



Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
8:00 o'clock, Thursday, March 22nd, 1962.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 1.

MR. GRAY: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources in exile -- the Honourable Member from Ethelbert Plains -- (Interjection) -- I said in exile -- has made a very constructive and important address. At the beginning of his speech I was delighted to see, or hear, that the cold war between the Opposition and the government has to a certain extent warmed up, because at the beginning he took a lot of trouble to praise the government on their accomplishments and later he came in with a strong condemnation on the forest fires. I don't blame him about it because the forests which have been given to us by Providence should be protected, not only in the destruction but also we are losing both. We are losing the forests, we are also losing the benefits that the forests are giving to human beings, and it is a shame that we are losing so much by its destruction, but at the same time I don't think that anyone can fight nature, and it's impossible, no matter how much police or firemen or guards you have, to protect those who have more conscience than those who do not think about tomorrow in creating these fires, because I do not believe there are too many who are doing it who could be charged with arson -- they could only be charged with neglect. We have, in the City of Winnipeg, several hundred firemen in a very small area, still they do not -- it seems humanly impossible some times to protect homes from being destroyed by fire. So while it is regrettable fires happen with less government or with any government, and while I am not trying to protect the present administration in anything -- this is not my duty -- but at the same time I don't think it's fair to put the blame, and in a three-quarters of an hour condemnation I think that the honourable member could have accomplished more by giving suggestions, recommendations with his own experience -- and he lives in a district where there are fires -- instead of blaming the government and not suggesting anything how it is to be protected. If he would, I would probably accept his condemnation with more grace.

I also want to express an opinion that everything possible be done to protect the millions of dollars of loss, and particularly when a tree is burned the lumber necessary from the tree to make our life more comfortable is, in my opinion, a very great loss. So my suggestion is for the present Minister, not in exile, to accept all the recommendations and accept all the suggestions that would see the great loss of the forest fires be diminished, because it's a very, very important thing, and the fires we've had the last year or two are extremely unfortunate, and so this comes up another question. What is the government doing or what is the Minister doing to replant those forests? Even if it takes 50 years to have the same timber or the same trees we must protect it for the future as our fathers have protected the same thing in the past. So this is about the forest fire.

Now, the second question is about the fisheries. This is something which perhaps we could have done more. I realize that a fisherman, sometimes it doesn't pay them to put in so much energy in fishery production -- although they have to make a living -- in view of the fact that the consumers are eating less fish on account of the tremendous expense that they have to pay in the stores for home consumption to have fish in their menu or on the table. The spread for what the fish industry get, I mean those that produce it -- and they don't get enough -- but when it comes to buy the spread is, in my opinion, too wide, and this is a very important matter. It is not how much fish you caught; it's not how much fish you get out of the lakes; it is a problem for us to see that more fish is being used. It's a healthy food, it's a brainy food, and much less than meat, which is also important, but at the same time speaking for my own family, my own home, when we have to pay \$1.50 or \$1.75 for two small portions of fish it becomes too expensive and then we look for other food where they give the very same nourishment instead of fish, and I don't think the amount that the fisheries get for their food is small, too small, but even then when it comes to the stores the spread is too much and this is something not only for today, but it is something to think about it for tomorrow. I have mentioned this matter every year under the estimates of the Mines and Natural Resources. I am not criticizing neither this government nor the former government. They all make mistakes. No one yet has made any investigation as to the wide spread of the important food supply for

(Mr. Gray, cont'd.) the table. So I think perhaps instead of criticizing, which was done yesterday, and I am not usually a believer in history -- sometimes history teaches us, but I found out in our own life that history has not taught us anything. When Mussolini invaded Ethiopia the war was silent, no protest, nothing; and then it developed through the action of Mussolini which you all know, then Hitler came in, and so on, but if you could have stopped something immediately, if the government or the people of the world could have stopped an evil rule in time it may not spread all the time, and it would save us a lot of time in criticizing every year the same thing that was criticized in my memory for the last 20 years and nothing of this has been done.

Then the question of mines; we were all very pleased to hear the program of the Minister in connection with mines, in connection with searching for oil and so on, but while you're doing it, it's a very fine thing. We are not doing it for our province, we are doing it for the investors. We are doing it for the people who have money, and when we give them the gift of Providence to exploit either oil, or mines, who gets the benefit out of it? The companies; those who invest. Naturally everybody who invests money expects a return, but what are we getting for it? We are giving them something which is not theirs, something that belongs to all the people, and then what do we get after they produce it? Eight percent or seven percent for the people of this province. We actually give them away something which is valuable and something that's not ours; something that belongs to Providence. We allow them to exploit it; we allow them to make big profits, and we get a very, very small portion of the benefits. Arguments could be made that if they don't do it, if they don't charge them a higher royalty, that they may not do it. Let me assure you, Mr. Minister, that a capitalist world or the money men, that won't stop them from cultivating, exploiting, developing all the natural resources by increasing the royalty and give us a few dollars to take care of the big amount in the estimates for health, education and other important matters. I think we neglect, I think we give away something that doesn't belong to us to others for their personal benefit and profit. So I think that these two things, reforestation, increasing the royalties, guarding the forests is a very, very important matter.

I have never yet criticized anybody for what they have not done but I take the liberty of suggesting, in my humble opinion, what should be done. I'm not going into details because others who perhaps know more about it ---- it, and perhaps will do it, but I say that while the announcement of the Minister was very pleasant to us as to the future, forget what happened yesterday. Don't jump on the Liberal group because they haven't done it. If they made a mistake this administration should not repeat the same mistake, and let's think of tomorrow, forget about yesterday, because we could prorogue this House much sooner by giving you the advice, instructions what should be done rather than make lengthy speeches criticizing each one. I have never yet told anyone, "Where were you yesterday?" I wanted to know where were you today. Yesterday is gone; tomorrow is not here; we're dealing with serious matters today and let's go on words. Now that's all I have to say, and I hope that you will accept these suggestions in the same serious way that I am suggesting it to you.

MR. ELMAN GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest this afternoon when the Minister criticized the Member for Ethelbert Plains because he hadn't telephoned him about the fires. I wonder if he realizes just how tough it is to get hold of a Cabinet Minister in this government. Last summer when the fire was raging in many parts of the province, I received a telephone call about a fire which threatened to ravage several farms. I asked this gentleman if he had been in touch with the fire ranger, and he said yes, that he had been informed that it was "none of their concern, it wasn't in their field", so I immediately tried to contact the Acting Minister of Municipal Affairs and learned that he was away. I tried to get hold of his deputy; he was away. I tried to reach the Premier; he was away. I tried to get the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce and he was away, so finally -- (Interjection) -- out politicking -- so then I finally reached, I was told that the Acting Premier after them was the Minister of Education. He wasn't in his office. I had learned that he was under the weather and I phoned him at home. I told him about the seriousness of the fire and where it was, and he instructed me to telephone the man who was in trouble with the fire to call him, which I did immediately. The interesting remarks of the Minister of Education were this, "What's that guy Guttormson talking about, some farm fire?" And the attitude, the inference from the gentleman who would listen to the words was that the farm was something -- some

(Mr. Guttormson, cont'd.) scum; you don't talk about these things. Then he said, "What's the idea? Why did you bother calling Guttormson?" Well, if the Minister of Education thought that he made any marks politicking on the phone when a man's farm was threatened by fire, he's got another think coming. -- (Interjection) -- Don't worry, your turn is coming.

MR. McLEAN: I think we'd better just have a point clear here. To whom was I -- is the member saying that I said that to him?

MR. GUTTORMSON: No, to the farmer who called you at your instruction.

MR. McLEAN: Oh, that's not true, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Well, then there's two men who are lying because there were two men listening to your phone call. --(Interjection) -- No, I wasn't the other one. There were two farmers whose farms were threatened. So the Minister of Education at that time instructed the man that he could have a bulldozer for one day. This was appreciated by the farm people, and he also advised him that he would send a man out the following day to see what the situation was. The man who came out arrived three days later. Fortunately for the farmers the man with the bulldozer was kind enough to remain on for three days in view of the serious situation, and fought the fire till it started to get under control, and then when the man the Minister sent out to the area came out he realized how serious it was and he instructed the man with the bulldozer to remain on for several more days until the situation was cleared up. My criticism is the lack of policy on the part of this government in regard to fires, because when these farmers went in the first instance when the fire broke out, they contacted the Forest Ranger. The Forest Ranger instructed them that he would be there; he would come the next day. A week passed and he never arrived. This is understandable. He was under heavy duress with other fires, so when he came the following week he advised these farmers that he had no jurisdiction; it wasn't their responsibility and -- anything south of township 23. These people lived in township 22. It was at that point that they called me. This situation prevailed in the northern part of my constituency. Fires broke out, they went to the Forest Ranger and the Forest Ranger told them that their responsibility was in certain areas and they couldn't move out of those areas. A lot of damage was caused, Mr. Chairman, in areas where fires could have been checked had the action been taken immediately.

It appears that the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, that his department looks after fires only in certain areas. In other areas that I'm speaking of it's unorganized. There is no policy at all and nobody knows where to go to seek assistance in cases of fire. The people up there believe that thousands of dollars worth of valuable timber and hay land could have been saved had they been able to go to some authorized person in an area to get help and he could have authorized the proper personnel to go out and fight the fire. In these areas there was no one to go to and there was no action taken to fight these fires. I would strongly urge the Minister to get together with other departments to formulate a policy which would cover all areas in all the province so that some definite policy is known, because at the present time I believe the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources is only responsible for certain areas; in other areas there is no policy at all to look after these fires. I know of one area, the farmer lost well over \$2,000 worth of hay. The fire struck at a time when he was in no position to get assistance anywhere else, because with the critical hay shortage all the hay land had been taken up in the whole areas where hay is obtainable. As a result these people had to go and buy hay at exorbitant prices elsewhere. I believe that if these fires had been stopped when they were first noticed, a lot of this valuable timber land and hay land would never have been wiped out by the fire. I'll say that there are too many members of this House who are not aware of what a forest fire does to the land. There are areas in my constituency now that the local people don't even recognize as a result of the fire passing through. Not only did the trees and the grass burn, the soil is burned right down to the clay and huge boulders stand where they were never seen before. This land will take centuries to come back and will never be able to be used again. I can't emphasize this enough to this Minister to get his government to formulate a policy which will govern the whole province.

And also in speaking on the part of forest fires, I'd like to suggest that some penalty be imposed on people who set fires in areas where forests may be threatened. In one instance north of Gypsumville last year, one of the Ministers -- a member of his department stopped along the highway and found four women along the ditch with a fire going. When he told them of

(Mr. Guttormson, cont'd.) the serious hazard and that they weren't supposed to even be in the area, the women laughed and said, "We know. We didn't care." This is not a criticism of the Minister, but I think that the dangers cannot be emphasized strong enough. Here is a case of these women — had this Forest Ranger not come along when he did they could have set off another fire, and the attitude was rather disgusting in view of the situation at the time. I don't think enough credit and praise can be heaped upon the Forest Rangers and members of your department. I think that the Minister will agree with me that some in his department work tirelessly for days on end with literally no sleep. I believe some of the members in his department suffered nervous breakdowns from overwork. And I think these men deserve tremendous credit for the terrific job they did under very trying conditions last summer. I think that in view of the terrific loss that is suffered by these fires, the department must consider having more men looking after these fires. I know we had one Forest Ranger in my area covering hundreds of square miles and it was just a physical impossibility for him to do all the work that he was expected to do. Admittedly when the fire got at its worst point the department sent up more men to assist him with his work, but in the early stages he had no help and he was just run off his feet. It may be argued that this would mean spending of more money. We can't count the thousands and thousands of dollars that are lost as a result of these fires which might have been saved had a proper policy been in effect and more men stationed to look after the fires when they broke out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: the committee that, while we are dealing with Administration and that deals with the general topic of the department, that most of the items that are under discussion now, the subjects will come under separate items, and I thought perhaps we might save a little time if we just kept that in mind and in the beginning just deal with the general administration and reserve our comments on the others until we come to the other items, if possible.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, it doesn't really matter to me whether I speak on Administration or when we get to Forestry Branch. It'll take just as long in either case. I have no objection to speaking under Forestry.

