

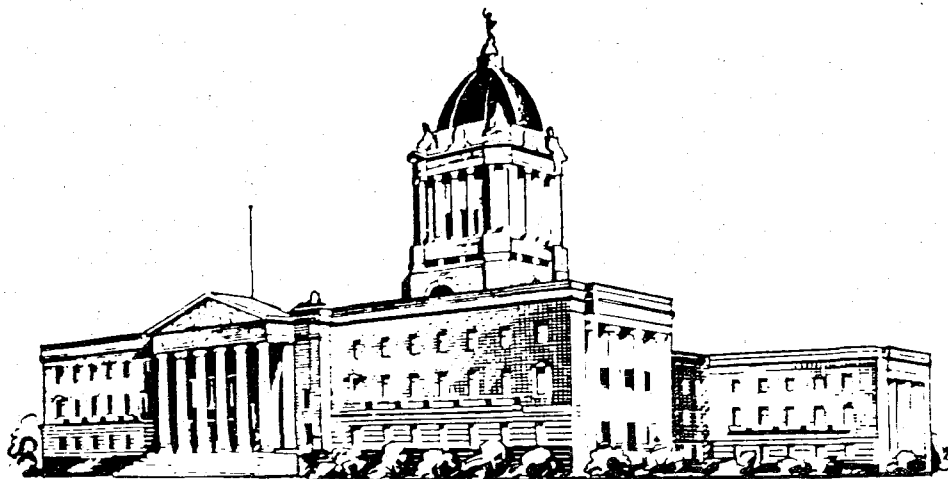


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XVIII No. 87 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 23rd, 1971. Third Session, 29th Legislature.

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Wednesday, June 23, 1971

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements; Tabling of Reports; Introduction of Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Consumer, Corporate & Internal Services) (Burrows) introduced Bill No. 49, an Act to amend The Landlord and Tenant Act; and Bill No. 50, an Act to amend The Consumer Protection Act.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia) introduced Bill No. 10, an Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could get leave of the House to introduce a bill of which notice has not been given and, peculiarly enough, I am not the person to do it. It's just that my seat mate has not yet come in and I understand it's his matter which is urgent. If I may just continue and explain, I understand it has to do with the fact that Judge Solomon has been elevated from the County Court to the Queen's Bench and that there is an important case which he has been hearing in the County Court and, as I understand it, the requirement here is to amend The County Court Act to enable his completing the hearing of this case, which is some sort of mechanics lien action, even though the time now provided for will expire without this amendment. On that basis, in the absence of the Attorney-General, could I have leave to introduce the bill? (Agreed)

MR. CHERNIACK, in the absence of the Attorney-General, introduced Bill No. 95, an Act to amend The County Courts Act (2).

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery, where we have 60 students, Grades 5 and 6 standing, of the Weston School. These students are under the direction of Messrs. Sandgren and Legrange. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Logan.

We also have 34 students of Grade 6 standing of the Fleming School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Kelmick and Mrs. Cullen. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Brandon West.

And there are 25 students of Grades 5 to 8 standing of the South Indian Lake School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Smith. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Churchill.

And we have 26 students of Grade 5 standing of the Collicutt School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Kushnier. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Youth and Education.

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. In view of the announcement by Premier Bourassa with respect to the constitutional changes, I wonder whether the First Minister can indicate whether he's been in contact either with the Prime Minister or any of the premiers of the provinces of Canada.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Well, Mr. Speaker, the answer is: not yet, although it would be worthwhile in my view to do so. I should revise that slightly. I have been in communication with the Premier of Quebec this morning but not with the Prime Minister as yet; hopefully later this day. Whether or not there is any further communication with other premiers, I think -- I'm not in a position to answer at this time.

MR. SPIVAK: Will the Manitoba Government be prepared to declare its intentions prior to the termination date that was proposed by the Prime Minister in view of the circumstances of last . . . ?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, my first impression was that this now is almost completely an academic exercise, although in reflection I'm not completely convinced this is so. The intention is to communicate with the Prime Minister before the end of the week so that we will still be in a position to communicate our position to Ottawa by the 28th, if that is in any way helpful.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the First Minister and ask him, has Mr. Blackburn been fired?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Well, Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, I shall direct my question to the First Minister. Could he indicate to this House when we can expect the information regarding the rates on the supplementary insurance, also the rates as they affect farm trucks?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I speak with virtually complete certainty but I would have to leave a caveat, that it may not be till Friday, although the expectation is that we shall be able to table that information tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable the First Minister. Can he indicate to the House whether or not Mr. Stewart Anderson, the Deputy Minister of Finance, is still a member of the Manitoba Hydro Board?

MR. SCHREYER: Yes.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question then, Mr. Speaker. Can the First Minister indicate why his name was significantly absent from the paid advertisement the other day where the Hydro Board says among others . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member -- I do believe -- I would like to indicate to members that once the question is placed, any further argument is argumentative and is not allowed. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I think it's only . . .

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order on a Speaker's ruling. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: . . . respond to the inquiry of the Honourable Member for Lakeside to indicate to him that I had an opportunity to discuss this very matter with Mr. Anderson, who reminded me that he was in Victoria at the time of the meeting, the one that is referred to, and was therefore not present at the meeting . . . indicate again that he has informed me that he supports the decision of the Hydro Board and has done so, as a member, for the last whatever period of time it was to make the decisions . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. Has Mr. Blackburn submitted his resignation to the Cabinet?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Health . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: I indicated to the Honourable Member for Assiniboia in a way that I thought he could understand that the answer is no. For the record, the answer is "no".

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: I direct my question, Mr. Speaker, to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development. Can he confirm that Dr. Morison, the Chairman of the Health Services Insurance Corporation, has handed in his resignation?

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health & Social Development) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I have not received such a resignation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: My question is to the First Minister. I wonder whether he can inform the House whether Mr. Gordon Holland has been transferred to the Autopac Insurance Corporation and what position he will hold if he has in fact been transferred.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I understand that this question or one very similar to it was asked in this House a few days ago, that the answer was given, and the honourable member

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) can look it up in Hansard.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the question posed to the members opposite or to the Minister who answered indicated or asked what Mr. Holland's position would be, and I wonder if the First Minister could indicate what his position would be.

MR. SCHREYER: The honourable member can read Hansard and if he wishes supplementary information tomorrow he can do so.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Development concerning the old Victoria Hospital. Is it the government's plan to proceed with the conversion or to give permission for it to be converted into a care home for the elderly?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Development has been presented with an application to convert the old Victoria Hospital into a nursing home, and it is being considered.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, a question to the House Leader. Can he advise yet when the next meeting of the Public Utilities Committee will be called?

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): No, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debates on second reading. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Would you call Bill No. 36, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, during the introduction of this bill by the Minister of Finance, he invited members of this side of the House to address themselves to the principle of this bill and that further discussion of the particular clauses or the details of the bill could be left to a more appropriate time - that is, during the consideration of the bill in the Committee when it is being reviewed by clause by clause analysis. There have been some members on this side of the House who have attempted to deal with the principle, and that has necessarily on occasion led them into some of the details of the bill because some of the details of the bill are inherent in the principle. I don't intend to deal with the clauses as such or any aspect of it. What I would like to do is deal, Sir, with the broad principle of the type of government that is inherent in this particular piece of legislation. That, Sir, covers a pretty wide area. It involves, to a certain extent, the manner in which legislation is dealt with in this Chamber; it involves the administration of municipal government; and it involves some discussion on the principles of democracy itself. And it is to those particular aspects of this bill that I wish to address myself.

Let me say at the outset that I don't think there is anyone in this Chamber, and very few people in the City of Winnipeg or indeed in the Province of Manitoba, who are not cognizant of the need for some change, the need to adjust our government to meet the increasing challenges of the day and to meet the need of a changing society. The administration of government, because of the fact that governments are becoming more and more involved in the daily lives of people, have a tendency to become more autocratic, have a tendency to become larger, and have a tendency to remove themselves from the people, and as I understand the principle, or at least one of the principles that the Minister dealt with at some great length in this bill, one of the things that the bill seeks to do is to recognize the fact that governments today, by their sheer weight, are becoming more and more removed from the needs of people, and he attempts to reconcile that particular fact by the institution of what he calls "community committees". And during the course of his remarks, the Minister dealt at some length with the function of these community committees - and I want to deal with that aspect a little bit later.

Sir, parliamentary democracy was never intended or never was designed to enable a group of people, simply by virtue of the fact that they were elected, to exercise control over people and over every facet of their lives. It was designed primarily to meet the needs of people in the form of manner in which they could express themselves through the elected representatives. Sir, it's been my experience in the few years that I have had the honour of being an elected representative in this country, to recognize that to a large extent people are

(MR. JORGENSON cont'd.) not that concerned or that desirous of taking part in discussion on every issue that comes before the public. The whole principle of parliamentary democracy recognizes that fact.

There have been a lot of, I think, foolish statements made to the effect that people want to become involved. If people wanted to become involved, Sir, these galleries would be full all the time and we know they are not. If people wanted to become involved, they would attend the council meetings of their local government. If people wanted to become involved, they would become far more active politically than they are today. The fact is, Sir, that they are content to elect people every so often to represent them, and if they don't do a good job they kick them out. But it does not mean that politicians or elected representatives remove themselves from the feelings that they get when talking to people on the street or whenever they meet them. One of the jobs of a politician is to be able to detect grumbles and be able to detect discontent, be able to accurately reflect opinions that he hears from time to time. But the kind of active participation that I hear so many people express from time to time does not materialize, and so I can conclude from that that the original basis upon which democracy was built, and that is of the right of the people to every so often - and in our constitutions it's a period of every five years - to change those who are elected to government, and those changes take place more often on the basis of what a government has not done rather than on the basis of what the elected representatives have done.

But the words of the Minister of Finance in introducing this legislation, in which he emphasized over and over again what a wonderful system was inherent in this bill enabling people to participate on the local level in these community committees, or whatever he calls them, is I think dreaming, if he believes that that is going to satisfy the needs of the people. What it is intended to do is to replace the much closer contact that people have with their elected representatives on the existing municipal basis, closer contact because there are fewer people that they represent in most instances, closer contact because the work of the municipal councillor or mayor does not occupy his time so fully that he is not able to mix with them and speak with them, and this to a large extent is the kind of contact that the elected representatives have with their people.

This bill, and the setting up of these community committees, will in no way make up for that kind of contact. It's axiomatic, it seems to me, in government that the larger they get the farther removed they become, the more difficult they are to understand; the less people understand about government, the more they expect from it; the more they expect from it, the more dissatisfied they are; the more dissatisfied they are, the more dangers democracy is in. Anarchy is the result of the inability of people to find final expression through their elected representatives.

Now, I'm not enunciating this as something that's inherent in this bill; I am enunciating it simply as a means of demonstrating that in my view the setting up of community committees is not going to meet the situation that will result from the passage of this legislation and the setting up of one-city government in the city of Winnipeg. In any case, even if it were true, Sir, even if that principle were true, I have a great fear - and that fear is borne out by many of the things that have happened since this government has taken office - that the idea of listening to people through community committees is simply a facade to placate them, and it is meaningless. If this government were really anxious, and I'm not suggesting that my honourable friends are going to form the government of the city of Winnipeg - God forbid that happen but one must take that horrible possibility into consideration - if their attitude towards listening to people, if their attitude towards government is similar to what we find in this Legislature, then there will be no expression at all on the part of people.

