

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
Tuesday 2:30 o'clock, March 25, 1969

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

MR. CLERK: The Petition of Saul Benjamin Zitzerman and Others praying for the passing of an Act to incorporate The Talmud Torah Foundation.

The Petition of Rachel Roy and Others praying for the passing of an Act respecting Misericordia Hospital.

The Petition of the Fidelity Trust Company praying for the passing of an Act respecting The Fidelity Trust Company.

The Petition of Les Soeurs de Misericorde de Winnipeg praying for the passing of an Act respecting Les Soeurs de Misericorde de Winnipeg.

REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. DOUGLAS M. STANES (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the report of the Special Committee which is the allocation of honourable members to the Standing Committees of the House.

MR. CLERK: Your Special Committee appointed to prepare a list of Members to compose the Standing Committees ordered by the House beg leave to present the following as their first report.

Your Committee met and prepared the following list of members to compose the Standing Committees ordered by the House:

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS: Hon. Mrs. Forbes. Hon. Messrs: Craik, Lyon, McLean, Spivak. Messrs: Cowan, Dawson, Froese, Graham, Hanuschak, McKellar, Molgat, Steen, Pauley, Tanchak.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS: Hon. Messrs: Baizley, Carroll, Craik, Evans, Lyon, Spivak, Watt, Weir. Messrs: Bjornson, Campbell, Dawson, Dow, Einarson, Fox, Froese, Graham, Guttormson, Harris, Jeannotte, Johnston, Jorgenson, Kawchuk, Lissaman, Masniuk, McGregor, Miller, Molgat, Pauley, Uskiw.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Hon. Messrs: Carroll, Enns, Evans, Johnson, McLean, Witney, Watt. Messrs: Bjornson, Borowski, Claydon, Desjardins, Dow, Fix, Green, Guttormson, Hamilton, Jeannotte, Johnston, Klym, McKenzie, McGregor, Molgat, Pauley, Stanes, Steen, Uskiw, Vielfaure.

AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION: Hon. Mrs. Forbes. Hon. Messrs: Enns, Johnson, Watt, Weir. Messrs: Bjornson, Campbell, Dawson, Einarson, Froese, Green, Guttormson, Hamilton, Jorgenson, Kawchuk, Klym, Lissaman, Masniuk, McGregor, McKellar, McKenzie, Mrs. Morrison, Pauley, Shoemaker, Tanchak, Uskiw, Vielfaure.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS: Hon. Mrs. Forbes. Hon. Messrs: Baizley, McLean and Watt. Messrs: Barkman, Claydon, Cowan, Doern, Dow, Einarson, Froese, Green, Hamilton, Hillhouse, Kawchuk, Klym, Lissaman, Masniuk, McKellar, McKenzie, Miller, Mrs. Morrison, Patrick, Shoemaker, Stanes, Steen, Tanchak, Uskiw.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: Hon. Messrs: Baizley, Carroll, Craik, Johnson, Spivak, Witney. Messrs: Borowski, Claydon, Dawson, Fox, Green, Harris, Hillhouse, Johnston, Jorgenson, Lissaman, Masniuk, McGregor, Patrick, Stanes, Vielfaure.

STATUTORY ORDERS AND REGULATIONS: Hon. Messrs: Lyon, McLean, Spivak, Messrs. Campbell, Cherniack, Claydon, Cowan, Desjardins, Froese, Hamilton, Hillhouse, Jorgenson, Peturrson, Stanes, Steen.

LAW AMENDMENTS: Hon. Messrs: Baizley, Carroll, Craik, Enns, Evans, Mrs. Forbes, Johnson, Lyon, McLean, Spivak, Watt, Weir, Witney. Messrs: Barkman, Bjornson, Borowski, Campbell, Cherniack, Claydon, Cowan, Dawson, Desjardins, Doern, Dow, Einarson, Froese, Fox, Graham, Green, Hamilton, Hanuschak, Hillhouse, Johnston, Jorgenson, Klym, Masniuk, McKellar, McKenzie, Miller, Molgat, Mrs. Morrison, Patrick, Pauley, Peturrson, Shoemaker, Stanes, Steen, Tanchak, Uskiw.

March 25, 1969

PRIVATE BILLS, STANDING ORDERS, PRINTING AND LIBRARY: Hon. Messrs. Enns, Witney. Messrs: Barkman, Bjornson, Cowan, Desjardins, Doern, Einarson, Graham, Harris, Hanuschak, Jeannotte, Klym, McGregor, McKellar, McKenzie, Mrs. Morrison, Patrick, Peturrson, Shoemaker, Vielfaure.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to introduce our guests today, if I may, for a moment. We have with us today 11 members of The City of Winnipeg Welfare Ladies (Young Mothers' Group) under the direction of Mrs. Tait. On behalf of all the honourable members, I welcome you here today.

Now to introduce our young people, we have 42 students of Grade 11 Standing of the Garden City Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. Jorowski. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks. We also have 28 students of Grade 6 standing from the Brock-Corydon School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Cox. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable the Minister for Industry and Commerce. There are also 40 students of Grade 11 standing of the Lac du Bonnet School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Morgan. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

On behalf of all the honourable members of the Assembly, I welcome you here today.

The Honourable the Minister of Labour.

HON. CHARLES H. WITNEY (Minister of Labour) (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, I wish to lay on the table of the House a return to an Order of the House No. 12 on motion of the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party.

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of the New Democratic Party) (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, I note the absence, I believe through sickness, of the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce, and also the absence of the First Minister. I suppose the person to whom I should address this question would be now the Honourable the Minister of Labour, and my question is, is the Minister aware that Manitoba has lost another industry to eastern Canada in that the contract for certain components used in aeronautics, which was formerly done in Winnipeg by CAE (Western Canada) Limited, has been awarded to a firm in Guelph, Ontario, which will mean the loss of jobs for some 150 upwards to 200 more Manitobans.

MR. WITNEY: Well, Mr. Speaker, as the third on the list, the answer is no.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Hamiota.

MR. EARL DAWSON (Hamiota): Mr. Speaker, last week I asked the Minister of Municipal Affairs a question. He was not in his seat at the time and it was taken by the second one on the list. My question was, was the government aware that Hudson Bay Route Association, which supports the development of the Port of Churchill, were meeting with Transport Minister Paul Hellyer very shortly, and my question was will the government be sending representation to assist Hudson Bay Route Association on this?

HON. OBIE BAIZLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Commissioner of Northern Affairs) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Honourable Member from Hamiota, the question would be properly directed to the Minister of Transport. And while I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to reply to a question asked of me the same day by the Honourable Member from Selkirk relating to correspondence, or verbal or oral coverage relating to Tartan Breweries. Had the government had such contact? The answer is yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Hamiota.

MR. DAWSON: Can I have the Minister of Transport answer my question then, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: He doesn't appear to be in the House.

MR. DAWSON: Who would be the number two?

MR. BAIZLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I may, I am sure that we will see that it is directed to the proper Minister, who will reply in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows:

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Education. Has he now received a copy of the McKay Report on "Religious Instruction in Ontario"?

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Minister of Youth and Education) (St. Vital): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HANUSCHAK: One question, Mr. Speaker - is his department dealing with this matter? Is it his intention to bring forth any changes in respect to religious instruction that is in effect in Manitoba?

MR. CRAIK: We have no plans with regard to the McKay Report except to read it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable the Minister of Health and Education could provide members with a copy of that report?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, it is a report put out by the Ontario Department of Education. We, as far as I know, only have one of it so far. If we do have an extra one or two, he can probably arrange to get it through the Library.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the No. 1 man in the Department of Highways and Transport, may I address a question to the No. 2 man, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. The other day I raised the question in this House as to investigation into private property of employees of Manitoba Government at 10 Midland Ave. It has been revealed to me the possibility of some of the employees being dismissed. I wonder if the Honourable the Minister could inform me as to whether this is so, and the basis upon which the said employees were dismissed, if in effect they were.

HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources) (Rockwood-Iberville): Mr. Speaker, I think if the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party checks the answer given to the question directed to the Minister of Transport at that time, he will find the reasons and the attitude and the approach that the Minister of Transportation is taking to this question, that he has raised on several occasions in the House, as being the ones that he intended to pursue; namely, that any action that the Minister may decide to take in this matter is a matter of internal departmental policy and he will make such information available to the House as he deems necessary.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I may, a subsequent question to my honourable friend, and I appreciate his long answer which contained no information at all. Is the Minister aware that employees were dismissed?

MR. ENNS: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. SAUL MILLER (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health - yesterday he mentioned that old age pensioners with single income of \$1,620 a year, or married with incomes of \$2,940, that they would be eligible as recipients of public assistance under the Medicare plan. I am wondering whether he has given any consideration to having them qualify simply by the fact that they would qualify for the supplement to the old age pension. The present method, I believe, is very complicated; they have some forms that they have got to fill out which the average person can't possibly fill out. I have received a number of calls from people confused about it and I am wondering whether the government couldn't consider that if an old age pensioner qualifies for the supplement, that they shouldn't automatically therefore be considered as qualifying for Medicare premiums.

HON. GEORGE JOHNSON (Minister of Health and Social Services) (Gimli): Well, Mr. Speaker, that is not the policy at the present time as the honourable member knows. The waiver of premium applications are received. The problem of the form -- I have asked if it could be simplified somewhat and I have asked the department to look at this. Actually, it isn't that complicated. I got one up in my office and it took a few minutes to fill it out. The only thing the department are looking for is they make a very quick test on the paper, as the honourable member knows. I think he is asking whether all those on old age supplement couldn't be excused. That was not anticipated in bringing in the plan. It was felt we should use the old age assistance test and that is the status at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party.

MR. PAULLEY: On a similar point, might I direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Health and Social Services. Is it a fact that a person, or a couple under the age of 65, irrespective of what their income is, in order to qualify for exemptions under Medicare must become recipients of social allowances?

MR. JOHNSON: I guess that would be so, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the day, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Health. Can the Honourable Minister inform the House as to whether doctors who opt out of the plan will be subject to the same provisions of the Medical Review Board respecting their accounts as doctors who are in the plan.

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, they will, Mr. Speaker

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Education, but before my question I would like to quote from the Portage Leader and then I have two questions. This is of March 6th date and I quote, "Portage la Prairie will not get a Technical Vocational & Training School but the community could come up with a composite high school. Harold Narvey, Chairman of the Portage Division School Board, told a meeting of trustees last week of the changes in Tec Voc planning. Reporting on a meeting Tuesday with a representative of the Manitoba Department of Education, the Board chairman stated, 'there will be three vocational schools in Manitoba run by the province and they are not interested in adding a fourth.' " So my question, Mr. Speaker, or rather two questions: (1) Has there been a change in government policy reducing the number of technical vocational schools in the province? And the second question, does the Boundaries Commission have anything at all to do with the defining of locations of technical vocational schools?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, if I might just clarify the terminology. It's a matter of semantics as to whether you call a school a technical vocational school or a composite school, and one of the things that they have been attempting to do is to have people referring to the same thing when they are using the two different terms, technical vocational school or a composite school. There is a fine difference between the two. However, I think the greatest proportion of the population is quite confused about what the difference is between technical vocational school and the composite school since both schools offer both vocational and academic courses. It is usually assumed that the technical vocational school has a higher proportion of vocational courses than does the composite. Nevertheless, they both offer comprehensive or composite education, so we have been attempting to have them referred to -- all of the schools now -- as composite schools.

