

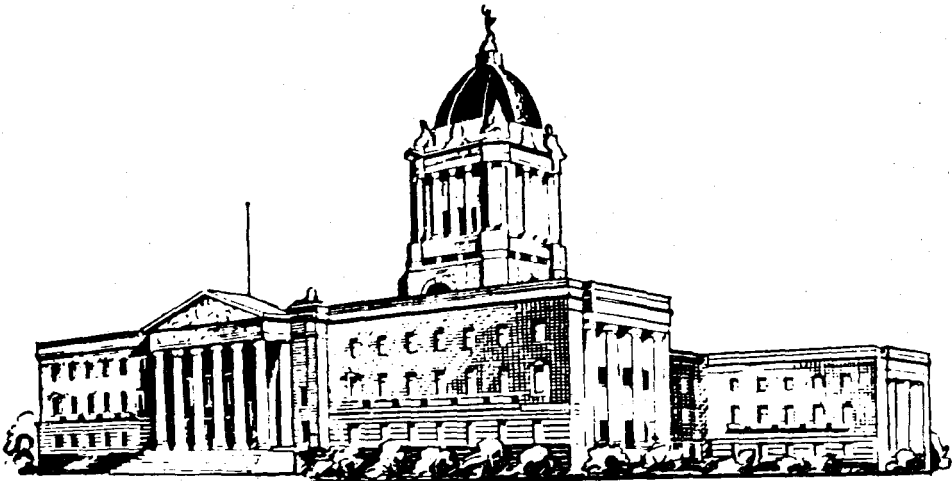


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XVIII No. 32 2:30 p.m., Friday, May 7th, 1971. Third Session, 29th Legislature.

ELECTORAL DIVISION	NAME	ADDRESS
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	Reston, Manitoba
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	10 Red Robin Place, Winnipeg 12
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	Binscarth, Manitoba
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon, Man.
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	Legislative Building, Winnipeg 1
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg 20
CHURCHILL	Gordon Wilbert Beard	148 Riverside Drive, Thompson, Man.
CRESCENTWOOD	Cy Gonick	115 Kingsway, Winnipeg 9
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtniak	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ELMWOOD	Hon. Russell J. Doern	Legislative Building, Winnipeg 1
EMERSON	Gabriel Girard	25 Lomond Blvd., St. Boniface 6
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	Cranberry Portage, Manitoba
FORT GARRY	L. R. (Bud) Sherman	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg 9
FORT ROUGE	Mrs. Inez Trueman	179 Oxford St., Winnipeg 9
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.
GLADSTONE	James Robert Ferguson	Gladstone, Manitoba
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
KILDONAN	Hon. Peter Fox	627 Prince Rupert Ave., Winnipeg 15
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	Woodlands, Manitoba
LA VERENDRYE	Leonard A. Barkman	Box 130, Steinbach, Man.
LOGAN	William Jenkins	1287 Alexander Ave., Winnipeg 3
MINNEDOSA	Walter Weir	Room 250, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	Box 185, Morris, Man.
OSBORNE	Ian Turnbull	284 Wildwood Park, Winnipeg 19
PEMBINA	George Henderson	Manitou, Manitoba
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	361 Burrows Ave., Winnipeg 4
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Room 248, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RADISSON	Harry Shafransky	4 Maplehurst Rd., St. Boniface 6
RHINELAND	Jacob M. Froese	Box 40, Winkler, Manitoba
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	2 River Lane, Winnipeg B
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	1516 Mathers Bay, West, Winnipeg 9
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	Inglis, Manitoba
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	Glenboro, Manitoba
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RUPERTSLAND	Jean Ailard	602 - 245 Provencher Ave., St. Boniface 6
ST. BONIFACE	Laurent L. Desjardins	357 Des Meurons St., St. Boniface 6
ST. GEORGE	William Uruski	Box 580, Arborg, Manitoba
ST. JAMES	Hon. A. H. Mackling, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johannson	23 - 500 Burnell St., Winnipeg 10
ST. VITAL	D. J. Walding	31 Lochinvar Ave., Winnipeg 6
STE. ROSE	A. R. (Pete) Adam	Ste. Rose du Lac, Manitoba
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SOURIS-KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	Nesbitt, Manitoba
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
STURGEON CREEK	Frank Johnston	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg 12
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	Swan River, Manitoba
THE PAS	Ron McBryde	Box 1295, The Pas, Manitoba
THOMPSON	Hon. Joseph P. Borowski	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	Kenton, Manitoba
WELLINGTON	Philip M. Petursson	681 Banning St., Winnipeg 10
WINNIPEG CENTRE	J. R. (Bud) Boyce	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg 3
WOLSELEY	Leonard H. Claydon	116½ Sherbrook St., Winnipeg 1

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Friday, May 7, 1971

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the Gallery where there are 18 students of Grade 6 standing of the St. Avila Elementary School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Workman. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Fort Garry. We also have 20 students, Grades 7, 8 and 9 standing of the Ste. Anne School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Winther, Miss Lambert and Miss Disjardins. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye. And there are 30 students, Grade 10 standing of the St. James Collegiate. These students are under the Direction of Mrs. Sharp and Mrs. Gray. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable the Attorney-General.

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

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. Charles. The Honourable Member for Radisson. (Stands)

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney. -- (Interjection) --

Attention has been called to the Rule No. 60, Section 6, in respect to standing a motion. Where, after introduction of a resolution the adjourned debate of the resolution is reached on the Order Paper for the second time, if the member who moves the debate to be adjourned is not present or does not proceed with the debate at that time the member who moves that the debate be adjourned loses his right to speak. This is to the Honourable Member for Radisson. Therefore, the motion is open at the present time. The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Chairman, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Gimli, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney. The Honourable Member for Roblin. (Stands)

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Lakeside. The Chair inadvertently forgot that this debate was at that moment being closed by the Honourable Member for Lakeside and I allowed it to be taken in adjournment. So therefore I must say that the question must now be put.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the Chair was undecided.

MR. SPEAKER: Could I have an indication? All in favour please say "Aye" -- The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order if I may, I believe that there is some uncertainty as to which number is being . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Well, it's the third resolution under Orders of the Day. On Page 2, the second one down. The one under the Honourable Member for Lakeside, adjourned by the Honourable Member for Radisson which I should not have allowed since he was closing debate at that time. Are we ready to proceed?

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

A MEMBER: Yeas and Nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members. Order, please. The question before the House is on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Lakeside for an Order for Return.

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

YEAS: Messrs. Bilton, Craik, Einarson, Froese, Graham, Henderson, Joregenson, McGill, McGregor, McKellar, Moug, Sherman, Spivak, and Mrs. Trueman.

NAYS: Messrs. Adam, Borowski, Boyce, Burtniak, Cherniack, Desjardins, Doern, Evans, Gottfried, Green, Hanuschak, Jenkins, Johannson, McBryde, Mackling, Malinowski, Paulty, Petursson, Schreyer, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, Uskiw, Walding.

MR. CLERK: Yeas, 14; Nays, 24.

MR. SPEAKER: In my opinion the Nays have it and I declare the motion lost.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to my loge on the right where we have the Member of Parliament Mr. Les Benjamin, the Member for Regina Lake Centre. On behalf of the members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you here.

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS (Cont'd.)

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. The honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. By leave it's been standing. The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate the position of the government in not accepting this Order and I assume it will be put over for debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, the other day when the Minister of Agriculture refused to accept this Order he stated - and it's on Page 364 of Hansard - "I said that the matter is likely to be before the courts." Now the refusal appears to be because this matter may be before the courts. Not that this matter is before the courts but it may be. I think that there is a pretty important principle involved here. We have a matter in which public property is involved and which there is an agreement between a government, the government representing the people, and private citizens, which really we are entitled to have before us, which we are entitled to legitimately examine and to deal with.

Now the principle here is that — and there's a discretion. The government does not have to give us the documents, we recognize this, but I think again the tradition has been that public documents are and should be available for our scrutiny. At the present time the matter is in dispute, but notwithstanding the fact that the matter may be in dispute no legal action has been taken, and further than that, the government has already exercised its rights under the agreement that was signed and has already put up the property for tender, and for all we know is in the process of being ready to sell it and to in fact give up title.

Well surely, Mr. Speaker, we're entitled to receive the information from the government, the matters that are public matters that they have in their possession, because surely the doctrine was always being advanced when there are issues that are contentious that it may in fact very well cause a lawsuit, therefore there is no reason why we should give it to you. Mr. Speaker, even if in fact there was a lawsuit and even if in fact we are dealing with a matter that is before the courts, I do not believe that the government does not have an obligational right to put on the table of this House public documents. The government is not in the same position as a private corporation. The government is not in the same position. It has more than a legal obligation, it has an obligation to the people, because the government represents the people, to present the information that it has in its possession.

Now if the government wants to stand up and say we at our discretion refuse to give you that information, then say it. But to suggest that potentially there may be a lawsuit and therefore we refuse to give it to you because of that possibility I think is incorrect, and, Mr. Speaker, I suggest as well that it takes away from the general tenor - I'm not going to go into the whole issue of intellectual dishonesty again - but this general tenor of open government. Because open government would simply say - put the documents on the table of the House - what difference does it make. Those documents are in your possession. There is nothing to hide, and even if there was something to hide, if in fact these are public transactions, the people involved if they in fact decide to go to the courts should have access and the right to those documents. -- (Interjection) -- Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition whether he does not accept our contention that under the standing rules that if a matter is already sub judice or if there has been a public statement by one or other of the parties that litigation is being considered, that in either then of those two cases, actual litigation or litigation being considered and said to be considered by public statement, that in those circumstances the practice under the rules is not to table such documents.