The Minister of Highways, who sits over there, has a good opportunity to listen to people represented on various organizations throughout this province. The Chambers of Commerce, for example, speak for a group of people and whether or not one agrees with everything they say, their views certainly are worthy of consideration; but the Minister of Highways, because sometimes their view is different from his, they're "a bunch of misguided fools." -- (Interjection) -- All the time, he says. Women's organizations who attempt to get the ear of government get the same treatment in this Legislature, and they get locked out. One can only hope that wherever those community committee meetings are going to be held, that the Minister of Highways does not hold the key to those meetings places.

And the Minister of Mines and Resources has a different attitude. He said in the Public

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd.) Utilities Committee just shortly, that to listen to people express their disagreements and their discontent with the actions of a government, to even consider listening to them would be a fraud; so one questions, one questions whether or not that this government, in the setting up of what they call community committees for the purpose, for the express purpose of giving an opportunity for people to express themselves, one questions whether or not that desire on the surface will be reflected in action.

Let's, Sir, not make any mistake at all about the purpose of this bill. It follows along the generally accepted philosophy of this government to either centralize or nationalize, and the centralization of government in the City of Winnipeg will give effect to that general philosophy of my honourable friends opposite. It's the core of Socialism. And Sir, when some comment was made a few days ago about the fact that the Minister had mentioned that within a few years 80 to 90 percent of the population of this province will be living in the City of Winnipeg, one almost got the impression that the Minister was hoping that that day was here now.

It's always easier, Sir, to control people, to subjugate them, if you have them concentrated. There's nobody that's more difficult to handle than a person that owns a bit of property, who has a little bit of independence, and every action on the part of this government seems to be designed to ensure that there will be nothing left for them, including their pay cheques. Because once they come under the control of government, they lose their identity, they lose their initiative, and they lose their desire to fight back. The centralization of government in cities follows along the pattern that we have seen by so-called liberally-minded people who want to ensure that their domination and control over the lives of people is absolute.

Now, during the comments that were made by my friend the Member for Lakeside about the effort on the part of the government to centralize, the First Minister said that, well you know, we can't be guilty of that - I'm paraphrasing him - because the increase in the budget for agriculture is the largest percentage increase of all the estimates in the budget. Well, not quite that, because the Department of Social Development has a far bigger increase. And he used that as an example of how this government is striving to maintain the farmers on the land. Sir, it doesn't mean that at all, because it has been my experience that the more money that is spent by governments in agriculture, the worse off they become. -- (Interjection) --

Well if -- my honourable friend the Minister Without Portfolio asks how about the reverse? If the reverse is true, then obviously there is no need for any assistance. One can reasonably assume that things are fairly prosperous in the rural parts of the province. And this is, Sir, this is the thing that I've been saying for a long time, that agricultural prosperity cannot be achieved by governments assuming greater and greater control over people who live on the farms, but rather by giving them greater and greater opportunity to plan their own destinies and to spend the money in a way that they want to spend it.

Sir, centralization of government, I don't care how it is done or for what purposes it is done or what lofty motives are attributed to the centralization syndrome; the fact is that it creates far more difficulties than it solves. We see today the issue that is taking place in the United States, the release of information dealing with some decisions taken by the Pentagon, and to a large extent, Sir, that is as a result of the greater and greater authority that has been assigned to the President of the United States. There can be no great danger of centralized authority if there is an opportunity for expression, and that opportunity for expression must be given to people whether they are elected representatives in this House or on the municipal level, but people who are not even elected, and their best opportunity for that expression is direct access to that elected representative, not at some community meeting or anything like that, because many people will not, for reasons best known to them, will not publicly outline their problems to an elected representative but much prefer to do it in the privacy of their homes or in the privacy of the member's home. The bigger the government gets, the more people that they have to represent, the less opportunity there is for that kind of contact.

Now the Minister of Mines and Resources, following the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition, could not resist getting into the debate, and for that we are somewhat grateful because there emerges the first opportunity for some expression of opinion from the other side of the House, outside of the Minister of Finance, as to the merits of this piece of legislation. The Minister went on to point out, and he listed the number of members on the front bench and the vast amount of municipal experience that they had, and I'm not denying that, and the great input that was put into the drafting of this legislation. I wonder then, why is it that, you know, if municipal experience is a criteria for input into this legislation - and I don't deny

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd.) that it is a worthwhile asset - then why is it that most municipalities in Winnipeg oppose it - most municipal councillors?

And the Minister went on to chastise us because last fall when the -- and I forget the number of the bill but it was a bill that was intended to avoid municipal elections last fall, he said not one single word of protest was raised. Well, I can assure the Minister that now, after the year or two experience that we have had with honourable gentlemen opposite, we intend to scrutinize every piece of legislation very carefully because we never know what kind of Jokers are hidden in legislation. Bill No. 9, for example, Sir, Bill No. 9. We were criticized very severely and ridiculed by members opposite because we took a little time in allowing passage of Bill No. 9 through this House. But then what happened, Sir, when the Bill got before the Law Amendments Committee? There was nothing left of it. They brought in a bushel of amendments, and before they were all passed no one would have recognized the original bill; they had to reprint it.

Now last fall, when the bill to cancel municipal elections was brought into this House, there was before us the Boundaries Commission Report. There was an indication on the part of the government; (although the report had not been submitted at that time, we knew that that report was going to be submitted) and inherent in the report was the suggestion, and indeed the necessity, of holding public hearings. At least we had the assurance that even after passing that legislation there were sufficient safeguards in the legislation itself setting up the Boundaries Commission, that the Boundaries Commission hearings had been conducted on such a wide scale and had had so many expert opinions expressed to it, that that report would contain recommendations that would be reasonably acceptable to everybody in this province and in through the City of Winnipeg. We had no way of knowing at that time that the report was going to be aborted, that the government were going to bring in their own version of amalgamation, of reorganization. In fact, we acted on the assumption that the government were going to do what would have been the honourable thing to do. I say, Sir, today we know better and I can assure you that that won't happen again.

Now, Sir, throughout the consideration of this legislation and the White Paper that the government presented to the House, there was inherent in the suggestions that have been made, even though it might not have been spelled out in detail there was inherent in those suggestions the belief that municipal costs would be reduced, and my friend the Member for Lakeside related to the House some difficulties that he was having with his own relatives because they were believing the Minister more than they were believing him - but they will learn; they won't make that mistake again. The fact is, Sir, that no experience, no experience that we've ever had with enlarging government, has resulted in a decrease in costs. The Minister of Mines knew that, and yet he rationalized his way out of that one by saying, "Well now," he said - and then he realized he'd used a very bad example. He said, "How can anyone tell, if people like my honourable friend from Rhineland were elected to the council as opposed to the Member for Crescentwood, how could one tell whether or not the costs would be any greater . . .?" He realized that was a very bad example because the Member for Crescentwood spends money like a drunken sailor whereas the Member for Rhineland would be very careful with the taxpayer's money. And so he shifted his ground a little bit on that and then said, "Well, how does anyone know what the spending habit will be? It will depend upon the people that were elected." It was a very -- it was very obvious, you know; it did discredit to the Minister, because nobody has ever talked about that aspect and everybody knows that what they were talking about was given the same planning, given the same circumstances, and it wasn't a question of whether a new recreational hall was going to be built or not, or whether a new recreation centre was going to go up or whether something else was going to go up. It was the question of administration that had been discussed all along. He shifted his ground a bit to try and create the impression that it would now depend - it would now depend on who was going to be elected. Well I think that we have a very clear election issue, Sir, that if my friends opposite are elected, or their friends, then costs will most certainly go up tenfold.

The Minister also went on to say that they weren't going to have any intention of listening to bureaucrats; that they - they - were going to be making the decisions. And I have no objections to that theory because I think government should be making decisions. But I also think that governments that make decisions should also take responsibility, and time after time my friends opposite have refused to accept responsibility for what's going on at Hydro. The ad that appeared in the newspapers, Sir, with the -- well, I'm not concerned about the missing

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd.) signature so much as I am about the principle of government responsibility. But they have an easy way of saying that they are not going to be ordered around by bureaucrats. Very simple. Fire all the competent people and replace them with incompetents that will listen to the government. Replace them with people who share their own desire to control the lives of people and you've got a coming together of minds. It's very easy to say then that they're not going to be pushed around.

We're beginning to realize now, Sir, also why the -- (Interjection) -- No, I'm not going to submit to a question. Beginning to realize also, Sir, why the First Minister has been so confident in saying that he is not going to call an election, because he felt it would take him four years to replace all the competent people with those who will follow the dictates of my honourable friends opposite. -- (Interjection) -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. JORGENSEN: The final suggestion that the Minister of Mines and Resources made, and he took great delight in chiding the Leader of the Opposition because he expressed what he said was an opinion not in harmony with some of the other views that were expressed here. Well, you know, my honourable friend is a great one for making that kind of a statement. Look at the opposing views on aid to private schools; my honourable friend the Minister of Highways and the Member for Crescentwood, who take up the time of the House during the consideration of Estimates berating one another on their differing views on the Censor Board. We're not the government on this side, Sir, we're the Opposition, and some variety in the expression of opinions is normally tolerated. But Sir, well now -- (Interjection) - my good friend the Attorney-General finally rises to his feet and, you know, he has been pretty silent for a long time and for good reason.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I should like to indicate the honourable member has six minutes. As well, I would like to indicate that the reason order has been maintained is because I have insisted on it. Rule 40 hasn't changed since yesterday; it's still there; and I should like to indicate to the honourable member that if he invites comments that's what's going to happen, then I shall have to insist that order be maintained again. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Thank you, Sir. The only point I wish to make in reply to the Attorney-General is that all I'm doing is commenting, commenting on the remarks made by the Minister of Mines and Resources. Surely if he was permitted to make those remarks, I am entitled to comment. But I don't intend to dwell on that, other than to say that when it comes to a variety of opinions, we have a greater variety from within the Cabinet and often expressed openly, which is a complete violation of the principle of Cabinet solidarity. -- (Interjection) -- At least, Sir, those that disagreed had the courage to resign and say so. That is much more than you find in honourable gentlemen opposite.

Sir, the bill that is presently before us is not going to come to grips with the problem that is facing the City of Winnipeg today. It's going to do violence to the kind of harmony and the kind of working relationship that should exist between the urban and the rural areas of this province. It will in no way, as my honourable friend has suggested, reduce the cost of administration of municipal government, and will not bring about that which the Minister of Finance talked so volubly about when he introduced the bill, it will not bring about greater citizenship participation. And for those reasons, Sir, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake, that the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance be amended by removing therefrom all the words after the word "that" and substituting therefor the following words: "the bill be not read now but be read six months hence."

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Finance, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Could you call Bill No. 52, Mr. Speaker?

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

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, last year we experienced the longest debate I guess in the history of this Legislature on Bill 56, an Act which the government

(MR. McKELLAR cont'd.) thought was needed and required in the province of Manitoba to correct some of the problems in the insurance industry, and one year later we're not much wiser than we were last year when we left here in August. We're no wiser. In fact, I think many people in areas where they thought this might be the answer to some of their problems are having their doubts. Now today we have before us Bill 52, an Act which throws a lot of amendments in to correct Bill 56. It says very little in Bill 52 unless you're a legal . . . , but I think the basic principle is about the same. It doesn't change the principle of Bill 56 at all.

