

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
10:00 o'clock, Friday, February 22, 1974

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

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 17 students, Grade 9 standing of the Queen Elizabeth School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Gunson. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

We also have 65 students of Grade 5 standing of the Ryerson Elementary School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Szues and Mrs. Hartley and Webster. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Fort Garry. On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here today.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions.

PETITIONS

MR. CLERK: The petition of the Mount Carmel Clinic praying for the passing of the Mount Carmel Clinic Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to table a report compiled by the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics. I have copies for members, and I'd also like to make a brief statement and I have copies for members of the statement that I would like to make in connection with this particular report.

This, Mr. Speaker, is the first report compiled by the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics on consumer food prices for 19 selected communities in Northern Manitoba. This is the first stage in the compilation of various consumer prices in the northern part of our province. Indeed, Sir, it is the fulfilment of an election commitment made last summer that the New Democratic government upon its re-election would conduct a northern prices survey. And although this report relates to the month of January 1974, it is our intention to publish other reports from time to time in the future. The report contains a series of spatial price indexes; that is, the levels of food costs in all cases are compared with the level existing in the City of Winnipeg in the month of January. Upon examination of the figures in the various communities, members can observe variations. The lowest index is for the City of Thompson which had 109.13, means that on the average food prices there are about 9 percent higher than that in the City of Winnipeg. The highest index, which was for the community of Oxford House, is 152.06 and that is, of course, a 52 percent differential with Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker, examining the figures contained in the reports, I would suggest that all members should note that there are at least three fundamental factors at work in prices. First of all the distance involved from the City of Winnipeg is a great factor - the sheer distance involved. Secondly, the type of transport, whether it be air transport, road transport or rail transport. It's obvious, Sir, that air transport tends to be higher cost service than road, for example. And the third element is the size of community because you'll find in larger communities there are larger stores which have greater through-put and also there's more competition.

Other surveys will be conducted in the future to show other elements in consumption expenditures and also indicate transportation costs variation. I must emphasize to all members, Mr. Speaker, that these figures do not give you a comparison of the standard of living in these communities. This is because there are other factors that must be taken into account such as other consumer expenditure items, and of course in particular the wages paid and the incomes earned in these communities.

I'd also say, Mr. Speaker, that these price differentials have existed in one degree or another throughout the history of this province. We've always known that food prices have been higher in various remote communities in the north of this province as indeed they are

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

(MR. EVANS Cont'd) higher in other remote areas in Canada. However, Mr. Speaker, we now have a document which provides data of a kind that is available for no other province in Canada, which enables us to measure price patterns in the north in a systematic and precise manner. I'm sure that this data will be of great value to various levels of government, municipal, provincial and federal, in their collective concerns for the welfare of the people in these communities. Indeed, as road transport to the north improves, as it has over the past few years, we would expect to see a lessening in the differences of food price levels between Winnipeg and these northern communities. Nevertheless, it must be realized, Mr. Speaker, that food prices are also a function of sheer distance and also of retail practices of individual stores and the degree of competition that exists within these communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (Leader of the Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for his statement. I should indicate at the outset that while there is a suggestion in his prepared text that we have a document which provides data of a kind that is available for no other province, I should refer him to the fact that the Federal Government have a survey on comparative weekly food costs carried out in 1971 for Northern Manitoba communities by the Medical Services Branch, federal Department of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to note that with respect to the percentage increase shown in 1971 between Winnipeg and Oxford House -- and I'll take that as the example because I don't have the other statistics, I only have the reference made in the statement to Oxford House -- but if the difference in 1971 was 54.8 percent and the difference projected here is 52.06 percent, it means, Mr. Speaker, that really there is very little saving that has occurred to the people in terms of their cost of living for food from the period of 1971 to the past period of 1973. And that's very interesting, Mr. Speaker, because it goes to the heart of the basic concern with respect to the problems of winter roads. And in this respect, Mr. Speaker, I think for the benefit of the Minister because it's relevant to his statement, that I would refer him again to a study undertaken by the University of Manitoba titled, "A Note on the Cost of Living in the North, Food Prices in Small Northern Manitoba Settlements", and to the conclusion which states that the study provides evidence that northern prices are higher than those in Winnipeg for reasons other than transportation costs.

Mr. Speaker, I would believe that the statement produced by the Minister from his department -- the Department of Statistics, would more than justify the legislative inquiry that we've requested to deal with the costs of food and the costs of goods generally in Northern Manitoba in the remote communities, and the problem of whether the winter road program is really accomplishing the objective of reducing the cost of the people who in fact reside in those remote communities.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. I. H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, we thank the Minister for the statement and compliment the Statistics Division for, after I guess two years of holding our breath, producing its own report based on its own data, and we hope that this kind of thing will be expanded to other areas of the economy so that we will be able to deal more precisely with the problems that confront the people of the province from time to time.

The statement -- and I look forward to reading the statistics -- refers to differentials in the cost of living in the most vital area, the cost of food, differentials which we have alluded to in this House many times over the past few years but never have had this kind of precise data. Now that we have it, we can readily see that the situation is unacceptable as I'm sure the Minister will agree.

The suggestion that we made two years ago seems even more relevant today, that being that if this differential exists, we will look to this government to bring in speedy remedies in the areas in which it can act speedily. One of those areas remains the minimum wage in the north. You may recall we said that because of this problem that has now been so eloquently documented by the Minister's Division of Statistics, that the economic structure, the structure of the north, must now be adjusted to reflect and to take into account the reality of the cost of living. We would again restate that need.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I think the evidence that the Minister has put before us this morning brings into real question the whole winter road temporary project because it does not appear to be cutting the cost as we had hoped, and perhaps at this stage we should now be

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

(MR. ASPER Cont'd) considering the establishment of a permanent road system. Because of the millions of dollars we're spending in the aggregate over a period of years on temporary roads which have to be built each year and don't seem to be doing the job, we would commend to the Minister and to the Minister of Highways again the prospect of building a permanent road, particularly from Winnipeg, through the east side of Lake Winnipeg up to the top of the lake, Norway House, Island Lake and so on.

Mr. Speaker, I think what the Minister has said to us this morning is that we now have sharp enough data to be able to come to grips with the problem in measurable terms and we look forward to action from the government in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. PETER BURTONIAK (Minister of Highways) (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the reports of the Highway Traffic and Motor Transport Board, Provincial Transport Board, and the Taxicab Board, Annual Reports for 1973. Copies are available for all members.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, members may be interested to know the results of the beef referendum and I wish to put on the record the results this morning. For the referendum or in favor of the check-off, we have 43 percent of the voters voting in favor, for a total of 2,451; 57 percent against for a total of 3,245, 40 spoiled ballots, and the total vote represents 78 percent of those registered to vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other . . . the Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for the results of the vote that he has given to us as a result of the ballots being counted yesterday in regards to the referendum on the check-off for beef in the Province of Manitoba. I think, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a few comments on this matter; that it indicates to the Minister of Agriculture in this province when he tells us of the results which indicates that they are opposed to this check-off, and I think, Mr. Speaker, it relates to what has been going on in the Department of Agriculture for the past, I would say four, five, six months, and from the comments that I have had from farmers in the past month or so they were concerned as to just how much democratic process was going to be adhered to if this vote was made in the affirmative.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the farmers of Manitoba have lost complete confidence in the Minister of Agriculture and many other departments, and this is one example, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements or Tabling of Reports? Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; the Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. USKIW: Would you have that matter stand, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE (Minnedosa) introduced Bill No. 26, an Act to Incorporate The Minnedosa Foundation.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Oral Questions. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day my question is to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. I wonder if the Minister can confirm that the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation has spent approximately a half a million dollars for premises located on the 21st floor of the Senior Citizens Home at 185 Smith - I believe it's called Smith House - which premises have been vacant for two years since its completion by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, there are premises at, I think it's 185 Smith Street. I don't know whether it's two years, I think the official opening was three months ago because I was involved in that. I cannot verify the amounts or the figures indicated by the Leader of the Opposition. I'll take that as notice.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister, then, can take as notice and present to this House the reasons for these premises being leased by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, and why such an enormous amount of money was spent.

MR. MILLER: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the premises are to be used by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation for their offices.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder, then, if the Minister can confirm or will confirm by taking as notice that the premises have been completed and vacant for two years approximately.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I can't conceive that they've been completed and vacant for two years but I'll take the question as notice.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister will also confirm that although the premises are located on the 21st floor the elevator only goes to the 20th floor.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that; I haven't been up there, but then of course we walk the stairs every day and I suppose the staff of the MHRC might have to do the same.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Agriculture. I wonder if he's yet in a position to answer a question I put to him three or four days ago, the question being: has he or anybody in his department given instructions for the withdrawal or destruction of a pamphlet printed by his department known as Flaxseed and Rapeseed Futures, Can They Be Used To Advantage By Practicing Farmers? and written by R. S. Mitchell?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, my understanding of it was, and I'm sure Hansard would bear me out, that I had asked the honourable member to submit me some evidence so that I could follow up. I am not sure of what he is speaking about, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to table the pamphlet; I'm tabling it. Mr. Speaker, . . .

MR. USKIW: I wonder whether the honourable member would agree to give me the source of his information.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, the source of my information is the pamphlet, which I didn't have at the time I asked the question but has since come into my hands. As I said in the House, I hadn't seen the pamphlet until this morning which . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My question is, where can farmers obtain a copy of this pamphlet and why was it withdrawn if it has been withdrawn?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Well, Mr. Speaker, my question then to the Minister would be: how many pamphlets of this kind were printed, and at whose instructions and at what cost?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I did undertake to find out for the honourable member and we are awaiting the information from the department.

