

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
10:00 o'clock, Friday, December 9, 1966

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions
Reading and Receiving Petitions
Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees
Notices of Motion
Introduction of Bills

HON. STEWART E. McLEAN (Provincial Secretary)(Dauphin) introduced Bill No. 9, an Act to amend The Partnership Act; and Bill No. 14, an Act to repeal certain Acts relating to Certain Corporations.

HON. HARRY ENNS (Minister of Agriculture & Conservation)(Rockwood-Iberville) introduced Bill No. 7, an Act to amend The Department of Agriculture and Conservation Act.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Leader of the Opposition)(Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to address a question to the Provincial Treasurer. Is he aware that there has been an announcement made of a substantial increase in insurance rates? I believe it is 9% for the metropolitan area and some 11% across the province. What steps does he intend to take? Will he set up the Committee of this House that was established last year and died when the election was called and will he deal with this matter immediately?

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Provincial Treasurer) (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, as soon as I became aware of the announcement of the increase in the rates, I asked my staff to advise me of what the present situation is as to whether there is any public interest in Manitoba that requires to be protected. I have not had any further discussion with the staff since then. We'll be prepared to take whatever action seems indicated.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, a subsequent question. Will the Committee of the House be re-established and convened at once?

MR. EVANS: I'm not able to say at this time.

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of the New Democratic Party) (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question? The Honourable the Minister mentioned if it is in the public interest. May I ask him if he does not think that it is in the public interest to have a complete investigation into the rate-setting methods of the All Canada Insurance Foundation?

MR. EVANS: As soon as I have had an opportunity to consider the matter, I'll be able to make further statements. I can't at this time.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW (Brokenhead): Mr. Speaker, I had intended to present the same question as did the honourable member the Leader of the Opposition. However, I will elaborate somewhat further with that question and ask the Honourable Minister, the Hon. Sterling Lyon, in view of the pending increase of the cost of automobile insurance, does the enquiry commission have the authority to enquire into the auto insurance business?

HON. STERLING LYON, Q. C. (Attorney-General) (Fort Garry): I'll have to look, Mr. Speaker, at the terms of reference in more detail. They are extremely broad. It is conceivable that the prices enquiry commission could look at that as one element in the cost of living. That is entirely conceivable.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question - I'm not sure whether it's the new Department of Manpower or the Minister of Education - in connection with the Program 5 of the Unemployment Insurance Act. Are there a waiting list at the present time of people who would like to take advantage of this course, or of these courses, and if so, how many; where are they located; and who is in charge of setting up these schools in these various areas?

HON. GEORGE JOHNSON (Minister of Education) (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, I would like to have an Order for Return to give this specific information. I can report to the House that this comes under the Special Services Branch of our Vocational Division in the Department of Education at the moment. I can report to the House there are over 1,500 people in basic upgrading courses this morning with rapidly increasing numbers. The only thing that has held up the formation of a few classes most latterly has been the textbook supply. We didn't anticipate the tremendous bulge, and as soon as the textbooks are available we will have another - I think up to 500 in training.

MR. MICHAEL KAWCHUK (Ethelbert Plains): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to direct a question or two at the Commissioner of Northern Affairs.

(MR. KAWCHUK cont'd. . . .) I understand this morning there was an announcement made by Miss Judy LaMarsh with respect to the fact that there will be live television available to our northern citizens of this province very shortly. The question I have is, what agreements have been entered into with the Federal Government; and secondly, when is this expected to become a reality?

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier) (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might undertake to answer this question. Some time ago the government of Manitoba made a proposal to the Federal Government to expedite the supply of television to Northern Manitoba. Just the other day, I received a proposal respecting this matter from the Federal Government which in our view is not satisfactory. We are now framing an alternative proposal with respect to the matter and I expect that that new proposal will be going forward very shortly.

MR. MOLGAT: . . . to ask a further question of the Attorney-General. He said he will investigate to see whether or not the cost enquiry can look at auto insurance rates. If he finds that it does not cover that, would he be prepared to suggest to the other provinces that it be added, and if this is not feasible, would he be prepared to discuss with the other two prairie provinces a conference between the three provinces to see if something can't be done about this?

MR. LYON: We would be prepared to look at all of those matters, Mr. Speaker, or alternatively, to look at matters that we could investigate within the Chamber itself.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Provincial Secretary. There seems to be much misunderstanding on the part of the general public with respect to the new Highway Traffic Act and many motorists are being charged for making a right turn on a red light. I wonder if proper information was given to the public that this provision was not in the new Highway Traffic Act.

HON. STEWART E. McLEAN, Q. C. (Minister of Public Utilities) (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, answering that question in my capacity as Minister of Public Utilities, I think that an adequate attempt was made to make this information clear and available. I regret to say that apparently some folks have misunderstood. The provisions of the Highway Traffic Act are quite clear as passed by this Legislature and as discussed by this Legislature at its last meeting, that under the provisions of The Highway Traffic Act, right turns may be made on red lights if there is a by-law of the municipal corporation concerned. That is, the Act itself does not make these turns part of our driving rules but allows that it may be made by a municipal authority, subject to the approval of the Highway Traffic and Motor Transport Board, and so far I may say, for the benefit of all concerned, that no municipality has availed itself of this provision and of course obviously no applications have been received by the board for approval.

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the same Minister. Is it the intention of the government of providing a list of the municipalities that pass these by-laws to any tourists that are going to come to Manitoba?

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Speaker, that is anticipating the possibility that some may do it. We have made no decision in that regard.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Has any instructions gone out in the course of the last year or two instructing municipalities to group the items on the assessment roll, because I'm informed that certain people are losing money as a result. They are losing out on the school tax rebate that would rightfully come to them because of groupings that are presently being made in certain municipalities. My question is, have any instructions gone out to this effect that such groupings should take place?

HON. THELMA FORBES (Minister of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs) (Cypress): I will take the honourable member's question as notice.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable Leader of the House. In view of the uniform increase in automobile insurance rates, not only apparently this year but in years past, has the government of Manitoba made any requests of the Federal Combines Investigation authority for an investigation as to whether or not a combine exists for the setting of rates?

MR. ROBLIN: I think this matter has already been referred to the Federal Government by another jurisdiction.

MR. PAULLEY: What might I ask, Mr. Speaker, does my honourable friend mean by "another jurisdiction?" I asked the question in the Legislature of Manitoba as to the action

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) of this government, not some other jurisdiction.

MR. ROBLIN: I am not aware that there is any reason to suspect a combine in the insurance business. If we thought that we would certainly refer it to the appropriate authorities. However, as this is a matter of some interest to the House and the public, I think it would be right for me to say that, as my colleagues have intimated, we expect to reconvene our own committee on automobile insurance. We will have a very good look at it ourselves and if we find that there is any reason to suspect that there are things being done which are in any way improper, then we can take the appropriate action. On the other hand, if we find that matters are regulated in a fair and proper way in all the circumstances, then I think our minds will be eased and the minds of the public as well.

So I want to assure my honourable friend that I'm not attempting to dodge his question but I do think that we should perhaps follow through what we had originally intended to do, and that is to have a committee of this Legislature which can look at all aspects of the matter and provide a full opportunity to ventilate the issue. I expect that my honourable friend the Attorney-General will be moving that committee before long.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I may on the same point, my friend says he is not dodging the issue. I ask him specifically now then, has he or has he not, or has the government or has the government of Manitoba not made enquiries as to the combine attitude or nature of the setting of rates.

MR. ROBLIN: The government of Manitoba has from time to time looked at the whole question of the increase of insurance rates and we have seen nothing to persuade us that it is a combine, therefore we have made no application to the Federal Government. However, we are going to have our committee sit and we will examine the matter in some further detail.

MR. PAULLEY: Might I ask, Mr. Speaker, why then was this not announced in the Speech from the Throne as it was a year ago?

MR. ROBLIN: The Speech from the Throne does not contain all the business that the government intends to put before the House. We have already made a public statement. I made it myself and I made it privately to gentlemen in the House as well, saying that we were going to re-activate a number of these committees whose business was not otherwise disposed of.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the increase in rates is due to take place on the first of January, will the First Minister agree to reconvene the committee or to re-establish it before the Christmas recess, and then the Committee could sit very soon after the New Year, even if the House itself is not sitting, and could then proceed with its work possibly better in fact than when the House is sitting because the members would have some more time to devote to it.

MR. ROBLIN: Consideration will be given to all reasonable suggestions.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to address a question to the Honourable the Attorney-General. In view of the announcement yesterday by the Provincial Secretary regarding compensation for the victims of crime, can the Attorney-General indicate when we might receive a report from the investigator into the jail escapes which are rather - which have taken place in the past, and can the Attorney-General indicate to the House what measures are taken at the present time to prevent the ever-recurring escapes from our custodial institutions.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I daresay that when the estimates of the Department of the Attorney-General are before the House that matter can be well ventilated. I have no firm idea as to when the Deputy Warden of Stony Mountain will be reporting to the department on the investigations that he presently has under way.

MR. PAULLEY: A subsequent question then, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable the Attorney-General says that this matter can be ventilated at the time estimates are under consideration. My question to him was, what steps are being taken now to prevent recurrences. These escapes will not await the consideration of the estimates by this House.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, the steps that are being taken are the usual steps that are taken by custodial authorities in every province in Canada to try to prevent escapes. Unfortunately in other provinces, as in Manitoba, there is no such thing as a 100 percent secure jail.