MR. SPIVAK: I answer the First Minister by saying, why was it necessary for the government to deal with this property to the point of offering it for tender if in fact there was the

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.) possibility of a lawsuit? Oh yes, oh yes. Is it a separate question really? I wonder if it really is a separate question because I don't know what the court will decide when a lawsuit is commenced, if a lawsuit is commenced, and I don't know what form that lawsuit is going to take, but nevertheless the government has made a decision and is proceeding with it and in fact has offered the property for tender.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you that the position the First Minister has taken and the position of the government is a sham - it really is a sham. If in fact you want to hold the documents then hold them and say that you're holding them, but because there may be a potential lawsuit is another thing. Now in the ordinary course of a proceeding and if in fact action was commenced, there would be an entitlement by an examination for discovery or an examination of certain documents and that is the right of the person who is the plaintiff. -- (Interjection) -- The Attorney-General and I agree on one legal procedure. But, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't take away from the right of this Legislature, notwithstanding that to have the documents on the table of the House and for us to be in a position to examine them. I suggest to the First Minister that there is nothing that prevents us to deal properly in this Legislature, to deal properly with the documents that are public documents. The withholding of them is incorrect on the part of the government and the fact that there has been any allegation of a lawsuit commencing or possibly commencing does not deny us the right to have those documents put on the table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition indicated in his remarks that he does know something of court procedure and obviously must know something about the rules of court and presumably knows something about the rules of custom and tradition and precedent in this House. Now, I -- (Interjection) -- Oh, I can hear the Minister. It has been precedent surely. -- (Interjection) -- He makes better sounds sometimes, Mr. Speaker, when he's seated than he does when he's standing. He thinks of better arguments and better phraseology when he's seated. But I listened to him, I listened to him very courteously, sometimes it is with great difficulty, Mr. Speaker, but I appreciate his courtesy in return in listening quietly.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that what we're seeing is an exercise of impassioned concern on the part of a former Cabinet Minister of a government that made an extremely unfavourable deal with a corporation, a corporation which reneged on its contract, didn't pay, is under a demand for payment by government for arrears of rent, and that is pending if the rent isn't paid, litigation will follow; litigation is contemplated naturally on arrears for rent. In addition to that, this corporation, Mr. Speaker, publicly announced that they have been done wrong by this new administration that should have slavishly followed the inept transactions that they were given by the previous administration, and the fact that we wouldn't go along with their procrastination, delay and default has resulted in the removal of their rights under their lease because they abrogated their rights. The fact of the matter is now this corporation said that we're going to sue, we're going to bring proceedings against this government.

What the Honourable Leader of the Opposition wants to do, he wants to play lawyer and make this the court, this the forum for the hearing of those charges. Now, this corporation has a right, of course, and let them proceed quickly; they've said that they're going to do that; we're not hindering them doing that, but I see no reason why, Mr. Speaker, we should allow the present Leader of the Opposition who is the previous Cabinet Minister of the previous administration, the right to act as their counsel and lawyer in this Chamber soliciting documents for this pending litigation in advance for them. It's completely improper, I think, Mr. Speaker, on his part to suggest it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Point of order by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: On a point of privilege, I have not in any way acted for the counsel for the litigants at all, and as a matter of fact I'm not sure . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order, please. That is not a point of privilege. The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, there is no question in anyone's mind that the Plains Agra-Corp. have indicated that they wish to bring an action against the government, and there's no question but the documents should be available and they will be available for any legal proceedings; but to present them now, to table them now just so that they won't have to

(MR. MACKLING cont'd.) bring their actions to get at the documents, which is the normal course of procedure -- because the normal rules, as the Honourable Leader of the Opposition pointed out: He said, you bring your action, you make a demand for the production of documents. Now that is open to them. Why should government be more accommodating than any other litigant when litigation is pending? Now, it shouldn't, and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition agrees. Well, the litigation is pending and they by their own statements have said it is, then why should we table documents for the public and for them in anticipation of that litigation? And that's the fundamental precept and principle we're dealing with.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the House Leader on a question?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable Attorney-General would submit to a question. Is the potential threat of a lawsuit for the furnishing of documents or is the lawsuit for a claim against the government? What are they going to sue? Are they going to sue just to see the documents or are they going to sue the government for a specific sum or a specific claim?

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't know the rationale for any lawsuit but they have suggested that they have a right to sue the government. I suggested that it's the reverse that's true, that the government will be bringing action for payment of arrears of rent if the payment has not been received. I can't justify the basis on which this corporation claims that they have a right of action, but they've announced that they have and if they have they will be proceeding with it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, just another question to the Attorney-General. If in fact the government is prepared to commence a lawsuit, is it not a fact that those documents then must be in the possession of Plains Agra-Corp. on which the lawsuit would be claimed?

MR. SPEAKER: The Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: If the demand is made by Plains Agra-Corp. in litigation for production of documents, then the court rules follow as to whether or not the documents must be produced prior to trial, and the honourable friend can play his own lawyer or he can consult a lawyer as to what those proceedings are.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Attorney-General was not the question that he answered. My question was simply this: If in fact the government intends to commence an action - he indicated that in his remarks - then the documents on which that action is to be based must be in the hands of Plains Agra-Corp. Surely we in this House are entitled to see those documents.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition presupposes too much. Often - often -- (Interjection) -- No, no. Often parties to litigation seek documents which they no longer have, they had a right to have but didn't have, the better to prepare their case and I see no reason why we should accommodate Plains Agra-Corp. through the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Order, please. I do not intend to have a legal battle between the two gentlemen at the present time. I think we've had some questions of clarification. Unless there's a further point -- the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. The suggestion by the Attorney-General is that my remarks -- and the request by the way was not by myself but a member, I believe, of the Liberal Party, that it is done to accommodate Plains Agra-Corp.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. There are no points of privileges. There are privileges of the House rules and privileges of the members. If it's a debatable question, the honourable gentleman can find another time. The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: In saying what I did, I didn't indicate that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was playing as counsel for them, but he indicated that by virtue of the request that's being made, in effect, what we would be doing is accommodating this company or this corporation in the production of documents which they can get through the normal legal process, and my remarks were not indicated as a personal suggestion that the leader of the Opposition was playing counsel for them.

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

MR. MOUG: Sir, on this Order for Return, possibly owing to the fact that I have never attended law school, I should be the last one to get up and speak on this, but I have in my hand a kaleidoscope, and to get a real good feature of how the law is in this province, if you take a look through this, you'd get a four-cornered picture of the Attorney-General; this is exactly what you have to have.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this particular order presented by the Member for Portage, it's my humble opinion, Sir, that we have a legitimate request asking for information which certainly concerns the Member for Portage. It's in his constituency. I believe he has abided by all the rules of the House; he has asked for his information which, and according to the Attorney-General's own terms, he refuses because there may possibly be, may possibly be an action before the courts.

Mr. Speaker, I know of no action before the courts in this particular case, until the Attorney-General or the Minister of Agriculture indicated that there might possibly be, we had no indication of any activity in that direction. The Member for Portage was quite concerned in his duties to the constituents which he represents to try and find out what the intention of the government was in this particular circumstance and we find the Minister of Agriculture saying, I'm sorry, we run a closed shop, we can't give you the information that you require and you will be hearing from us probably. In due course we will tell you what we're going to do for the Province of Manitoba without consultation with the people.

Mr. Speaker, I am not a lawyer, I don't know all the ins and outs of the law, but we find out that the Attorney-General says that because the documents will be available to the courts of law, they will not be available to the House here. But I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the court of last resort in the Province of Manitoba is the Legislative Assembly which is the court of law of the Province of Manitoba, and we find that the government is refusing the courts of law of the Province of Manitoba in the Legislative Assembly the information that is so necessary for members of this Legislative Assembly to peruse and to assess whether the action of the government is correct or not, to try and ascertain whether they're the rights of individuals or groups of individuals are being infringed or impinged by the government of this province. And, Mr. Speaker, if the government refuses to give us the necessary documents then I would suggest that we have no alternative but to assess a verdict of guilty against the government before the facts rather than having after the fact.

It is unfortunate that the government does not see fit to provide us with information which is in the public interest. It has been in the public interest for quite some time and, Mr. Speaker, I must say, with a great deal of regret, that the actions of the government cannot be condoned by myself and I'm sure by many others in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, if I recall correctly, I got some correspondence at one time, not too long ago in connection with the party named in this order, the Plains Agra-Corp, claiming that they'd been wrongfully dealt with and were not receiving proper consideration and so on. I haven't got it with me, I haven't got it before me, but - and I, at this time, I don't know all the facts and certainly I'm sure that the Attorney-General will know more because, as he says, the government has the facts on this, but this is the important point, we find out now that the reason for the government refusing to giving us information is not that it's before the courts but that they expect it to go before the court and that by tabling the information they will show their hand. Is that not correct? -- (Interjections) -- And I don't see that this should be reason enough for us as members of this House not receiving the necessary information as a result. I feel that under the rules we're entitled to it; I feel that this is not before the courts now; it's not sub judice; therefore I feel that the government should come across and give us the information regardless.

Just the other day the Attorney-General mentioned that too often when there's a weak case we hear loud roars. I'm just wondering what the situation is now. Does the government feel that our case is so weak that they won't table the correspondence? I'm sure that if they have a good case it'll be just as good even though the information is tabled, and I feel that this information should be tabled and the order should be accepted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The statement of the Honourable Member from Crescentwood - he'll never know what happened this morning was done on

(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd.) intention or not. Mr. Speaker, on this particular subject - I intend to be very brief -- but I have to take exception to the Attorney-General on one particular statement that he makes, -- (Interjection) -- No, I don't intend to go after him. I think what really should happen is the whole of the people of the Province of Manitoba should go after him. Really, Mr. Speaker, it is all right, Sir, if two companies battle it out, if the Agra Corporation was in a battle with another company or another corporation, the government would not be too involved or take too much interest, but now we have a situation where the Attorney-General gets up and he says, we should treat this the same way while this is going on; because the government is involved, we shouldn't really give any reports or any statements or anything of this nature. What he is forgetting is the government on this side of the House or the Government of the Province of Manitoba at the present time is saying that we want to become completely involved in everything and then when they do become completely involved in everything they then use the excuse that we don't do it when two corporations are fighting; and what the Attorney-General is not realizing is when the Province of Manitoba becomes involved with anything it's the business of the people and the right of this House to ask those questions.