MR. ASPER: Well, Mr. Speaker, would the Minister tell the House whether the statement made by Gordon Graham, President of the Manitoba Rapeseed Growers Association, is correct . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I do not believe it's conducive to the procedures of this House for a Minister to verify someone else's statement outside of the House. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Well, Mr. Speaker, does the Minister concur that the Manitoba Government gave instructions, somebody in his department gave instructions for the destruction of this pamphlet on the grounds that it contained . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Again the honourable member is expressing an opinion which becomes argumentative. Will he place his question? The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, was the document destroyed - to the Minister of Agriculture - because it contained opinions on farm policy that he disagreed with?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I said in the House the other day that I have not yet seen the document, so I really can't answer that question. I have never issued instructions from my office for the removal of any document and I have never authorized the printing of one so I . . .

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Will the Minister be meeting today with the federal Health Minister, Mr. Marc Lalonde, on the subject of the Canadian Football League's future vis-a-vis the World Football League franchise in Toronto?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (Springfield): No, Mr. Speaker, I had not intended or had not planned to meet the federal Minister of Health and Welfare in regards to either the Canadian Football League or the proposed World Football League entering Canada. But I am, Mr. Speaker, quite happy to have heard the statement made by the federal Minister of Health and Welfare in regards to what can be done to safeguard the Canadian Football League and, as the Honourable Member for Fort Garry is well aware, there was a joint statement sent by the committee, the informal committee struck here composed of himself, the Member for Assiniboia and myself, to the federal Minister of Health and Welfare last week, such telegram going to each Premier in every province in Canada and all of my colleagues across the country, and this is now being confirmed in writing by the three western Ministers in charge of sports to the federal Minister of Health and Welfare, to all the MP's from Manitoba and all Premiers in Canada.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister received any response from the federal Health Minister to that communication?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I haven't checked my mail this morning but I hadn't yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. In view of the substantial increased losses evidenced by the statement that was tabled yesterday, would the Minister inform the House what steps he is planning to take in attempts to prevent a similar recurrence of such a staggering loss again this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. BILLIE URUSKI (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation) (St. George): The steps were announced in November, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It would seem on the surface that these increases in rates aren't going to be sufficient to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. BLAKE: Would the Minister confirm to the House that when the losses are compiled from this year's operation, will he be prepared to recommend increases in Autopac rates sufficient to cover the losses and keep abreast of the increasing prices?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, firstly I'd like to correct, the announcement was made in December, but if I had a crystal ball in front of me and I could predict what the accident rate for 1974 will be, I would be able to give the honourable member the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs. My question is to the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise the House whether butter imported from Ireland is being distributed by Manitoba dairies to retail stores in Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, in the world of private enterprise anything is possible, and if the Member for Assiniboia finds that question of interest I will attempt to find an answer for him.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister advise the House why Irish butter is not designated as such in the stores?

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Assiniboia should know that the labelling of commodities sold in stores is a matter of federal jurisdiction and is properly addressed to my counterpart in Ottawa.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Minister has some responsibility in

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. PATRICK Cont'd) this area. Can the Minister undertake to ascertain, is there a shortage of Manitoba butter in Manitoba?

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, as I said, if the member has an interest in this area, I can attempt to find an answer to his question but I must point out to him that there is no statutory authority for me to find out or to require private entrepreneurs or marketing boards or any other group engaged in the distribution of food products to give me information as to their inventory, their price structure, the industrial structure in which they are operating in, or any kind of other information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Thanks, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Does he know that Morden Fine Foods have been known to take off their own label and put on other labels so as to sell their product?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I wonder whether that question is necessary to procedures of this House: whether the Minister is aware or not. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister advise the House whether there has been a shortage of Class 1 milk in Manitoba in the last four months?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I did answer that question yesterday in answer to a question put to me by the Member for Morris. There has never been a shortage to my knowledge of Class 1 milk but there is a plant requirement shortage of about 8 percent.

MR. BANMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister advise the difference, the price differential between Class 1 and Class 2 milk as it's paid to the producer?

MR. USKIW: I'm not sure that I can be precise, but there is a substantial difference, Class 2 being about 6 1/4 a hundredweight, Class 1 somewhere in excess of \$8.00

MR. BANMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In the production of powdered milk, can the Minister advise if Class 2 milk is then used?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, it's quite possible that even Class 3 milk is being used, but that doesn't take anything away from the quality of milk consumed, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation. Does the Development Corporation have a loan outstanding in favor of Auby Galpern's Famous Foods Limited?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q. C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't verify as to the legal description of the borrower, but there is a loan outstanding and I believe that there is a receivership involved to a person who does business, to the individual concerned who does business, in a name which I'm not able to legally describe at this moment. If the legal description that the honourable member has given is correct, then it would be true.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. I believe he indicated that there was a receivership. Can he confirm that the company has in fact ceased operations and that the government has gone in and that there's an anticipated loss to the Manitoba Development Corporation arising from this?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I indicated there was a receivership; that's about as far as I can go at the moment.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to distribute to honourable members the document that I promised relative to the possible adverse effects on water quality in Manitoba resulting from the Garrison Diversion Project in Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, I want to make it plain that what is now being distributed has been made public on several previous occasions but, since it was asked for, I am now giving it in the usual way so that copies can be given to parties in the House.

I was also asked a question with regard to the deer in the Duck Mountains having difficulty obtaining food because of high snowfall. The honourable member is correct; there is a problem with deer in those areas; the snow is much higher than average figures and as usual, or as is customary when such circumstances prevail, the Department tries to facilitate the obtaining of

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. GREEN Cont'd) food by these animals. However, it is fair to say that we're not going to be able to solve all of the problems, that there will be some loss of deer due to the fact that they are unable to obtain food. Of course this is a situation that prevails with nature. We try to do certain things about it but we can't cure the entire problem.

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

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I wonder if the Minister can advise the House if CFI will have to shut down for part of this year due to shortage of pulpwood.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take that question as notice.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the same Minister -- can the Minister confirm that 16 out of the 45 trucks that are hauling for Manitoba Forest Resources in the Cranberry Portage area have pulled off the job in the past month because of dangerous road conditions in the 20 accidents that have occurred this winter?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I can't confirm that. I'll have to take the question as notice.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the same Minister could confirm that it's the responsibility of the Manitoba Forest Resources or the Churchill Forest Industries to maintain these roads.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, again I would like to take the entire subject matter as notice. I am not able to confirm what the honourable member is asking me to confirm.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 40 students of the Sanford Collegiate of Grade IX standing. They are under the direction of Mr. Hew. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Morris. On behalf of all the honourable members, I welcome you here.

The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the reported fertilizer shortage in the United States, could the Minister inform the House as to whether or not there is adequate supplies on hand for the spring work in Manitoba?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that fertilizer is not a utility and something not over which government is responsible, I cannot give him that kind of assurance, but I can indicate to him that the fertilizer companies in Canada have indicated to us that they have substantially increased the amount of supply over last year. Whether that is going to be sufficient, I am not sure.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, my question would normally be directed to the Minister of Education, but in his absence I would direct it to the Honourable the First Minister and ask him if his government is contemplating changes this year in the Education Foundation grant structure, and if so when these will be announced.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Well, Mr. Speaker, during recent years we have made changes in the grants made available to school divisions, whether as part of the Foundation Program or as part of the amount of grants made available outside the Foundation Program. The end result, however, Sir, has been a substantial increase in the provincial contribution towards the costs of elementary and secondary education in Manitoba.

MR. MCGILL: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will these changes, if they are made, be made available in time for them to . . . ?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The question is hypothetical.

MR. MCGILL: May I rephrase the question, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Very well.

MR. MCGILL: The changes in the grant structure which may occur, will they be available to the school divisions in time for realistic budgeting, which I understand has to be completed very shortly?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, there is no way to indicate in advance of the Budget Speech the precise amount of any change in grant support.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. AXWORTHY Cont'd). . . . Minister acting as the Minister of Urban Affairs. In light of the fact that the Provincial Government's grants to the City of Winnipeg are to expire this year, can the Minister advise us whether the government plans to extend the grants to the City of Winnipeg to cover the continual cost of amalgamation?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, there is an assumption in that question which is simply not accepted at all.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary . . . Mr. Speaker, would the First Minister tell us, has he met with city officials to discuss whether there will be continued assistance to the City of Winnipeg to cover the costs that were incurred through amalgamation?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that question has the same assumption, which is again dismissed.

MR. AXWORTHY: I'll rephrase it so the Minister will understand. Does the government intend to extend its . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would suggest to the honourable member that he reconsider what he's going to ask. A rephrasing of a similar question which has been answered is not conducive to our rules.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I may have been using a term that was not acceptable to the Minister. The point of the question that was being asked was: does the government intend to continue or extend the transitional grant that was given to the City of Winnipeg two years ago at the time of the change in the Act, to the City of Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge is referring to the transitional assistance grant, which was a grant that was made available in order to take, through a period of transition of three years, adjustment in relative mill rates that are being levied, and as such it related to individuals. It was not a grant which related to any increased costs as a result of amalgamation, because that, Sir, would require a close comparison between the percentage increase in municipal costs in the days before the City of Winnipeg Act was passed as compared to the municipal cost pattern of increase since that Act has gone into effect.

