and that he was going to do it without notes even. Maybe a lot of us would have our speeches read a lot better if we ourselves read them, but I still deplore the practice and I'm hoping that the situation will improve rather than continue to regress in this way.

But having said all that, I want to come back and say another thing. I still believe that Hansard is worthwhile, and this is not for the reasons that my honourable friend advanced, but maybe he was more clairvoyant than he knew at the time. I think maybe it is worthwhile, but I would like to know the total cost of it before I adhere to that position too firmly, and I would like to get someone to figure out exactly the total cost of our Hansard. I know we have had placed before us the cost of the recording equipment. Incidentally, I'm very fond of the young man who does the recording and I think he does a wonderful job and does it well, and I think he is an ornament to the House as well as a very efficient workman. Certainly this end of the Hansard is by no means expensive, but the rest of it, the publication is rather expensive and I suppose it is expensive on the basis of per copy inasmuch as the circulation is comparatively small. If those thousands that my honourable friend from Morris had visualized as flocking in to subscribe would have materialized, then the cost per issue would have been cut down greatly, but inasmuch as such small numbers are in fact printed, I suppose that the cost is rather high per copy. Now this is a rather long question, Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Minister, but I would like someone to dig out for me and tell the House the total cost of everything connected with the Hansard of this Assembly.

MR. HARRY P. SHEWMAN (Morris): Mr. Chairman, to set the record straight, I was an advocate of Hansard and I still am, and the Honourable Member from Lakeside when

(Mr. Shewman, cont'd) . . . he mentions the figure thousands and thousands that would subscribe to Hansard -- I don't know, I wouldn't want to say that he's wrong but I do believe this, that somebody told him a mistruth some place along the line because I never remember making that statement. I wanted Hansard for my own protection because in the 1953 election I didn't know half the time who Harry Shewman was, on account of the people who were sitting over at that side of the House at that time were sadly and badly misquoting me, so I am quite proud to say tonight that I did support Hansard and whatever Hansard costs, as far as the taxpayers of the Province of Manitoba are concerned, it is only a matter of a few cents and Hansard is there for any citizen in Manitoba to subscribe to.

Now I have all the respect in the world for the Honourable Member from Lakeside and when he mentioned the fact that our speeches are not what they should be -- that is possibly not explained in the way they should be to make it readable to the people in Manitoba -- but I don't think I have too much trouble in explaining anything that I have said in Hansard that has been read by the public of Manitoba, so I'm still a loyal supporter for Hansard.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I certainly didn't intend to misquote my honourable friend and I'm not suggesting that he used the term "thousands", but I had gathered from the enthusiastic prophecies that there would be thousands come along. I must confess that Hansard has had one undesirable effect only, and that has been since its introduction my honourable friend from Morris has not spoken as often as he used to. Now when we were on that side of the House he was one who used to regale us with good advice time and time again, but whether it is the advent of a different government that needs of course a lot less advice or whether its the fact that our words are recorded now, there is some hesitancy on the part of my honourable friend in speaking as often as he used to and I certainly regret that eventuality.

MR. SHEWMAN: Mr. Chairman, the remarks of the Honourable Member from Lakeside I don't want to accept them in total because there is still a certain amount of wisdom within his remarks to this House. But when he makes the statement that I don't speak as often as I used to, I don't have to, because when they sat over on that side of the House we were giving them good constructive criticism but they wouldn't listen. The 1958 election should have answered the question but apparently it hasn't got home to the Honourable Member from Lakeside yet that I don't have to speak as often as I did because the people of Manitoba in the '58 election, '59 election, '62 election know that they are getting good government, so why waste your word? There are other times when we have to use them.

MR. STEINKOPF: The discussion between the Honourable Member from Lakeside and the Honourable Member from Morris costs us more than the \$7.47 that I have just calculated it's costing on Hansard. I'd like to reply to the question of the Honourable Member from Lakeside. I think the cost as close as we can estimate is around \$1900 per week, which is a very substantial amount.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to add to the cost because I always maintain that I am a conservative, one of the few in this House, but isn't it a fact, Mr. Chairman, and you are in a position to give us this information, that there is a rule in the Rule Book that prohibits us from reading speeches? Gosh anybody that reads Hansard -- I don't read it, but they would know that I don't read my speeches. Anybody would know that. But isn't there something in the Rule Book that prevents us from reading speeches? If that is a fact, then why don't we see that it's faced? It would stop all this argument and cut the expense of Hansard down perhaps to \$1800 per week.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I can assure the Honourable Member from Lakeside that I for one am an avid reader of Hansard, have read it for some time and continue to read it, and I have learned several things from it. One is that although a speech which is read is illegal, as has been pointed out, it is often much more concise and less time-consuming than the rambling speeches that one hears that are not read. Nevertheless, I think it is a good rule that we should not read speeches in spite of the fact that it continues on at great length. The result is that those avid readers who learn to make their way through the pages of Hansard usually know what to skip by noting the name of the person who is speaking in Hansard and I have already adopted that technique of being able to scan very quickly through the speeches that are made by some people whose names I recognize.

