

## THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Thursday, April 15th, 1965.

Opening Prayer by Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions

Reading and Receiving Petitions

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

HON. STEWART E. McLEAN, Q. C. (Attorney-General) (Dauphin): Madam Speaker, I wish to present the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments.

MR. CLERK: The Standing Committee on Law Amendments begs leave to present the following as their fourth report. Your committee met on Tuesday, April 13, 1965, and on Thursday, April 15, 1965. Your committee has considered Bill No. 62, an Act to amend The Agricultural Credit Act and has agreed to report the same without amendment. Your committee has also considered Bills No. 37, an Act respecting the Liability of Guarantors of Debts; No. 39, an Act to amend The Public Schools Act (1); No. 52, an Act respecting The Horse Racing Commission; No. 63, an Act to amend The Companies Act; and has agreed to report the same with certain amendments. All of which is respectfully submitted.

MR. McLEAN: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Education, that the report of the committee be received.

MADAM SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. MORRIS A. GRAY (Inkster): In connection with the report, would it be in order for me to make a statement? I am not going to make any amendments, but a statement on Bill 52. Am I in order to do it now?--(Interjection)--I know but I may not be here. I am not feeling well.

MADAM SPEAKER: What does the Honourable Member wish to do?

MR. GRAY: I wish to make a statement on Bill No. 52, a general statement.

MR. ELMAN GUTTORMSON (St. George): Madam Speaker, isn't this a motion which gives him the right to speak?

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier and Provincial Treasurer) (Wolseley): The motion that the report of the committee be received is debatable and I think there is no reason why my honourable friend couldn't say what his point is.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GRAY: Madam Speaker, I have opposed the entire Bill 52 without making any amendments for obvious reasons. The reasons are that I am a little bit tired of having my amendments defeated all the time, but I am opposed to this bill on the general principle.

First of all, I am jealous of the Province of Manitoba and its government to have on the records a bill that puts them in deeper in the horse race business, which it may be a little popular now but I doubt whether it's good for the future generations to have the government introduce a bill where it helps considerable horse racing.

Secondly, this is an additional expense of setting up the machinery -- I don't know how much, but in my opinion reading the bill in many many dollars -- and the control is even the government for everything they do. In other words, the Province of Manitoba becomes a partner and officially approves the horse racing in this province. Whatever the explanation that has been given in the second reading and also in committee does not penetrate with me at all. The fact is that the government enters deeper and deeper in the horse racing, and who knows, sometimes they may in a year or two from now take over the whole thing as a revenue business, the same as they do liquor or electricity or anything else.

The other items may be useful, but this bill is absolutely, in my humble opinion, wrong -- wrong in principle, no justification of spending that much money and no justification for a progressive government to enter a business which the majority of the public thinks is not proper. It may be legal under the Act, but morally it's wrong.

MADAM SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Fort Rouge): Madam Speaker, I think I should make some comment on my honourable friend's remarks. I think he very largely has a misunderstanding of the purpose of the bill. The sole purpose of the bill is to ensure that there is an independent body which is charged with the responsibility of seeing that the races are conducted in a proper manner.

Now my honourable friend says that this puts the government in the horse racing business. I would have to disagree with him completely because those who are in a business are in the

(MR. EVANS cont'd).....business by way of putting their own money in it and by way of running it and by way of hoping for profit out of it. Now this bill has nothing whatever to do with government revenues from horse racing and certainly does not put the government into the business of horse racing. It establishes a commission which could be regarded as a referee as there are in other sports of a like character.

He suggests that it costs a good deal of money. The Horse Racing Commission will be, as a matter of government policy, required to raise enough money out of its own fees that it will charge to cover the expenses of the commission itself.

My honourable friend says that this bill indicates an approval of horse racing but by no means alters the situation which existed before. We have been asked by all segments of the horse racing industry to establish a commission which will have the general supervision of the horse racing activities on the race tracks. The passing of this bill neither indicates approval nor any disapproval. It simply agrees to a request that was made by a considerable segment of our people who are interested in the horse racing business.

