

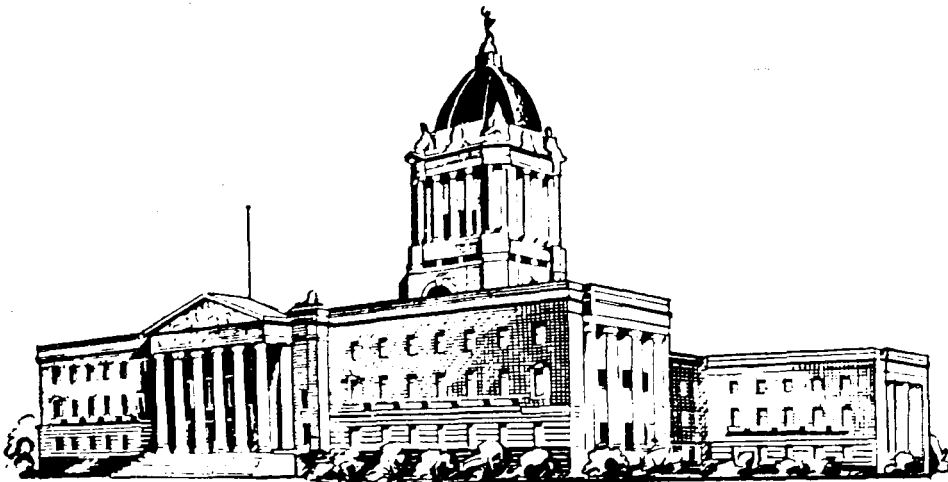


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXI No. 42 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 6th, 1974. First Session, 30th Legislature.

Electoral Division	Name	Political Affiliation	Address	Postal Code
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	P.C.	Reston, Man.	R0M 1X0
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	Lib.	10 Red Robin Pl., Winnipeg	R3J 3LB
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	P.C.	Binscarth, Man.	R0J 0G0
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	P.C.	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon	R7B 0H9
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	P.C.	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg	R3R 1L5
CHURCHILL	Les Osland	NDP	66 Radisson Blvd., Churchill	R0B 0E0
CRESCENTWOOD	Harvey Patterson	NDP	978 Garwood Ave., Winnipeg	R3M 1N7
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burniak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ELMWOOD	Hon. Russell J. Doern	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
EMERSON	Steve Derewianchuk	NDP	Vita, Manitoba	R0A 2K0
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	NDP	Cranberry Portage, Man.	R0B 0H0
FORT GARRY	L.R. (Bud) Sherman	P.C.	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg	R3N 0T9
FORT ROUGE	Lloyd Axworthy	Lib.	132 Osborne St. S., Winnipeg	R3L 1Y5
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	NDP	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.	R0C 1B0
GLADSTONE	James R. Ferguson	P.C.	Gladstone, Man.	R0J 0T0
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
KILDONAN	Hon. Peter Fox	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
LAKE SIDE	Harry J. Enns	P.C.	Woodlands, Man.	R0C 3H0
LA VERENDRYE	Bob Banman	P.C.	Steinbach, Man.	R0A 2A0
LOGAN	William Jenkins	NDP	1294 Erin St., Winnipeg	R3E 2S6
MINNEDOSA	David Blake	P.C.	Minnedosa, Man.	R0J 1E0
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	P.C.	Morris, Man.	R0G 1K0
OSBORNE	Hon. Ian Turnbull	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
PEMBINA	George Henderson	P.C.	Manitou, Man.	R0G 1G0
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	NDP	23 Coralberry Ave., Winnipeg	R2V 2P2
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Lib.	135 - 16th St. S.W., Portage la Prairie, Man.	R1N 2W5
RADISSON	Harry Shafransky	NDP	4 Maplehurst Rd., Winnipeg	R2J 1W8
RHINELAND	Arnold Brown	P.C.	Winkler, Man.	R0G 2X0
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	P.C.	3 River Lane, Winnipeg	R2M 3Y8
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	P.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	P.C.	Inglis, Man.	R0J 0X0
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	P.C.	Glenboro, Man.	R0K 0X0
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
RUPERTSLAND	Harvey Bostrom	NDP	Manigotagan, Manitoba	R0E 1E0
ST. BONIFACE	J. Paul Marion	Lib.	394 Gaboury Place, Winnipeg	R2H 0L4
ST. GEORGE	Hon. Bill Uruski	NDP	10th flr., 330 Portage Ave., Wpg.	R3C 0C4
ST. JAMES	George Minaker	P.C.	318 Ronald St., Winnipeg	R3J 3J8
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johansson	NDP	418 Home St., Winnipeg	R3G 1X4
ST. VITAL	D.J. Walding	NDP	26 Hemlock Place, Winnipeg	R2H 1L7
STE. ROSE	A.R. (Pete) Adam	NDP	Ste. Rose du Lac, Man.	R0L 1S0
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
SOURIS KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	P.C.	Nesbitt, Man.	R0K 1P0
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
STURGEON CREEK	J. Frank Johnston	P.C.	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg	R3J 2G3
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	P.C.	Swan River, Man.	R0L 1Z0
THE PAS	Hon. Ron McBryde	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
THOMPSON	Ken Dillen	NDP	1171 Westwood Dr., Thompson	R8N 0G8
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	P.C.	Kenton, Man.	R0M 0Z0
WELLINGTON	Philip M. Petursson	NDP	681 Banning St., Winnipeg	R3G 2G3
WINNIPEG CENTRE	J.R. (Bud) Boyce	NDP	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg	R3E 0R5
WOLSELEY	I.H. Asper	Lib.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Wednesday, March 6, 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 26 students, Grade 9 standing, of the Pinawa Junior High School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Reimer. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet, the Minister of Agriculture.

We also have 28 students of Grade 11 standing of the Pierre Radisson Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. Senchuk. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Radisson.

We have 30 students, Grade 11 standing of the Selkirk High School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Loewen. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Selkirk, the Attorney-General.

We have 25 students of Grade 12 standing of the St. James Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. Dercola. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. James.

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

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General) (Selkirk) introduced Bill No. 30, an act to amend The Municipal Assessment Act.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Official Opposition) (River Heights): Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question's to the First Minister. On Friday, the Premier undertook to obtain a copy of the remarks of Governor Link made in a radio broadcast that was on one of the stations in Winnipeg, in which the government indicated pleasure bordering on surprise at the reception that the Manitoba government had given the governor's case with respect to Garrison Dam. I wonder if he's obtained such a transcript and is in a position to comment on the apparent contradiction between that statement and the statements issued at the Legislature by the First Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I have asked that a transcript be obtained, and so that is being done. I have not been provided with a copy of the transcript as yet. I would not agree that there's any apparent contradiction. The position of Manitoba is quite clear; it flows from the exchange of notes between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States through their respective External Affairs and State Departments, in which notes there is an undertaking or an assurance given by the United States that construction, such construction as is under way will not - and it's very emphatic and very clear - will not affect the waters flowing into Canada, and that in the event that it is intended to proceed with works that might have some effect, that there would be well in advance ample opportunity for technical analysis and meetings between the two countries, and between representatives of the Province of Manitoba and the State of North Dakota. All of these assurances are confirmed and the Minister of Mines has indicated that we have a standing arrangement now as to how to proceed, but in the meantime it is not to be deemed that we are in support of the project; all we are going is indicating our reservations and our willingness to work with, and our desire to work with, the Government of Canada in its representing our interests under the International Treaty that applies.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, I wonder, Mr. Speaker, by way of a supplementary to the First Minister, whether the government's position is really not in contradiction with those statements of the Senior Senator from North Dakota, Senator Milton Young, who says there are no hopes for opportunities or corrective changes on the project if construction . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I believe - I believe because this Chair is allowing a little latitude in prefacing questions that this should not be utilized as a quorum

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(MR. SPEAKER Cont'd) for starting a debate and trying to get commitments in regards to what is being stated by another party in another state or in the press in the question period. I will allow questions; I will indicate that in respect to Citation 171, it says the questions should be confined to the narrowest limits, and I would hope that the honourable members would cooperate. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I take it that the First Minister by stating a position, states that the government's position is that they are in disagreement with the statements made by Senator . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Again the honourable member is stating something which is going to create a debate. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I, as all of the members of this House, are in your hands, but there is need to reply to the question, if the question on - unless it has been specifically ruled out of order, I would like to reply to it.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow this latitude, but I would remind members that this is a question period, that it is not a debating hour. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I don't want to ask for latitude. If the question was in order I will answer; if it's not in order I suppose the Leader of the Opposition can rephrase the question.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, the senior senator in the United States, the Senator of North Dakota, has made a statement which I believe is in contradiction from the policy position of the government, and for that reason . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Again I remind that there is ample opportunity for debate on any subject through the procedures that we have. Now if the member has a question I will entertain it.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I again on the point of order, because I would like to at least settle that, and I would like at least the courtesy to be able to present my position on that before you make a ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I have no desire to debate with the honourable member or to change the rules. The rules are that this is a question period and questions may be entertained. I am at a disadvantage and I do not know what questions are and I do allow latitude for some prefacing, but if they broach on an argumentative nature, I must indicate that to this House, and all I'm requesting is co-operation. The honourable member has the floor. Oral Questions.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the government's in a position to explain the contradiction that appears between the statements by the senior senator from - for North Dakota and the position in this House by the government with respect to his statement that there will be no opportunities to prevent anything once construction is started.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, now that there is no procedural problem, the question has been asked, I would like to be able to reply. The position of the Government of Manitoba is exactly the same as I am sure is the position of the Government of Canada, that the entity that speaks officially on behalf of the United States is the United States' administration, the State Department, not the opinion expressed by a person of the U.S. Senate, and it is in connection with this official note, Mr. Speaker, that was received by Canada from the United States State Department that we are proceeding, and there is no contradiction. If I may I would like to quote directly from this diplomatic note that was sent to Canada and relayed to us in recent weeks. The United States points out "that construction work presently under way on the diversion unit will itself not affect waters flowing into Canada. In any development of features of the Garrison Diversion that will affect Canada, specifically works in the Red River basin and the Souris loop, the United States will comply with its obligation to Canada not" repeat "not to pollute water crossing the boundary 'to the injury of health or property' within Canada. No" repeat "no construction potentially affecting waters flowing into Canada will be undertaken unless it is clear that this obligation will be met."

Mr. Speaker, the note goes on but the gist of it is that there is that official communication from the Government of the United States of America not by someone who does not officially represent the Government of the United States of America or the administration, and it goes on to make provision for a series of meetings so that periodic monitoring of progress in obtaining additional scientific information is confirmed and in the light of that additional

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(MR. SCHREYER Cont'd) information certain positions will be struck.

In the meantime it is premature to state anything beyond that which has already been stated in this House.

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

MR. I. H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, my question

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): I wonder if the First Minister could indicate to the House whether his government would be prepared, which I think is provided for, to impose an injunction against the completion of that project, or the use of that project, should the monitoring indicate that a stoppage of that project is in order.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is hypothetical.

MR. JORGENSEN: It isn't.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the answer to my honourable friend is yes, exactly, that is what is intended to be done in the event that the monitoring and the technical, additional technical studies show cause.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is, I think, to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, but in view of the answer given by the Premier he may wish to answer this. This relates to the advice given to the Minister on February 19th by the Manitoba Environmental Council to the effect that Manitoba communities could under American law . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. ASPER: My question is: What is the Minister's position on the advice given to him by the Manitoba Environmental Council on February 18th that Manitoba communities can sue in the United States Courts for an injunction now to halt the diversion --(Interjection)-- that's the question -- and has he sought the views of the Attorney-General on this legal issue?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, the President of the Manitoba Environmental Council came to see me with regards to three resolutions - I believe it was three, it's perhaps four - which the Manitoba Environmental Council had passed, none of which related to the Garrison Diversion. When we stood up and he was talking about leaving he said something to the effect that he believes that any citizen of the Province of Manitoba, and I hope I'm quoting him properly, it was not that he believed any citizen in Manitoba could sue in the United States Courts to stop this project. He was not giving me, as I understand it, the advice of the Manitoba Environmental Council; he was, and I've known the man for a long period of time, he was I think engaging in conversation concerning this program. I indicated to him that the Government of Manitoba was doing everything that it felt should be done at the present time in the circumstances, and that all contingencies would be available in the event that it was indicated that the undertaking given to us by the United States Government and, Mr. Speaker, I consider that a plus. I consider that having proceeded in the way we have proceeded, which was started by the Manitoba Government --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, I know that the honourable member would like to place innuendo and other things and then try to limit the answer to the question. I'm intending to try to answer his question, and I know he doesn't like what he is hearing, but the Manitoba Government proceeded on January 10th, and now again talking from memory, 1969, to ask the Federal Government to try to stop - in 1970 - to try to stop adverse effects from the Garrison Diversion. As a result of that activity we received, Mr. Speaker, what I consider a great plus. We received an undertaking from the most powerful government in the world that there would be no pollution to Manitoba waters from a project conducted in the United States in violation of their treaty obligation. And I think that that was an achievement on the part of our government.