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Chairman, I've no business taking part in this debate except to make some comment about what the Honourable the Member for St. George said. Now I have no objection to being subjected to ordinary criticism but I have strong objections to the way in which the member presents his information, or misinformation, to the House. I'd just like to say to the Committee that on the occasion to which he refers it's quite true he telephoned me at home. He was not entirely clear about the location of the fire in question. I suggested that he have the farmer telephone me, which he did — the farmer did. I authorized him, that is the farmer, to hire a bulldozer for one day, explaining of course, that I was away out in left field, it wasn't my department. I then telephoned the Honourable Member for St. George and told him what I had done, and he thanked me very much for doing so. The following day I was able to reach the Deputy Minister of Mines and Resources and I informed him what I had done the day previous and asked him if he would send a special representative up to see the farmer, or farmers who were concerned. Now I think that, if I might suggest it, that the members of this Committee are entitled to some degree of accuracy in what the Honourable Member for St. George relates to this Committee.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, the Minister said I thanked him and that's true. I did appreciate it. It wasn't till the farmers came to me and told me about your comments about me and your attitude that I complained. It's their remarks, not mine. I wasn't there. They came to me and complained to me about your attitude.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, as the debate is prolonging on the item of administration, I think I should proceed now, unless you wish to rule me out of order. Because I think it's timely at this point for me to say a few words with regard mainly to the manner in which this government undertook its responsibilities regarding the fighting of forest fires this summer. And what I have to say will not be said in a spirit of anger but rather one of regret, because it is regrettable that there does seem to be a pretty consistent pattern developing on the part of this government with regard to this very important problem, and that pattern seems to be to take this very lightly, to toss it off and to not show very much concern. After all, here we have an industry involved that is one of the major industries in this province, and the

(Mr. Schreyer, cont'd.) way in which the administration of this province handled it this summer does leave a good deal to be desired. I wouldn't know if I should go so far as to say unforgivable, or inexcusable, as the Member for Ethelbert Plains did, but certainly there was a great deal left to be desired. We look at Hansard; the Minister introduced his estimates. It's true that he was trying to beat the clock but what do we find with regard to a statement regarding the forest fire situation this summer. We find two paragraphs -- short paragraphs. Of course, he has a very good argument, one very good argument, namely, that nature was against us this summer; precipitation was practically at an all-time low. But how much longer do we have to go before we learn that this will happen from time to time and we should be prepared? I'm not going to quote extensively from this pamphlet which the Member for Ethelbert Plains used, but I simply do want to refer members to the fact that in 1957, rather 1958, we had extensive losses of forest land because of fire. The next two years weren't too bad, but 1958 alone should have taught us a lesson and we should have been prepared in 1961 to a degree much better than we were. We simply can't afford to lose literally millions of acres, whether it be north or south of the 53rd parallel. The fact is this is forest, valuable timber that's going to waste.

Personnel; we seem to rely every time forest fires become worse and worse, we rely on people that we manage to pick up. There is no scheme or program of training on an ad hoc basis. Training people for a specific job, at least acquainting them with the basics of forest fire fighting. Much of this information I got from people who work as field men, out in the fields, the Forestry Branch. Had the equipment in eastern Manitoba during the dry months this summer, forest fires getting worse and worse, had the equipment unavailable until the thing had got out of hand, and then they brought in a water bomber, and as I said in the Throne Speech, it was, it was virtually a spit in the ocean because by that time the smoke and haze had reached the point, and the size and scope of the fire had reached the point where water bombing, the pilot couldn't get in; he couldn't get at the actual -- he couldn't pinpoint the dropping of water. Equipment when it did come in was always a little late. The cutting of fire lines always because of lack of men and experience in that particular kind of work, always effective too late -- in other words, ineffective.

I think the Minister -- after all this is, as I said, an important matter. Is it worth discussing in this Chamber? Members will say "yes". Well, if it's worth discussing, let's discuss it properly. Either it's beyond our confidence or it isn't. And if it isn't, if we should discuss it, let's do it right. I'd like the Minister to take just a little time to tell us what plans his department has with regard to where the training of at least a cadre or a corps of personnel to go in there immediately after a fire is spotted.

The Member for La Verendrye mentioned earlier today that several concrete tangible suggestions had been made. We haven't heard whether the department is thinking of them seriously, or whether they've struck them off. I remember in 1958 the first session I had the privilege of sitting here. I asked the then-Minister whether any thought had been given to the purchase of a helicopter. A helicopter isn't a single purpose machine. It can be used for a variety of purposes. Is it a far-fetched idea? I suggest not. Why not the purchase of one or two helicopters? We haven't been told. Sometimes it's the rapidity, the quickness with which supplies and men can be flown into an area that can determine whether or not fire fighting will be as effective as it could be or not. I'd like to hear from the Minister whether they have any plans, any projects under way towards the use of new devices in fire detection and fighting. For example, I read the other day that the National Research Council had, by experiment and research, come up with two fairly significant devices -- the use of photo-electric cells and infra-red rays in the detection of fires. Anything about that? Well I think it would be of interest to hear.

I wonder whether the Minister is satisfied that the morale in his department is as good as it could be. I'd like to know whether he is availing himself of every opportunity to get advice and to listen to the advice of his younger personnel out in the fields. Men in the offices -- years of experience, of course, but sometimes the advice or ideas of young men who actually have to be out there and deal with problems such as we've had this summer, would be worthy and worthwhile of listening to. And I have been told by someone who is in the employ -- and I won't mention his name; the Minister will simply have to take my word for it; I've no reason

(Mr. Schreyer, cont'd.) to be untruthful -- that there was, in fact, quite a few of the semi-career personnel in his department in the eastern part of the province who were very dissatisfied with the way in which there always seemed to be a time lag between when they first suggested a certain course of action and when it actually was implemented. Ideas that they had put forward seemed to be not taken too seriously. Well, this is as serious as the Minister feels it is. I'm sure he's much more aware than I am to what degree this could or could not be true. But I would like to suggest to him that there is somewhat of a danger of not keeping up with the latest developments and techniques in forest management and fire fighting. Jurisdictions, for example California, Sweden, Soviet Union, they have, it seems to me, techniques of forest fire fighting that much surpass ours. Of course, these are larger jurisdictions with more money at their disposal. But should money be that much of a concern here, Mr. Chairman, because it seems to me when you save forests you're not really making any expenditures because it pays off?

And I would like to close by just leaving the matter, the general problem, forest fire fighting, the inadequacy of this administration's policy regarding it, to deal with a rather specific matter. It has to do with reciprocal arrangements with municipalities. I'm given to understand that if a fire starts in a municipality and spreads over into crown land, the municipality must pay 50% of the cost of fighting the fire on the crown land because of the fact that it has started on municipal territory. But when the reverse obtains, then once the fire gets into a municipal territory the government does not reciprocate, and if this is true I suggest it's slightly unfair and something should be done about it.

MR. A. H. CORBETT (Swan River): Mr. Chairman: cited California's modern methods of controlling fires. How do you account for the tremendous fires that do so much damage in the forestry areas and settled areas around Los Angeles in the summer?

MR. SCHREYER: If you're referring to the fire that took place in Beverley Hills and Sunset Boulevard and those places I'm sure that the terrain there was pretty difficult, and talk about the Minister complaining about the degree of dryness that we had here, in California it's much more worse. It's a Mediterranean type of climate. You have to admit it would be a lot worse -- (Interjection) -- but still that doesn't detract from the fact that their methods and techniques are just a little bit ahead of ours.

MR. N. SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Chairman, I think I should speak on this item because any brief comments that I have are more of a general nature than one of specific natures, and I must say at this time that I rather feel sorry for the Honourable the Minister on two counts. One is that his department this year did not have a very encouraging report on many counts. I have not checked in detail the annual report that was laid on our desk the other day, but I do happen to have a condensed report that we received on January 5, 1962 from the Department of Industry and Commerce under his edition, and it went forward to all of the newspapers in the province as does other publications from this department, and Mr. Chairman, it is not very encouraging. It starts off here by admitting that we had the, and I quote, "The 1961 fire season was one of the most destructive on record with over two million acres burned. The department attacked 670 forest fires during the year." And they go on to say that timber production for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1961 had a 12% drop from the previous year. The next paragraph says that "While the total number of pounds of fish that were caught was up a little, the value of the catch dropped by just about \$1 million." The next page says "Duck production was down considerably due to the drought." The next page says that crude oil production was down, value down by just about a half a million dollars. Down a little further on the same page it says "Due to the drought the planting of nursery production was cut back to three-quarters of a million." At the bottom of the same page under Fisheries Branch -- I read that one before, I believe -- it states it again, "The value of the fish dropped by nearly a million dollars," and over on page 5 of the same effort, the value of furs, I quote: "The season's valuation of furs from the 250 fur farms totalled \$2,971,000-odd as compared to \$3,723,000 the year before," so it isn't a very encouraging or forward-looking report, Mr. Chairman.

Now I want to say a few words on the game laws and so on, and I know, Mr. Chairman, that the game laws of this province and any other province, I suppose, are designed to keep nature in balance. That is, it is most desirable to have a limited number of predators. We must have a few of those. It is desirable to have a fairly good supply of game birds and game

(Mr. Shoemaker, cont'd.) animals not only to satisfy our own provincial residents but sufficient in number to attract tourists to our province. I maintain that it is in this field that the tourists that come into this province find a great deal of pleasure and lures them to our midst. I think if it were possible to analyze the number of tourists and the dollars that they spend you would probably find that they come here by reason of the fact that we have good fishing, good hunting and so on, and that is most desirable. I don't think that all of the credit should go to the department under the estimates that we're discussing at the present time. I think a great deal of the credit for keeping nature in balance certainly should go to the Federation of Game and Fish, their head office here, and all of the great number of members and associations throughout the province. I think they do a wonderful job in this regard.

Now there is, however, one problem that I would like to repeat again because I have mentioned it on two or three other occasions in this House, and it always strikes me as being a little unfair that certain farmers in the province should suffer crop losses and crop damage from what we refer to as protected wild life. Now it is understandable that everybody suffers to a minor degree from predators and that is always so, but I don't see too much justification for a farmer suffering losses to his crops, whatever they may be, from protected wild life, and while the loss in dollars may not be large -- I don't suppose that in dollars they would amount to more than a million dollars or so in the province -- it is a very annoying thing to the farmer to see his crop eaten up with ducks, sandhill cranes and so on. I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that if you or I or anyone here had a herd of cattle and they got out into a neighbour's crop and eat half of it up, we would certainly have to pay the damages, and I suggest that the government should be no exception in this regard and that some means should be designed whereby we can compensate in part at least the farmer for his losses in this regard. I have suggested in the past that perhaps one way of doing it would be to increase the license, the angling license, the hunting licenses, whether it be for wild animals or birds. They could probably be increased slightly to take care of these losses. I know that the problem of adjusting the loss would not be a big one. My own experience in adjusting crop losses is fairly extensive and I know that that would not be a very big problem. We presently have a number of crop insurance adjusters under the Manitoba Crop Insurance Agency and I suggest that they might adjust these losses.