Now what is Bill 56 at the present time? What are the government - how have the government informed the people of the province of Manitoba? What have they said to the people of Manitoba? What instructions have they come out with to the people of Manitoba? Very little. All they've brought out is the rate and the coverage which they are going to propose to the people. But have they brought out the regulations? No. And what good are the rates without the regulations, because the government don't have to operate under the Insurance Act, and I think this was one of the things with the people of the Province of Manitoba - until they know the regulations they don't know how the rates will be, whether high, low or where they fit in. If the government had have accepted the Insurance Act as a basic principle, I think they would have done a real favour to the people of Manitoba, because everyone knows what's involved in the Insurance Act.

But they wanted to set their own rules. They wanted to come out with a new style of insurance that was different. But I would like to say to the members here, to the members of the government, there's nothing new about the policy that they brought out, and it's the same old Saskatchewan plan that has been in force for twenty or twenty-five years. Nothing different from what I'm presently selling. Nothing different. Nothing different. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources can talk all he wants, but there's nothing different. There's nothing new; there's nothing better. -- (Interjection) -- Mr. Speaker, the honourable member just can't stand to be criticized. He's got to keep jabbing away, jabbing away - and he can jab all he wants but I have the floor. When he wants to talk about insurance I'll sit here and listen to him. I'll sit here. And the only speech the honourable member made last year, and I remember it so well, the only reason why his party, political party, and his government wanted to bring in automobile insurance, because they wanted \$35 million in their treasury. That's the only reason - the only reason. It's the only reason. No other reason at all. That's the main reason, the only reason. Short of money. Short of money. They had to have some money to finance it, and I can assure you, after Mr. Benson's budget you'll need that money too, because you're going to be short.

So where do we go from here? We're no wiser; the agents don't know anything; the insurance companies don't know anything; the people of the Province of Manitoba don't know anything; and Bill 52 tells us nothing. Bill 52 tells us nothing. How many companies have left the province? What communication has there been with the insurance companies? I put an Order for Return in about two months ago and I know there's no communication with the insurance companies. There's nothing in writing. The government accepted the Order for Return and yet they haven't got the courtesy to table this Order for Return. So where does this leave the businessman, like the Honourable Member for Assiniboia and the Honourable Member for Roblin and myself? Where does it leave us? Where does it leave all the other agents in the Province of Manitoba? Where does it leave all the other people working in the insurance offices in Manitoba?

Now I'll tell you where it leaves them. Just like one fellow I talked to two weeks ago down at the St. Regis. He's been told by this insurance company that they are pulling out on June 20th after eighteen years of service as automobile underwriters. He can't get a job in the Province of Manitoba. This is where many of the people are going to be in the next few months, next four months. And I think it is true the honourable General Manager of the Insurance Corporation is going to be let out, and I might say I think the same, have the same opinion, because there's been nothing happen. There's nothing happened in the last ten months since this Bill 56 was passed. Not one thing has happened. We heard -- the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs told us a year ago what the policy was. The only thing that's happened, they brought out rates. Well anybody could have brought out rates because they have no experience, no experience; just a guessing game at the expense of the car owners and the drivers in the Province of Manitoba. And I sympathize with the people of the Province of Manitoba. If I had a board of directors for an insurance company like that board of directors over there,

(MR. McKELLAR cont'd) I'd replace them overnight. Not the General Manager I'd replace. I'd replace the board of directors. And this is what I ask the people of the Province of Manitoba to do, . . . the next election, replace that board of directors. They're not responsible to the people of Manitoba. If you're responsible you'd have come out and been fair with the people, the agents and the insurance companies, and the people employed by these people, and told them many months ago what their future beholds, and I'm telling you it isn't easy to look forward to winter without a job and this is what they are looking forward to.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I think this is the saddest moment in the history of Manitoba, the saddest moment in the history of Manitoba, and I want to tell you why. I want to tell you why. We've witnessed the greatest number of takeovers by any government in the Province of Manitoba in the last few months, companies that were prospering, companies that were doing good, and now, because of the policies of the government of Manitoba, many of them are going bankrupt. Not all big ones - many of them are small. Many of them in rural Manitoba, many of them in the City of Winnipeg, and they are going bankrupt for a very good reason: because the people in the Province of Manitoba haven't got confidence in their government and are unwilling to buy or invest in our province.

And what about the companies that I am more familiar with, the insurance companies? The people of Wawanesa and the people of Portage la Prairie have been waiting, have been waiting for many months to find out whether they are going to have to move, where they're going to fit in, and yet up till June 23rd, today, they don't know where they stand. The Minister of Industry and Commerce makes great praise about everything he's doing for Brandon, about all the industry he's brought to Brandon. In the next breath he gets up and he's going to go and destroy the Wawanesa Mutual and the Portage Mutual and this is what he's going to do on the passage of this bill and the passage last year of Bill 56. A company which is bigger than anything he's ever brought to Manitoba. You could put them all together, all the ones he's brought to Manitoba, and I assure you the Wawanesa likely could buy them all out, and yet he's wanting to chase one of the best industries out of our rural parts of Manitoba.

And talk about centralization, talk about decentralization. My goodness' sake, when you voted to bring in Bill 56 you voted against industries in rural Manitoba. And this is one of the things that really concerns me. They talk out of both sides of their mouth. In one breath they say they're all for decentralization. So what do they do? They destroy Wawanesa Mutual and Portage Mutual, these two companies who were established by farmers back in 1890, and what do they do? They move their head office into Winnipeg, and I can assure you right today that you'll never see that head office in Brandon because I'm sure that Mr. Blackburn is fighting this very thing right now. That's one of the things that he will quit on account of, because he will not go along - and I understand he is fired, he's out. -- (Interjection) --

These are the things that are concerning the people. When your government of the day don't have confidence in the industries that were established in the years gone by, how can the people invest in their own province? How can we be sure as individual farmers, individual businessmen, that our farms and our businesses won't be next? And this is what the people are talking about around the rural parts of Manitoba and in the City of Winnipeg, the more people that I meet today. So when is this information coming out? The Minister of Municipal Affairs is trotting all over the province, and I don't mind him meeting with the municipal people, but why shouldn't he be here today if you're going to call this Bill 52? Why shouldn't he be here to take part in the debate? It's pretty difficult to debate with a man who's out at St. Pierre. I've never been a loud enough voiced man to ever reach that far. And I don't suppose he'll answer my questions anyway because he doesn't know the answers. While he may be chairman of the board of directors of this corporation, his background and his experience does not lend him to be insurance-minded. And insurance is a very important subject. It's very broad, very technical, and it's only with a vast amount of knowledge that the General Manager and the staff of both the Wawanesa and the Portage Mutual have been able to adjust to the times, and I must say over the years have had very little criticism of their company.

So what can we expect if the Corporation is now established in Manitoba that's going to on the first day of November take over the automobile insurance in the Province of Manitoba? What can we expect? Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, the greatest ice storm in the Province of Manitoba on the first day in November when all the staff are new, when all the adjusters are new? My goodness' sake, if you were bringing in a government insurance, you should have brought it in the first day of July when it's the hottest day, and got some experience for your

(MR. McKELLAR cont'd.) . . . adjusters, because they're going to need lots of it and lots of it. This is the foolishness that I can see in bringing it in on the first day of November. If you wanted to have a good start-off for this Corporation, you should have brought it in when the weather was hot like it is now. The weather has a great deal to do with the losses that are involved in an insurance company.

Some of the things that bother me and bother most of the companies, if the Corporation contacted all the states in the United States. Had they contacted each individual state? Had each individual state agreed to recognize the policy of this Corporation? Wouldn't it be wonderful, Mr. Speaker, if you were down in some state in central United States and that state wouldn't recognize this Corporation? Can you imagine the troubles you're going to have. You're going to have to either go west or east of that state and go around it. But I haven't heard yet from the Corporation. I haven't heard whether every state in the United States has recognized this Corporation and I want to know whether they have or not. I want to know whether there's a letter of record in the office of the Corporation recognizing this policy that the government are putting before the people of Manitoba. This is one of the things under the Insurance Act that it was standard policy all across Canada, a standard policy that was recognized through all the United States, and with no problems at all. The only problem you might have had, if you went into Mexico, and this is where you had to get special insurance. But these are some of the questions I want to know because these are some of the questions our people will want to know, the people that we represent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the actual cost to the individual driver, to the individual owner of each vehicle, will be unknown, will be unknown because the government will not inform them what the supplementary coverage will be. They will not tell them what the surcharge will be on each automobile because of accidents - two accidents in one year or three accidents in two years and four accidents in three years. Why don't they come out with this information? Do they not have this information? And if they do have it, let's have it right now before the debate on Bill 52 is over. Let's not wait until the middle of July after we have left this Legislature. Why don't you come out and tell the individual driver, the individual driver, whether you're going to be consistent in the amount of money you're going to collect off him or demerit points for at least more than one year? These are the things that the people should know. What about commercial trucks, as I mentioned the other day? Are you going to have fleet coverage? Are the government themselves going to be self-insurers?

Another thing I would like to know, about garage liability. Has anyone ever mentioned garage liability? I don't suppose they even ever heard of it. I hope the Minister in charge of this bill will answer these questions before he closes debate on second reading. I don't think you're being fair. I don't think you're being honest with the people by keeping them, the agents, the employees of the various companies in suspense and why don't you come straight forward and meet with these people and tell them? We all know that many of the head offices or the branch offices of these companies have already left, and I can assure you if there's no word coming very soon, that more companies will be leaving the Province of Manitoba.

And I'm not only concerned about automobile insurance in the Province of Manitoba, I am concerned about fire insurance. One of the companies that left two weeks ago writes a tremendous amount of mercantile fire insurance, and who's going to replace them in the fire insurance industry? These are some of the added problems that are involved in the takeover of automobile insurance in the Province of Manitoba.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on, and I know the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources would appreciate if I quit right now, would appreciate it very, very much, but I want to say this in closing: that I hope that the board of directors of this Corporation of which the Minister is the head, the Chairman of the Board, will at least have the courtesy before the 30th of June, before the agents have to make up their minds whether they want to activate, will inform them of what this will mean in commissions for the supplementary coverage, whether if they write supplementary coverage for the Automobile Insurance Corporation will disqualify them from writing supplementary coverage for private companies, because many of them have asked me for this information and I have never received this information yet from the Corporation, either by letter or by questions here in the House.