My honourable friend suggests that we might be opening the way later for a government to take over the horse racing business, I rather gathered him to say, and operate it as a money-making enterprise or something of like sort. Well most certainly we have no intention of that kind and it is not implied in the bill which is being reported by the committee, and so I cannot agree with my honourable friend and I am going to vote for the approval of this report.

MR. M. N. HRYHORCZUK, Q. C. (Ethelbert Plains): Madam Speaker, if I heard the Honourable Minister correctly, he said that the commission was going to finance itself. Well, Madam Speaker, that is hardly accurate. One of the questions that were debated on second reading and in committee was the fact that there is a provision in that bill whereby the government would pay to the commission any funds that the commission may require in operating the project, and it was our contention that there should be a provision in the bill whereby we would be assured that the commission would finance its own operations. I want to make it quite clear that that particular provision is not in the bill. As the bill now stands, this government may find itself in the position where it will have to finance all of the operations and expenses of the commission.

MADAM SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MADAM SPEAKER: Notices of Motion

#### Introduction of Bills

Before the Orders of the Day, I would like to attract your attention to the gallery where there are some 45 Grade 11 students from Brandon High School under the direction of their teachers, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Forest and Miss Klassen. This school is situated in the constituency of the Honourable the Member for Brandon. There are also some 90 Grade 8 to 12 students from Holland School under the direction of their teachers, Mr. Badgley, Mr. Goerke, Mr. Mansell and Mr. Little. This school is situated in the constituency of Cypress, which I have the honour to represent. On behalf of all members of this Legislative Assembly, we welcome you.

MR. ROBLIN: Madam Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I think the House would like me to give a report on the latest situation with respect to the flood menace in the province and how we see the matter developing at the present time.

I should like to say at the outset that a special meeting of the Cabinet was held this morning and it has been decided to declare a limited state of emergency in the Province of Manitoba with respect to the flood menace. The situation is that the latest information that we have received indicates a flood in Manitoba of similar proportions to that of 1948. This means that we will have water coming down the Red River that will offer a very serious threat to certain communities in the province. If I were to start at the American boundary, I could report that it looks as if the Town of Emerson will be very seriously menaced and quite probably about two-thirds of the people will have to be evacuated. The same situation exists in The Town of Morris, St. Jean Baptiste and in the country that surrounds those two centres. We may expect a considerable area of flooding there and there will undoubtedly have to be evacuation of people and of livestock and no doubt of grain.

Perhaps I could deal with the situation south of the metropolitan centre in the first instance so as I could present the picture with respect to that one area as a whole. As a result of this very probable 1948 style flood, it will be necessary to take certain measures. Arrangements have been made to have special representatives posted from the government in the Town of Morris and in the Town of Emerson whose duty it will be to co-ordinate the efforts

(MR. ROBLIN cont'd). . . . . of the Emergency Measures Organization, the local municipal authorities and others, and act as a general clearing-house and point of authority for any measures that may be required.

The railways have been mobilized. It may be necessary to move a good deal of commercial grain. It will be necessary to find some place to put seed grain. It will be necessary to find some place to remove livestock - dairy cattle, beef cattle and hogs - probably over a two or three week period, and as I have previously stated it will probably be necessary to evacuate about two-thirds of the population of those centres.

The hospitals in the two centres have been alerted to this situation and have been asked to take no more long-term patients. It may be that they will have to be evacuated as well and arrangements are in hand to put this into effect.

There is at this moment as a matter of fact a meeting going on in the office of the Minister of Agriculture with the municipal authorities in the Red River Valley to co-ordinate all efforts. At 4:00 o'clock the Ag Reps that will be concerned in this will also be meeting, so that we think that measures are well in hand to take those preliminary steps that are necessary to deal with this flood menace.

Now I've said a 1948 flood, and those of you who can recall that far-off day will remember just what that meant. This is what we expect if the weather is good. However, should we have serious rain and snow between now and the 24th of April when we expect the crest to come to Manitoba, heaven knows what may happen, so we are trying to prepare for even a more serious eventuality than the 1948 flood.