MR. PAULLEY: been thrown away.

MR. RUSSELL J. DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Education. Is he aware that there are no school safety patrols

(MR. DOERN cont'd) provided for students in Grade 1 and Kindergarten in the Metro area? Is he anticipating any action in this regard?

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure of my jurisdiction in this area. I'll take the question as notice and see what I can find out about it.

MR. NELSON SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I would like to direct a question to my honourable friend the Minister of Education. How many high schools are presently offering car driving courses throughout the province. This is one way to reduce insurance rates. How many - how many have we?

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Speaker, if I may answer that question, as indicated in the Speech from the Throne there will be 25 commencing immediately after the New Year.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Speaker, I didn't get that. My question was how many are now offering courses.

MR. McLEAN: Oh, I think the answer to that question is that the schools at the moment are not offering courses to the students. They are presently completing the training of the teachers who will be instructing in the courses.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry and Commerce, and perhaps if he needs some assistance the First Minister would help. As the Minister knows, Ottawa operates the designated area program and I'm sure the Minister is aware that in the last session, or the last Legislature rather, a resolution was passed in this House requesting Ottawa to have all of Manitoba declared a designated area. So my question is, has this request been made since that resolution was passed?

HON. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes, and I may report that I've had occasion to talk personally to the Minister of Industry, Mr. Drury, in connection with this and we are awaiting a reply from him.

HON. WALTER WEIR (Minister of Highways) (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, possibly I could reply to a question the Honourable Member from Rhineland asked earlier in the week in connection with a report from individual Water Supply Districts. Financial statements are not available to the Water Supply Board but I assume that they are available to the individual municipalities concerned.

MR. EDWARD I. DOW (Turtle Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question either to the Honourable Minister of Utilities or the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. What study was taken by the Utilities or Municipal Affairs to change the code in electric wiring to use the town water systems as a ground for their utilities?

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain would hardly expect me to have the technical answer just here with me right at this moment. I'll be glad to find out and answer the question later.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to direct a question either to the Minister of Highways or the Minister of Public Works in connection with an underpass over the CPR mainline on or near Nairn Avenue in the City of Winnipeg. My question would be: Have negotiations been completed so that a start might be made shortly on this overpass or underpass, and if so, when is construction likely to start?

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, that's a difficult question to answer in full. Yes, negotiations have been carried and are progressing quite favourably. They are completed to the point that the project has been approved by the Board of Transport Commissioners, Metro and the province. The structures are under design. There have been some changes in the design. As to when construction can start, it's difficult to say right now.

MR. PAULLEY: Can the Minister indicate whether it will be an overpass or an underpass?

MR. WEIR: No, I can't. This is part of the difficulty in the re-design. I'm not just sure at the moment.

MR. SAUL M. CHERNIACK, Q.C. (St. John's): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Honourable the Provincial Secretary. In view of the statement that he made last night regarding The Orderly Payment of Debts Act, could he clarify for me whether there is any obstacle in the way of bringing in the machinery provided under The Bankruptcy Act which was passed last June. Is it a matter that it must yet be clarified by the Federal Government or is it entirely in the hands of this government and has been since June?

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Speaker, that matter is now receiving the attention of the Attorney-

(MR. McLEAN cont'd)General. I think it's an administrative matter only.

MR. JOHNSTON: My question is for the First Minister, Mr. Speaker. In moving the Throne Speech, the Member for St. Vital mentioned the beginning of the Monoca project at The Pas, so my question is: Has this company, either Monoca or Churchill Forest Products, have they started construction or have they hired any people at The Pas as yet?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I expect that my colleague the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources will be making a rather complete report on that in due course.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. Vital for an Address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in answer to His Speech at the Opening of the Session; and the Proposed Motion of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition in amendment thereto; and the Proposed Motion of the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party in further amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, first of all I would also like to congratulate you on the election to the office of Speaker and I hope that your term during this 28th Legislature will be a pleasant one and a successful one, and I hope that members of this House will help and assist you as best as possible, at least I will try and endeavour to give you that assurance as far as my part.

I would also like to extend a hearty welcome to the new members of this House. Certainly it's quite something to win an election and to become a member of this House for the first time, and no doubt they will probably get better help than I did when I first came to this House from their particular parties, so I certainly wish them every success in their endeavours and in whatever way they are trying to help their constituencies in whatever way possible.

Nevertheless, I also feel sorry for certain members that have left this House probably not of their own will. I just would like to mention a few, for instance the honourable member for Wellington who was a personal friend of mine, the former member for Burrows who I appreciated very much, and there are others such as the former member for Ethelbert. These are people that I had high regard for and with whom I shared certain opinions. No doubt many of the new members that are in this House at the present time will meet the requirements and will no doubt in time become very worthy members. At least I have no doubt in that respect because already they are showing a keen interest in an endeavour to inform themselves.

I would also like to congratulate the mover and the seconder to the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne on their maiden speeches. Sometimes I would like to share the confidence that the Honourable Member for St. Vital has in the present government, but I think the members on this side of the House at least very often feel that they just can't share this confidence, and I'm not so sure whether in time the Honourable Member for St. Vital's confidence will be shaken itself. When he mentions that ever since Sputnik I was launched, that education costs had risen in this province and doubled, I too feel that since Sputnik I certain things happened in the Education Department of this province and I think confusion has reigned since and sometimes I wonder whether they are not still in orbit.

No doubt I will have more to say in connection with the Department of Education's affairs, but I thought I should digress for a moment or two and address myself to the Honourable Provincial Secretary's statement that he made last night, a statement that was read -- or the White Paper outlining proposals respecting civil remedies' code for the protection of the rights and liberties of the citizens. I was pleased to hear some of the measures that it contains, and when it comes to the Legislative Commissioner for Administration, in my opinion the most important aspect and the very reason why the need for such an officer was left out or was exempted, because the need in my opinion was to investigate complaints of persons that were harmed and harm was done especially through Crown agencies and government boards that treaded on the rights of people and they had no recourse.

Now we find that a Commissioner is going to be set up, yet these Crown agencies and these boards are to be exempted from the scrutiny of this officer. I think this is very wrong indeed and this is the very purpose why many of us members felt that we needed such an officer, and now we see that the very thing that it was supposed to be set up for is being by-passed. We've had complaints from the people in connection with the Vegetable Marketing

(MR. FROESE cont'd) Commission, with the Agricultural Credit Corporation, and with other government boards of which I have personal knowledge, and these are now going to be exempted under this legislation. This in my opinion is a shame.

Coming back to the matter of education, I think both the other two leaders have spoken on this and we had quite an extensive discussion yesterday afternoon in connection with the new one district division plan which is to be voted on in a referendum on March 10th. The Throne Speech mentioned that the Teachers Society and the Manitoba Association of School Trustees are both in support of this plan. Now certainly I think the teachers of this province have certain things to gain through this plan. There will be greater departmentalization and grade schools in the rural areas. This is what happens under centralization. This will also mean stronger locals for their bargaining purposes, so that they stand to gain in that way. Then we will definitely have less local autonomy of our school boards, and if there is a turnover in these boards that means that they will be weakened and, as a result, the Teachers Society and the teachers of this province stand to gain from this one district division plan. I don't think that this is the case for the trustees and I personally

MR. SPEAKER: I regret that I interrupt the speaker at the moment but I do hear considerable private conversations going on about the House, and I wonder if a little more attention might be paid to the rules in this respect.

MR. FROESE: If I may continue, I don't think that this applies to the trustees of this province. The Throne Speech also mentions that the Trustees Association are giving them support in this program, and personally I have my doubts whether the members of the Trustees Association actually do support them to the extent that we are led to believe. The matter was not brought to the attention or on their program at this year's convention, I think due to the dissension of this matter, and that they did not want to create a controversy in their convention on this point. So that there is a lot of opposition to this plan among trustees in Manitoba and that we just cannot take it for granted that they will be wholeheartedly supporting this referendum.

During the convention, delegates - and I had the opportunity of attending part of it - questions were circulating on this very program and about the future of it. They were looking for information, but the only information that was given to them was through a formal statement by the Minister of Education and certainly this did not answer nearly all the questions. There is certainly great apprehension as to the government's policy in connection with the minimum eight classroom schools for elementary children. Certainly by just referring the matter now to the division boards, that does not change the government's policy. The policy has not been changed, and as a result they will no doubt be pressuring division boards on this so that there will be only large elementary schools in the various divisions and that in the long run the government will be imposing this program on division boards.

Then too, as I already mentioned on previous occasions, I feel that the trustees doubt the sincerity of the government's statement on this change of policy, because under Bill No. 16 we're imposing a one district division in the Interlake area and we're not correcting this. If there was a change of policy, I think that we should see that this was retracted. This would really give an indication that there was a change.

I also remember the many statements that were made at the Municipal Affairs Committee hearings of a year or two ago when we held hearings at Brandon and Swan River and Winnipeg, and on many occasions we heard that the municipal people were very skeptical about any changes. This all stems from the time of the previous vote on the matter of establishing divisions at that time, and they will be very hesitant to jump into anything without giving it proper discussion and with giving out full information on all the aspects of this plan.

Then there too is the cloud overhanging the old issue of the Boundaries Commission. What if these one district division plans are adopted? What is going to follow? What is the Boundaries Commission going to do? Are they going to enlarge these divisions? What is going to happen in this connection? Here again we find that this Boundaries Commission, the set-up of the Commission, a lot of them are unsuccessful candidates of the last election and from the government side of the House, so are they really an independent commission or will they take direction from the government? I think this is also a matter that people think of when they think of this commission and what it might do.