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 of the Beausejour Collegiate of Grade 9 standing. They are under the direction of Messrs. Linden, Schmidt and Harrison. This school is located in the constituency of Lac du Bonnet, the Minister of Agriculture, I believe. On behalf of all the members, I welcome you here today.

ORAL QUESTIONS Cont'd

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Will changes in the Pharmaceutical Act be brought forward this Session that drug assistance towards senior citizens will be more meaningful?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, there may be amendments to the Act. I cannot accept the statement that the Pharmacare program is not at present meaningful. It's the most meaningful program ever established in this field in Manitoba.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Attorney-General. Why are the bombardier drivers on the winter roads in Northern Manitoba being required to either get off the roads or else obtain driver's licenses, which they never had to have previously?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General) (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I am presently looking into all the circumstances pertaining to that. I would like to, however, mention to the honourable member that the Highway Traffic Act very specifically requires the obtaining of a permit by one using a highway, and included in the definition of a highway is a road that

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. PAWLEY Cont'd) could be considered a winter road, so that it is certainly within the provisions of the law that a permit be issued for use of such a road.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Another question to the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. Where are the men to go in that area to obtain a driver's license, and is there a qualified tester in any of the communities of Hole River, God's Narrows, places like that?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, when this information came to my attention that there was some question as to the enforcement of this provision of the Highway Traffic Act, I have as a result requested information as to whether or not there is easily available means to obtain a driver's license within short and reasonable notice, and I am awaiting that report. Once I have received that report then I will know just how to deal with the subject matter at hand.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: In the meantime are the bombardiers and drivers kept off the road while that report is being awaited?

MR. PAWLEY: Well, Mr. Speaker, in the opinion of the RCMP, who are responsible for the enforcement of the traffic provisions in the north, driver's permits ought to be issued and they are enforcing the law as they see it. But as I have indicated earlier, I'm obtaining a complete report so that I can ascertain whether or not reasonable notice should be required. We ought to suggest reasonable notice so that those affected can obtain driver's permits.

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

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister in charge of Autopac. In view of the fact that there have been 20 accidents on this Kississing road which is maintained by a Crown corporation this winter, involving about \$250,000 damage, will the Minister give consideration to waiving the penalty surcharges to the owners and operators who will be affected by increased Autopac rates due to these accidents? Will he give consideration to waiving these surcharges for these particular owners?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, if the vehicles involved are in a fleet, the accident frequency and their ratings will be calculated on their year's performance.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister in charge of Autopac. Would he not consider that 20 accidents out of 45 vehicles with six of them being turned over trucks, would this not be a special case that he could consider and examine in conjunction with the Minister of Mines and Resources to see if something can't be done about the improvident cost, not only on the owners, but on Autopac?

MR. URUSKI: Obviously, Mr. Speaker, there should be some care and attention given to the driving habits of the drivers and the like in the transportation, but I am sure that the owners of those vehicles are cognizant as to the care to be undertaken insofar as their claims are concerned.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, given the conditions the Minister has indicated, would he undertake to examine whether or not the roads or the drivers are at fault in this particular case?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I think the Highway Traffic Act is clear in this area, that the driver of a vehicle should drive according to the conditions of the road.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the roads in question are those roads provided by a Crown corporation and effectively are on private property . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question, please.

MR. CRAIK: . . . but the insurance on the vehicles, Mr. Speaker, comes under Autopac . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question, question please.

MR. CRAIK: . . . would he not examine this special case?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the day. The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest to the House that today, this morning, an announcement was made by the federal Minister of Health and Welfare with regard to the basic annual income experiment to take place in Manitoba. It's the largest experiment of its kind in Canada ever undertaken, and I think it would be a benefit and of interest to members of the House to know more about it. I don't profess to be too knowledgeable or expert at it and I would like to suggest to the House that through the Whips perhaps an arrangement could be set up where by morning or perhaps prior to the sitting of the House some afternoon,

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. MILLER Cont'd) if the Whips are in agreement, they could decide on a day a technical briefing could be set up so that those members who are interested, we could have technical staff who could explain the program, the design in the program, the objectives of the program and how it's going to operate.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the day. Order for Return. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - ORDER FOR RETURN

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, moved by myself, seconded by the Member from Assiniboia, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return with respect to the Manitoba Student Employment Program and the Student Placement Office, showing the following information for the years 1972 and 1973:

- 1) a) The name, salary and expenses of the director;
- b) the name, salary and expenses of any other employees.

- 2) For each year show a constituency breakdown of:
 - a) the number of applications received. How many male? How many female?
 - i) with respect to the above, show the number of jobs given to residents of the City of Winnipeg and the number of jobs given to the residents in the remaining part of Manitoba;
 - ii) with respect to the jobs given to residents of the City of Winnipeg, show how many worked outside of Winnipeg;
 - b) the number of positions filled for each year;
 - c) the average salary received by the successful applicants;
 - d) the highest salary paid per month and/or per week;
 - e) the average duration of the position in each case;
 - f) of the positions filled by this department, were any of more than three months duration? If so, describe position giving duration and salary received;
 - g) all of the criteria for placing or not placing an applicant;
 - h) the number of successful applicants for each of the Provincial Constituencies for each year.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the order is accepted and in accepting it I merely point out that while I believe that the information is available almost exactly as requested in each of the parts of the question, there may be some difficulty with respect to getting a constituency breakdown - certainly there is a regional breakdown and figures available - but we will attempt to provide the information as required.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Adjourned debates.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - BILL NO. 7

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 7. The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to make some comments on Bill No. 7, an Act to amend The Civil Service Act, and I'm sorry that the Minister of Labour is absent this morning because it was to him that I wished to direct my remarks particularly, since he has introduced this bill. I think it came up for reading in the House on the 14th day of February. I don't think there's anything significant about the choice of dates by the Minister of Labour, because in reading the bill I find no particular Valentine's message involved for the Civil Service or for the people of Manitoba. But, Mr. Speaker, I have been concerned about the main thrust of this legislation since it was first introduced to the House during the last Session, and I did not have an opportunity at that time to place my views on the record, but I have had them in my mind since that date and I hope that on this occasion I will find the words that will properly reflect my concern for the thrust and the direction of the bill before us.

Mr. Speaker, much of the bill, as the Minister has already indicated, is concerned with housekeeping affairs - of tidying up, I think his phrase was - but there are two principal

GOVERNMENT BILLS - BILL NO. 7

(MR. MCGILL Cont'd) directions: one, that the machinery for enabling civil servants to act as candidates in political elections is spelled out, and in this respect I think there is general concurrence that this is a desirable statement, a desirable way in which the path is made clear for civil servants who aspire to political office.

It is in the second area, however, Mr. Speaker, that I do feel that we need to be particularly concerned, and that is in the area in which the bill would enable civil servants to concern themselves with political activity during elections in the province or without the province, and it represents, Mr. Speaker, a very major change in the Civil Service Act. I think I am moved to enter this debate for two reasons, the first being that I have acquired through personal experience and through listening to others whose comments I appreciate, I have acquired an admiration and a respect for the Civil Service in Manitoba. I think, secondly, that I subscribe to the notion that a strong Civil Service is an essential part of the kind of democratic government that we choose to support in Manitoba; that the two are by themselves not effective, but together create the proper environment for democratic action to be translated into administrative activity, and for the province to prosper as a result.

I think this high esteem for the Manitoba Civil Service is something that goes well beyond the borders of our province, and in this connection I would like to quote the remarks which I heard W. L. Morton make at a seminar at Brandon University some years ago, when he was discussing the Province of Manitoba, its features and its directions and its future. And I think it's of interest and I would like to put on the record his comments in respect to this Civil Service of Manitoba. He was discussing those things which he would choose as newer and distinctively Manitoban in the development of our province. He picked out three areas in which he felt Manitoba had something new and distinctive to offer, and he said, "It is a daring thing to attempt to list some of them, but I must, even if I am to suggest a historical perspective. My choices may surprise you but it is, I find, a matter which requires some thought. First, the development of the institutions of public ownership - Winnipeg Hydro, Manitoba Hydro and Manitoba Telephones."

And next, he said, in his order of priority among things distinctively Manitoban, "I would place the building up of a provincial Civil Service which gave the province always a devoted service and by its ablest men distinguished service. It was to become careful administrators of its resources, the prudent managers of its finances, and the imaginative planners of its development. As one who has lived elsewhere at various times in his life, I am bound to say how well Manitoba has been served by its Civil Service and what a strength it has in that Service."

Mr. Speaker, I think those words adequately express my own views on the fine institution of the Civil Service in our province, and I think it's also significant to recall that while there are relatively few times in this Chamber when we seem to have unanimity of opinion, of general approval, one of those times is in the presentation of a Minister's Estimates when he chooses to single out a particular civil servant for commendation, and it is on those occasions when this House joins together in its expressions of approval. I recall particularly the Attorney-General in his Estimates chose to mention a civil servant who he had relied upon and whose retirement was taking place at that time, and I also recall the general approval which that commendation from the Minister received. It's not often that this House agrees but it is usually in areas like this that we come together and express our approval.

The Minister of Labour is presenting this bill in a somewhat pious way, I thought, said that he was going to remove the second-class stigma from the Civil Service of Manitoba by providing them with some new areas of activity. --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know what there is second-class about the Civil Service of Manitoba. I feel that it is first-class and that we on this side would feel that we are well served by the members of that service, and a service the lustre of which extends and the reputation of which extends well beyond the boundaries of this province.