Now I notice, Mr. Chairman, in the papers recently, about a month or so ago -- the date is not on this one but it's just recent -- where it is apparent where the federal government are taking a look at this very problem. I have before me -- it's a front page story from the Free Press headed, "A new plan for duck havens will pay farmers who agree not to drain their sloughs," and it goes on to suggest, and I quote: "A suggestion that prairie farmers be paid to put up with nuisances of wild ducks is going to be tried out by the federal government, Resources Minister Dinsdale said on Saturday." The other article from the Tribune is headed: "Farmers to Receive Pothole Pay." I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the present Minister might give us some more information on this. Surely he has been in touch with the federal Minister and surely they have come to some conclusion in this regard. Now the stories in the paper do not give us too much light on the subject, but to me, unless I know more about it than is reported here, it seems that we're kind of attacking this problem backwards. That is, it suggests in the articles that what they intend to do is pay the farmers to leave a slough on his land to promulgate the ducks, and I suggest that that could increase the problem that we presently have. I think we should attack it at the other end and pay the farmer for the crop losses.

Now last evening, or yesterday afternoon, when the Honourable Minister gave his initial report he said, and I quote: "We made good progress on recreational activities this year and under the Parks Act we sketched out the boundaries for four provincial parks -- two of them new -- 40 recreational areas, and we will be completing 14 roadside parks this year, stretching along highways 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 59, 75 and 82." Now, Mr. Chairman, I was indeed happy to see that Highway #4 was going to come in under this program. Is it the intention of the Minister to provide us with a sheet showing the location of these roadside parks? If not, then I would like to hear him say that he does intend to put a couple of them in the Gladstone constituency. I for one, Mr. Chairman, believe that these little roadside parks are a wonderful thing for the travelling public. I believe too that they are used a lot more than the average member believes. It's difficult to prove how much they are used, but about two miles east of Neepawa on #4 Highway there is a private roadside table and little park there. The farmer

(Mr. Shoemaker, cont'd.) owns it, and nearly every time you go by there in the summer-time you find someone stopped off there in the shade stretched out, sleeping or eating, and this farmer has put a little guest log there, tied it to the table or the tree, and welcomes all those who stop for a brief moment to sign their name, and it certainly is surprising the number of people that visit it. They're an inexpensive type of thing, I believe. A lot of them are. They're just composed of a table and chairs and so on, and I advocate more of them. Now, Mr. Chairman, I don't think I have anything further to say at this time.

MR. REID: Mr. Chairman, I believe the matter of information is the concern of the administration. True, as far as information is concerned the Opposition of this House has quite a difficult time getting information, never mind citizens outside. But I had occasion last summer, some of my constituents required information of some game regulation, big hunting, or whatever it was, I just can't recall it right now, and I wrote the Minister's department pertaining to this information but apparently I must have forgotten to sign my name, official title, or whatever it was. I just wrote as an ordinary citizen, and I received no reply. Well, Sir, my point is: information, regulations, bag limits and game limits and that, should be available to all citizens that write his department. But then I wrote back and I signed my letters as MLA for the area. True I did get a letter, but a long time after the season was over and maybe my people may use that information next year.

But I still believe that information should be available to not only MLA's expediently but to citizens. In my case it wasn't very expedient for myself or my citizens and I hope the Minister takes it under advisement. True, he might have an alibi or an excuse because I understand the department was changing over from one building to another, but nevertheless regardless of any excuse, Mr. Chairman, I think a citizen should get information as expediently as MLA's. In my case I never got it myself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1) Administration -- passed. Resolution 52. Forestry Branch, passed?

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I think the Member from Ethelbert Plains raised some points this afternoon that the Minister might clear up. One of them in particular, the delay between the time that the fires were sighted and the time that fire fighting started; secondly, the reasons why the fire wasn't sighted earlier by departmental staffs.

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Chairman, I have the details now of the Duck Mountain fire -- I got them over the dinner hour -- which I think will answer most of the questions which came up this afternoon. I'd just like to announce that first, the fire was detected from the Baldy Tower at 12:15 August 16th and then it was reported after cross-shot by the Baldy Tower at 12:55 on August 16th. At 2:00 o'clock 16 men in the original crew left for the fire on August 16th. An actual suppression started at 6:30 in the evening on August 16th. Now in more detail, the fire was reported by the Baldy Tower and started on LA-8 of Section 9, Township 31, Range 26, West of the Principal Meridian, on a poplar ridge with grass and high shrub understory. Approximately 16 men in the original crew started suppression work before 6:30 PM on that day, after clearing a winter trail of windfalls and detours for six miles from Cockrow's Mill. Before noon the next day ten bulldozers and close to 50 men were on the fire line. Fire fighting equipment was sent to Charles Lake from all parts of the district on Thursday and extra equipment was requested from Winnipeg on Friday morning. More men were taken in to the fire from Mafeking, Barrows, Birch River and Ethelbert. Strong south-west winds and high temperatures during the night of August 16th, together with extreme drought conditions, made it impossible to slow down this fire. The weather changed rapidly on Thursday morning to cooler and frost was reported Thursday night. However, on Thursday morning the fire was six miles long and one and a half to two miles in width, covering approximately 8,000 acres. More men, machines and equipment were dispatched to the area and were able to complete a fireguard by Saturday. A road was improved into the north-east of the fire from north of the Blue Lake to take diesel fuel and supplies in to the fuel camp, or into the fire camp. Much-needed equipment was flown into Charles Lake from Lac du Bonnet on Monday and spread out around the fire line. An aircraft was available on Friday, August 18th, for patrol duties on the Duck Mountain and Pelican Lake and returned on Monday with equipment. Aircraft remained in the district to the end of September and I'd just like to say here that it's never been felt necessary to have aircraft over there because of the tower system which is able to give us adequate

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) cross-shots of the whole of the Duck Mountain area.

Although the men and machines were on the fire line working 24 hours a day and the fire-guards were completed by Saturday, the fire was continually breaking out, particularly on the east and north-east side. Tuesday, August 22nd was a bad day. High temperatures and westerly winds early Wednesday alerted everyone to the situation. By noon the first reports of break-outs were reported. All roads into the Duck Mountain had been under travel permit for a week and these men on the road blocks were immediately informed to stop all traffic into the area. Instructions were passed through Baldy Tower to move equipment out of the danger area. Some trucks, station wagons and cars belonging to the department were in danger. Contact was made to Hatch Construction via radio-telephone to Camp 37 alerting Mr. H. D. Hatch to the serious situation. Picnickers, campers and cottagers were evacuated from Blue Lake, Charles and William Lake by mid-afternoon. Radio contact was maintained to the fire from Dauphin to Baldy to camps in the fire line that were not lost. The Dauphin radio could monitor all portables during the afternoon until about 7:30 PM. The RCMP were alerted in mid-afternoon and a staff-sergeant was assigned to the office at Dauphin from 3:30 PM till 5:30 PM and on call throughout the night. A Civil Defence co-ordinator for the region, Mr. Malt, was alerted during the afternoon and was on the fire during the early evening with first aid supplies. Reports of men lost during the late afternoon were received from the portable sets and Baldy requested an ambulance for two injured men about 4:15 PM. An ambulance left Dauphin at 5:00 PM via Ethelbert to pick up the injured who were enroute to Dauphin in a half-ton truck. The situation was reported to head office before 4:00 PM and Mr. Brain, the Chief of Fire Fighting, arrived in Dauphin before midnight. It mentions here the names of Mr. P. and the two men that were involved in the accident. I just mention that to explain the names here. P. took his truck and crew into George Lake at 4:15 PM and reported some men missing. However, all men were accounted for by noon on Thursday. The injured men, employees of the Department of Public Works were flown to Winnipeg Wednesday evening. Mr. Prokopchuk died from injuries sustained on September 11th and Mr. Cox at the time that I had this report, is still in serious condition.

Reorganizing commenced on Thursday morning from a camp established on the beach at Blue Lake. Approximately 20,000 acres burned on Wednesday. By Saturday, 34 bulldozers and between 170 and 180 men were on the fire. On Monday, August 28th, the fire again took off at the south-east corner east of Blue Lake. Machines and men were transported to this break Monday night and Tuesday. Two lightning strikes were also located in the area on Monday from the air and these were under control within 24 hours. Tuesday the 29th was a bad day. A water bomber was requested. A Canso from Calgary arrived on Wednesday through dense smoke and dropped water north of Singush. This aircraft was damaged on take-off and left for Calgary to return the next evening with additional crews. They commenced water bombing again on Friday morning with departmental personnel in the tail end and apparently effective in holding hot-spots until ground crews and machines were on the scene. In late afternoon crown fires were grounded west of Blue Lake by water picked up at the Blue. A change in the weather on Saturday September 2nd prevented further use of the water bomber and the machines returned to Calgary on Sunday. And then in that area they had a bit of rain.

I had some information on the temperatures and wind at that time but I seem to have mislaid them for the moment.

I think it's interesting to note the speed at which this fire was travelling, because from the time that it was first reported by the Baldy Tower and until time men got into the area, about six hours later, the fire had travelled over a whole section. And the fire continued to crown and to jump the fire lines repeatedly throughout the whole of the operation. Mention was made this afternoon and also by the Honourable Member for Brokenhead, of some of the figures that were contained in this pamphlet about the forest fire situation in Newfoundland, the worst in 30 years. I'd like to draw your attention to Page 72 of the annual report, and when we give figures on these fires we give the figures on all the fires in the Province of Manitoba, including those in the far north country, those that are burning through swamps and non-merchantable timber. Whether or not the other provinces do, I don't know. We do know that some of them do not.

Now in 1960 there are 400,000 acres of crown land burned over; private acres were

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) 11,900 and the merchantable acreage that was burned over out of the 400,000 was 138,916. With respect to the questions that have been made on policy, and before I leave the Duck Mountain fire, I wish to categorically deny that men left the fire tower. The towers were manned all during that period and men were on the scene until the fire was completely out.

Now as for the policy, I think during the past two years that this government -- or the past three years maybe -- that this government has built more fire access roads, fire roads, forest access roads and fire guard trails in a short period of time than has been done before. We have also in the south-east corner used every means that we could for fire protection such as just digging simple dug-outs to be filled by run-off, so that pumpers can come up and put a hose in them and then the water can be poured on the fire. We have increased our fire tower network until it is now 104 towers. It was increased by three towers in 1960, a further three towers in 1961, and I think, if I remember correctly, that there are another three towers planned for 1962. In order to meet this problem of forest fires the committee will remember that when I was in my estimates last year, I advised them that we were going to reorganize the Department of Mines and Natural Resources so that we could make more efficient use of our field men. And had we not done that this year we would have had a more expensive and worse situation than we faced during this past summer. We had many unusual difficulties with the fires we fought this year, and I mentioned to the committee just before it rose the fact that fires were springing up in various places in the province and we were dispersing the equipment that we had to an extent that we had never experienced before, but I didn't advise the committee that many of these fires which normally would have been put out in a day or two had gone deeper than had ever been experienced before, and that our men and equipment were on those fires, not only for days, but some of them are still burning and have to be put out before the spring. All of our staff are trained in forest fire activities and since we have had the reorganization we have had two schools. The instructor has been the chief fire instructor that we had on the department, and our men were given thorough training. The training was stepped up under reorganization but it had been continuing during 1958, 1959 and 1960, and I must pay a compliment to conservation officers who normally had been dealing with fish or with game who put their new-found training to exceptionally good use and worked extremely hard during the summer in fighting these fires.