Now what are the advantages and probably also the disadvantages of a one district division. The main principle is to centralize - centralize the administration - and this means that we are putting more and more power into fewer and fewer hands. The main advantage as I see it

(MR. FROESE cont'd) is mostly on the government side in that they will have to deal with fewer people when they are dealing with the Department of Education and the various trustee bodies. This also means that they can more readily influence them and impose any measures that they readily desire.

Well there might be other advantages and I won't dispute certain advantages, for instance the greater use of teachers. Here is an area that I agree that could be the case in certain instances. Now, on the other hand, it might not be the case everywhere because we find we have many two, three, four room schools that have large enrolments and that in some cases you would not be saving teachers but rather just the other way around, that you would be using less but you're using more teachers.

Now as far as cost is concerned, centralization does not cost less. On the contrary, I think our experience has been that it will cost more money because we're losing so much voluntary effort and so much voluntary work that has been and is being done by people and citizens of this province on behalf of education. It will also mean a loss of interest in the long run, and in my opinion this we will never be able to recapture, because we find this happened in the hospitalization field where you had a good number of private hospitals, and when they were placed under municipal control, so much of the voluntary work that was done on behalf of these hospitals fell away and as a result the costs rose and we're staggering and are staggering today.

It will also mean that hundreds of schools will have to be sacrificed in the way of very little sale value to the districts, and as a result people will lose out. Against that, they will have to be constructing new large elementary schools, and at today's prices, this means an enormous cost and we will be spending many many millions in this way in setting up new large elementary schools.

There will also be increased transportation costs. We presently have transportation in the divisions of high school students but this will mean that elementary students will also have to be transported and that here is another area where you will see a great rise in costs, both in operational and capital, because of the purchase of buses and later on also to operate them. I think a lot of this money that they are proposing to spend, if it was spent on the system at the present time where we have so many voluntary consolidations taking place, that it could be spent to much greater benefit, and certainly it would be in my opinion covering much more ground, because we have many consolidations taking place. I know in the immediate area where I come from a large number of the one room schools are consolidating with other schools - with more central schools - and in this way we are not antagonizing any people and they have time to do this and think it through, reason it out, and then take action. I think this is the way it should be and it should not be forced on the entire province all at once. Then many communities in this province will suffer untold economic loss in the devaluation of properties and real estate in the smaller communities and villages that will be dying out because of the dislocation that is going to take place. Many smaller centres lost out because of the division factor that came in; now many more will lose out as a result of this one district division plan where you will see the elementary students taken out of these smaller centres and congregating into larger centres, so that the economic loss is going to be large and this is something that people think of as wrong in connection with this vote.

Then, too, I do not think that children will benefit to such a large extent because of the one district division if it comes about. There are so many things that will change as a result. For instance, all these smaller schools are having their sports. When it comes to the larger schools, all sports must of necessity be organized in the larger schools and in this way denying many youngsters of playing on a local team, etc. This is just one of the things that I thought I should mention.

Then there is the matter of teachers not familiar with the children's parents and have the background of the parents, and as a result there will be misunderstanding and not as readily be able to help the individual students. In many cases the students will just become another statistic.

I would also like to mention the kindergartens. Kindergartens most likely will only be available to those living in close proximity to such a larger central school. Because of the driving distance, it will be the case for many of the youngsters who should be attending kindergarten, people would be forced to drive their children back and forth. This, no doubt, will not happen in many instances. Then what is going to happen the following year? Will these children that did not attend kindergarten be denied in any way? Will they be held back or will they be

(MR. FROESE cont'd) penalized as a result in the following year?

Mention of equality of opportunity was mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition the other day and even under this division plan we do not achieve it. Presently, many of the elementary students have their school next door. They are under parental care more hours of the day; they can be served hot meals; they can come home for the noon hour. These are things that they will be missing out on. In my opinion, this whole deal of centralization leaves a lot to be desired.

I would also briefly like to mention the technical vocational schools and training. It seems that we have missed the boat on this issue. The federal grants that were available and have been available for some time have not been taken advantage of and our program is suffering in this respect. When you take a look at the other provinces, the amount that they are spending on this program, and then take into consideration what Manitoba is spending in this way, we are far far behind. Now there is talk of phasing this program out as far as the Federal Government is concerned, and now we are trying to get in but it's very late in the day and certainly we will not be able to take full advantage of the program had we started earlier.

Here again I think this administration is to blame because the need was there. The need has been there right along, and yet we did not take advantage of this program. Our rural areas are in need of technical vocational schools. The southern area of this province where I come from would be only too happy to have such a school, even if it did not offer all the courses but offered a selected number of courses that would be in greater demand, and in this way the younger people of our rural areas could take advantage of technical vocational training.

We now find that the Federal Government apparently is going to replace this program with their manpower development and upgrading programs, and here again, are we taking full advantage of this? In my opinion there are waiting lists, and from what I know there are waiting lists of people that would like to take advantage of these upgrading courses. I asked a question before the Orders of the Day. The Minister tells us that we have some 1,500 people in this type of training. This is welcome news but I think we should make sure that all those that are interested in taking this course get the advantage and are able to take it, so that we will not miss out on this same program as we did on the technical vocational schools. There are so many of our people that need additional training, that need upgrading and that would like to improve their standing. Then, too, so many of the people are unemployed during the winter months and can make use of their time in this way, so that it works both ways and at the same time they will receive some remuneration, so we should go all out and accommodate these people as best possible.

Now we were told by the First Minister that this whole education program, the whole upgrading, the improvement that they see will cost a lot of money, and no doubt it will. We find that people are talking of taxes - increased taxes. They are being softened up for a sales tax in my opinion, and just last night I got a copy of the local Tribune dated Thursday, December 8, 1966, and the headline on this article is: "Taxes on Co-ops and Credit Unions Might Be the Answer", so that people are already looking for alternatives as well to a sales tax. I don't think that this is the answer.

I would like to read part of the article in order to make some further comment later on. The article is by I. H. Asper. It says, "Shortly the Manitoba Legislature will be considering the where and the how, probably not the why, of its 1966-67 tax revenue requirements. Assuming increased spending will continue, increased revenues are required and further provincial deficits are unwise." I agree with the last statement.

Then further on in the statement he goes on to say, "The clamour is for a sales tax because no one seems willing to discuss substantial alternatives. There is one. Premier Roblin has quite rightly complained that Ottawa has occupied the major fields of tax revenue to such a large extent that there is nothing substantial left for the provinces, but one very major area of tax resources has been ignored by the Federal Government and which should be quickly seized by the Provincial Government. Ottawa does not tax credit unions at all and commercial co-operatives pay only nominal taxes. If the Province of Manitoba wants to increase its revenue on an important scale without increasing the burden of taxation on existing taxpayers, the tax on credit unions and commercial co-operatives is the answer. If a five percent sales tax were levied on co-op sales, five percent is comparable with other provinces, the revenue yield would be almost \$12 million in 1967. An additional \$3 million could be raised by imposing a three percent tax on the funds employed by credit unions in Manitoba. This \$13 million of new revenue when added to the \$5 million current increase in

(MR. FROESE cont'd) liquor revenues, plus an equalization grant from Ottawa, would surely provide the province with sufficient revenue to carry out its program."

Further on in the statement it goes on to say, "Credit Unions are in the lending business and pay absolutely no taxes on profits. Since their inception they have made loans to customers in Manitoba of \$350 million. Today their local assets are nearly \$100 million."

I certainly do not subscribe to the facts that are pointed out in this statement because the credit unions are here to serve people and have served the people of this province very much so and they do it at cost. They don't make profits. All the earnings that they have go back to the shareholders and there is nothing being brought back into the business. All their earnings are divided at the end of the year and allocated to the people and they can withdraw them, so that in my opinion there is no reason to tax them at all. It would just mean that credit would be that much more expensive to these very people.

The article also points out that Mr. Roblin, in his opinion, is quite right when he complains about Ottawa not giving them a greater share of the revenue. We just heard recently through press reports that he was honoured for being a very good salesman of this province and I have no quarrel with that. I appreciate if people do go out and try to sell this province and talk about the good things, but I think we should make sure that there are some good things to talk about. We find from the tax structure committee meeting in Ottawa that many of the other provinces came out a good deal better than Manitoba did. There is a graph on Page 17 of the report and it states that Manitoba will benefit by the change from the old structure by \$1.6 million. On the other hand, we find New Brunswick getting an additional \$15.7 million, Nova Scotia stands to gain \$18.8 million, Newfoundland getting \$22.6 million, and Quebec - well, they always get away with murder in my opinion - they get \$85.8. I haven't seen - for the last number of years at least - one conference of this type where Quebec didn't get the major share. I think the report of the Federal-Provincial Conference of 1963 mentioned something like 42 million when we got between 6 and 7 million, so I just wonder whether we did so well at that conference and whether a good selling job was done.

I read the report with great interest because it gives you Manitoba's proposal and it also gives you the proposals of the other provinces and you can reconcile the differences, but in my opinion there should be other ways of getting the necessary money and we should probably not only think in terms of additional money but also think in terms of savings where we can make them. I think here is an area where we should be looking into.