The Minister has felt that because a condition of employment was placed in the Civil Service Act which specifically required that the Civil Servant remain impartial in his administration of the affairs of the province and that he not take particular part in political activity in the province, it was placed there for a very important reason, I think a reason no less valid today and perhaps more valid today than it was at the time the legislators of this Chamber, in their wisdom, decided that this was an appropriate condition of employment for

GOVERNMENT BILLS - BILL NO. 7

(MR. MCGILL Cont'd) civil servants.

The Minister regards this as a restriction which should not be placed upon people who apply to this province to become members of its staff. Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe the legislators were perhaps equal in wisdom to the Minister of Labour when they chose to impose this condition of employment. And in my view, Mr. Speaker, the condition of employment is there for one purpose and for one purpose only. It is to prevent imposters from applying for employment as civil servants in Manitoba, and an imposter in my view would be one who really wasn't interested in serving the people of Manitoba but one who was more interested in using that position to influence the political activity in the Province of Manitoba. And I think, Mr. Speaker, to remove that condition of employment would be somewhat comparable to the sort of confusion that we have allowed to creep into our institutions of public ownership, and it's odd that two distinctively Manitoban developments which the historian has chosen should be areas in which this government, I think, are particularly active. And in the institution of public ownership, we find a direction being taken by this government where they are attempting to be, not only the regulators of the activity, but also the operators in that field, and I think that this is weakening this. If it was indeed at one time a distinctively Manitoba development, I think that the experience and in the developments that are taking place under this government's supervision are tending to take away from that image and that successful operation that hitherto was the result of some very early decisions, at least they were taken some years ago, for public activity in the field of hydro and in the field of telephone and so on. But now we are attempting to somehow involve the Civil Service in not only an administrative function, but in a function which would provide the direction of the legislators themselves. I think that our job in here as legislators is to provide the directions and for the administrators to carry out those directions to the best of their ability and in a very impartial manner.

Mr. Speaker, I foresee that to change this situation would be to weaken the position and to weaken the effective job that the Manitoba Civil Service is doing in our province. I think it might be a fair analogy to suggest that the political activity that rises and falls in our province could be compared with the oceanic tides. Political activity rises and falls on the cycle of elections and by-elections, but the Manitoba Civil Service is, in my view, similar to a breakwater that would be fixed in its position, would tend to provide the continuity, the regular continuous function of administration during those periods when we have the high tides of political activity, those periods which immediately precede elections in our province. And I think that kind of breakwater prevents any permanent damage or erosion to our province because it is firmly fixed, it is immovable no matter whether the tides are running high or are ebbing, as they are at this moment, immediately following an election. I think it's significant that the Minister of Labour chose to leave this bill at the dissolution or prior to the dissolution of the last Session on the Order Paper, because he's in his political wisdom figured that it might be the kind of action that would be hard to accept with an election immediately following.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder what the situation would be in this building if this legislation were to pass. With by-elections coming up, I suggest that the members of the Civil Service would be quite free to speak on behalf of any candidate or any particular political party and I would imagine that a day or two or three or even a week before an election we might find a political meeting at the water coolers in the hall, and that there might be some pretty strong differences of opinion expressed. There is nothing in the act that would prevent the civil servant from making his speech in his office, I presume. It doesn't say where he may speak. I presume that if this kind of activity took place in our building we might have to increase the security guard in order that these political meetings might not get out of hand, but this of course might be difficult too because the security guards might be busy with their own particular political meetings, and there would not be any reason why a civil servant might not wear his red, white and blue Progressive-Conservative sweat shirt or T-shirt to the office. I would think this would be fair ball in the carrying out of an election. And I suppose there would be a few yellow and black shirts of the New Democratic Party visible in the halls. Mr. Speaker, I think this would add nothing and would certainly be a divisive factor in the activities of the Civil Service in Manitoba, if we were to condone or to encourage this kind of separation on a political bias.

Mr. Speaker, while this sounds like it might be an exaggeration of what might happen in this Legislative Building. I think it is something that we should regard with the greatest

BILL No. 7

(MR. MCGILL cont'd). . . seriousness. I feel that this piece of legislation has some various, very real and very dangerous implications for the Province of Manitoba. The Minister of Labour, and again I regret he is not in his seat, he has been in the House for a great number of years; I'm not sure just how many but I think he has been here longer than any other member of this Legislature that is now sitting, and I think that it is, in my view, Mr. Speaker, regrettable that the Minister should at this time be concerning himself with an activity which I feel can do nothing but detract from the position and the contribution of the Civil Service of Manitoba. It seems to me that he should be, in what may be his final session in this Legislature perhaps, concerning himself with . . .

A MEMBER: Never.

MR. MCGILL: . . . cementing and adorning the structure of the civil service, improving its stature and adding to its lustre. But it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that rather than do this the Minister is at the moment busy at the foundations of the Civil Service of Manitoba and if he is at the very basis of the structure it's apparently his endeavour to float this structure free and let it move back and forth with the political tides in Manitoba. If that happens, Mr. Speaker, I feel that there will be serious and permanent erosion in our province. We will no longer be able to depend on a continuity of the administration at least of the province during the periods when the tides of political activity are high, and rather than be a structure which tends to protect us and to prevent this permanent damage, we will have a situation where tides will run high, where permanent damage will result in our province.

Mr. Speaker, I may have failed to choose the kind of words that I would like to have found to express my very real concern in this matter but I hope that the people of Manitoba will regard this matter with the kind of serious intent that I think it deserves. It is not an action that I think will add to the development of our province, in fact I see in it a very real danger to the future development of our Province of Manitoba. Thank you.

SOME MEMBERS: Hear, Hear. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, ever since this bill was distributed it's given me, and I think most of the members of our caucus, a great deal of trouble, because we find ourselves in a position where a valid principle is put forward in a bill but put in a way which is fraught with danger and makes it difficult, creates a conflict between two sets of principles. The first being of course that all people in the province should have the opportunity and the right to participate fully in the political life of the province. The second being a more fundamental principle perhaps to the working of parliamentary democracy, that there remain a separation of powers in the governing process. By that I mean, Mr. Speaker, as we all know in our province or our country the parliamentary system is based on the principle that there will be an elected Legislature which is political and there will be a judicial branch of government which will be non-political, which will interpret the laws that the Legislature passes, and there will be an executive branch of government mainly made up of the civil service which implements the laws of the province or of the --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, I hear the Minister of Finance saying we're back to the congressional system. Mr. Speaker, that is the basis - what I've just said is the basis of how this country has been governed and it's the NDP Government that doesn't seem to understand the separation and the checks and balance system that the Canadian and British parliamentary system has inherently had built into it. And it's because of the kind of comments he's just made that make me more fearful of this kind of a bill, because he doesn't seem to even accept the idea that there is to be a separation of the civil service in political terms from the governing body. So, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the next bill will say, a bill to permit the judges of Manitoba to vote, to campaign and to raise money, because that's precisely what we're being asked to permit here . . . that which was non-political to become political. And I concede, I concede, Mr. Speaker, that I am troubled because there is a valid principle in the bill which is acceptable, that no one should be precluded from entering public life. But perhaps that principle has to be compromised, perhaps that principle must be compromised to guarantee the continued separation and independence of the three main thrusts of government - the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Civil Service.

Mr. Speaker, even if we were to accept the conflict of principles here and resolve it in favour of passage of the bill, even then the bill is full of problems even in achieving its own objective. For example, Mr. Speaker, asking, as the bill does, that anybody from civil service

BILL No. 7

(MR. ASPER cont'd). . . enters public life and is successful has to quit his job is tantamount to saying you can't do it, because we all know that no one except full ministry, and perhaps those members of government who are assigned to boards, no one can live on an MLA's salary without working besides his work in the House. And so we say to the civil service you will lose your job; even if we accept the principle that they should be able to come into public life but you've got to give up your job. Now, Mr. Speaker, if we were to pass the bill then surely we could improve that aspect of it by simply saying - as enlightened industry is now starting to say - that in a big employer such as government we can readjust you, we can find another job which is non-sensitive politically and so that you will be able to maintain your employment, as honourable members of this House do in the private sector. So, Mr. Speaker, if we were to compromise our principle - or rather not compromise our principle, I think a more appropriate term is resolve the conflict of principles in favour of the bill - then we would certainly have a lot of curing of defect to do. That would be one of the areas.

Mr. Speaker, the Act before us calls for permitting civil servants to speak and write on behalf of political people. Mr. Speaker, that is a dangerous provision. That is an enforceable provision as well. --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Public Works says it's not new. I agree it's not new, nevertheless it is not a desirable provision. And if we were to accept the resolution of the two principles, which I'm not prepared yet to do, Mr. Speaker, we would want to see that elimination. Mr. Speaker, the information that the civil service acquires is basically sensitive. It's acquired on the premise that it is a non-partisan, an independent, a neutral in the political process. Mr. Speaker, if that information can be used for political writing, political speaking by the civil service then we're going to have three branches of the civil service: the Liberal, the Conservative and New Democrat. And, Mr. Speaker --oh I'm sorry, it's suggested to me that there may be some Social Credit. Mr. Speaker, the --(Interjection)--yes, it's been suggested that even the Group for Good Government may infiltrate the civil service and form its own group.