Now the three that are referred to in the province are very definitely -- in two cases anyway -- vocational schools in that they are almost completely absorbed in vocational training. These are at The Pas and at Brandon, and to some extent you could take a large portion of the MIT and call it similarly. The school in Winnipeg that has been called Tec Voc for many years is in fact a composite school. However, we have always referred to it as a technical vocational school. It has become a composite school because they started out vocational and have added to their courses to the extent that they are now offering most of the academic courses you find in a regular high school. Therefore, they are in fact a composite school and no longer really should be called a tec voc. So this is the reason for the change in the terminology. There has been no change in the policy of the government. That's the specific first question the member asked for. Three schools are presently in the planning stage and will begin construction this year. Two of them at least have plans to begin -- Dauphin and Selkirk, and the third is east of the river in the Metro area which is presently at the stage of purchasing property.

The second question with regard to the Boundaries Commission is that the Boundaries Commission, as the honourable member probably is aware, has proposed sites for schools in order to make proposals to the various communities where it has been soliciting public opinion, and normally speaking when they go into an area they do time-distance factors and so on to show what would be the impact of locating -- in pure technical terms -- of locating a vocational school or a composite school at a particular location, so to that extent they are charged with locating the schools. In the final analysis, of course, the decision must lie with the Department of Education and with the government for the final location.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. George.

MR. ELMAN GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Speaker, the Icelandic girls have long been recognized as the prettiest in the world, and I have no less an authority for this than Ripley. Now it appears that the Icelanders are "tops" in another field - curling. Yesterday, in an All-Nations bonspiel, a rink of Icelanders won the championship, skipped by Marno Frederickson, Leo Johnson, Marno Ingimundson and John Kjartansson, so I think that we should recognize the new champs. I know there'll be some unhappy people in Scotland, but I'm sure they'll bear with us now we have new champs.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Health. Can the Minister tell us when we will receive the report of the Manitoba Hospital Commission? Will that be before his estimates?

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I know it's at the printer's. I saw the rough draft and I would hope to get it before the end of the month.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Honourable the Minister of Health and Welfare. We received a brochure the other day of March 21st and there's a statement here: "The MMS will be the agent for the Corporation for the processing of claims under the plan." My question is, is the MMS, which is the doctors' organization as I understand, will they be the authority recognized under the federal Medicare plan as the one that will audit the accounts here in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, the Corporation have arranged for these people to be the fiscal agent in processing the claims, subject to audit and of course satisfying both ourselves and the federal authorities as such, declaring certain of the personnel in the actual Corporation in MMS office as employees of the Corporation. This has occurred so they're reportable entirely to the Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Government Services. Would she be good enough to indicate to the House the policy of the Civil Service Commission with respect to part-time or casual employees being placed on the permanent staff. I'm informed there are some, and in fact within her department, who have been working for a long time on pretty well on a continuous basis, and yet they're still classified as temporary employees and not enjoying some of the benefits which permanent employees are entitled to.

HON. THELMA FORBES (Minister of Government Services) (Cypress): I will undertake to get the information that you are seeking here, but I would like to tell the honourable member that this question could be directed towards Management Committee which handles this. For the honourable member I will take it as notice and see that it is directed to Management Committee so that you might get an answer.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. EDWARD I. DOW (Turtle Mountain): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health and Welfare mentioned the other day that certain compensation would be coming to the municipalities in recovering unpaid Medicare premiums. My question is, so the municipality can recover this, the individual has to sign an application for welfare?

MR. JOHNSON: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Government Services. Will we be receiving the report of the committee under the general heading of Operation Productivity, the one that's revamping the Management Committee and the planning and priorities? Is that report to be received by us?

MRS. FORBES: Yes, I think that the honourable member should understand that this part of the Civil Service is divided differently; it's divided between myself and the Minister of Finance. For a question to this, I direct it to the Minister of Finance.

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Minister of Finance) (Fort Rouge): I'll be glad to consider the question and provide an answer later.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Carillon.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (Carillon): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. There seems to be some confusion. If there's two million or three million sandbags ready for the

(MR. BARKMAN cont'd) . . . possibility of a flood, is it a fact in your News Service that you're suggesting another two million will be purchased?

MR. BAIZLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Will this House be receiving a Bill for its consideration dealing with the question of tax concessions granted by municipalities?

MR. BAIZLEY: Mr. Speaker, it's a matter of government policy, and if such a Bill is to be considered, it will be brought forward in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe also there is a resolution to be dealt with on the Order Paper along those lines. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JOE BOROWSKI (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Before I ask the question I'd like to quote a paragraph from a brief sent to the Honourable C. H. Witney and the Honourable J. B. Carroll which was sent by the Port Churchill Chamber of Commerce and the Churchill Game and Fish Association. "Assuming that Manitoba Hydro will be taking 80 percent of the water of the Churchill River, we feel that the only solution for this whole area is that a dam be built by Manitoba Hydro from Goose Creek to Mosquito Point on the Churchill River." My question is, does the Minister have any figures to give us or any statement to make on this dam that we haven't heard of until this brief was sent in?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of the matter raised by the Honourable Member for Churchill. I only suggest to him that it is the intention of the department to keep under very careful scrutiny whatever the wildlife effects are below Missi Falls on the Churchill River. If the suggestion, such as has been sent in by the Chamber of Commerce or from the organizations that he spoke of, is a feasible one, this may well be considered as a matter of due course in the management of our game resources. It's particularly for this reason that I will be attaching biologists to study the effects in that area both pre- and post- impoundment. It is premature at this point to suggest that that is an answer, or that that would in fact be the manner and way in which to correct or to preserve the game in that particular region at this time.

MR. BOROWSKI: A subsequent question, Mr. Speaker. This letter also indicates that negotiations are presently under way between Manitoba Hydro and the people up in Churchill, and the question is, are they going to negotiate this without going through the Legislature? Are we going to have any say about it?

MR. ENNS: I'm not aware, Mr. Speaker, of the negotiations referred to by the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. George.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question I'd like to direct to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Has he an answer for the question I directed yesterday with respect to the bags that were sold, or allegedly sold?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I have made enquiries through the department. Unfortunately, answers to that particular question haven't been forwarded to me. I will undertake to do so at the earliest possible moment -- tomorrow perhaps.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Minister of Consumer Affairs.

HON. J. B. CARROLL (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and Minister of Tourism and Recreation) (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to lay on the table of the House a Return to an Order of the House No. 30, dated April 1, 1968, in the name of the Member for Assiniboia.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BOROWSKI: I have one more question, Mr. Speaker, and this one is directed to the Attorney-General. I have a letter here from a constituent in Thicket Portage and there's a complaint in the letter saying there are no law enforcement officers, no police stationed at Thicket Portage. It seems according to the letter, that a liquor store has been opened there January 1st. Since that time there has been a lot more crime and violations of various laws. This constituent is concerned because no police are stationed. There's a local Justice of the Peace. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I would be very pleased to hear the honourable gentleman's question.

MR. BOROWSKI: The question is, is the Attorney-General considering stationing

(MR. BOROWSKI cont'd) ... police and a magistrate or Justice of the Peace in this community?

HON. STERLING R. LYON Q.C. (Attorney-General) (Fort Garry): That matter can be discussed when we come to the estimates, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, perhaps the Minister of Natural Resources could reply. Could he indicate to us how much grain has been moved in the Red River Valley area that might be flooded as a result of the increased quotas that have been announced in that area?

MR. ENNS: No, Mr. Speaker, I'm not in a position to reply to that question. I'm aware that some movement is taking place, but I'm afraid we would have to await the return of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture to supply the specific answer to that question.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, this group, and I'm sure the entire House, was interested to hear the remarks made by the Honourable Member for Portage regarding the pollution of certain waterways in Manitoba by certain industrial firms, and we too are concerned, Mr. Speaker, with what has been the effect of the Clean Environment Act. In this regard I might remind the House that last year all members of the House agreed that the question of the benefit of the Act would lie largely with how it was administered rather than with what the Act said, and in this regard I think that the questions asked by the Honourable Member for Portage are certainly relevant ones to the administration of the Act.

But, Mr. Speaker, we indicated at that time that there were numerous places in the Act which permitted exceptions, and which permitted exemptions to be granted by the Minister in charge. The Act is spotted with such exceptions, not all of which can be firmly dealt with because some of them merely deal with exceptions which are permitted without any authority whatsoever, but others do require authority for the exception and it's these, Mr. Speaker, that we are interested in and which don't appear to be requested in the Order for Return as it now stands. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, we've prepared an amendment to the Order, which I'm sure will commend itself to the Member for Portage as well as to other Members of the House, dealing with the exceptions. And I've dealt with all of them, Mr. Speaker, that I could determine would be in the control of the department with the exception of one, that is permits granted by the Department of Health for effluence or sewage from a domestic family residence, and I would think that that would be too great a task to ask the department to give us the permits for every outhouse that has been constructed in the Province of Manitoba or for every septic tank.

So for that reason, Mr. Speaker, and without further debate, I'd like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Logan, that the resolution be amended by adding thereto the following:

"(9) Particulars of licence granted under Section 2(1), 3(1), and 4(1) of the said Act. (10) Exemptions granted under Section 5 of the said Act. (11) Permits issued under Section 4(2)(a) of the said Act. (12) Orders issued under Section 3(2)(c) of the said Act."

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Minister of Health.

MR. JOHNSON: With respect to this Order, could I see that before accepting same? -- (Interjection) -- The Member for Lakeside said it's O.K. I'm willing to accept orders insofar as the information is available to me. -- (Interjection) -- Well, maybe I should adjourn the debate, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Labour, that the debate be adjourned.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Brokenhead. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, when we adjourned on Friday, we were coming to the part regarding the implementation of a program which was set out by the co-ordinating committee, which in turn had been set up by the Provincial Government. Now, the first part of this program had been the organization; the second part was the

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) . . . information; and the third part of this program was that this coordinating body set up, in an advisory capacity, an employee, a full-time employee of this advisory group in the person of Mr. Gerald Orr of Carberry, and the duties of Mr. Orr were to carry out was to work with the farmers, to work with the operators of grain driers on farms, to work with commercial grain driers, and also to work with the Board of Grain Commissioners, to make sure that grain driers were properly operated and that the damage from improperly operated driers was kept at a fair minimum.

Now before Mr. Orr began operations, there were in excess of 50 percent of the samples sent in to the Board of Grain Commissioners for testing which came back showing some degree of damage from improper drying procedures. Since he has been in the field, the degree of rejected samples from the Board of Grain Commissioners has reduced substantially. Now this means a saving to the farmer; it means insurance to the farmer because he knows the dangers have been lessened, because we have to remember that the driers that are being used on the farms here to dry the grain were not manufactured for the specific purpose of drying the grain that we grow in this area. Primarily, the grain driers being used in this area were imported models brought in from the States which had been manufactured primarily to dry corn, so that we can understand the methods and the standards used in making these driers, which might be suitable for corn, might not necessarily be suitable for our types of grain.