We have on past occasions mentioned the school tax rebate, the way it is handled. Here I think we can make a substantial saving by having it done at the local level, credit the taxpayers on their tax bills and in this way save - what was it - \$385,000 that the papers mentioned. That is quite a substantial saving that could be made.

But I think we have other areas where much larger savings can be made and this is on the matter of interest on our monies that we borrow as a government. Just recently our Premier was in New York to get some additional funds. I haven't heard how successful he has been. Here again I think is a matter that I should bring up in connection with this. I feel that members of this House should get financial statements of the province more often than we do. All we get is the one annual statement. I think we should have financial statements quarterly, at least every six months, not less. We should have a half-yearly financial statement so that we know what monies were received and how things were progressing. There is no reason why we shouldn't have them. No doubt the government has them and all they need to do is duplicate them and send them out to the members. That doesn't mean that we have to have all the information that is contained in the Public Accounts, but we should have a balance sheet and a statement of operation. I think this is something we should be working toward too. I at least would like to appeal to the government to give us this information.

Not many years ago I asked for the regulations, that they be bound and given us a copy. Until a year or two ago these were not available to members. If we wanted regulations we had to tear them off the Gazette and keep them together so that we would have the information. I appreciate getting the bound copies of regulations now, and because they form laws of this government just like the statutes do, it is essential that we get them. I think in connection with financial statements we, as members of this House, should have access to and get financial statements more often.

I was just talking on the matter of savings and especially on interest. We are apparently in a tight money position again - or situation - as a country and that interest rates are on the rise. National housing went up with their interest rate and in my opinion this is far too high.

(MR. FROESE cont'd) Why should we be paying such high interest rates for credit when we have the institutions that should serve us. We have the Bank of Canada and the charter line banks which have all the machinery to provide the necessary credit for borrowing purposes, for lending purposes, so that governments as well as individuals should be able to get money at cost. There's no reason why we should have those high interest rates. Why should high interest rates be also tied to tight money. There's no reason for this either, because if we want to impose tight money all they have to do is just refuse lines of credit. There's no reason why it should be tied to higher interest rates.

In my opinion, tight money is not being imposed by the government. I think this is the creation of the banks and that the banks dictate this policy to the government. I talked to you before on this matter of taxing credit unions. Why don't they talk of taxing banks? This is never mentioned, yet they're the one business that are making the most money of any business in the country. For every dollar that they have in reserve with the Bank of Canada they are able to create -- for every eight cents they can create a dollar's worth of credit and under the new bank bill that's before the House, this is going to be changed somewhat further. The banks are now asking for a 6.6 percent fractional reserve. And not only that, they're now asking that they also get interest on the reserves, on the money that they have to deposit with the Bank of Canada.

I have a statement here from the Free Press of November 25th, 1966, and it says in the headline, "Banks Want Interest on Dormant Dollars", and I would like to read a few paragraphs from this article and I quote: "Chartered Banks would like to earn interest on at least part of the cash they must leave dormant in the Bank of Canada coffers. Representatives of the Canadian Bankers Association told the Commons Finance Committee Thursday that they would like to negotiate the matter with the Central Bank. They might not demand much because what they are after is more a point of principle than an actual figure. The banks now must keep at least eight percent of their deposit liabilities in the form of cash held without interest by the Bank of Canada."

And later on in the same article it goes on to say: "S. T. Paton, President of the Bankers Association and the Toronto-Dominion Bank's President and Chief General Manager, said the banks would like to see the current revision of The Bank of Canada Act include permission for the bank governor to pay interest on the reserves." Then a caption: "Requirement cut. The new provisions of the Act governing chartered banks cut their cash reserve requirement down to 6.6 percent," and Mr. Paton in earlier testimony to the committee suggested payment of interest on the difference between five percent and the 6.6 percent figure." Here we see that the banks now even go one step further and want interest on the reserves that they have to place with the Bank of Canada.

As I pointed out earlier, there is no reason why this government should not get its capital through the Bank of Canada and from the Bank of Canada. The Federal Government initiated this type of borrowing when Mr. Diefenbaker was in power. They floated bonds and the Bank of Canada bought these bonds. Now the interest that is accruing to these bonds are being paid and then the Bank of Canada pays them back to the Consolidated Fund of the national government. In this way the cost of those bonds as far as interest is concerned is negligible. It's just a matter of paying a small service charge, and we know of the financial institutions, even our larger credit unions, that this cost is very small. It's not even -- it's only a fraction of one percent point so that tremendous savings could be made in this way. If our provincial debt, both the direct debt which is close to \$200 million and the debt of the utilities such as hydro and telephone, were channelled through the Bank of Canada, we could make very substantial savings. The interest amounts on the provincial direct debt is well over 6-1/4 million and I'm sure the interest figure on the utilities is more than twice as much, so that here you would have roughly \$20 million that you could save in this way, because if the interest costs of the utilities would be saving, it would naturally come back to this government and deposited with the Consolidated Fund.

Now when the Porter Commission held its hearings, and later on when it made its report, the credit unions of this province were offered the same conditions that the banks have today, that they could create credit on the fractional reserve basis. but there was one condition that should be met, and that is that they should become one bank branch system just like another charter line bank in this province. Well this would defeat our objective and our beliefs completely, so this could not be accepted. But banks today, and have for as long as they have had the power under the federal statute, create a dollar's worth of credit for every eight cents

(MR. FROESE cont'd) that they deposit with the Bank of Canada. Last year, shortly after New Years, they reported in the paper that their operations had been very close to that, in fact it had been 8.14 percent.

Now we can see the enormous amount of money that banks make in this way, and when we see financial statements of banks they always start off in this way, that after certain provisions for reserves have been made, the following is the statement, so that they may draw up their statements quite differently than ordinary businesses do. They first figure out a nominal profit for their shareholders and the balance goes into their reserves, which they need not even disclose to the Members of Parliament or to the Government of Canada. This is also in the statute that they don't have to disclose these reserves at all.

So because of this I feel that we should make use of the Bank of Canada. Certainly when the former Prime Minister of this country, Mr. Diefenbaker, when he started to finance certain programs in this way, why shouldn't we, or does our Premier not subscribe to the Ottawa leader any more or his programs? But this is an area where tremendous savings could be effected and which in my opinion should be tried. Why don't we try it? Surely the people of this province would welcome such a saving and that would mean that they would be paying that much less in taxes.

I would like to mention several other items. There are matters of concern in my opinion. The Agriculture Department, where we now have a one-man commission looking into the Vegetable Growers Marketing business. Why is it that we have so many one-man commissions established? Is it just because we do not want minority reports to come forward? We've had I think half a dozen or more of this type of commission. I asked for the commission report on the Totogan Farms the other day which was a one-man commission. We had a one-man commission on margarine. We have a one-man commission on gasoline tax and we're now setting up another commission, a joint commission with the other provinces where we're going to have a single representative on. In my opinion if these commissions are set up and are worthy of being set up, they should have more than one representative on it so that if dissension of opinion is there, that we should be hearing both sides of it, and to the extent that minority reports could be made, I think this is something that we should have and should know about.

It's not my intent to go into some of the reports of the present commission on this marketing because we will have further opportunity later on to discuss this. But on the matter of prices for agricultural products and especially for wheat, quite a bit is stated in the papers these days about increased prices for wheat and cereal grains. We have a resolution on the order paper from one of the members calling for an increase in prices of wheat and other cereal grains. I think it is long overdue that we do get better prices and I think it is up to this government to let its voice be heard for better prices, because to a certain extent we are a party to the agreement that has been made and that brought about the wheat board, the Canadian Wheat Board, the crown agency. If it hadn't have been for this province showing a willingness to go in for this it would not have happened, and I think as a result a certain responsibility lies with this Government to see to it that proper prices and good prices are being paid for these commodities. And they are far too low. I have mentioned this on previous occasions and brought statistics to support these statements. But we're still getting the prices of the 1945 era and yet our combines, our machinery that we buy now is twice and three times the cost of what it was at that time. Labour cost is increasing and almost all other costs and the commodities that the farmer buys are up. Yet the grain that he has to sell stays at the same price. And it's no longer just a squeeze it's a matter of many farmers just not being able to make it any longer and selling out. We have many many farmers selling out each year, quitting as a result, and I think this is not healthy, this is not as it should be. People should be able to make a living on the farm because in my opinion it won't be long when we will be crying for dairy farmers to get the necessary milk. Farmers are going out of dairy business to a large extent and it won't be long before we will be crying for farmers to go into the business and provide the necessary milk and food stuffs.

Then with this school division plan coming on I'm sure you'll see further centralization where more and more farmers will be moving to the larger centres to the larger towns and quit mixed farming altogether. So that it will be in many cases straight grain farming and probably a few special crops. So that we should be mindful of this and do everything in our power to see that the Federal Government does something about it and that the authorities in charge are aware that we see the need for better prices and that something is being done.