Mr. Speaker, if you had a fragmented civil service which is undesirable then you would have reluctance to exchange information between departments; you'd have a fear of who am I talking to, am I talking to one of us or am I talking to one of them, you would have suspicion and you'd have an erosion of the cohesion and the effectiveness of the civil service. But perhaps one of the worst principles of the bill, Mr. Speaker, one that is totally unacceptable to the most enlightened, is the suggestion that if we were to permit politicization or political involvement by the civil service, we would permit the civil service people to be involved in political fund raising. Mr. Speaker, that is regressive; that is a throwback to a day that we hope doesn't exist any longer. --(Interjection)-- Yah, Mr. Speaker, my colleague suggested it's purely the legalization of what was Tammany Hall. Mr. Speaker, a licence inspector who has the discretion goes out raising money for the New Democratic Party, and he has the discretion as to whether to grant the licence or not grant the licence. And he is going to be permitted to be a fund raiser for the New Democratic Party? Or the Liberals or the Conservatives.

Mr. Speaker, that's at the lowest possible level. Let's take the contract, let's take the buying division of government where people don't go through tender necessarily all the time and where once having gone through tender there become extras in contracts - and that's a normal thing it's not an evil. Normal contract says you'll build the road, these 50 miles, and you'll charge us "X" dollars, and there's an extra clause, an extra clause, and in the middle of the contract it's decided to widen the road or do it a different way or the weather changes and there's a renegotiation. Mr. Speaker, the contractor negotiating with the civil service could be in a position to be negotiating with a fund raiser for the political party in office or the fund raiser for the political party in opposition. And Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect, that tempts corruption. That puts the civil service in the position where they can be unsure in their own mind if they're on the take because that contractor can very well say to the civil servant, look I need the extras. The price is \$30,000 and by the way come by and see me on Saturday to pick up my annual donation to the party. Because he's the fund raiser, because the Act says he can be the fund raiser --(Interjection)-- Well it permits him while he's on his leave of absence, Mr. Speaker. --(Interjection)-- Yes. To raise funds.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the framers of the law even if it were good law, this principle in it must be removed. There's nothing left to say except it must be removed because

BILL No. 7

(MR. ASPER cont'd) . . . any incentive to corruption, to bribery, we're the last body that should be legislating it. We have reference in the Speech from the Throne that we're going to enact laws at this session to deal with the conflicts of interest by the civil service. Now we're enacting a specific opportunity for conflicts of interest. Surely this isn't what the Speech from the Throne intended; this is in diametric opposition to the whole principle of keeping insulated our civil service from the threat that they may be placed in a politically partisan role where they are confused as to whether or not they're doing their job or they're really a stooge or a shill for somebody who's being bribed or paid off.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to see any civil servant in this province in that position, of having his name in the paper, of being accused, of being attacked as being a political fund raiser and then back in his job the week after. Mr. Speaker, that's only part of it. If we're really serious about the bill -- and I can't quite say at this stage that I can resolve that conflict -- if we're going to do anything like this though, Mr. Speaker, then I urge the government to first insulate the Civil Service. By that I mean, Mr. Speaker, we do not want the people who work for any government to be in a position where they are subjected to political blackmail, political pressure, the requirement of doing political favours, and until we can insulate the Civil Service from that kind of thing, and it isn't presently insulated this way, not adequately, if we're going to broaden the rights of the Civil Service to become political then it must first be insulated so that the government of the day, whoever it may be, can't abuse that. By that I mean this: I think we have to look at how the Civil Service is now appointed - the Commission rather, so that there is a protection, a better protection than presently exists, that the government of the day can (a) pack the Commission, and (b) pack the Civil Service; and (c) build an army of 12,000 political partisans who are being paid by the public but who are spending a considerable portion of their time in political pursuits for the party in power.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that if that happens you would, in a matter of a decade you would have a dictatorship of the party in power, because you would have, you would have a political - yes you would have a totalitarian state if you wanted to. Because once you take the information granting aspect of public life, which is the Civil Service, once you take the discretionary aspect of public life which is the licensing, the permits, the contract granting, once you take the whole thrust of government which represents perhaps 20, 30, 40 percent of the gross provincial product - I'm not sure how you split municipal, federal and provincial - but I can tell you that government itself represents 40 percent of human endeavour in this country in gross national product terms. Once you take that and unless we can insulate, unless we can assure the public that the Civil Service will be insulated from pressure to become political then one has to say hold off. There must be better guarantees for those who enter the public service; there must be better better guarantees for the people of Manitoba that the public service will not be converted into a political army.

Now what I started to say was I can foresee, unless we can improve this bill, unless we can improve the whole concept of the Civil Service Commission and build in the kind of neutrality and insulation I spoke of so that a government of the day can't pack it, if we can't do that then we foresee this kind of a situation: Deputy Minister, Associate Deputy Minister or Division Head is looking at ten people in his department for advancement. Now, Mr. Speaker, he is a political man, he is a member of the party, he is a potential candidate for the party in office - and bear in mind, Mr. Speaker, I, in saying what I am saying make no accusation against this government. I want that clear. I'm speaking of any political party. I don't mean to suggest that this government is more evil than any other government.

A MEMBER: They are.

MR. ASPER: That may be, but this is not the form for that debate. Because I could foresee any government, any political party --(Interjection)-- Sure - which has the sole function of staying in office, using this bill, using this technique to insulate the government, rather the public from the truth and to operate in a manner which the public would never know whether government was performing well or not.

Now the kind of example I started to give was this: the division head, who is a member of the governing party, who proposes to be a candidate, needs an organizer for the party in Wawanesa or Minnedosa or wherever--(Interjection)-- You sure do. So he says, there's a chance for advancement, we're going to be creating a special study group or a board or what have you, now Jones will you take out a membership in the party so that while you're out in

BILL No. 7

(MR. ASPER cont'd). . . Wawanesa on the Milk Board or on the commission that we're setting up, we'd like you to do a little organizing for us. Mr. Speaker, there would be virtually no way that you could detect that kind of abuse, there would be no way that you could prevent that kind of abuse, prevention and detection being two different things, and, Mr. Speaker, there would be no way that a bill like this would not encourage that kind of abuse. Now, Jones says "no, Mr. Speaker, I am a political, I am a traditional civil servant, I came to work not to be a politician; if I want to be a politician I'll go somewhere else". And so supervisor says, "Well, Jones, advancement has just ended in your case. Do this little job for us and advancement proceeds." That's the danger.

Mr. Speaker, there's no suggestion in the bill that says there will be an appeal system, that the hassled civil servant who's being leaned on by the politicians who are civil servants has no protection against being conscripted into the political army. So at the very least I ask the government to consider part of the insulation being an objective independent appeal by any civil servant who feels he is being unfairly treated or being deterred from advancement or having his career affected by his lack of, or his involvement in the political process. And the only way you can build that kind of an objective appeal certainly can't be to a government-appointed Civil Service Commission. It must be to the courts, it must be to some independent -- one of the last cornerstones of our society that isn't being politicized --(Interjection)-- Well the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources says, who appointed the courts? At least the courts have the virtue of being appointed for life and therefore --(Interjection)-- Well, I hear a suggestion that perhaps implies that the Minister would like to see the courts elected. And the Minister of Mines and Resources commented that that was a bad thing. Mr. Speaker, I shudder to think of our institutions being congressionalized by the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources in this way. The odious thought that we would adopt an American concept of electing our courts. . .

MR. GREEN: . . . on the point of privilege, I never said that I wanted the courts elected, I said that it was not a virtue that they are appointed for life. There's a big distinction, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my dialogue or debate on political science with the Minister perhaps can be adjourned to another time. I'll go on with the main thrust of this --(Interjection) -- Mr. Speaker, he suggests that I should not misrepresent him and believe me I won't misrepresent because he's my constituent, I'll try to represent.

Mr. Speaker, there may be ways out of the dilemmas that I foresee. I personally am very sensitive to the valid principle that the bill contains and yet I'm equally disturbed by the invalid principle. There could be ways and I would ask the government to, before they force us to make a final conclusion on the bill, give some consideration to amendment, amendment which would make this apply only to the very least sensitive areas of the Civil Service, perhaps by salary, perhaps by job category, perhaps experiment with it, perhaps step into it in a very small way first to find out whether it can be done. And I say this recognizing that the government has a majority in this House Mr. Speaker; that unless we can persuade them to alter the bill that they're going to pass the bill. It will make no difference how much opposition we put up, it will be passed by sheer number. And recognizing that, Mr. Speaker, I say let us try to find a way that either the government pulls it back and says, after all there's no rush, there's no election for three years or two years, or four years or what have you, that we have lots of time to consider this. I believe we've raised valid concerns, concerns that if they have any validity the government can well afford to say, yes, we will reconsider that; yes, we will hoist the bill, we'll come back, we've got lots of time before the issue is germane in provincial politics. And, Mr. Speaker, we might get better legislation. We might get a solution to the issue of sensitivity and neutralization.

Mr. Speaker, I can't conclude without saying that it disturbs me that the first act of this government after having received a mandate, in dealing with the Civil Service Act the first thing it thinks of is the politicization process. Mr. Speaker, there are higher authorities. If we're going to go to amendments to the Civil Service Act, Mr. Speaker, this is low on the priority list, this is not relevant for three or four years. But as my colleague for Fort Rouge correctly observed in this House a few days ago, if we're going to play with the Civil Service Act, let's begin breaking down the barriers that exist for the 44 percent of the work force of

BILL No. 7

(MR. ASPER cont'd). . . of this province that are the women. I subscribe to the view he expressed. That is Liberal policy, it is the policy of our caucus, because this Act, the first time we get a chance to amend the Civil Service Act does nothing to enhance the opportunities for upward advancement and enlargement of involvement by women in the Civil Service. Mr. Speaker, unless the government of the day is prepared to set the example that the private sector should follow, we have no - as I said the other night, he who asks equity must have clean hands. We, or they, government, in saying to industry, we expect you to remove barriers that prohibit or deter advancement of women and we expect you to get rid of a whole series of things that prevent us from having women judges, women hospital administrators, women in the key posts, for which they're trained, then we have to set the example.