I rise, however, to -- (interjection) -- I didn't hear that. I think that it is something

(Mr. Cherniack cont'd) that every member ought to have the delight for himself to figure out just what names there are that he himself wishes to avoid, and I don't want to tell others how to guide their personal lives although the lives of society are something that are of interest to all of us.

I really rose, Mr. Chairman, to appeal to the Honourable Minister to consider a suggestion which I made last year and which fell on barren ears last year and I hope it might prove more fruitful this time around. I appealed last year to the Minister to have a good look at the manner in which the index was prepared. As a reader of the Hansard and one who finds a great deal of knowledge hidden in the pages, I find that an index reveals much more readily that which we want to know if it is properly prepared, and the one thing that I found in looking in last year's index is that the latest index was still some time before the end of the book. In other words, there was no index for the latter part of it. The other feature is that the index, as it has been prepared up to now, is prepared -- the word escapes me as to the manner -- well it is prepared in accordance with the pages consecutively and the headings for the subject matter appear again and again as the debate is adjourned from one day to the next and then comes up again. I suggested last year and I do so now that it would be a comparatively simple job, not demanding either insofar as time is concerned or intellectual achievement is concerned, to put this index in alphabetical form so that if we have a debate as we have running now on some Resolution or other which comes up let us say every four or five days for some six different occasions, that that could be listed alphabetically once with all the different speakers listed under that and the pages where their speech appeared. That way it seems to me that by having this subject index rather than a time sequence index we could follow readily or find readily the subject matters that we are interested in; and this, I submit, would not be much of an effort. I hope the Minister will have a look at this suggestion to see whether it's feasible.

MR. STEINKOPF: Do you have in mind that this index would be current, kept up to date once a week or at the end of the session?

MR. CHERNIACK: I am sure that it could easily just be done -- I think it was done about once every two weeks last year and I am sure it could easily be kept up on this subject index, but surely the end of the year would be the last chance and the best chance to do it once and for all. I am sure it can be done as we go along although it is not as important during the publication of Hansard as it is at the end, because most of us remember pretty well just where to look for it. But if you go back to last year or the year before, you have to have an awfully good memory or be very patient to look for what happened at that time.

MR. STEINKOPF: We'll take a good look at it and I think we'll try and accommodate you if possible.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to say in this regard that the Minister might take a look at the index in the Journal and that this might satisfy the Member for St. John's because that index is extremely well prepared. If one looks for anything in the Journal it can be found under Bills, under Resolutions and so on, and if this were transposed into the Hansard, I think it would be the type of document that might satisfy.

MR. CHERNIACK: I had forgotten that that is exactly where you could find it.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I would also like to make another suggestion. I was quite surprised at the results of the Hansard sales indicated to my colleague the member for Lakeside, and I wonder if there isn't a means of resolving this difficulty between he and the member from Morris now that my honourable friend the member for Morris no longer has a job. The eternal Livestock Committee having come to an end, he might be set up as a special committee for the development of subscription sales to the Hansard -- at no pay, of course.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I think both the Honourable Member for Morris and I would want it to be thoroughly understood that this is not a matter of disagreement between us. We have come to agreement on the subject. I have been admitting that for once I was wrong in my many years on the other side of the House, that Hansard is still worthwhile and I certainly made it plain that I hope it doesn't continue to have the effect of keeping my honourable friend from Morris from speaking as often as he used to, because I would certainly suggest to him that advice is still needed across the other side of the House, and seeing that he sits on this side in such good company, he'll be in a position to tender it still. But just for the record,

(Mr. Campbell, cont'd) and not guaranteeing my mathematics, I have made a quick calculation that if we sit on an average of 10 weeks, then the Hansard is costing us something in the neighborhood of \$150.00 per subscriber, and I believe that it is sent out at the rate of \$3.00 per subscriber, which is a rather typical government enterprise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 15 passed. Resolution 16, Item No. 3 Manitoba Gazette

(a) --

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, I am not contributing to the cost of the Hansard but sometime those who read the Hansard have probably wondered -- (interjection) --. Well all right then, it's passed ---- Sometimes I wanted my family to know where I am, so if they read the Hansard, it is evidence I was here.