Moving on to the Metro area, I would like to make a few preliminary observations. First, a good many of the general public seem to think that the Floodway is operating. The House will know that it is about two years away from operation.

Some concern was expressed yesterday by the Honourable Member for Transcona with respect to the coffer dam I believe it was and the works that are being undertaken in the bed of the river at the entrance of the Floodway near St. Norbert. The concern was, does this represent an artificial barrier that will hinder us in our flood-fighting. I am informed the answer is "no", that a special channel has been dug around this obstacle that is equal to the normal capacity of the river in that location in any event, so that if it goes over 70,000 cubic feet per second which is the volume of the river on both sides of that obstacle and the volume of the river in the channel that goes around it, we will get water on the prairie, but the actual work itself does not constitute an artificial hazard in respect of the river flow.

Ice flows on the Red River are good. There has been some jamming, but we expect the river to be running freely and free of ice in the next day or so, so that's one plus. The locks are open at Lockport, and in case there is ice trouble, dynamite deposits have been arranged along the length of the river to take care of any eventualities in that event.

What does the 1948 flood mean in the Metro area today? Well it means in the first place that the dikes on the Elm Park sector are not high enough. The dikes at the Elm Park sector will need to be reinforced and orders have been issued to raise the dikes immediately in that particular area. The flood expected will be just about level with the dikes in that part of the city. The flood expected will be 2-1/2 feet or so below the level of the main diking system provided, as I have said, there is no further rainfall or snow in the Valley. Decision will have to be made very shortly as to whether the entire diking system ought to be raised. I'm inclined to think it probably will be necessary because it's not the kind of chance that one would like to take with respect to the variables of the weather system in the Red River Valley. So we will also expect not only flooding in Elm Park unless that dike is raised, but we'll expect flooding of course in those areas that are between the dike and the river like Scotia Street and others, and we may also expect trouble on the Assiniboine within the Metropolitan area.

The Greater Winnipeg Metropolitan Flood-Fighting Committee met at 2:00 o'clock. I was present and gave them this resumé of the situation and they will be engaged now in dealing with the emergency measures that they can take to deal with the difficulties that I have mentioned, and of course the Provincial Government representatives form part of that committee and there will be the fullest co-operation and co-ordination in that respect.

A command post, if you want to use that expression, is being set up now in Room 200 of the Legislative Building. There is an emergency management group consisting of three or four members of the Cabinet and one or two deputy ministers whose job it is to take over when we get at this limited state of emergency, and one of them will be in the control room, in

(MR. ROBLIN cont'd). . . . . Room 200, or available to it all the time. The Army has been placed on stand-by. They will be represented in the control room. The railways and the utilities will be there, and all the various operating departments that are expected to be of some assistance during this time. We'll be there so that we will have a co-ordinated direction of whatever effort is required and provide a resource for all the municipalities and other interested people to refer to if problems get beyond their scope. That has been ordered set up this morning and the room is partially in operation at the present time.

I want also to tell you that the Assiniboine River situation west of the Metropolitan area does not look as a problem at the present time. Last night at 3:00 o'clock in the morning our representative went to Portage la Prairie on account of ice jams there - Mr. Newton. He is there now and will remain in co-operation with the Mayor and the EMO people in Portage to deal with their local situation. An ice jam near the Town of Portage caused the water facility to be flooded there. The ice jam has since moved down the river and I believe the water is back on again, but there is flooding south of the river due to the continuation of this ice jam. Dynamite has been supplied and when the ice jam is in such a -- when it's possible to blow it, it will be blown. I don't think that has been done yet. While we may expect icing problems -- this for instance is the famous "whoop-and-holler" bend -- while we may expect icing problems on the Assiniboine, it does not look as if the volume of water on the Assiniboine will be an added threat this year to the Metropolitan area.

There has been very good co-operation with the American authorities to the south of the line who have been giving us the material on which our flood forecasts are based. Someone asked me why is it that the flood forecast has risen so drastically in such a short time; is your forecasting system not working properly? I think it's working properly but you can't forecast rain until it falls as far as the flood is concerned, and there has been, I'm told, a 600 percent rainfall over normal in the Red River Valley south of here that has given rise to these very drastic changes in the forecast that we had been getting in respect of this matter.