They also want to know whether their employees will be eligible for any benefits under the transitional grants. And I think these questions should be answered very soon because it's only a week away that these agents have to make their minds up. What happens to the

(MR. McKELLAR cont'd.) employees of the companies? It was suggested they were going to be eligible for transitional grants. What happens if these people have to go to another province to get a job? If they leave and go to another province, can they still apply for transitional grants? These are some of the questions, as I've mentioned, that should be answered and the full details of this Corporation should be tabled before this House before this bill is passed on second reading.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin): 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: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

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MATTERS OF URGENCY AND GRIEVANCES

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, before you put the question on the Supply motion, I wish to raise a matter of grievance. The grievance which I raise has to do with the arbitrary manner in which the government is handling the question of water resource development in Manitoba, and in particular I wish to refer to the progression of events that surround the control of the lake levels on Lake Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen over the past few months a procedure which is, to say the least, very difficult to understand in light of the sensitivity of the topic at question, namely, water control levels, whether they be South Indian Lake or Lake Winnipeg, and even more surprising when we examine or try to believe the professions of the present government where they profess to be a democratic government that listens to the people. We have seen a very hard-handed approach to the development of a natural resource without adequate justification to the Public Utilities Committee, or to this House, or to the public of Manitoba, for the real reason for their desires. And I wish, Mr. Speaker, to say at this time that as a culmination of all the developments, that there is only one solution and that is to immediately have a public inquiry committee or commission look at the contradicting evidence that has been presented in general to the Public Utilities Committee and to the public of Manitoba through paid advertisements and statements by the heads of Manitoba Government commissions, to sort out this matter and to allow the public to once and for all have a look at the true facts before it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the grievance is particularly warranted when you go back into the history of the statements made by this government, not just through the Hydro, but in this very Legislature, when we find that in the fall of 1969 when the issue was at question, when the question of hydro development was opened up again, the First Minister in a statement to this House read, and I quote from page 795 of the Hansard of September 16th, 1969, when the First Minister made the statement: "Mr. Chairman, I would simply ask my honourable friend if he would not regard it as fair, fair procedure, if we gave the assurance, as I think we would want to do, that before any license is issued of any kind of water diversion scheme, before any bill is passed such as you attempted to pass, that you would have access to the experts."

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's a specious argument to say that you have to have a bill before you can talk to experts. It's a ridiculous argument. That was as good an undertaking as one would expect to get, that there would be a democratic and open approach to the development of water resources where the public was affected, whether South Indian Lake or Lake Winnipeg. It was an undertaking by the First Minister of this province, in this House, Mr. Speaker, and to go back on that undertaking says very little for the present state of circumstances in Manitoba where the people have not had a chance to have a hearing and where the experts have been denied to those of us who would wish to question the contradictory evidence that has been presented, particularly to the Public Utilities Committee.

Mr. Speaker, if that's not good enough as evidence, and I think that the First Minister's statement should be the strongest evidence that could be placed before the House, I would like to also quote from a statement made by the then Minister of Mines and Natural Resources a few days after that, October 8, 1969, Page 1505 of Hansard, in which he said, "Suggestions are made to this government for the implementation of a water control device of some sort or another, and if there is therefore a change to be made in the level of Lake Winnipeg or if the level is to be controlled in some way or other, then at that time public hearings will be held. And we've stated this many times, public hearings will be held. I've assured the president of the Lake Winnipeg Property Owners Association on this point and he is satisfied on this." Mr. Speaker, again an undertaking to the Legislature and obviously from this, an undertaking to a group representing citizens outside of the Legislature.

The situation now need hardly be reiterated, it's been said over and over again, the interim license has been granted for the control of Lake Winnipeg, the contract has been let and we have had no hearings. The First Minister's word doesn't have much validity, if this is taken as a statement of intent, and I believe it is; the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources' word clearly has not been kept, even though it was a different minister, it was not the present Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, it still was a member of the cabinet of this government.

The construction is about to go under way on Lake Winnipeg. The Public Utilities

(MR. CRAIK cont'd) Committee has been denied access to the experts; the Public Utilities Committee shows all the signs of being thwarted in its efforts to get to the bottom of the important matters that are at stake. We find that even in the House that the Minister doesn't wish to discuss Hydro under the topic of water resources; but we find even last Saturday in an ad, paid advertisement, full page advertisement, by the Manitoba Hydro, a statement which says that "the precise method of operating between these limits has still to be determined by the Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, taking all factors into account."

Well, Mr. Speaker, we finally, after great difficulty, have in writing the claim that the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources is responsible - which we knew he was - but more important, we have in writing the statement that they don't know whether they can control Lake Winnipeg or not.

I would imagine that the reason that Manitoba Hydro has put this in their paid advertisement, is that they have suddenly realized that the government was shoving too much responsibility onto them and they were beginning to take too much flak that they didn't like, nevertheless, a very honest and legitimate enquiry that they were being subjected to; and so finally they have said that the precise method of operating between the limits is not known. Well, that's exactly what we were trying to ask, Mr. Speaker, and why we couldn't get that answer is beyond question.

We know, also, that the Chairman of the Manitoba Water Commission has said in the last two weeks that - I think he capped off the problem very well when he said in one clear sentence, "we don't know if it will work." Well, Mr. Speaker, there's been no model built which is usual to build a model - a hydraulic model of some sort. There has been no computer study done of any consequence on the natural outflow from Lake Winnipeg, although a computer program has been alluded to in the Public Utilities Committee. There have also been some very disquieting sounds coming from other areas of the province that says that they don't really know if they can control it, and the reason they have reached this conclusion is on the basis of information supplied by Hydro.

This does not say it can't be controlled, it just says that the experts that have looked at it don't know if it can be controlled. We have 40 miles of channel that have been examined in the last two weeks by engineers from the Province of Quebec who have a great deal of experience in Quebec, and I understand that some pretty strong reservations are being expressed by them as to the viability of the channelling of Lake Winnipeg; 40 miles of channel to control Lake Winnipeg with ice conditions that are unknown and sedimentation questions that they have no way of answering with the present information and still, we have this government saying to the people of Manitoba we are not going to have a hearing, but we are going to talk to you later on. We have the chairman of Hydro who says paradoxically there is going to be \$3 million worth of resource benefits but we are going to pay for all the damages.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how far we have to go to lay before this government their stated intentions in this House, their undertakings to a segment of the public, the contradiction of evidence from technical people, the contradiction of evidence from even a political point of view, the thrusting of a decision onto Hydro which has basically always been a political decision, by asking Hydro to justify it on technical grounds. The pleas by the chairman of Hydro for people not to attack his Task Force, when in fact nobody was attacking his Task Force, but all that people wanted to do in the Public Utilities Committee was to get the members of the Task Force before them and ask them why their recommendations weren't as strong as the chairman's recommendations and why the chairman put the interpretation on the technical results that he did. That's all we asked, Mr. Speaker, and we ask it not without justification. As I said, the First Minister said you will have access to the experts before any license is granted. That's not the case, we are not getting it, and now we find in the dying hours of the session, at a time when we are getting down to the earnest arguments with the Manitoba Hydro, in the Public Utilities Committee, that the Hydro Chairman has jumped bail and has left the province. And the indications are from the First Minister that there's an important conference in Montreal, and after that, there's one in Europe, and the indications are that his conference is going to go on for six weeks, and the only conclusion one can draw is it must be a very important and a very prolonged conference. Very timely by the same token. Is this . . . -- (Interjection) --

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to suggest that the honourable member if he wishes to

(MR. SPEAKER cont'd) debate should get on his feet and ask the Honourable Member for Riel to yield the floor, otherwise I must call him to order. The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, isn't there a defiance - the point of order has been raised in the House about publication of this paid advertisement midstream of a public inquiry. To add insult to injury we now find that with the concurrence of the First Minister, the prime person in charge of the very massive decisions that are being made has been given the clearance to leave the province to go to a conference. This takes precedence over the public interest. It's no wonder that some of us raised the doubts about the intellectual honesty of the proceedings that have been going on and whether in fact the Public Utilities Committee can ever under its present restrictions and strictures imposed on it by the government, whether it can ever reach the bottom of the issues at stake, whether they be hearings, economic decisions regarding South Indian and Lake Winnipeg, or whether they just be the dutiful rights and responsibilities of members of the Legislature to inquire into something that is of such great importance to Manitoba, but continually the efforts are being thwarted; but to go to the extent that we have now reached in order to do this, goes beyond the bounds of what should be allowed in the Legislature and by the government. And for this reason I feel fully justified in asking the government to set up, not the Public Utilities Committee but set up a special inquiry commission if they wish to rest their argument on the specious argument that there's no bill before the House, and allow the people to come before it and ask the questions that are bothering them, and allow the experts that have developed their material over the years to come before that committee, not just the Chairman of Hydro who writes the synopsis on the report and gives the directives downwards.

In spite of the fact that we have had a member of the Hydro Board who has had very unwarranted attacks made on him because of the validity of his arithmetic, and despite the fact that the top rated, the top rated hydraulics man with experience in the Columbia River development, the Tennessee Valley Authority and in Manitoba for 18 years, with a background of experience that far exceeds any other member in the top echelons of Hydro in that background, despite the fact that he saw fit to lay his job on the line, the government sits there and endorses nothing but public relations junk that is handed out in thousands of dollar ads in newspapers. None of these people are allowed to be taken seriously. There is no mechanism under the present procedure of bringing these people before a committee to elicit the true facts from them; and how you can stick your head in the sand and ignore all these facts, the promises of the government, the contradictory technical evidence, the resignation of some of the most capable people in Manitoba, stretches the imagination.

Mr. Speaker, for this reason I raise the grievance. It is a serious one. I know that the topic is one which has been overworked in the last two or three years to the point where the public probably has said, just give us a solution. But if the government is going to impose a political decision, which clearly is being done, without a justifiable technical or economic argument, then they have even more commitment to allowing the public in on that political decision, and if they are not going to call the formal hearings, I think they have no alternative now but to have an open public inquiry where we can inquire of experts, public, landowners, and all other people that are being affected by this very arbitrary decision by the government.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I thought we went through most of this territory during the estimates and I also thought that it was getting tiresome, and I still think that it is tiresome, but apparently -- Mr. Speaker, I take it that you are going to call the member to order when he shouts across the Chamber. I thought that it was tiresome, but the fact is that the Member for Riel appears to have some difficulty in understanding first of all, simple English, and secondly, in understanding what has had to be repeated several times, so because we know that we are dealing with a man of little understanding and we have to be patient with such people, we will explain again and then perhaps this time the honourable member will understand. But if he doesn't then the explanation will go in vain.

The honourable member says that he discovered from the ad that it was the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources who would be responsible for the ultimate pattern of control of the Lake Winnipeg regulation. Is the honourable member seriously saying that, that that's when he discovered it? Because, Mr. Speaker, -- (Interjection) -- no, I asked a question -- Mr. Speaker, I asked the question rhetorically, the honourable member knows full well that he

(MR. GREEN cont'd) can't respond in debate . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order! I would like to hear the point of privilege.

MR. CRAIK: When I made the statement . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. That's not a point of privilege. You are debating the question, I'll listen again. Order. I'll listen once more, but I want to hear the matter of privilege. I do not wish to hear an argument. The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the Minister said that I discovered in reading the article of the responsibility of the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no matter of privilege in what the Minister is debating at the moment, it's a debatable point. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the member was in the House he says, and he finally determined through an ad in the paper - and I will try to go over his same ground so that he will understand. If he listens possibly he will understand. He said that I in the House refused to accept the responsibility for Hydro during the delivery of my estimates. I indicated at that time that the decision on the Hydro project itself, the economics of the project, the supply of kilowatt hours, that fell within the jurisdiction of the Minister to whom Hydro was responsible, the First Minister. As to the way in which that project affected the resources of the Province of Manitoba, that is the lakes, if it was South Indian Lake or Lake Winnipeg, that was my responsibility and I dealt with that throughout; I never ever disclaimed responsibility.

The Member for Riel says that in the ad we determined that the Minister of Mines was responsible, was indeed the responsible person. Mr. Speaker, the fact is that my office was canvassed some time ago for a copy of the license that was granted with regard to the regulation of Lake Winnipeg and the license was given freely. It was given with copies to the people who wanted it and I noted during the proceedings at the Public Utilities Committee that members of the Opposition had a copy of the license. And, Mr. Speaker, it's convenient that not one of them has mentioned the contents of that license through any of the proceedings or through any of the hearings or through any of the discussions in this House, because the license says what we have been saying all along, that the scheme of regulation has to be approved of by the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, that the scheme of regulation is something which is continually subject to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources - and there has never been any pretention that that would not be the case; that was explained in the Legislature and it was also explained that because the actual scheme of regulation was something which we had to give our attention to, that there would be hearings conducted with regard to that scheme of regulation.