(MR. FROESE cont'd)

I thought I should also briefly touch on the matter of our natural resources and that here too is an area where we could get revenues from. It was pointed out by the Throne Speech, I think it is, the tremendous development that is taking place in connection with nickel and of the large amounts of new investment being put into it coming forward. But are we getting any returns in proportions as far as revenues of this province? We're not. In fact over the last number of years we're not even paying our way as a Department, we're not getting the necessary revenues to pay the cost of operating that department. I feel that these minerals, these natural resources should be made and put to use for the people of this province. We should make sure that the product that is being mined and processed should be processed to a further extent and that the by-products should also be processed in this province. As a result we would have a large increase in this way, and then we should go one step further and call these people in and draw up and revise the agreements that have been made earlier. We are not getting what we deserve from these industries in the way of revenues for the province. I am sure that these people would even agree because this is what happened in some of the other provinces where former governments had made certain arrangements and agreements which were completely out of line and a different administration came into power they asked these people in and new agreements were drawn up which were to greater advantage to the people of their particular province. And we are getting very little when we think of our neighbouring provinces and the amount that they get from their natural resources. We are far behind. If I'm correct, B. C. is getting some \$75 - 80 million from theirs; in Alberta they are deriving some \$200 million; even Saskatchewan will be deriving more and they I think get around \$30 million; and we are getting around, what is it? -- \$4 or 5 million dollars. Well this is not nearly enough and this is an area that we should work on and improve the situation.

I would certainly have also some questions in connection with the development of our dams on the Pembina River in connection with the International Joint Commission. I understand they had a meeting in Winnipeg this fall, probably not the whole Commission but some members of the Commission and also some members of the Red River -- I forget the name of the Association, the exact name of it -- but nevertheless those are the people that are working on the Pembina River in getting some dams constructed and giving the southern area of this province a supply of water so that they can irrigate some of their crops, their special crops, grow more of them and get better yields and so on. These areas are short of water, of good water, and I think the sooner that we can speed things up and get construction going the better. I would certainly expect at some later date to hear from the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Highways, I'm not sure just who's in charge of this to get a first hand report on developments in this connection. I think we should be pushing this because it's to our advantage. This would mean more industry for the southern section and I am sure some of the industries that are presently there would be expanding and this would mean it would be to the overall benefit of this province. I'm not sure where the hold back is . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I remind the honourable gentlemen that he has exceeded his forty minutes time. I wondered if he has a great deal more to say and if so would the House give leave for the honourable gentleman to continue.

MR. ROBLIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think my honourable friend is probably near the end of his speech and we'd like to have him finish it.

MR. PAULLEY: We would grant leave here, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOUGLAS CAMPBELL (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, we would certainly grant leave and I would be delighted to hear the rest of the honourable gentleman's speech.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable gentleman please proceed.

MR. FROESE: I was almost ready to wind up anyway so . . . I wish to thank the honourable members for giving leave. I wasn't sure whether we were working under the rules that were adopted last year or not, because I think, if I'm correct, it was mentioned that this would be on a trial basis for one year, and the matter hasn't been discussed during this present session.

MR. ROBLIN: I rise with the permission of the honourable gentleman just to deal with the point he raised about the rules. The rules we have before us now are the rules of the House; they are not on a trial period or anything of the sort; they're the rules of the House. If there's any change contemplated in them they should come forward by way of substantive motion, but I wanted to clear that point before it got embedded in my honourable friend's mind.

MR. FROESE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think I will bring my talk to a conclusion, my voice is giving out on me and I will be looking forward to further discussions when we come to dealing with the estimates and at the same time I will be taking part in discussing other Legislation that will be coming forward from time to time. So with that I will conclude and wish all the new members the best of luck.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in this Throne Speech debate of course I wish to congratulate you, Sir, on your elevation to your high office. Knowing you as a person and your record of public service I look forward to you to have a long and happy experience in your new office. I also wish to --(interjection)-- happy experience -- (interjection)-- It'll be long, oh yeah. I also wish to congratulate the mover of the speech from the throne, the Member from St. Vital who commended himself so ably and dealt so effectively with attitudes in education and the impact of technology and so on. I also am most pleased to have heard from the seconder of the speech from the throne, a neighbour of mine, constituency-wise, who's problems are much the same as my own. I know his background and as we heard from him we can predict another long and happy career as a member of this side of the House representing that fine constituency of Fisher.

I want to congratulate all those who have spoken in the debate of course, and want to also pay tribute to some of the stalwarts on our side who through personal decisions and otherwise aren't with us today, and to join with the others in welcoming so many new faces in the House. I may take this opportunity, if I can, to say how happy I am that two Norsemen have been added to the numbers of this Legislature. I must say that I am a little disappointed that one of them has to sit opposite here on the right with the Leader of the NDP. The honourable gentleman is of course well known to myself and has played a very great humanitarian role amongst people of Icelandic descent in this province and is most highly regarded and I expect to hear a great deal from him. I know however that he will come to support those policies that his ancestors so ably espoused on behalf of the Conservative Party of Manitoba for so many years. However, I think my grandparents were on the other side of the fence and his were on this side; so it just shows you what evolution does to a province and to its people.

I want to say how happy I am and proud to again represent the people of the sovereign constituency of Gimli and to point out to the honourable members that the Pan American sailing races will be held in this constituency, out of the Town of Gimli in the coming year, and will be complementing the annual celebrations in that community in July and August, and I expect to see all of you gentlemen down there in the coming year.

I was very pleased that so many members have spent so much time on matters educational. I was a little disappointed with the contribution of my good friend the Leader of the NDP who I somewhat thought from the tone of his speech that he was again advocating a champagne program but I wasn't too sure if it was to be on a beer budget or not. I hope he wasn't --(Interjection)-- well of course --(Interjection)-- he likes the smell of the perfume and all the big jobs but when it comes to voting the money, it's another matter. However I do think the tone of the debate to date has been most excellent and I hope this is going to continue to be a very happy House, because it will probably be a long one.

I appreciate the contribution especially of the Leader of the Opposition and I do want to devote some time to some of the matters he raised. I want to compliment him on the time he spent examining educational issues and compliment him that he has recognized the nation's top priority is education. In summary I gathered he said we are not doing enough, fast enough. We are not concerned with the quality of education. We lack direction. We have no plans. He says we are not spending enough money, not going far enough, fast enough, and he indicates what we have done is somewhat inadequate.

Then he says go faster, get more quality, use up the federal money, bring about further equalization of costs at the local level but when the Premier indicates a great deal more money is needed to carry out the programs, as the Throne Speech indicated he refuses to face up to the fact that the speech indicates that we are going to be placing certain proposals before this legislature to meet the requirements and further indicates that the federal authorities, while acknowledging education as the nation's first priority, have not seen fit to make sufficient resources available to us to meet these priorities.

Now I ask the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, where does he think the money is coming from, that he's recommending? He says Roblin's too expensive and at the same time urges more expensive programs which he objects to, I believe, paying for. And because the Leader of the Opposition has taken such a large roundhouse swing at educational policies of this government over the past few years, and while I don't like to repeat myself over and over again, I think it is incumbent upon me on this occasion to reply and my honourable friend has said, let's be candid - well I say, let's be candid. I say that when 1958 - of course this is a magical year, somewhat well known to the members opposite - but when this government

(MR. JOHNSON cont'd). came to office it commenced an educational revolution long overdue and heartily endorsed by the people of Manitoba. Certainly some mistakes were made, and no government purports to be perfect, or not to make some mistakes, but let's look at the total record. Let's just have a look at some of the highlights of this record. Mr. Speaker in 1958 there were something like 1, 430 one-room schools around the province; this has been reduced by some 800 and matters are before you to deal with further rationalization of the elementary system.

In 1958 there were 132 one-room high schools; today there are six, and largely in remote areas. In 1958 there were 62 collegiates; there are now 152. In 1958 there were 30, 000 students in high school grades including those grade nines in rural schools where a teacher had from grade 1 to 9. Today there are 57, 000 from Grade 9 up in our high schools. In 1958 the curriculum branch - and this is the heart of your department in developing courses - there was one man and a secretary. The emphasis over the past few years has been on curriculum development and in addition to a full time staff, hundreds of professional and competent teachers have been working around the clock with our people in this area.

In 1958 for example there were 7, 000 boys and girls getting a ride to school on the bus. Today there are 35, 000. Mr. Speaker, in 1958 the total value of the annual report of the public schools created since the beginning of time in this province was \$80 million. In the past six years the people have built with government grants and assistance more than an equal amount and it was all long overdue. A teaching force - 6, 000 was the minimum in 1958, 6, 000 in our teaching force, with grade XI the minimum requirement for teacher training. Today over 9, 320, minimum requirement grade XI; and all the teacher training space created in this province: 1, 400 spaces created in the last five years at the university and Brandon College. In 1958 the university carried on teacher training in an H hut at the university and in an H hut at Brandon College. They have now got a brand new faculty building at the University, the enrollment was 70 a few years ago; it's over 250 this morning. 800 new spaces were built onto that building at the University last year and now we have just laid the cornerstone on a further 300 student capacity facility at Brandon College. Faced with the dilemma in 1958-9 I know my honourable friend is not suggesting for one moment that the trustees and ratepayers erred in their judgment in planning these sorely needed high schools. I know my honourable friend will agree that no group of trustees anywhere gave more cooperation and assistance in developing and putting into effect plans for the creation of sorely needed accommodation.

I am certain that nowhere in Canada, Mr. Speaker, were the people in such a dilemma and was the need so urgent to rebuild the public school system as it was in 1958. I lived in a small town in '58. Our school - we couldn't have teachers in our school; we couldn't meet the teachers salary requests; we were blackballed by the Teachers Society for the simple reason we didn't have the local resources and my taxes on my property were higher than they are today. This is what happened throughout Manitoba. A grade nine was not the right of a child in Camp Morton; his parents paid \$125 fee for him to come to the Gimli high school. This went on all over Manitoba, we all know.