In connection with the Gazette, I understand that this is a necessary legal service to the public, like giving notice of estates and incorporations and appointments and so on. If it is a service to the public I don't think the Gazette, or the Government should charge for every insertion. If, however, they wanted to make up the expense and still have a profit, this year they will likely have a profit of \$10 thousand against the revenue, the expense against the revenue, then why not charge more? One should want to make a little money on it because you are not catering to the hungry people; you are not catering to a lower cost of living. Those who use the Hansard can well afford, can well afford to pay more -- the Gazette, I'm sorry, the Gazette, can pay more. Advertising, incorporations and most of the incorporations are not by the unemployed, they are mostly by people who establish new industries; others of appointments and estates, and what have you. So my position is, either do one thing or the other. Either give it as a service to the public by the government the same service as the police, and the fire brigade, and insurance inspection, and so on, or charge more and I don't think anybody will suffer. This way you are selling your birthright for, what do they say for a pot of porridge or a pot of potash, whatever you like to think about it. You are making a profit and your profit is so small it is ridiculous to even to entertain it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 16 passed. Resolution 17 --

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a word or two in connection with Resolution No. 17, and before I make my comments specifically regarding the Civil Service Commission, may I say to the new Minister in this department, who is Provincial Secretary, I have already wished him well previously, but I want to tell my honourable friend that insofar as we are concerned in this corner of the House, that he is heading as Provincial Secretary and the Minister responsible to the Legislature for the Civil Service, that he is heading one of the finest groups of men and women in the public service in any jurisdiction.

It is always a pleasure for one such of the nature as myself, to be able to pay a tribute to the Civil Service. As is well known I am a supporter, and have been an avid supporter, of public enterprise. Too often in public enterprise the general public themselves think and speak derogatory of the Civil Service and I want to assure my friend, the Minister responsible that he has in the Civil Service here in the Province of Manitoba, like the Irish say of the police, "The lot's of the finest."

Now having said this, Mr. Chairman, I want to say and thank also the members of the Civil Service Commission itself for courtesies extended from time to time when I have had questions I raised with them insofar as the Commission itself is concerned. Mr. Chairman, I had an opportunity not so long ago to appear on behalf of one of the employees of the Civil Service before the Civil Service Commission on an investigation. It is not my purpose this evening to go into the details of the hearing but I do want to say that insofar as the Commission itself is concerned, both the employee concerned and myself were extended every courtesy and received a fair hearing in connection with the matter and I will possibly be informing the Provincial Secretary of the details of it one of these days, but I do want to raise one or two points dealing with our Civil Service.

May I first of all, I may have omitted, I may not have the right item Mr. Chairman, I may have missed it the other day, maybe this point should have come up under the question of the Legislative Assembly salaries and provision for staff. I would like to appeal to the Provincial Secretary, if it is his department, to give consideration to a premium rate for the employees that are working casually, evenings here during the session. Now it is my understanding that they have to come here, Mr. Chairman, odd hours in the afternoon, stay

(Mr. Paulley cont'd) odd hours after night. It is my understanding that after we have gone home at eleven o'clock, or whatever time it is, many of them just start cleaning up this Chamber and the likes of that and wend their way home in the early mornings, and I respectfully suggest to the Provincial Treasurer and to the Provincial Secretary, whoever is responsible, that those who have to operate in this category should receive a premium rate for the work that they do.

Now we have a new Provincial Secretary, I want to repeat one or two matters that I have suggested to the previous Provincial Secretary. I shall start out with an old baby of mine, namely, the portability of pensions in the Civil Service. We are pleased to note that in the Throne Speech this year, mention is made of the possibility of at least a study of portability of pensions but it is my understanding that this will be in the general terms of labour and the area of labour in the province. Now I think in the Civil Service that this is an area that can be carried out immediately with the acceptance of other jurisdictions. It is my understanding that in the Province of Ontario they have set up already sort of a portability pension, in general, but I think specifically that this could be done insofar as governmental organizations are concerned, provincial and federal and civic level as well almost immediately, and I suggest it to the honourable the Provincial Secretary, Mr. Chairman, that this be done.

I note with satisfaction that the Government Employees Association is starting their annual meeting today. I note just from brief press reports that one of the subjects under consideration is the question of negotiations. Now I suggest to this government that it would be a very good gesture on the part of this government, if they were to say to the Employees Association, "If you want to be able to join any type of organization for the rights of negotiation, you have our blessings and we will guarantee that right to you." If on the other hand the Employees Association themselves say to you, after you have made this offer, "No, we are perfectly content the way we are," then I think that would resolve the matter. But I think it would be a good gesture and a proper gesture, may I suggest, for the Provincial Secretary, starting out as he is in this new job, as a new Secretary Treasurer to call in the executive of the Employees Association and say: "Now look ladies and gentlemen, as far as our government is concerned we have now come to the conclusion that we no longer think that it's absolutely essential that we should just have sort of family arrangement as we have had in the past between our Civil Service and ourselves."

One reason that I am saying this, Mr. Chairman, is because of the case I mentioned that was referred and heard before the Civil Service Commission. It seems to me from comments that I have heard that in the presentations that were made on behalf of this employee we won our case, but we were not successful in having the job retained for the particular individual because of the fact of the different segments set up within the Civil Service; that because of the occurrence happening in one department, the party concerned was finished in that one department unless there was an opening in another one. In other words, we are sort of vulcanized in the Civil Service insofar as the employees are concerned without having an inter-transferability, or whatever the procedure is that we have in other organizations. Now I would like the Minister to take this into consideration.