When the Honourable Member from Morris says that I said it would be a fraud to listen to people, Mr. Speaker, I said in Public Utilities Committee - I said it in the House when I was in the Opposition, I repeat it in the House when I sit here - that it would be a fraud on people to tell them that what they are saying will have some effect on a decision that you know you are making, and where you are merely holding a hearing for the purpose of giving them the impression that you are going to be guided by what they say. And what we have acknowledged is that the decision on Lake Winnipeg regulation is a decision that the government has come to as a result of the best advice available to it, and on the basis of it accepting the responsibility for following that advice that it is not asking for the opinions of various people in the public to assist it in making that decision. Once it makes that opinion, I say indeed it would be a fraud to conduct hearings. But as to the pattern of regulation, as to how people around Lake Winnipeg feel that they will be affected by that pattern, as to their claims for compensation, if any, that they think they have - yes, we have indicated that we are prepared not only to give information but to listen to information and to in the end be guided to the extent that that information is useful in assisting us on what those meetings disclose. Now, the honourable member knows that. I think that I've explained it several times in this House. I think I've explained it several times at Public Utilities Committee and the conclusion that I come to is either that the honourable member does not wish to understand or is incapable of understanding. And I let honourable members of the House accept either of those two interpretations.

The honourable member has read statements by the First Minister and by the previous Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I heard both of those statements and if the honourable member will refer to them again, the first statement referred to a water diversion. There is no diversion of water effected with Lake Winnipeg regulation. The second statement that the former Minister of Mines and Natural Resources made said "if Lake Winnipeg is to be regulated and if the pattern of that lake is to be changed, then there will be hearings" and that's

(MR. GREEN cont'd) exactly what is taking place. We are regulating the lake, we are changing the water levels, albeit within their normal limits, two feet under the highest limits, two feet above the lowest limits, and we are now holding hearings as a result of the effect of doing that. And as the statement was read by the Member for Riel, that is exactly the commitment that was made and there is no change at all from that commitment.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting the member doesn't bring up Dr. Kuiper, because it was Dr. Kuiper that they were talking about hearing from; and there was a full interview in the Winnipeg Free Press in which Dr. Kuiper said that the government has no alternative but to proceed with Lake Winnipeg regulation. And another interesting thing that Dr. Kuiper said that would interest the Member for River Heights. The Member for River Heights continually facetiously refers to the chairman of Hydro's remark that - comparing Lake Winnipeg to a bathtub. And he says, first thing that Mr. Cass-Beggs has to learn is Lake Winnipeg is not a bathtub. Well, Mr. Speaker, I read Dr. Kuiper's remarks - and you know I regard Dr. Kuiper very highly. As I have indicated to the honourable member I've had several discussions with him. But Dr. Kuiper has the same approximation to describing technical matters as apparently does the villain, Mr. Cass-Beggs, because Dr. Kuiper discussed South Indian Lake and he said it's like pouring water into a coffee cup and it overruns the brim of the cup.

So, Mr. Speaker, if the expert acknowledged by the Member for River Heights who he likes to regard so highly and who says that Lake Winnipeg regulation should be proceeded with, compares South Indian Lake to a coffee cup - and I have no objection to that comparison. I think that when you are explaining technical details to people who are not scientists, you try to do so in a manner in which they understand them. But if the Member for River Heights has so much objection to comparing Lake Winnipeg to a bathtub, then how does he explain the fact that Dr. Kuiper refers to South Indian Lake and compares it to a coffee cup. -- (Interjection) -- the Member for Sturgeon Creek says - rot. Well I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that the article that I read is quoted in the Winnipeg Free Press. He can refer to the Free Press and see Dr. Kuiper comparing South Indian Lake to a coffee cup.

Mr. Speaker, what we have happening here is the members of the Opposition attempting to suggest that the Public Utilities Committee's hearings, meetings, held this year as called during the Legislative session, were held to determine whether or not we would proceed with Lake Winnipeg regulation. Mr. Speaker, the decision on Lake Winnipeg regulation was made sometime in the fall of 1969 - I believe it was in September of 1969. At that time it was announced to the public that Lake Winnipeg regulation would be proceeded with, the Board of Manitoba Hydro approved it, the government approved of it, a license was granted in November of 1969, and these meetings that are held by Public Utilities Committee, which the members of the Opposition would like to say are being held to determine this question, are not being held to determine this question at all. They are being held so that Manitoba Hydro as a Crown corporation can report its activities to the Legislature, and then the government is perfectly answerable to the members of this Chamber and to the people of the Province of Manitoba as a whole, for whatever those activities are. And if, as a result of hearing the Hydro report, the members of the Legislature, or any of them, feel that there is something happening in Hydro which they don't like, they have a perfect opportunity and they are perfectly entitled to make a substantive resolution to that effect and do whatever they like about it. But the decisions that have been made by Hydro over that year are not now being determined at Public Utilities Committee. The Utilities Committee is being reported to, and if the Committee doesn't like what is happening, it can report to the Legislature. If a member of the Committee doesn't like what is happening, he can raise a question in the Legislature, but it is not the Committee that is now determining whether or not the Manitoba Hydro should or should not proceed with the program. And for members of the Opposition to try to create the impression that that is now the function of the Committee is to do a disservice to the existing Manitoba Hydro and it's to do a disservice to what that Committee will be doing in the future.

I have no objection, Mr. Speaker, to the members raising whatever matters they want in Committee. I have no objection for them saying that Hydro was wrong in proceeding in one way or in another way, but for them to suggest that what we are trying to do is determine whether Lake Winnipeg regulation should or should not be proceeded with at that Committee, is, I repeat, a disservice, because that's not what the Committee hearings are about. And the honourable members know it. The fact is that that decision was made in September, that the Board was proceeding with the normal course of its business and what the Honourable Member

(MR. GREEN cont'd) for River Heights would like to do - and you know, this is quite legitimate for him as the Leader of the Opposition to do, to try to get the province into a difficult position with regard to its hydro-electric needs and then later say, you see they didn't have the capacity to be able to handle their problem. Well I'm telling the Honourable Member for River Heights that we have got the capacity to be able to handle this problem, that we are not going to be deterred into not dealing with this problem by the tactics which the Opposition are setting up and which they are entitled to set up, and we aim to demonstrate that the Opposition is not going to be able to deter this government from being able to proceed with the program which in its judgment it has decided is best for the people of Manitoba with regard to its hydro-electric needs.

I know what the Member for River Heights wants because immediately after one of the Hydro meetings he comes in and he says have you determined how many kilowatt hours you need for your uranium enrichment plant? And the answer was given to the Member for River Heights in an approximation. The Premier gave the member an answer, I'm not saying whether he has to agree with it or not, and then he says has Manitoba Hydro told you whether they can now fill or not fulfil these needs, or question to that effect. What the Member for River Heights is trying to show is that he is able - or what he would like people to think is that he is able to successfully prevent Manitoba Hydro from fulfilling those needs. And all I'm telling him is that he's not going to be successful. Not at all. We were told when we came into government, and I repeat in 1969, that we had some two months to make this decision, that the needs of hydro-electric power in the Province of Manitoba required a decision within two months. We subsequently got that extended so that a decision was able to be made in 1970, and in the fall of 1970 the decision was made.

The honourable member would now like us to go back on that decision so that we would have a Hydro crisis which he can then say was created by the government; and if, Mr. Speaker, we did indeed let him create that crisis, then I say we would be responsible, that we would have done a serious thing. But as long as we behave sensibly and let the honourable member for Riel make his remarks which have no meaning whatsoever and let the Member from River Heights have his fun, but that we proceed with the full knowledge that we are doing the right thing, and as long as we can continue to do that, which I'm quite satisfied the government will continue to do, then I'm not worried about the honourable member's remarks and he can go ahead, he can go ahead and try whatever diversionary tactics he would like to use in order to try and create a power crisis which he will then blame on the government of the Province of Manitoba. I tell him that we will not let him create that crisis and as much as he would think that we are being embarrassed by his statements, I assure him that we are not. I assure him that the people of Manitoba are not worried about it because they have confidence that the government is not going to permit him to do it. I assure him that those companies that he says are relying on the power requirements of the Province of Manitoba, that they know that he's not going to create trouble for us, they know that he can talk as much as he wants and it's not going to change our responsibility for providing the power needs of the Province of Manitoba; and therefore, Mr. Speaker, if that is the intention that is being engaged in - and I really see no different intention - then I tell them that they can proceed, they can make all the fuss they want. The government knows what its responsibility is. The government has assessed its position before making this decision and the government is proceeding to do those things which are incumbent upon it to look after the hydro-electric needs of the people of the Province of Manitoba; and I as Minister, Mr. Speaker, in a particular department, am proceeding to take those steps that are in my judgment, subject to certainly listening to everything I hear, but in the last analysis having to exercise my judgment to do those things that are necessary to make sure that whatever development is proceeded with, and in this case it's Lake Winnipeg regulation, that that development is handled in such a way as to maximize all of the resource benefits which are available to us as a result of Lake Winnipeg regulation.

Mr. Speaker, it may come as a shock to you, but some of the things that are suggested really do get through in a most unusual form. The fact is that I read in the newspapers a letter from a gentleman of Northern Manitoba who was urging his elected representative to stop the Manitoba Government from putting ten feet of water on top of Lake Winnipeg. Mr. Speaker, I think if you tried to put ten feet of water on top of Lake Winnipeg it may be - I haven't mechanically worked it out, but you'd have to flood half of Manitoba. But the impression that has been created by the use of words such as "floods", flooding Lake Winnipeg when we are taking two -

(MR. GREEN cont'd) the definition, let's get definitions for the Member for River Heights. For the Member for River Heights, the definition of a flood is to reduce waters in a lake by two feet. That's the definition of a flood. For the Member for River Heights, the definition of hundreds of thousands of cottages will be affected, hundreds of thousands of cottages around Lake Winnipeg - Mr. Speaker, let's look at the sensibility of that remark, because this is what he said . . . Mr. Speaker, in the presence of myself, in the presence of the public, he said hundreds of thousands of cottages, hundreds of thousands of cottages would be affected. Not people, cottages. Mr. Speaker, he said cottages. I know that he doesn't like it now but he said cottages. Hundreds of thousands of cottages. Mr. Speaker, he said cottages. The fact is that I don't think -- you know there are roughly between 900 and 100,000 people in the Province of Manitoba, if we took a -- (Interjection) -- between 900,000 and a million people - if we said three people per family unit and said each of them had a single family dwelling, there would be 300,000 homes in the Province of Manitoba. Now there isn't anywhere near 300,000 homes in the Province of Manitoba, but in order to create what he thinks will be a crisis for the Manitoba Government, and because he has no way of saying it with true fact, he says a flood is reducing the water level by two feet, affecting some cottages around Lake Winnipeg, is affecting hundreds of thousands of cottages around the lake.