So, let's, Sir, I say the excuses that are being presented at the present time is that we shouldn't become involved; we haven't before and where Crown corporations are involved we don't become involved, is not valid in this respect. The government is involved; this is the Government of Manitoba in this room and we have every right to the correspondence that goes on. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek oversimplifies greatly when he says that it is the business of this House to ask these questions and it is the right of members of this House to have whatever information they seek produced upon request, because I'm sure that he appreciates the rules of procedure of this House that in certain circumstances there are caveats and exceptions to this right, and I think that if he consults with some of his colleagues he will soon be told that in matters that are before the courts or matters awaiting the courts, that the long-standing rule and usage is that documents pertaining to such cases shall not be tabled so as not to prejudice or impinge upon the likelihood and ability of the court to come to a fair determination of the case. And in a nutshell, Mr. Speaker, that is simply the caveat, the very large and important caveat that is placed upon what the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek thought was a universal right without exception that all Members of Parliament or this Assembly have.

Now, there is some irony here, Mr. Speaker, because quite frankly, this government would just as soon make this correspondence available as requested; we'd just as soon do so but we're not sure that it would be prudent to do so at this time when there is very likely prospect of litigation being initiated in the courts. And not only is there that likelihood insofar as the Crown is concerned, there is that likelihood that the other party mentioned in this motion may initiate litigation. In fact I believe, I'm advised by one of my colleagues, that there was a public statement made and reported in the news media that they were considering that course of action. So that until and unless we have a more firm indication as to whether or not litigation is likely to proceed, I feel that it is entirely in keeping with the rules and usages of this House to simply withhold from tabling these documents. If that question as to whether or not there will be litigation is determined in a definitive way, at that point in time if there is no litigation and we know so in a definitive way, then these documents can be made available.

The same argument applies, Mr. Speaker, with respect to all cases where members of this Assembly or other assemblies file Orders for Return requesting documents and information on a matter that is sub judice, you do not simply table those documents; and it is as simple as that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris. Question? The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Would the Honourable First Minister permit a question? Would the Honourable First Minister please outline the privileges of the elected members of this Legislature on things pertaining to the Provincial Government?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, without going into great specification, I can advise the honourable member that those privileges are vast and very extensive but they do not apply to

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) circumstances such as I have just outlined, that is to say, matters that are sub judice or announced or stated to be likely to be sub judice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I should like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye. (Stands)

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Riel. The Honourable Member for Radisson. (Stands)

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

The Honourable Member for Morris on a point of order.

MR. JORGENSON: Yes, it seems to me, Sir, you skipped one of the resolutions standing in the name of the Member for Rhineland, that one proposed by the Member for Pembina.

MR. SPEAKER: True. But that still raises the point that the House Leader mentioned in regard to "by leave", on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Riel. I should like to say that this is going to get us into a dilemma where we are omitting the rule that we have in regard to motions standing for debate, adjourned debate.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, . . . the House can do anything by deciding to do it but, I also respect the honourable members' on the other side right to say that they don't wish to give leave to have this stand by consent and if they don't then I will take an adjournment on it, but I want it made clear that it can't stand unless it's by leave.

MR. SPEAKER: (Agreed) The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: No objection on our part to have . . .

MR. SPEAKER: (By leave) On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Pembina. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the indulgence of the House to have this matter stand. If someone else wishes to speak, I'm quite agreeable.

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. The Honourable Minister of Labour. (Stand)

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. HARRY SHAFRANSKY (Radisson): May I have this matter stand?

MR. SPEAKER: (Stand) On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: May I have this matter stand.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: I beg the indulgence of this House to have the matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: (Stand) I already indicated to the Honourable Member for Radisson that he has had - the question in respect to Rule 60, goes off his name. The question is open. Are you ready for the question?

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order please. On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Gladstone. The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few remarks with regard to the proposed resolution by the Member for Gladstone pertaining to the check-off on red meats. I'm sure that the members on the opposite side of the House will not find me as generous and as accommodating as they found me the other day when I spoke on May 4th.

There are many questions that I think should be answered with regards to this check-off on red meats. May I first say, in my opinion, I find it very difficult to understand how we can call this a voluntary check-off because in my opinion, if a livestock producer has to apply for a refund, this to me indicates that it is not voluntary but it is compulsory and I can see a

(MR. ADAM cont'd.) situation where a small operator would not find it worth his while to apply for such a refund. On the other hand, a large shipper would find it worthwhile for him to apply for a refund and we could have a situation whereby a small shipper would be paying most of the check-off.

It would not be worth his while, I think, for instance, if he's shipping 15 or 20 head and the check-off would be 10 cents per head, presuming that that's what it would be, he would get a refund of \$1.00 if he applied for a refund, which would barely cover the cost of writing and applying for this refund.

Now, I think that we should ascertain, we should have more information about just how this plan would work, who would benefit most by this type of a check-off. I think that there are many questions to be answered in this regard, like for instance, amounts collected, programs that would be undertaken. I would like to see a complete analysis of disbursements, who would make the disbursements. I also question that producers should pay for promotion on a product over which they have no control once it leaves their hands.

Now if we go back and check into what has happened in other provinces, we can come up with, like the Bill 69 that was passed in Saskatchewan, An Act Respecting Voluntary Deductions made from Marketing of Cattle. It says "voluntary" but the deductions must be made and then refunds applied for. This, in my opinion, is not voluntary. Deductions will be made not more than 15 cents per head and will be held in trust by the Cattle Marketing Voluntary Deduction Act Board. That's in Saskatchewan.

The trust fund will be used to administer the Act and develop and improve cattle industry. Who controls these funds in Saskatchewan? The Board in Saskatchewan that controls these funds is one representative from the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture, two representatives from the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association. This makes three representatives for the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture. One representative from the Saskatchewan Cattle Breeders Association. This makes four representatives for the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture and one appointment by the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, a civil servant. This is how the funds are controlled in Saskatchewan.

I'm not sure whether this really represents all the livestock producers in Saskatchewan. My suspicion is the trust fund will be used for market promotion and not market research or production research. These are the things that I would like to be sure of before I would be prepared to endorse such an Act.

Now we must remember that more than 50 percent increase in hog population in Saskatchewan in the last year and market promotion could run something like this: "Eat beef, not pork". At this, who suffers? You would be playing one farmer against the other. This is market promotion. Market research says, How can the farmer be assured of a maximum return on his product, milk, pork, cattle, meat, etc. Everything. These are some of the answers that I would like to know about such a plan.

Who would benefit most by this check-off? Let's presume, for instance, and I read from an article from the Halifax Herald: "This sort of corporate setup is called agra-business and it is not all chicken feed. To illustrate I might cite one firm in Colorado, the Mumford Packing Company, which operates two feed lots and last year fed 500,000 steers to be put through their own packing plant. It is easier to realize the magnitude of this operation when we point out that it would take 10 years and the combined efforts of all the beef producers in Nova Scotia to produce this many cattle, and that at current prices the value of these steers on the hoof would be in the vicinity of \$150 million." I ask you, Mr. Speaker, in a situation like this, who would benefit from a check-off?

However, this is a democratic province, we have a democratic government and I want to say that even the recommendations in the Task Force Report say that they consider that the producer is too far removed from the retail level to derive any benefits from a check-off. This is in the Task Force Report and I'm sure that anyone who wishes to check this out can do so, for whatever it is worth. I'm not much in favour of the recommendations in the Task Force Report.

So these are the things that I would like answered. However, as I have said, this is a democratic government and I would like to - Mr. Speaker, I beg to move an amendment to this resolution, seconded by the Member for Crescentwood, that the proposed resolution be amended (1) by striking out the words "pass amending" in the sixth line thereof and substituting therefor the words "give consideration to the advisability of introducing" and, (2) by

(MR. ADAM cont'd.) striking out the words "at this session of the Legislature" in the seventh line thereof.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

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

MR. FERGUSON: I'd like to move, seconded by the Member for Pembina, debate be adjourned, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed -- The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think the amendment is made to the wrong motion. I think this amendment applies to Resolution No. 7, not on No. 3 that the member was discussing.

MR. SPEAKER: Discussing the check-off legislation and that's the one he made the amendment to, which is the one that was under discussion at the time. I'm sorry my voice is going for some reason, it's drying up. Before we move on, I'd like to introduce -- (Interjection) -- may I introduce our guests first.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: We have 25 students from McCreary Elementary School of Grade 8 standing. They are under the direction of their teacher, Mr. Hildebrand. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose. On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS (cont'd.)

MR. SPEAKER: Now I will hear presentation on the amendment that was proposed. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I wonder if the House would be prepared to give the honourable member leave to move the right amendment so that we can have this motion properly before the House. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I have been handed the wrong amendment and the amendment should read - and I beg to move, seconded by the Member from Crescentwood - that the proposed resolution be amended (1) by striking out the words "at this session do implement" in the sixteenth line thereof and substitute therefor the words "give consideration to the advisability of passing."

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair is without the motion. Thank you. Is it agreed that the new amendment as read is now the one that the Honourable Member for Gladstone has got as adjourned? (Agreed) Thank you.

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Thank you very much. May I have this matter stand, Mr. Speaker. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia. The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. EARL MCKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I'll be very brief on this motion of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia. As government gets bigger and bigger and far removed from the people, I think this resolution will serve an important part maybe in the lives of the people of Manitoba, and if the government considers this resolution it might prove in the future to be a great help.

We all remember the Bill of Rights that was passed by John Diefenbaker and I think that Bill of Rights set a high standard for the people of Canada. While it might never be used very often, I think it does create a standard that we each one of us have to live by. If this resolution of the honourable member is passed and this Bill of Rights is drafted in a manner which will meet the needs of the people in the future, this might help avoid a lot of problems when faced with a bureaucracy of the government in the future. We all know how fast government is growing, both at the federal and provincial level and the municipal level, and this is one of the things that concerns me, one of the things that concerns me because over a thousand people next year will be working for the provincial government. And what does that mean to

May 7, 1971

(MR. McKELLAR cont'd.) the man with a problem. What does that mean to the man who's trying to get along in life. And here again as members we have people come to us facing many roadblocks trying to find out where they stand in society.

Now I know this Bill of Rights won't be the answer to every problem, far from it, and I don't suppose the honourable member meant it to be that way, but I can see where he's initiating something I think that will, if the government accept it, will be a start anyway for the people of Manitoba in the future. Mr. Speaker, I don't think there's much I have to say on this because it's really only setting up, agreeing to set up Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights itself is not before us so I think that's all I'll say at this time.