Another point that I would like the new Provincial Secretary to take into consideration, is another matter that I have raised, Mr. Chairman, in the Legislature here before, and that is to ensure to all of the employees of the Civil Service, the Crown Corporations, with the exception, and I make this an exception, of those employees who are in charge of secret or confidential documents, that they should have the rights of those things which we cherish in a democracy and particularly the rights of political association and the rights of political participation -- only qualified, as I say, Mr. Chairman, by an understanding of those who are in a position of a confidential nature may not participate in political partisan politics.

One other thing I do note, Mr. Chairman, that as one studies the estimates for this year, that there is no provision for a wage increase for the Civil Servants of the Province of Manitoba. I note that according to the paper that this is one of the matters that is going to be discussed at the convention starting today. I note that the opening remarks of the president indicated that the Civil Servants in the Province of Manitoba were 5 or 10 percent less on average than similar categories in business generally. Now I think, Mr. Chairman, we are all in this Assembly every year, somebody, sometimes me, sometimes others, but I think

(Mr. Paulley, Continued)..... we are all agreed with the sentiment when we express our appreciation to the work that the Civil Servants are doing. I don't think there is any disagreement. Therefore I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that if there is no disagreement in the respect of the job that they are doing, there should be no disagreement, even among some of my conservative Conservative friends in this Assembly, of giving to our Civil Servants wages which are compatible and comparable with those that are being paid to like jobs in industry in general. Now I hope I haven't taken up too many pages of Hansard on this, Mr. Chairman, but I have made this appeal to the Honourable the Provincial Secretary not because I have been asked to by any member of the Civil Service, but simply because I think that it is only right and proper for me to do this and I sincerely trust and hope that the Honourable the Minister will take under consideration the points that I have attempted to raise here this evening.

MR. STEINKOPF: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the Honourable Member knows that we on this side have the same very high regard for the government employees as has he and his confreres on the very many matters that he has brought up. They all are pertinent and I may say that not only have we taken them all under consideration but we have discussed them freely with representatives of the Manitoba Government Employees Association. We, at the present time are negotiating and talking in terms of a type of salary increase, although our estimates show quite a void at the point where there was an increase provided for last year and there isn't one this year. That doesn't quite tell the true story because we operate here in the main on an increment basis and there are, I would say, over the course of the year, many hundreds of thousands of dollars paid amongst our almost 6,000 members or employees and the amount is increasing and with the fringe benefits as you will see here, on life insurance and pension and superannuation, it does amount to a substantial figure every year. We have a program designed to continue meeting with the representatives over the next few weeks and although no agreement has been reached and I cannot talk about any figure, I think that in the main we are in complete agreement with most of your thoughts.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I just want to point out one thing I am aware of to the Minister. I am aware of the system of increments -- and this hasn't escaped my attention -- but I also want to suggest to my honourable friend that the school teachers of the Province of Manitoba likewise operate more or less on an increment scale but invariably year by year, or at negotiation time if not year by year, their salaries are increased notwithstanding the fact that they, generally speaking, are on an increment basis as well. So I hope my honourable friend, the new broom in this position, doesn't take the attitude well, they are getting an increment anyway so we don't have to worry about an increase in actual wages.

MR. STEINKOPF: Quite on the contrary, as a new broom I was trying to get myself in well with the government employees but my conservative friends still have an eye to the taxpayer and the balance that has to be considered in all these matters, and I think that when we are all through negotiating, you will be very happy with the results.

MR. PAULLEY: If the employees are happy, my friend, I'll be happy too.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't like to say anything here that would interfere with the negotiations which are taking place between the government and the Manitoba Government Employees Association because I know that that is one thing that the Civil Service of this Province does not like and does not appreciate and that is being dragged into politics. The Civil Servants of this Province have no politics but I have found them to be dedicated individuals, and my experience with the Civil Service of this Province did not start when I came into this House. My experience with the Civil Service in this Province started some 15 or 20 years before I became a Member of this Assembly. So, therefore, it cannot be said that the reason why I get courtesy and good treatment from the Civil Service of this Province today is due to the fact that I am sitting in this House. I always received that good treatment.