We are now because we are not satisfied with the mere undertaking, we are now setting up a joint officials meeting to see to it how they propose to avoid the known results which would cause problems to Manitoba waters. We feel that under the circumstances that the actions taken now, up to the present are sufficient, and if further actions are necessary they can be taken and if a citizen of Manitoba can do what Mr. Aranson says that he can do, then that citizen would have to take, consider any action of his own, he should take that under advisement.

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MR. ASPER: I thank the Minister for his very lengthy and detailed answer. My question is: Will the Minister, or will the Government of Manitoba, provide financial assistance to any Manitoba community council or municipal council in the south who are affected by the Garrison Diversion plan, will you provide them with financial assistance if they desire to go to the American courts for an injunction at this time?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that there is a new found appreciation by the Leader of the Liberal Party in the way in which I make answers. I will now tell him that the Manitoba Government's position to the present time is to do as we have done. We do not intend to finance unilateral positions which we do not propose to take at the moment because somebody wishes to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ASPER: A supplementary to the same Minister. Does the Minister have any intention of communicating either with the Attorney-General or with the communities in Manitoba to inform them of their right to take this unilateral action if those rights exist?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, having already stated the Manitoba position, which by the way, Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, is also the position of the Government of Canada, because it is the Government of Canada through whom we have made our position since this is a matter concerning the external relations as between two countries. I believe that I have subsumed all of the questions and the most recent question that the honourable member has put.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, then I direct a question to either the First Minister or the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources on the same topic. With regards to the jurisdiction of the possible, the area of the possible effects that may take place, is the Federal Government responsible for more than the fish under the Fisheries Act of the navigable streams portion of it, and does not the Provincial Government have a joint responsibility and jurisdiction here with regards to the riparian effect and other water quality effects that may result throughout Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, all of the resources involved fall under the jurisdiction of the province and the honourable member is correct and that is why we are involved. But because the matter involves the internal relations as between two countries the Federal Government has exclusive jurisdiction to deal with those external relations. That's why the entire Manitoba position has been put through the Federal Government.

MR. CRAIK: Well given our responsibilities, Mr. Speaker, my question would be: How soon can the province act to determine the base line inventory and other things required to assess what potential effects there might be from it?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, with regards to the effects that the honourable member is referring to, we have again acted in such a way as to have the most sophisticated studies done by the agency that is going to cause the difficulty. Their studies have shown the problems; our officials are going to be entitled to involve themselves completely in determining how satisfactory those studies are and demanding more, and demanding that they be done at the expense of the officials who are causing the problem, and, if necessary, to do studies on our own. That is not a question of how soon it will happen, it has been happening for the last three years.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Yesterday the Minister referred to McKenzie Seed and the profit for the year. I wonder if he can indicate was he referring to the consolidated position of McKenzie Seed and its subsidiaries Brett-Young and Steele-Briggs?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, as in the past we have always referred to the consolidated statement.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. Another question to the Minister. I wonder if he can indicate whether it's not a fact that the subsidiaries lost substantial sums of money.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the fact is that this is becoming an integrated operation and in order to examine the economic health of the company it is -- and in order for the

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(MR. EVANS Cont'd) company to remain viable and competitive, it's important that we look strictly at the consolidated results. I would hope the company would be issuing a statement in the near future.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. I wonder if the Minister can confirm that the company repackaged seed damaged by fire, distributed it in western Canada, and had to recall the packaged seed distributed in western Canada because it lost its germination.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that particular situation that the member alludes to.

MR. SPIVAK: . . . the Honourable Minister would take that question as notice and determine -- be in a position to tell us how much it cost the people of Manitoba.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the same Minister, the Minister of Industry and Commerce. It is with respect to the government's announced intention to intrude in the fire insurance field. Has his department conducted an impact survey with respect to the number of possible jobs that would be lost, and any capital that may leave the province as a result of his government's decision to enter fire insurance?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Well, yes. Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is touching on a matter of policy but to be specific we have not conducted any studies recently into the -- in fact, if ever, I don't think the Department of Industry and Commerce has ever examined in its entire history that particular industry, namely the fire insurance business.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Then I ask the Minister -- then he has just as much as admitted that he doesn't care about the jobs that are lost.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Considering the First Minister's statement that in fact construction is now going ahead on the Garrison project, could he tell the House when, according to the information they receive, that the present construction will first begin to affect either adversely or positively, whatever question, the Manitoba . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Would the Honourable First Minister state his matter of privilege?

MR. SCHREYER: My matter of privilege relates directly to the opening preface of the Member for Fort Rouge when he said that in my statement I indicated that work was already under way in the Garrison project that was affecting Canadian waters. I made no such statement, Mr. Speaker. I read from the formal, the official note of the U.S. State Department to the Government of Canada indicating the very opposite, that whatever construction was under way was not affecting waters flowing into Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member rephrase his question?

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd be pleased to rephrase it for the First Minister. Would he then indicate -- would either he or the Minister of Mines and Resources indicate to this House when we can expect the present construction will begin to affect Manitoba waters? When will the first -- what year, at what time, can we expect to anticipate the events or the impact in Manitoba waters of the present construction proposals?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the Garrison diversion program is a many-faceted program. Our information is the first facet of that program that would affect Manitoba waters is not scheduled to go into construction until the late 1970's, early 1980's, that period.

MR. AXWORTHY: I have a supplementary for the Minister. Does he have any information to indicate whether there will be any impact or effect when the McCluskey Canal is completed in 1977? Will that have an effect upon Manitoba waters, as suggested by North Dakota environmental groups and farm groups?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the information that I have given is the information that has been given to me both by officials within the Manitoba Water Resources Department and by officials in North Dakota. I will take the member's question as notice with regard to the specific installation. If his question is answered in the affirmative then it would be contrary to what has been told to me by our own Water Department officials and the officials in the United States.

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MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary. If and when the Minister takes as notice this question of the impact of the McCluskey diversion, would Manitoba then be prepared to undertake special impact studies to determine what the pollutant effects of that particular phase of the Garrison project would be upon Manitoba?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I've indicated that the manner in which the government has been able to obtain information relative to this project has proved to be satisfactory and has proved to be in the interests of the people of the Province of Manitoba. If there are things that have to be done in addition to what has been done, both by the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba, they will be done.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the Minister of Education and refers to the per pupil equalization grant program that was instituted last year. My question to the Minister is: Has this program been cancelled for this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education) (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, a matter of funding our school operations, it's a matter of government policy.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Inasmuch as this amount has been deleted from the budgets of the school divisions now being returned to them, would the Minister indicate whether there is an alternative program available to them?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, an announcement on that point will be made soon.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Will the cancellation of this per pupil equalization grant mean that there will be an additional burden on the taxpayers in those, particularly those law assessment divisions?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has asked me for an expression of opinion; on some it may and others it may not, but as I had indicated to the honourable member in reply to the previous question, an announcement dealing with that matter will be made soon.

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

MR. J. PAUL MARION (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Honourable the Minister responsible for Autopac. Will the Minister advise whether government-owned automobiles driven by civil servants who live in Winnipeg have been registered by the government in centres outside of Winnipeg to take advantage of the lower Autopac rates in those centres?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. BILLIE URUSKI (Minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation) (St. George): Mr. Speaker, that question was asked many times in years previous as well on this.

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

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Has the Minister requested his department to report on what effect that the anticipated levels of total dissolved solids borne in the Assiniboine and Red River from the Garrison Diversion, what effect it will have on the commercial fishing in the Lake Winnipeg area? Has he requested such a report?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, we've requested reports generally on what the effects would be of the Garrison Diversion. There has been no specific request of the nature that has been mentioned but requests that have been made embrace that particular question.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I have some answers to questions that have been asked by honourable members on previous occasions.

The Member for Fort Rouge asked whether we are going to use pesticides 245T and 24D to spray provincial drainage ditches. The Water Resources Branch has carry-out programs using herbicides to reduce the growth of willows, brush and shrubs in drainage channels. This year we propose to carry out a similar program and have made an application to the Clean Environment Commission requesting the use of those two herbicides, the ones that have been mentioned. The department will now proceed through the normal process of a person applying before the Clean Environment Commission.

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(MR. GREEN Cont'd)

A question was asked on Columbia Forest Products as to whether there was a change in the financial support to the corporation relative to the purchase of wood, money for the purchase of wood. There was some changes but they had nothing to do with the strike, until most recently, Mr. Speaker. There was a stoppage of the receipt of timber to the sawmill approximately a week before because of the notice of strike and it was not considered advisable to receive timber when the plant was going on strike.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for . . .

MR. GREEN: The Member for Lakeside asked me what part of the Province of Ontario withdrew from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. I told him that there was a part that withdrew, and my recollection was then nine months, at least nine months ago. They withdrew in March of 1973, and I'm going to have my honourable friend given the map of the area that has been withdrawn.

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

MR. MINAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a supplementary question to the same Minister. Will the Minister be requesting his department for the specific report dealing with the effects of the commercial fishing on Lake Winnipeg? Will you be . . . ?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I merely repeat that the reports that we - and information that we have sought embraces all aspects which would include the matter that he is referring to.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye. --(Interjection)-- Rhineland, I'm sorry.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. How many cases of welfare abuse were investigated in 1973?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, that's more properly a question for Order for Returns. I don't have that kind of information at hand. I'd have to get an investigation or a study within the department to determine that.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question's to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation. Can he now indicate to the House how much money the Manitoba Development Corporation has invested in William Clare (Manitoba) Limited?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that these amounts are announced in the Manitoba Gazette, not a year after they are given, but I believe within three months of the time that they are given and since nothing has been given to my recollection with the last three months, all of the amounts will have already been made public knowledge through the Manitoba Gazette, through the reporting in-service established by this government.

MR. ASPER: Can the Minister indicate when we will receive the audited financial statements of William Clare Limited for examination prior to going to committee?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member will receive the financial statements which include a profit and loss statement of all the companies in which we have equity at the first meeting of the committee; then there will be other meetings of the committees called so that the honourable members can receive these additional reports, so I want to advise my honourable friend that I received my annual statement from the Royal Bank of Canada, which does not contain revenue and income statements of every subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Canada, it contains a balance sheet.

I received a statement of the International Nickel Company which does not contain the profit and loss statements of the subsidiaries or any companies which the International Nickel Company has money in, so it would appear that the information that is received from the Manitoba Development Corporation, which again includes all of the statements in which we have equity and which the members can read and then deal with at the next meeting, is a great deal of disclosure indeed.

MR. ASPER: Can the Minister confirm that the Manitoba Development Corporation owns something around 80 percent of William Clare (Manitoba) Limited, and not 24 percent as

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(MR. ASPER Cont'd) indicated in the report of the Manitoba Development Corporation that he tabled?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it was I who indicated yesterday that there were additional advances from what the honourable member was aware of and which he could find in the Manitoba Gazette. When refinancing, or additional financing was advanced, it was advanced on the best of free enterprise principles, that if there was going to be a greater risk by the corporation, that they were going to take a greater degree of equity, that is my recollection in any event.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, I said I received my statement from Inco, I should clear that up. Since December of 1969 I have no longer held shares in Inco, although I did before; it was a statement which the International Nickel Company sent me because presumably they thought I would be interested.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the same Minister. Why the report of the MDC, dated July 20, 1973, indicates that the Manitoba Government owns 24 percent of William Clare (Manitoba) Limited but in fact it owns some 80 percent of it.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I just answered that question to what I believe would be the satisfaction of most members in the House, apparently not all. I hesitate, although I used to accept the fact that when a person told me a statement said something, that it indeed said something; since I've been once bit in that regard by the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party, I will be twice shy and I will reserve answers, and the member will be able to get that information from the Chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation.