Now in order to make the drier operators aware, these schools were held -- which I mentioned previously -- and also a pamphlet was printed by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, the Extension Service Branch, on grain drying using commercially available grain driers. The information in this pamphlet pointed out the dangers, pointed out the relatively safe temperature areas to operate in, and also made people familiar with the fact that not all driers reacted in the same manner. So that I believe that this pamphlet was an invaluable aid to any farmer wishing to dry grain or about to purchase and operate a grain drier.

Now besides this information on the actual operation of the grain drier, there were numerous other types of information made available to the public, and I think that every effort was made to make the farmers aware of the conditions that were facing us. In the month of December there were a total of five different programs put on the radio air over eight various radio stations. Now the radio stations that were involved, altogether there was a total of 12, but I'll list all the stations because some of them weren't all used at the same time. There was CJOB FM, CFRY Portage la Prairie, CKX Brandon, CFAM Altona, CHSM Steinbach, CKDM Dauphin, CJGX Yorkton, CJGR Melfort and KNDK Langdon, North Dakota. In the month of January there were two different programs put on each station, and in the month of March there were two different programs put on nine stations. Now this is a total of 114 programs beamed at the farmers dealing specifically with the problems of drying grain. However, the sources of information didn't stop just there. The television medium was also used, and in November a 10-minute sound film on two different stations was instituted; in January, a 15-minute program on three stations; in February there was a 12-minute program on two stations and also in February a 5-minute program on two stations; and in March of this year, a 15-minute program on three stations; for a total of 12 programs with a total air time of 144 minutes. Now the TV stations used were CKX Brandon, CKOS Yorkton, CKND Pembina, North Dakota, and CBWT in Winnipeg.

There were also seven press releases directed to a mailing list of 550 contacts, including all Manitoba press, radio and television establishments. Now these various press releases were a continuing type of release starting early in the fall with almost an alert notice regarding the possibility of grain problems, and the second one was a program regarding drier facts: Why do farmers damage grain in the drying process, the method of temperature control, the special problems involved with drying of seed grain, how to check for damage, etc.

The third program was a program drawing attention to the special grain drying program featured on the "Country Calendar" TV program. The next program which was released in the middle of February was entitled "Manitoba Grain is Getting Hot -- Will your damp stored grain be beyond redemption within a week?" Now you can notice the tempo or the urgency for action is increasing, urging farmers who had not so far responded to the information and facilities that were available to them, urging them to become immediately concerned.

The next one was dated at the same time. This brought the information that as of the middle of February the original 90 million bushels of wheat which was estimated to be damp in the Province of Manitoba was now down to 45 million bushels, so that as of the middle of

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) . . . February approximately 50 percent of the damp grain had been dried.

The next program was the 7th of March of this year, and it was dealing with still more special possibilities with grain and the damp grain urgency and the dangers of spoilage. The latest one out was in the middle of March, and it was urging farmers that no longer could they consider the real problem of drying all their grain at the one time, but urging them to dry all their piles of grain first.

Now what has been the results. We knew we had 90 million bushels at the beginning of the crop year. This was the estimated figures of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in conjunction with the Canadian Wheat Board. By the middle of February this had been reduced to 45 million bushels; by the middle of March this had now been reduced to an estimated 15 million bushels; and according to the estimates of the Department of Agriculture, by the middle of April most of the damp grain in the province should be dried. This is if the driers keep operating. Now we realize that as the program winds up there will still be some areas where there's a shortage of driers, there will be some areas where driers will no longer have any work to do, so that while we don't believe the entire amount of damp grain will be dried by the middle of April, the majority of it should be dried by that date.

Now there was one other thing that the department was also concerned about and this was the storage of grain, and we know that with damp grain there are particular problems of storage which don't normally occur in the storage of grain. These problems are two-fold namely, insect contamination and contamination by mould. In the field of insect contamination, I think the No. 1 problem is the rusty grain beetle. Another insect which causes considerable concern is the saw-toothed grain beetle, and the third one is mice. Now, a special bulletin has been put out dealing with the control of insects and mice in farm-stored grain, and once more this program is available from your ag rep offices throughout the province. Not only does it tell you how to identify these insects, it tells you where they are most likely to occur, how to test for them and how to combat them. The same applies for the mould and the methods which can be used to counteract them. This information is in this booklet.

So I think you will see that this province has been concerned about the damp grain situation; it has taken an active part in trying to alleviate the situation and I think it has done what we expect the government to do. Now probably it could have done more, but I don't think that we can expect to give a government authority to go into a farmer's yard, to demand of that farmer that he take his grain and dry it and assess the cost against him. I don't think that lies within the realm of the government. I don't think the government can tell the farmer that he has to take his grain to a neighbor and dry it and assess the cost against him. I think the government's realm lies in offering advice and assistance in any way that appears feasible, and in doing so it has fulfilled its duty.

Now there was one thing that concerned me when I heard the Honourable Member from Brokenhead the other day, and I refer to Hansard on Page 273, and I would like to quote: "I agree it's dry now, but you have spent 44 cents a bushel in these areas. The farmer is in the position of losing 44 cents a bushel. Mr. Speaker, the farmers can't afford to lose 44 cents a bushel and still stay in business, and it's in this instance that the government of Manitoba has failed and the government of Canada has failed." Now I agree that if a farmer has lost 44 cents in drying grain that he probably won't be in business very long. I know myself that I have been in the grain drying business but I have yet to see any figures that come anywhere near close to this 44 cents a bushel. The Honourable Member from Brokenhead included trucking costs in his drying charges, and I would like to quote the facts on one customer for which we dried grain. We hauled his grain 33 miles to the grain drier. We dried a total of 2,533 bushels of grain at a total cost of \$275.00, which included the cost of hauling. Now this works out at a cost of 10.85 cents per bushel. Now, using Mr. Uskiw's figure of 44 cents -- we noted last year that in Ottawa there were serious repercussions when our Minister of Finance made an error of five percent in his budget. Now if this government was under the direction of the Honourable Member from Brokenhead, his error just amounts to a little over 400 percent. I don't think that we could afford to have a government under that type of administration.

I also noticed in Hansard on this grain drying question that the Honourable Member for Hamiota was concerned about grain drying -- and this is on Page 268 -- and he suggested that if there were a shortage of trucks that they have an army and military vehicles and he thought

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) . . . that these vehicles could be used. He states: "These armed forces bases are strategically located throughout the province and there are provisions for the Minister to call on these people, provisions under the Act which is Aid to Civil Power." Now I don't know, maybe he has more army experience than I have, but most of the army trucks that I have seen have stake bodies, they have no hoists on them, and I think it would be extremely difficult to haul grain in these types of vehicles.

I don't know whether the same member is aware of the problems regarding the farming area. I know he mentioned also in another area that he was concerned about the question of elk and the hunting season. Now while I was in that particular area of the province drying grain, I did not see the member from Hamiota at any of these meetings regarding the elk hunting season; I also did not see this member at any of the area meetings regarding the drying of grain.

MR. DAWSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, what has this got to do with the Resolution?

MR. SPEAKER: I appreciate the opinion of the Honourable Member for Hamiota and I realize that the Honourable Member was straying for just a moment or two. He did come back, and if everyone did the same my problems would be much lighter.

MR. GRAHAM: Now, Mr. Speaker, in this light I don't think that his recommendations should be taken too seriously regarding one of the solutions for drying grain. I would like to say that I believe that the drying of the grain is a matter for the individual farmer to be concerned about. Granted he has a financial problem, but this government has made legislation available through the banks whereby loans can be made to cover production costs. Now this definitely includes the drying of grain. The federal government did make some money available - loans to cover the cost of drying, and I believe that between the federal funds available and the provincial production loans available, that there is the machinery there if the farmer wants to use it. I know there are many farmers who are still reluctant to dry grain. Some of them are hoping to sell some of their damp grain to the feed mills; some of them are maybe still hoping to deliver some to the elevators; but I would personally urge any farmer who has any quantity of damp grain on his farm now, to make every effort that he can to have this grain dried before the temperature rises and spring thaws set in. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for LaVerendrye.

MR. ALBERT VIELFAURE (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I am one who is usually fairly reluctant in passing legislation of the long-range effect to correct some unusual or exceptional or extraordinary condition, which is certainly what we are discussing at this moment. Really it is a little late in the day to pass legislation, especially when it comprises arrangements with the federal government in order to alleviate the farmers' problems with grain drying. Also, my experience is that the cost of many of these programs becomes fairly prohibitive. We hear today a lot of cost-benefits when governments establish programs, and certainly this is one that should be considered when we discuss making arrangements for grain drying, because as I said a little earlier, certainly as far as it affects the problem that exists now, it is fairly late. However, certainly no one denies that we do have a very serious problem on many farms this year, especially those who are strictly grain producers who have to depend on the sale of this grain for their livelihood. It means an extra expense before they can ever move it, and without even being assured as to when they will move it. This resolution being -- I wouldn't say vague-- but certainly general, because actually it says "that the Government of Manitoba consider the advisability of entering into a cost-sharing agreement with the Government of Canada to provide financial assistance to grain producers to cover costs of grain drying".

Well certainly there are other segments of our society who are considered when in similar situations that are certainly beyond their control, and certainly it is not the farmers' fault if we had the unusual summer that we had last year, the unusual heavy rain, and therefore the fact that they were in no position to harvest their grain in the conditions that it is usually done. It was because of these conditions that they are faced with extra costs as far as selling their product is concerned, and certainly the resolution that says that we should discuss the matter with the federal government in order to provide financial assistance has a lot of merit. On this basis -- and the farmers in the west certainly have to be heard quite often in Ottawa because of their particular situations, especially on a year like this -- I think we should support this resolution, and I intend to vote for it on the basis that it is at this time a matter of negotiation between the province and the department in order to see to this problem.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW (Brokenhead): Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat at a loss to understand the position taken by the Member for Birtle-Russell, in fact a member representing the Government of Manitoba. If my honourable friend wants to take the position of the credibility gap I think I would have to reflect back on his own presentation in the House, although I ought to hesitate on that particular idea at the present time in the sense that the honourable member has not been with us very long and no doubt is subject to some of the errors that most members may make from time to time, especially if they are rookies in the field.

But I do want to point out that the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell has indicated that I have made an error in calculation to the extent of some 400 percent and that if this policy was followed in government we would have a colossal situation before us. I simply want to ask my honourable friend to read what I have proposed in the resolution, to become fully acquainted with what the subject matter is, and to in fact completely read my speech because I did not at all, Mr. Speaker, suggest that the cost of drying grain was 44 cents per bushel. I think my honourable friend has to do a little bit more research, and I say this advisedly for his sake, Mr. Speaker, that in the future he will be in a position to give us (a) the type of presentation that will have some bit of credibility -- and as I said earlier I hesitate to condemn my honourable friend for not having done so on this occasion -- but to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that I had made a presentation which lacked in credibility I cannot entirely let go in a sense that I think I was positive in my total approach to the problem of damp grain and that I would have hoped that members in the House would have taken a similar positive approach in dealing with the question. And I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the approach that was taken by the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell and the approach of the government is a negative one.