There was one remark passed by the Honourable Leader of the NDP, and I hope I heard it correctly, I think he suggested to the Minister that the Minister should intimate to the Civil Servants of the Province that they have the right to join any organization which they feel fit to join. I don't think the Minister need tell the Civil Servants of this Province that they have that right. They know they have that right. I think the Civil Servants of this Province are quite well satisfied with the organization which they have today - I think too that the Civil Servants of this Province are satisfied that the machinery set up in this Province, which was set up some

(Mr. Hillhouse, Continued)..... years ago, in connection with the negotiating of their wages with the government is about the finest machinery in the Dominion of Canada, and, as a matter of fact, I think it has been copied by other jurisdictions. In Manitoba the Civil Service along with a cabinet committee, sit together. There is liaison between the Civil Service and the government at all levels and I think when the Civil Servants of this Province acquired that right, they acquired something which Civil Servants in other jurisdictions had been attempting to acquire for years. So, therefore, I don't think it is necessary for the Minister to tell the Civil Servants of this Province what their rights are - I think they know what their rights are -- and I think that they are very happy with the organization which they have today and they are very happy, too, with the liaison which exists between their official association and the Government of this Province. And that would apply too, regardless, of what political colour the Government of this Province happened to be. I would only like to say in conclusion that I add and concur in everything that the Honourable Leader of the NDP has said regarding the Civil Servants of this Province. I think we have a body of men and women of which we can be very proud.

MR. PAULLEY: May I say, Mr. Chairman, that I am very glad that the Honourable Member for Selkirk woke up at least during parts of what I said, that part when I was extolling the virtues of the Civil Service - he got that part correct but he didn't get the other part correct. I was not suggesting at all, I was not suggesting at all that there were any debarments of the rights of the Civil Service. What I was suggesting to my honourable friend was, that it would be a nice gesture on the part of the government to say to the Association, if you want a different type of organization then we are prepared to give it to you, the acceptance or rejection is yours. Now, I think, Mr. Chairman, that is vastly different than the suggestion of my Honourable Friend has made from Selkirk. Certainly, as far as I am concerned, I am not attempting to use my position here in this Assembly for any political reasons, or any political persuasions to the Members of the Civil Service in this Province. I also want to say this, too, Mr. Chairman, that I am in a similar position to the Honourable Member from Selkirk because I had dealings, too, with the Civil Service of the Province of Manitoba long before I entered this House, in my capacity of Mayor of Transcona and other capacities. I had to work with Civil Services in my home town and also here in the Province of Manitoba. So I think I can say with justice as much past knowledge of Associations of Civil Servants outside of this Chamber as even my honourable friend.

CHAIRMAN: (a) passed.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, before we leave the Civil Service Commission, I wonder if I could ask a question here which quite properly would have been under Item I but I missed it, but I suppose I can do now, and that's the salary of the Deputy Minister of this Department which I didn't think we got when we opened.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I undertook to provide this information to the House and I have it here but I would like to give my honourable friend the complete list so that he may have it.

MR. MOLGAT: Yes, actually if we could have a complete list like the Minister gave us last year it would be much better than asking the question each time.

MR. ROBLIN: Well, I'm prepared to do that. If there is a particular position he wants this information about now, I can read it out but I'll give him the list as soon as it can be reproduced.

CHAIRMAN: Resolution 17.....

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, under Item 4(c) Assistance for Educational Leave, \$115 thousand, now this is quite a substantial amount of money and no doubt it is for a good purpose, but it does exceed the salaries of the Commission. I was just wondering how many people would be involved in this leave of absence for educational purposes, and whether or not we have any difficulty keeping them here in Manitoba after they have acquired this extra education. I'd appreciate some comment from the Minister on this.

MR. STEINKOPF: To date for the fiscal year 1963-64, 74 civil servants took advantage of the educational leave privilege with an expenditure of approximately \$91 thousand, 600 hundred, \$20 thousand of which is recoverable. I can say fairly confidently that almost all of them have returned. We have been able to keep them on -- I know of no case, there may be some though,

(Mr. Steinkopf, Continued).... that have not come back to us after they've had their educational leave and taken advantage of it.

CHAIRMAN: Resolution 17, passed, Resolution 18, Item 5....

MR. HILLHOUSE: I know we have a new Minister and I hope the new Minister is a little easier to approach, and a little more soft-hearted than your predecessor. On three previous occasions I tried to get your predecessor to throw into this fund a sum of money in order to make up the deficit in the pensions that are payable to a number of old Civil Servants of this Province whose pensions were based upon depression wages. I understand that there is approximately 200 of these servants who are receiving pensions much below the pension which would have been paid to them had they been working for the Government of Manitoba during that period when wages were higher. Their pensions were largely based on wages paid to them during the depression when they took cuts in wages of 15 to 20 percent. There is some of them, I believe, their pensions are not in excess of \$50 to \$55. a month and I would urge, as I have urged in the past, that the Government of Manitoba put into a fund, without disturbing the present Civil Service Superannuation Act, but put into a fund a sum of money which could be used to pay to these people an additional monthly sum to bring their pension up to an amount which would be more commensurate with the debt of gratitude that we owe them for services rendered on behalf of this province.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if my honourable friend remembers that we introduced legislation a few years ago which gave us power to go back and to put into the pension fund our contribution in respect of employees of the province who had made no contribution to pensions whatsoever. We took power by that legislation to open up this field of retroactivity with respect to employees who were not in the pension fund or else who had been in it for only the last few years and not accumulated their long service, because one of the big factors in pensions is not only what they got but the length of years over which they served. A great many of the people of whom he speaks, in fact I believe almost all that applied, and we're still getting applications, were able to have their pensions re-examined on that basis and new ex-gratia payments were made and are being made with respect to that whole category of servants of the Crown who were not in the pension plan or for one reason or another they didn't get a decent pension. If there's any particular case my honourable friend has in mind, he should invite that person to submit an application through Mr. Watson of the Pension Branch, who will examine it and find out whether there is anything we can do about it.