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

MR. SHAFRANSKY: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for -- did you want to . . .

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Morris. The Honourable Member for Morris,

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake, that

WHEREAS a successful agricultural economy is dependent upon a proper balance in the production of commodities for world markets;

AND WHEREAS aggressive marketing is the key to increased sales;

AND WHEREAS an improvement in our marketing system is required in the form of further participation by producers in the selling of their own products;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government give consideration to the advisability of joining with the federal government and the other prairie provinces in a program to back the loans required by X-CAN in order to carry on an aggressive marketing program for Canadian agricultural products, including grain.

MR. SPEAKER: I've had under consideration the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Morris. The honourable member in his proposed resolution in the operative part makes two points: one in respect to loans and the other to carry on an aggressive marketing program. Both these items are mentioned in the Speech from the Throne on Page 3 in the first paragraph dealing with "sufficient capital being made available" and in the fifth paragraph, "the development and seeking of new markets." Therefore, I find the motion out of order on the ground of anticipation under our Rule 30. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, if I may speak to your ruling, Sir, I . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member may challenge - there is no debate on my ruling. There is no debate on my ruling. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources,

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I think that where - I don't wish to debate the rules but I think where the Speaker intends to make a ruling which would have the effect of ruling a member's resolution out of order, that it would be fair for the Speaker to indicate that this may be the case in order that a member could argue in support . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Our rules do not provide for it and I'm sure the Rules Committee could consider this at some time; in fact I do believe we discussed this. As Chairman of the Rules Committee I do recall that, but at the present time there is no provision for this and I am bound by the rules. Now if the Assembly wishes to alter them by leave, we can do whatever we desire, but at the present time this is the procedure I must follow. The Honourable Member for Morris,

MR. JORGENSON: It is with deep regret that I must appeal your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister,

MR. SCHREYER: Would it not be possible to get agreement to simply proceed by leave and then the point of order perhaps could be circumvented and then simply proceed by leave. I must confess I'm not clear on the ruling myself sufficiently to want to commit myself to voting one way or the other just now, but could we not agree to proceed by leave? (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris,

MR. JORGENSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to thank the First Minister for his courtesy in permitting me to proceed with this resolution which I think is an

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd.) important one and one that I hope, as I'll be able to outline during the course of my remarks, is not in conflict with the stated intentions of statements contained in the Speech from the Throne.

Sir, during my remarks to this House on the occasion of my entry into the House on the 10th of March, 1969, I made some reference to this subject by calling upon the efforts of our Canadian grain companies to proceed with the establishment of an organization that would in effect be able to assume the responsibility of marketing Canadian grains in inter-provincial and export markets. At that time it seems to me I recall saying that the bulk of Canadian grain was marketed by four international corporations that had no particular interest in selling Canadian grain but were simply in the business of selling grain wherever they could get the best possible deal without paying any particular attention to the needs of Canadian producers and Canadian interests.

Since I made that speech in 1969, the United Grain Growers and the Manitoba Pool Elevators have achieved that co-operation. At the present time there is an organization in existence known as X-CAN, and its purpose is to attempt to promote the sale of Canadian grains in inter-provincial and export markets. At the present time it is supported by the efforts and the finances of the grain companies concerned, and the purpose of this resolution is to ask the Provincial Government simply to assist them by joining with the other two prairie governments and with the Federal Government to assist them in their program by backing them in whatever financing they may require in order to carry out their objective of marketing as much Canadian grain as is possible.

I think that the intention of X-CAN is an excellent one, one that deserves the support of this government, the Federal Government and indeed the other two prairie governments. It wouldn't be the first time, Sir, that the three levels of government and the Federal Government came to the assistance of farm organizations. During the height of the depression the Pool Elevators, Manitoba Pool Elevators and the Saskatchewan Pools found themselves in grave financial difficulty and on the verge of bankruptcy because of the very adverse conditions that existed at that time. The Federal Government and the provincial governments did combine their efforts in providing capital for the Pool Elevators to assist them through that difficult period. Over the years of repayment the prairie pools did finally get back on their feet, the money was paid back to the Federal Government and the provincial governments and it was one of those efforts that demonstrated the capacity of a provincial government to come to the assistance of an organization of this nature and assisting farmers in the marketing of their product. What this resolution is suggesting, Sir, is that a similar effort be put forth now. I have no idea, no way of knowing to what extent that financing is required.

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MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, would the honourable member argue that there is an onus or an obligation on a prairie provincial government to help in the financing of an agricultural product exporting agency which traditionally and historically has been regarded as something completely under the purview of the Government of Canada.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I am certainly not arguing that the onus of responsibility is upon the provincial government. I am simply saying . . .

MR. MOUG: On a point of order, I wonder if the Speaker would check the Honourable Member for Roblin; he's smoking in the House.

MR. MCKENZIE: I apologize, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: I don't think that the burden of responsibility does fall on the provincial government; I'm not suggesting that at all. What this resolution is suggesting is that the Government of Manitoba take the initiative in attempting to determine what the needs of X-CAN are and then try to work out some arrangement with the other two prairie governments and the Federal Government to see if they can provide some assistance in this organization in carrying out its responsibilities.

It seems to me that in the initial stages - and perhaps, Sir, that would not have been necessary if we had had two or three good marketing years in the past. The fact is that the financial position of the elevator companies in question couldn't possibly hope to be in as good a situation as it would have been had the marketing of grain been as free as we would like to have seen it and grain had been moving the way it should have been moving. The fact is that because of the very tight grain situation on the prairies in the last few years, there is a good possibility that the kind of assistance that this resolution is asking for may be very opportune at this time and I'm simply asking the provincial government to take the initiative in attempting to determine what the needs are and then to provide that kind of assistance.

Sir, I would like to briefly review the situation leading up to the present marketing crisis because I think it is very pertinent to the resolution and certainly appropriate at this time, because had the marketing of Canadian grain been as free as we would have liked to have seen it there would be no need for this resolution in the first place. So I think that a review of our past marketing experience would seem to indicate that it is to our advantage, certainly to the advantage of the Canadian producers and I think that it can be safely argued that if it's an advantage to the Canadian producers it's certainly an advantage to the Canadian economy, that every assistance must be provided to ensure that Canadians have as much to say - and I'm sorry to see the Member for Crescentwood isn't here - in the marketing of their own product as it possible and what this resolution is doing is attempting to provide that kind of assistance.

Sir, apart from the depression, one of the first problem surpluses that this country ran into was in 1953 up to about 1960, and there were some problems in marketing at that time caused partly by the introduction in the United States of Public Law 480 which enabled the Americans to subsidize the sale of their grain and enable them to make deals that were not available to the Canadian producer and to the Canadian grain companies.

The effect of Public Law 480 was to encroach upon the markets for Canadian grain to the extent that we lost many of those markets and it wasn't until the government of the Right Honourable John George Diefenbaker came to power in 1957 that we approached the American government on this matter - at that time President Eisenhower was the president of the United States - and we put the Canadian case before the Americans and the result was an agreement that I'm happy to say was maintained throughout the life of the government, which I had the honour to be a member of, and you will have noticed, Sir, that during that period there was a considerable easing of the market situation and grain began to move.

Mind you, it wasn't the agreement with the United States at that time that was the sole reason for it, but there was a combination of factors and the other one was the efforts on the part of the government at that time to locate markets in countries other than our traditional European markets, and the Chinese wheat agreement was the first of a series of such agreements that were signed that enabled Canada to move grain into markets other than in Europe. Mind you, the short crop, the drought of 1961, was also a factor and so by the end of that crop year, for the first time in many years there was an open quota on Canadian grains. At the same time, the Minister of Agriculture at that time, the Honourable Alvin Hamilton, negotiated several other contracts with Iron Curtain countries in an effort to move grain into

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd.) areas that traditionally had not been markets for Canadian grain.

These were years when it looked as though, with the sales to the Asiatic countries, the encouraging prospects of markets in Japan as well as China, contracts, several five to seven-year contracts with the countries behind the Iron Curtain indicated to us that an all-out effort to produce grain was required in order to meet the commitments that had been made, and indeed these were the prospects until that tragic day of 1963 - and I say this in all sincerity, Sir, because that was the turning point when the Liberal government returned to Ottawa. First of all, Sir, they failed to renew that agreement with the United States. They allowed it to lapse and allowed the Americans to return to their cut-throat kind of competition which began again to encroach on markets that had been traditionally Canadian markets. They never bothered to renew the agreements with the European countries that Mr. Hamilton had so assiduously cultivated, and then the most tragic of all, where they allowed themselves to be manoeuvred into a price war with the United States which resulted in the drastic price declines of early 1967.

One other event that took place at that time was the beginning of the negotiations of the Kennedy Round on Tariffs. Again they permitted the Americans to manoeuvre them into the position where they put grains into the . . . Committee of . . . rather than dealing with it as a separate article under the International Wheat Agreement. The Americans were anxious to negotiate on this basis because it provided them with an opportunity to make a better deal on chemicals and the result was that the interests of the Canadian farmers were sold off in the hope that they could sell more chemicals in the European common market. The result of that, Sir, was a dropping of the Canadian share of wheat sold under the International Wheat Agreement, from 40 percent in 1963 to 20 percent in 1968, and the loss of those markets plus the encouragement that had been given to producers in the hope that those markets would be maintained, and I say they could have been maintained had the proper initiative been taken by the Federal Government to ensure that there were renewal of those contracts and an aggressive marketing program be carried on.

Sir, the development of the X-CAN program is one that I think is very timely in the light of the statement made by the former chief of the Board of Grain Commissioners. Upon his retirement from that job a month or so ago, he had this to say: "The best public relations job I've seen for Canadian grain was when a farm union group from Canada visited Mainland China several years ago. I was in China about one year after this group, and they have certainly paved the way for us. I am sure that this is one of the best ways to promote Canadian grain in such markets." And that is borne out, not only by the statement by the retiring chairman of the Board of Grain Commissioners, but it is borne out by actual fact in the United States. Concurrent with the Canadian government's refusal to take any interest in the marketing of Canadian grain, was a renewed interest on the part of the American producers in doing precisely the very thing that the farm union group did in this country by visiting Mainland China and actively attempting, as a group of farmers, to promote the sale of Canadian grain.