We would have saluted, we would have welcomed the first amendments to the Civil Service Bill being those amendments which said, we will establish guidelines, we will establish --(Interjection)-- Yes, the Honourable Minister of Public Work says, "Quotas". I don't like quotas either. But, Mr. Speaker, if we hadn't developed quotas, minority groups, women, ethnic groups, if we hadn't broken doors down by first establishing quotas, which I find ugly, we would not have any progress. Mr. Speaker, if that's what we're saying, that we have to establish quotas, five years ago I would have been idealistic enough to say, I don't believe in quotas. But, Mr. Speaker, I have watched the slow and no progress in certain areas of civil rights, this being one, and the only time I've seen success, watching this field for 15 years, is the token quota, because it's . . . I can remember, all of you opposite in this Chamber will know, there were years when there were quotas when no members in certain ethnic groups could get into certain faculties in university. You remember. And it was only when the quota system the first crack in the door, somebody said, we'll allow X percent. And then, Mr. Speaker, because a quota system began we were able to push back the quota to no quota, and that's where we are today. --(Interjection)--

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Mines disagrees. He thinks that suddenly perhaps, suddenly the Faculty of Medicine and suddenly the Manitoba Bar Association, just out of the goodness of its heart, opened its doors. Well that's not true. They opened their --(Interjection)-- I would refer my honourable friend the Minister of Finance to the annals of the Blackstone Club that he would remember. Well, Mr. Speaker, take my word for it, I urge you that only by imposing quotas you break down barriers. I know no other way.

Now if the government though, I don't suggest quotas, if the government will come up with a better solution so that we can each year have a report to this House so that we can measure the progress in breaking down that barrier, I'll accept any solution. But I say, Mr. Speaker, if we're going to amend the Civil Service Act let's start with its greatest flaw, not this; it's greatest flaw is that there is nothing that encourages upward mobility of the women in the force, the handicapped and more - I confine my remarks to what my Honourable Member for Fort Rouge had said - that we could amend this Act to say, the Women's Bureau will each year file a report with the Legislature. It will show us what mobilities occur, it will show us what job classification changes have occurred and then we can debate and measure whether we're making progress on that. Now that, Sir, would be progressive legislation which would find no difficulty from this side of the House, but I have to say because the government has set this kind of priority, the politicization as a priority over broadening the Civil Service Act to provide for the upward advancement in wiping out barriers faced by women, I have to question the priorities of the government, I have to question the values, and I have to ask them please re-think the position on the bill before us.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak but I would like first if I may to ask a question of the honourable member who just spoke. In view of the fact that debate on second reading is on principle, would the honourable member indicate for me for clarification whether he and his party are voting in support or against the principle of the bill?

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had said in my opening remarks that I cannot indicate that at this time, simply because of the trouble that I outlined in resolving those two principles. I would have to hear more from the government before I think our caucus could. . .

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I had the impression that the Honourable the Member for Fort Rouge had already indicated support but I guess if I'm wrong, or if I'm right

BILL No. 7

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd). . . then I would guess that there has to be a new caucus meeting, and if I'm wrong then I obviously misunderstood him. Because, Mr. Speaker, the principle is very simple. And the honourable member the Leader of the Liberal Party who still hasn't made a decision on principle, is now going to possibly try to dicker or bargain or in some way get some concessions to his point of view. --(Interjection)-- And he says that's what the Legislature is about, the debate is for that? I was suggesting a sort of a trading process, that he would trade and say, well if you make certain concessions then I will support you sort of like, I will vote if I get certain promises of some kind. Coming from a member who last was busy spitting all over the room at various objects I'm not sure that I would care too much to get involved in a discussion with him of the legislative or parliamentary process and therefore I think that it should be left to him to judge, and his caucus, to judge whether the principle's important. And the principle to me sort of boils down to a very simple thing. Should a civil servant be barred from participating in political affairs under certain limitations without endangering his job security. Seems to me that that's what this is about. And I can't say that I share other members great insistence that this is the most vital thing that we have to do, although I do feel that it is important that we do it. We have to remember that human beings have interests, motivations and would like to participate in a democracy.

The Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party used a statistic which surprised me. He said that government represents 40 percent of human endeavour. I think he must have meant in impact on the economy, not in numbers of civil servants, but I do know that the civil servants make up a very large number of people in the province, a very large segment of the citizens of this province and there are certain restrictions on them. I think that when the Minister of Labour introduced the bill and said that he doesn't want them to be second-class citizens that the Honourable Member for Brandon West must have understood that the Minister of Labour felt that because they could not participate in political affairs under certain circumstances that that made them second to those who do have that right. And only in that respect. I don't think the Member for Brandon West wanted to put words into the Minister's mouth suggesting that they were second-class in any other respect.

I don't know if I had occasion in the last four or five years to tell the House of my experience when I became a Minister of the Crown and when I received certain briefing material - well actually the draft of a speech that I was going to make, and I received it from a department with which I was not too familiar. That draft contained in it the essentials of what a New Democratic Party member would want to say to such an extent that I was intrigued to find that the department which I had inherited from the Conservative Government was producing for me a document which had considerable political content; it was the draft to the Budget Speech, the first draft. And when I expressed surprise I was answered by the statement that we are civil servants, we have our own political ideas but we know our jobs and we intend to do them as objectively and as capably as we can; and therefore although we may not agree with what we are putting on paper we are putting on paper what we believe is something that you agree with and since you're the speaker, you're the one who should have the information. And to this day I do not know the political leanings, if there are any who have political leanings, in the people who work right in the Research Department of the Department of Finance.

Now there are some that I have certain ideas about, some I consider more Conservative than others, some more inclined to the New Democratic Party? and some have told me straight out how they feel, and yet the calibre of the work they produce is even and it's without fear and without an attempt to curry favour because the only favour they can get is that which is a recognition of integrity and doing their jobs well. --(Interjection)-- Now I'm being asked that question, why change it? And the answer I have to give is that I --(Interjection)-- Well I've been asked a question four times, I will have difficulty answering it if the question is continually being posed. So if you're through asking it, I'll try and answer it; but if you're not through asking it, I'll wait until you're through. --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, Whose time is this?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. We are abiding by the rules of the House, Rule 42. I think when an honourable member is speaking, another honourable member should not interrupt. I would ask the honourable members to allow the Minister to continue. Certain questions have been asked and the Minister is attempting to answer them.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I was not present when the Minister of Labour

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd). . . introduced this bill on second reading, nor I have read his introduction, so anyone who wants to know his reasoning will have it in Hansard. My own belief is that a person who wishes to participate in political affairs during an election should have a right to do so and should be guaranteed tenure in the event that he comes back. That to me is the purpose of this bill, that's exactly the purpose of this bill. Because who gave us a list here in the House of all the people who have come from Civil Service into elective office and have served the people well. I think the Member for Lakeside mentioned some. Somebody mentioned Mitchell Sharp, Lester Pearson, any number, who have served the people well. And it would be a pity if there are people who work for this government who can contribute their efforts on behalf of the people in elective office . and who fear to do so because they do not have the right to return. And as I understand this bill, what it does is guarantee to them that at the end of the election, should they not be successful, then they have a right, a right to come back and work.

Now the members on the opposite side are saying, well, of course if they do they're going to be in trouble. Well of course they would be in trouble if they resigned, ran for office and didn't have the right to come back to demand their jobs. What this does is recognize, firstly, the desire of some and I would think very little, because most people I've met in the civil service, especially the higher they rise in the ranks of the civil service, most of them do not wish to participate politically. Most of them say, "I stay out of the political arena because I feel that my job as a civil servant overrides that". But the younger ones and the ones in, as the Member, the Leader of the Liberal Party, the one who spoke about less sensitive areas they shouldn't have to fear not being rehired when the campaign is over. That's really to me the essence of the bill and that is the principle on which I intend to vote.

When we come to discuss the details I believe the Minister of Labour indicated that there are matters that he expects will be discussed and should be discussed. For example, there is a section that deals with certain people who are excluded from this right, and that should be discussed, because honourable members must know that every person of ADM rank and lower does have tenure under The Civil Service Act. Deputy Ministers do not have tenure and I think the private secretaries to Ministers do not have tenure. People who work as secretaries have worked their way up to the highest category of secretarial staff, lose tenure when they become the secretaries to Ministers under the Act. And the reason for that is obvious, that whoever drew the Act, the brainy people that the Member for Brandon West referred to, recognized that there were some categories that were too close to the political end or the political side of government to have the right to remain there if there is a change. And that's why a Deputy Minister does not have any right in the world to continue to stay on as Deputy Minister if there is a change in government. And I think that makes good sense. But everybody below that does have a right unless he shows himself to be interested in political affairs because under the present Act he is barred. He may not -- I think it's Section 44 which denies him the right, so that of course tenure can't apply. If he participates in political affairs, then that is in direct contradiction, direct contradiction of the present Act. Therefore he "may" be fired -- he doesn't have to be, does he? -- so he may be fired and then he has no right to appeal back. --(Interjection)-- Well, he has violated the Act and my colleague suggests he could be prosecuted, and that may well be; probably, probably he could be prosecuted. But aside from that he doesn't have the right to come back and say "I want my job back", in a completely, let's assume, insensitive area. But the fact is that what we are proposing is that he do have the right to come back to his job if he does decide to participate. That to me is what is involved.