The recommendation of the Royal Commission which recommended a minimum assessment sufficiently high to support a good secondary school system has resulted through this government's action in this veritable revolution - and you can't call it anything else - and he, my honourable friend opposite is as well aware as I am of this fact of Manitoba history. He is as well aware as I am of the soul-searching at the university and amongst our professional teachers who joined forces with this Department of Education to catch up in course development. He is as well aware as I am that the provision of these services has gone a long way to foster a variety of educational services.

It's almost difficult to comment on the general statement made by the Leader of the Opposition on programs available elsewhere, but the Honourable Leader is overly optimistic if he thinks that these new programs can be done without spending money. Search for talent he says, now being pursued vigorously. It is being pursued in every classroom in this province. New courses and programs such as the General Course, the occupational entrance, the junior vocational school, are all aimed towards this end. The success of the General Course alone in keeping children in school until the end of Grade 12 is a case in point - more opportunities to keep their interest. Operation headstart he refers to and operation high horizon - these programs are good, we are aware of them. Our people are aware of these programs, but highly specialized programs most effective in small concentrated areas as he

(MR. JOHNSON cont'd)....should know. We are building into our revised programs the very sufficient flexibility and latitude to allow for the very similar upgrading approach. Quality of our education - it's interesting to hear someone complain about the slowness of change, while many claim that we are changing too much, too fast -- either way. Changing teaching methods he mentions. We've been doing this since '61 with special teacher training courses given by the department, by the faculty of education, by the Manitoba Teachers Society as well as by regional and divisional meetings, in-service training and television programs. I ask my honourable friends to turn on the television set tomorrow morning and watch in-service training in mathematics, a series that provides two purposes: training teachers and it gives parents an understanding of what we are trying to do. Tomorrow morning, 10 o'clock, CBC.

General Course. Last year I reported that after three years of operation 96 high schools were teaching the general course. By the Leader of the Opposition's figures these figures have now jumped to 121, a fivefold increase in five years; a further increase of 25 schools in the last year. His statistic is somewhat misleading in that not all high schools in the province can or should offer the general course. In fact, many schools not offering it are doing so by deliberate planning of their divisional boards.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition talks of university education, the lack of guidance and an appreciation of the opportunities open to them. Again this just isn't so. Our high schools today have the best guidance program they've ever had. Not that it's perfect, but never before have the schools been visited so frequently by recruiting teams from the university of Manitoba and the affiliated colleges. Every high school teacher in the province has in his or her hands information about university entrance requirements and faculties; information in more detail is distributed annually by the university and more is available by simply asking for it. I would like to say -- members know that in the last two years we established the guidance branch; we now have managed to get a staff of three; and we managed to -- the university put on a guidance course last year to which this House appropriated bursary monies to permit some of our senior teachers to take the post degree program in guidance at the university. We have a long way to go but we are on the ball. We are building in this quality. There is an awful lot more needed. This is curriculum development guidance; this is the key to really a successful educational program.

Manitoba has no need whatsoever to feel ashamed of the quality of its education and its standards. I'm not maybe much of a politician but I don't think it is a good thing to have too much of this talk around the province -- well everything you know, no darn good. Heck, us fellows are here; how did we get here? We went through a pretty good system run by a pretty good bunch of trustees in the early days, but it isn't good enough today. Just recently as the '30's and 40's all you needed in the Interlake was reading, writing and arithmetic to get your fair share of Canada's goods. Today we all know this is no longer the case. I'll deal with that - my honourable friend from Rhineland in a few moments who I hope sticks to money matters and not education.

Other facts are well known. Did you know, Mr. Speaker, the university budget in 1958, that terrible year, \$4,200,000 --(Interjection)-- the general grants - no, no, the general grants in 1958 were \$1.5 million; the capital grant was \$1.6 million. Last year, last year in this House the university budget was \$16.4 million; the general grant \$9.6 million; capital \$9 million. The budget of Manitoba after all was what - \$80 million when we came into office? Education spent around \$82 million last year alone.

Now in addition to this curriculum and course development which has opened greater opportunities to our boys and girls, our report - if you look at the annual report last year you will see that twice as many teachers had degrees compared to seven years ago. Never before has a teaching force been challenged to upgrade themselves to this degree. Never has a teaching force responded so magnificently to the opportunity for upgrading. Never have they responded so unselfishly may I add. They are alive and moving, and we can be proud of our teaching personnel in Manitoba.

You know, I've been here eight, nine years and every time they mention Medicare everybody boos. How do you do that? Never before have we had more devoted service from trustees, trustees in planning and carrying out these expanded and enriched services, and my honourable friend knows again that all this cannot be done without spending money. My honourable friend laments that concurrently with this tremendous investment over the past seven years, concurrently with these large sums necessary to refurbish and rebuild a high school system, much like my colleague on my left has to do with the hospital system of this

(MR. JOHNSON cont'd). . . . province, concurrently. We have gone forward in a rapid rate.

What about monies required in our northland? Just think. This is some of the best money we ever spent. In Frontier, Cranberry Portage, over 300 there today. Some of the new members might like to hear that three years ago we made a survey of the north. Of 3,200 boys and girls in Grades 1 to 12 we found four in Grade 12; we found 60 in Grade 9. I want the new members to come with me again this year to Cranberry. This is the kind of money - and this costs money, lots of money, and there will be more asked for again this year. But what an investment! The best preventative program we have.

What about the investment in Norway House advised last year, co-ordination, cooperation, Indian affairs. And at Churchill, making real headway with integrated public school programs -- and further substantial sums mentioned in the Speech from the Throne will be laid before members during this session.

From a meagre beginning also in vocational programing at the adult level, we have gone since '61 from 800 student spaces at the old Ford plant to 3,200 and we have spent \$18 million of capital allotment. I want to spend some time on this. MIT today's capacity is 2,400. As you know we built a fourth floor this summer. Brandon has a capacity of 850. It is now in operation. I hope at the official opening during the new year to bring the honourable members to that facility. There are 600 in there this morning. At The Pas, capacity of 500, in operation; to be officially opened I believe January 14th and I'll be extending an invitation to the honourable members. The R. B. Russell junior vocational school of 700 just about to go into operation. On top of this, as announced last session, we're well advanced in the doubling of the capacity of MIT by the fall of '68. All this will absorb 26 million of our capital allotment and concurrently we will be spending in the next four to five years 25 million in developing regional high school patterns and others that may pop up. The total of 44 million shared 75 percent by the Federal Government and a further 11 million, 50 percent is available to us and we have the full commitment that this money is available as required. We have lost nothing, and by 1971, Mr. Speaker, we'll have far exceeded, in my opinion, the capital allotment available for vocational schools.

May I point out to my honourable friend, as he well knows, capital is but a fraction of the total cost. Operational costs are a large item. Perpetual costs and their built-in rise, with increasing services year by year, is another major factor. I mentioned this morning basic upgrading. This has really caught on in the last year. As I said we have over 1,500 in basic upgrading classes in about 16 centres around the province, this morning, and we expect another 500 by January. Things in the vocational field, our plans are pretty well going to take up more than the moneys that are available and will be spent wisely and will be laid before you from time to time. But we have lost nothing. This money is right there.

This government has said, Mr. Speaker, this is our plan. Is it any wonder as we launch into what is really a second phase of our program of meeting the needs of our people that the Premier of Manitoba should bring so forcibly as possible before the federal authority the necessity of making available revenues to meet these rapidly escalating commitments? Concurrently with expanding costs and services at all levels, with the expansion in teacher training, in buildings and personnel for our vocational and manpower needs, is the government's firm support of the single district division more costly as indicated.

Mr. Speaker, I note that the member in this connection from Rhineland has made some pretty sweeping statements. He said he doubted very much the government's sincerity. How much more clearly can a government say it than to say they believe that if they have to support a modern system of education they should support it. This is what we think is in the best interests of the boys and girls of this province. I would hope my honourable friend wouldn't impute this lack of sincerity. And my honourable friend need only consult with the Trustees' Association who repeatedly came to my office over the summer months and urged us to call for a province-wide referendum. As a matter of fact after the last session and over the summer months, in giving a great deal of thought to this in concert with the teachers and trustees in the fullest consultation with them, we made the decision to go ahead of schedule what we had originally thought was the thing to do.

I happen to represent, for my honourable friend's information, a part of this province that's not quite as affluent as his. And what did my people say after two years of examining the matter through ARDA committees, with professional teachers, trustees, municipal men and all? These people said loud and clear: we can't wait; knowing the facts as we do, having thought them out as we have, impose it as Aberhart did in 1937 in Alberta. My honourable

(MR. JOHNSON cont'd).... friend, I understand as well as you do, that I'd like too, to build a vocational school across the street from every boy and girl in Manitoba, to build a junior college, then a community college, then a university; but my honourable friend knows as well as I do, perfectly well, or he has, educational advance demands rationalization of the administration at the local level. He knows that as well as I do. It just can't be done. No matter how we would like to do it. But I hope my honourable friend doesn't go across this province on this referendum talking the way he talked in this Legislature today, Mr. Speaker. Because I'm going to put a tracer on him.