If my honourable friend reads Hansard he will -- the same page incidentally which he quoted -- he will find that I suggested that there are varying circumstances which cause the farmers in Manitoba and on the prairies to lose some 44 cents a bushel; I did not say that it was the cost of drying grain. I said the price of wheat had dropped and the price of grain generally had gone down in the last year, the costs of hauling, the costs of drying, the fact that we had lower grades of grain because of the wet conditions, all these happened to add up to that kind of a loss. Now I don't care, Mr. Speaker, what things add up to present us with a loss, it's the loss that is in question and what do we do about it. It's the economic position of the producer that we are really talking about, Mr. Speaker. So I hope that with those few remarks that my honourable friend the Member for Birtle-Russell will, in the future, study and research the subject matter somewhat more thoroughly than he has today.

I want to point out that he has mentioned -- at least in his speech of last week -- that he questioned the validity in the statement in my resolution, the statement suggesting that the farmers had suffered severe income losses. And I want to go back and quote what he has said, just subsequently to that statement, and I want to quote, Mr. Speaker, exactly, so that I wouldn't put myself in the same position as the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell did this afternoon. He says here, "I don't know if this really represents a case of the farmer or not, but I do know that the situation regarding farm income is a severe one." Now in his opening remarks he questioned whether it was a severe situation, and then he goes on to say it's severe, and in fact he says it's critical -- the income position of the farmers is critical -- so I don't think he disagrees with me.

MR. SPEAKER: Before the honourable gentleman leaves that page, for the record would he mind making note of the page number.

MR. USKIW: The Page No. is 647, Mr. Speaker. So I find it difficult to understand the position that the government is taking on this critical question, Mr. Speaker, the question of the financial losses that the farmers on the prairies are suffering as a result of the damp grain situation.

My honourable friend mentioned the fact that because of our general rural picture, economically speaking, that the youth of the rural areas is discouraged, that we don't see many young people on the farm any more. He mentioned, Mr. Speaker, that headlines in the newspaper always discourage people from going into the business of farming and that there were adequate reasons for doing so, that the farm picture was not a bright picture and that we had some real problems. I concur with that, Mr. Speaker, and I just can't understand the position that he followed after making those brief remarks.

Whether or not the question of income is serious, Mr. Speaker, can be determined simply by adding up a few figures. If you take a look at the loss of income just as a result of the

(MR. USKIW cont'd) . . . reduction in the price of wheat, Mr. Speaker, a year ago -- the reduction of last year -- the prairies, based on a 700 million bushel wheat crop, Mr. Speaker, lost something in the neighborhood of \$130 million just because of the reduction in the price of wheat. Now if my honourable friend thinks that that isn't a severe income loss, I beg to ask him what is a severe income loss, Mr. Speaker, because this is directly out of the pockets of the producers and not out of the pockets of the community as a whole, although I recognize, Mr. Speaker, that the community as a whole is going to suffer because of this economic loss to the producer, in the sense that we have \$130 million less purchasing power on the prairies.

This is important, Mr. Speaker, and again may I remind the house that the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for Hamiota and my Leader went to Ottawa, a week or two ago, worrying about the loss of an economic unit at Rivers, the loss of \$6 million in economic input into the Province of Manitoba. They thought this was a major thing and they went to Ottawa to deal with it, and I agree that they should have, but Mr. Speaker, when you suggest that a loss -- and Manitoba's share incidentally, Manitoba's loss just in the reduction in the price of wheat, Mr. Speaker, was something like \$16 million based on a 90 million bushel wheat production. My honourable friend doesn't recognize that that's a severe loss, Mr. Speaker, and I hesitate to ask why after the government undertook such a major expedition, if you like, on the Rivers Air Base, which according to their figures was a \$6 million loss to Manitoba in terms of total economic input.

So, Mr. Speaker, if you total up the recent decreases in the price of wheat at the International market, you will find that if you base our total prairie production of 700 million bushels of wheat and you total up at an average of 25 cents per bushel less than what we have been getting two years ago, you will find that the prairies are now, under the present wheat prices as they are, possibly we will be in a position of losing some \$175 million on the prairies just in that one instance alone, and that Manitoba's loss, because of that one fact alone, will be something like \$22 million if this continues, Mr. Speaker.

So I say to the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell and the government on that side that we have a sad situation in agriculture, and I don't think I have overstated the position of the farmers in Manitoba or on the prairies generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, and I think that the government should have been bold enough to deal with the whole problem of trying to put some dollars back into the pockets of producers to offset some of the increased expenditures.

Mr. Speaker, there was one other item that the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell mentioned that I take exception to and that was where he -- I've lost the page, Mr. Speaker, here it is -- he talked about figures which I used whereby the farmers are going to spend some \$70 million in total in the cost of drying grain, and he somehow assumed that I was suggesting that Manitoba was spending \$70 million. And again, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that if he reads Hansard he will find that I was quoting a Saskatchewan Farmers Union estimate of the three prairie province figure for the cost of drying grain. So here again is something that I want to draw to the attention of the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. I don't have to go beyond that point to illustrate that his suggestion that I was going to charge this government with the responsibility of a billion dollars or so of expenditures if we followed this kind of a formula in solving the problems of one department, then Mr. Speaker, I just leave that to you, because having said the first part I don't think there is any need of pursuing that point any further.

My honourable friend mentioned the fact that the province did involve itself to some degree in helping the situation in the sense that they had some radio broadcasts and they had some TV programs trying to indicate or illustrate to the farmers just what can be done with respect to the drying of damp grain, and I appreciate that the governmental department, the Extension Service, is quite capable of doing these kind of things. I've always had the confidence in the Department of Agriculture, the Extension Service and other services, but Mr. Speaker, my position here was a position of policy and I don't think that the remarks that were made by the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell with respect to how much was done by the department were really meaningful in the true sense, in that I don't know that the farmers really benefitted that much from the activities of that department. There may have been some benefit. I suggest to you that possibly the radio stations and the TV stations and the newspapers received more benefit than the farmers themselves did, Mr. Speaker, in that we were providing an income for those people that were in the business of information services in

(MR. USKIW Cont'd.)... Manitoba.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't hesitate to commend this resolution to the House. I think it's a good resolution; it doesn't pin the government down to the extent of its financial involvement, it merely suggests that the government of Manitoba consider the advisability of entering into a cost-sharing agreement with the government of Canada to provide financial assistance to cover the costs of grain drying. All I'm suggesting, Mr. Speaker, is that we get into a dialogue with Ottawa and see if we can come up with some measure of assistance to offset some of these costs which the producers of grain in Manitoba had to face in the last year. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you, and I commend this resolution for the consideration of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I believe the Honourable Member for Brokenhead has closed the debate on this particular subject.

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

HON. WALTER WEIR (Premier)(Minnedosa): Yeas and nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members. For the benefit of the honourable members that were not in the Chamber when the matter was being discussed, we're dealing with the adjourned debate of the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Brokenhead, on Page 2.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Borowski, Campbell, Cherniack, Dawson, Desjardins, Dow, Doern, Fox, Froese, Green, Guttormson, Hanuschak, Harris, Hillhouse, Johnston, Miller, Molgat, Patrick, Paulley, Petursson, Shoemaker, Tanchak, Uskiw and Vielfaure.

NAYS: Messrs. Baizley, Bjornson, Carroll, Claydon, Cowan, Craik, Einarson, Enns, Evans, Graham, Hamilton, Johnson, Jorgenson, Klym, Lissaman, Lyon, McGregor, McKellar, McKenzie, Masniuk, Stanes, Steen, Weir, Witney and Mesdames Forbes and Morrison.

MR. CLERK: Yeas, 24; Nays, 26.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the resolution lost. The Honourable Member for Carillon.

MR. BARKMAN: I was paired with the honourable Minister of Agriculture. Had I voted, I would have voted for the resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Burrows. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to yield the floor to the Minister of Health and Social Services on this resolution.

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the member from Roblin for adjourning this debate to enable me to say a few words with respect to this resolution.

First of all, I want to assure the member that, despite my ultimate remarks concerning this resolution, that I commend him for bringing the matter before the House. This is a long-standing problem that has been before us and before the province, but I would like for the information of the honourable members just to recount some of the things that they may not be aware of that have occurred in recent years.

A couple of years ago the Manitoba Council of Health recommended to the Minister at the time that appropriate steps be taken to look at the whole matter of the dispensing of hearing aids and the advisability of legislation and how it should be approached, etc. They made a couple of recommendations, as I understand it, one that an audiology service might be established in the community; and secondly, that the legislation in other jurisdictions might be obtained and looked at as to effectiveness, etc. As a result of this, an audiology service was established at the Rehabilitation Hospital where patients are seen on referral from Ear, Nose and Audio-Laryngologists in practice in the province, and when this is done on referral there is no charge for the service, but I understand that a charge is being made for actual hearing aid evaluation when different types of machines are brought in. A charge is made to an individual in this case if he can pay it; if not, it is waived. I understand in a typical month the Audiologist at the Rehab Centre saw 64 out-patients in this way. So this step was taken with the interest as I understand it of the Audio-Laryngologists and with the understanding of the department, and the Hospital Commission have covered this service to Manitobans at this facility for this purpose.

The second thing was our department found that probably the Oregon legislation was the most commendable to them, and obtained the Oregon legislation and had hoped to have something ready for this session but were delayed. They were notified by the Department of

March 25, 1969

(MR. JOHNSON Cont'd.)... Consumer Affairs in Ottawa - Corporate Affairs in the federal government - that they're bringing in legislation in respect to hearing aids and would probably provide for the control of the manufacturing and fraudulent advertising. Our Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services and the Deputy of Consumer Affairs advised me they were also informed that the entire matter at the federal level has been referred to an interdepartmental committee for study and we've been promised a copy of the study committee report so that we don't duplicate studies that already will have been done. I understand this will hopefully become law, and in any event, whether the federal authorities proceed with actual legislation or not, I think this is the kind of study in depth that would be very valuable to us, and if it becomes law there then certain things that we might otherwise regulate and legislate will of course obviously have been done.

Now our two deputies feel that we should await the federal action before drafting detailed legislation here and they've recommended this to me to provide conflict or overlap. In the meantime, they are looking at provincial type of legislation that might set the standards for qualification for the dispensing of hearing aids, licenced dispensers and control fraudulent activities. In this regard the Manitoba Consumers Association have been in touch with our Minister of Consumer Affairs, the Honourable Mr. Carroll, and raised this matter with him. Also, there is an association of hearing aid dealers in Manitoba who are interested in working with the department in the proper control and so on. So the federal legislation, if it's coming through, which we expect it will, would likely control the standards of manufacturing and the fraudulent advertising. So they would really control the device through that kind of legislation, where we could have complementary regulations through our Department of Consumer Affairs, and where the Department of Health and Social Services and ourselves, to control salesmen, would set up a licensing body who would examine people for the basics, such as the Oregon legislation, the basic knowledge of audiometry, and then once we gave them a licence that they were competent in an area which they're working out, he would then be referred to the Consumer Affairs who would issue a certificate which indicated that the kind of aid was being dispensed was recognized. I think you would still probably in cases need the services of the kind of fitting service that is available at the Rehab Hospital at this time.