The Federal Government has been informed by telegram by me today of the fact that we are declaring a limited state of emergency and of the seriousness of the situation should further rain or snow fall. If we do experience further problems in that direction, I expect that further communications will take place with them and probably I would go to Ottawa to discuss it, but that actually would be held in abeyance until we see how this matter develops further.

Now, I think, Madam Speaker, that this concludes the main information that I can give the House, though undoubtedly there may be questions that members will want to ask. I expect to make a report on television tonight at 6:00 o'clock so that the general public may be informed, and we have arranged that citizens who want information should deal in the first instance with their local municipal authorities who will probably be competent to handle any problems that they have to bring to their attention in connection with this matter.

I think, Madam Speaker, that's the information that I have to give the House at this time and I would like to provide members with an opportunity to ask further questions if they have them, and after those questions are over, I would propose to adjourn the House until Monday at 2:30. The reason for that is that one can imagine that members of the government and some private members as well have a good deal to do over this Easter week-end and it seems to me that it would perhaps be in the public interest if they were able to do so without having to worry about their responsibilities in the Legislature. So after we have completed any questions there may be, I propose to move the adjournment until Monday at 2:30.

. . . . . continued on next page

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Leader of the Opposition) (Ste. Rose): Madam Speaker, I'd like first of all to thank the Minister for the statement that he gave us and the very comprehensive indications of the steps the government has taken. I did have some questions to ask but I think most of them have been covered in what he has stated. I understand from his statement that at the moment the rural municipalities, that is the municipalities south of Winnipeg, are meeting with the Minister. I would like to know whether the municipalities in the area north of that group, that is those in the metropolitan area, have also been assembled. My understanding was that as of last night some of the municipalities were concerned as to what was happening and didn't feel that they had sufficient information, and I would like to know whether they have met as yet, or if not, when they will be meeting.

Secondly, the status insofar as the dikes. The First Minister indicated that work is going to start now in what I understand is called the secondary dike structure. Who is responsible for this? Is this being done by the province, by Metro or by municipality? I think this is a matter that should be cleared.

The third one is insofar as available supplies. Are there in position now in Manitoba adequate supplies of sandbags and other materials required for the strengthening of the dike system. I am sure that all Manitobans will deeply regret the situation that faces us and certainly we can take no chances on a situation which we cannot forecast, so I thank the Minister for his statement. I'd appreciate the answers if he can give them to me now on these specific points which I've raised:

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of the New Democratic Party) (Radisson): Madam Speaker, I too wish to thank the First Minister for the statement that he has made, and I'm sure that when I say that we all regret in this House that this situation has arisen that makes it necessary to declare a limited state of emergency, that we are joined one with another in this regard. I'm sure that many in the House, if not all of us in the House, recall the disaster of 1948, 1950 and 1951. I'm pleased to know that the government in this instance appears to be taking whatever action it can at the present time to relieve the situation.

I'm sure that the Honourable Minister is aware of the points that I raised yesterday in regard to those parts of my constituency to the south of the Floodway inlet, and I trust and hope that the information that he has given to the House that it won't be necessary to remove the coffer dam at the intake is correct. It seems to me that from observations and inquiries that I have been making, however, that due to the fact that the channel around the intake is of a peculiar sort of a type which makes more twists in the river at that present location rather than the flow coming straight through as is normal down the Red River, may cause difficulty and it might be necessary for the departments concerned to give more consideration to the removal of the coffer dam at the intake to the Red River Floodway.

I want to ask the Honourable Minister whether or not it is true, as I heard over the air this morning on my way to the building, that some members of the Council of the City of Winnipeg are complaining because of the lack of information or the absence of information insofar as the flood-fighting forecasting or Flood Forecasting Committee is concerned. One Alderman is quoted over the air this morning as saying that they had no information as far as the City of Winnipeg is concerned of the revised information as to the height of the Red River flow.