To the extent that I got a letter -- excuse me, that's not correct -- I read a copy of a letter in the Winnipeg Free Press sent by the Chairman of the Northern Association of Community Councils which said that we would put ten feet of water on top of Lake Winnipeg. -- (Interjection) -- Pardon me? The Member for Riel now in order to make another suggestion which is just as intelligent, has equal intelligence to the suggestion that he made in his opening remarks, says "try it on the bottom." Well I accept those suggestions that he made, the one that says "try it on the bottom" as having equal intelligence and should be equally listened to as the suggestions that he made in his remarks with regard to the grievance that he raised today. -- (Interjection) -- Well, Mr. Speaker, the fact is that I am facing gentlemen opposite and when I face gentlemen opposite and the Honourable Member for Fort Garry says I am viewing the bottom then I think -- (Interjection) -- I see. He says I am dealing from the bottom, I'm sorry. Mr. Chairman, the fact is that when members are shouting from across the hall it sometimes is difficult to get their meaning.

MR. SPEAKER: Precisely the point I would like to bring to the attention of the honourable members. If the interjections would cease and if the honourable members would not debate the interjections we probably would have a lot more decorum in this Chamber. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Fort Garry says that I am dealing from the bottom. Let's examine the involvement in this matter, see whether I am dealing from the bottom. Dealing from the bottom I take it means that I am doing something dishonest, that I am sending forward the wrong cards. We have indicated that the decision with regard to Lake Winnipeg regulation was made in September of 1970 - roughly that time, I could be out a month either way - that at that time we announced that it is expected that a license would be granted shortly because the water was being kept within its normal limits. At that time I said that we would not have a hearing if we were decided on what we were going to do. When the decision was announced with regard to Lake Winnipeg regulation the Member for Lakeside said that that decision was "dead right." He's quoted in the newspaper as saying that the decision was "dead right." We then proceeded to issue a license. I don't believe that I heard from anybody in the Manitoba Legislature that contradicted that. There was an advertisement in the paper indicating that Lake Winnipeg regulation would be proceeded with. I don't believe that a single member of the Legislature wrote in response to that advertisement indicating any objection to our proceeding in that way. The matter stayed rather silent until the first meeting of the Public Utilities Committee.

When you say I'm dealing from the bottom - the report of the Task Force on Lake Winnipeg was sent to the members; the report of Underwood and McLellan was sent to the members; the report of Crippen and Associates was sent to the members. All of these things were done which had not been done in connection with the previous diversion scheme. When we got into the Legislature the matter was dealt with rather on a normal pretty level type of proceedings, I don't remember anybody raising the question particularly. The matter first became an issue when one of the members of the board decided that he wished to appear before Public Utilities Committee and at the time that he said that he wished to appear there was a bit of a

(MR. GREEN cont'd) hassle and I said at that time that the reason that the Member for River Heights wanted him to appear is that he would like to open the question of Lake Winnipeg regulation and have a whole bunch of other people appear in order to see whether he could find out who are the opponents to this program. And in dealing from the bottom at that time I said that if I had to call every one of my staff there would certainly be people who would not agree with the government decision with regard to Lake Winnipeg regulation, that's dealing from the bottom, that's the way I dealt, that ultimately this decision had to be made by the government, that there would be undoubtedly a difference of opinion when you change from one program which the government apparently had used its judgment in favour of, said that they were going to proceed with, then when you go to an entirely different program that it can't be otherwise than that there would be differences of opinion, that knowing that those differences of opinion exist, but in assessing all of those things that any government has to accept the responsibility of assessing, we were deciding to proceed with the program.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The hour being 4:30 according to our rule 19 (2) we now proceed to Private Members' hour.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: On today's it's Orders for Return that are up for debate. Since we have none we move to the second order which is proposed resolutions.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Member for Assiniboia,

WHEREAS the economic potential of Northern Manitoba is substantial, and remains basically underdeveloped;

AND WHEREAS it is in the best interests of all Manitoba to see the orderly and expanded development of Northern communities;

AND WHEREAS even in existing Northern Manitoba communities many services, facilities and amenities are lacking partly due to the fact that it is almost impossible for Manitoba entrepreneurs and would-be investors to be able to obtain capital for the establishment of businesses, and social, cultural and recreational facilities in Northern communities because of the volatile economics of mining towns, and the traditional reluctance of private lending institutions to advance substantial sums for investment in Northern communities at interest rates which are reasonable;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Manitoba give consideration to the establishment of "The Northern Manitoba Development Fund", which would become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Manitoba Development Corporation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Manitoba give consideration to investing a substantial sum in the shares of The Northern Manitoba Development Fund;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the majority in numbers of the Board of Directors of the Northern Manitoba Development Fund be persons who are ordinarily resident north of the 53rd Parallel, and be selected from the various regions of Northern Manitoba;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northern Manitoba Development Fund shall have its head office located in a Northern Community and that its stated objects should be to promote and finance locally-owned business, to assist in the establishment of secondary manufacturing and processing industries and service industries in Northern Manitoba communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I make a decision on whether this resolution is acceptable or not I should like to indicate to the House that I would want some guidance. There is some anticipation in respect to the Throne Speech in here. Although the words aren't exactly the same, the intent is pretty clear that it was mentioned in the Throne Speech as well as in this resolution, so therefore I should like to seek the guidance of the House. The Honourable the House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it's plain to see that you have anticipated the suggestion that it's possible that we will take the position that the resolution is anticipatory. That is the position that I would be taking, Mr. Speaker, because Page 2 of the Throne Speech -- and I'm reading from the 8 1/2 x 11 page, my honourable friend can find it in any other area -- the paragraph starting, "You will be asked to consider amendments to The Development Corporation Act further clarifying the functions of the Manitoba Development Corporation and the

(MR. GREEN cont'd) " . . . requirements for reporting on its activities. My Minister informed me also that plans have been made to provide for more effective recognition of the potential of small business through a small business loans operation as an integral part of the Manitoba Development Corporation." And then specifically, "Further to that an economic development fund will be established with specific relevance to disadvantaged communities affording at the same time an opportunity to its residents to be involved by being represented on the board of directors."

Now I know, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable member's resolution refers definitely to northern Manitoba but I don't think that it changes the fact by having a different word. It's well-known that many of the disadvantaged communities are in northern Manitoba and to determine whether a resolution is anticipatory or not the real question is: is it anticipatory in debate? In other words, will the matters raised by the resolution be debatable on a resolution that is being put forward as indicated by the Throne Speech debate. I can assure my honourable friend that as he might have known, it is the government's position to establish a development fund and I can also tell him that the name, as to whether it would be native development fund, northern development fund, disadvantaged persons development fund or disadvantaged areas development fund, is not germane to whether or not it anticipates debate. What Your Honour can see is that if the government proceeds with legislation as envisaged in the Throne Speech debate then everything that my honourable friend would wish to say on the resolution which he is now putting could be said in the debate on that issue, and therefore I would suggest that, with the greatest of respect for my honourable friend, that government legislation and matters that are raised in the Throne Speech debate are given priority over resolutions that are put by private members.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I certainly do not wish to subject this House to repetitious debate, if indeed the fact is the government is acting or intends to act this session along lines that have been suggested in the resolution, so I would accept your ruling whatever it is. We've heard the Minister's statement saying that there is a similarity of program in the Throne Speech and in the resolution, and my only stricture, my only suggestion is that it would be this session not some vague reference for the future.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, Maybe the Minister of Mines and Resources can correct me, but was there not an allocation of \$1 million already made towards such a fund?

MR. SPEAKER: I thank the honourable members for their contributions and it had been my intention to indicate that this was anticipation but I did want to have a bit of guidance from the House. Consequently to the debate that took place I should like to suggest to the honourable member that this motion is out of order. This resolution is out of order.

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, Number 22.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Assiniboia,

WHEREAS the development of Northern Manitoba represents a most significant challenge and opportunity which will benefit all Manitobans and bring equality of opportunity to Northern Manitoba residents, who are presently denied many of the amenities which are available to their counterparts in Southern Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the existing governmental machinery for development and improvement of living conditions and opportunities in Northern Manitoba is not adequate to promote the aggressive and imaginative programs which are necessary in that regard;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Manitoba give consideration to abolishing the present office of Commissioner of Northern Affairs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its place, the Government of Manitoba consider establishing a Department of Northern Development which will take over all of the present duties of the said Commissioner of Northern Affairs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to assuming the responsibilities of the Commissioner of Northern Affairs, the new development of Northern Affairs be made responsible for developing and recommending to this House programs which will further the social, recreational, cultural, educational and economic opportunities and development of that area which is normally referred to as Northern Manitoba;

(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd)

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to make it possible for residents of Northern communities to have ease of access to the Department of Northern Development, and in order to enable them to participate in the decision making process of the said Department of Northern Development, the Department of Northern Development be headquartered in a location to be selected by this House, somewhere in one of the communities of Northern Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the motion is I suppose so verbose that nearly everything that should be said in support of it is in the motion, but I think that in recent years members of the House and members of the public have seen political decisions made where people in the north feel that they were not made in their best interests.

I can recall some years ago when the present Member for Churchill who was sitting on the government side, the government of the day, felt so strongly about it that he felt that his area was not receiving the consideration in government spending and government attention that it deserved, that he felt compelled to resign his seat and then later to contest the election as an Independent. We also note that through redistribution northern Manitoba has received another member - I'm talking about north of 53 - but still for this vast territory where the people are so isolated and also feel that all the decision-making is still orientated to the south, southern Manitoba, there is still considerable resentment. So the motion is designed to give the northerners a feeling that there is a department that is directed and orientated towards their problems and also towards their physical and geographical location. So that while it is true that this government is considering and has announced to locate one new government department outside of Greater Winnipeg, namely the Autopac Corporation, in the past there has been -- and this applies to all governments -- there has been no real effort made to locate any governmental departments outside of the Greater Winnipeg area. So for that reason, Mr. Speaker, I suggest this resolution to the House for debate.

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

. . . Continued on next page

MR. RON McBRYDE (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments on this resolution. I think first of all, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Portage was concerned about the relationship of the previous government to the situation in Northern Manitoba, and I think that we will have to admit and I think that he will even admit, that the situation has changed quite dramatically in the last few years.

Mr. Speaker, this is a resolution or an idea I think that the Member for Churchill has also suggested before, and I think it is probably a resolution, an idea which I would have accepted when I first came to this Legislature. I am sure members will recall that I was one that was very critical of some of the functionings of this section of government, the Commissioner of Northern Affairs Office, and how this particular agency of government was functioning in the north. I also was critical of the way it functioned previously where there seemed to be quite a few political ties, or political methods in the way it was operating in Northern Manitoba. I think, Mr. Speaker, when you look at this situation of a Department of Northern Affairs, I think that it would most be symbolic; the only advantage to this resolution would be symbolic in that we recognize the importance of Northern Manitoba, the government is carrying out a considerable number of programs that are having an impact on Northern Manitoba, and the symbolic nature would be to call the Commissioner of Northern Affairs a Minister of Northern Affairs and to make the Commissioner's office a Department of Northern Affairs. I am sure that the present Commissioner would have no objection to this happening. He wouldn't mind another - although he's got a very long title now, Mines, Resources and Environmental Management plus the Commissioner of Northern Affairs - I am sure he wouldn't object to being also called Minister of Northern Affairs rather than just Commissioner of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, it seemed to me in the first instance that the function of this section of government that dealt with northern affairs could be expanded, but I think as you become more familiar with the nature of the government structure, the nature of the bureaucratic structure, and how effective departments work and how certain programs that are not effective and why they don't work, the problems in administering programs I think would have to be the main consideration in considering this resolution.