So I just wanted to indicate this to the House, and in no way wishing to cast anything but credit on the honourable member for bringing this resolution forward, I think it would be wise to await the federal regulations concerning the manufacturing of these items and develop our regulations in concert with it, and continue to ask our respective departments to come forward with the necessary legislation for the next sitting of the Legislature, and certainly when our regulations and orders and what have you with respect to the consumer aspect of this are available, they could readily be referred to the Standing Committee that's sitting at that time. So in recommending we vote against this resolution at this time, I would hope the honourable member would accept our statement as one of real intent at this time.

... continued on next page

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. NELSON SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few brief comments on the subject matter. It was rather interesting and intriguing to me to listen to my honourable friend, the Minister of Health, say how much that he felt that the new legislation was needed but he was going to vote against it. Well, Mr. Speaker, according to information that I have before me, this whole question of consumer protection and citizens' code legislation started back about 1944 - 1964, rather, and we've been at it ever since, '64, '65, '66, '67, and we still haven't got anywhere with it. This is the disturbing thing to me and I think we should go along with the resolution.

Now the province of Saskatchewan apparently has been faced with the same problems as we have here. In fact, every other province no doubt has the same problems that we do have here in attempting to protect the consumer in different fields. This fact is admitted, not only by the Minister of Health, but it was admitted by the Department of Agriculture here on several occasions when they issued bulletins warning the farmers in the area to "watch their contracts", and a release that was put out - it's difficult, Mr. Speaker, to find the dates on the Agricultural propaganda sheets. Apparently this one was put out on the 25th of September, 1967, nearly two years ago, and quite a lengthy one, advising the farmers in the province, that certain fly-by-night salesmen are out again attempting to sell farmers on steel granaries, etc. etc., and to beware of them.

Now, I think the whole resolution does not go nearly far enough. I think that it should deal with a lot of other contracts, other than hearing aids and including hearing aids. In my own area, back in September, 1964, I had no less than two people come to me complaining of the fact that a salesman had been out and sold, in one case, sold his wife a hearing aid when he was not home, to the tune of some \$700.00. I wrote the Better Business Bureau at that time, setting out the details and they wrote me back simply saying that it was not their responsibility to - well, I shall read the bottom paragraph: "We regret that we cannot offer any comments as to the value of the hearing aid. As you know, a Better Business Bureau must concern itself solely with the reliability of firm making the offer and there is no way in which we can pass judgment on the relative merits or values of any merchandise or service." So they were of little or no help at all in this particular case.

When we passed this legislation providing for a "cooling-off" period, I think that was the term that the government used, and it said that if you had signed a contract of any kind with any salesman, whether he called on you in person, or even on the phone or took orders in any way, shape or form, and within 72 hours you wanted to cancel out the contract, that you could make application and get your money back. I attempted to do that for a client - I was going to say a client of mine - I'm not a lawyer - for a customer of mine, and I was told by the Attorney-General's department that there was some flaw or weakness in the legislation that prevented them from doing this. And that's what prompted me to put this Order for Return on the Order Paper here some time ago asking how many convictions, if any, there had been under this particular Act. I question whether there has been any at all.

Now in Saskatchewan, to prove that the people really appreciate this "cooling-off" legislation, I have before me two articles, one stating that door-to-door salesman's firms in Saskatchewan have had to refund nearly \$43,000 to buyers since the province's new Direct Sellers' Act went into effect on July 1, 1965. So the people there are really making use of it. -- (Interjection) -- That's right. My honourable friend, the Member for Selkirk, says: "How many didn't they catch?" Well, I don't know. I imagine that they didn't catch quite a few, but the fact that they caught a lot I think establishes the fact that the legislation is really worthwhile. Their legislation, their legislation has a four-day "cooling-off" period. It says here: "If a buyer is dissatisfied with the contract, for any reason, whether it be a valid one or not, the buyer has four days to cancel the contract by registered mail sent to the vendor. If the buyer does not receive his money back within 10 days after cancellation, he is directed to notify the Registrar of Companies in Regina." So it's pretty good legislation, I think, and would resolve a lot of the problems that consumers have against these co-called "fly-by-night" salesmen.

Now, this article that I have before me says that "Saskatchewan has more rural citizens than any other province." And I guess this is a fact, and they say that these high-pressured fly-by-night salesmen prey on the rural people. I believe this is a fact, because they seem to find it much easier prey than the city folks. -- (Interjection) -- They're not? Well, this is

March 25, 1969

(MR. SHOEMAKER cont'd.) what they find in Saskatchewan and I guess at least once a week, in my duties as an ombudsman, I have someone come in and complain about someone being there that charged them \$60.00 to clean their chimney and he didn't do anything at all. They get talked into these wild deals and you can't do anything to help them and I say it's high time that we had some kind of legislation that was effective not only in respect to hearing aids, but many other items. And so, Mr. Speaker, I don't want any further delays in respect to this legislation. It's now, as I said, four years - here's a propaganda sheet of July 30, 1965, nearly four years old - it says: "A new consumer Act passed at the last session of the Legislature will be proclaimed effective August 7th, Provincial Secretary Maitland Steinkopf has announced," -- (Interjection) -- 1965. Well, have we got it yet? -- (Interjection) -- We've got it now? My honourable friend says we have the legislation. Well, it's not any good!

And then there's another propaganda sheet of April 29, 1966, a year later, "A bill to broaden the whole Bill is going to be passed at the next session of the Legislature." And then December 8, 1966, "Citizens' Remedies Code is introduced." Where do we stand in respect to these wild statements now, and here it is 1969? December 8, 1966, propaganda sheet: "Consumers Protection Bureau is planned." Oh, at the bottom of the page it says more, quite a lengthy one on what they're going to do, but here it is March 1969 and we're still waiting. And my honourable friend, the Minister of Health, says that we'd better wait a little while longer, maybe next year or the next or the next, we will get around to it. So, Mr. Speaker, I for one, intend to vote for the resolution that "hopefully" will come to a vote this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for St. John's.

MR. SAUL M. CHERNIACK, Q. C. (St. John's): Mr. Speaker, I appreciated the remarks made by the Honourable Minister on this question. I certainly join with him in congratulating the Honourable Member for Burrows for bringing this matter to our attention. It obviously was not ready for the Honourable the Minister of Health to bring it to our attention because apparently he is still in the process of studying the problem, and I am in the reluctant position of having to say that the record of the Minister's government is such that we have no reason to believe that we will indeed have this kind of study and this kind of legislation in the next session and that's really why it becomes so necessary to bring these matters up to this House. The history of this government in this respect has deteriorated so badly in the last few years that we find it is stumbling and hesitating and faltering in all the progressive measures that are brought before it, and the history of the entire field of consumer protection started back, in my own memory, in '64, when they suggest a resolution was brought that there be some consumer protection legislation - I don't remember the wording - and the then Honourable Member for Kildonan spoke and said, "We don't need it; it's not necessary. There is so little abuse." It took a few years, and fortunately, and I really think one person had a lot to do with it; I think the Provincial Secretary at that time, personally referred to by the Honourable Member for Gladstone, Steinkopf, who actually seized hold of this as being an important measure. I think between him and the former Premier, they did do some work; they set up some committees; they did do some planning and by the time both left this whole problem had bogged down all over again. Whether it's because we have new people in responsibility on the consumer protection level - and I know the present Minister is really new to it - there was another Minister charged with it before him - whether it's the present Premier or whether it's just a lathargy that seems to exist on that side of the House, but they're just not doing the things that the people want to see done for their protection, and this is just another example.

The Honourable Minister spoke of the Audiology service which is being carried on now. I understand that there is one person there who is a trained audiologist, who is capable of doing a great deal to assist people who are in doubt of what sort of hearing aid they require, or if indeed they do; but his services are not known. The fact that he's there is not known. It is necessary to have someone refer a patient to him, but the man on the street who is subjected to high-pressure sales tactics is not aware of the service offered at the hospital. And if the Minister wishes to get to work on this now, let him make it clear to all those people who are buying hearing aids because of their need and who can't wait, that there are services available for them. I assure the Minister it is not known, and if this debate today has done nothing more than to alert the press to a situation which it can then make available to the general populace in Greater Winnipeg I suppose, although people could travel into Winnipeg, then maybe that will be a worthwhile service that the Minister has performed, only why it was necessary to wait until today to make it known is again a matter of conjecture and I think again, a matter

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd.) of just sitting back and letting things happen; because I am sure that if all the people who have hearing problems became aware of the services at the hospital, then there would just not be enough service available for all the people who are in need. And maybe that's why the government has been keeping quiet in respect to the publicizing of this facility.

Now many of us, the Honourable Member for Gladstone in his legislative capacity, I in my professional capacity, have come across problems of people who have been sold hearing aids when either they didn't need them, or two when they might have needed one, or a \$700.00 one when \$125.00 one would have been sufficient, and would be aware, as I think must the Minister be, of the great need today for people to have an assurance that the person they're dealing with is not only a responsible person with integrity but is one who knows what he is selling and knows the method of prescribing the proper hearing aid. There are many kinds, I remember a number of years ago when the Consumer Reports gave a report on two hearing aids produced by one company and they reported then that that company had a hearing aid which was selling for some \$80.00 and then went to the expense of building a slight defect into that hearing aid, and selling another one with the defect in at \$70.00, so that they would have competitive prices and say: "Well, if you want the poorer one you can have it, but if you want the better one it costs a little more but you can buy it." And that of course is one of the most shocking things that can happen, that they go to the expense of making it less effective in order to be able to make a sales pitch on the better aid.

Now I'm not suggesting this is going on today. It may well be because we know nothing about any control. This is a device which is peculiarly designed for a person with a disability and designed to service a person who has no way of judging the value of it, the effectiveness, the true cost of it. Competition is not really not competition in terms of price competition, in terms of salesmanship, and that is the wrong area for a health device, for a device to help the disability and things should have been done. It shouldn't have been necessary for the New Democratic Party to come here and say, "Let's do something to get a statement out of the Minister". But let's assume that his department has been looking at the problem for some time. What is he waiting for? He's waiting for the Federal Government's report on the control of the manufacturing of these devices and on fraudulent advertising. And I am not aware of so much fraudulent advertising in the field of hearing aids. I don't recall seeing large advertising campaigns that mislead people. I'm aware of the fact that when a person needs a hearing aid he turns to the Yellow Pages, I suppose, and starts phoning, and when he phones the salesman, that is the time when he must be alert; and I certainly do not put all salesmen in the category of people who will take advantage. We have members of our family who use hearing aids and I would certainly not say that they have been badly treated by certain salesmen, but there have been salesmen who have made the contact who have not shown a responsible attitude, and it is that problem which we must face. When my firm had trouble collecting some \$700.00 back from an out-of-town, an out-of-province firm that came into the province and sold a hearing aid and then left the province, the Better Business Bureau said, "Oh, yes, these people are financially sound." But the fact is that to get that hearing aid back or to get the money back was not an easy thing. It is obvious that there is need for some form of regulation, but the Minister is waiting for Ottawa to do something but in a field that is not the same as the problem is here in this resolution. The problem in the resolution is that the sale of hearing aids is uncontrolled both as to qualification of salesmen and as to price and sales technique. There's no suggestion here that hearing aids are badly manufactured, or have to be checked on manufacturing. It's a very simple device and one which I'm sure should cost a lot less than it does, if not for the sales techniques that are being used to increase the price.