The Honourable Member for Brokenhead referred to research and to helicopters. We have right at the present time our Chief Forest Fire Protection Officer in Kenora in consultation with the Ontario people on their fires, and our forest fire staff has been in consultation over these past two years, not only with Ontario, but with Saskatchewan, in the methods of fighting fires and in having reciprocal agreements with each other in case these fires come across the border. We have experimented with the Dominion Government in this province during the past year with the detection of fires by infra-red rays and by the electronic eye. A news release was put out on that matter some time ago. We had our chief forester at the industry's fire school in Victoria to study the new methods, and from that in itself and from what we were able to learn from the other provinces, particularly B. C. and Ontario and Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, who had severe fire losses in 1960, we applied that experience to the fires that we fought this year, and some of the most simple things which we learned at that conference were applied this year and worked with a great deal of effectiveness. The honourable member mentioned helicopters. The reason we have not had helicopters on the staff, in the department, are simply because of their expense, simply because of their maintenance and simply because of the fact that you have to have two special pilots, specially trained in helicopter work, and we have felt as we did this year that we would be better off to utilize private industry. We were in Vancouver or Victoria to see what helicopters could do for us in preparation for this coming year -- to check on it. We saw them in action, and when we came back, when our season got bad, we took on helicopters and we were not able only to put out fires with them, spot fires, but we were also able to do reforestation on the Echo Lake fire, which was done promptly as soon as we could in order to regenerate that burnt-out area. We, I think, were one of the provinces during this past two years to conduct extensive campaigning with the Otter Water Bomber, and we had our Otters equipped with dropping tanks and have found them to be one of the most effective units that there are. Saskatchewan this past year tried them

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) out and had two, and they too, I understand, have found them satisfactory. We have experimented and I have seen the experiments myself with Beavers, with the dropping of water bags on spot fires. Unfortunately during the summer we had one Otter bomber with the tanks on them; we had another one with tanks on, a mechanism broke and we had to get a new mechanism. We also found that there was danger to our pilots with the system that we had, and our government air service under its own initiative remedied the situation, and by the end -- not the end, but round about the end of August we had water bombers in the form of the Otter aircraft that were doing exceptionally good work. One of the reasons that we didn't bring the larger water bombers into the province until we were requested to do so by these men who were having such a desperate time in the Duck Mountains, was because we felt that our own Otter water bombers for the particular type of terrain, the particular type of country we have in Manitoba, was the best way of utilizing aircraft to help men on the ground fight fires.

I think we have a policy and I think, Mr. Chairman, that that policy is a good one. It involves training, it involves research; it involves constant forest access road development and fire guard trails, and such simple things as dug-outs. It involves keeping our equipment fully up-to-date, and if any of the honourable members want to go up to the various places such as Rennie or Marchand or the north country up at Sherridon or in the Duck Mountains, and see these sites then they are quite welcome to do so. The tanker which we received from the Civil Defence Unit, it couldn't get off the gravel road that we had put through, but it was invaluable to us and we are in the estimates calling for two more this year. I say, Mr. Chairman, that we do have a policy and I say, Mr. Chairman, that we weren't simply sitting down and waiting for these fires to suddenly spring up and then take action, and I say, Mr. Chairman, that this province has never experienced a situation such as it experienced this year and we were not the only ones. Saskatchewan, Ontario, Alberta, B. C. and you all remember Newfoundland. I think we were the first province to take advantage of the army and to send the army into the Echo Lake fire, and the army helped us immensely, and the army were only let go when it was felt that we didn't need them any longer. I have written to the Minister of Forestry and suggested to him that they could equip the RCAF with forest fighting devices such as the Otter with the tanks for water bombing, because we could do with that type of assistance quite well.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal with some of the other matters that the honourable members have brought up as they have gone along. The Honourable Member for Brokenhead mentioned morale of the department. I think the morale of the department is high. It's never been reported to me that it is not high in my travels around the country and I have been around a lot. I have found no reason to state that the morale is low. We went into reorganization. It caused quite a different approach to the whole problem of renewable resources in this province and our men, from our directors down to our conservation officers to our regional supervisors have worked in with it very well. Some of them may have had reservations, but they have forgotten those reservations and co-operated to the fullest extent to make reorganization become a fact and to make it work. And the regional supervisors that we have, and we've had them down here for two meetings now, and at that time we discussed forest fires before the forest fire season took place and after the forest fire season took place. Liaison men -- some of them quite young men, who have high morale, who have high ideas of what to do, and I think through this system we are able to take the ideas that come from the field men up to the regional supervisors, up to the directors through the various systems. Now there may be some ideas that don't even get acknowledged, because possibly they're not worth acknowledging.

The Honourable Member for St. George mentioned about the forest fire policy where there was an area where we didn't do forest fire work. Fires in the municipalities have been the responsibility of the municipality. Fires in the wooded areas have been the responsibility of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources and we have now extended fires in the local government districts and the unorganized district as the responsibility of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources in co-operation with the local government administrator where local government administrators are involved, and you will be seeing before this House, amendment to The Fire Protection Act to take care of that situation. In municipalities there have been burning permits required; in the wooded areas there have been burning permits required, but

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) until this Act is amended there have never been burning permits required in local government districts and in unorganized territory, but they will now. With respect to the camper that the honourable members mentioned, we had three fires started at Paint Lake in Thompson which we suspected very much came from campers, but because of inadequacies in the Act we couldn't prosecute, but we are bringing in The Fires Prevention Act this session with some amendments to take care of that situation.

I have dealt mainly with the forest fires because there has been such debate on it, Mr. Chairman. There are other items here that the members have mentioned and I think possibly we can deal with them as we go through the various items in the estimates.

MR. W. B. SCARTH, Q. C. (River Heights): Mr. Chairman, to those who criticized the Honourable the Minister on the forest fighting on the opposite benches, I will make one statement, and I don't think any of them will deny it, that not one of those gentlemen has ever fought a forest fire nor seen a real forest fire. -- (Interjection) -- All right. Sir, in a dry year a forest fire travels faster than a fast horse will trot and there need be no wind that day at all. When it's so dry that the fire leaps from the top of one tree to the next a great draft originates the speed of that fire. As I say it travels faster than a horse can go, and you can't put it out with 10 or 50 men. I'll give you an example. Either in late July of 1929 or early August 1929 -- (Interjection) -- Just a moment; there's a settlement called Cranberry Portage -- (Interjection) -- Well, you wouldn't know one if you saw one, brother -- (Interjection) -- There was a fire broke out at Cranberry Portage. The settlement was about 700 -- 500 men. Now, Mr. Speaker, that lonely cut from Lake Athapapuskow to the first Cranberry Lake is only about two miles and it only cut a swath about one and one-half miles wide and yet 500 men couldn't put that fire out, and the honourable gentlemen opposite here are talking about "Let's have a brigade all over the bush in the north that will put out every fire." Well, Sir, there aren't enough people in Manitoba to do it, and I would suggest that they just get a few facts in their head before talking too loudly and too longly.

MR. PAULLEY: Just before we leave this very important and interesting subject of fires that the Honourable Member for River Heights has taken us back oh, about 30-odd years, I would like to ask the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources one or two questions in connection with this most important subject. Information has been revealed to me, or relayed to me, that one of the causes of some of the fires, particularly in the Carberry area this year, were the result of lack of co-operation or understanding between the National Department of National Defence and the elements. I have been informed that in the Carberry area at the height of the drought, or the depths of the drought, whichever way you want to take it, that continuous practising of the firing of weapons was continued in the area with the net result that there were started in this general area a considerable number of fires. One of the fires, so I am informed, was of such magnitude that it set fire to over half a dozen hay stacks in the area, which contributed, of course, if my information is correct, to the shortage of feed for livestock in the area, and further to this that after the fires had been started an appeal was made to the military authorities for assistance in fighting the fires which they had started. I again qualify my remarks that if my information is correct, but after having started these fires, after having been appealed to, to assist in putting out the fires that a considerable period of time lapsed before the normal red tape was overcome, that the order was issued to the military personnel to go out and assist in the putting out of the fires. This has bothered me in this particular area, Mr. Chairman. I understand that a considerable amount of damage was done as a result of this, and I would like to hear from the Minister as to whether he is aware of this or whether or not the facts that have been relayed to me are correct.

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of this particular situation. I do know that the army have a firing range there and along that range in the Carberry area they have built fire-guard roads. They were continuing with their normal training program within their firing range and possibly some of their fires did get out, of that I am not aware. I will look into it for you.

MR. PAULLEY: I just want to say to the Honourable the Minister if I may, Mr. Chairman, that I too am aware of the fact that there are fire-guards in around the general area, usually of a plowed-up furrow or two around the area, but I have been informed through very reliable sources of the situation that I have drawn to the attention of the Minister. I am also

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) informed, Mr. Chairman, that there is the probability that this also happened in another area. I believe it was in the eastern part of Manitoba -- I am not positive of this. But I would suggest this to the Minister, that if in this current year, whether the information I have been given is correct or not -- and I believe it to be so because it was from a person who has no axe to grind with any particular individual or indeed no axe to grind for any political party -- but if this information that has been given to me is correct, and I believe it to be so because of the type of the individual that has given it to me, may I suggest to the Honourable Minister that if we are going to be faced this year with a similar situation that the military authorities be contacted in this general area or any other area in which they undertake training of the firing of other weapons of whatever nature, that they be requested not to do it, or in the alternative, to be prepared instantly to have complete control and guards over their firing area. I raise this, Mr. Chairman, for the information of the Minister, if he's not aware of it, sincerely believing it to be true, and as I have indicated, reliable information has been given to me that there were at least six or seven hay stacks that were lost as a result of the firing and the starting of fires in this general area.

MR. J.M. HAWRYLUK (Burrows): Mr. Chairman, I was very much interested in the assertions of the forest fires, and being a city slicker I am not aware of the problems, but I think we on this side of the House cannot but appreciate some of the work that has been done, because one must give credit where credit is due to the resourcefulness and initiative of the Minister of this department. I think he is doing what can be done and more power to him. There are several questions that I wish to ask pertaining to the fact that we heard that there was a loss of life and severe injury of some of the fire fighters. Is there any compensation given to volunteer workers who are not employed by this government in case of such an accident? Because I think this is something that I, as a layman, would like to know, particularly since we do depend a great deal on volunteer assistance. Is there any compensation given by the government regarding anyone that volunteers in an effort of this kind in case of injury or death in the family, of a breadwinner? Secondly, is it the policy, and this is again -- of some immediate action being taken regarding burnt out areas by the department or is there some method procedure of clearing the land and reforestation taking place? And thirdly, is the government intending to buy a helicopter for future use in case of forest fires?

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Chairman, in answer to the first question, all of our forest fire fighters are covered by compensation. Just about two years ago, I think it was, we put all of them, including the part-time workers under compensation. --(Interjection) -- Well, we don't normally have volunteers to my knowledge. We generally try to take them on part-time staff.

MR. HAWRYLUK: What happens in the case of the students for example? In case somebody -- they volunteer. Are they immediately hired by the government?

MR. WITNEY: It's a question I'll have to clear up for you because to my knowledge we generally just take them right on the payroll, but I can look into it for you.

On the matter of reforestation and taking advantage of the salvage, we have been particularly concerned about getting the burnt saw timber out of these burnt-out areas because it is attacked by worms and if we don't get it out within a few months the timber is no good as saw timber and then must become utilized as a pulp operation. Pulp can remain for two or three years, and this past year in these burnt-out areas we appealed to the operators to take timber sales in the burnt-out saw timber area, and we reduced the timber dues down to the bottom of the schedule A rates. We also ask these operators, if possible, to stay out of green timber and we have had, as we have had in fire fighting in all areas, exceptional co-operation from the timber operators, and referring back again to the Duck Mountain fire, the timber operators were particularly co-operative and ready to acknowledge our instructions and to move with our men and to use their equipment and their own men wherever it was necessary to do so.