He says hundreds of schools sacrificed. Sacrificed to what? He hasn't woken up to the fact that there's an agricultural revolution going on in Manitoba and blaming education because the one-room school leaves the corner I am as concerned too. I know the contribution that the elementary trustees of this province have made over the years. But how come the people who for the last seven years have sat at the divisional board level, who see the problem before them, come into my office and say we've got to do more. We've got to get together. We've got to drag these people, some of them, with us. Some are reluctant. I quite understand. But I have enough confidence in a Board of Trustees within a division, the newly constructed board. They can't move everything tomorrow. They're going to look at long range planning. They're not going to move kids that are in a five-room school 40 miles to some other centre because it couldn't be done. And my honourable friend knows it. Let's not read into this something or get me, interpreting me in such a way that it -- twisting this whole matter. Let's be frank and honest and lay everything on the table because I am. I am not going to predict what a Board of Trustees in that division will do; but I know as Minister, as honestly and sincerely as I can express it from where I'm sitting, that we will never - we'll spend another 80 years consolidating if we keep up our present pace. Sure we've cut from 1,400 to 800 in the last 8 years with some enlightened government action and with more and more information at the local level and with the people themselves seeing the need for it; but I'm telling you that as Minister of Education I could waste millions of your tax dollars approving inadequate half-way measures trying to get from A to B, and if he would go to Alberta the trustees of that province would tell him that loud and clear. They told me they had the same experience.

I went into a constituency last year, Mr. Speaker, where there's a six-room school. A few miles north are two one-room. I wanted to be able to approve an eight-room school for that area. It would have been ideal, could have put the gym in, a little library, would have had a nice set-up. It would attract teachers too and better serve that total community. I have held back approving that six-room school - I wanted eight. I had no instrument to help me except meeting my staff coming in at two and three o'clock every morning having been out the length and breadth of this province talking to small groups of people -- and brother, they've been doing it for 20 years. We've got more things to do. We've got more planning and research; more policy decisions to be making and giving more help to the members of the House and everything else. But we're trying to fight two systems. We've got to get on one horse or the other. And I ask my honourable friend from Rhineland to really examine the issue. Things are going too far too fast. He says smaller centres lost out because of the divisional plan. What nonsense! Blaming Education for what is in effect an agrarian revolution. I say the child's the important thing and we're going to put on a campaign aimed at that -- what's good for the child. And that brochure's going to be in your hands and I hope along with my tracer to follow you around the province espousing it. That's what we need.

He said a lack of interest with a bigger board. How does he think Winnipeg gets along? Has he noted any lack of interest in education? He said, you said -- Mr. Speaker, he suggested that larger boards meant a lack of interest would develop at the local level in educational matters with larger boards --(Interjection)-- would result. Is there any lack of interest in the Winnipeg system? Any lack of interest in Fort Garry? St. Vital? Frontier School Division? There's 12 of them. --(Interjection)--

MR. ROBLIN: We'll be glad to provide it. Make sure you vote for it.

MR. JOHNSON: Now, Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend has raised certain things. He says the teachers don't know the parents - or the parents don't know the teachers. He calls it all centralization. Not necessarily centralization. Not necessarily 8 room schools. Eight room schools if possible, but not necessarily. Yes he wants everything back home on the farm and he wants all this to come in concert. I wish we could. But we have geography. We have a peculiar problem. We don't need any compromise. I'm through compromising on this matter. There's only one way to go and that's for a single district division and any Minister

(MR. JOHNSON cont'd)....that thinks he can operate this department the way it's going and exploding with 1, 500 boards, has got holes in his head.

MR. DESJARDINS: Would the honourable Minister permit a question?

MR. JOHNSON: No, I'll finish my speech and then you can talk to me later. Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne goes on to forecast a substantial increase in educational support. It goes on to say, "to provide for an increase in educational costs generally." It says it loud and clear, "and to take over a larger portion of that part of cost of education now supported by local taxation." I get through all this, by paying no attention to this part of the speech, by drawing on the past - and you know how differently the past looks through the eyes of two people - but the people of Manitoba know, because they see the schools; they look at their bright-eyed kids, just coming out of the walls, never seen so many of them; going on to higher and higher things. But you know it must be awfully uncomfortable to be in his shoes having sat there for five years while some of us in Rural Manitoba were sitting without any schools and no kids getting through high school. Why does he think they chase us into politics? Somebody had to get out and fight for this, and a bunch of us on this side did.

I get the uncomfortable feeling that the Leader of the Opposition will never face up to the fact that these services have to be paid for. He knows as well as I do this can't be done without spending money. The Economic Council of Canada, what did they tell us? They said we need more federal support, but we still don't know what that federal formula really means to this province. We're told we can expect 50 cents on the dollar for operational costs, still undefined of post-secondary education. It's a matter of elementary mathematics, Mr. Speaker, to realize that another 50 percent must be found from provincial revenues, and their 50 percent which includes operating and capital is still something we haven't quite fathomed. However, generally speaking, it just isn't enough.

Mr. Speaker, we can in Manitoba, in short, be justly proud of the tremendous progress that has been made in educational services, progress in our educational system in the province; nonetheless a tremendous challenge lays before us. So much has to be done both here as well as other jurisdictions, to keep pace with the changing requirements of the modern society. I am confident that the quality of education that we are building into our system will stand up across this nation.

I thought it might be interesting to share with the honourable members that while at the Federal-Provincial Conference, the Ministers of Education were put aside one afternoon and evening with the Minister of Finance who has his grass roots in Manitoba. And in discussing a definition of post-secondary education he said, after I had spoken, he said, "Of course, that's well-known, Mr. Minister, that Manitoba enjoys a reputation of being well above the national average." That comes from the Minister of Finance in Canada.

MR. DESJARDINS: Before or after 58.

MR. JOHNSON: He said that last week. --(Interjection)-- well yes, but it's not all black. There was some good in the system before 58. There was some... oh yes. However we've come a long way since then, as I have indicated this morning. These are the facts. These are candidly the facts and they have to be said, because if he's going to keep going back threshing over old straw over on the opposite side, we've got to keep coming back with our straw. But I want more or less to look to the future, and that Throne Speech at this time is pointing us to the future. It's a realistic nod to the future and the Leader of the Opposition has hit on the highlights. He said quality; you've got to improve it; you've got to bring about more equalization; you've got to do all these things; but by jiminy he's got to pay for it too, and we'll give him the chance because we're not going to get much help from his colleagues down there, not a dime.

Mr. Speaker, I'm confident that with the programs and policies which will be unfolding to you in the coming weeks, that you will agree that a significant advance will have been made toward accomplishing what we started out last year to do, namely, to get our spurs in to the second phase of the educational revolution. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Hamiota.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask a question please now that he's finished his speech. The Minister so bravely said that he's through compromising. Could he tell us why yesterday he asked us to vote a sum of money to have a referendum? Is that not going to compromise at all? The Minister bravely said today that he will not compromise on this question. Could he tell us why we're going to spend money, why he asked us to vote some money to ask to have a referendum then, if there's no compromising?

MR. JOHNSON: Well Mr. Speaker, it's a decision of the Government that the people at the local level should have the opportunity to express their views on this matter. It will also serve the function of having a very intensive educational campaign at the local level to acquaint the people with exactly why this change should be brought about. Rather than imposition of this system in this area, and these 33 divisions, it is felt wisest to have the referendum. I have every confidence that if we get out and put all this information in front of the people, this is what the trustees and teachers of this province concur in with us, that they will give it their earnest consideration, but we did not wish to simply impose it as has been suggested.

MR. DESJARDINS: But it will be imposed nevertheless.

MR. JOHNSON: Well Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the people in this House will take every opportunity with us. I'll get as much information into your hands as I can. I would like to think that we could get together and bring this to the attention of the people of the province, not so much in any partisan sense as on the basis that it's best for the people and I hope that this is the response I'll get. I would hope that much information will be -- I'll be in touch with the Members as soon as I have dates set aside to give you the nature of the campaign and so on.

MR. DESJARDINS:my answer. I understand all this but the Minister in his speech said that he was through compromising, that this was going through, and I am asking the reason why the need - I understand the education part of it. Is it the intention of the Minister to proceed, not to compromise, in his own words, even if the people vote against this referendum. That's what I want to know.

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, my remark there came from the Member from Rhineland, I'm sure, who was saying, have two programs; have alternatives to the single district division. I say we can't be compromised on that point.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood. Do you have a question?

MR. DOERN: I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Education. Your Government speaks a great deal about priority. This is one of the favourite concepts of the Government.

MR. ROBLIN: My honourable friend is making a speech. If he wishes to ask a question, please ask it.

MR. DOERN: My question is simply this: do you have priorities within the Department of Education and could you suggest what the first two or three are?

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, that really would require another speech, . . . forward on all fronts as youtrying our best.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Member for Rhineland have a question?

MR. FROESE: Would the Minister of Education not consider that we could have an alternative in that we made aid to private schools available?

MR. JOHNSON: . . . repeat the last part of the question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. FROESE: I was wondering whether we could not have an alternative in that aid to private schools could be made available in this centralization deal so that this would offset it. Wouldn't you consider an alternative like that?

MR. JOHNSON: No.

MR. PAULLEY: May I direct a question to the Minister? He has asked for the cooperation of all members of this House in selling the referendum, or the purpose of the referendum, the single units, to the people of Manitoba. In the same spirit of ecumenicalism is he going to call upon representatives of the various parties in this House to establish what is to be sold to the people of Manitoba, or are we going to be asked simply to sell what the Department of Education of the Government of Manitoba desires for the people of Manitoba?