I would also like to ask my honourable friend whether or not the residue of the former Flood Fund of the '50s and '51s will be available to the province in face of the emergency which we have at the present time.

I think, Madam Speaker, these are the points that I have at the particular time and may I suggest that the Almighty assist us in our endeavours that there be no repetition of the circumstances of 1950 and 1951 and that we have bright sunny weather until we're over the hump.

MR. J. M. FROESE (Rhineland): If I might, I'd like to direct one particular question to the First Minister in connection with what effect the flooding will have as far as back-up is concerned on the Pembina River and also probably some of the minor creeks such as the Hespeler.

MR. E. R. SCHREYER (Brokenhead): Madam Speaker, I have a specific question to ask of the First Minister. He told us that there were certain areas in the southern part of the Red River Valley where there is much concern about and that these municipal officials are meeting right now in the Minister's office. I would ask the First Minister if he has any hard information about the prospects of flooding in the northern regions of the Red, that is to say between the Metropolitan area and the lake, and if these people, the two or three municipalities

(MR. SCHREYER Cont'd.) . . . . . have been brought in on this.

MR. GRAY: . . . . . question for the Minister that is not important at the moment but I just felt let's know if a million and a half that we have authorized to the trust company in Ottawa . . . . . left over from the 1950 flood, can we get it back now?

MR. ROBLIN: . . . . . questions, Madam Speaker, I'll try and deal with them in the order in which I got them.

The northern municipalities in the Metropolitan area were represented at the meeting I attended at 2:00 o'clock today, and I presume are still there. They are part of the Metropolitan Flood Organization System. This also answers the question of the Honourable Member for Brokenhead because this takes in the north -- East St. Paul I guess it is, and North Kildonan and those municipalities up there.

MR. SCHREYER: Madam Speaker, I meant all the way to the mouth.

MR. ROBLIN: Well, my recollection is that flooding is not a problem from there on north. We weren't flooded there in 1950. With respect to Elm Park, the responsibility for completing the dikes there, the responsibility for organizing the job is in the hands of the Department of Public Works of the Provincial Government, though we expect and no doubt will receive the full co-operation in every way of the municipal authorities involved. This is being hammered out with them at the present time in a meeting in the Norquay Building. I doubt that we have enough sand bags on hand. I'm sure we're going to have to scrape around and get more, but the alert has gone out and we'll get all that we can. A great many will be made available, no doubt, in short order.

Respecting the coffer dam, the twist in the river there isn't any worse than the natural twists in the river, so while it may appear to be a hazard to some, our advice is that it is not.

The City Council: City Council knew as much about, and know as much about the forecasts as we do. Our information was red-hot off the press when it was given to the House here last night at around 4:30 by the Minister, and that was the first intimation we had. And the reason why they are complaining is I think because of the rapid changes in the forecast over which nature is in full charge, not us, and as I previously stated, our figures are obtained from the American Government and that again is related to rainfall south of here, so that because of the rainfall that's 600 percent over normal we're getting these rather alarming changes in forecast. But I think the City Council, if this were explained to them as I did explain it to some of them at 2:00 o'clock this afternoon, takes care of any concern they might have that they're not getting the latest information. Certainly we have no desire to withhold any information. Our desire is to make sure that they get it.

Flood Fund: Well you have to ask them. We divested ourselves of that money and it is now in the hands of a special committee. I'm just trying to recall who the chairman of it is. I can recall -- Mr. Cec. Lamont is chairman of the flood, the fund that -- the committee that takes care of that flood disaster fund, and I presume that application could be made to them by private individuals for any assistance they need and I'm quite sure they'll get a very sympathetic consideration in view of the nature of the circumstances of the flood.

I was asked about back-ups on the creeks in southern Manitoba. The answer is yes, there will be a problem on the back-up of these creeks but no one is in a position to say exactly what it will be. But we're accustomed to flash flooding in that area in the springtime, and on this occasion it may come from a reverse direction but I expect we'll have some problems there in that connection.

Those I think are all the questions that were put to me. Are there any more?