Sir, up in the Echo Lake country and up in the Duck Mountain country and in the Winnipegosis country we put up timber sales for saw timber in those areas at the bottom of the Schedule A dues in order to encourage the operators in to salvage the saw timber before the bugs got at it. Next year -- we are now making our plans as to what to do about the fire-killed timber, because the Honourable Member for Gladstone-Neepawa mentioned about the decrease in the forestry products that we had. It was mainly due to a decrease in the pulp market, and that has been primarily because the Manitoba Pulp and Paper Company now have to produce a higher

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) quality product in order to compete with the other mills that are operating in the United States and in other parts of Canada, so they have no longer been taking fire-killed timber, nor have they been taking badly distorted timber. I've already been in correspondence with the Department of Industry and Commerce to see if it would be possible to generate a market in the United States because fire-killed pulpwood, I understand, is about 40% lighter and it may be possible to find a market despite the freight rates involved where this fire-killed pulpwood could be used, but that is in the realm of investigation at the present time. -- (Interjection) -- Sorry -- on the matter of the helicopter we will not be putting a helicopter on the staff but we have already been in contact with the people that we used last year to negotiate for use of their machines this year.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, I notice in the Order for Return my colleague from Fisher brought that last year we spent \$21,000 on rental of two helicopters from Spartan Aircraft and I would like to know for what length of time this was? Also \$8,000 for a water bomber, what length of time?

MR. WITNEY: The water bomber was used for, I think it was used for a month or roughly about 10 days. I am not sure about the actual amount of time that we used it. We used the helicopters for a period of three months. We had two. We had one on use for about a month and a half and then we took on another. I think all in all that they stretched over a period of about three months with one being used for the full time and the other being used about a month and a half.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that he was not aware of the point that I raised in regard to the fires in around the Carberry area. I am wondering, because it's in his constituency whether the Member for Souris-Lansdowne had received any representations along the same lines I had. Now it's not my intention, Mr. Chairman, and I don't desire to put the Honourable Member for Souris-Lansdowne on the so-called proverbial spot, but I noticed this afternoon on listening to the debate between the Honourable the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and the Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains, as to you were on the spot and you weren't on the spot, and I wasn't and I was, or something to that degree I think the debate went on, and I was just wondering whether or not it might have been that the Member for Souris-Lansdowne had the same information relayed to him, or similar information that I have had in this respect.

MR. M. E. McKELLAR (Souris-Lansdowne): Mr. Chairman, I would like to inform the Leader of the New Democratic Party that while I do represent the residential section of Shilo that's as far as I go, and the Member for Cypress constituency represents the area which you're referring to. I had the pleasure of attending a dance last year at the end of June just immediately after the fire was started, and they had been fighting it for about a week or ten days then, but they said, as you mentioned -- were the cause of it -- firing long-range shells and the very dry conditions and hot weather in June, and I guess they weren't familiar with what could happen in those dry sands east of Shilo in the forest reserve, but they had the fire under control -- the few logs and the hay stacks you mentioned, and I think the lesson they learned at that time was something that will be of great benefit in similar years as last year. But the Member for Cypress represents that area where the fire was.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Honourable Member for Souris-Lansdowne, as again I say I wasn't attempting to put him on the spot. He has more or less substantiated the information that has been relayed to me in respect particularly of the loss of the hay stacks. Now I don't know whether or not the parties concerned have been reimbursed because of the loss of the hay stacks. I sincerely hope that they have, and as I indicated, Mr. Chairman, earlier I sincerely trust and hope that the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources in the Province of Manitoba, will tell the Department of National Defence in Ottawa, "Henceforth, don't start any of your practices that will be likely to set off such similar fires in the future. Use your common sense and take full cognizance and note of weather conditions prevailing at the time of your exercises."

MR. McKELLAR: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that at that particular time that I was there they mentioned that the Officer-in-Command and other leading officers in Shilo were going out to settle with the particular farmers. Now for curiosity's sake, I am going to the Bonspiel a week from Saturday and I will find out.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, following this discussion that if the farmers concerned have not received compensation for their loss and this has aggravated, and I am sure the Honourable Member for Souris-Lansdowne will appreciate how much this has aggravated the feed situation, he being more of a farmer than I, that compensation -- (Interjection) -- well, almost, let's say almost -- that this situation should not re-occur again.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know just why it is that the Forestry Branch is so rigid in its granting of permits for the cutting of pulpwood, small scale operation I am referring to. I know that we live under the rule of law and regulations must be adhered to, but for example, in my area there are some people who, during the off-season months, would like to take advantage of this slack season to get a permit for the cutting of a few cords of pulp just on the rim of the shield there, Milner Ridge and east, and when I say small operation I mean about 24-cord, 30-cord, 35, 40-cord permits, and on more than one occasion because an individual was just a couple of weeks late in sending in his fee, he had to re-apply and when he did he was told, "Well, it's too late now. We've cut off the granting of permits in that particular area that you were interested in." And in one case the man had even, the year previously, built himself an access road or bush trail if you want to call it that, and had cut, I believe, about 40 cords the previous winter. This winter he tried to get a permit, for 24 cords could have kept him going for about three weeks, and he couldn't get it. Now regulations I would suggest are being enforced just a little bit too rigidly, and while we must live by law and regulations it seems that common sense should prevail too.

MR. WITNEY: We have to regulate rather severely, Mr. Chairman, because if we are going to operate on a sustained yield management basis and we have gone through some five years of forest inventories, we are now establishing throughout the province a detailed forest inventory management program and if we are to operate on a sustained yield basis and to utilize our forest properly we must have so many sales and only so many timber permits. So the regulations are strict in order to keep the forest there for years to come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 52 passed.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, regarding the death in the Duck Mountain fire, is compensation being paid to the family of the person who died?

MR. WITNEY: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I don't know.

MR. MOLGAT: I would appreciate if the Minister would verify this, Mr. Chairman, because it is a rather important item. I understand the person involved was not an employee of the Forest Service, but he certainly died while in the area and I think doing some work for the Service.

There is also one injured person is there not, who has not yet --

MR. EVANS: I would be very glad to see if I can get some information in this connection. Subject to correction, I believe that this case is handled under Workmen's Compensation, and that being one of my responsibilities, I'll undertake to try and get the information.

MR. MOLGAT: in both cases they are being protected. Did I understand the Minister correctly to say that from now on local government districts in unorganized territory will definitely come under the Forestry Branch insofar as forest fire-fighting is concerned?

MR. WITNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

. Continued on next page

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 52 -- passed. Resolution 53, Games Branch.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, on the matter of the Games Branch, I'd just like to say a few words in this regard following on what my colleague the Member for Ethelbert Plains said this afternoon. This is one field where the close association between the people of the Province of Manitoba and the interested sportsmen and the department are absolutely essential. My colleague at that time, commended the Minister himself for his close liaison with the sportsmen's group and commended the manager of the Federation of Game and Fish for the work which they do in this regard. I want to heartily endorse his statements. I don't think that the work of this department can ever be fully successful without that close liaison and that close co-operation. I can say that it's been my pleasure to be at some of the meetings of the Game and Fish Federation, I am a member of it myself, and I've seen the Minister there himself. I know the regard in which he is held by that association and I am sure that this will be of great benefit in this whole field. The laws that we pass in this department and in the Fisheries Branch, in the long run, can only be effective provided that they have fairly unanimous support by the sportsmen. It is in this field, it seems to me, that the Game and Fish Federation can do a great job of interpretation in liaison with the public at large and I am happy to see the close co-operation that exists. The Federation as well, having a somewhat different approach to the problems and the questions than that of the department, can frequently bring to the department very useful suggestions and recommendations. They are in touch with, by and large, the majority of the sportsmen in the province; they are seeing the problems from a different light; and I think have made some very useful suggestions. One that they have proposed for some time, and which the Minister instituted last year and on which I would like to have a report at this time, is the question of the party hunting. I realize that it's a controversial matter and he attempted it last year on a certain basis, largely I believe at the request of the Federation, and I think it might be useful at this time if he could give his report on its effectiveness and whether he intends to continue it next year or not.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, I believe it was November 6th, last year, an event occurred where several hunting parties going out in the pre-dawn hours, the first day of hunting season, came across a situation where temptation and seduction had been put in their path. I refer to the stuffed deer incident. There wasn't just one party, there were several parties that got involved. By the time -- well actually nothing could be done about it. They were taken to the courts and I believe four out of five, or five out of six of the parties involved, if I have my figures correct, were found guilty. The law as such had to be upheld, and I can understand that, but here you had a situation where the law had to be upheld because of temptation and seduction. I can think of no better words. If this deliberate act of inducing these people to break the law had not taken place, no law would have been broken. Now without getting into a long drawn-out argument as to legality here, I was very much surprised and disappointed that all charges were not dropped -- all of them. As I understand, two charges were laid and one was dropped in every case; namely, night-lighting, because they were going out in the pre-dawn hours as I said; but the others, namely the discharging of weapons between Saturday dusk and Monday dawn, or some charge such as that, was not dropped and they were convicted and fined. I find it somewhat amusing, but more so I find it regrettable and I would ask the Minister why all charges were not dropped. Secondly, I would ask him how many stuffed deers he has in the stores in his department. Does he intend to order some more from the local taxidermist?

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, in view of the observations and in view of the terms my honourable friend suggested, maybe this should be handled by the morality department rather than the Game and Fish.

MR. E. I. DOW (Turtle Mountain): Under the biological investigation, there are three areas where white tail deer I understand -- under this department -- and I'd like to ask the Minister the question, how many deer is his branch shooting in the spring of 1960-61 and '61-'62, and will it continue more than the two years? We find it's somewhat embarrassing in our part of the country to have people who would be prosecuted driving along the road and see a conservation officer get out of his truck, see a deer, take a shot at it, and throw it in the truck and take it home. But the private individual can't do that. I'm wondering, Sir, if this is going to continue, that it might be advisable to notify the public that your branch is going to go out and shoot X number of deer. I don't know how many they do in a season. But it has been a

(Mr. Dow, cont'd.) . . . certain amount of embarrassment, particularly to people that are in public life. They'll come along and want to know why they fine me but the fellow in the uniform, why he can do it. And this is all out of season. I think it happens in the spring of the year.

The other thing I would like the Minister to mention, and it's been mentioned before but it comes under this department, in our particular area there is definitely a problem with rabid skunks. When you get them into towns and villages and the Mounted Police have to shoot, send away to be tested and come back as rabid animals -- farmers are shooting them in their own yard and I'm sure that we all would not want to have this get into a point where the human being is being grabbed by a skunk as a rabid and be one of the victims of the disease.

It has been and tested that cattle have died of rabies which is developing from the skunks in the pasture fields, and it is my firm conviction that something more than we're doing now should take place this coming season, because it certainly is not going to stop on its own momentum. This has kind of revolved and got bigger over the last several years. If you recall, about six or seven years ago there was an outbreak of rabies with foxes, wolves and skunks in the area around south of Brandon, but it has now spread to a lot of the southwest part of the Province of Manitoba. In my opinion, Sir, it is something that this government should take a good look at and come out with a very definite program because it is getting worse. I saw this myself, that here was a rabid skunk on a street of a well-inhabited town standing there just waiting for something to bite, and I went and got the Mounted Police and he shot the skunk and sent it away and it was a rabid skunk. Now I'm not afraid of them myself, but I certainly don't want to see my grandchildren and little tots out and see a little skunk that they might think is a cat and end up with a bite from a skunk. I think that the Minister, if he hasn't any definite program, I would certainly advise that he get one immediately and get it known and get something done to protect this type of disease that's going

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Chairman, I'd first like to join with the Leader of the Opposition in paying tribute to the Manitoba Game and Fish Association. Since I have been a Minister I have had good relations with the Association, who represent not only the city sportsmen but represent the farmer sportsmen too and represent now the sportsmen up in the north country. We have a very strong one operating in Flin Flon. I have attended their conventions and attended several of their executive meetings and found at all times that, while they are very firm in their convictions and very avid in their desire to maintain wildlife habitats and wildlife in general, that they are also people who will listen to reason and to argument and back up what they consider to be the correct decisions. I will always remember the resolution which they passed on this controversy between biologists and the man in the field, where they gave their support to the recommendations that are made by biologists. For men who come from such a varied group of citizens in the province, I thought the resolution was a very fine one indeed and adequately, and more than adequately, very pointedly proved that they are conservation-minded in every respect. I hope to be at their Game and Fish Convention in Wasagaming this year. I wish to thank them for the assistance that they have given me during this past year when we were experimenting with colours of uniforms. It was the Game and Fish Association that we went to and the Game and Fish Association gave us that co-operation immediately. When the matter of party hunting came up and we finally gave party hunting, it was the Game and Fish Association of Wasagaming who appealed to their members to abide by the rules and regulations that were set down for party hunting in an effort to keep it going.