For example, Mr. Speaker, you have a number of different departments in government. Each one of these departments has to fight for its share of the budget, for its share of authority to do certain things in its area that it wishes to do. I am afraid if we try to take in the functions that the Member for Portage mentioned, that of all areas that other departments are dealing with, we would end up with a department that could not deal effectively, because they would have a little bit to do with education, because they would have a little bit to do with recreation, because they would have a little bit to do with cultural affairs, because they would have a little bit to do with economic opportunities. They couldn't be properly represented within the departments that deal with these. They couldn't get their fair share of attention in the departments that deal with these. Actually it would be an orphan, Mr. Speaker, if we tried to proceed in this manner.

So, Mr. Speaker, when I examined the matter further, I changed my own mind on the subject because of this problem of how you administer things and how you make government departments work most effectively, and that is that there has to be some clear lines of authority for a department and there has to be a clear job for it to do, and if someone's left out on their own - a department or an agency or a function - it cannot work because it cannot get the full co-operation of the other departments; it cannot get its fair share of budget . . . and I think this same sort of problem would apply, Mr. Speaker - and I think it applies - I think there is quite a bit of difference between moving an Autopac office to Brandon than there is to moving a Commissioner of Northern Affairs office to Thompson or to some other place in Northern Manitoba, and the problem is that in the Autopac situation you have a separate agency doing a separate function which it can carry out probably from any point in Manitoba, whereas with a Commissioner of Northern Affairs office or Department of Northern Affairs, I think that at least the head of that department has to be close to where decisions are being made, has to be close so he can fight for his share of the budget, has to be close so he can present and push for the programs that are of benefit to the area in which he deals with. What would happen if you had a Deputy Commissioner of Northern Affairs stationed outside of Winnipeg would be that he would probably spend most of the time in Winnipeg fighting for the things he needed to fight for to make his program work in the North, so I think, Mr. Speaker, we'll have to be satisfied to have the Deputy Commissioner in the City of Winnipeg so that he can get the things that his

(MR. McBRYDE cont'd.) extension or his agents or his people in the north are able to tell him that are necessary for them to do their job in Northern Manitoba. To place him in Northern Manitoba would put him at a disadvantage which would probably soon kill his effectiveness because he would keep having to protect his rear flanks at the Winnipeg level where the decisions are being made, and he would soon end up being cut off from those decisions, from that opportunity or access to the decision-making that is going on. So this is one other reason why this resolution probably couldn't work.

I think that the other problem, as I mentioned, is to try and get a department to deal with so many areas that are under the jurisdiction of a number of other departments creates problems that are almost unsurmountable in terms of administration, and there have been some efforts in terms of the Interlake FRED-ARDA agreements, in terms of The Pas agreements, to overcome these kind of differences, and I think quite successfully, but not in the manner that is proposed in this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment I think that when I first came into this House I would have been prepared to do anything or support anything that would have changed the approach in the operation of this particular department of government. Since that time there has been considerable change. It's not perfect, but there has been considerable improvement in the manner in which this department relates to Northern Manitoba - I think a very significant difference. There has been the creation of the mayor-and-council system with some financial ability for mayors and councils. This has allowed them to take decisions into their own hands that were previously made outside of their own community, and has been a very good learning experience for most of the communities in Northern Manitoba. There were problems in the early stages how the mayor-and-council system was set out, and it probably would have worked even smoother had it been approached slightly different, but in spite of that, Mr. Speaker, the program of mayors and councils appears to be working very well. I think the communities are satisfied to have this authority and this decision-making power and not have, as we are prone to say in this House, bureaucrats from outside trying to make decisions for them.

The mayor-and-council system has also allowed for direct representation to the Minister responsible. Rather than going up through the bureaucracy, they now have regular meetings at which the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner and other senior staff people are in attendance, and the elected representatives of the communities are there, have the opportunity to state their problems, their concerns, to present their ideas, and have a direct access to the top levels of the department rather than working their way up the normal structure or the normal channels of different departments. So from what I have seen in Northern Manitoba, there is an increased acceptance of the mayor-and-council type of system. It seems to be working quite well. The Commissioner of Northern Affairs office now has a community development section which is attempting to get off the ground to assist those communities that are not yet well-organized and able to handle things for themselves, and to provide advice and assistance of a more technical nature so that communities can initiate and establish the kind of programs and projects which they wish but might not have the expertise to do, available to them right in their own community.

The problem that has been overcome in the Commissioner of Northern Affairs office, for the most part overcome, is still present, Mr. Speaker, in some of the Local Government Districts, where there is still not effective say of citizens of Local Government Districts of Manitoba. There has been an effort to increase the advisory boards but I think that in terms of democratic participation, those communities under the Northern Affairs Act are far better off than those people who are working under the Local Government District authority at this time, and perhaps we should take some lessons from what's happening in Northern Affairs and apply these types of things to Local Government Districts so that citizens can have more say in what's going on, so that they can have more access to the money, and determine how the moneys in their areas are being spent, and perhaps it might be necessary to assist the citizens of both government district communities to do this. You might even have to have some sort of community development input as has been necessary under the Northern Affairs Act through the office of the Commissioner of Northern Affairs.

I see one distinct advantage to this resolution, Mr. Speaker, and that is it's very hard to always refer to the office of the Commissioner of Northern Affairs, so if we could call it a department it would make it much simpler in referring to it, and I would have no objection to naming this function as a department. However, I wouldn't like to see the kind of functions in

(MR. McBRYDE cont'd.) the Resolved section of this resolution, because it's just not workable, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like a good idea but I don't see how it could work. I think that it's rather humorous - at least I find it rather humorous, I guess - to see the valiant attempts of the Liberal group to speak for the citizens of Northern Manitoba through the various resolutions and activities that they are involved in. It's sort of like the resolution to establish a Manitoba representative in Ottawa in terms of economic development, and out of the 57 members of the House all but three said this wasn't a worthwhile idea. It was not worthwhile; it wasn't practical at this time; and yet the Leader of that Party still insists on pushing this idea. Even though it's not practical, there might be some political mileage in it, and I think this is the game that that group is attempting to play, is attempting to be spokesmen, is attempting to say nice things in terms of Northern Manitoba to increase their non-existent present support, or at least representation in that area of the province.

I would like to mention a little bit in terms of the Northern Affairs operation in the communities that I represent - or in the communities I have visited. I think that perhaps, Mr. Speaker, this resolution could have come out of the visit of the Northern Task Force, where there were certain very definite problems that the Task Force reported to this Legislature, and as I said at that time, things were a lot different because of the considerable change in what's happened in northern Manitoba in terms of the Commissioner of Northern Affairs office, that this resolution is perhaps a couple of years behind rather than a couple of years ahead of its time.

The first community in my constituency affected by the Northern Affairs Act is the community of Moose Lake which seems to be functioning very well in terms of its relationship to the Northern Affairs Act. They have elected a mayor and council and this has been in operation for over a year. They don't have quite the same success in their relationship with the group known as the Forebay Committee as they do in terms of their relationship with the Commissioner of Northern Affairs office.

Another community that could come under this Northern Affairs Act, that has chosen not to at this point, is the community of Easterville which is also affected by the Forebay Committee. It seems to relate more to that than to the Northern Affairs Commissioner's office.

One of the problems has been, I think, is in terms of attempting to staff and get enough people to work under the Commissioner of Northern Affairs to carry out all the present functions, let alone the addition of new functions to the department.

So, Mr. Speaker, the resolution as it stands is probably not a workable one. In terms of the social development, it is a pleasure to see the change in that most departments now of government are able to relate better than they ever were before to northern Manitoba, and especially better able to relate to the isolated communities which they almost couldn't relate to before.

The Social Development Department has now hired a number of persons who are not fully qualified under a training program, and a number of these persons are from isolated communities. It's been an advantage to the professional workers and it's been an advantage to those persons who were hired for the training. They have learned from each other.

The Department of Education has attempted to some extent to change the educational programs in northern Manitoba. The Frontier School has attempted to give more authority to local school divisions. This hasn't necessarily been a smooth procedure, there are problems, communities make mistakes and they learn from those mistakes. One community asked that a principal be removed and then changed their mind a little while later that they didn't want him removed, but it was a learning experience for them. They learned to deal with that person instead of just asking him to be removed from their area.

The Department of Tourism and Recreation is now getting into some of these communities, providing recreational advice and assistance the same as the Park Branch of that department is giving advice to persons in areas that come under the Northern Affairs Act in terms of tourist development.

So what has happened is that the communities of northern Manitoba have begun to gain full access to the resources of all departments of government rather than just relating to one department of government.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has two minutes.

MR. McBRYDE: This again applies also to the economic opportunity for northern Manitoba, and that is, as we mentioned, the disadvantaged communities development fund and the

(MR. McBRYDE cont'd.) extension of small business loans to service industries. The other departments of government are now being more and more responsive to the need of northern communities than they have in the past. -- (Interjection) -- The development of high-speed snowshoes. I'm not sure I had that from him.

The same thing has happened with the Department of Mines and Natural Resources. It's being able to relate more effectively to these communities and is also going to take some persons on for training who are not fully qualified to enable them to perform these functions.

The Government Air Services now has changed their function to save the taxpayers money. Mr. Speaker, this shows some of the misunderstanding or the lack of ability to adjust to the northern situation in the past. They have changed their policies to the extent to make full use of government aircraft and save a number of departments considerable money in their operation in northern Manitoba.

I know that some groups of northern Manitoba have recommended a Department of Northern Affairs. I haven't seen this resolution, or this approach pushed very much recently, Mr. Speaker, since the changes in the function of the department, since the relationship of the Commissioner of Northern Affairs with the community councils in Northern Manitoba has been strengthened and the northern mayors and councils have become stronger. So I think that if we were to make this change it would be a change mostly in name, because there is no real problem in the present functioning of the department or the carrying out of programs or the way that the Commissioner and his people are relating to the citizens of northern Manitoba.

So I wouldn't say that I oppose that change in name to recognize the importance of northern Manitoba, but I wouldn't like to attempt to see that department take on functions of other departments, to try and attempt to take over education in northern Manitoba, to attempt to take over recreation in northern Manitoba from the departments that are just beginning to apply their full resources and relate to the people in the communities that we have in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to bring us back to reality, after listening to how the Member for The Pas has been indoctrinated with it must happen in the south if it's going to happen. I'm amazed that in two short years he would in fact have been so indoctrinated that he would give up the idea of developing the north from within the north. As I said before, just about a week ago I suppose it was, that when this government decided that they are against changing the Department of Agriculture because it would have to take people from one place to put them in the other - oh yes, you couldn't have the Department of Agriculture in Portage or Brandon because it would be away from the City of Winnipeg - so let's have it on the record that the NDP Party are against decentralization. And it's not only once -- (Interjection) -- No, it wasn't the Minister of Agriculture, it was one of the backbenchers speaking last week -- (Interjection) -- the former Minister yes.

Now then, if decentralization is the name of the gametoday, and we see governments again going down east and saying bring it out here, we know how to govern ourselves best and so it should be done in the west; we don't have to listen to the eastern experts. One of the largest problems in the north is having to live with the fact that the northern experts are always in the south. I think if government is interested in the development of the north that they can make sure there's money in the north. Surely if the government are that interested in developing the north they can see to it that the Minister has the money, because if he has to stay here 24 hours a day, 365 days in a year to make sure he's getting his share, then there's something wrong with the government's thinking, something radically wrong. If he has to prowl the hallways of this building to make sure that he isn't going to miss out on something, then there's no co-operation.