We have had scores of applications in the past few years and I think that we have had to turn down very few indeed. There were a couple of rather hard cases that we reluctantly had to turn down because of particular circumstances, but we were able to provide a much improved pension for many people. If my honourable friend has somebody that he's worried about, if he will instruct them or ask them to contact Mr. Watson, he can give them the plot and if there's any way in which we can help them we'll do so.

MR. HILLHOUSE: I wish to thank the Minister for his statement, Mr. Chairman, and I wish to assure him that these individuals of whom I speak know nothing of this being available to them, and when I mentioned this last year there was no mention made by you or by the then Provincial Secretary that they could apply to Mr. Watson. It's true that there had been an adjustment made a year before that, I think a couple of years ago, and it was in respect to that adjustment that some of these people did have their pensions raised, but even with the raise, in some instance the raise only amounted to about \$2.40 a month and there was some of these individuals whose pensions then were less than \$60.00 a month and who had 25 years' service. Now I have the list of them down at the office and I will get in touch with these individuals and I'll ask them to get in touch with Mr. Watson to make application for an additional sum, but had the Minister or had the Provincial Secretary told me last year when I spoke on this particular subject that that fund was available or that privilege was available to these people I would have communicated to them and I wouldn't be speaking in this House tonight.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I want to be careful here that I don't leave a false impression or raise any unjustified hopes. I'm not giving any carte blanche here and it may be that some of the people of whom my honourable friend speaks have been to Mr. Watson and have received an adjustment or have been dealt with by him, and if they have and it's under the terms of the legislation -- I want it to be clear that I'm not suggesting that it'll do any good to

(Mr. Roblin, Continued). . . . go back again because they have been dealt with. All I want to say is that we are willing and have been willing to examine each one of these and we have certain rules -- there always has to be rules that we work on -- and where a person can be fitted into those rules, and we've been pretty elastic about it, we try and help him out. It's perfectly true that in some cases the amount of extra pension has only been a token, it's only been small in some cases. In other cases it's been in the neighbourhood of \$50 or \$60 a month, depending on the particular circumstances concerned. So I don't want to mislead my honourable friend by having him think that this is something new or revolutionary on our part, but I just want to be sure that he does know what facilities are available. If they have already tested them and been treated by that they may still be out of court, but I would like to be sure that at least they do take that step to be sure that every angle has been looked at.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Well I wish to thank the First Minister and I will contact these people. I know that they were dealt with in the adjustment two years ago, but if there's anything further coming to them I'm going to see that they get it.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, is it correct that under the rules of The Superannuation Act now, an employee leaving the employ of the government can only withdraw his own contribution without any interest, without any of the government's share, regardless of how long he has been in the government employ?

MR. STEINKOPF: Just off-hand I think that that is correct. The government doesn't contribute to The Superannuation Fund. It's not a funded kind of a fund; it's semi-funded and the amount that's required each year by the Superannuation Fund is an assessment against the government and that's paid in a bulk amount, so I don't think there would be any amount earmarked for the individual should he leave the service of the government before his pension comes due.

MR. ROBLIN: because we're going to have to do something about that. I notice the Throne Speech indicates a bill on pensions which I think I'm responsible for -- I'm not sure whether it's my honourable friend or me, one of the two of us is responsible for it -- and that provides for portability. So when you provide for portability you have to provide for a different arrangement than the one we've got now.

MR. MOLGAT: This is the statement that I was hoping I would hear. My honourable friend the Leader of the House and myself have had some interesting debates in the past over the funding of this plan and I wasn't to go over that again, but if the government is proposing legislation insofar as portability of pensions then we will have to consider, I'm sure, amending some of our regulations here. As far as I'm concerned, I'm prepared to wait for discussions of that until such time as we get the Bill, as long as it's understood that we will then be able to discuss the provincial fund at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 18 -- passed. Item 6, Civil Service Group Insurance, resolution 19 -- passed. Item 7, Resolution 20 -- (a)

MR. HILLHOUSE: Mr. Chairman, there's one question that I would like to direct to the Honourable Provincial Secretary regarding the Purchasing Bureau. I understand that in the Federal Purchasing Bureau it is the practice there for whoever the agent is to give to unsuccessful bidders particulars of the successful bid. Now is that the practice in Manitoba with your purchasing department? Where bids are called for and a successful tenderer is granted the contract, is it the practice of the purchasing agent to furnish to the others, upon request, particular of the successful bid?

MR. STEINKOPF: Mr. Chairman, May I give you the answer on that later?