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 the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Can the Minister confirm the publicly expressed opinion of the Chairman of the Fashion Institute of Manitoba that because of the critical labour shortage in the garment industry, many of Manitoba's 125 garment firms may have to move outside of the province for expansion . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I do not see that there's any value in someone of this House confirming something that has nothing to do with our procedures at the moment. Does the honourable member wish to rephrase his question?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I'll rephrase the question, but I wish to seek the same information, Sir, with your forbearance. Can the Minister confirm or repudiate that the critical labour shortage in the Manitoba garment industry may force some garment firms to seek expansion outside the province?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Again the honourable gentleman is requesting an opinion which has nothing to do with the procedures of this House. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister had any meetings with leaders of the garment industry over the critical labour shortage and the problem of future expansion within that industry, resulting from the labour shortage?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, we've had countless meetings over the years, including the last year, not very recently, but we've had many meetings. I think the statistics speak for themselves. As far as I can recollect there's been considerable expansion in the output of that industry in Manitoba, in terms of value of production.

MR. SHERMAN: Has the Minister received any expressions of concern from the industry recently, within the past seven days, over the labour shortage in the industry?

MR. EVANS: To the best of my recollection I've received nothing within the past seven days, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. My question, Mr. Speaker, relates to the Public Accounts that we've just been examining, wherein it is indicated that the results of the Succession Duty Tax Act has brought to Manitoba approximately 25 percent, one quarter of the estimated return, namely, \$1 million versus \$4 million for the year in question. Can he indicate to the House the reason for the drastic shortfall, the drastic shortfall in the returns of this form of taxation?

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MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance) (St. John's): Mr. Speaker, we of course did not even get into the accounts at all, so that we were not dealing with the Public Accounts in committee at all. Nevertheless a questions was asked, it was suggested to me on my side that the right people obviously didn't die; I don't accept that as an explanation. I'll take it as notice and see whether I'm prepared to go into that question at all, whether I have that. The honourable member must realize that collections are made by the Federal Government, and is the agent for us in that respect.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, does the province not assume responsibility, is it not this year that they assume responsibility for collection of the tax, as opposed to the Federal Government collecting it?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government expects to get out of the collection at the end of this year.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister assure us in the near future that it will cost less than the \$1 million return to administer the act.

MR. CHERNIACK: I certainly think so, Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt in my mind.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. In view of the statement made by the Chairman of the National Energy Board that Canada is facing a shortage of natural gas by the end of the decade, has the Minister or his Energy Council undertaken any assessment of how that situation would pertain in Manitoba and whether we also will be short of natural gas in five or six years?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have assessed the situation and we will be issuing a lengthy document in the very near future indicating the supply and demand of all forms of energy as they pertain to Manitoba.

I might also add, Mr. Speaker, that we have made our views known publicly, and to the Federal Government in particular, and we will be doing so again in the near future at hearings of the National Energy Board, that we believe that the Federal Government has a responsibility to reduce the exportation of natural gas from Canada to the United States, and indeed they should begin right now by putting an export tax on natural gas. But thus far the Federal Government has not moved to protect the natural gas supply for Canadians.

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Industry and Commerce could tell us if he or the Energy Council have also begun preparing plans for the conversion of present uses of natural gas into some other form of energy so that conversion can begin before the shortage occurs?

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, within our jurisdiction we will be making recommendations. As I have indicated, and as the First Minister has indicated, we have been in active discussion with Greater Winnipeg Gas Company and the other utilities, and with Trans Canada Gas Company, and I hope within the next three to four weeks to be meeting with officials of the Alberta Government with respect to gas supply from Alberta. The bulk of our gas comes from the Province of Alberta, and we hope to be discussing this matter, the general question of supply with these people, as I said, hopefully within three or four weeks if all goes well.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view then of the expected shortage in natural gas, would the government still intend to go ahead with this question of selling electrical energy to the United States in the expectation that we may need the energy here to fill in for the loss of natural gas in Manitoba?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, to some extent these forms of energy are interchangeable or are competitive, but to a large extent - but to a large extent . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. EVANS . . . to a large extent they're not completely substitutable, and it's not a very simple matter of substituting one for the other. But obviously, Mr. Speaker, the long-term diminishing supply of natural gas in Canada will put increasing demands, increasing pressures on other forms of energy, including electricity, and the Manitoba Energy Council as an advisory body to the Manitoba Government, and the Manitoba Government as the jurisdiction responsible, will be taking steps in due course as is seen fit to best utilize the energy forms that are available to us.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Honourable the Minister in charge of the Manitoba Development Corporation. Could the Minister inform the House if the Manitoba Development Corporation has made a final decision to scratch the MS Lord Selkirk?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the MS Lord Selkirk, which is a ship which was started by a private enterprise group which obtained moneys from the Manitoba Development Corporation under the previous administration and is now operated under receivership, or was then subsequently received because the private enterprise organization didn't - apparently wasn't able to make it work, which sometimes happens. We realize our security has now been operating as a significant tourist attraction in the Province of Manitoba and the study is being made as to whether it can be operated more viably.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the First Minister but also if the Minister of Labour is interested he may answer. About two weeks ago I asked the First Minister if he was aware that a Mr. Gerry Fast was conducting a campaign to upset the MGEA and working out of government offices, using government postage . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question, please.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: . . . and government materials. I wonder if the First Minister or the Minister of Labour could give a report of the investigation that was promised at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I think I can answer the question. A check was made into the circumstances; it was found that one eight-cent stamp was used for which restitution has been made by Mr. Fast, and outside of that no other government-owned materials were used in the particular incident.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister of Labour to ask me to table the evidence I have in my hand, and it's considerably more than eight cents.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding my honourable friend, it was suggested that an investigation should be made, or an inquiry should be made. That inquiry has been made and the information given to me was to the extent that I have informed the House. If my honourable friend disagrees with what I have done, or my report, and refers to some external agency to try and substantiate his case, well then I can't help that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I believe the Honourable Minister of Labour is giving us some "fast" answers.

MR. SPEAKER: Question, please.

MR. ENNS: My question to the Honourable Minister of Labour is: has he any indication as to whether or not the indication by a dissident group within the Civil Service, who is now no longer pursuing the active support of CUPE as their bargaining agent, has had any direction or received any direction from the Minister of Labour not to pursue that course?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour is one of those sort of individuals that believe in the rights of the individual and I have not interfered, and I have not . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder if you would keep your cool. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Member for Lakeside, the Minister of Labour has taken no position whatsoever in, as I understand it, sort of a confrontation between peoples in the Civil Service and organizations outside of the civil service.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the Honourable Member for Portage - because there is some discrepancy in the amount of stamps that were used in the mailing - I ask the Member for Portage to table his documents.

MR. PAULLEY: If I may be permitted, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to the information that I've got, the employee concerned was - it is suggested that under no circumstances should he pursue and that he desist in using any time, on company time, for his efforts.

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MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Labour. First of all I am tabling the document which shows that there is more to be investigated than a little eight-cent stamp. I am asking the Minister of Labour if he will ask this group headed by Mr. Fast to cease and desist politicking on government time, and using government material.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Northern Affairs. I would like to ask the Minister of Northern Affairs what efforts, if any, are being made to maintain the winter road system in the Ilford area.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. RON McBRIDE (Minister of Northern Affairs) (The Pas): All possible efforts, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Labour, who may or may not now be in possession of the tabled information by my honourable friend the Member for Portage la Prairie. But my question directly to the Minister is: insofar as one Mr. Gerald Fast saw fit to use government stationery and government money to promote the cause of CUPE as being the bargaining agency for the Manitoba Employees Association or Manitoba Government Employees, has there -- is he aware of any reason why this same Mr. Fast who only a little while ago was actively soliciting for CUPE now as late of yesterday on TV has decided that CUPE would not be a proper organization to be representing the Government Employees Association.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to answer one part of my honourable friend's question which referred to the tabling of the document by the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. On perusing the tabled document I see no reference at all in any way shape or form to indicate that this is governmental stationery because there is no official symbol of the Government of Manitoba on the document, and this type of foolscap or paper, Mr. Speaker, I suggest is available to anybody in the Civil Service or without the Civil Service.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, then I would ask the Honourable the House Clerk to give the Honourable Minister of Labour the envelope which contained the particular documents so referred to, as well as the postage meter number with which it was postaged.

However, Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question then to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, the Honourable House Leader. Has he had occasion to transmit directly to this same one Gerry Fast the contents of the speech that he made in this House as a response to remarks that I made suggesting the possible collusion between the Minister of -- between the government and this particular organization, representing the government employees as their bargaining agent.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's as a result of hearing the speech that I made which suggested that if the government tried to take a position one way or the other the employee would go in the other direction, that that is the reason for the "fast" switch that apparently has taken place.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Labour. I would ask if he would verify to the House that postage meter number 155669 is a government postage meter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the question has been asked . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. SCHREYER: The questions has been asked on a repeated number of occasions now; the Minister of Labour has answered specifically. The fact remains that when the Member for Portage la Prairie asked the question in the first place that I undertook to take it as notice and to cause an inquiry to be made to ascertain the facts. The Minister of Labour has relayed the facts to my honourable friend. There was on this particular occasion the sending of material in an envelope which was done at government expense, one postage stamp, and that the instruction was very clear that this was to be -- that there was to be a cease and desist in terms of

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(MR. SCHREYER Cont'd) that kind of practice. We have no reason to believe that it's not being complied with.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I ask the First Minister if from the statement made by the Minister of Labour, and by the documents I tabled, that there's a discrepancy made in the explanation given by the Minister of Labour; and I also ask does he intend to take any disciplinary action against Mr. Fast?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, it was my information that there was one stamp used, I know honourable members . . .

A MEMBER: Aw come on Russ.

MR. PAULLEY: Aw come on Russ? If you just keep your cool I may be permitted to answer, and I know, Mr. Speaker, that there is the possibility that the meter number referred to by my honourable friend the Member for Portage la Prairie may happen to be a . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. PAULLEY: Yah, You haven't got the courtesy to keep quiet while I speak. And -- I wonder if the rabble would shut up? And, Mr. Speaker, I do want to say, I do want to say that I have known occasions where letters of a more or less private nature have gone through the post office and the meter and the cost thereof has been borne by the individual members. This has occurred on a number of occasions respecting Christmas cards and other documents sent out by a private member and restitution has been made. Maybe I was negligent in my investigation to see whether or not that the envelope referred to by my honourable friend, the Member for Portage la Prairie, which does indicate a meter number -- maybe I was negligent in not going down to the Department of Public Works and the post office to see whether or not moneys were paid. But this has been done before and this is no exceptional case.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that he made a statement in the House and was obviously badly informed by somebody, somebody --(Interjection)-- Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am afraid the word is somebody obviously lied to the Minister -- does he intend to take disciplinary action resulting from the misinformation that the Minister was given and the embarrassment that's been caused by it?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, on this I regret, I regret a man who has some prestige, or had some prestige, in the community would stand up having the immunity of further action, would stand up in this House and suggest that somebody deliberately lied to me. I would suggest to the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party that while I realize that he's only a rookie in the field of politics, there is an area of propriety, honesty, and integrity, and I would suggest to my honourable friend the Liberal Leader that he soon gets into that status of a decent politician.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Labour. Has the Minister of Labour any information at all from the same Mr. Gerry Fast as to whether or not the new labour organization that he proposes that should represent the Manitoba Government Employees Association will contribute in the same manner by way of financial contribution and physical contribution in the way of supporters that CUPE did to the New Democratic Party in any prospective and future elections?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't think that this is a question that I should answer but I will indicate to my honourable friend that he may take a look at today's paper wherein the said Gerry Fast has indicated his support for the MGEA by his statement this morning. And outside of that I'm not knowledgeable of anything that's been going on between any dissident group, the MGEA, CUPE or any other organization.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Honourable Minister of -- I direct my question to the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Member for Lakeside have the floor? If he doesn't would he kindly desist. The Honourable Member for Portage.

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MR. G. JOHNSTON: In view of the Minister's statement that he made a moment ago that he sincerely believed that he was not lied to by Mr. Fast, would he agree with the members on this side of the House that Mr. Fast made a fool out of the Minister of Labour?

A MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, may I first of all say that I do not know Mr. Gerry Fast. To my knowledge I have not met him, and I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that neither Mr. Fast nor the members of the opposition will make a fool out of the Minister of Labour.

A MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a "fast" shift at this point and ask - direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce related to an earlier topic. Can he advise whether there have been any recent discussions with the polar gas project in relation to the Arctic Island pipeline and its possibility of coming through Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: I can advise the honourable members that we've had discussions with various groups but I'm not sure to whom the honourable member is alluding to. I don't know whether he's talking about the company or other government officials that may be concerned with this, or to whom, but it's a matter that we have under consideration, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you that to the best--the best information we have is that the development of gas deposits, viable or commercial gas deposits in the arctic islands on the commercial basis, is a long way in the future and the discussion - I know there is some studies going on about pipeline routings, etc., but the best information that I have is that this is a very very remote, in terms of time, type of development. There are other developments that would get us additional supplies of gas that are much more approximate in terms of time.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, the group in question I'm referring to is the Pan Arctic group in case he's wondering which one it was.