I want to spend just a moment on -- it's unfortunate that the Leader of the Liberal Party has left the Chamber because I want to deal with some of the things he said. He talked about quotas being necessary in order to make change. And you know, Mr. Speaker, I think that he is confusing certain principles that may have taken place and certain actions before his maturity, assuming he's already at that stage. He spoke about the Blackstone Club and I think members present ought to know that there was once a Blackstone Club in Winnipeg, in Manitoba, made up of lawyers, members of the bar, recognizing one of the great leaders of legal juridical thinking in England, Lord Blackstone, and the club was named the Blackstone Club. It was a social club, it was a luncheon club, and it became apparent after awhile

BILL No. 7

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd). . . that somehow or other Jewish lawyers were never invited to belong and join and participate in the Blackstone Club, and actually there still exists today on paper a Jessel Club, which at one time was made up of only Jewish lawyers and then more and more non-Jewish lawyers joined it, and that was created to combat that Blackstone Club that the member refers to. Because it was a social club, it had no legal status, and as far as I know, and my participation in the legal profession predates that of the Leader of the Liberal Party, I don't believe that there was ever any denial to Jews to practice law in Manitoba. I don't think there was ever any quota or restriction of any kind, openly stated or otherwise.

However, there was in the Medical College and it was exactly what the member claims did not exist. He claims that the quota system was brought in in order to make it possible for Jews to go into the medical school, and that's not so. As a matter of fact, when my sister applied to go to Medical College she had two strikes against her because they had what they called numerous clauses - which means the quota system - against Jews and they had another one against women, and she was sort of lucky to find that there was room for her in the women's quota although there was no room for her in the Jewish quota and she happened to get in under that one. And that was back in the early thirties and I remember the people involved, one of whom was a member of this Legislature, Mr. Marcus Hyman, who was one of the great persons who fought this openly. Another was Alistair Stewart, who with Marcus Hyman, fought it and at that time --(Interjection)-- Yes, Mitchell. Well there were others of course. And at that time what they did was to succeed in having the board of governors force the Medical College to drop this quota system which of course wasn't in writing but it so happened, and I remember having documents in my hand which were presented to the Admissions Committee and they were three sheets of paper, and one was Jews and one was women and one was everybody else, and they were told, now you pick so many from each of these three lists. In any event it was dropped.

Now what he may be talking about a quota system, which I think is of interest, is that the human rights practitioners, especially in the United States, in New York, in Minnesota, have a different kind of an approach. They say that in an unskilled industry where the labour force doesn't have to have any particular qualification, and you find a labour force which consists of, let us say 10 percent black, then it is inconceivable that the proportion of black employees in a large industry should not approximate in some way their availability in the labour force, and they say to them "The mere fact that you have one percent black whereas the labour force consists of 10 percent black, is presumed to us to be an indication of discrimination. We now turn on you the onus of proving that you do not discriminate". That's a vastly different concept than the one presented by the Leader of the Liberal Party who says that we start with quotas --(Interjection)-- Well, then, he doesn't understand the way it's described because it isn't the law that imposes a quota, it is the regulation of the Human Rights Commissions that say that if you don't have your average at the same level as the general average, then the onus shifts, that's all it says. However, if the Member for Fort Rouge can speak for the intellectual attainment of his Leader, then I will accept his word that that is what the Leader would think.

But the reason I wouldn't want to burden the Member for Fort Rouge with vouching for the intellectual attainment of his Leader is the one relating to government, which he discussed yesterday, which he discussed today, and what he said today again was that the executive of government is the Civil Service and it is non-political. And he's now confusing so many systems of government I can't even give an analogy. In United States where the executive branch is not the same as that of the judicial or the congressional they are all - the executive branch - and they are all political. I think when there's a change in office there's something like 2,000 or 2,500 people out of work and a line-up where another 2,500 are replaced, and if you will recall, the President, after the election I believe it was, the last election, demanded and received something over 2,000 resignations in Washington, and I suppose is today sitting with them in his hip pocket with the power to use them. That is where the entire structure, the administration is political. In our system here we know that the executive branch is headed by elected people, political people and I don't know how the Leader of the Liberal Party conceives that the executive branch is the civil service. The civil service serves the political arm of government, and government - and I didn't know it was Mitchell Sharp that was entitled to credit for that quotation that the House Leader used yesterday but it's a very apt one,

BILL NO. 7

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd). . . and that is that "government governs and parliament decides who shall govern," and that's something that, if I may, Mr. Speaker, refer to momentarily, that the Leader of the Liberal Party doesn't understand because he keeps talking about himself as if he were a shareholder in one or another of the corporations of the --(Interjection)-- A director, oh he's a director, and his constituents are shareholders. It's a peculiar approach that he has which I think has to do with his wrong concept of government and government structure.

Let's get back to the principle of the bill more than he was willing to do in his broader range. He did say that if elected a civil servant shouldn't have to give up his job as is required here, but we must be able to find a non-sensitive job for him. That mere statement indicates that I don't understand how he could say, "I'm not sure whether I'm going to vote for the principle of this bill," because he wants to go so far beyond it as not only to guarantee tenure after the election, but tenure after a successful election so that he conceives of an elected member of this House also continuing to work in what he calls a non-sensitive area somewhere --(Interjection)-- No, maybe Deputy Ministers do. It's a non-sensitive job. Well, that's something that's worth discussing, but certainly how he can say he's not sure he approves of the principle of the bill yet and proposed that he be guaranteed that a successfully elected person be guaranteed a non-sensitive job is sort of beyond me. I do point out that he objects now to a public servant being allowed to speak or write on behalf of a candidate. He says that should not be allowed. He disagrees with that, because, he says -- well, I don't want to give his reasons, I didn't quite understand them, so why should I try to account for them? But the thought that he seemed to have and the thought that members opposite seem to have of a non-political civil servant is naive, so naive as one would wonder how it is that the Member for Portage la Prairie gets into his hands a missive sent to a civil servant through the civil service. To me it's obvious that that civil servant resented the way in which it was sent and felt he had a right to make a complaint and did indeed do so. And I think he did the right thing. I can question that civil servant - and I assume it was one - who may have leaked some draft document last year to one of the members opposite.

A MEMBER: Fort Rouge.

MR. CHERNIACK: The Member for Fort Rouge? Was he the one who came up with a -- yes, the previous Member for Fort Rouge, came up with -- well it may be that the current member would also receive something like that, and that we know happens because we know that there are people in the civil service who do have political interests and who do wish to do these things. Some I think are recognized, some may even be commendable, and some I think are reprehensible. Nevertheless it's done. When the Member for Riel, was it, last year came in at midnight with some piece of paper that came out of the Department of Education and said "Look at this document that we have." Do you remember all the excitement that took place at midnight last year? Well he must have gotten it from a civil servant.

Continued on next page.

BILL NO. 7

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): I hate to interrupt the Honourable Minister of Finance but the record should show that that document, the document he refers to with respect to the Member for Riel, it did not come from anybody in the civil service. It was a document that was sent to the schools, to school divisions in his area. I believe there were two or three school divisions, Charleswood School Division being one of them where a teacher which, if you want to extend the civil service to that length, then brought it to our attention. But the record should show this.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I think the record is probably clear. It has not been aided by the help of the Member for Lakeside who I think may have confused it somewhat. I believe the Member for Riel said it came out of the Department. I think later on it became apparent --(Interjection)-- Well that wasn't true, because as I recall it - now I've got the floor --as I recall it, what happened was that it became apparent later, like really later, after all the fuss and hullabaloo, that this was a document presented as a test for discussion by a private -- by a teacher, not a member of the Department, who brought it into a committee for discussion and that some other teacher took his copy out and did something with it that made it fall into the hands of the Conservative Party, but that, in effect, I believe it was stated it came out of the department.

But let's not fool ourselves; these things happen. Civil servants are not political eunuchs. Civil servants do have ideas and do have aspirations to serve the public. As I understand this bill, that's what it's designed to do. The dangers that are referred to are dangers that always exist. The dangers that can be protected against should be suggested, and I hope will be. It amuses mesomewhat that the Leader of the Liberal Party says, "I have yet to see how I'm going to vote" depending on what is said on this side. It amuses me because he of all people, or he amongst other people, know very well how this government is prepared to listen to members opposite and to consult with them as you accept recommendations from them indeed to the extent of making them the law.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: That is democracy?

MR. CHERNIACK: Pardon? That is democracy. Of course, I think that the Leader of the Liberal Party spat on democracy on one occasion, but maybe not, maybe his spittle went so far that it didn't go quite as far as democracy but he did spit on some other things which may be that, but the point that the Member for Portage just made about that's democracy, I wish he would tell it to people on his side of the House, not necessarily people in his party, because they seem to resent that.

The fund raising - and I'm quite prepared to debate that issue; I still have an open mind on it. I do want to clarify. I think the Member for Portage was wrong in his interpretation of what is being proposed because I understood him to think that under the proposed amendment any person is permitted to take leave of absence, any civil servant may take leave of absence and go out raising funds, and I think it's very clear that only a person who is given leave of absence as a candidate is permitted to do that, and I suppose the reason is that a candidate does. --(Interjection)-- Pardon? That I didn't know. I won't admit too much my ignorance in case I say something I shouldn't that I know something --(Interjection)-- that he can't. But it's limited to that and if that's a danger, all right, let's discuss that in committee. Although for the Leader of the Liberal Party to figure out already the danger that exists of a man who has power using it to collect money, is one that all of us have been aware of all our adult life, that dangers like that exist, and that would be a crime under any circumstance.