MR. HILLHOUSE: Yes, that'll be fine.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, has the Minister since he has taken over the department undertaken any studies in the matter of the purchasing methods of the provincial government and the purchasing methods of the various boards and agencies?

MR. STEINKOPF: A formal study or on an informal basis? We have discussed it with the purchasing agents and set up a committee to prepare a complete report on the method of purchasing in all the departments that the government is interested in.

MR. MOLGAT: We have been suggesting on this side of the House, Mr. Chairman, for some years that the government should look at a program of combining all the purchasing, not just the government itself, but the agencies, the boards and the commissions, and have it under

(Mr. Molgat, Continued)..... one purchasing group which I think might be able to effect some substantial economies in this field. I believe the Federal Government have investigated this very carefully themselves and I know the City of Winnipeg some years ago made a study on this, and I'm pleased to hear from the Minister that he is prepared to act on this matter and have a thorough review. When can he give the results of his investigation?

MR. STEINKOPF: I think it'll take a few months yet. One of the first things that concerned me as a businessman coming into the government was that we had quite a number of purchasing departments and being in the fortunate, or maybe unfortunate position of being the Minister in charge of purchasing and the Minister of the two utilities that had the big purchasing organization, it occurred to me that there might be some savings and merit in putting them together and thinking about it. I started on it and I find that it's not quite as simple as I thought it was and I hope that within a few months I'll have a fairly complete record on it and will be able to have it ready at least by this time next year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 20 -- passed. Resolution 21 -- Item 8, Workmen's Compensation Board.

MR. A. E. WRIGHT (Seven Oaks): Mr. Chairman, I notice a substantial decrease in the assessment of the Workmen's Compensation Board of some 45 percent. Is that attributable to a wonderful safety record over the last few years? I think this deserves comment if it is.

MR. STEINKOPF: It most probably is but I don't think we can take all the credit for it. These are things that can happen. In the last two or three years we've had two very bad years. You'll recall that there was a fire that took a loss of life up in the Duck Mountain -- I think two of our foresters - fire fighters -- a couple of years ago -- and then the Department of Agriculture had a bad accident a year ago. These all increased our assessment and at best this can only be an estimate for this year, and the way we see it now, \$60,000 looks like that will be it.

MR. HYRHORCZUK: Mr. Chairman, this is one of those items where the government carries its own insurance, isn't it? It's not a matter of paying over the Workmen's Compensation Board?

MR. STEINKOPF: That's right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 21 -- passed. Item 9, Resolution 22 --

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, I know that the honourable members opposite would be very disappointed if I hadn't something to say on this particular item because this is the one that I refer to, as well as other members on this side, as the propaganda branch. But I would like to find out if it has been transferred from the Department of Industry and Commerce to Provincial Secretary now. That is all publications and all propaganda of this nature that I refer to, has it been transferred to the Provincial Secretary, because in the past I referred in particular to the Information Section, Department of Industry and Commerce, and they are still coming out under that heading. There is, I take it then, Mr. Chairman, that in addition to the \$34,000 that we have here for Information Services, there could be a like sum still in Industry and Commerce and in Agriculture, because something else has been added - something new has been added since we last met in the way of propaganda and this is "Farm and Home News for Manitoba". Mr. Chairman, we spent some time discussing the subscription price of Hansard a little while ago and the subscription price for both of these is still "nil" and they are worth every cent you have to pay for them as I said before.

MR. ROBLIN: Do you happen to have a few samples?

MR. SHOEMAKER: I do happen, Mr. Chairman, to have a few samples on hand. There is one, Mr. Chairman, on "Rabid Skunks" and then there is one on "Commercial Fisherman Go Back to School".

MR. ROBLIN: my honourable friend that if he is on the Agricultural ones that have that nice little green heading on the top, he could save that for the Minister of Agriculture because I believe he is going to have to take the responsibility for replying to my honourable friend on those. Those don't come out of this particular appropriation.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It is just as I suspected, the \$34,000 only covers the nice pink ones.

MR. ROBLIN: That's right.

MR. SHOEMAKER: There'll be another item of \$34,000 or \$35,000 for the new added green additions -- the super duper ones.

(Mr. Shoemaker, Continued)..... Now another question, Mr. Chairman. I understand that something further has yet been added and that is the films that the department are putting out. I don't know whether it comes under this department, under Industry and Commerce or Agriculture or whether once again each department is putting out these propaganda films. I think -- (interjection) -- could be, Mr. Chairman, but I refer now in particular to a film that might be termed "The Flood Scare" because I understand that it is presently running at nearly every theatre in the Province of Manitoba and it has to do with a film of the flood, the first -- probably you know the one of which I talk, Mr. Chairman, because I believe that you had a free run last night at the Marlborough Hotel.