But a supplementary question is whether or not he--do I take from his remarks that he does not agree with the current speculation that the Arctic Isle's Pan-Arctic gas may come south before the MacKenzie Valley does?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, one can speculate as one wishes. I'm just relaying to the honourable member the information that I've been given, which I think is fairly reliable, and that is that as much as we would like to see early development of various kinds of deposits of gas, as much as we'd like to see this development soon, and as much as we'd like to see a pipeline through northern Manitoba, my information is that it is a rather remote possibility. Nevertheless we are keeping tabs on this situation; we get considerable material and reports from different groups, government and from industry.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise whether or not there has not been any information advanced indicating that the company is looking at the two alternate routes, one of which comes through Manitoba past the Churchill and Gillam area, and the second route that goes across the Hudson Bay into the Province of Quebec?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, we are aware that there are these two general alternatives, and indeed we have discussed the matter personally, and the Premier has been involved also in discussions with the Federal Minister of Energy and Mines, the Honourable Mr. McDonald, and we have written to Mr. McDonald expressing our concern about the development of arctic gas and about the routing of the pipeline in question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour, and it comes from a statement he just made that he did not know Mr. Fast. Could I ask the Minister of Labour the fact that the envelope had a government postal mark on it and it was on government paper, that he did not take the time to introduce himself to Mr. Fast to ask him how this happened.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I indicated that I did not know Mr. Fast. If my honourable friend is not prepared to accept that, then I leave it to his own judgment as to what I should have done or what I should not have done.

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MR. F. JOHNSTON: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The Minister admitted he did not know Mr. Fast but he's not taken the time to introduce himself to him over this situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Labour. In view of his personal crusade announced in this House in response to a question of mine on February 12th, can the Minister advise the House how many new workers he has found for the Manitoba Garment Industry since that time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: My crusade, so-called, Mr. Speaker, had nothing to do precisely with recruitment for individuals but an assessment of the situation prevailing in the garment industry to see whether or not we may have an opportunity of employing Manitobans in the garment industry after training. The answer, as I indicate, Mr. Speaker, as to any precise number is no at this time.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. How long will it be before the Minister then will take the next step and attempt to recruit actual labour?

MR. PAULLEY: Just as soon as I have the opportunity to use some of my limited time into that precise area and I'm not tied down to the deliberations of this House. By that I don't mean that I'm not considering the matter in off-hours, but after all there's only 24 hours in a day.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. HARVEY BOSTROM (Rupertsland): I have a question for the Minister of Education. Can the Minister indicate to honourable members if the Government of Manitoba is going to approve and financially support a department of Native Studies at one of the universities, one or more of the universities in Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, it's the universities themselves who are involved in exploring this matter, and they in turn will be dealing with the Universities Grants Commission which answers to the Department of Colleges and Universities Affairs. I understand that plans are under way and consideration is being given to the establishment of a Native Studies department, and a program is being developed for it, and I do hope, Mr. Speaker, that in the very near future an announcement will be made at the university, whichever university it will be and will be in a position to make an announcement thereon, or the department or I on its behalf.

. . . . continued on next page

GOVERNMENT BILLS - SECOND READING - BILL NO. 7

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would now proceed to the Adjourned Debates on Second Readings and call Bill No. 7.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed bill by the Honourable Minister of Labour. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON (Gladstone): Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have I guess spent an hour and ten minutes on the question period. I had one question I would like to have asked the Honourable Minister of Labour as he is also connected with this bill, and that was the fact that if there was only one 8-cent stamp it probably would become a rare collector's item, and I would like to promote the sale of it and possibly he and I could split the profit. I'd like to become the agent if this would be okay with him.

However getting back to Bill No. 7. This has been a very controversial Act and I think it's one that affects all of the people of Manitoba, especially the civil servants, and the rank and file of the people on the street. And we've had a considerable amount of speakers on this particular bill, each one has brought out a different angle or a different twist as takes place in all debates, and I think some of probably the preconceived ideas of what the bill meant when it was introduced, and what it now means when it's presented in different fashions, has had considerable impact on everyone involved.

When this bill was introduced the Minister basically led us to believe that it was a very simple bill, a housekeeping bill, whereby a civil servant would be basically just entitled to run and during the last election '69 or '73, we had - three civil servants I believe ran and four different parties, and consequently they took leave of absences - I think they all got their jobs back. There was no big hang-up on the fact that they did run. And in checking the speeches over, Mr. Speaker, especially the fellows from our side, I find the different views projected by different members.

The Member for St. James - his interest in this debate and in this bill was the fact that possibly members of the Civil Service could become bagmen for political parties, actively involved in the collection of money, and he was very much against the thought that this might occur.

The Member from Charleswood was hung up on the fact that possibly tenders being let to the construction industry that those responsible for the issuing of these tenders might have been involved in an election at a previous time, and might have some preconceived ideas of who should receive the tender.

My leader's concern was in the breakdown of morale in the Civil Service whereby if different groups representing different political views started actively campaigning against each other in different departments, that possibly there could become a lot of animosity involved, and could lead to a breakdown in morale and the efficiency of the service.

The Member for Riel - he was afraid of the fact that possibly heads of departments or Ministers could call key men in from the department, or women, or whatever the case may be and more or less issue ultimatums to them or given them instructions whereby they would be out actively campaigning under instructions of a Minister, or a senior person in a department, and more or less told that if they did not participate to the benefit of the government that their promotions might be quite a long time coming, or something along this line.

I think that possibly the Minister himself is probably starting to weigh some of the facts and arguments that have been presented to him, as we hear through the grapevine that several of even the Cabinet over there are reconsidering some of the clauses of the bill, and I think that probably when the bill was introduced that the Minister did feel that it was maybe just a housekeeping bill but again as the arguments are presented and different points of view are put forth, I think that possibly the Minister is also starting to reconsider some of his views.

Mr. Speaker, we have over the past several days, and basically since the Session started, been in considerable controversy over the Mineral Tax Act Bill. We as the opposition have received the benefit of the Minister of Finance's knowledge that we were possibly a little dense on it; we didn't--we passed it, the bill passed rather with our blessing, and of course we've become gun-shy; we arrived at the conclusion that we are going to avoid this possibility again if we possibly can, I expect that--(Interjection)--Thank you, Mr. Minister. However we on the

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(MR. FERGUSON cont'd) opposition are quite determined this time, Mr. Speaker, that we are going to give this bill ample scrutiny; we are not going to be rushed into passing; and we're going to have all the facts known before this goes to second reading.

And we also want the people who are directly involved, the civil servants of the Province of Manitoba to be also - to study this bill, have ample time to hear all the facts presented to them, discuss it amongst themselves if they want to, but in any case be in a position to say that if this bill goes through that they did know what was coming on, what the facts were in it, and then there will be no recourse except to themselves if something goes through that they do not want.

And again a bill of this nature can't be allowed to rush through the Legislature. We have got to have time on it whereby we can present our facts to the Legislature, through to the press to the people of Manitoba, whereby they become aware of the facts that are involved, and give us their scrutiny and give their suggestions to us of what they want done.

As I have mentioned several times, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this bill has had considerable discussion but again we are certainly not going to be stampeded to the fact that we are going to let it go through; we're not going to hold it up this long either, but we certainly want to have full discussion on it. We also want to hear from the Minister, what his attitude will be, whether he's willing to accept some amendments, some compromises on the bill, or whether he's going to try and bang it through full bore. This of course we - if this is his attitude, we will certainly have to be in a position whereby we will fight this bill as long as we can.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rhineland, that Bill No. 7 be not now read the second time but be read six months hence.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I can well imagine that there may be a desire on some, by some just simply to have the vote taken and possibly vote it down, but I think it would only be proper for me as the sponsor of the bill to indicate why I do not think that the bill should be given a six-month hoist, which in effect means the killing of the bill. And it's an ancient parliamentary device for so doing. It seems to me that the attitude of the Conservative opposition in particular have been so schizophrenic that they are talking in forked tongues and don't know what they're doing.

Now my honourable friend the member who just spoke I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, clearly indicated that when he refers to the possibility of amendments, possibility of further study, possibility of it being considered, and then presents a motion which in effect would kill the bill. Now this has been the attitude of the Conservative Party in respect of this bill ever since it was first introduced and I hope, Mr. Speaker, to be able to document the matters and questions raised by the opposition parties, both of them, to indicate why it is necessary for this bill not to be killed by this motion, but why it should be passed as quickly as possible, as quickly as possible by the Assembly in order that it may get into committee to consider some of the points that have been raised in the debate. And I must confess, Mr. Speaker, that the debate has been a lot longer than I anticipated, but I do also realize that this is the only possible source of an opportunity for the opposition members to give vent to their lungs because this is the only bill that apparently to some degree may be controversial.

When I introduced the bill, Mr. Speaker, I indicated that--(Interjection)--There's that rabble again from Lakeside, Mr. Speaker. I did indicate at that particular time that we were prepared to consider possible amendments in committee, and you can't make amendments after the bill is dead as suggested by the honourable member who moved the motion. But I would like, Mr. Speaker, as you recall this bill was first introduced by myself on St. Valentine's Day, February 14th, in a spirit of goodwill to the civil servants of Manitoba, and also, also, Mr. Speaker, to give--(Interjection)--Yes of course, of course. And also, Mr. Speaker, to give . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. PAULLEY: I hope I'm not being charged any time by the violin solo by the hog producer from Lakeside.--(Interjection)--Yes, I haven't got my suckling pig because my honourable friend reneges on any promise that he makes at any time.

Now you know, Mr. Speaker, the bill was introduced because for years we had felt that there should be an opportunity for involvement of the civil servants all of the years rather than

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) up until the issuance of the writs of an election. I've heard many of my friends opposite speak on this bill. When the bill was introduced the Honourable Member for Swan River took the adjournment and didn't speak for a day or two. However the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge - who is not in his seat - said that he was in general agreement with the bill with certain reservations and his speech was mainly devoted to the report of the Task Force on Equal Employment Opportunities in the Civil Service. Now my honourable friends opposite, and this speech of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge is indicative of the approach to Bill No. 7 taken by the members opposite. They had no real complaint to make in my opinion but used Bill No. 7 as an opportunity to voice their opinion on many extraneous matters to Bill No. 7.

The honourable members opposite constantly tried to raise the question of the organizational or labour relations dispute which was going on between the MGEA and CUPE, and possibly other organizations, totally unrelated to this bill. But I'll bet you, Mr. Speaker--(Interjection)--My honourable friend from Lakeside says that only one speaker--(Interjection)--only two, how many more? Am I up for bids? I would suggest to my honourable friends, Mr. Speaker, that they get out of their vacuums that apparently are on the top of their heads, and start reading Hansard in order that the vacuum may be filled with what actually has transpired during this debate.

Then on February 18th the Honourable Member for Swan River expressed the opinion that he hopes Bill 7 will die and he demands proof of sister provinces having legislation regarding the rights to run. Well, Mr. Speaker, he demanded that information on February 18th, and this is indicative of the amount of study that went into this bill by the Honourable the Member for Swan River, because Conservative Ontario has given its employees this right over the years that the Conservatives in Manitoba denied their employees, and my honourable friend the Member for Swan River was not aware of that. You see, Mr. Speaker, you see, Mr. Speaker, and this gives rise to why I can say firmly and factually that the Conservative Party could not have caucused at all because the Leader of the Opposition consequently made mention of the fact that they had a bill in the Province of Ontario. Now, now, Mr. Speaker, here is one, the Member for Swan River who says, show me what your sister provinces have, they haven't got anything in effect, he said, and here is his leader a long time afterwards--(Interjection)--yes, and I can show it to him my honourable friend, and I would suggest that before my friend from Swan River makes utter nonsensical statements like he made, that he should investigate prior to making those statements.