Americans did the same thing but, because their efforts were backed somewhat by the American government and because they had far more resources to do a far more intensive job, they began to capture many of the Canadian markets for grain.

In addition to that - and I don't stand here, say, an out and out opponent of the Canadian Wheat Board - but in addition to that, the Board had been allowed to maintain restrictions in the movement of grain that were not in the best interests of the producer.

The marketing circumstances of the early 50's and indeed the early 60's had changed considerably by 1963 or 1964, and there was not a renewed effort made to ensure that the Canadian Wheat Board marketing techniques were such that they were able to ensure that they were not going to be out-manoeuvred by other wheat-producing countries. More recently the result of the failure of the Wheat Board to take advantage of those changes and the failure of the government to ensure that such changes did take place, markets, important markets for Canadian wheat had been lost. The result, of course, is this report which I hold in my hand, the report of the Canadian Grain Marketing Review Committee, which makes a number of recommendations, recommendations that we are assured will be put into effect at the earliest opportunity.

The Canadian Wheat Board had failed to keep pace with the changes that had been taking place in marketing techniques, the increased competition by other people coming into the

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd.) market, and the shifting of emphasis from high quality wheats to wheats of lower quality because of the fact that technology had made it possible to produce a loaf of bread out of a lower quality wheat. The demand for Canadian high quality wheat was not as great, and it isn't as great today, as it was twenty years ago. Research in this country failed to develop the kind of a wheat product that was currently in demand, and because of our failure to carry on the kind of research that was required and because of the aggressive efforts placed by other countries in producing for the market, we again lost ground in our search for markets and the surpluses continued to pile up.

One of the real difficulties, and one of the real tragic failures on the part of the Wheat Board was their failure to capture the increasing market that was becoming available in coarse grains. Almost totally that coarse grain market in Europe, which was about 634 million bushels in 1960, had tripled to about 1.566 billion in 1970, and the Canadian producer did not have a single bushel of that market. It was being provided by the Americans in corn production, which was far more competitive than Canadian barley or Canadian oats. The Wheat Board, in all fairness, Sir, it must be pointed out, were impeded in their efforts because they had been required to assume a dual responsibility. If they were to be given the responsibility for marketing grain, then that responsibility should have been confined to ensuring that they sought markets for Canadian grain, but in addition to that responsibility, Sir, they were asked to also be the mechanism whereby prices would be supported for Canadian grain, and the two objectives are in conflict, because Canadian grain can only be moved in competition with other countries - it is a highly competitive market. And if they are going to be asked to maintain a floor on the price of Canadian grain, then obviously they are not going to capture any markets, and it was only when the American corn crop failed last year because of corn blight and there was a shortage of that feed that developed in Europe, that we were able to begin to move our barley, and barley sales in the first three months of the last crop year were 55 million bushels, and that was in comparison, Sir, to an average for the past ten years of about five million bushels. That showed the increase in the demand for Canadian barley.

One other handicap that I think we place ourself under in Canada is our insistence on a price per bushel, and I think that we have been deluding ourselves over the years in thinking that we are doing the producers a favour by guaranteeing him x number of cents or x number of dollars for every bushel of grain he produces. It has restricted the opportunities for markets, and that has been the net effect of that kind of a philosophy in selling grain. There is no way of measuring what the production costs are on a bushel of grain. They vary from farm to farm and they vary from year to year, so for anybody to say that they've got to put a specific price on a bushel of grain because the cost of production is at a certain level, makes all sorts of difficulties, because there are too many variables, but every farmer knows what his cost per acre is and the thing that is important to a farmer is not so much what he makes per bushel, but the profit that he makes on an acre of land. He can accurately calculate his production costs on that acre, he can accurately calculate his profit on that acre, and it provides for a much more reasonable means, the farmer knowing whether or not he is making money on a particular acre of land or particular quarter section, and so we shouldn't worry too much whether the farmer gets fifty cents a bushel for barley or a dollar a bushel for barley. As a farmer I don't care. What is important to me is that I can produce enough barley on that acre that I am going to make a profit. And if the research, which I know is available but is not being done, was directed towards producing a variety of barley that could double its yield on a given acre, then it would place me as a farmer in the position where I am going to be very competitive on an export market and I'm going to make just as much money. Unfortunately in this country our entire research in barley production has been directed towards producing a malting barley for the brewery trade and everything that does not qualify for a malting barley becomes a feed barley. Unfortunately, when a malting barley does not qualify for the malting trade it is usually because of adverse weather conditions and those same conditions produce a lower yield. So we find ourself in the situation of because of weather conditions, because of circumstances perhaps that are beyond the farmer's control, he is asked to produce a product at a much lower price than will enable him to realize an effective return. There should be a much greater effort directed towards producing top quality feed barley capable of out-producing the existing varieties of barley and also capable of competing with American corn and other American feed grains that are moving into the European markets. We can't afford to ignore a market that is really developing at a much faster rate than the wheat markets of the world.

One other point that I would like to draw to your attention, Sir, is the fact that some of the

(MR. JORGENSON cont'd.) restrictions that are currently imposed on the Canadian Wheat Board make it extremely difficult for private individuals to carry on programs of food relief in the countries of the world. I want to speak for just a moment, Sir, about the Mennonite Central Committee, an organization that I think is a forerunner of all the organizations that are now in use, the CUC, the American program for, what do they call it? -- the young people who go out, youth programs where the young people move out into countries of the world to assist them in their development.

The Mennonite Central Committee was one of the first organizations that began to operate in this field and here is an account of some of the experiences that they have. The Mennonite Central Committee could use 250 tons of Canadian wheat and flour in its Food for Work Projects in India. Mennonite farmers are willing to donate grain to the MCC without charge. But nothing is happening. The reason: the Canadian Wheat Board is adamantly turning thumbs down on all requests for any above-quota movement of grain regardless of how charitable or urgent the cause. Representatives for MCC, Canada, have made at least a dozen contacts with the Wheat Board and responsible members of the Federal Cabinet during the past two years to clear the way for the overseas shipment of stock piled grain but they have not received an ounce of encouragement from the people who control the movement of Canadian grain. The Wheat Board seems to fear that the above-quota grain gifts will further jam the already full storage facilities and interfere with Canada's existing grain markets. Mennonites have, however, tried to assure them that their fears are groundless. It is prepared to deliver the grain directly to ocean-going vessels which could take it to India and other countries and to use the grain solely for food or work projects.

Now, Sir, those kind of restrictions imposed on the Canadian Wheat Board, by government regulation, makes it impossible for them and for other organizations who are prepared and willing to move Canadian grain into the markets of the world, makes it impossible for them to carry on that kind of program. The report of the Canadian Grain Market Review Committee makes definite recommendations in that regard and I want to put on the record some of those recommendations. First of all, by obtaining the highest possible prices on Canadian grains to the extent this is compatible with Canadian and world supplies. Secondly, keeping marketing costs as low as possible. And thirdly, bringing all elements of the grain industry directly and continuously into the determination of grain policy. Fourth, maintaining a viable Canadian capability in grain handling, processing and exporting. Fifth, providing producers with the information and incentives needed for planning production in accordance with market demand. And six, allowing maximum freedom of choice to producers and others in the grain industry consistent with the primary marketing objectives stated above.

Sir, it is the restrictive approach of governments that have placed the Wheat Board in somewhat of a straitjacket and make it impossible for them to carry on the kind of responsibility that they were originally set out to carry on. One of the other restrictions that we find that the Board has to labour under, is the fact they're not authorized to trade, and in many cases sales of grain can be made by import-export companies who are willing to sell Canadian grain into markets and at the same time buy products from those countries that could be sold in Canada. There is no mechanism whereby that can be done either. One of the functions of X-CAN is to act in the capacity of not only an export agency, but in an import agency as well.

Sir, those same rights should be extended to any company, any Canadian company that is interested in marketing Canadian grain and in importing products from countries that have products that can be sold in Canada. It is this two-way trade effort that can do a great deal to encourage the development of markets for Canadian grains. And there are people in this country in the private grain trade, in the producer co-ops, that are set up for this purpose, and other people in Canada who are willing to contribute their share to searching out and finding markets for Canadian grain. The present regulations and the present system prevents them from doing so.

Sir, we hear a great deal of talk about the mounting surpluses of Canadian grain, and the economists keep talking about this something like two billion bushel market for Canadian wheat that currently exists, and to listen to them talk you would think that that is all the grain that is being produced -- and of course that is so far from the truth. Two billion bushels of wheat finds itself into the export markets of the world but in the past three years there has been in excess of 10 billion bushels that are produced by the countries of the world. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics alone produces over three billion bushels, half again as much grain

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd.) that moves into the international market. Last year the United States of America produced 1.458 billion bushels and mainland China produced 819 million bushels of grain. Canada . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable gentleman has five minutes.

MR. JORGENSEN: Canada during the same year produced 684 million bushels of grain, and it is this total volume of production that one must consider in determining what production policies should be carried on in this country. Obviously, if there is a ten or fifteen percent drop in the crop in either China or Russia, they then become big exporters of Canadian grain -- I beg your pardon -- importers of Canadian grain. Much has been said about the development of new high-yielding varieties of wheat in countries such as India and Pakistan. I have no fear that in the foreseeable future, perhaps unless many things change in that country, that they're going to be involved to any extent in an exporting position of grain. More likely, Sir, they will become larger importers because the Indian crop is almost completely dependent upon the monsoons, and if they develop a potential for consumption of huge quantities of wheat, then that consumption pattern will have to be maintained, and because of frequent failures of the monsoons India could become a much more important market for Canadian grain than it has been at present, as is China and as Japan is growing to be.

Sir, the purpose of this resolution is simply for the Provincial Government to take the initiative in attempting to assist those who are willing and have the ability and have the expertise in finding and developing markets for Canadian grain, and I hope that the resolution will meet with the approval of honourable gentlemen opposite.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: I'm just wondering whether the Honourable Member for Morris would answer a question. He indicated, Mr. Speaker, during the course of his remarks, with some pride the achievement of the government of which he had been a member in securing large markets for Canadian grain in mainland China. Could he indicate the rationale for his position, the position of his then government in accepting trade with China and selling large quantities of grain for hard dollars but failing to indicate a position where they would recognize the validity of that government in any way?