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Madam Speaker, I wonder, the members of this House during the week-end no doubt will be asked many questions. Is there any place where the members can, beside this Room 200, any direct line or anywhere that they can get information first-hand?

MR. ROBLIN: The Press Department under Mr. Norman Donogh will be operating on a special basis during this period and will be glad to give out to members or anyone else that enquires, all the information they have in this connection. If it's a question of a problem or action, the first recourse is to your municipality. If the matter cannot be settled satisfactorily at the local level then by all means turn it over to the headquarters here in Room 200.

I should also like to say something I forgot to mention about the Seine River. The Seine River has peaked -- yesterday -- and is now falling, and the Seine River diversion is also falling at the present time. The menace there of course will come from back-up from the Red River rather than from new water coming down the Seine.

MR. DOUGLAS L. CAMPBELL (Lakeside): Madam Speaker, I have a suggestion rather than a question, although perhaps I'd have one question as well.

My suggestion would be first of all that inasmuch as the Honourable the First Minister has mentioned that we'll probably be scraping the barrel to get sandbags, my suggestion is that -- and I'm sure this will already have been taken into consideration by those folk who are giving attention to it -- that if sandbags are in short supply that the same situation can certainly be met by utilizing the machinery that is available at this time of year to haul materials, not necessarily in sandbags, in order to take it in and put on top of the existing dikes. We're very fortunate that at the time of the year that floods occur in this area that the vast majority of the construction equipment in the Province of Manitoba is in this immediate area, and by utilizing that equipment to haul in the material that can easily be used to raise the dikes, sandbags themselves do not need to limit the protection that is afforded. So that the question that I have to ask, Madam Speaker, is, has the stock piling that was recommended, had been carried on for some years, has it still been carried on and are stock piles of suitable material available to raise the level of the dikes?

MR. PAULLEY: Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable the First Minister for his reference to the Seine. I was on the point of getting up and asking him the questions respecting that.

One thing I would like to suggest to my honourable friend. He mentioned that we were going to adjourn after this discussion until Monday afternoon at 2:30. May I suggest to the First Minister that if the situation gets worse than it appears that it might be at the present time, that consideration be given to calling a special meeting of the Legislature to deal with the situation in the event that it becomes more serious than it is at the present time, rather than await until next Monday afternoon at 2:30.

MR. ROBLIN: ..... keep my honourable friend's suggestion in mind, although the weather reports that I have are relatively encouraging up until next Monday, because there's no precipitation anticipated from the present to Saturday. There may be some light precipitation on Sunday or Monday, probably a tenth to a quarter of an inch, which would probably not cause a serious run-off. So that up to Monday we seem to be on fair ice, so I don't anticipate the necessity to meet in an emergent session.

In reply to the Honourable Member for Lakeside, the suggestion he's made has already been taken into consideration. The frost is about two feet out of the ground, so a certain amount of solid material can be procured, but our problem will be of course that many of the areas which were not built up in 1950 are built up now, and there'll be a problem of hauling material from one place to another, but that possibility of course will rank high in the list of procedures that the engineers will take. If those are all the questions, then, Madam Speaker, .....

MR. MOLGAT: I would like to make one suggestion, if I may, Madam Speaker, and I appreciate when I say this that the members on this side do not have any official responsibilities, but if there are any jobs or any places where the members on this side can be of any value whatever, I am sure I can speak for my colleagues and myself that we will make ourselves available to whatever it is that the government would require us to do.

MR. PAULLEY: I might say, Madam Speaker, as far as we are concerned, I feel the same way.

MR. ROBLIN: I am rather under the impression that if you turn up on the Elm Park dike there'll be plenty for you to do, so your offer is accepted very kindly.

MR. MOLGAT: Well I can't hardly do that without being accused of having a personal interest unfortunately.

MR. ROBLIN: I had that in mind but I think you'll be excused under the circumstances.

If we've completed the discussion of this matter, Madam Chairman, I would like to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce, that the House do now adjourn until 2:30 Monday afternoon.

MADAM SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House adjourned until 2:30 Monday afternoon.