Talk with forked tongues - I've never seen the likes of it in all my life. Then my honourable friend the Member for Swan River demands proof, demands proof, Mr. Speaker, that the civil servants want--(Interjection)--Well you know, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to really disappoint my honourable friend the Member for Swan River but I received a communication from the Executive Director of the Manitoba Government Employees Association informing me that just prior to this bill being considered that they had had a referendum within the Civil Service and their organization, and that approximately 55 percent of those that cast their vote have voted in favour of being allowed to take part in political activity. Now my honourable friends, Mr. Speaker, may suggest that 55 percent really doesn't constitute a majority. --(Interjection)--It's five more than fifty, yes, and it's - let me see now - it's more than five more than any government that has been in control of the destiny of Manitoba since 1945, the highest being, as my records indicate, that in 1959 the Conservative Party received 46 percent of the votes cast in that particular election, the highest - and here my friends opposite who I'm sure --(Interjection)--Yes hear, hear - damn poor government at that time too, Mr. Speaker. But the point is, the point is that over 50 percent or approximately 55 percent of the Civil Service wants this that would be denied by them if the motion of the honourable - or denied to them if the motion of the honourable member for the six-month's hoist was taken.

So I leave my friend up in Swan River, as indeed one of these days I'm sure he will be. And then on February 19th my friend from Lakeside wanted to know if the bill was necessary so that civil servants can run. I think it is necessary so that they can run and then he went into a tirade, then he went into a--(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. PAULLEY: Then he went into a tirade as I indicate, Mr. Speaker, of the conflict that was going on at that particular time between the labour organizations, which is totally

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) unrelated to the bill. That's the type of an approach that that gentleman, advisedly, from Lakeside often injects into debates in this House. I think he was effectively answered by my colleague the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

And then on February 20th, I note that the Honourable Member for Fort Garry took part in the debate and he said, he cannot support Bill No. 7. He agrees that the Civil Service of Manitoba might take part in municipal affairs "or possibly federal affairs but not provincial affairs". What utter nonsense, Mr. Speaker, and he deals with money raising which can be done, and which can be done, Mr. Speaker, under our present Civil Service Act up until the day of the issuance of the writs. Now who hasn't studied the bill? Me, the sponsor of the bill, or that gang over there who gave loud mouth to deficiencies in their opinion.

And then my friend the Member for Portage la Prairie came into the discussion on the 21st, he referred to money raising. Well I just indicated that my Deputy Minister can on his volition up until the day of the issuance of the writs go money bagging, as it was called over there, legally under the present Civil Service Act. I'm sure my honourable friend from Portage la Prairie must have been aware of that. And then he says, then he says, it could conceivably be that we had 50 organizers in the Civil Service paid by the public to work for the government. --(Interjection)-- Yes, even more, Mr. Speaker. They could conceivably do it now providing it was in off hours but I suggest that we're responsible enough, and so is the Civil Service responsible enough that they certainly would not do it during the time that they are being paid for out of the public treasury of Manitoba. I have more confidence, I have more confidence, Mr. Speaker, in the Civil Service of Manitoba than apparently my friends opposite have.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Will the Minister permit a question?

MR. PAULLEY: After I'm finished, after I'm finished. And then the Honourable Member for Brandon West came into the picture and he suggested that Section 44 of the present Act is just nothing more than a piece of legislation to prevent imposters for applying for jobs in the Civil Service. And he says that the bill has real and dangerous implications for the province. Absolute nonsense.

And then along comes the Leader of the Liberal Party, and I'm sorry he's not here either at the present time, because what was his attitude, Mr. Speaker, to this bill. His attitude was it gives him a lot of trouble. Well I've never known a character to get into more trouble in this House than the Leader of the Liberal Party. He says it creates a conflict in his mind. How true a statement, Mr. Speaker, that came from the Leader of the third party in Manitoba, and I'm sure that if they do survive another election they may be the fourth or fifth party, but we accept that they are the third at the present time, but here is the Leader of the Liberal Party who says, it creates a conflict in his mind. And he agrees with the concept of the right of the civil servants to run but questioned whether the successful candidate should lose his job. Well okay, I'm amenable to institute into the bill sections which would make that clear, I indicated that, and he says, "he thinks it is dangerous to allow civil servants to speak", - good God - "and write on behalf of political people". Well, Mr. Speaker, if you take that down to its final analysis civil servants are speaking and writing speeches on behalf of political people because we're all political people. The government is a part of the institution of politics and if we're going to deprive the civil servants from participation just during the time since the--from the time of the issuance of the writs, jiminy Christmas we're being pretty small.

Then he too referred to the question of fund raising. "Fears corruption in contracts and payola". Well I can imagine that that is a proper approach in the mind of the Leader of the Liberal Party because he's attempting to do that on any situation here since he joined this House as the result of a by-election a year or so ago. Then he went into the matter of the employment of women, and it was not a subject matter of the bill. He will have ample opportunity to discuss in this Assembly if and when we get to the Estimates of the Civil Service Commission and Department of Labour, to discuss that point. But it was extraneous to Bill No. 7, Mr. Speaker.

And then typically the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal party indicated he didn't know whether he was for it or agin it. Well he's going to have an opportunity one of these days, he's going to have an opportunity one of these days and maybe, maybe he'll need his deputy leader to pull him out of the confusion that's in his mind, and surely, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party has indicated a confusion from time immemorial.

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) .

Then we had the Honourable Member of Souris-Killarney indicating that this bill was an endeavour to destroy the Civil Service. The Honourable the Member for Assiniboia said he intends to support the bill so I guess we're sure of his support. He has reservations and reserves the right to change stance if certain changes are not agreed to in committee; and then he too brought up this red herring in respect of solicitation of funds which is possible now but I doubt very many civil servants do it.

And then my honourable friend referred to pension rights and I want to indicate to him that insofar as the matter of pension rights that, Mr. Speaker, that there were three candidates who were employees of the Civil Service who participated in the last election, a Mrs. Samia Friesen; a Mr. W. Parasuk referred to without the opportunity of reply by the Honourable Member for Riel; a Mrs. Rita Serbin also ran - I believe she ran as a Conservative. So there were two New Democrats and one Conservative. There is provision--(Interjection)--Pardon, which one's that?--(Interjection)--Oh, my colleague the Minister of Finance, Mr. Chairman, has added another one, an employee of the Manitoba Telephone System who ran as a Liberal against him in St. Johns.

Now then, the Honourable Member for Assiniboia raised the question of pension rights in respect of the candidates and their returning. I quote for his information Section 20, subsection 1, of the Civil Service Superannuation Act which states "subject to subsection 4 where an employee leaves the Civil Service and with three years of the date of his leaving is reappointed to the Civil Service, if the employee within two years of his reappointment makes application thereof, which is recommended by the head of his department, pays in the amount equal to the amount paid to him out of the fund when he left, and pays to the fund an additional amount, actuarially determined, sufficient for reinstatement." I'm sure my honourable friend will realize that.

And just if there is an interest, Mr. Speaker, in how these people use that particular section; Mrs. Samie Friesen terminated her employment on May 25th, received a refund of all contributions with required interest, which is at her option, and she returned to employment on July 9th and elected not to reinstate coverage in the Superannuation Fund.

Mr. W. Parasuk, the candidate that tried to unseat the Member for Riel resigned and reinstated coverage in the fund in accordance with the Act.

And then Mrs. Rita Serbin, who I believe ran for the Conservative Party, she had our protection, she resigned and reinstated, became reinstated under the coverage into the plan. So I say to my honourable friend the Member for Assiniboia there is protection there under the present Act for the point that he very validly raised.

And then, Mr. Speaker, following that for the first time in the debate we had some indication from the Conservative Party that they had started reading what we were talking about. And the Honourable the Member for Riel, he agrees that there's both good and bad in the bill, there was more bad than good so he could not support the bill in its present form. Well that's fair game. That's why bills go out of here and go into committee. Now the Conservative Party doesn't want the bill to go into committee, they want to kill it, so, and the honourable member - I see the Leader of the Opposition leaving, I was going to refer to him--(Interjection)--Yes. Well sometimes I wonder who is the Leader of the Conservative Party. I wonder sometimes in whose back the stiletto, the Conservative stiletto is, as we progress in this House, particularly in reference, Mr. Speaker, to this particular bill.

The Honourable--(Interjection)--Yes, it is very funny and I would say to my honourable friend from Fort Garry, very tragic, very tragic that a so-called responsible opposition group operates under the cloud of uncertainty that it's doing insofar as its leadership today. And then the Honourable Member for Riel, Mr. Speaker, said, why special legislation required to write out the role of the public servants in politics? The purpose of the bill, Mr. Speaker, is to take out references of that particular nature. And my honourable friend, I give him credit, the first member of the Conservative Party who suggested that the present Section 44 be eliminated to give them free rights and privileges. Compare that, Mr. Speaker, with the way the others dealt with this particular bill up until the contribution of the Honourable Member for Riel. Then he referred to his opponent of the New Democratic Party in Riel and then wondered how come he came back to the Civil Service after his defeat. I've just read out the provisions of the superannuation fund, Mr. Speaker, that makes provision for that. And then he too,

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) Mr. Speaker, went on to indicate that the vast majority of the civil servants are against the bill.

Now, I have a letter, I referred to it a few moments ago, Mr. Speaker - it took me a little while to find it - from the Executive-Director of the Civil Service Commission - the MGEA - dated on February 21st addressed to myself as Minister of Labour. "Dear Mr. Paulley: As you know, when the Association conducted its every member ballot last August on the ratification of agreements, also included was a ballot asking the membership to express its views on the question of political activity; that is, they were asked to vote on whether or not they favoured Manitoba Government employees being given the right to engage in political activity at the provincial and federal levels. The result of that vote was given fairly extensive publicity in the media. Again for the record, the ballot was returned with 3,726 members favouring the right to political activity and 2,869 members against, a majority in numbers of 857."

Then the letter goes on to state: "Consequently," - and I want my honourable friends opposite to note this particularly - "Consequently, the official position of the Association as a result of that ballot is one of supporting the present bill before the Legislature as that bill relates to the questions of the right of political activity."

Now for all suspicious people, I now have given you an indication of the official stand of the Government Employees Association.--(Interjection)--Yes, I'm prepared to table it. I would appreciate getting it - after copies, if I could get it back for my records. It refers to a referendum taken last August that I was aware of, as a member interested in the affairs of the public which apparently the Conservative members were not.--(Interjection)--Why didn't you give me an opportunity?

Then, Mr. Speaker, then we had the Honourable Member for Roblin rumbling and rambling along; he wants a referendum; I've just given him the results of the referendum; and then the Honourable Member for St. James the same. And then the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek came into the picture and he says the civil servants do not want change; they like the Act the way it is. Well, in the absence of my honourable friend to me reading the statement of the Manitoba Government Employees Association, I trust and hope his colleagues will inform him that he didn't know what he was talking about. And he said that he didn't think that we were giving any favours to the employees in this bill, which he called the politicization of the employees.

And then, Mr. Speaker, we come to the prize speech of them all, the speech of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition Party. It isn't very often, Mr. Speaker, that I take time out to read what is said in this House and take a look at Hansard. And he went on, on quite a tirade dealing with the involvement of the public employee into the public service. And he indicated, in one part of his speech he was all for it, you should have involvement, and then lo and behold a couple of pages later, possibly after a scratch of the head or something, he turned around and said he agrees with involvement but he doesn't think that public servants should have the opportunity of belonging or taking part in public affairs. Then he went on too, Mr. Speaker, and I would highly recommend to the Leader of the Opposition, and to his colleagues, and particularly those who are after his mantle, that they too, they too should read Hansard, Mr. Speaker, because they will find so many parts in his speech that he was speaking with forked tongue, first one way and then the other way. And most of his observations, Mr. Speaker, were so nonsensical that it's beyond comprehension that a man who has become the Leader of the Conservative Party in our province should make such a stupid statement.

He refers to one section of the Act, Mr. Speaker, dealing with the question, dealing with the question of the increase, permissive increase in the Civil Service Commission. I indicated when I introduced the bill, Mr. Speaker, that that was there in order that we make provision for an additional member or so and I hoped that one of them would be a woman. Then he inferred, Mr. Speaker, that the desire in this particular instance was to so plug the Civil Service Commission with appointees that we would have control. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition Party took time out to read the present Act, which states that members can only be removed from the Civil Service Commission on a vote of two-thirds of the members of this Assembly. The Civil Service is protected - the Commission - by the very rules in the statutes at the present time, and I might indicate, Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of suggesting a change. I did suggest that the Board conceivably be expanded for

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) the efficient operation of the Commission itself.