So that I would think that things have to be done now independent of the problem of manufacturing or fraudulent advertising. I can understand if the Federal Department of Consumer Affairs is making a broader study, there might be benefit, but when that report comes through it's got to be looked at and I think that it should not have to wait for another session for a bill to be prepared, to be reviewed. The trouble with this government is that it doesn't want to make use of the members of this House, neither of its own nor of the opposition. If the government were prepared to see that committees of this type were sitting and meeting and dealing with these things, we'd have had progress made and The Consumer Protection Act on which we've been discussing and for which we've been waiting for so long, is still sitting somewhere in the government department waiting to be written. And the reason it's not being written is

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd.) that this government has dragged its feet, has had its feet caught in a sort of a trap set by someone on that side, and it may well be the new Premier, because he is the boss of the outfit. But their feet are trapped in such a way that they do not make progress, and that is the thing that's so deplorable.

The Consumer Protection Act, the proposed bill was presented to the committee in charge of it a long, long time ago and it was dealt with extensively and there was a report ready to be reviewed and the committee did not meet and was not allowed to meet in order to expand on it. And I said when we dealt with this earlier, that there would have been no problem at all to have an Act filed in this House, and having had first reading the day after the session met, if not for the fact that this government, and I must assume this Minister, because he's had this responsibility - I'm pointing of course to the Minister on Consumer Affairs - and I'm really sympathetic with him because I believe he would have wanted to go ahead if he were allowed to, I believe he must have been held back in some way - a member of a new department, a department set up with a great deal of fanfare to service the people of Manitoba, the Minister should have been, and I believe would have been, anxious to see that this work progress. The fact is that we still don't have a bill and there is no assurance, Mr. Speaker, that we're going to get it this session. Are you aware of that? In spite of all the talk? The Minister has not yet given an assurance to this House that we will get it this session. And because of that, and because of the whole attitude of this government in not proceeding to do the work for which it is responsible and for which this House is responsible, and we on this side are responsible, for that reason it was necessary to bring this kind of resolution, to show again that we on this side, and I can only speak for members of the New Democratic Party, but I'm sure this applies to the Liberals as well, are prepared to give of our time and sit in committee and work towards the betterment of the problem in Manitoba. We are willing to sit; indeed it's obvious we're anxious to sit; we keep pleading that committees be established, that they be called in time; that they deal with the problem. We are willing to do so but this government is not. It is neither prepared to let us do so nor is it prepared to do it itself, because if it took the attitude which has been expressed already this session by the - who was it - the Member for St. Matthews who said: "What's the good of going into committee and saying 'By gosh, I wish we could go ahead with it.' " because he himself found, as was clear from his speech, that he can't move this government, that this Cabinet sits in a frozen position and just won't budge. The Premier is smiling, and indeed he might, Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I feel I know the feelings of the honourable member with regard to this committee problem, but for some little time he has been debating that thought, or the thought that's been in his mind with regard to committees. I wonder if he would come back to the contents of the resolution before the House. I realize that he's endeavouring to make his point, but I believe too, that he'll agree with me, he's leaving the subject under discussion.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I like very much always to agree with you but unfortunately I do not agree with you that I'm leaving it because I'm speaking on the "Resolved" portion of this resolution which reads: "That the standing committee (which is the standing committee on Statutory Regulations and Orders) consider the advisability of regulating hearing aid sales methods." And since the Honourable the Minister of Health agrees that this is a matter which should be reviewed, and indeed he indicated he is reviewing, I'm saying it should be reviewed by this committee, and I am deploring the fact that this government isn't seeing to it that the committees that are charged with doing their work, are not doing it because they're not called, but I'm pleading with them to support this resolution, see that it is referred to committee, and then I am already forecasting the government's attitude in regard to the calling of the committee. But hopefully it will support it in spite of the Minister of Health, because he wasn't really enthusiastic about it. He said that he endorses the whole idea of the investigation on hearing aids, but in spite of him it is possible that the government side will support the resolution and put it in committee. Because, Mr. Speaker, they have another way of killing it. They can kill it by not calling the committee to meet, which is their established practice, which we have proven time and again. And it is for that reason that I encourage them not only to support the reference to the committee but again I address myself to the backbenchers, who somehow don't get to talk on this issue, that they should see to it that the Cabinet does call committees to meet, that they should not be insulted by being members of committees and not be permitted to deal with the matters assigned to those committees. So I'm really addressing the backbench, hoping that someday I can get one of them to stand up and say "I'm ashamed of

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd.) the way the committees are being mishandled by this government," If I can accomplish that with one person, . .

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable gentleman knows very well that he is using this vehicle to make his point on the non-activities of committees generally and I would ask him in all sincerity to refrain from doing that. I believe he is out of order and if he would give it some thought I believe he'll realize it.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, Mr. Speaker, since I'm coming to the conclusion of what I was going to say, I certainly will not enter in any debate with you.

I am asking the members of this House to support the resolution, to refer to the standing committee the question of hearing aid sales and of necessity I'm asking that the committee meet. Now if that isn't the nature of what we are asking for, then I don't understand that. I would appeal to the government to support this and I want to reiterate my understanding that the Honourable Minister of Health indicated that it's wise to wait for the conclusions of this federal investigation, but that I think he said that he expects or hopes that at the next session there will be some form of legislation in this field. He's nodding his head and to that extent I feel we may yet make progress if we remember then what was said today.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Burrows.

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Inkster. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. VIELFAURE: Mr. Speaker, I adjourned the debate for the Honourable Member for Hamiota.

MR. DAWSON: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Member for La Verendrye for adjourning the debate for me, to give me an opportunity to say a few words on this resolution.

I think the first thing I want to do is to compliment the Member for Rock Lake on the excellent speech he made. Unfortunately, in my opinion, he wasn't talking about the resolution that the Member for Inkster has introduced here. As I said I think the Member for Rock Lake made an excellent speech and possibly the Member for Inkster will find a resolution to fit that particular speech for him some time.

I just wonder, Mr. Speaker, how the other side can read so many things into a very very simple resolution. The member points out that "Whereas the development of natural resources of the province should be proceeded with in such a manner as would ensure the greatest possible returns to the people of the province." I don't see anything complicated there. He's simply saying that we should be looking after the people of the Province of Manitoba. Our first duty is to the people of this province. In his second part he says "Whereas the present tendency on the part of the provinces to bid against one another to induce outside capital to develop our resources is self-defeating to the people in the province" and I agree with him. All we're doing, all the provinces are bidding against one another for major industries and we're running a give-away program. It's happening all over Canada. And then he concludes by saying that he would like to see this government take the initiative with all the other provinces in Canada and have a conference where they could lay down ground rules and discuss the various ground rules and not have give-away programs as what we are faced with now. We all know that each province competes with the other provinces and gives away practically all the assets to induce industry to come in.

I want to say right now that our group are prepared to support this resolution although I am a little disappointed. My first thought was that we should be amending it because the same thing that the Honourable Member for Inkster is asking for exists right here in the province. We have municipalities competing against one another every day for industry but I think that the first step is a good one here as introduced by the Honourable Member for Inkster and maybe if we can get this provincial conference going, led by our government, that maybe the next step would be to have municipal conferences where we'll lay down ground rules for the Province of Manitoba.

As I pointed out, Mr. Speaker, this is going on every day where we have municipalities offering free taxes, land give-aways, etc., and they're competing against one another, and if we had specified ground rules, I'm sure that the industries would make up their minds where they wanted to go and we wouldn't be faced with all these give-away-programs. So I'm

(MR. DAWSON cont'd.) prepared to say we will support the resolution as presented.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, if nobody else wishes to speak, I will be closing debate on this question.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Honourable Member for Hamiota for coming to my rescue. It removes a little bit of the paranoia that I sometimes get when I hear members from the other side speak about my resolution. I think the Member for Hamiota said that someday I should make a resolution which would fit the Honourable Member for Rock Lake's speech and my remark was, I apparently fitted, because if I was to move that the House do now adjourn and go for a picnic to Assiniboine Park, the Honourable Member for Rock Lake would cry "Insurrection!" or "Bolshevism!" Or somebody would do it, somebody from that side apparently would do it. That's the typical reaction that has been given to this simple resolution, Mr. Speaker, which I am rather disappointed in in that it's a great concession to free enterprise. I'm suggesting that if we are to make our free enterprise system return to us as much as possible, then we should make sure that we do not engage in impractical and self-defeating competition; and if the provinces could somehow agree that there is a basis upon which private capital could come into the country and that it would not be lured in by self-defeating competition (I have to repeat the phrase for want of a better one) that by all means let's try and do it. If I have any misgivings, Mr. Speaker, about this resolution, in addition to what the Honourable Member for Hamiota said, it's that I don't see a great deal happening, but if whatever little does occur will accrue to the benefit, not only of the Province of Manitoba, but to the benefit of any other province, that may save some of what otherwise would be an inducement which they would be giving away if this was permitted.

The Honourable Member for Burrows indicated to me the other day that there was a municipality in Ontario which was brought to the carpet, I don't know if by prosecution or by other means, for luring industry to that particular municipality by giving out tax concessions, Mr. Speaker, which they had no right to give. Now, we in the provinces are not bound by that type of prohibition because the provinces within their spheres of jurisdiction of course can give whatever inducements that they want to, and I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that that is becoming, although years ago it was not the fashion, it is becoming the fashion to regard industry as being something that comes in on a bargain basement proposition, on an auction sale deal. I see this happening not only on the provincial scale but I see it happening on the municipal scale and I would attribute that to being a deficiency in our present system of attracting industry. But Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to say, let's find out. Let's get together with the provinces. Let's see whether this is the only way in which industry is going to be developed or are there ways in which we can retain more for ourself.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that that's not a very demanding resolution. I haven't a great deal of hope for it, but whatever hope there is, I think that we should make use of and I think we should attempt to save ourselves some declining revenues, and progressively declining revenues, because I think that this type of procedure continues and continues until there is a get together; and why not, if we see this coming, get together as soon as possible. And for the benefit of members such as the Honourable Member for Rock Lake who is not in his seat now, but this is exactly what business will do. If I have any training in this type of area it's in business training, it's business who says that we have to find out what competition is self-defeating and eliminate that competition or else come to agreement with it. If my honourable friend would care to read the history of some of the biggest businesses in the United States and particularly the history of Standard Oil, that's exactly what they did. They said the prices that we are selling at, the prices that we are willing to undercut each other at are making fools of us all and therefore the thing to do is to get together, stabilize the industry, stabilize production and in that way get the return that we are entitled to on the sale of our product. I'm not asking this government to proceed on the basis upon which Standard Oil proceeded but I'm asking us to proceed on a rational basis, and a rational basis would be to get together to see whether there are any ground rules which we can observe for the purpose of seeing to it that the greatest share of our natural resources are retained for the benefits of the people of the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion lost.

MR. PAULLEY: Ayes and Nays please, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

A STANDING VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs: Borowski, Campbell, Cherniack, Dawson, Desjardins, Dow, Doern, Fox, Green, Guttormson, Hanuschak, Harris, Hillhouse, Johnston, Miller, Molgat, Patrick, Paulley, Petursson, Shoemaker, Tanchak, Uskiw, Vielfaure.