MR. JORGENSEN: You know, Sir, politics and international situations change as the years go by, and at that time the position, not only of the government which I was a member of, but other parties as well, was that Communist China would not be recognized. That position has changed, and I might say to my honourable friend that, in my view, Honourable Alvin Hamilton had a great deal to do with that change of attitude.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: . . . if the honourable member would permit a question? Yes. Would the honourable member not agree that in the promotion of trade as between countries, and this is pursuant to his remarks with a need to be very accurate in this area, that as a criteria one must depend on good relations as between countries and therefore that it's logical that if you have a government of any country that one . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I haven't heard the question. Would the Honourable Minister of Agriculture place his question?

MR. USKIW: Would the honourable member not agree that to enhance Canada's trading position that immediate recognition of valid governments in any part of the world is an important factor?

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, Sir, I am not going to give a categorical answer to that question. I think it's a desirable position.

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

MR. MCKENZIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think this is one of the most intriguing and interesting resolutions of this Legislature since I've been here, so I'm prepared to speak this afternoon without notes, right off the top of my head, and the honourable members opposite may quarrel with me in some of the remarks that I say, but I support the views of the Honourable Member for Morris in most of his speech. And there's other points that I think that some place, some day in this society, in this great world of Canada, that we've got to recognize as politicians.

I've just come back from talking to the Honourable Member the Minister of Transportation, spent -- you know, him and I agree on many issues. We're personal friends, and it's not that difficult to resolve the problems in our society today if it were not for political bias or at some places a . . . It was interesting. The Minister over -- I took my Grade 11 in Rosetown and

(MR. McKENZIE cont'd.) M. J. Caldwell was my teacher, you know. So I was a Socialist at one time. I went on to Notre -- (Interjection) -- Just let me further my remarks.

I was exposed to one of the great Liberals of Saskatchewan and so on. But I was born in Saskatchewan, so was the Honourable Minister for Transportation, but historically this problem that we're talking about by this resolution has been in western Canada, for how long? From day one. From day one. And I congratulate the Honourable Member for Morris for bringing this resolution to this Legislature and, as the Honourable Member from Thompson and I were talking, we can maybe talk here for the next twelve -- maybe nothing's going to happen. And I doubt very much if anything is going to happen because how in the west today can you get a resolution like that to be recognized by Ottawa? They've got a base in Quebec today, the Liberal Party's got a base in Quebec of 75 seats; we can live and vote Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia in a block, and we're not going to save nothing. We're not going to change nothing, Mr. Speaker. You can't change this system. The die is cast. The die is cast. I'm alarmed about the die is cast. And I don't quarrel with the honourable members opposite but I congratulate the Member from Morris for bringing this resolution in here, and I think before this resolution is finally voted on, that every member in this Legislature should stand up and when the day we vote on it, we vote on it unanimously or how the hell do you get the message down to those guys in Ottawa? How? The Member from Thompson and I were just talking about how in this province -- (Interjection) -- Ah, don't worry about my language. I lead the choir in my own village church; I've led it for 25 years, and, Mr. Whip, I'll be leading it next Sunday morning and don't worry about my language. But I again become alarmed, I become concerned, and you know, the Honourable Member for Crescentwood and others, let us in this Chamber for gosh sakes stand up and unite ourselves on certain resolutions that come up that we all buy, and let's get the message off. If 57 members in this House were to jump in an airplane tonight or on a railroad train and go to Ottawa and let them know the problem was that serious and it's that bad, it's that cruel -- and I congratulate the Honourable Member from Morris for bringing this thing to the attention. How are we going to do it, Mr. Speaker? How are we going to do it? We've been down there on trips and expeditions, we've been down there with airplanes, we've been down there, we've been flying to the moon, and nothing -- (Interjection) -- No, we've got the Minister of Agriculture -- he thinks he's going to solve all the problems of the world. I saw his report come across my desk yesterday and I say, the next expedition to the Moon, put him on that and get rid of him real quick.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I do believe that I have allowed a lot of latitude, and some levity is occasionally necessary, but would the honourable member debate the resolution?

MR. McKENZIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I asked you the privilege to speak this day without notes, without preparation, with some knowledge of a matter that is as much concern over there as it is here. I am sure the Honourable Member for Rhineland has the concern that I've got and I'm sure the Liberal boys have the same concern. This is a matter of magnitude, of great concern -- without politics. -- (Interjection) -- Well now, we've got an Independent over there. Now I know what St. Boniface is going to say to this resolution, and he may tell me it should be bilingual, and I don't buy that. -- (Interjection) -- No doubt he is. Well, I submit to the honourable members . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Would the honourable member address his remarks to the Chair? Thank you.

MR. McKENZIE: I apologize, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I say to you in all great respect, whereas a successful agricultural economy is dependent upon a proper balance in the production of commodities for world markets, and that's a wide-ranging subject, Mr. Speaker. It's a wide-ranging subject where I could even involve the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. I'm sure his concern is the same as mine because I was a grain buyer one time. I was a farmer -- I was born and raised on a farm -- and you may think I'm standing up here as a simple businessman from a little village like Inglis. I shouldn't even be talking here today. -- (Interjection) -- Yes. Well, the honourable member, the Whip over here, this is the great saviour of Roblin constituency who is going to defeat me next year, he tells me, and everybody is telling me that he's going to take my seat away. Yeah, I get the message; I get it every hour of the day. I got it again today at noon that he personally is going to defeat me, and I say to you, Mr. Whip, you stand up and speak on this resolution and you tell me how you are going to solve that problem, and if you are going to take my seat away, and if you want to get on the phone and talk politics to my constituency you get rid of that Minister of Agriculture real quick and put him on

(MR. McKENZIE cont'd.) a train step and send him to Timbuktu or send him to the moon, because he's not going to solve the problem of agriculture in my constituency. That report that came yesterday was a farce, a great political dream . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I remind the honourable member once more to speak to the resolution before the House. Thank you.

MR. McKENZIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would like some water, and in all due respect, Mr. Speaker, because I suspect, I suspect I'm going to have to talk a long time, because the NDP don't understand what I'm talking about, nor does the Minister of Agriculture. He doesn't know what I'm talking about. Let's further our debate on the resolution, and of course in the 1968 election -- '69, they tried to defeat me on my speech in this Legislature on this basic resolution -- (Interjection) -- When I'm finished, I'll submit to any questions any time, I've got no quarrel, but let me finish my speech. And I humbly submit, Mr. Speaker, that I was a grain buyer. I came off a farm and this marketing, the legislation we are talking about in this basic bill, is one that has concerned me for a long time, and I never really got serious about it until you put that auto legislation, that Bill 56. No, No, no, Larry, don't get excited. You and I used to play baseball together so don't get excited about me -- yes, but you don't need that -- The marketing board philosophy. I doubt very much -- and this is why I say the Minister should go on a long trip because that's going to solve nothing.

There's a philosophy that I've been concerned about for many, many years. Why can't the marketing board philosophy or the government corporations stand up against the free enterprise system? Why can't it? Why do we have to let the Wheat Board have the wide powers of jurisdiction and our farmers today in this province can't even load a boxcar of grain and ship it to Nova Scotia? It can't be done. Why? Because of marketing boards, and that's wrong; because I know farmers in Nova Scotia today that want our wheat from Manitoba. They want our oats. And you know what they get from the Wheat Board? They get crap, and we don't grow crap in this province, and let the Wheat Board know. Okay, you can laugh; the members opposite can laugh; but I tell you, I've been around a little because I was a buyer in a grain company and I still ask the Minister of Agriculture today, why can't the old -- you know -- why can't you sell one box full today, outside the Wheat Board? Who's talking . . . ? That's fine. I'll talk to the Minister of Finance later on that other bill, No. 9, and you're going to get it on that one, because if you think, Mr. Minister of Finance -- you raised the question; I heard you; and you shouldn't have spoke so loud. You're going to lose every vote that you ever had in rural Manitoba if you persevere with that Bill No. 9, and I tell you, go back and recall your senses and think what you're doing to the people of rural Manitoba on that one.

Now let me further my debate on -- Mr. Speaker, he raised the question, not me. Now -- oh laugh. Isn't it interesting. If they haven't got the knowledge, they laugh over there every day of the week. I've been here for a few years and they're always laughing over there. They're always kibitzing.

A MEMBER: We're a happy group.

MR. McKENZIE: We saw the . . . of the Attorney-General last night and he laughed last night about -- I tell you, that's a serious matter, Mr. Attorney-General, that was raised in this House last night.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I would suggest that the honourable gentleman, if he would speak into the microphone I could hear what he is saying, and to address the Chair.

MR. McKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But, further on with the resolution of the honourable member -- and let the politics lie where it may, and I think the people on the streets will resolve that problem, and I've got no quarrel with that system. But the next section: "Whereas aggressive marketing is the key to increased sales." Yes. That Minister over there. That one there -- Uskiw -- has he come up with any aggressive marketing philosophy since he became Minister? Remember his speeches when he sat over there? He was the great saviour of the world. The first time I heard about him he went to Rome. I don't know what the hell he went to Rome for, but he went. He'd been much better to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I do believe I should caution the honourable member in his usage of the Queen's English. There are a number of phrases that we do not use. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: I apologize to Mr. Speaker and I apologize to the House. It may be that in the heat of debate -- and I apologize, but you know, and yet, Mr. Speaker, this is something

(MR. McKENZIE cont'd.) . . . that irks me. The first mission of this great new Minister of Agriculture, when he could have done a much better job in this province, he took off on a trip. The Order for Return came back on my desk yesterday and I got the bill for it. I'm satisfied that I got it and I know what the cost was. I don't know what he solved in Rome and maybe he'll answer to the House some day what he did over there. Have you changed the marketing system of the world by the fact that you went there? -- (Interjection) -- I'll listen, Sam; I'll listen; but I think again the members opposite don't even know what the Honourable Member from Morris is talking about. They don't know what we're talking about. They're for marketing boards. They're for marketing boards. In fact, Bill C 176; you know the record. The record is in Ottawa today. Who's for Bill C 176? Everybody over there - even Cy Gonick, and that shook me up. I couldn't believe that the Honourable Member for Crescentwood would some way get his support into Ottawa and say, "Push that Bill C 176 as fast as you can."