And then also contained in the bill and referred to by the Leader of the Opposition, was placing the Civil Service commissioners on the same basis as our own employees in government, that is that the normal retirement age should be at 65, and that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council would be able, as indeed they are at the present time, to grant extensions beyond that age. When I became the Minister responsible for the Civil Service, Mr. Speaker, it was a very efficient service and commission, but one of the chaps, a competent, capable chap, was well over 80 years of age. He had rendered invaluable service as a Civil Service Commissioner but it was felt at that particular time that he should take retirement. He did, but I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, - and he did it voluntarily - that it is recognized that conceivably, unless we have some provision of that nature people could stay as commissioners just as long as they lived and this no longer is a basis for employment in general. As a matter of fact I received the approval of the House just recently, a year or so ago, to permit early retirement of the civil servants. And so when I'm going to go, I'll go when the people of Transcona will me to go or I'll go voluntarily. I'm one of those few, Mr. Speaker, in the history of this province, that have been able to stay here for over 20 years by the will of the people and it may be or it may not be that my age of retirement or the date of my retirement may be soon. But before I do retire if I do . . . Mr. Speaker, I do hope that some of the present cruel legislation that is on the books is removed. We've made a damned good start since we became government of overcoming the deficiencies of previous Liberal and Conservative regimes, we haven't done everything up till now, Mr. Speaker.--(Interjection)--Yes, I voted for 44. That's right. My honourable friend for Riel says, did I vote for 44? Yes, I did. The legislation had been prepared by the previous administration when we came in in 1969, '69 was the follow-up, in '69, and I introduced the same piece of legislation that was left on the Order Paper when the last Conservative--and I mean last--Conservative regime terminated its occupancy of the treasury board. I confess that and, as the Lord is my Maker, please forgive me for my sins. And I want to, Mr. Speaker, overcome that . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member state his matter of privilege. The Member for Riel. Order please.

MR. CRAIK: Section 44 was introduced in 1960 with the support of the present Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: The present Section 44 was Section 43 in 1960, for my honourable friend. I have read both the Acts.--(Interjection)--Pardon? I told you I voted for it and I'm asking for forgiveness, for I knew not then what I was doing. I know what I am doing now. And it may have taken, Mr. Speaker, it may have taken me a little while to get down to trying to eliminate or correct the deficiencies of the legislation as enacted by the majority of the day, and again I would wonder if my friend from Lakeside would stop rattling his head so that I can get on with my talk.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please.

MR. PAULLEY: There again you see, Mr. Speaker, Mineral Taxation Act. If my honourable friend would only stay to the contents of the bill and not rambling his addle-headed mind into other jurisdictions, I think it would be more effective and more efficient in the operation of this government and this Assembly.

So then the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, goes into many tirades and indicates at one time support for the bill, at other times opposition to the bill, then he says, "We do not believe that civil servants should be allowed to work within the political process because we believe it will be a compromising of their position and because of the sensitive area that so many of them are involved. After his colleague from Riel, Mr. Speaker, after his colleague for Riel recommended the total elimination of Section 44, which is the prohibitive section, here is his Leader in the final few sentences of his speech said, and I quote again: "Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we do not believe that civil servants should be allowed to work within the political process because of what we believe will be a compromising of their position and because of the sensitive area that so many of them are involved." What absolute schizophrenic approach, because at the outset he said that he believed in the right of the civil servants to be participants. His colleague, as I indicated a little while ago, from Fort Garry says, yes, the civil servants of Manitoba can take part in municipal affairs and federal affairs but not in our affairs. This is the approach of the Conservative Party to a

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) realistic bill giving to our civil servants the right of full participation.

There is no compulsion, Mr. Speaker, that a civil servant must run, should run. At the present time they can be fully involved in all aspects of political activity up until the day of the issuance of the writs, either federally or provincially. My friends opposite on a number of occasions says, why the rush? We're not going to have an election for three or four years possibly, it could well be. There is the possibility, as I understand the situation in Ottawa, that there may be an election there. Under the terms of the present Civil Service Act, Mr. Chairman, if that happens we here in Manitoba, in accordance with the provisions contained in the present Civil Service Act, would prohibit our employees from the date of the issuance of those writs to be free citizens in a free community. And, Mr. Speaker, I recall reading - as a matter of fact I even listened to it - when Franklin Delano Roosevelt addressed the United Nations on a Bill of Rights. He listed four situations that all should have: freedom of religious indication; freedom from want; freedom for free expression; and freedom of full participation in a democracy. I say, Mr. Speaker, that the present content of our Civil Service Act denies, denies to the civil servants in the Province of Manitoba the basic human rights that were enunciated about 33 years ago by one of the greatest presidents the United States ever had. And we were signatories eventually to that ideology but I guess maybe Manitoba has gone like the proverbial lady of justice being blindfolded. I want, Mr. Speaker - I want, Mr. Speaker, despite . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. PAULLEY: I want, despite the archaic approach of the Honourable Member for Lakeside, to allow our civil servants to come out of oblivion, to come out of the black chambers that they have been in. I want them - I want them to be given the same rights and privileges that we have, and I respectfully suggest, Mr. Speaker--(Interjection)--Rubbish? Of course. Of course, rubbish - in the minds - in the minds of some of those who still are in the dark, dark days of long long ago.

But, Mr. Speaker--(Interjection)--but what, Mr. Speaker, what I said about Roosevelt --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. ENNS: Poppycock.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order.

MR. PAULLEY: You know, isn't it typical, Mr. Speaker, isn't it typical, Mr. Speaker, of the rabble opposite, to try and yell when they haven't any common sense, in order to expound? Isn't it typical of particularly the front bench of the Conservative Party to holler, to holler their heads off in order that words of wisdom do not penetrate some of those in the back bench and doesn't reach there?

And, you know - you know, Mr. Speaker . . .

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Minister will have an opportunity to carry on next time we get to this order of business. The hour of 4:30 having arrived, the first item is Orders for Return for debate. The floor is open in respect to the resolution by the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party. If not, are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, is not the first resolution No. 13 on the Order Paper?

MR. SPEAKER: Order for Return for debate on Wednesday. Do we proceed with the debate? The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, could we have this matter stand? (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: In that case, we proceed to Resolution 13.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm just not sure of the rule as to whether it stands or whether it drops to the bottom. It really doesn't make any difference because if it drops to the bottom it remains at the top and comes up again--but I don't think that we should say that it should stand. I am thinking that if the resolution is not proceeded with it drops to the bottom of the Order Paper, in which case there is no problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Well, let me indicate that since it's separate from the

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(MR. SPEAKER cont'd) resolutions it does not follow in the same rotation. It's called under a different procedure, which is Orders for Return which are debatable, and they fall on a certain day and that's when they are called. So if it's not debated today we go on to the next item.

MR. GREEN: Well, I think that I pointed that out, Mr. Speaker, but the only point that I am making is that it should not be recorded that the matter was allowed to stand, because that is contrary to the rules. However, the effect of it in this particular case is exactly the same; if it drops to the bottom of the list, since it is both the bottom and the top it will remain at the top of the list and be called first time next day.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: If I may speak to the point of order and add just one more bit of confusion to the whole process. When debate has been initiated on a resolution, that debate continues till a decision is taken. Now the point that I want to raise here is whether or not by virtue of the fact that that Order for Return has been transferred for debate, if that is not tantamount to the initiation of a debate. If we agree that it is not, then the matter can stand; if we, however, decide that the matter has been initiated for debate, then debate must proceed. Now, for my part I'm prepared to suggest that even if the latter course is the one we should follow, I am prepared to suggest that by leave of the House we could agree that the matter could stand until the Member for Wolseley is here to proceed with the debate; but, Sir, once debate has been initiated, it continues until a decision is taken one way or the other. There is a continuous debate; there's no standing.

. . . . continued on next page

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to take the position that the debate has not been initiated until it has arisen on the Order Paper for debate and has been introduced and proceeded with at that time, which I think is the same as what the Member for Morris is saying. The only point that I'm making is that we should not regard the resolution as having been stood; we should regard the resolution as not having been proceeded with, in which case according to the rules it would drop to the bottom of the Order Paper, which in this case is a moot point. Agreed? (Agreed)

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MR. SPEAKER: Resolution 13. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface: WHEREAS individual home ownership is a goal which we believe should be available for all Manitoba families, and

WHEREAS citizens of Manitoba with low incomes should be given greater assistance by the government in acquiring individual home ownership; and

WHEREAS significant increase in costs have put individual home ownership beyond the financial capacity of a significant percentage of Manitoba citizens, particularly young couples seeking to acquire their first home; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has recently taken major initiatives in making home ownership grants and subsidized interest rates available to assist people in acquiring their own homes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the government consider the advisability of enacting legislation and implementing a plan for the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation whereby grants in addition to those under the federal plan for individual home ownership will be made available to Manitoba residents acquiring their first home within the province, such grants to be based on the ability-to-pay principle and to be an amount which, excluding federal grants available to the individual, will total not more than \$1,000.00.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to indicate that there is reference -- The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, I'd like to speak briefly on a point of order before you rule, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member state his point of order?

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Yes, my point of order is that - I believe it was the same member, the Member for Assiniboia - I believe that about a week ago the Member for Assiniboia put forward a resolution dealing with Denticare for children. Now that was ruled out of order on the grounds of anticipation. It wasn't a week after that the Minister responsible for that type of a program gave a news release stating that the government had no intention . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member state his point of order?

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, my point of order is, before you rule, Sir, I would hope that someone on the government side who could speak with authority would give the House the assurance that this matter is going to be dealt with this session, because when the Minister of Health gave his press statement, he said the government had no intention of proceeding with Denticare but were only going to institute some sort of preventative attitudes among children. So my point is, Sir, that I would hope a member who can speak with some authority would stand in the House before you gave your ruling, and tell us that the government intends to proceed with a similar type of legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would dispute the fact that there is any position taken by anybody in the House relative to the Honourable Member for Assiniboia's resolution which is in any way contradicted by what was said by the Minister for Health and Social Development. I understand that the Minister of Health and Social Development indicated that a Denticare program would be proceeded with; the amount of coverage under that program was something which he said, Mr. Speaker, would be different from what other people would think. But really, Mr. Speaker -- you know, the honourable members are shaking their heads. The honourable member can take out of the Minister of Health's statement what he wishes; I will

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(MR. GREEN cont'd). . . take out what I wish. That is irrelevant to the consideration of the rule. The rule is anticipatory of debate, not of legislation, not of a particular piece of legislation, not of legislation which would satisfy the honourable member or not satisfy the honourable member; it is merely whether the subject matter of the resolution, which is a grounds for debate, is something which the honourable member will have an opportunity to debate by virtue of what is mentioned in the Throne Speech.

Now secondly, Mr. Speaker, the rule applies, as I understand it, and this is not something which is unique to this House, whether or not that matter is proceeded with, in fact as anticipated by the Throne Speech. Now I think that a government can be brought politically to task for saying that it is going to do something in a Throne Speech and then not do it, and the honourable member can make a big case for it, but it doesn't change Beauchesne. And the fact is that the Throne Speech indicates what the government's intentions are. If a resolution comes in which is anticipatory of what is contained in the Throne Speech, it is, by my understanding of the rule, out of order. If a resolution is ruled out of order and then the government doesn't proceed as indicated in the Throne Speech, that may be something which would deserve, in proper circumstances, a political admonition, a suggestion by the Member for Portage la Prairie, or anybody else, that these people do not do as they say they would do, but it doesn't change the rule of anticipation; and the matter, the subject matter which is contained in the honourable member's resolution, is contained in the Throne Speech debate. The Speaker is not obliged to find out whether it in fact is going to be proceeded with or is not going to be proceeded with. It is assumed that the Throne Speech debate affords the opportunity which would be given to the honourable member in discussing the resolution, and I think that that opportunity will be there certainly under the estimates of the Minister if in no other place. And that is all that the rule of anticipation says.

MR. SPEAKER: In respect to this resolution, I find in the Throne Speech debate the paragraph which states: "You will be asked to vote funds to allow my government to make grants of 300 to first-time homeowners," etc., and I think that is a clear indication that this resolution is covered and there will be an opportunity to debate it in this particular instance when those funds are asked to be voted upon.

Resolution 14. The Honourable Member for Riel. Order please. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: I wonder if the Honourable Member for Riel would indulge me and let there be introduced into the House a resolution, a bill which I have passed, which the Honourable the Attorney-General asked me to call today, that is reflecting the Law Society. It's just a bill that could be introduced on second reading. It's Bill No. - where is it on the Order Paper?

MR. SPEAKER: We are on Private Members' time. Is the Honourable Minister asking us to revert to government business for a moment?

MR. GREEN: No, Mr. Speaker, it's Private Member Public Bills, No. 22. Have we passed . . . ? When does that first appear on the Order Paper?

MR. SPEAKER: It appeared on . . .

MR. GREEN: I'm sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: It's already been introduced.