I say that it would be just as easy for a Minister of Northern Affairs to live in a centrally located place in the north and come forward, come up to Winnipeg for Cabinet meetings a couple of times a week, but to live there and to be reminded each day of the problems that are there, because it does seem to me that when Ministers have the authority to look after the north they don't know how to use it and they really don't know what the people want on a day by day basis. It's just like the Member for The Pas, once you move and live in the city you kind of forget what the real problems are when you're looking after an area so far north as ours are. It's so much different that I believe that we have to have an interested department to look after the north.

(MR. BEARD cont'd.)

Now I've heard before, you're going to have to have all this money for a new Department of Northern Affairs, you're going to have to have millions of dollars. But what are we doing today? We're spending millions of dollars on education in all departments in the north and there is no one department that is set up to guide the other groups and to be the authority on the north. I think there is only one way to get to be an authority in the north and that's to live in the north and to conduct your business from there. Certainly, I'm sure, not for one minute would the people from southern Manitoba ever allow the Minister of Urban Affairs to live in the north. They'd say it's terrible, you got to be down here where the action is, and so it is with departments of Northern Affairs.

The department can be in the north where things are taking place every day, where they're rubbing shoulders every day with people from the north and they know the problems. I don't think it needs to be symbolic just to have a Northern Affairs located in the north, that this will only be symbolic in meaning. I say that it is a wonderful move. Now, where are you going to get the staff? If the staff were interested in moving north, that's wonderful; if they aren't, then it's a great opportunity to use northern people that are used to living in the north in this new Department of Northern Affairs. You don't have to have lived in the south and have lived under civil service to be an authority on northern affairs. You have to live in the north to be an authority on northern affairs. I think it's very wise if government would consider seeing to it that there is a movement made under way to make sure that the north is well represented and that the ideas come directly from those people who are living in the north.

The Member for The Pas says that now that they have a northern Community Council most problems are resolved. Well I say this is hogwash. I speak to those members from the northern community councils and they are complaining the same as everybody else. What do they have to do to get listened to? They have to come into Winnipeg and they have to stay here for days at a time before they can get their point across. They have to come into Winnipeg to have their meetings. Why don't the experts from Winnipeg go out to the north and have their meetings where they can be in the area in which these people are calling for different approaches and in many cases differences of opinion how the approaches should be made. I think that if this new approach was tried out that it would be successful and it would be one of the best places to start a movement of decentralization.

Today, we all have to come to Winnipeg whether we're a farmer, whether we're a fisherman or whoever we may be, to have our problems listened to, and the heads of civil servants are not great enough in their authority to be able to answer the questions. Goodness knows, the Member of The Pas must realize that it still is the point where you go, where they take their problem to a civil servant and the civil servant says yes, I'll see to it but I can't give you the answer, I've got to go to people above me to find that answer. And so it lays and it just depends on what attitude the civil servant has at that particular time as to whether they ever do get an answer, and in many cases it's an answer that should have been given a long time ago.

I think that the every day living of the people in the north is something of a frustration in that they have to listen to people and wait until their message has been sent along the chain of reaction and then sent back again through another long bureaucratic number of people till they find out what their answer is, and probably it isn't the correct one, and in fact their grievance itself would be changed so much that they wouldn't realize that was what they had asked for in the first place.

I realize that a member sitting on the government side has to, in many ways, follow the thinking of his party when they're in power. And that is one of the things that bothered me; no doubt about it. But I think that he should be aware of these things and think of them twice before he gets up and starts to chastise people who have resolutions that want to move things along in the north. I think you should listen to what the people say rather than to what your own group says. If this is what your own group wants to do, keep it in Winnipeg, then don't speak on it if you can't speak against it. But I don't think at any time that you should say this is unrealistic, because it's realistic. It's realistic if you make it be. If you don't want to make it be you can find a thousand excuses, but if the record shows you don't want to make it happen, then that's where it lies.

I would remind the Member for The Pas that before 1969, or during 1969, members of his party did support a separate Department of Northern Affairs. I very seldom reflect back on these things because it means very little because circumstances change, but you've got to

(MR. BEARD cont'd.) keep in mind that you did at one time support that, or members of the NDP party supported a Northern Affairs Department. I think that if the member feels that it's impractical at this time, maybe you should say it that way. But make it practical; make it realistic. You can do it if you start off with offices in the north, with the people with the ability to make the decisions living in the north, then you'll find that it will become a reality and it won't be any more expensive than what is done now; in fact it should save money.

I say that because if the department continually spends money and do it on the same policy as they do in the south, the member and I know that this will be wasted money; but if they'll do it on a policy and have a hard-floor policy maker living in the north that knows what the problems are, he can use it, use the money by community basis. Rather than have a policy that's standard, you must have one that's elastic enough that they can change as the community demands it.

But in no circumstances do I feel that northern Manitoba should say that it is impossible to get government into the north. That's where it has to be, that's where it has to be to deal with Indian Affairs and Federal Government, sit down and make these decisions, make the changes that have to be changed and get down to looking after the north only, not having to wait until some department has looked after the rest of southern Manitoba and then they look after the north. This is where we are suffering. The pressure is not on these departments to look after the north because it's not kept up as heavy as it would be if they were in the north, because in the south these people have easy access to Winnipeg, they come in, they make their desires known politically and non-politically.

So these things are just the same as when we used to say "the squeaky wheel is the one that gets the grease," and they have to look after the things when the people are standing knocking at the door. It takes too long for the message to get out of the north to come down south. The communications are still not good enough to bring pressure to bear on government. And that's what it has to be, and I think that, collectively, people from the north should be saying to government, let's try to decentralize, let's try to get the people with the authority to change things into the north not on a once a year basis, not on a twice a year basis but continuously.

I might add that, as I'm stating these things, I have a great respect for the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and I am not particularly saying that he is not the person for it because I think he has done a lot in moving it as far as we have now, but I believe that if it is going to be effective, it'll have to be a Minister that is going to be prepared to look after the problems of the north and to concentrate on the north only, rather than have several Ministers looking after it, or pretty well all of the Ministers looking after it. We can have their share, or our share of their staff that look after northern affairs. There must be some in each department, so we're using it in northern affairs rather than using it say in Health and Social services, Education, etc., where they pay and the people live in Winnipeg.

If the people live in the north, the staff alone lived in the north, it would raise the economy of the town of The Pas. It would do so in many of the other communities - Thompson, Lynn Lake, Churchill possibly, and get closer to the difficulties that the people experience, and we would find a more realistic approach rather than . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has three minutes.

MR. BEARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker -- rather than sitting back and waiting for somebody to make a decision in Winnipeg, I think that one must turn around and say the decisions should be made in the north and put the people in there that are prepared to make the decisions, and I think that you'll find a happier north, I think you'll find a more progressive north, and you'll find that decentralization which is necessary if we're going to get rural and northern Manitoba into the stream of the political changes and the practical bureaucratic changes that are necessary.

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

MR. WILLIAM URUSKI (St. George): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a few comments I'd like to make in respect to some of the comments that came from across the floor from the Honourable Member from Churchill and the Honourable Member from Portage la Prairie in respect to the resolution before us.

The Honourable Member from Portage indicated that in the past there were many political decisions made by government which were not made for the best interests of the people in the north especially, and I could wholeheartedly agree with that statement insofar as in the context that he made it. I would like to give you one example, both made by the Conservative

(MR. URUSKI cont'd.) Party here in Manitoba as well as his counterparts in the Province of Saskatchewan, and that of course is the issues which have been dealt with before this Legislature before, of the pulp mills in the northern portion of the province. In both instances vast sums of public funds were given out, or loaned to private investors with relatively little investment funds from these private people into these resources, and as a result the public has taken all the risk and the private investors have done very little. This has happened in the large controversy that has carried on in this province and as well in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Not only that, I believe in the Town of The Pas when the company was beginning to operate under the previous ownership, many people were being brought in into the forest industry from out of the province from many provinces of Canada and the local people of this province were not being hired, and if the members of this House do not know, it is the policy of this government to hire as many local people as possible to get them off the welfare rolls in the northern communities and in the isolated communities, and I would hope that plans maybe could be instituted that native people in the north who live in isolated communities, rather than moving them to the -- (Interjection) -- Yes?

MR. PATRICK: Would the speaker permit a question? I wonder if he can tell the House how many people Churchill Forest Industries, under the present government, how many native people they employ.

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

MR. URUSKI: I must say for a fact that there is a lot more native people being employed by Churchill Forest Industries in the forestry operations now than they were previous to the receivership.

As I was stating before, it will be my hope that people living in isolated communities who would have to be possibly uprooted from their communities and be moved into these areas that are developing now, that possibly they could be transported on, shall we say, a shift work either in Thompson or in The Pas. There could be a flight out of a community, say, Norway House or some of the isolated communities like Cross Lake, where the people could be flown to the jobs for, shall we say, a two-week period and then they could work their shift for at least ten or fifteen days and then be transported back to their homes for another period of a week or so so that they could be with their families and they could enjoy living in their own community that they have been brought up in and have lived in all their lives, so that many people living in the north, and I believe not only in the north, in the area just north of me, north of the community of Hodgson, where people on the reserves do not wish to leave their homesteads, be uprooted to find employment, that if possible they could be transported to the place of employment and brought back and still maintain their home grounds where they live.

There was one comment that the Member from Churchill made at the beginning of his remarks in respect to government policy and he indicated that it was this government's policy to centralize everything and not move any offices out of Winnipeg into the rural area, and that is completely false. I don't know where he has gotten such an idea of government centralization because he mentioned specifically the Department of Agriculture. It is the intention of the department that major planning people or resource people from the departments would be transferred out into the rural areas into -- (Interjection) -- The policymakers. The Member from Churchill indicated the policymakers. Who is the policymakers if not the government of the Province of Manitoba. He indicated that the departments would not be moving out, and if any government in this province in the past and the present, if any government has done more for decentralization of government services it has been this government in office today.

The development of the north - the Member from Churchill indicated that there has been some movement by this government for the development up north to give opportunities for the people of the north over other governments in the past, and I can certainly agree with him in that respect. For one thing, the intention of this government to provide communication systems for the northern people, the establishment of airstrips in northern communities to provide access to every community or the major communities in the north so that planes and supplies and regular routes could be established so that these communities could be serviced, as well as the training colleges for technical-vocational training in The Pas at the Keewatin Community College. This school should handle many people desiring construction trades and construction experience in the north as well as other trades that would be needed in the electrical field and the like, for the many communities who are developing.

(MR. URUSKI cont'd.)

There's another aspect that this government has undertaken and that is of course the site of Leaf Rapids or Ruttan Lake. It is my hope that this government would develop this townsite as a mark of something completely different and innovative in northern development of northern communities and that this town does not really become under the thumb of, shall we say, of the mining communities or mining companies that have developed in the north, for instance the town of Thompson. I was present during the committee when the town of Thompson presented a bill during the last session to allow the town to expand and incorporate and they could not get permission unless the International Nickel Corporation said yes we will do it, and in the committee the people from International Nickel had the audacity to get up and tell the committee of this House that they could not proceed because they would not give permission unless they consulted their superiors at their head offices.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The hour being 5:30, the House is now adjourned until 2:30 tomorrow afternoon.