This does not legalize that kind of a person any more than it legalizes a Cabinet Minister to ask for funds during an election campaign, and this is limited to that only. But I won't debate it because, as I say, I've an open mind on it. Maybe that shouldn't be in there; I don't think its crucial; but you know, the suggestions that have been coming are the ones that suggest that the civil service is not of a calibre that we all say it is. Each one of us says that the civil service is of a high calibre and I believe it. I wish those who don't believe it wouldn't say it, because there are those who suggest that the civil service contains so many people who may be so nefarious that they will do all these things that are being described, all these things about being subject to pressure and not resisting, all these things about knuckling under to pressure from above, all that I think undermines and suggests a less competent and people with lesser integrity.

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) . . . I don't share that. I believe that the civil service, which does consist of top people at every level in this province, is not subject to that kind of treatment, and if they are, if there are any such individuals who are subject to that kind of pressure maybe they really oughtn't to be in the civil service. Maybe that is one way that they can recognize that they ought to get out. But I want it to be known that there are people that I have met in the civil service who have openly informed me that they are in disagreement with the New Democratic Party and who are still civil servants doing their job and doing them well, and are recognized and honoured for that fact. And I would think that that's the way it will continue --(Interjection)--

Well, the member says there's nothing wrong with that and yet he's the one who's so suspicious that they're afraid to be found out. They're not afraid to be found out. They have this political conviction but they also have integrity and competence in their jobs. That's much more important and that's to be recognized.

So, Mr. Speaker, whether or not the Liberal Party or the Liberal caucus gets around to making a decision on the principle of this bill — and I don't know if they will; right now I find that only two-fifths of them are present to hear this part of the debate — but when they do make up their minds, I think it will not be too important because I believe that this bill will go to Committee. I think it will receive support in principle from this Legislature, and when it gets into committee I think that would be the best time to discuss the questions, the detailed questions of the sections.

I think it was the Member for Swan River, and if it wasn't he'll correct me, who said that the civil service doesn't want it. The impression he has is the civil service doesn't want the right. I am under the impression that they actually voted and that the government was informed that they do want it. Now that doesn't mean all of them do but I guess the majority of whatever group . . . Is that not so? Did they . . . ? Oh, well other members present don't confirm what I say so I may be wrong. My impression was that the MGEA at one stage made the public statement that they were in favour of the right to vote. --(Interjection)-- All right, then I corrected. I'm glad I raised it.

But I point out to you that when this goes into committee, that will be the time for the MGEA and civil servants to come and say what their objections are, and that will be the time when others will express their points of view, and that will be the time when we deal with the safeguards that members fear. And I think that is the right place rather than to cast doubt in a blanket way on the motives of government or otherwise of individual members of the civil service.

I don't think it really helps very much to lower debate on the question of civil service. The very Leader of the Liberal Party who said that he did not want to get involved in naming names — he said that today — yesterday did not hesitate to throw a whole department, especially a small department, into some sort of disrepute by making insinuations which -- Member for Fort Rouge? --(Interjection)-- Maybe what? And now the Member for Fort Rouge suggests that maybe -- Who does deserve it? The Department. So now the Member for Fort Rouge apparently is suggesting to us that that whole department should go into some doubt or disrepute because the accusation was made by the Leader of the Liberal Party that one and I think maybe two were doing something that may have been improper. But in a blanket way and apparently supported by the Member for Fort Rouge, and I hope he can correct me because I don't put him in the same category as his Leader. --(Interjection)-- Pardon? And he will correct me. I'm glad he will because I believe what his Leader did yesterday in . . . --(Interjection)-- Well I don't know, we'll find out. I believe his Leader yesterday, in asking certain questions, certain very pointed questions of the Minister reporting for Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, put into doubt every individual employee in that department. By the way he asked the questions, and I think that that is damaging. I don't think that that helps the civil service at all. If there is a person who can be accused and there is enough basis on which to make that accusation by naming him, he should be named. And if there isn't, then the Minister should be told privately; this is the accusation, this is the allegation. Do you want to check it out?

Now my friend opposite says something about the taxpayers of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister has four minutes.

MR. CHERNIACK: You know, I'm again having a problem understanding the member

BILL NO. 7

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) . . . and this is not the first time. I can't respond because I don't understand the question he's asking. So I feel, Mr. Speaker, that this debate will continue, that eventually this bill will be sent to committee. I would hope that all those who expressed strong opinions will make sure that they will be present to discuss the specifics of the bill providing the principle is one that they can accept.

Well, now, I thank the Honourable Member for St. Vital who brought to me Hansard, page 396, the introduction of Bill No. 7 by the Minister of Labour and I quote page 396 for the benefit of all those who didn't understand what he said. "Now my honourable friend from Swan River asks me if the Government civil service had asked for this right. Well, I must say to my honourable friend that by a resolution at one of the conventions of the Manitoba Government Employees Association, a resolution was presented to that convention in December of 1972 and the resolution was passed, Mr. Speaker." Passed, Mr. Speaker. It went on to say: "True, not by a great majority. The vote was 98 to 91 with 37 abstentions." But apparently I was correct. It did pass and I thank the honourable member for giving me that information and giving the Member for Swan River the information, because the Member for Swan River would not want to go around misquoting people. I know that. I have enough respect for him that he would like to be helped to know the facts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge state his point of order?

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct the statements made by the Minister at the beginning of his speech. The point of order is that he indicated that in this House I had stated approval for the bill. That is not correct, Mr. Speaker, and I would refer him to the Hansard of February 15th in which I stated that while we approved of the objectives of the bill, we had serious reservations because of the contradictions and anomalies and therefore we would like to reserve our approval to hear debate and to the discussion in Law Amendments Committee to see if those were corrected. Mr. Speaker, I also have . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. Order, please. The honourable member does not have a point of order, it is a matter of explanation. I believe he has made his point in that regard. A second explanation possibly. Would the honourable member explain his point of order if he has one.

MR. AXWORTHY: It may be, Mr. Speaker, but the Minister said that, or accused me of saying that I held the Foundation, the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, in disrepute because of the actions of a few individuals. I hold it purely in disrepute because of its poor performance in the field of housing.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: I have a point of privilege. I never even used the word "foundation". I talked about the people who are employed in that department as having been put in disrepute as individuals. And that is -- and not by the Member for Fort Rouge but by the Leader of the Liberal Party, and I thought with today's apparent concurrence of the Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Swan River, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Second Reading Government Bills. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Bill No. 9

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, would you have that matter stand?

BILL NO. 18

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 18, the Honourable Minister of Highways.

MR. BURTNIAK presented Bill No. 18, an Act to amend the Highways Department Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Speaker, first of all I must apologize for the shape of my voice today. I've got a bad cold.

This is a rather simple matter. It's just a matter of designating another type of road dealing with what we like to call under this bill an industrial road. As you know, Mr. Speaker, up until now we have two types of roads, one is the PRs in the province and the others are

BILL NO. 18

(MR. BURTNIAK cont'd) . . . PTHs, and this idea of an industrial road would authorize the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to designate a particular road. We're talking specifically I think about northern Manitoba. The objective of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is that along with companion amendments relating to dimensions of vehicles that may be operated under such highways, and the weights that may be carried thereon, is to permit larger trucks to carry such things as timber, pulpwood and minerals reducing hopefully, significantly the traffic transportation costs. The Act presently provides for the issuance of special one-time permits to authorize the moving of an overweight or oversize vehicle. We feel that the use of such permits in a day to day operation is really not practical.

Now as I said this will give the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council an opportunity to designate either certain roads or certain portion of roads which will permit people, truckers using these roads for hauling different materials as far as weights, heights and load limits are concerned, and of course these can be taken off at a later date whenever it is deemed feasible to do so.

I think that that's about all I can say on this bill; I think its pretty cut and dried; it's not that, I don't think it's that controversial.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 19

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 19. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW presented Bill No. 19, an Act to amend The Crop Insurance Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, there are two small amendments in this bill dealing with two areas. One in particular has been a problem to the Crop Insurance Corporation for some time in that every time they wanted to add a new crop to the list of crops that could be insured that they were required to submit a recommendation for a change in the Act. The intent here is to amend the act to allow for additional crops to be added from time to time by regulation as opposed to by amendment of the Act itself. That is really the most significant amendment in this bill.

The second one has to do with changing the way in which we handle the appeals, the crop insurance appeal tribunals. The present system under the existing legislation, the tribunal is responsible to the Crop Insurance Corporation for its funding and organization, and we feel that there could be a conflict of interests, Mr. Speaker, in having people appeal to a tribunal who is responsible to the corporation against which an appeal is launched. So the change here provides for the Department of Agriculture to be responsible for the appeal tribunal and to fund that organization so that there would be no possibility of a conflict of interest on any appeal to the Crop Insurance Corporation's rulings.

Those are essentially the two main changes and I recommend them to the House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

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

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it's seven minutes to go to the adjournment hour; I think it would be preferable if we introduce the new Estimates that are coming to the House this afternoon at 2:30.

MR. SPEAKER: Can we move into committee? --(Interjection)-- . . . and then we can adjourn.

MR. GREEN: Would you prefer, Mr. Speaker, from your point of view, if we move into committee, yes, fine.

I move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider

BILL NO. 19

(MR. GREEN cont'd) . . . of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

SUPPLY- PUBLIC WORKS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did I hear someone say that it was 12:30? I am leaving the Chair to return at 2:30 this afternoon.