MR. JOHNSON: In that connection, Mr. Speaker, I hope to have within my hands very shortly, which our Publicity Committee made up of the Society, the M. A. S. T. and the Department, have canvassed all the inspectors in the province who in turn are working with committees of teachers and trustees, setting up a series of meeting in each division where they think it should be held in the New Year, and in the meantime meetings have been going on for the last month and a half at the local level in various areas. As soon as I find out just what the nature of the day to day campaign is and have the brochure in our hands, we'll be in touch with the honourable members, and I wanted to speak to the Committee about this very point and I'll be in touch very shortly with you just how we should work this.

MR. PAULLEY: Prior to the selling job to be done, will there be full consultation and advice sought by the Minister of those of us on this side who may be more qualified than some on that side to arrive at a program to be presented to the people of Manitoba?

MR. JOHNSON: I think, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the NDP will agree that the Minister and the Government must give the leadership here, but we are only too happy to accept the generous offer of the Leader of the NDP to participate with us, should he feel the campaign commends itself to him, and I think it will. I'll try and get more information, some details. As soon as the details, which are just pretty well worked out now, can be presented to you, if you would like to invite me to a caucus meeting to explain it, I'll be happy to do so.

MR. PAULLEY: I think my honourable friend would be well advised to attend a caucus meeting so that his edification may be progressed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Hamiota.

.....continued on next page.

MR. EARL DAWSON (Hamiota): Mr. Speaker, gentlemen, I want to join with so many others in wishing you success in your high and honoured office. I understand this appointment is another feather in your cap, and it adds to what is already a distinguished career.

As a new member, I wish to state how pleased I am to be part of this Twenty-Eighth Legislature and I look forward to working with each and every one of you. I want to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Throne Speech for the excellent job that each one did in his own way. Before I take a few knocks at the Throne Speech I would like to inform this House that the first Centennial project of 1967 to be held in Canada will be held right here in Winnipeg. It is to be a world's hockey tournament which will include Russia, Czechoslovakia, Canada and the U. S. A. I understand that the first Minister will be in attendance as will First Ministers from all the other provinces. The Prime Minister himself will be here January 6th, which will be the final day of the competition, and I hope that all the members will join with others and make themselves available for the opportunity to see these great hockey teams in action and make the hockey centennial tournament a success.

And now Mr. Speaker, I note in the Throne Speech that this government has finally realized that the farmer is entitled to tax-free gasoline for agricultural purposes. I sincerely hope that when the legislation is introduced it's the same type of legislation that Saskatchewan and Alberta are using, because it's high time that this government realized that the farmer is not making the money that they pretend he is. To say their income is high or higher this year is not so. You must bear in mind, and I think each and every one of you will agree, that their costs have risen greatly and their standard of living is not as high as many of our urban citizens. I firmly believe that the government is failing our rural residents. This government has forgotten that people are our most valuable asset, and they've also forgotten that the services necessary to keep a small town or a village growing in population and expansion are being denied by this government. This government has failed to provide many things. One thing in particular that they have mentioned in many campaigns are nursing homes for the aged in rural areas. It's a shame that those citizens who are in need of nursing care and that have lived in an area all their lives have to move away from their loved ones because they are in need of nursing care. They have to come as far as Winnipeg or Brandon, as much as 150 to 300 miles. The same applies for those who wish to visit them, so the people that visit them cannot do it as often as they would like because of the mileage.

I believe that this government has failed to provide the job opportunities in rural areas because they have failed to encourage industry to locate in smaller centres. Why should our young people on completion of high school have to leave the area because of seeking a job? Why should we, as parents, just as soon as our children are 18 years of age or they're finished high school, realize that they are gone from our homes, or gone from the area, because there aren't any jobs available.

I believe that industry in the constituencies would be a big step to curing the situation, keeping our young people at home, and also vocational training at the high school level would be the second step. I'm sure that everyone will agree that a village or town that can offer its citizens every shopping facility will keep the shoppers and their dollars at home. The villages of Hamiota and Oakburn which are part of my constituency practically provide every shopping facility. The facility, and practically the only facility they lack are liquor vendors, a facility that is provided by the government. Repeated requests by the citizens and myself have been made to the Liquor Control Commission to appoint vendors in the two villages. I understand personal letters have been written to the First Minister on behalf of the citizens of Hamiota by influential people in Hamiota. A variety of excuses has been offered by the Liquor Control Commission for not appointing vendors, but these excuses are not acceptable to the people in Hamiota and Oakburn. They want liquor vendors in their villages and they should get them.

I was pleased, as many of the other persons in Manitoba, that the French language will be authorized for instruction in public schools, but I'm a little disappointed that for areas that require it the Ukrainian language was not included. I firmly believe that every nationality has a right to preserve their heritage, and while I'm on the point of schools, I would like to make one point clear to the Minister if I may, in my junior position, and offer him a suggestion that on his vote for the single boards that all the persons in my constituency that I have spoken to think the idea is good but before they are going to say yes, they want everything spelled out. They don't want the same fiasco that we had in 1959 and 60. There are schools in my constituency that were built that will be closed because they are now unnecessary, so I would say I certainly agree that the single board is the right thing but the voters are going to have to have

(MR. DAWSON cont'd)... everything spelled out if they are going to buy the program.

In the program of highway development I would urge the Minister of Highways to complete the work on highway 25. I'm sure you know that we had an excellent highway there until someone got the idea to widen it and re-surface it. Well, we didn't quarrel with this but we are quarrelling with the fact that it has been widened but not re-surfaced, and we hope that this will be done in 1967. While I am on the subject of highways, I do hope that highway 24 will be hard-topped. This is a highway that goes through the rural municipality of Blanchard and through this entire municipality of Blanchard there are only four miles of blacktop, government blacktop, and this is on a provincial road, so I firmly believe these people have had delegations to see you, Mr. Minister. They want highway 24 extended; they want highway 24 blacktopped, and it should be included in the '67 estimates.

We in our party welcome the new Department of Tourism and Recreation. I believe this is a department that has been needed for some time and I think we have not even scratched the surface of the possibilities of this department. Our provincial parks must be expanded and larger grants must be made available in promoting tourism to such groups as the Golden Boys, etc. Larger grants must be made available for recreation and a larger staff is needed to properly handle the requirements of the physical fitness and amateur sports program. Mr. L. Miller, who is a personal friend of mine and the director of this department, has done a tremendous job with the small budget he has had, but I am positive that with a larger budget and an increase in Mr. Miller's staff, he can make a real mark in Manitoba in the field of physical fitness and amateur sport.

Coming back to the provincial parks for a moment, there is a lovely one just bordering my constituency and it is called Lake Watapano, or more commonly known as Rivers Lake, and in the short time of its existence it has outgrown its present facilities. The dock is much too small; the trailer and tenting areas are crowded and should be enlarged. These are points I hope the Minister of Tourism and Recreation will note and remedy this season. We also have a small problem in the village of Shoal Lake. They are very concerned about the problems of their lake. As a tourist attraction it is fast...

MR. ROBLIN: How much is this going to cost?

MR. DAWSON: I believe that's your problem to decide. The village of Shoal Lake have a small problem too, and it concerns their lake. This is a problem that they have brought to the attention of your government over the last three years. Their problem is a very simple one. All they need is a small diversion from one of the rivers to put a little more water into their lake and the level will be high enough so that the fish can live over each winter. I understand the way things are being done right now, you stock the thing in spring and they die off in the winter, and this is a small but a very important problem to the people of Shoal Lake.

I, like many other persons, wonder why a tax was placed on our two utilities, that is, our telephones and our hydro. I'm sure that if some of the advertising that is being done by both utilities was cut, and the brown envelope -- and I'm sure you know the brown envelope I mean that is included with every phone bill, the one that is tossed in the waste paper basket when you open your phone bill -- was eliminated and the message of the government that is placed in every hydro bill was eliminated, that the tax could easily be eliminated, because you wouldn't need it to pay for all these little extras.

Before I wind up, there's one thing that every member probably knows that southwest Manitoba is in danger of losing its largest single industry. This is the Rivers air base. The entire area is uneasy about the closing of this base. If Rivers base were to close, the Town of Brandon and the entire area will lose a \$5 million annual payroll, not to say about all the purchasing power from the airport and the money that is spent there. This loss is a greater blow to our area than the Air Canada overhaul base would be to the City of Winnipeg, and we around that area wonder why the First Minister hasn't shown a little more concern about our problem. We hope in the Rivers area that we haven't been forsaken for another area in Manitoba that has been blessed by the First Minister.

MR. ROBLIN: ... ordinarily call it 12.30, which would mean that we would return here this afternoon. This afternoon, of course, is devoted to private members proceedings only, not to government business, and therefore we would not be debating the Throne Speech this afternoon but proceeding to private members. I've made some enquiries and I find that it seems to be generally agreed that we would find that most of the private members, perhaps all of them, would not be anxious to proceed this afternoon and therefore it might be appropriate instead of calling it 12.30 to move the adjournment, which of course would mean that

(MR. ROBLIN cont'd): . . . we would not come back until 2:30 Monday afternoon. I take it that there's no dissent from that point of view?

MR. MOLGAT: It is in agreement with us, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PAULLEY: It is in agreement with us, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't think it would be necessary either to have a formal adjournment of the Throne Speech. It would just stand until Monday.

MR. ROBLIN: That's the case, but if some member would like to adjourn it and thereby secure his place in the queue I think he should be invited to do so.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Provincial Treasurer, that the House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 Monday afternoon.