Mr. Speaker, let's move on to the next, and I think this is a great resolution: "And Whereas an improvement in our marketing system is required in the form of further participation by producers in the selling of their own products;" and Mr. Speaker, later on in this session I may, and I'm not sure - I'm going to want to hear what the message comes back from the members opposite - and this is the Wheat Board that I'm talking about right now. How many legitimate farmers of Western Canada are sitting on the Wheat Board today? Let's say the Advisory Board. Do you know of any, Mr. Minister of Agriculture, farmer that's sitting on the Advisory Board of the Wheat Board today? I doubt very much if he knows and I don't know of any, and I say that's a farce. It's political; it's not representing the best views of the people that are in the resource industry, and I ask the Minister to let's prepare a resolution. I'll help him prepare the resolution, and let's get that down to Ottawa. Lang is the Minister . . . from Morris and he said he's an idiot. I'll even go farther. I'll say he's an idiot that hasn't got an education about farming problems in this country. I will. I'll go that far. I'll go that far. The Honourable Member from Morris said he's an idiot. I'll say he's even worse than that. He's an idiot that hasn't got an education that there is a problem in Western Canada. -- (Interjection) - Right. Will you buy that, Harry?

Let's move over to the "Therefore Be It Resolved that the Provincial Government give consideration to the advisability of joining with the federal government," -- but when we join the federal government there should be some proviso in there in this type of resolution -- "and the other prairie provinces in a program to back the loans required by X-CAN in order to carry on an aggressive marketing program for Canadian agricultural products, including grain," and I think that is where we're going to have to go.

Let's bury our political differences on agriculture in Western Canada. Let's eliminate it all; go with a united voice, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia support that resolution and give them -- we may not have that kind of money to support this type of resolution, but if we don't the ball game is over.

And the Honourable Member for Radisson. He's not concerned. He doesn't represent a rural seat. Look at the expression on his face. But I humbly submit to the Minister of Agriculture in this resolution: Mr. Minister, take a good look at this resolution and I hope, when we vote on it, on the day we vote on it, that the House will be unanimous that we are on the right track finally, and maybe with a unanimous voice for all western Canada, and the day we can get that kind of a voice, maybe we will get some way to those guys in the East and we will solve some of the problems in agriculture.

So I humbly submit to you, Mr. Minister, take a good look at that resolution. Read it carefully and see the concerns that there are - and there are many, many concerns. We don't need no academics. We don't need no Cy Gonick telling us how to run agriculture today. We need farmers; people that are right in the guts of the whole problem today. Put them on the advisory boards and put them in the place where they make the decisions and not the guys like Gonick.

MR. USKIW: I wonder if the honourable member would submit to a couple of questions. One is: he had made reference to Bill C 176. Would he tell me what is concerning him with respect to Bill C 176?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. That's a matter that doesn't concern this House at the moment.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, the member made reference on one or two occasions in his remarks that he was concerned about Bill C 176 and its application. I would like to know what his concerns are.

MR. MCKENZIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am most prepared to answer that question and the only information that I have on the vote that was held in committee stage was that the NDP voted in a block in favour of it. -- (Interjection) -- Yes I do. I've been through it, you know, from day one, so that's my only concern. I want to hear. I asked the Whip over here, who comes from Roblin -- you know, you think you are going to defeat me in Roblin -- and he keeps telling me in the hall every day. I tell him, get on side on that Bill C 176. I want to hear the Minister's position and that group over there on Bill C 176. Where do you stand today? -- (Interjection) -- Yes, he doesn't know.

MR. USKIW: My second question, since the first one wasn't answered, is whether or not the thing that the honourable member is drinking, is it strong enough for him this afternoon?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. MCKELLAR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Roblin, the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Lakeside. The Honourable Member for Lakeside. The Honourable Member for Morris. (Stands) It drops to the bottom of the Order Paper according to our rules.

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member from Brandon West, that WHEREAS there is great concern on the part of the taxpayer with the expansion and proliferation of welfare programs, as well as with the changing standards of eligibility for benefits under these programs;

AND WHEREAS the present welfare system is vulnerable to abuse, destroys personal initiative, and frequently discriminates against those with legitimate claims to public assistance;

AND WHEREAS the objectives of a welfare program is to assist with ease those individuals who are unable to provide for themselves;

AND WHEREAS there are available several recent studies and reports which outline new concepts of providing assistance to those in need;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the government consider the advisability of undertaking total reform of the provincial welfare system.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that in speaking to this problem of our present welfare system, that amongst the people who are here there is not much need to expand on many aspects of this resolution. I think that we are all very much aware of the expansion and proliferation of programs and many of the problems that have arisen, particularly in the last year.

At the present time there are many people who are poor but have not ever sought public assistance, and through their property tax they are contributing to those who have asked and received such assistance. The present large numbers on welfare we realize are due, to a large extent, to the anti-inflation policies of the Federal Government, and I won't go into that speech again having spoken on that matter just the other day. The present welfare system requires needs tests and assets tests, incapacity tests. They are punitive, degrading and humiliating procedures through which one needs to go in order to receive some help, and our response has really been with remedial help and this includes, of course, medical, nutritional and even some of our educational programs. But because of all the conditions which surround the securing of social assistance at the present time, the social workers really have little time left for actually counselling the people who are coming to them and the system really makes of the social workers, policemen and guardians of the public purse.

Probably the principal new program that is being thought about these days is the guaranteed annual income, or negative income tax as it is sometimes called. Now it seems to be regarded in some areas as a panacea for all ills, and I see by press reports that the Premier has said that the government is -- as a matter of fact, at the time of the by-election the Premier was quoted from a story that appeared in the Toronto Star that was repeated in the Free Press on April 5th. He was saying that "the guaranteed annual income plan would be brought in for a limited trial if the NDP won both of today's by-elections." Now, that was on April 5th. I noticed on April 8th he had backed off a bit and saying that "the proposed provincial

(MRS. TRUEMAN cont'd.) program would stress supplementing income and encouraging people to work. "

We have, Mr. Speaker, a number of studies which have been done in recent years and which we really haven't had time to test. There are many ideas and undoubtedly many of them would be useful. There is the Report on Income Security for Canadians, the Social Service Audit, the Croll Report. There are new self-help groups in the community who have very good ideas to contribute and, speaking from experience, they'll probably help us to circumvent many of the present problems. The Status of Women Commission had some recommendations which were relevant. Amongst them, one particularly comes to mind and that was a request that the Federal Government make women eligible for the federal retraining programs just as men are. The condition that would be necessary would be to say that having been -- well, making the condition of having been a homemaker would be sufficient to provide eligibility. At the present time one has to have been employed for a while in order to qualify. There is a bill before the United States Congress which is a very interesting document to study, and also an Alberta plan which they call "An Employment Opportunities Program. "

Before I move on into that, I would like to go back briefly to the matter of guaranteed annual incomes and just warn that many of the people who have looked at this carefully no longer feel that it would be the solution to all the problems. The people on social assistance are the people who are poor, have many problems other than just the lack of money. In the Income Security for Canadians Report, I would like to quote one paragraph which I feel has validity. This is to the effect that despite criticisms that Canada's income security system is needlessly complicated by the number of individual programs, the inescapable conclusion of a close study is that the system is actually an inter-related body of policies which differ from one another because each program does in fact reflect the differing needs and problems of various groups within our society, and probably for those very reasons we should not be thinking of scrapping our present system completely, but rather in reforming it.

The Alberta Employment Opportunities Program I find an extremely interesting document, and because governments have traditionally been concerned with the raising and expenditure of money, legislators often tend to be preoccupied with financial aspects of programs, and this is even true in the case of social development programs. Now, although many of our citizens are in urgent need of some sort of minimum income maintenance, those financial needs, as I have said, are not the total solutions to our problems, but if the fundamental goal of social development policy is to improve the quality of life for our less privileged citizens and if this goal is to be obtained, comprehensive social rehabilitation programs must be added to existing and proposed income security programs.

Now, the Alberta Employment Opportunities Program commenced with a period of testing the efficiency or effectiveness of social workers who are assigned to new roles as placement officers. As of January 21st, 1971, Edmonton had 13 placement officers and Calgary had 12. The objective of this program was to help employable persons receiving social allowance to attain independence through employment. The placement officers would work in the home of the recipients, get acquainted with them, and assist them in overcoming their personal and domestic difficulties. They worked with them to help them to regain confidence and the will to succeed. They provided them with the material things that they needed and also to find employment opportunities in business, industry and government that was suited to the individual. They would keep in close contact after employment in order to give the clients support during periods of adjustment to a new way of life. Now under this program, as persons are lifted from the depths of despair, defeat and hopelessness, they begin to gain a sense of achievement and worth. They gain much in being restored to the place of breadwinner and true head of the family. On social assistance in its present form, the unemployed become stagnant and attempts to make welfare a temporary bridge between periods of unemployment are frustrated.

This placement officer in the Alberta plan reports to a unit supervisor who is in constant contact with employers, recording types of employment, having personal interviews with prospective employers, and then is able to give the specific requirements to the employment officers, and they try very carefully to match the person seeking employment and the job which is available to him. Eligibility for this program meant that one should be unemployed for two months, be physically and mentally capable of employment, that alternate care for the children was available if the children were dependent on the sole person who was to be the breadwinner, and priority was given to people of the ages of 20 to 45 years whether they were male or female. Upgrading and training, retraining was emphasized, and any person placed in employment, if

(MRS. TRUEMAN cont'd.) he again became unemployed, was immediately referred back to the Employment Opportunities Program. Monthly reports on his progress were given by placement officers.

In preparing the client for employment, the placement officer spends 50 percent of his time in preparing the client by way of rebuilding his confidence, motivating him towards self-improvement, and generating enthusiasm towards the program. They work towards restoration of the man in the position as head of his family, and try to develop a proper attitude towards the employer and society before a client meets the employer for an interview. There is an attempt to develop positive attitudes towards routines, policies and procedures on the job, had counselled on proper dress, and assisted in the preparation of documents such as birth certificate, diplomas, licences, union memberships and so forth. They also assisted with transportation and miscellaneous personal needs.