NAYS: Messrs: Baizley, Bjornson, Carroll, Claydon, Cowan, Craik, Einarson, Enns, Evans, Froese, Graham, Hamilton, Johnson, Jorgenson, Klym, Lissaman, Lyon, McGregor, McKellar, McKenzie, Masniuk, Stanes, Steen, Weir, Witney and Mesdames Forbes and Morrison.

MR. CLERK: Yeas 23; Nays 27.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion lost.

MR. BARKMAN: I was paired with the Minister of Agriculture. Had I voted I would have voted "for".

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I wonder if I might take a moment and introduce our distinguished guest in my gallery this afternoon. We have with us today Dr. William A. R. Oban, Professor of Physical Education, Director of School of Physical Education and Recreation, University of Ottawa. I understand that Dr. Oban is the author of the best sellers 5BX and 10BX. On behalf of all the honourable members of the Assembly I welcome you here today.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate of the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Kildonan. The Honourable Member for Fisher.

MR. MASNIUK: Mr. Speaker, I beg the indulgence of this House to have this matter stand. However, if anybody else wishes to speak at this time I have no objections.

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate, the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains. The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. USKIW: I too beg the indulgence of the House to let the matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate of the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains. The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. FRED T. KLYM (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, referring to the resolution proposed by the Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains, where it states that "this House request the Federal Government through the Canadian Wheat Board to purchase farm stored grain at initial prices up to a maximum \$6,000 per farm regardless of delivery quotas". Well, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Wheat Board's duties are to equalize delivery opportunities. All business of the Canadian Wheat Board is based on sales opportunity. At the present time a farmer can get an interest-free loan on stored grain, any farmer with a reasonable amount of acreage, that is 200 acres or better, can obtain a loan on his stored grain which is paid back when he delivers grain to the elevator. It is in my view therefore, Mr. Speaker, the present interest-free loan although not adequate for some farmers in a year such as 1968, is still the best arrangement to date. The Honourable the Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba was instrumental in getting the Federal Government to extend, to double the loan on stored grain to farmers. This has been a real benefit. This meant that a farmer could get up to \$6,000 if he had a fair amount of acreage. It also helped the smaller farmer because it doubled the price per bushel from 50 cents to one dollar. It's a bit of a help, not altogether what he might probably expect. But, Mr. Speaker, if the government purchases farm stored grain it also - I mean the grain belongs then to the government, it becomes the owner and the grain is still held on the farm. If you own a commodity you want to make sure that it is stored well and that you would be able to have it delivered at the opportune time. This would no doubt require considerable administrative costs for inspection, insuring adequate storage and delivery. It implies new and additional risks for both the farmer and the Canadian Wheat Board. I am not saying though the Canadian Wheat Board cannot take risks better than the farmer, but the important implication is costs. The costs are the big factors of all things that we might find. The farmer already bears sufficient costs as it is and it is therefore not reasonable to expect him to carry any more. You can depend on it the administration costs of a purchase program as proposed in the resolution would fall squarely on the shoulders of the farmer and no one else. Then he would see the bushel amount as it is being paid for going down quite a bit. We notice that wheat has gone down in price because of severe competition. This would still push it further down.

(MR. KLYM cont'd.)

The purchase of stored grain outside a quota system can only lead to difficulty, in fact an undermining of the quota system. With the present grain marketing policy the quota structure is a very essential element. How can you therefore disregard that? Buying grain beyond quota would require the Canadian Wheat Board to enter into the complex business of administering grain storage on farms. This would further add to the cost. We would have to have an army of men visiting every farm, and there are many, many farms in Manitoba. The argument of course is raised that a loan policy is not adequate for the smaller farmer. I am aware of that situation. However, it is difficult to have one policy to satisfy everyone. There are small farms, probably there are mediocre farms, and there are large farmers, but if we apply the same pill to everyone I do not think we could cure all the ills of everyone. The commercial grain producer with a small farm, with a small acreage, there is a difference between the two. There is a difference.

Now we have the national Task Force and that Task Force is busy in Ottawa at present. Our Agriculture Minister is somewhere there looking after us, and that's the farmers problem right in Ottawa today and yesterday. The national Task Force on agriculture is saying that there must be two kinds of policies to adequately serve these different situations. This is further reason why we shouldn't try to cure the problem with one policy. It hasn't worked in the past, it isn't working in the present and I doubt that it could work in the future. Some other means has to be contrived in order to help the farmers. We understand very well that the farmers are in difficulties at present and one policy would not solve that. Let's hope that the Canadian Congress meeting this week in Ottawa will be coming forward with some particular policy to remedy the situation as it exists today.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I thought I would have had a great deal more opposition from the Honourable Member for Springfield. I find that he had very little to offer in the way of his negative approach to the problem. I simply want to point out that we all recognize that the present cash advance legislation even though it has recently been amended, does not adequately supply to the farmer the necessary cash to pay his necessary expenses in his operation. To qualify for the maximum of \$6,000 I think we must recognize that one has to have a production of some 1,000 acres, and that we must recognize, Mr. Speaker, that we don't have the majority of farmers in that category; so that in essence what I am saying is that there is no real guarantee that the basic livelihood of the farm family is insured on the basis that he is able to receive a cash advance of up to \$6,000.00.

The intent of the resolution, Mr. Speaker, is merely to insure the basic necessities for the maintenance of a farm family household and that to do that we must attempt to arrive at some figure, some guarantee of income for each year of production, that the farm family can be assured of, provided that they have the production harvested and that the security for that kind of money is in fact in the bins. What is suggested, Mr. Speaker, in this resolution is that in fact, the Wheat Board change its policy to some degree, to quite a degree, to in fact, become the outright owners of grain up to that \$6,000 value; that in fact, it would mean that some farmers would have sold to the Canadian Wheat Board their entire production if they fall below that amount or up to that amount, and that this position, Mr. Speaker, is taken in recognition of the fact that before we have to deal with the question of selling our total crop and passing on the benefits of that production to the farmer that we must firstly assure that no farm family is caught in a short financial position and that they are able to meet their fuel needs, their fertilizer bills, their machinery payments and the like, and to maintain their household. This is an attempt to do this very thing, Mr. Speaker.

I think that we will all agree that \$6,000 is not a great deal of money in this day and age. I think we can all agree that the federal government could make funds available to the Canadian Wheat Board to accommodate this type of transaction. I don't know, I haven't calculated the amount of money that we would have to advance to the producers in total insofar as the prairies are concerned, but I do know, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian government, through the Canadian Wheat Board, could in fact secure vast sums of money at a lesser rate of interest than could the farmer himself, and I think we must recognize that the cost of money today is the major cost of production.

The cost of credit today, Mr. Speaker, in fact if you take the best borrowing position that

(MR. USKIW cont'd.) one would have, the preferred interest rate, the cost of borrowing money against a bushel of wheat falls somewhere in the neighborhood of 14 cents a bushel. I'm convinced, Mr. Speaker, that the government of Canada can provide money to the Canadian Wheat Board at substantially lower rates of interest if they choose to do so, and even if it means that they do this through a means of some subsidy on their part, Mr. Speaker, it would be a desirable thing in that we wouldn't have the farmers in the position each year of not being able to meet the necessary accounts that are due in the fall of the year shortly after harvest. I can name you, Mr. Speaker, many fertilizer dealers today in my own area that have outstanding accounts of over \$100,000 from last year's operations. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that they are going to be very reluctant to advance further credit to the farmers of those areas on the basis that they have not been paid for last year's supply, and really we shouldn't expect them to carry the load beyond one year.

I know that it's going to be a critical problem, and because of the situation on the international market whereby you have a great fluctuation as between one year to the other in the volume of sales, I think it's time that we accepted the fact that there has to be some body above the farmers themselves that are prepared to bear the financial repercussions of the fluctuations in the market place. If we must store our grain, let's store the grain but let's have the nation participating in the storage of grain; let's not bill the producer himself for the total cost of that storage. And this is one way of doing this, Mr. Speaker, this is one way in which we can put the necessary cash into the pockets of the producers without regard to what the quota situation may be at the time.

It's true that we may advance money that may not be repaid to the Canadian Wheat Board or the government in a short period of time; it's true that we may go beyond one crop year in getting the deliveries of grain to the elevator to compensate for the advances that have been taken. I recognize this, Mr. Speaker, but I don't think that it's something that couldn't be done; I think it's something that we should research. I'm convinced that a formula could be devised whereby such a program could be practical - and I don't agree with the Honourable Member from Springfield that suggests to me that the Wheat Board would require an army of people to supervise and inspect and administer this kind of a program. I'm sure that if a farmer signed a declaration that he has certain stocks of grain on hand against which he wants to get this kind of advance payment, that that declaration would be sufficient to satisfy the government or the Wheat Board and that the loss ratio would be very minimal. I'm prepared to suggest that the farmers are quite honest, that they will not be endeavouring to cheat the Canadian Government or the Canadian Wheat Board, and that if there will be losses they will be very minimal and I'm sure that there could be insurance provisions provided in this kind of a setup to guarantee against any such losses.

It's a question of accepting a principle, Mr. Speaker; having done so, the formula could be arrived at. Mr. Speaker, I suggest that this is a good resolution and that we ought to support it. Thank you.

MR. VIELFAURE: Would the honourable member permit a question?

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. VIELFAURE: Did I hear the honourable member say that he knew many dealers in his constituency that had over \$100,000 receivable on fertilizer accounts? Is that what I heard?

MR. USKIW: I said that in the area, not in my constituency as the honourable member for La Verendrye suggests, in the area north of Winnipeg there are dealers which have accounts outstanding in the neighborhood of that kind of money.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the honourable member for Emerson, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate of the Honourable Member for Brokenhead. The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. D. MORRIS MCGREGOR (Virden): Mr. Speaker, I beg the indulgence of the House to have this matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: (Agreed) The adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Inkster. The Honourable Member for St. Matthew's.

MR. ROBERT STEEN (St. Matthew's): Mr. Speaker, let my first words be those of compliments to the Honourable Member from Inkster for the introduction of this particular

(MR. STEEN cont'd.) resolution and the excellent speech he made on the introduction of it. But I would also like to compliment our new Minister of Youth and Education, because on Friday morning last he made an announcement in this House on Orders of the Day indicating that legislation which would give effect to the matters sought by the member for Inkster in this resolution would be introduced shortly into this House and would cover the problem that is outlined there. I guess it's just another case of great minds thinking alike.

I hope that all members of the House will see fit to give speedy passage to this particular resolution in a unanimous vote, hopefully today, but I know that some members of the House may wish to add some words of wisdom to those that have already been spoken on this matter expounding the virtues of this particular resolution. But I can only say that I commend it to the members of the House and I hope they will see fit to pass it with speed and unanimity.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Minister of Education.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could just say a few words on this resolution.

First of all, the resolution is very timely. The growth of the Indian student population in the public schools in Manitoba is one which has been accelerating at a very rapid rate, and at the present time we do have roughly 50 percent of the Indian student population from the Indian Reserves of Manitoba enrolled in the public school system. This is particularly true in the southern portions of the province, and if this resolution is carried it will have its greatest impact in the southern portion of the province.