I might say on party hunting itself that the experiment was conducted this year. We will be continuing with party hunting. I think it is a little too early to say just what it will do to our game population, and I think it is a little too early to assess whether or not we should change the type of party hunting regulations that we have at the present time. We do know that there were people who didn't abide by the party hunting regulations and went out and party hunted at any rate, but we also know that there were very many who wanted to give party hunting a fair trial in this province and went out and abided by the regulations to every extent. Of course, my particular concern with party hunting is what it will do on our deer populations. To date, at any rate, we haven't any indication that party hunting has been unduly severe upon the hunting populations, although as we get back the various reports from the Game and Fish members who send back their reports, and other interested citizens who send them back, we will be able

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) to analyze the situation more clearly. But party hunting will continue in the province for deer during this coming year.

We don't intend to seduce the hunters in Manitoba any further. We will not be putting up any stuffed deer and I think that I made it quite clear at the time that stuffed deer practices will be discontinued in the province. However, the matter was referred to the Attorney-General's Department and we felt that the stuffed deer was definitely an unfair enticement on the matter of night-lighting. The Attorney-General's Department felt that we had sufficient charges, irrespective of the stuffed deer being there, to lay on the other accounts so we did lay them and I believe, if I recall correctly, that prosecutions were obtained.

The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain mentioned about the shooting of deer by department men. We are shooting female deer. We had done it last year; we're doing it this year; and we will continue to do it because from them we are able to learn valuable information as to the reproduction of deer. The purpose of shooting these deer is to examine the number of fawns that the female deers carry and we have found that they are carrying from two and up to three. We can also determine whether or not the deer are receiving adequate habitat for feed, because if the deer is undernourished it absorbs the young back into its system. The deer doesn't waste any energy. That is the reason -- in order to continue reproductive studies of deer. This apparently, according to the biologist, is one of the most important methods of doing so and we will be doing it for this spring and for springs to come and possibly at all times, because on the basis of the reproduction of deer determined at this point, we can determine the health of the deer; we can determine approximately the crop that we will have; and in relation to that, we can determine our hunting seasons and the amount of hunting pressure that can be sustained by the deer. So while some people may feel a little disturbed at the fact that our conservation men are shooting deer out of season, they are doing so at the request and under the guidance of the Chief Biologist of the Game Branch and for that purpose.

On the rabid skunk - the Game Branch are working very closely with the federal veterinarians and we are at the present time in the process of producing a pamphlet to distribute with our booklet on nuisance animals which was published last year, to advise people what to do about particularly rabid skunks, and I wish to commend the honourable member for getting the RCMP to shoot the rabid skunk. It is my understanding that while the skunk is not necessarily a hibernating animal, he does generally den up in the winter time and that any rabid skunks that are seen around this period or any skunks that are seen around this period, you can have some assurance that they are rabid and the best way to handle them is to shoot them -- not to touch them. There has been some pressure to put on bounties for rabid skunks, but our fear in doing that is that youngsters then go hunting for skunks, do not know a rabid skunk from a non-rabid skunk, and could quite possibly be bitten by them. The Game Branch is also working very closely with the Department of Agriculture and with the federal veterinarian people and we are prepared to aid in any inoculation program that they feel is necessary in dogs in this particular country. The regional supervisors have been asked to pass back information and have been alerted to the situation, and so have the conservation officers. That is what has been done up to date and we are keeping a progressive check on rabies in skunks and other animals.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, one of the most serious game problems in North America is that of the rapid decline of the duck. This may sound like a strong statement, but unless all the governments in North America get together, it's only a matter of time before the duck will become virtually extinct. We only have to look at the passenger pigeon which, not too many years ago, numbered in countless millions and today there isn't a living bird in North America. I don't think there's a living bird in the world. Every year the number of guns increases. Its breeding areas are gradually being absorbed by drainage and there's no doubt that it's just a matter of time before -- the generations following will not have an opportunity to hunt the duck. I know that this government cannot do anything about it by itself. This is a problem that must be fought by all the governments in North America. I know that this government is very interested -- the Minister has shown a lot of interest in this subject, but I would like to urge him to seek greater co-operation from other governments and his men to go to these meetings to try to get other men in this field interested. I think our worst offenders are in Mexico. I was talking to a fellow who returned from the Orient not too long ago and, while visiting a store, he found Teal for sale and it was his information that the Teal had been

(Mr. Guttormson, cont'd.) . . . exported from Mexico. I also believe that the number of ducks allowed in Mexico is much higher than that in Manitoba. These people are taking advantage of a very serious situation.

I am very concerned over it because I know I enjoy hunting ducks very much and I know just how badly the duck population has declined in the few short years that I have hunted. My father has hunted in the Interlake ever since he was old enough to hold a gun and he tells me the times, and this may sound like an exaggeration, but the ducks came in the flyways so fast that the gun got so hot he could hardly hold it. Today you have a difficult time in most areas to get your limit, even on opening day. --(Interjection)-- May be a poor shot -- but if people who're really interested in this problem have watched it as I have tried to do, they'll realize that this situation isn't to be laughed at.

I think that possibly another step that the government could take is to try to purchase land, swamp lands so the duck can breed more readily. I know that at one time in the Interlake -- I know so well -- on any given day you could go out with a gun and find a slough to shoot. Today it's a very difficult task because most of these sloughs are now drained. I know the farmer wants these sloughs drained for his hay land, but I think we must also look the other way as well and provide means for these ducks to survive. I think that the government should examine the possibility of creating breeding grounds in areas which are not suitable for farming. As I said before, I am not levelling any criticism at the government on this particular matter because I know it's not something they can do by themselves, but I would certainly urge him and any members of his department to do everything in their power to bring home to those other governments, who are not paying the same attention as this government is to this serious problem, to try to do something to bring back the duck population in North America.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 54 -- pass?

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Chairman, before you leave this item, I'd like to make a suggestion to the Minister to extend the party hunting licences to the trophy moose season. The reason I raise this particular point, Mr. Chairman, is that the trophy season takes place in the remote parts of Manitoba, and the reason for it is that there are larger numbers of moose in those areas than we feel that the areas can properly support, that is insofar as browse and feed are concerned. Also, the fact that in order to partake in this hunting -- it's an expensive sport because you have to travel long distances, find proper accommodation and so forth, and in order to facilitate the depletion of the moose to the numbers that the department feels they should be depleted, I think that the party hunting licence would assist in that respect.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, I was out of the House for a few brief moments, but I never heard the Honourable Minister give us more details on the federal plan for paying the farmers for -- what did I mention before -- as pot-hole pay. Now surely this Minister has been in consultation with the federal minister, and I wonder if he could enlighten us on the subject. This article says the Minister did not spell out the details of the program, and I wonder if our Minister could give us more details on this one.

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Chairman, in answering first the Honourable Member for St. George, we have just had our chief biologist return from the United States where he was down there this past week at a conference on the status of waterfowl. At that conference there were officials from Canada, the United States and from Mexico. He has attended all of the Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conferences that are being held in conjunction with the United States because he's well aware that it's an international problem, and our officials will be attending one on April 5th to April 6th in Halifax. There is a possibility that I may be there also, particularly if the numbers of ducks are going to be revealed or any matters about hunting seasons. We were credited unofficially with being one of the leads at the last Federal Wildlife Provincial Conference. The officials in the Game Branch, in recognizing this problem and trying to adjust their seasons to do something about it, and the honourable member will remember that we did adjust our seasons into a later area. That was agreed to at that time and the agreement, unfortunately, didn't stick in some of the provinces but we held our agreement after consultation with United States officials who felt that if Manitoba were to change its seasons at this late date, that they would not be able to maintain their steady pressure in the United States on this problem of over-shooting of the waterfowl after it leaves Canada. So I think in that move alone that we had some significant success along the lines that the honourable member is speaking

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) . . . of, and I am very interested here to see that Mexico was attending this conference which was held in Denver. Of course while these results are far from being fully indicative, they do show that the duck populations are down on the wintering grounds in the various sections of the United States.

I thought with the moisture that we have had this year that we will have some of our pot-holes refilled with water; some of our sloughs refilled with water; and some of our marshy creeks refilled with water. I flew with the United States wildlife biologist this summer to see how they count ducks over these pot-holes and it was amazing to see the dryness of the country where the ducks are normally breeding and resting, but with the snow that is up there now, the situation looks a little more hopeful, and of course as the surveys are made this spring and this summer they will be made by the United States Wildlife Service in conjunction with our own people who accompany them. We cannot make any predictions until such time as we have those figures, but I can assure him that we are doing all that we feel we can to impress, not only on our neighbouring provinces, but on the United States people. I don't recall Mexico being at any of the Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conferences that have been held in Canada, that's why I think it significant that they were at this one in Denver, to impress upon them the seriousness of the situation. Fortunately the United States Wildlife officials realize that Manitoba and Saskatchewan are one of the major breeding grounds and resting grounds for waterfowl, and from them, at any rate, we are obtaining a maximum in co-operation.

The Honourable Member for Gladstone-Neepawa mentioned about the pot-hole policy. It is an experimental policy that I have not got full details about, although I have written to the Minister of Natural Resources for Canada and suggested that he experiment in the Minnedosa pot-hole country. One of the problems is that this is involved in some manner or another with negotiations that are taking place between the United States and Canada on the availability of various funds, and until those negotiations are completed and tied down I am not sure myself what this waterfowl or what this pot-hole policy will be. It simply means that they wish to pay some form of compensation to the farmer to maintain pot-holes on his land instead of draining it with these new type of machines that they have, particularly pot-holes that are very important in a particular region, and to find some means to compensate him for having the inconvenience of going around them and possibly the ducks flying off and on to the grain fields.

With respect to purchase of land, we are endeavouring to purchase as much wildlife habitat as we possibly can. We recently were able to receive some municipal land in the White-water Lake area and the Order-in-Council was passed about two weeks ago. I think we can safely say we are constantly on the outlook for particular types of land that will be good for up-land game bird or deer or for waterfowl. I might mention to him that in one particular section of the Netley Marsh it took ten years to finally conclude the negotiations on one very vulnerable section there which is now in the hands of the Crown, and similarly in the Delta waterfowl area.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, just one question. I believe during the hunting season the government employs a number of temporary game guardians. Could you tell me how many of these game guardians were hired last fall -- that is during the duck season? How they're paid. How much they're paid and how they're appointed?

MR. WITNEY: No, I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I can't give that answer right now, but I can answer it later on.

MR. HAWRYLUK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to --(Interjection)-- no I would like to ask a question about the Game Branch. Could the Minister tell me how many guns and cars were confiscated from offenders by the game wardens? Secondly, how many fatal accidents and other serious accidents were brought about during the year 1961 by the hunters in this province?

MR. WITNEY: No, again, Mr. Chairman, I haven't the figures of the number of confiscations that were made. We no longer confiscate on the basis of ordinary game infractions, but we do confiscate on the basis of night-lighting, and those figures will have to be obtained for him. To my knowledge, and I'm speaking strictly from memory now, I don't believe we had a fatal hunting fatality last year in this province.