Twenty percent of the placement officer's time is devoted to actually effecting a placement. They draw on Manpower services, where the client is registered for employment or retraining as the case may be, and they follow this up where a vacancy is available. They work at locating employment opportunities elsewhere if they are not successful in Manpower. They assist the man in the particulars, the job description, helping him to understand it, and also introduce him to his employer. Now at the same time that all of these efforts are being made, supportive services are provided by way of family counselling; supplementation of earnings is used in order to cover their basic necessities, and they are prepared for their work, their new work, through the provision of clothing and tools that might be necessary for doing the job.

If the client for employment is sole support of the children in the family, then the program will pay for alternative care for those children. There is assistance in money management and they are helped to understand the importance of budgeting the family finances. Among the social allowance benefits, there are special employment incentives. There are extended medical, optical and dental services and increased earnings exemptions. They'll help with household and appliance repairs as well as with work clothing, tools, transportation and baby-sitting. There are earnings exemptions additional to the \$25.00, which is the present standard. The increase in exemptions is on a scale depending on the number of children and the earnings should be substantially greater than they are just on social assistance at the present time. They may be up by an extra \$55.00 to \$75.00 depending on the size of the family. Up to \$100.00 is provided just for securing necessary tools, and this is without repayment when done simply as a rehabilitative measure.

In the process of debt counselling, the placement officer will take the client to the equivalent of our Orderly Payment of Debts Court, will arrange meetings between debtors and creditors, and try to arrive at a pooling arrangement with a nominal monthly payment. They are also, in some instances, able to secure stay orders on garnishment of wages.

Now, if a person on this program refuses to take employment at a reasonable rate of pay, the placement officer makes a careful assessment of the person and the services that have been prepared. Every effort is made to lead, to condition and to persuade the person to accept employment. After all these efforts have been made, if the recipient then refuses to accept reasonable employment for a reasonable wage, the law states that no obligation is there to provide or continue to provide any services or social allowance to such persons, and may refuse, suspend or vary the services or the social allowance provided.

This program has not been under way for very long - I think it is less than a year - and during that period of time, with 25 placement officers at work, 900 persons have been placed in employment through this program and, of these, 600 of those persons were currently holding regular full-time employment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we recognize, then, the inefficiencies of the present administration of social service and the tremendous amount of paper work that is involved and the huge case-loads that are placed on the individual case worker. We know that under the present system they are unable to give the sort of concentrated attention that could be handled under an Employment Opportunities Program such as that in Alberta. I think that often, too, under current practice, a man on welfare who doesn't work at all may be economically better off than a man who works full-time. This is an unfair situation and certainly our working poor deserve far more consideration than they are receiving. The welfare family -- the laws discriminate in that way against the intact poor families who are making substantial efforts to work their own way out of poverty.

(MRS. TRUEMAN cont'd.)

Mr. Speaker, I think that it should be a very simplified, a greatly simplified procedure which people would undergo in order to receive assistance when they are in need of it, and it should be possible to remove the aged, the disabled and the blind and perhaps other special groups from our current welfare system, and perhaps use an automated system of payment. Then the savings in labour and time could be used to work with the people who need the greater service and support. I won't go again into the fact that about 50 percent of the families on welfare in normal times are those of sole support mothers, but I would stress again the great importance of concentrating on these people and giving them a chance to regain their independence.

Now, there are immense jurisdictional problems involved if one is going to change the system of welfare because of the three levels of government that are involved, but at the same time I think we must work sincerely towards more efficient administration, strengthen work incentives, the inclusion of the working core in any program, and to stress incentives for families to remain together by way of income supplement.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that that is all that I have to say on this matter at the present time. I am simply asking that serious consideration be given to all of the new reports, the new information that is available to us, in the hope that we can out of it all create a better welfare system.

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

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Brandon West, The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Fort Rouge, that WHEREAS the federal government taxation policies have contributed to unemployment in Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS greater economic activity and consequently more jobs can be achieved by providing incentives to the private sector;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government be urged to introduce immediate tax reductions to reduce unemployment and to provide stimulus to economic growth in Western Canada.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, I am not so sure that what I have to say will appeal to the mood of this House at 5:15 on Friday afternoon on a sunny day in May. However, I shall try to be as direct and as brief as possible, and I can think of no time when this would be more appropriate, the thrust of this resolution, than now, because in a month perhaps we are going to be presented with a new taxation policy by the Federal Government, and some time subsequent to that presentation I presume the Province of Manitoba will be making its position known and deciding on which of the proposals that Mr. Benson submits they are prepared to support and which in their view would not be appropriate to Manitoba's particular problems. It's also a rather timely resolution, in my view, Mr. Speaker, because of a recent study which was commissioned by the Federal Government and was made by an organization known as Systems Research Group in Toronto, and it was their finding that Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Atlantic provinces are probably going to show little growth in the next 30 years and that these provinces will decline in relative importance.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that if there is any truth, if there is any substance in their findings, then certainly it is important at this stage to move in the direction of incentives which will produce stimulus to the western economy and particularly Manitobans, because in our province and in any province it's not possible to live and to work in isolation. The policies as they are developed in taxation must certainly apply to Manitoba's special needs and apply in a way that will do everything possible to prevent this forecast from coming true, to prevent the possibility that in the next 30 years our province is going to decline in relative importance in the Canadian economy.

The problem, Mr. Speaker, as I would try to state it in brief terms, is how to find the money that the private sector of our economy must invest to create the jobs we so badly need.

(MR. MCGILL cont'd.) At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we have to find the money that the public sector must spend for the social benefits that everybody is apparently insisting upon at this time in our development, and I think it's vitally important that the private sector of the economy receive some special attention at this time, because an estimate recently made would indicate that 35 percent of our gross national product now goes to the upkeep of government in Canada and, while the name of the government in Ottawa is not one of socialism, certainly if one-third of our gross national product is being devoted to the upkeep of government, then we are in fact well on the way. In New Zealand, a country that has been considered as being highly socialistic, the figure is only 31 percent at this stage, and in the United States 28 percent. But the country that perhaps is showing greater drive and thrust in economic competitive positions is Japan, and in that country only 16 percent of the gross national product is going to the upkeep of government.

Mr. Speaker, if we're to retain some part in our economy, we need to certainly support the private sector and money for the private sector has to be provided. One way in which that can be provided would be to change our taxation system so that earnings can be retained and earnings can be then used to expand plants and to produce more jobs. Manitoba has done something, and we agree that it has been useful, in the public sector to provide emergency public employment during a recent low ebb in seasonal and general unemployment in Manitoba. The Minister of Labour has indicated that he thinks our unemployment percentage is now below five percent. The last reported figures were around five percent; perhaps 18,000 of our total working force is still unemployed. So the stimulation of the public sector has done something, has reduced our welfare rolls and has provided employment.

Admitting and agreeing with the benefit of this, we would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if such programs are to be continued - and they might well be if the circumstances warrant - should it not be possible to provide in advance for these circumstances by establishing a bank of low priority municipal works? I'm suggesting that while not all of the jobs undertaken under this stimulus and under these emergency circumstances were wasteful, some at least may not have been employed in as good a fashion as might have been possible had they been planned in advance. So one thing that the government might consider in the future is a bank of low priority public works that could be resorted to in times when emergency PEP programs are undertaken. Certainly the efforts of the Federal Government in the taxation field, aimed at controlling inflation in the past year, have not been the kind of efforts that would provide for better employment circumstances. Those people who looked at the results are certainly aware that perhaps the cure for the cause of inflation control was worse than the disease itself, and that what has happened to our economy is perhaps even more serious than what might have happened had the trend in inflation been allowed to continue. Nevertheless there is some reason for saying, and some credit must be given to the Federal Government because the most recent predictions, at least the most recent comments of the Economic Council of Canada given a day or two ago in Toronto by the Vice President, Mr. Otto Thur, indicate that the consumer price index increase in Canada in 1970 was only 1.5 percent as compared with 4.5 percent in 1969.

Now, while it has admittedly been unpopular in other fields, it must be admitted that the control of inflation, at least momentarily, has been effective, because in the United States in the same period of time the increase in the consumer price ratio was 5.5 percent, so our control of inflation and our advance in consumer prices last year was one of the most moderate in the western world. However, those many critics, those who regard this program in retrospect as one that is leading the country, and has caused a great deal of concern in employment circles - the rise in unemployment was very sharp and the reason of course was the high taxes that were imposed, both personal and corporate income taxes and in the tight money programs which the government introduced.

My purpose, Mr. Speaker, is to suggest to the Government of Manitoba that this is an important time to press for tax reductions in the federal field which would aid in the creation of jobs in the private sector; and specifically we suggest that those industries where job opportunities and employment is an important factor - and I suggest the building trades, construction trades are in this category - that we should look for federal tax concessions which would stimulate activity.

At this time of the year the Manitoba economy could provide and receive an impetus from an elimination at the federal level of the sales tax on building materials; and such a recommendation could be made by the province of Manitoba concurrently with the elimination

(MR. MCGILL cont'd.) of the provincial sales tax on building materials.

Mr. Speaker, there are other areas in which stimulus can be provided. The Ontario government it's noted has taken the view that tax credits in the provision of plant equipment productive machinery will lead to greater employment opportunities, and this is an area in which the Manitoba government could well look. But these are the areas of the private sector of the important productive phase of our economy that can receive encouragement at this time by federal tax changes. The opportunity, Mr. Speaker, will come in the next four to eight weeks for the province of Manitoba to present this view, to petition the Federal Government to give us the stimulus which we now need. It is the purpose, the only purpose, Mr. Speaker, of this resolution to provide more jobs in Manitoba, to provide them as quickly as possible, and I suggest to you that positive action on the part of the government of Manitoba at this time will do much in this direction.

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

MR. GONICK: Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the debate be adjourned. I would like to move that the debate be adjourned, seconded by the Member for Winnipeg Centre.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The hour now being 5:30, the House is adjourned, and will stand adjourned until 2:30 Monday afternoon.