In the northern portions of the province where we do have a very high Indian population, the majority of the schools are still operated by the Indian Affairs Department. However, we have seen in the last year or so alone, schools such as Berens River, Wanipigow and Norway House have come in under the public schools system and under the Frontier Division. In that particular division, because of the widespread geography that covers the various Indian communities ranging all the way from Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba to the far northern extremities of the province to the top of the province, we find that here the division with a low assessment base - very very low assessment base - and the great distances, that the Frontier Division is operated by a government appointed board, and it's a series of advisory boards when these various communities come in under the umbrella of the Frontier Division.

So just very briefly, I think the resolution is very timely because of the rapid growth rate and the likelihood that there will be more and more Indian communities integrated into the public schools system. We know that this can be a very altruistic move and it is not without its problems. We must face them sometime and we must gamble on the fact that this greater participation will in fact help alleviate some of the problems we do have with Indian students in schools, the major one being the very very high rate of absenteeism, the great lack of awareness of the implications of education for the future generation by the adults of the various communities, so we're very hopeful that a move such as this can in fact create a much greater community participation.

It might be worthwhile just to relate a rather interesting thing that has happened just in the last week or so, the last two weeks. I had a call from a reporter from one of our newspapers who had received the tip that one of our schools, Berens River, was in bad shape because it was a new school and the furnace was built — or the hot water heating tank was built too close to the wood floor and they were short one fire hose, and somebody had thought that this was very ripe for a good story, whereby a little hay could be made of a bad situation. So he caught an airplane and went up to investigate the story, and we fully expected that likely we were going to come back and get a blast from the paper for the fact that in the growth period that something had happened, a slip in design or something whereby a bad situation existed. Well this particular reporter went in and when he came back he phoned up and he had found — in fact I guess he found that some of the physical problems had been overcome and the school hadn't burnt down but in fact was a very beautiful school. Not only that, the community had adapted itself — for an Indian community — had adapted itself extremely well to the new environment that had been created by the school. In fact, the Indian Chief and the key people in that particular community had looked upon the school as a great development in their community, and the absenteeism problem is one which is relatively small compared to what it is in many other places where we have undertaken the education problem of many Indian communities.

Well, perhaps many of you read the story in last Saturday's section of the Tribune, and you would see that it was a very positive story that shows you some of the things that are in fact happening in education. One of the reasons that it is happening is the fact that the adult

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.) population is grasping on to education as a fact of life. The absenteeism rates that we are getting in fact can almost be compared to what we were getting in the public schools of Manitoba when the public school system was first formed 80 or 90 years ago, so we can't say to look at it that it's an insurmountable problem in overcoming this. Hopefully, with the greater participation of the total community we will some day, whether it's this generation or the next, we'll arrive at a wholesome solution to it.

The legislation which will be brought in I think will quite adequately accommodate this resolution. There are two or three technical problems and there is a question of some discretion being allowed on behalf of the Indian community, the Minister and the individual school board that has to be worked out, but I think that as it stands the resolution is quite acceptable and in harmony with the forthcoming legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Inkster. Order please. The Honourable Minister of

MR. CARROLL: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member is going to close the debate, I would like to say just a word or two. I would like first of all to thank the Minister for his announcement and I know that a great deal of thought has been given to this in the department, and I'm happy that the technical difficulties can be overcome and these changes will be made this year.

I'd like to pay particular tribute to those who have been promoting the inclusion of Indians on our school boards in the province, and I'm not in particular referring to the member who introduced this resolution although I don't discount his enthusiasm and his sincerity for this particular subject, but I do want to pay tribute to those Indian people who have been preparing themselves for this major step forward in the administration of their own affairs. I include among those the people from my own constituency who I think have been among the leaders in this field and have been actively promoting this course of action for a period of time. I think that it wasn't too long ago that Indian people in general looked to the future, looked to their future as being found on the lakes and on the traplines of our province, their incomes from these endeavours being supplemented of course by hunting and wildlife of various kinds. I know that a few years ago I tried to persuade a group of young people that it was futile to look to the lakes as a means of livelihood, that the fishing industry was overcrowded, and in fact at that time there were at least two potential commercial fishermen for every one that was able to sustain himself on the lake and others were coming forward

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I must remind the Minister, as I've been reminding others, that I do feel that he is leaving the subject at hand. I don't see anything to do with fishing or that sort of thing in this particular resolution.

MR. CARROLL: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for drawing that to my attention. I just wanted to say that people really can't get enthused about education if they are looking to commercial fishing or trapping as the way in which they are going to make their livelihood. In fact education becomes an impediment to those who are ultimately going to make their livelihood in that way, and I want to point out that just a few short years ago this is the way many Indian people in our province were thinking. I'm happy to say that there has been a great change in the short period of time in which I have been associated with Indians, and the people I tried desperately to convince that the lake didn't provide the kind of future for their children that they should have, are now coming forward and are the ones that are the real leaders in promoting education for their children. In fact they're the ones that are back taking up-grading courses and developing the kind of skills that will lead to wage employment ultimately, and these are the kind of people that are coming forward today and are asking for representation on our various school boards. Now this is really all that I wanted to say, that there are a great many roadblocks in the way of Indian children and I think it's very helpful that people who are vitally affected should have a say as to how some of these roadblocks can be removed.

I was very interested in an article in the Indian Record published in Winnipeg by Father La Violette who discussed the whole problem of education among the Indian children in Ontario and they compared the Indian population of Ontario - 49,000 people at that time - with the Huron community which is a white rural community in southern Ontario having a population of some 53,800, and they compared the elementary school population of these two areas. For the Indian population there were 10,809 attending school in Ontario, with the white county in the south having a school population of 9,946. They compared these two groups of people with respect to their achievement at the secondary level and they found that Indian children, there

(MR. CARROLL cont'd.) were only 1,517 at high school compared with in the Huron County in the south of 3,745, or only 40 percent as many achieved high school level. And comparing it by grades - in Grade 9 there were 1,093 in the white community to 714 in the Indian; 957 in Grade 10 compared to 437 - a very drastic reduction; in grade 11, 783 compared to 212; in Grade 12, 637 compared to 142; and in Grade 13 in Ontario there were 275 in the white community compared to 13 in the Indian community, or a rate of achievement of only 4.7 percent as good, which indicates the very great disparity in achievement among Indian children in schools in the Province of Ontario.

I think in the Frontier division we had almost similar statistics. A few years ago when we tried to compare the number that had arrived at Grade 12 in the Frontier Division, I think there were something like four out of a population of some 3,500. In trying to analyse the reason for this, a member of the Department of Indian Affairs found that there were a great many reasons why Indian children were not achieving in school. I think many of these handicaps can be overcome with Indian parents on school boards where they can draw to the attention of the school authorities some of the difficulties that their children are having. Some of the more obvious ones of course are the language problem. Children arrive at school age without the facility in the English language that is necessary for them to achieve in the same level as the white children attending those schools.

There are the problems of social discrimination, problems of self-discrimination or poor self-image of the individual because of the reference to Indians in textbooks and on radio programs and in movies and so on. So there are a great many reasons why Indian children were achieving less satisfactorily than the white children. I think it's important that these people can now be represented on school boards so some of these impediments can be removed, and I think we recognize in the Province of Manitoba that we have come a long way and I think that we are in the forefront here in Canada. Our Indian people have come a long way; they are ready and willing to move into and accept responsibility in our kind of society. I think the fact that they are now coming forward, and have been for the last year or two, asking to be given this responsibility so that they can carry their share of the weight of responsibility in administering our schools so that their children can have the kind of education I know that every member of this House would want for them. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOUGLAS CAMPBELL (Lakeside): May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Was the Honourable Minister giving his own opinion or was he quoting someone when he said that education could be a positive detriment to someone who is engaging in fishing?

MR. CARROLL: I believe that I read an article not too long ago about the experience of children who had gone out to boarding schools in the south from the Northwest Territories, who got a degree of education not sufficient to put them into an employment situation, where they found that they couldn't cope with life on the outside because of an inadequate education because of all of the other problems that they weren't prepared to cope with on the outside. These children having gone back to the Northwest Territories found that they were unfit to compete on the outside, were ill prepared for life back home and the rate of alcoholism was fantastic among those people, and this was one of the reasons that was given for their lack of being able to adapt to the home environment after their experience on the outside. It wasn't education itself, it was maybe an insufficient amount of education, an improper kind of education to fit them for the kind of environment that one might have expected them to fit into after they had achieved that education. But the education only took them part way and I think this is one of the great dangers, unless we can take them all the way, provide the complete transition from the reserve or from the underdeveloped community into the wage economy and make sure that they succeed on the outside, then the chances of them failing are probably somewhat greater.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, might I follow that up by asking my honourable friend if that isn't using education in too narrow a sense? Is it not a fact that learning the proper techniques of fishing is education?

MR. CARROLL: I would agree with the Member from Lakeside. As usual he has drawn to the attention of the House a flaw in my reasoning. I merely quoted what I had heard; I thought there was some element of truth in that as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, what the Honourable the Minister has just said could in fact inspire a great long debate and I certainly will deal with some of the things he said during the estimates, but in the interests of getting this resolution passed quickly, I promise to confine

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) myself, Mr. Speaker, to 2 1/2 minutes.

I don't think Mr. Speaker that the main question of a resolution should be based on who gets the credit for it and certainly what we on this side are interested in, is that the resolution be passed and not that we be named as the instigators of it or someone else be named as the instigators of it and I would not want to disrupt the present harmony in the House by starting a debate on this question. My regret is that the Minister of Education chooses to adopt the posture and now is followed by another Minister that this thing was coming and that their department was moving it along. Suffice it to say Mr. Speaker, that what they have indicated is that it has been demanded for a long, long time, that in the past years it has been demanded and that it wasn't mentioned in the Throne Speech, that where it was mentioned is by Private Members Resolution, which I'm happy to say is being unanimously adopted, and if we are to unanimously obtain the credit for it, that's just fine.

One further point, Mr. Speaker. The Minister mentioned that this was altruistic legislation. I don't think so. I think that this if anything is very selfish legislation. I fear for our community if this type of legislation isn't passed. I don't do it with the intention of giving something to anybody. I do it with the intention of protecting a wholesome way of life in this province.

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

MR. PAULLEY: Ayes and Nays please, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: It's unanimous.

MR. PAULLEY: As long as it's recorded in the Journals, Mr. Speaker, that this resolution proposed by the New Democratic Party representative from Inkster was unanimous, I have no objection.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Is it the wish of the House that this be continued when next we meet, because it is now 5:30, or do I have leave to carry on until the matter is cleared up?

MR. PAULLEY: The only point I would raise, Mr. Speaker, that if it is to be a vote, it must be held now, but I say that I will be satisfied if it is formally recorded a unanimous decision. I leave it to my honourable friend the House Leader.

MR. LYON: My honourable friend has just indicated, Mr. Speaker, that it was a unanimous vote. The records will show that. I would suggest that we get about our business now and go home.

MR. PAULLEY: All right.

MR. SPEAKER: It is now 5:30. I'm leaving the Chair to return again at 8 this evening.