MR. HAWRYLUK: Mr. Chairman, regarding the breaking of the laws, these continual offenders, the repeaters, are they given a chance to renew their licenses from year to year if they're found guilty from time to time breaking the law? I'm just wondering regarding that,

(Mr. Hawryluk, cont'd.) because we do penalize drivers for a period of a year or two years, as the case may be. I just wondered what's done about hunters and fishermen?

MR. WITNEY: During amendments to The Game and Fish Act last year, the Legislature saw fit to put into the regulations suspension of the license for one year following conviction on an offence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 53 ---

MR. TANCHAK: Mr. Chairman, I didn't enter the hot debate before and I'm not on my feet to criticize the Minister, because actually I don't think I have too many complaints. Our relations have been very good and the relations with the personnel very good too. But I had questions that I asked yesterday that was not answered and I would like to have it answered today. I enquired about the future policy of the predator control in the Province of Manitoba, where I suggested that the government take over 100% of the financing. Now to my left I was accused of advocating more spending. I gave some explanation of that and I do not advocate more spending. I think we could actually cut back. And I come back to the Minister before, I felt sorry for him. He was being criticized for the policy in his department, but I think the real culprit would be the First Minister because, as we know, the First Minister probably isn't Scotch. We know he is Irish because quite often at nights we hear the bagpipes reverberating at night through this building -- and I enjoy it very much. In fact, one night I stayed up for about half an hour just to listen. But I think he's Scotch here, and our Minister I think he has broad shoulders and he's not in the habit of, as we say, "buck" -- does not "pass the buck." I think in his department he was curtailed by the purse strings and the purse strings we know are kept pretty tight by the Treasurer, who happens to be the First Minister.

Now when I mention this, I think there are ways in which we can save a little money and use it in places where it will bring more benefits to the province as a whole, and I would refer to some of the propaganda -- where money's being wasted. For instance, signs have been referred to coming down the 59 -- and I see it every time I go -- and just past Grande Pointe, about a mile and a half past it, I see a great big sign "The future Site of the Greater Winnipeg Floodway." I don't think it was necessary to spend money on that because it doesn't do anybody any good at the present time. When the floodway is there, we'll know it. In fact it doesn't do anybody any good except spending a little bit of the public money which does not bring any results.

Now we can save in another instance, and that was referred to by the Minister of Health, or to the Minister of Health, in the case of the hospital premiums where notices were sent. Of course, I understand the IBM manufactures those things and to get rid of them so naturally the department puts a 5¢ stamp on them and sends them out into the country. That's the way I understood it. I didn't want to tangle with the Minister of Health but in fact I have one of these little sheets, or is it called propaganda sheets, which I was going to use on him, but I felt sorry for him because he's been in this department so long and he's a good friend of mine. But you take this one for instance: "Hospital premiums reduced from \$36.00 to \$24.00."

MR. WITNEY: is that Department of Mines and Natural Resources?

MR. TANCHAK: No, it isn't, but it's just proving my case that we can save some money and spend it in a better cause. It doesn't say here that you are requested to pay or anything. It just simply states that it has been reduced. Now this particular one costs about \$40.00. Half a page in the newspaper, and I don't think it was necessary because here people of Manitoba weren't asked to pay their fees. It just makes a statement that it has been reduced. I don't think that was necessary. Now we can use this money to better advantage in other departments, say even for fire protection, and so on, and then the Minister wouldn't have to defend. Of course, he defended his own department. That's his duty. But he's not fully responsible because the First Minister -- he's responsible for his department, but also the First Minister has the responsibility of all the departments. So I think that my proposition was in order; that it would benefit all concerned; that expenses wouldn't be too high if this predator control was undertaken by the government on 100% finance basis. I would like an answer to that if you please. What the policy is?

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Chairman, the policy is to pay bounties on coyotes in the unorganized territories and the Agricultural Department pays bounties on a 50% basis with the municipalities in the municipal areas. But during this past year we hired on our staff a Predator

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) Control Officer and his purpose is to work with the municipalities in order to have them work closely with the individual so that the individual can control the predator on his own fields and within his own jurisdiction at much less cost. He also has the advantage of being handy and timely and to move in on the situation before it gets out of control.

We also last year produced this booklet entitled "The Control of Nuisance Animals" with effective but not costly devices that the average person being bothered by predators can use in his own field, or around his own barn, or in his own area. And the Predator Control Officer is prepared to work with a municipality or with groups of individuals in determining the best way to relieve the problem of predators that they have. And I would recommend to any who have predator control problems, or to municipalities, that they obtain copies of the booklet -- it's a very thin booklet -- and it's available at no charge from the Game Branch and they can put some of this work to use. I think in that way the cost that the honourable member is speaking about could be cut down considerably by the individual taking care of it himself in his own area with the assistance and advice from the predator people in the Game Branch.

MR. TANCHAK: there'll be no change in the predator control policy. While I'm on my feet I'd like to thank the Honourable Minister for complying with my request of extending the predator control area in unorganized municipality of and at the same time I would like to remind the Honourable Minister that last year he promised to make a survey on the Rouseau River in regard to a dam that was proposed on that river. Probably the Minister recalls writing that letter to me. I would like the Minister to go ahead with that. It would be a reservoir for water supply and at the same time probably a game preserve, depends what the survey proves. I would like the Minister to go ahead with that project this year.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, while we're discussing the item of Predator Control and Research which is (d) of 53 I shall make my brief comments in that regard on this item, although I had intended to take up first the item (c), but since we've got on to predators I'll reverse the order.

Did I understand the Minister correctly to say that the officer that they have taken on is working with municipalities too? I had thought that in the organized part of the municipality that the predator control program was under the administration of the Department of Agriculture and Conservation. Has that been changed?

MR. WITNEY: The Predator Control Officer, Mr. Chairman, works not only in the municipalities but in the local government districts and the unorganized territories. If I left the impression that it was municipalities alone, that was wrong. He is there--while he is quite right that Agriculture still works with municipalities, he is there as an advisor if they need his assistance.

MR. CAMPBELL: Well then, he's a sort of a specialist in this type of work and while your department deals mainly with the outlying areas yet because you have such an officer if he's of use to the municipalities, or groups of individuals, his services can be called on. Is that correct?

MR. WITNEY: That is right, Mr. Chairman, At the present time much of his work is being done on the ten eighty program both in the municipalities and the local government districts and the unorganized areas where we extended the program during this past year.

MR. CAMPBELL: But with that exception I take it that the main burden of the predator control in the municipalities still remains with the Department of Agriculture.

MR. WITNEY: That is right.

MR. CAMPBELL: I had noticed that in this item of predator control and research that the appropriation is somewhat reduced from a year ago and I presume that the reason for that is the rather favourable report that we have on predatory animals as outlined on Page 107 of the annual report and I notice that it is quite optimistic in that the numbers have dropped considerably. Would the Minister be able to tell us how the experience has been in this present year that we are just finishing now, as compared with a year ago? I gather that the year with which the report deals there's been quite a reduction in predators taken from the year before that. How has it been in the year since that?

MR. WITNEY: There has been a continued downward trend in this matter. For instance in the duck depredation control, with the equipment which we were able to purchase and with

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) the use of field men and the use of areas we have sown to barley, we have been able to contain ducks into an area very successfully. The same with cranes up in the Big Grass marsh country. We also have been able to obtain the assistance from the federal government considerably, particularly with respect to cranes. In the north country the wolf control program is in good shape and I think it has really been just a gradual building up that we have been able, as far as the money is concerned, to gradually knock the money down. That may be poorly explained but I think the honourable member understands what I mean.

MR. CAMPBELL: In this past year the Minister's impression is that there is again a decline so far as the timber wolves are concerned? Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would move on then -- or move back rather to (c). Has there been a discussion in the committee of the fur and game research and management program, because I notice that that one is increased as compared with last year? Now I think I am quite familiar with management end of that appropriation. What about the fur and game research? Is there anything new to report on in that connection?

MR. WITNEY: We have taken on during the past year a fur educator whose job is to teach or to educate on how to process fur properly in the southern portion of the province as well. Previously this fur education program was done among the Indian and Metis people north of 53. It has now been expanded to the rest of the province and we had successful meetings already in the Swan River, Birch River country and also in other areas, so the money is generally for this increased program that we have, and also the preparation of a trappers' manual which is being undertaken at the present time.

MR. CAMPBELL: Quite an interesting story contained in the report on Page 110 with regard to the fur trade, and some history is given there of the price situation. It's mentioned that muskrat pelts are still in poor demand. Is that still the situation as we go into this spring ratting season?

MR. WITNEY: That's a question I am sorry I can't answer right at the present time. I do know that as the fur educator program has expanded, that we have been getting some better prices for our fur, but just what the demand is at the present time, I'm sorry I don't know, but I can find out.

MR. CAMPBELL: I would be glad to get the information Mr. Chairman. You are aware that I don't boast about my constituency as often as many other members of the House do, but it is a fact that at the south end of Lake Manitoba, which is the north boundary of Lakeside constituency, that there is a marsh which for both duck and muskrat is unexcelled -- well we don't need to just limit it to Canada -- it's unexcelled in the world. The ability that that marsh has shown to come back year after year in the production of muskrats, has been quite phenomenal and the famous Tom Lamb of Moose Lake told me one time that he regarded that Delta Marsh, St. Ambrose Marsh, the marsh at the south end of Lake Manitoba, as being one of the very best muskrat habitats that he had ever seen anywhere, and I believe he's quite an authority. I think that the trap line system has been of great value to that particular area. I would appreciate any facts that the Minister could get about the possible likelihood of a price this year, and is it still the policy of the department to sell the muskrat pelts by auction and are they distributed as between the two big local concerns here, and do any others besides those two local concerns get a chance to bid? Specifically, is the Hudson's Bay Company now one of the ones that handle some of the furs or is it two main firms in Manitoba here?

MR. WITNEY: Furs that were sold from the Summerberry marsh area went to the Dominion Fur Auction Sales, Soudack Fur Auction, Hudson's Bay Company, R. S. Robinson & Sons, S. I. Robinson & Sons, Manitoba Museum Association, the Western Canada Fur Pool, Mr. Fred Kerr, and we have a slight one for miscellaneous.

MR. CAMPBELL: That is from the Summerberry. I suppose the same thing would apply to the ones from the Delta-St. Ambrose marsh as well, would it? They're also registered trap lines, I believe, insofar as the selling of the furs are concerned.

MR. WITNEY: No, I believe Mr. Chairman, that the only place where we actually do the selling of the furs is on the Summerberry. We do not do it on the registered trap lines. Those people go through the regular market channels.

MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chairman, one question. On Page 106, table (3) in the report. It

(Mr. Wagner, cont'd.) says, "timber wolves 537" and then, expenditure of timber wolves hunted at \$15,946.73. In my rough calculation it comes out to \$29.00 per wolf. And I just wonder if these conservation officers are doing other duties besides hunting wolves and if not, I would suggest that we have a bounty and then we could employ a lot of Reserve people who would go after these timber wolves.

MR. WITNEY: The conservation officers are doing other work there, Mr. Chairman, apart from the control of wolves, and we also have our professional hunter program in operation too. We have--I think there were two operating this year in conjunction with the conservation officers, but the conservation officers do other work apart from this.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, on that same page, I had paid some attention to it too. I think the expenditure that my honourable friend from Fisher referred to \$15,946 would be just for the professional hunters, would it not? I think it would be only for the professional hunters

MR. WITNEY: That is right, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CAMPBELL: If my honourable friend wants to exercise his arithmetic a little bit more, then he'll find out that if he confines his figures only to the timber wolves that it runs more like \$75.00 a wolf, but even at that it's probably pretty good value. However, I might point out in defence of the professional wolf hunters that in addition to those timber wolves that they caught -- they didn't take the whole 537. Quite a few of them were taken by conservation officers which wouldn't be included in that figure. In addition to that they took 65 coyotes, seven bears and 98 foxes, so that the over-all amount is cut down a little bit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b) passed.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister mentioned in his comments about the Game and Fish Confederation the co-operation he had in the matter of the clothing colours. Has the government made a decision yet on that subject?