Now inasmuch as we, that is the members of the House, are more or less captive for the next couple of months, I think it's only fair that the House should put on a free showing for the members of the House in Room 200 or 234 -- it's used for this occasion and for committee meetings. We could probably have it, not tonight after 11 but some night we could have it when we have a little free time, maybe Wednesday night, and invite the Press down and have a free run on all of these films. Now I'm talking right now in particular about the Flood Scare film, and then there is one or two other ones that they have. I would like to know what the cost of producing this film is and what....

MR. EVANS: that film that he is talking about is under the Department of Agriculture and he might refer it to the Minister when he is here.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Well I want to thank my honourable friend -- at least they recognized what I am referring to as the Flood Scare film. Then I guess it isn't fair to ask the cost of producing that or any part of it at this time so we will just have to settle on the nice orange-colored ones and I have a few of those. I don't intend to read any of them tonight, but if I can follow the estimates correctly, it seems to me that we are spending more money on information services, which is nothing more nor less than propaganda at the Government's expense and the taxpayers' expense, than we do in the publications in the Department of Agriculture, and I say that this is a lot of money that could be stricken out. We can move I suppose as we did last year, that while on concurrence we can move to reduce it. I see it is up again so I guess the cost of printing and the number of subscriptions has increased the cost.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, the remark has been made that this material that is going out is propaganda. I don't agree. Here we are sitting here tonight and will be for the next few weeks authorizing the spending of millions of dollars, that is the peoples' money, and this medium which is being referred to as propaganda is the medium by which we can tell the people what is being done with their money. The efforts are not necessarily by the government alone toward the welfare of the Province of Manitoba. I happen to be at the other end of receiving some of these so-called pieces of propaganda. We in the printing industry are very pleased to have it. We are very pleased to be able to tell our people in agriculture what benefits are being extended to the fishermen, or to the miners, or the forestry industry. It's very, very important. I feel there are some items that might be sorted out and not sent out. I agree on that point, but for the most part I think it is money well spent and nothing should interfere with keeping the public of Manitoba fully informed as to where their tax dollars are going.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GRAY: There is a very classical English phrase and this is, "Let the devil have his due". The government is accused, and I'm not coming to the defence of the government I can assure you of that, but they were accused of propaganda. I don't care what they call it. The information that we get is valuable not perhaps all -- is valuable because we can't get it anywhere else and not for a long time particularly between sessions. Now whether it is for the sake of propaganda, I want to admit that I, too, do some good here, perhaps for propaganda purposes, so what's wrong about it? I think that these circulars that are going out -- I read them and I think they are informative and it gives us an idea of what's going on. Saskatchewan is using a similar medium and it's good reading, perhaps better reading than here, but it's good reading so I feel that this criticism is just probably for the Hansard but nothing else.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, two wrongs doesn't make a right, and if they have twice as much propaganda in Saskatchewan that's their business, but two wrongs in my estimation doesn't make a right.

Now for my honourable friend from Swan River, I can understand the comments that he

(Mr. Shoemaker, Continued)..... makes, because I think it is a fact that most newspaper men will print pretty near anything that you shove in front of them if it's all prepared and waiting there for them, and I think that it saves them a lot of work.

MR. ROBLIN: What press could publish if my honourable friend stopped writing letters to it?

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, if I may say a word in rebuttal to what has been said, I would suggest to him that he has been rather misinformed. He is overlooking one thing. I'm not going to repeat what I have already said, but the printing industry themselves, they are put to a considerable amount of expense to inform the people by this material that is coming to them and if they think that it's not worthwhile, they are not going to go to that expense, not by a darn sight, and I can assure him, and I reiterate, that this is important material and should continue to go to the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 22 -- passed. Resolution 23, Item 10, Emergency Measures.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we might cease for this evening on this. There are one or two questions that I might want to raise, and one of them -- I want to warn my honourable friend the First Minister -- one of the questions I want to direct to him in all deference to the Provincial Secretary: Have you finished your air raid shelter now?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate notice of that question. I have abandoned the whole proposition, so that ought to settle the debate for awhile. But if the honourable gentlemen want to pursue Emergency Measures tomorrow, I'm quite prepared to move that the committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directed me to report the same and ask leave to sit again.

MR. MARTIN: Madam Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Brandon, that the report of the committee be received.

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

MR. JOHNSON: Madam Speaker, may I ask leave of the House to table the report of the University of Manitoba Board of Governors for the period ended 31st March, 1963. This is the last day for them to be tabled and it was an oversight.

MR. EVANS: Madam Speaker, may I have similar leave to table the report of the Manitoba Development Fund Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 1963. Copies will be available.

MR. ROBLIN: I think I should say, Madam Chairman, if the House will give me permission, that there are one or two reports that should be tabled today which are not as yet available. They have been in the hands of the printer and there has been some unfortunate delay there. I just hope that members will bear with us for a day or two in producing some of this but we are chasing it up as fast as we can.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce, that the House do now adjourn.

Madam Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the house adjourned until 2:30 Friday afternoon.