MR. GREEN: It's first up tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I would ask that this resolution be dropped to the bottom of the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. Resolution 15. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. PATRICK: I want that dropped to the bottom, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Resolution 16. The Honourable Minister of Finance has ten minutes left. It drops to the bottom too?

MR. PATRICK: No, Mr. Speaker, it cannot drop to the bottom.

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot drop? In that case we must debate it. The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the resolution as well as the amendments, and I do so - and I wonder at times why the Honourable Minister of Finance

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(MR. MINAKER cont'd). . . cannot support such a resolution or the government cannot support such a resolution, for if we have listened to the government speak in the past few weeks on various subjects which can relate back to the very resolution we're talking about, one would start to wonder how sincere our government is; because, on one hand, in the presentation of the estimates of the Honourable Minister of Public Works, he indicated very strongly, in my opinion, that he felt something had to be done to conserve energy, particularly with the home owners, and particularly educate them and also assist them.

I would suggest, Sir, what better way to assist the home owner than by the removal of the federal sales tax from the building products of residential homes and also the provincial sales tax, because, Mr. Speaker, by removing these sales tax we will encourage the private home owner to invest in greater amounts of insulation and better materials, which will in fact conserve the energy that we are so concerned about these days and it would be an ongoing conservation. So I suggest, Mr. Speaker, if the government is sincere in this policy of trying to conserve energy and to educate and encourage our citizens to do this, then why not take this initiative and to request the Federal Government to give consideration of removal of federal Sales Tax on building materials for residential homes.

Further, that I would presume the government is in favour of assisting home owners because they have indicated in their Throne Speech that they will be presenting their policies on first-time home owner grants, and I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if the government endorses such a principle, then obviously they must endorse private home ownership, and I suggest that this becomes a burden nowadays to try and maintain one's home as well as expand it, and because of the ever-increasing cost of serviced land, our citizens are being forced in many ways to consider expansion of their existing residence, or a renovation; and I suggest what better way to provide an indirect grant to these home owners, existing or first time home owners, than with the reduction or the elimination of federal sales tax and provincial sales tax on building materials for homes. I would think if you considered even probably the least expensive home that one can purchase nowadays which is somewhere in the order of \$25,000, that there is approximately somewhere in the order of \$800.00 worth of federal income tax on the materials as well as approximately \$500.00 in provincial sales tax. So I would suggest Mr. Speaker, that if the government is sincere in their belief that we should assist the homeowners, and we should maintain private homeownership, then what better way of indicating such particular interest or policies of the government than by endorsing this proposed resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I would think that if the government is sincere, they really believe in individual homeownership, they really believe in their PEP and LIP programs that assist the more needy people, or the more senior people, in our province in providing grants for expansion of these homes, or their homes, that why not also extend this principle and policy to all homeowners that have the same problems nowadays with the rising cost of materials, and to encourage or request the Federal Government to remove the federal sales tax from residential buildings materials, and also remove the provincial sales tax.

Let's not talk around the basic principles or try and to hide the basic principles. If one believes in these principles of individual private homeownership, assisting those that require it, and also the conserving of energy, well let's show it and take the step and request the Federal Government to remove the federal sales tax from residential building materials and also remove the provincial sales tax, and I would elaborate again on "residential" building materials, and show that we are sincere.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of the Public Insurance Corporation.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In listening to some of the comments made by the Honourable Member from St. James, you would think that there was no move at all by this government in the field of housing and in relief of the high cost of housing for individuals in Manitoba. I would say that it would be my hope that we would push even stronger in the area of providing public housing for our citizens of urban areas where the pinch for housing is the greatest, and that cooperation in zoning and the like from the city fathers would be coming a lot easier than it has been in the past so that housing developments could be pushed on.

But the area of which the resolution goes into, Mr. Speaker, of the removal or the suggested removal of sales tax on building materials, both federal and provincial, I might say that

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(MR. URUSKI cont'd). . . you know, when you are going to reduce a tax that you have relied on to provide services for the people of the province or of the country in one form or another, then obviously you would have to pick up the revenues elsewhere. But really, let's dwell into the area as to sales tax and how it affects some of the people who purchase homes and the like. The individual who buys or builds a home today or whoever can afford to build a home, in fact the cost of housing of which the sales tax is a small portion has risen far beyond the means of most individuals, and if you are going to rebate or cancel the tax you would, of course, be assisting the people who could afford to buy homes in the 20 to 30 thousand bracket, of which the average home is today at least, but you would assist the individuals who can afford to build homes of the 50 and 60 thousand dollar category much much more and to a greater degree.

Now I would say that this government of any governments has attempted to assist people in owning their own homes and providing a decent shelter at a reasonable cost to all people of the province as best as it can. In fact, if the honourable member isn't aware of the recently announced program of assisted homeownership in which grants and subsidies are provided based on the income of an individual to assist him in purchasing a home, this will have a great impact for people of middle and lower income. But greater than that, there are many people in our province and in our City of Winnipeg that are not able, in no way, shape or form on the salaries that they are receiving able to afford decent housing, and I would say that if we are really sincere in assisting these people in obtaining adequate shelter, we would push so hard with our public housing program and housing program in this area, to really force the slum landlords and the like that have housing in our City of Winnipeg, that these people would be able to go into decent housing and we would really close down some of these people who have very substandard housing available for rent, would in fact have to either renovate or fix up their housing and the like. --(Interjection)--

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

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable Minister would accept a question at this time or do you want it later on or . . . ? In your indication of the government's concern in the promotion of public housing, is the Honourable Minister suggesting that the government does not support individual homeownership but rather its policy is to assist by public housing?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, if the member was listening to my remarks he would have heard me say that there are many people in the City of Winnipeg who are at that income category that there is just no way, shape or form that they could afford housing of the type he is talking about under their limited incomes. The people who we are trying to assist and bring down the federal criteria in assisted homeownership, we have through provincial subsidies lowered the criteria in order to bring a larger group of people into the program and assist them in obtaining housing that they could be able to afford and own. But there is a large number, a large segment of our population, who are not able to fall into the category of even considering homeownership with the type of interest rates that are available today in buying, and your colleague just sitting beside you should be able to give you a good indication of what interest rates are being charged and what profits are being made by the banking institutions, and whether or not they are in a position to lower their interest rate for housing.

The member kept saying that, well, possibly this government is not sincere in trying to assist people in upgrading their homes or standards of their homes. Well I'm sure that he has been aware and many of his constituents have taken advantage of the senior citizens home repair program, and of course the push that this government has made in providing housing for senior citizens throughout the city and, as well, throughout rural Manitoba, and I would say that practically every member on the other side of the House has taken part in openings of senior citizens' homes throughout rural Manitoba, in which until 1969 there was virtually not one unit of housing for senior citizens built in rural Manitoba. Not one housing, Mr. Speaker. Now these members go around and they, you know, they criticize on one hand that there isn't enough housing, but boy oh boy, when it comes to taking part in an opening and cutting of a ribbon, of promoting senior citizens' housing, they want to be there and take as much credit as anybody. I don't blame them for that, Mr. Speaker, because I think the program and the push that this government has made in providing housing for our elderly in communities where they have lived their entire lives, we have hoped that this would in effect strengthen the

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(MR. URUSKI cont'd). . . rural economy, assist these people of living out their years in the communities or in the areas where they spent most of their lives, this will really promote the program and the philosophy of this government of the stay option. Additionally the push that we have made in public housing in rural areas that I am aware of, and I can speak of my own constituency as a prime example of the lack of decent housing and the incomes of people of not being able to afford a decent home and decent shelter for a reasonable price and the communities such as Ashern, for example, Eriksdale, Arborg, many of these communities - and Riverton - where there is a drastic need for some decent housing for people of low income groups, these people will now be able to be provided decent housing and they will be able to -- I think it will have a psychological effect on their outlook, their whole outlook in life, Mr. Speaker.

I believe that if decent housing is provided to our low income people that it will give them an outlook on life and make them feel like somebody. It will make them really feel that there is someone that really cares for who in the heck they are. It will give them a feeling that if there is no possibility or they have had the degenerated feeling that, well hell, I'm living in a hole, I may as well continue and clod around, but if we are really concerned with giving these people an opportunity and getting them out of a rut that they may have, one of the approaches that can be taken is of course decent housing. And then the second opportunity is obtaining decent employment which they then can work into and be upgraded so that they can lift their head up high and say, "Well look; I'm a part of this society and I can at least earn a decent living and contribute to the welfare of the province.

One of the other programs that has been undertaken - and the honourable gentlemen, you know, of any group in this House who now should criticize that this government isn't helping any of the people insofar as the tax system, was the program of the school tax rebate, the education tax rebate program. And, you know, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member from Ste. Rose mentioned it the other day, it was those people in this Chamber who voted against that program to assist, -- really not to pass on the benefits of the shifting of school tax from the property tax program. They are the people who voted against this program. And now they say and now they say, Mr. Speaker, that this government has taken a callous attitude towards the average homeowner and tenant in the Province of Manitoba. How can they stand up here in this House, Mr. Speaker, and decry that nothing is being done when they know doggone well - I was going to use one other word -- they know very well, Mr. Speaker, that the programs presented have moved a long way and a very meaningful way of assisting people in maintaining their property and lowering their taxes -- and when I say lowering, Mr. Speaker, maybe the members opposite still want to decry that the taxes in Manitoba have increased. They have stopped that now but, Mr. Speaker, I can say, and I am not ashamed of it, that the income tax rates in Manitoba are among the highest in Canada. That is correct. And the members on this side -- and why, Mr. Speaker, when you take into account the property tax rebate program, the Medicare program, and take into account --(Interjections)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I know some of the members on the other side want to decry, want to decry the public insurance program, but I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the insurance program in Manitoba, that if in fact, if they would look back at the record of the increases prior to Autopac of some 47 percent in the three years prior to Autopac and they look at the three years since Autopac of 9-1/2 percent, an increase in insurance rates, Mr. Speaker, if we increased the premiums of auto insurance in the same manner as the private companies did prior to Autopac, we would not be showing a pay-out deficit of \$10 million, we would be showing probably a \$10 million profit, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister has five minutes.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable members decry that the program is a tax. Mr. Speaker, when people receive a service or goods that are paid out for services rendered to pay for injuries to individuals and pay for damage to cars, how in the Sam Hill do they call that a tax? In effect then every premium dollar earned and every increase maintained by the corporations prior to Autopac was in effect a tax imposed by private corporations. Do they realize that? Does the Honourable Member from Portage realize that, when he will be bringing up his resolution on Estimates and the like? Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest programs that I have had the satisfaction of taking some credit in was our Pensioner Home Repair Program.

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(MR. URUSKI con't). . . And you know, Mr. Speaker, during the last election and since the last election, I have had pensioners come to me that, you know, really almost made me cry, and you know I --(Interjection)--I don't, I really don't. But you know, Mr. Speaker, when a pensioner comes to you and says to you that "Look, without your help I would not have been able to have the plumbing in my house that I have been waiting for for 65 years and I have not been able to afford, and now I'm able to afford this convenience. You know, I really feel something for that. You know, some of the honourable members on the opposite side, they really think it's a joke, but if they would have some appreciation for elderly people who have slaved and worked very hard throughout the years and have not been able to afford some of the conveniences that . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa state his point of order.

MR. DAVID BLAKE (Minnedosa): Is the Member inferring that we have no compassion for elderly citizens on this side of the House? I'm sure that the members of the Conservative Party are just as interested . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. That is not a point of order. The Honourable Minister has two minutes left.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, you know, it would almost make you feel that way, that members don't have any compassion. When you look at their record, their voting record in the House, of not supporting the Education Property Tax Credit Plan, laughing about the Sam-can program of sewer and water in rural areas, jesting about the Pensioner Home Repair Program whether estimates and the like have been taken, you would wonder whether or not they are really serious in what they are decrying. And in this manner I would seriously challenge their status on all the positions that they have taken.

Mr. Speaker, although any, as I've stated before, any tax measure, you know, any tax that is imposed by a government no doubt isn't any better than no -- wouldn't, isn't any good--no tax at all would be much better, but if in effect we are going to use this money to provide programs to benefit all the people of the province, then I would say that the sales tax in this case here on building materials would be as worthwhile as any other tax.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think, Mr. Speaker, I have ever heard a more hodgepodge of NDP hogwash than I heard this afternoon from the Honourable Member the Minister of Autopac. Mr. Speaker, if that's the best they've got in the Interlake, God help the Interlake. Those people are going to be living in caves if they let those kind of politicians run around the Interlake and espouse the kind of language that he tried to get across on this --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, I just ask the honourable member . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I ask the honourable member to go back to his constituency and tell them that he's opposed to my resolution which asked to take 12 percent off the building materials -- off the building materials. Just go back and tell your people that you're opposed to that, and if you don't maybe I could circulate a letter out there and tell them what kind of a Minister they've got in this Legislature. A simple little resolution asking the members of the Legislature to stand up and take one of the taxes off their backs - 12 percent on building materials. And let him go back and tell his people that he's opposed to that. Opposed for what reasons, Mr. Speaker? Because they're building housing or something for senior citizens. My gosh, do you think that you're the first government that ever built housing for senior citizens in this province? Well let me tell you, my friend, just read and check into the records, check into the records of this government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I've been in the Legislature since 1966 and the priorities of the party that I belong to are those that we'll look after the children, those that need dependency; we'll look after the aged; we'll look after the disabled people, and the young and single able-bodied people will look after them by taking some of the damn taxes off their backs. No way. You can't get that kind of response from this kind of a government because they believe, load them down with taxes and load them down with more taxes, and finally get them crawling around on the ground, then they can take over and put them on welfare or give them a few handouts. I don't believe in those kind of Canadians nor do I believe in those kind of people in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. I say, let people do their own thing, take some of the damn tax load off their backs

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(MR. McKENZIE cont'd). . . and let them be free people and they call their own show.

Mr. Speaker, it just shocks me, you know, how they're shifting taxes around, all this mumble jumble. They're taking \$200 here and shifting it over there; they took \$50.00 there and shifted it over there. I ask you, all these tax shifts that you've created and you've dreamt up, come out -- and Duck Mountain School Division is a real classic example for the Minister of Education. All these shifting of taxes, have you helped those people out there in any way? Has their tax burden dropped? My gosh, Mr. Speaker, they're in real dire straits in that school division today and you're a part of the problem and you're not going to do anything about it. Again, some more of this NDP hogwash, shifting of taxes. Mr. Speaker, they're not concerned with the people of this province; their only concern is politics, strictly politics. We have Bill No. 7 here today and if that's not politics I don't know what it is. Can you tell me the civil servants are going to be any better off under the new legislation than the old Bill 7? No, Mr. Speaker.

But again let's get back to the resolution, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know, the Honourable Member the Minister of Autopac, he comes up with this dream again of socialism; and let me tell you, the people of this province, Mr. Speaker, and Canadians aren't the only people today that are rebelling against this crushing steamroller tactics of socialism. What happened in the last election? What happened in the last Danish election, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order.

MR. McKENZIE: In the last election in Denmark, an anti-tax . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Let me suggest to the honourable members that are not interested in hearing, that I am and I haven't been able to hear for the last ten minutes. Would the Honourable Member for Roblin proceed.

MR. McKENZIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, in the last election in Denmark was a classic example of a chap leading the party who was anti-tax, anti-bureaucracy, and I'm sure the members are familiar with that election and the result. A completely unknown came out of the woodwork and ran there, and he collected, he became the second one, he was the second highest in the number of votes that were collected, basically talking the same language that I'm talking in this resolution, to take some of the taxes off people. Now here's a simple little -- can you tell me today, Mr. Speaker, through the medium of the members opposite, is there anybody here in this Legislature today wouldn't like to build a house with 12 percent off? Show me one member of this Legislature that will stand up and say, "I want to pay 12 percent more than the other guy." No you would not. We'd have rocks in our head, Mr. Speaker, if we stood up and supported that kind of --(Interjection)-- No. Let's be honest with ourselves. Inflationary, government spending.

I see an article in today's paper, Mr. Speaker, that the government spending at the federal and provincial and municipal levels today is consuming 40 percent of the gross national product of this country. That's a disgrace, that's a disgrace to the governments that are running this country today, that they think by spending taxpayers' money, 40 percent of the gross national product, that we're going to cure all the ills, Mr. Speaker, I say it will not work. Inflationary. Are we going to have to accept a 9 percent inflationary factor forever and nobody's going to do anything about it, Mr. Speaker? Well I say the least we can do is take some of the taxes off the people and that will help deflate the inflationary factor. 12 percent off building materials. Is there anybody opposed to that in this House today? If there is stand up. Stand up. There's one. The Member from St. Matthews is opposed to the 12 percent. Well let it go in the record that there is one member of the Legislature that would like to see everybody paying another 12 percent on their building material. It's the same thing. --(Interjection)-- Well, what's the difference. Another one or take it off. He's a typical NDPer; he may be a little more left wing than some of the others. But, Mr. Speaker, I think the resolution is an honourable one and I think it's time that the members of this Legislature, the members of the Government of Canada, for gosh sakes, let's get some of these crazy taxes off the backs of people and stand up and help people to build their own houses and do their own thing without a bunch of bureaucrats and government telling them how to do it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable member would accept a question. The honourable member referred to some guy who had come out of the woodwork in Denmark and who had received some great support, promised to lift the burden of taxation off the shoulders

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(MR. PAWLEY cont'd). . . of residents of Denmark. Is he aware that the individual in question boasted that he had made in excess of a million dollars as a tax lawyer and had not paid a cent in tax to the Danish government?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: No, Mr. Speaker, I'm not familiar with that. His name I believe was Mogens Glistrup, if I recall his name. I remember that two of the things that he spoke for, he was an anti-tax man, he was an anti-bureaucrat, anti-bureaucracy, and those two parts of his platform, Mr. Speaker, I would support.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. HARRY SHAFRANSKY (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, I'm really amazed to hear the Honourable Member for Roblin state those few comments that he made just a while ago, because during the last campaign last June, Mr. Speaker, I happened to go -- Roblin area is my home district; I went out there one weekend and some of the senior citizens in that community told me, and the rumour was spread throughout - this is the people of Ukrainian descent and a lot of them don't -- they speak Ukrainian much better than they speak English - but there was a rumour and the rumour was attributed to the Honourable Member for Roblin. The rumour was to the effect that if senior citizens took advantage of the Home Repair Program, there would be a lien placed against their home. You know, that is the type of rumour that was spread in that constituency. Now I say it was attributed to the Honourable Member for Roblin; I'm not saying that he said it but the fact is that rumour was prevalent throughout the whole area, that if the people took advantage of the Home Repair Program there was a lien placed against their property, and a lot of these people did fear that and therefore they would not apply. There were other people that did apply in spite of the rumour and were very happy to have had the Home Repair Program advanced.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution of the Honourable Member for Roblin paints a very dark picture, indeed, of Manitoba. The resolution suggests that the costs of building and maintaining buildings have risen excessively in the last few years in this province. Now no one can deny that such costs have risen in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, but to suggest that the cost increases in Manitoba are somewhat excessive or out of line with the increases of other provinces, is simply not true. For the period, Mr. Speaker, 1972 to December 1973, the Consumer Price Index for housing in Winnipeg rose by some 4.9 percent. It increased in only two cities in Canada. Edmonton and Regina were lower, which was 4.3 percent and 2.3 percent respectively. In all other cities for which Statistics Canada provides information, the rates of increases were higher. Vancouver experienced a 5.6 percent increase; Toronto 5.3 percent increase; Ottawa 7.1 percent increase; Montreal 5.8 percent increase; St. John, New Brunswick, a 7.5 percent increase; Halifax 8 percent increase; and St. John's, Newfoundland 10 percent. That is a Conservative province.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also amazed that in -- I'm also reminded that in 1968 the Honourable Member for Roblin, on a motion that was introduced by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, a very similar motion, stood up in this House and voted against it. He did, in 1968, on a very similar resolution which was presented by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia. Now how could anybody believe him? I think he sways --(Interjection)-- And if members would like to check in the journals on page 368 of 1968, you will see the position that the Honourable Member for Roblin took.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in the light of this information that I gave you with the statistics of the increases in the cost of housing in other cities across Canada, it's simply inconceivable to me how the cost increases experienced in Winnipeg can be called "quite excessive" - and that is a quote from his resolution. We have one of the best records of cost increases in the country. However, Mr. Speaker, this government has been deeply concerned with the difficulties facing many of our citizens in obtaining adequate housing. Now the Honourable Member for St. George has already gone into some of the programs that we have gone in, have started and continuing, but I believe that the honourable members on the opposite position need to be reminded time and time again.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the government's concern has been demonstrated in our programs. We provided the Pensioners Home Repair Program to assist our senior citizen to improve and repair their homes, which the Honourable Member for Roblin very much opposed. I don't think that sales tax cut would have been much help to them. They couldn't afford the basic repairs

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(MR. SHAFRANSKY cont'd). . . let alone the tax on the repairs.

We implemented the massive public housing program which has made decent living accommodation available to many for the first time. And, Mr. Speaker, I wonder how much help the measures advocated by the Honourable Member for Roblin, and for Wolseley in his amendment, would have been to this group of people.

Mr. Speaker, we instituted a \$42 million Property Tax Credit Program which makes up to \$200.00 available to homeowners and tenants in Manitoba each year, and those members in the opposition voted against that program. And to ensure that the relief from property taxation is concentrated on those who really need it, benefits decrease as incomes rise. Again I think this measure which benefits all homeowners and tenants who have the property tax burden each year, is far superior to the suggestion put forward by the Honourable Member for Wolseley which might benefit some people who purchase brand new homes and no one else.

Unfortunately, the elimination of the federal-provincial sales tax on building materials would likely not benefit even purchasers of new homes. It seems much more likely that the bulk of the benefits of the eliminations of the tax would be retained to fatten the profit margin of the builders, because there is no guarantee that if you eliminate the sales tax that the home builder would not increase the profits on the construction of these buildings.

Mr. Speaker, other measures have also been adopted by the present government to help increase the real incomes of Manitobans. For example, pensioners are guaranteed a 200-dollar minimum monthly income, a Pharmicare program, and coverage of nursing home services under the Health Services umbrella. I find it difficult to understand, how the hell, Sir, how the measures proposed in the resolution would help this group. We have increased the minimum wage and indexed social allowance benefits in order to assist those least able to assist themselves. I don't think a sales tax exemption would be of much use to these people, Mr. Speaker.

Finally, as announced in the Throne Speech, the government intends to establish a special system of grants of up to \$300 to assist first time homeowners in purchasing their homes. Mr. Speaker, the benefits made available under these kinds of programs are real; they give help where help is needed. Accordingly, I have no hesitation, Mr. Speaker, in rejecting the proposition that the province should exempt building materials from sales taxation.

Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member for Roblin and the Honourable Member for Wolseley believe that rescinding the federal and provincial sales taxes on building materials would solve the problem, I wonder how they would explain the recent rapid escalation in land prices in most metropolitan areas in Canada. According to most reports, land speculators are taking advantage of the situation to buy land which is in scarce supply, hold it for speculative purposes, thereby driving up the prices and then sell it to reap huge profits.

Mr. Speaker, this problem is becoming so severe that the Toronto Star reported last June that the great supporters of low taxes and tax rates for all, by those on wage and salaries, and that is the Liberal Party of Canada itself under Urban Affairs Minister Ron Basford, is studying the possibility of devising a new system of taxation that will deal with land speculation. Certainly some action is required to resolve this problem, Mr. Speaker, after petitioning the Federal Government to rescind its tax on building materials, this would be a very low priority for this government. We would prefer that the Federal Government adopt appropriate monetary policy to bring mortgage interest rates down to say six percent and to increase the funds made available through CMHC, with particular emphasis on low income earners.

In addition, as suggested by the national Leader of the New Democratic Party, David Lewis, the time may have come for the Federal Government to insulate Canadians against world prices, price increases in commodities such as steel, lumber, and building materials. Canadians could be protected through the imposition of an export surcharge along the lines of the oil export surcharge and controls on exports.

Mr. Speaker, by assuring that Canada's supply of basic materials is used for Canadians first, with only surpluses being exported, costs of basic materials could be kept down. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, as I stated earlier, I would reject the amendment proposed by the Leader of the Liberal Party, and Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Churchill, that the resolution be amended by deleting - delete "excessive" from the first WHEREAS; (2) delete "excessive" from the second WHEREAS; (3) delete "to rescind the 12 percent sales tax on building materials" and replace with "to adopt policies

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(MR. SHAFRANSKY cont'd). . . designed to lower mortgage interest rates to six percent; to increase the funds made available to lower income earners through CMHC; to assist the provinces and municipalities in assuring an adequate supply of service land at reasonable prices; and to insulate Canadians from the impact of international price increases in basic building materials."

MR. SPEAKER: I'll call it 5:30 and take the motion under advisement, and the House is adjourned till 2:30 tomorrow afternoon.