MR. WITNEY: No, we have not made a decision on that subject. From the reports that I have received to date, I can't recall them all correctly, but I think that we will have to do some more experimentation before we actually make any change in the regulations up to the present time. There was -- I think it was called a blaze orange, which appeared to have some value, combined with a hat, but generally speaking the results that we obtained are not conclusive enough for us yet to make any change in our hunting clothing, but I will intend to carry on the experiments this year.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, the Member for Turtle-Mountain asked the Minister about the deer that were being killed out of season by conservation officers for research. He also asked the Minister how many were killed in each region -- what the take was. Could the Minister answer that question?

MR. WITNEY: No, I replied to the honourable member that I didn't have the exact figures.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, the matter of night lighting. Last year I suggested to the Minister the use of the air services branch for the control of night hunting. I realize that it's extremely difficult for the conservation officers and for the RCMP, particularly in the more wooded parts of the province, to control night lighting from the ground. It's very difficult to follow people and so on. I suggested that the air services branch be used in conjunction with people on the ground. Has anything been done in this regard? Is the government proposing to do anything?

MR. WITNEY: With respect to night lighting? No, we have not done anything with respect to the aircraft, because our aircraft are only licensed to fly between sunrise and sunset, nor have we taken any action on infra-red lights to my knowledge. We would not be able to do it with the aircraft because of our licensing regulations on night lighting, but I have to think this one over about infra-red lights.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 53 passed. 53, Fisheries Branch.

MR. GUTTORMSON: The Minister in his opening remarks referred to the fishing industry and specifically mentioned Lake Manitoba as being poor. I think that he was rather conservative in his remarks because veteran members in the fishing industry there say it's the worst in memory of man. I don't know what the solution is on the lake, but I don't know of a single fisherman in the whole of Lake Manitoba who made money last year. In fact, the majority of

(Mr. Guttormson, cont'd.) all the men on the lake lost money by going out on the lake --(Interjection)-- That's true, most of the men pulled up their nets shortly after the season began because of the bad conditions. I don't know what the answer is to it and I'm sorry; I wish I could offer a solution to the Minister, but there is one phase of the industry which I would like to make an honest suggestion and that is regarding the rough fish. I recall visiting a fish dealer along the shore of the lake last summer, and beside his fish there was a stack of fish laying just like stove wood, and the tragic part of it is that this fish which is perfectly edible, as the Minister knows, is not even saleable in many instances at even one cent a pound. I know of times when men have gone out on the lake and pulled up as much as a thousand pounds of fish and the total return would be \$10.00. It seems to me in these days of welfare and poverty in many areas, it seems a shame that fish . . . must go to waste because nobody's interested in buying it. The fishermen feel that if they can sell this fish, if they could even get as much as 4¢ a pound that they could fish and make wages. Under the present conditions of only one cent a pound it's just impossible. I have suggested in the past and I want to suggest again that some steps be taken by this government to try and promote the sale of this fish. There isn't anything wrong with it; it's a perfectly edible fish, and there are many by-products that could be sold if the government took the initiative to try to promote the sale of this fish. I know I have tasted canned mullet and it's certainly a very delightful dish; I've tasted mullets fried and there is nothing wrong with the fish, but there seems to be no market for it and at the present time I know of no promotion for this product.

I know that a lot of people think that the fisherman is in a haven because when he goes to one of the department stores and orders pickerel the price is \$1.60 a pound. Little do they realize that the fisherman is only getting 30¢ a pound which is virtually 60¢ a pound when you consider that it's filleted. I don't know as I've said before what can be done with the pickerel situation. Maybe next year there will be a strong run of pickerel, but with the rough fish there seems to be no shortage of it and I wish the Minister would consider my suggestion to try to promote, or maybe the Minister of Industry and Commerce is the man to deal with on this subject, but this fish must be sold. It's a shame to see stacks of fish lying in the snow; there's no sale for it. As I've said, we know of many people that are having a difficult time making ends meet; they're on welfare. It seems that some program should be implemented to make this fish available to these people at a nominal price. The fishermen themselves are very anxious to try and find a sale for this fish, and I would hope that the next time we meet that the Minister has discovered some program whereby he can promote or help the fishermen get rid of this fish so it can be marketed at a reasonable price.

Another subject I'd like to deal with is that of the fish nets. The fisherman at the present time in many instances is having a difficult time. He buys a net of a certain mesh size and then the mesh shrinks and as a result he is fishing with a net that's illegal. I know of one instance this winter where some Indian boys from one of the reservations have quite a good operation on Lake Winnipeg. They bought the nets at a legal size and as a result of the usage in the water they shrunk and when the Inspector came to see them, they found that the nets were below the regulation size. It's difficult for these fishermen to make up a loss. They have to, because they buy the nets in good faith, and I think that some regulation should be enforced to make the fish companies sell a net that will stand up to the size that it is sold at because the fishermen certainly can't afford to buy nets and then have them seized on them later on because they've shrunk on them in the water.

When the Minister replies later on I would like to ask him to find out what the situation is with the trap nets. I know that it's an experimental stage at the present time, but I feel that the government should implement some program whereby the fishermen can purchase these expensive nets, because at the present time the fish companies own the nets because the average fisherman isn't able to purchase them because of the cost and as a result of it, the fisherman is in the hands of the fish companies and is fishing for the companies rather than for himself, and I think it would be a much happier situation if the fisherman were working for himself rather than a fish company.

Another question I would like to ask the Minister -- there's two or three questions I'd like to ask him to reply to -- is: what is the program going to be with these \$1.00 licenses that have been in effect in the past years? Are they going to be continued this year or discontinued?

(Mr. Guttormson, cont'd.) Do they give a reason for the -- I see in the salaries last year where \$88,000 and this year it's \$159,000 -- could he give us the reason for this increase in the amounts allocated for this branch?

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister. We find while the estimates are going up, the production in the last 10 years is going down. The report indicates that in 1951 the quantity in pounds were over 35 million pounds and that gradually it's going down; it came back again, and now it's 31 million pounds. The same thing applies to the value of the fish around. While 10 years ago it was over \$4 million, this year it's \$3.8 million. Then we find a spread between the value to the fishermen of \$3,000,866 and the value as marketed. That does not mean what a consumer pays; it means bringing it to the stores. There's a spread of over two and a half million dollars. Where does the spread come in is question number 1. Why did it climb is question number 2, in spite of the fact that the estimates for cultivation is heavier than it was and in this case now when 2 1/2 million disappears naturally the housewife has to pay \$1.65 a pound at least at the store.

MR. L. HARRIS (Logan): Mr. Chairman, how many fish-processing plants are under government inspection? Some contaminated fish are sold on the market in USA. What protection have we here? Is it only fish that is exported that is inspected? We heard some talk here today from the Member from St. George is it, about rough fish. There was something in the papers there the other day -- I don't know very much about it -- but they're making a weiner from rough fish. I don't know whether you've seen anything at all about it, but I think that maybe our Minister from Industry and Commerce should go and taste them and see how they are. -- (Interjection) -- There's a good market for our rough fish there if we can possibly get something out in that way.

MR. REID: Mr. Chairman, I don't know too much about fishing, but I understand if any ordinary citizen, any citizen in Manitoba should decide to go in the fishing business they would starve for a living, but if any enterprising businessman should take the idea up of a fishing business of exporting or importing or whatever it is, they can make a killing off it, so I can't understand the difference. The poor fellow goes out there, he does a slaving -- works day in and night out; he has to buy equipment and all that; he can't make a living. Some enterprising fellow comes along there and he exports the fish and he makes a killing on it, so it must be some great of price, Mr. Chairman, between the fellow that catches the fish, does all the work, and the enterprising fellow enters the business and exports it and makes a killing. -- (Interjection) -- how's that?

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Chairman, I see that we have only two or three minutes left. I would like to just start on the questions of the Honourable Member for St. George on Lake Manitoba. The only indication that I had and that the Fisheries people had at the beginning of the fishing season this year before the ice came on the lake, was that there were fish in good supply. Then we ran into a very slow freeze-up and very uncertain ice conditions, and with that fishing simply went down, and the only indication that we have at the present time is that the slow freeze-up and the bad ice is the primary reason for the lack of fish on Lake Manitoba, that is, the lack of fish caught in the net. We have every indication from the fall that the fish are there and we assume that they are still in the lake. It was suggested that we should send a diver down into Lake Manitoba this winter because in a trap net operation that was next to gill net operation, the trap net did catch some fish but the gill nets didn't, and there was perhaps the theory that maybe the fish were seeing these nets because of a decrease in tepidity of the water, that following the shadow of the trap net and getting caught in the box itself, whereas the gill net they just went swimming around it. But when we went into investigation on that matter we went to some professional divers here in Manitoba and they advised us that the tepidity in Lake Manitoba is such that at any time of the year in the winter or the summer that it's impossible to see when you're down on the bottom, as you can only choose perhaps where there might be a reef and sit on the bottom and wait for the fish to touch you. These are people who have had some of the rescue operations or taking aircraft out of the lake and people who had crashed into it when the RCAF were using part of the lake as a bombing range. So we really have no answer as to what happened to these fish in Lake Manitoba, except to say to you that they were there before the freeze-up and after the freeze-up they weren't there, and just why and just what happened I am sorry that we haven't any idea.

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.)

On the rough fish, during a meeting of fishermen and dealers in The Pas just a few months ago in December, the federal fisheries people came up and served us these weiners made out of maria. They also had small lumps of fish which were dipped into hot fat, could be put on a stick made out of maria, and just the other day the Fisheries Research section here in Winnipeg for the federal government served up to our fisheries people maria that was baked and maria that was broiled, and maria that was fried and they had nothing but fish for that meal, and these men, who I consider to be connoisseurs of fish because they're in association with it so long, said that the fish was excellent, and we do know that in some sections of the United States that maria fillets are considered a bit of a luxury and I understand that in Montana, maria fillets are considered a luxury. I believe part of the problem in dealing with maria is a reluctance to touch it because of the look of the fish and possibly we should change its name. It is actually a fresh water cod and the salt water cod is sold in our markets here to a large extent and you can buy them in any of the super markets, but you cannot buy a maria steak. Now the work is being done on the maria in various forms. Perhaps this weiner which can be made out of fish and which still tastes like a weiner -- I had it myself -- will be the answer for utilization of this fish as a human food. From the point of view of nutrition it is just as good as other fish; from the point of view of taste, I think that you can develop a taste for it just as well as you develop a taste for pickerel or you develop a taste for white fish. The Dominion Government people are working on it very hard, and we with the trap nets are working on a method of catching rough fish in volume to keep the cost down so that this rough fish can be processed for mink and utilized by the mink industry, and the mink industry people advise me that they can use, they gave me the figure five million pounds if I recall correctly; I think that figure should be used with care -- but they can use enormous amounts of our rough fish in the province, providing we can find some way of catching it in quantity and again a quality problem of catching it so that it is fresh and processed immediately and can be utilized by the mink ranchers here in Manitoba. During the past few months one of the mink ranchers told me that they were actually using mink food that was produced in Peru from fish, instead of mink food that was used here, because of the cost involved.

It's after 11:00 o'clock, Mr. Chairman. I can answer the other questions tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions and directed me to report the same, and ask leave to sit again.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Vital that the Report of the Committee be received.

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

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House adjourned until 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon.