

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
8:00 o'clock, Monday, April 22, 1968

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee proceed? Are you ready for the question?

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate to the House what procedure was followed when they reorganized the Department of Information. How was Mr. Epp hired; was the job advertised; was the civil service informed? Could he indicate to the House what procedure was followed?

MR. SPIVAK: As I've already indicated the department was reorganized on the basis of the information supplied and made available to us in connection with the other Information Services of the other provincial governments and on the basis of the book dealing with the British Information Service which we used as a guide and some have referred to as a bible. The Director was selected on the basis of his ability. He was interviewed as well as others for that position. It was not advertised, but discussion was held with the Civil Service on the basis of the new establishment that would be required to carry out the full function of the Information Service.

MR. GUTTORMSON: ...says the job was not advertised, Mr. Speaker. Who was the hiring done by? The minister?

MR. SPIVAK: The hiring was done through a committee of Cabinet. The Information Service was transferred to the Executive Council and a sub-committee of Cabinet did the hiring on the basis of the information that was supplied to them in connection with the interviews that were held.

MR. GUTTORMSON. You say a number of people were interviewed. How was this job made known to the people? You say it wasn't advertised. How did the other people know that it was open?

MR. SPIVAK: They obviously didn't. It was a matter of going out to select someone who would be qualified to handle the position.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Was it felt that Mr. Donogh wasn't qualified to do the job that he'd been handling for many years?

MR. SPIVAK: I may say it was felt that Mr. Donogh had a great contribution to make and continue to make. Mr. Donogh was aware to a large extent of the structural changes and was in fact a party to a number of recommendations that were incorporated in the final determination and establishment of the Branch.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, the Minister this afternoon indicated that they've paid "X" number of dollars for some radios that are in this. Is it the custom of the government to buy radios for the civil servants?

MR. SPIVAK: The individuals in the Information Branch require the radios just in the same way as we subscribe to the newspapers to perform their function.

MR. GUTTORMSON: In what respect do they require radios to perform their functions?

MR. SPIVAK: To hear on the radio the news that's broadcast and in turn to be in a position to read the newspapers, the news that's published.

MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chairman, I just want to follow up one of the questions the Member from Lakeside has asked. What is the present title of Mr. Donogh's job now and what is his salary?

MR. SPIVAK: He is Director of News. His salary proposed is \$14,076.00.

MR. DAWSON: You said that Mr. Donogh had received a promotion, yet the man that is head of the News Department now is receiving \$17,500.00. I can't see where a man would be satisfied with that type of a promotion.

MR. SPIVAK: The man you're referring to is not the head of the News Department, he's the head of the Information Service Branch.

MR. CLEMENT: Regarding this new member, did you say that it was the unanimous decision of Cabinet that he be hired?

MR. SPIVAK: The individual had to be hired on the basis of an Order-in-Council -- it eventually went to Cabinet, yes. In fact if I'm correct, as all individuals are hired over the salary of \$6,500.00.

MR. CLEMENT: I asked if it was the unanimous decision of Cabinet to hire this man?

MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chairman, is there a committee - do I understand you correctly, Mr. Minister, when you say that there was a committee or was it on your recommendation to

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(MR. DAWSON cont'd)...the Executive Council that the man was hired; or was there a committee set up to interview applicants and then to make a recommendation? Are you not going to answer my question?

MR. SPIVAK: I'm not going to answer questions about the committees or the decisions of Cabinet.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, was Dalton Camp consulted in any way with the hiring of this man?

MR. SPIVAK: Dalton Camp among many other individuals was requested to give us information of those who may be available for such a position -- (Interjection) -- Mr. Chairman, does the Leader of the New Democratic Party suggest that I answer that question -- (Interjection) --

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, two questions. Can the Honourable Minister give us the Order-in-Council, the number of the Order-in-Council that hired Mr. Epps, the number -- you can't give us it. We were told long ago that every Order-in-Council was public information. We've been told that on dozens of occasions...

MR. SPIVAK: Go and ask for it, why waste the time...

MR. SHOEMAKER: Well, give us the number.

MR. LYON: Go and ask for it. We should do your secretarial work.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Well, do you not know the number?

MR. LYON: No.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Do you know the date on which?

MR. LYON: Haven't the slightest. Do your own secretarial work.

MR. SHOEMAKER: You don't know the date on which the decision was made. You don't know the Order-in-Council number, eh? You haven't the foggiest notion the day on which the Order-in-Council took place. Can you tell me within two or three days.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. This information is available, it's public information. The Member from Gladstone can certainly search that information. I do not have it available to me. If he wants I will search that information, provide it for him, but I must say that that information is available to him and all he has to do is go and ask for it.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, on this very point, I've been to the department that handles these Orders-in-Councils and there's no catalog, nothing whatever -- how are you supposed to know what number you're going to ask for. -- (Interjection) -- There's absolutely nothing, they don't have anything in that -- and yet they pass some 2,000 Orders-in-Council. How are we as members to know what Order-in-Council we're supposed to look for.

A MEMBER: Send a runner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question.

MR. DAWSON: Before -- I have one last question. I wondered if there are any rules and regulations laid down for the people that are employed by the Information Branch, in so much as I mean are they allowed to do any free lance work or any what we call "moonlighting"?

MR. SPIVAK: The rules and regulations would be the same rules and regulations that would apply to any civil servant.

MR. DAWSON: I wonder if the honourable gentleman could tell me what they are.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, I'm not in a position to do that, but simply say that the rules and regulations of the Civil Service would apply to individuals of the Information Service as any other branch of the Department of Industry and Commerce.

MR. DAWSON: They're not permitted to do any moonlighting or any extra services, is that correct?

MR. SPIVAK: I'm not aware of the details of the rules and regulations. I'm simply saying to you that the rules and regulations of the Civil Service would apply to these civil servants as to others.

MR. DAWSON: Well then I would ask, I would be more explicit and say that two or three weeks ago I asked you a question before the Orders of the Day in which I asked if there had been anyone from the Information Centre, the Information Branch I should say at Dauphin, doing any television work and your answer was not to your knowledge. Well I have it on good grounds that there was someone from the Information Centre up there -- and mind you, I don't quarrel with what you are doing providing that every other centre in Manitoba has the same opportunity, that if the Brandon Fair is being held for a week that someone from the Information Centre is at the Brandon Fair working there for a week to tell the people of Manitoba and Canada just

(MR. DAWSON cont'd)...what we have going. Now you told me there wasn't someone there and I say there was someone. Have you some different information now?

MR. SPIVAK: I would think that the Honourable Member from Hamiota must furnish information. I'm not aware of any information. I have given the answer in good faith, based in the information given to me by the members of my department. Now if he has information that is of value in this debate, and necessary, we will certainly accept it and try and investigate it. I must say -- if his information is positive rather than negative in which case, what he is saying is correct - and I'm not suggesting that it is because I don't know that - then I simply say that I have no knowledge of the rules and regulations except to suggest to him that the rules and regulations would apply. I think before individual's names are mentioned here and debated in this House that he himself should determine to his own satisfaction (a) that there was such an individual from the Information Services Branch and (b) that they violated any rules and regulations of the Civil Service before he brings their name into the debate and into a public discussion.

MR. DAWSON: I want to thank the Minister for warning me, Mr. Chairman, but you will note that I never brought in any names and I was very careful to say that I had this information and I'm not sure if he was working on behalf of your department or was he free lancing, but I think that you had the question asked of you two weeks ago and you should have the information by now.

MR. SPIVAK: I've already indicated the answer to you.

MR. DAWSON: I know, but I know the man was there and maybe you could ask the heavens.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, if he would like to furnish me with the name of the individual I will see to it (a) whether he in fact was doing it for the department or (b) whether he was free lancing and over and above that, I'll try to determine whether there is any breach of the regulations and I will inform you of whatever information I have available to me.

MR. DAWSON: Yes, I'll be very happy to furnish you the name by note.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask the Minister whether there is such a thing as a code of ethics or a general outline that the people in the Information Services have. For example, are there a list of do's and don'ts? It seems to me that this kind of thing might be of value to the people in the Information Services Branch, so they might delineate how far they can go, or what they should avoid. Could the Minister tell us whether there is such a thing as what I might call a code of ethics? Secondly, if there isn't whether it wouldn't be a good idea to draw one up and show it to the House.

MR. SPIVAK: I really would like you to define what you mean by a code of ethics. If you are referring to rules and regulations of the Department, obviously the Director has certain instructions, and I'm sure that's conveyed to the people. If you are referring to rules and regulations of the Civil Service I would assume that the Civil Service in this aspect, as in others, would furnish whatever information is required, so that those who have been hired by the government and are part of the Civil Service will understand the exact limitations of what they can and cannot do. If you are referring to a particular code of ethics in relation to the department, to the best of my knowledge this does not exist. I do not think it exists in the other areas but I do not think that I have seen any evidence in which there has been what would be considered a breach of such a code by any of the individuals concerned and I'm not sure what that code would have to contain.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, just a word on that. It seems to me it would be useful to establish some guidelines so that the people in your department don't go over the line so to speak and do things like writing interesting profiles on Ministers or making subjective analyses of their virtues.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, I can make one point clear here that insofar as the Director and the other members are concerned, they have been given full instructions in terms of their responsibility being directly related to government and not to be related to anything that would be considered in the political arena of the party which the government represents. That has been distinctly given to them and that has been made clear in the discussions that we have had. -- (Interjection) -- I may say that -- in writing, in terms of regulation, no, but certainly in terms of the discussions that they've held with myself and other members of the department.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, are the members of the Information Services Branch used to write speeches for any of the Ministers?

MR. SPIVAK: Sorry.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Do any members of the Information Services Branch write speeches for

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(MR. GUTTORMSON cont'd)...of the Ministers?

MR. SPIVAK: I believe the answer is, yes.

MR. CLEMENT: Mr. Chairman, just one final word in this debate as far as I am concerned. The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce is certainly the right sort of a man to be the head of a propaganda department, because he has got the most convenient memory I ever seen of any individual in my life. He can remember when he want to and he can forget when he wants to. He can look to heaven and get the answers when he want to; they seem to come down quite regularly. But I want to remind him and I think he should remind his department of propaganda, that after the next election, they'll have a new Minister and I would suggest they remember this in anything they have to say from now on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, before the question is put I would like to clarify three points, of the Minister. Is it correct that a senior civil servant in the Information Branch was hired without recourse to the Civil Service Commission or by competitive examination? Is it also correct, and I gather this by information elicited by one of the honourable members, that the person in question was hired after a consultation was held with Dalton Camp the national president of the Conservative Party. And the third question is, would it be fair to assume that this is a political appointment?

MR. SPIVAK: Well, the answers to the first question is that the Director was hired in the same way that other senior civil servants have been hired, that is not through competitive advertising but simply selected for the responsibility. The second, he was not hired as a result of a consultation with Dalton Camp. There was no consultation, there was a conversation. There is a distinction between consultation and conversation but I'm not going to go into the refinements of that. Thirdly, this is not a political appointment. I reiterate this again, this is not a political appointment this is a Civil Service appointment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. JOHN P. TANCHAK (Emerson): Mr. Chairman, I seconded this motion but I haven't said a word so far and maybe I should add a few words to it. My reasons for seconding this motion were because when I saw this sum which is over 100 percent what was appropriated last year, to me it was unbelievable and incredible and the reason for that are these, because we all remember that the Honourable the First Minister enunciated two objectives - and that's where it's all based, what this argument is based on - and the two objectives that he had, main ones when he became Premier, and I commend him for it, were to hold the line, that's one; and two, separate our wants from our needs. Now I would ask how are we holding the line? If we allow double appropriations for an item like this we're definitely not holding the line, and the Premier promised that.

Now the second one, separate our wants from our needs. Now in this I can see the want of it, the Minister wants it and probably his party wants it, but surely the Minister hasn't proved the need, there is no need for it. Now I'll say to the Honourable the First Minister, if you believe in these objectives that you have set, then be sincere and at least vote with us for this resolution.

MR. CLEMENT: Mr. Chairman, I notice on one of his very rare occasions in this House, the Honourable Member from Wolseley is in the House. The Honourable Member from Wolseley is quite busy right now but I was wondering if perhaps he hasn't had the opportunity to say anything yet, would he stand up and say whether he recommended this appointment or not. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member from Wolseley, are you interested in the affairs of the state tonight or have you got a private conversation going on there? I was asking you if perhaps you recommended ...

MR. DUFF. ROBLIN (Wolseley): I doubt if there is a member in the House that is more capable of being, well, poorly advised in the various sallies that he makes from time to time, but perhaps it would be in order for me to observe to him that the present members of the Executive Council including the Minister, are quite capable of handling any questions he could think of asking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question.

MR. DOW: Mr. Chairman, certain remarks have been made today in regards to the movement of the Civil Service out of certain quarters and the Information Branch being put in to their quarters. I would like to ask the Minister, was this a decision of the Executive Council, or who made the decision to move the Civil Service from one quarter to another and put the Information Branch in?

MR. SPIVAK: A request was made of the Department of Public Works that if space became available that they should be consolidated with the new appointments that were being made into one general area. The space of the Civil Service - the luxurious space of the Civil Service was made available and the department, as well as part of the Department of Industry and Commerce, will be moved there.

MR. CHAIRMAN put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion lost.

MR. DAWSON: Yeas and nays, Mr. Chairman, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Call in the members.

A STANDING COUNTED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows: Yeas, 20; Nays, 29.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I declare the motion lost.

Resolution 56 (a) -- passed; (b) -- passed; Resolution 56 -- passed. That completes the Department of Industry and Commerce.

Department III - Agriculture. Resolution 7.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, in presenting my estimates to the House it wouldn't be my intention to make any lengthy speech in introducing these. It's my feeling that the members opposite are reasonably well familiar with the many different programs that the department offers to the agricultural community and I also made every effort to table well in advance the various year-end reports, departmental reports or such other special pamphlets as those on the ARDA program and FRED program, well in advance to the members so that they would have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the programs, and it is my feeling, Mr. Chairman, that the time of the Committee would be better utilized by allowing the members all the time possible in what I hope to be the constructive examination and suggestions as to how these programs can be continuously improved.

I would like to though very briefly comment on the general level of agricultural production in the province in the year just gone by. Again it's a matter of knowledge on the members opposite that this past year we did not enjoy the highest level of production, although in several commodity items, notably wheat, we of course did again achieve an all-time record totalling some 90 million bushels of wheat. The fact though that in some of the more important areas, wheat again and pork, price declines were realized and this accounted for the fact that the total value of agricultural production was somewhat less by some \$12 million this year than last. Nevertheless, it should be noted that it is the second highest level of production recorded in the province.

In general terms, our hog production continues at a very high level; our cattle population remains somewhat the same. There has been some shifting, that is a decrease in some areas and increasing in other areas. By and large, these are pretty well explained in view of the practices that are being developed in this particular industry.

I would like to mention just further that as I indicated earlier in a speech that I made - or perhaps it's flattering if I call it a speech - but in a participation in a speech, in the Throne Speech, where I somewhat strongly tried to define the areas of responsibility, and of course I would have to reiterate at this time that the Provincial Department of Agriculture is limited in its ability to control and influence a national-international economy, but we do the best we can to maximize the efforts within the framework that we work. We see this as our main function and our job, that is to help the farmer maximize his potential within this aforementioned framework.

To do this of course we have all kinds of programs. We lay a lot of stress on extension education, on research, and policies such as the crop insurance program designed to spread the risk and help stabilize the agricultural industry. And I think it's worth saying at this particular time - we speak in general terms about this but not often enough specifically - and when you take a look at the situation that we have for instance under our crop insurance program and that it has come to this stage where a Minister of Agriculture can get up in this House and guarantee every wheat grower in this province a yield of \$30.50 per acre come rain, drought, hail or pestilence; I can guarantee every barley grower in this country \$21.84 per acre yield; or every flax grower \$20.80 per acre yield; then surely, Mr. Chairman, if you want to speak about stabilizing risks, if you want to speak about putting a floor price into our agricultural economy, these have to be noted.

Of course I'm cognizant of the fact that I can only say that now because of the fact that the crop insurance program has been extended across the width and breadth of this province and its success is growing rapidly. Some 50 percent of the farmers are presently enrolled and

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(MR. ENNS cont'd)... the indications are that this figure will increase in the coming years. Certainly as we continue to expand the activities of the program, as is our intention and as I think it must, we take a great deal of the sting of the vagaries of weather and that kind of situation out of the agricultural economy.

I suppose that particular subject is used more often than any other one when one speaks about agricultural production here on the prairies. We often refer to the hazards of producing here on the prairies, the hazards of climate, the hazards of crop loss, and while this is of course a voluntary program supported - and I'm quick to acknowledge the support of the Federal Government in this instance - but it's a venture that the province certainly pioneered and one that speaks highly of the initiative and imagination of this government in instituting this program. It's significant to note in this instance that while we are not the biggest agricultural province in any stretch of the imagination, in this particular field crop insurance has, since our initiation and pioneering of it, spread to most other provinces in one form or another and that today we have some \$90 million of crop insurance sold across Canada. Of that amount, \$34 million is bought in the Province of Manitoba, and I think it is significant when you take those figures into account - Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec, totally selling across the width and breadth of the country \$90 million - \$34 million worth of coverage to our Manitoba farmers -- (Interjection) -- \$34 million worth of coverage.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Not premiums written.

MR. ENNS: Yes, premiums written.

MR. SHOEMAKER: \$34 millions in premiums?

MR. ENNS: Calling for \$34 million worth of coverage. The premiums paid for is another matter.

I dwell on that, Mr. Chairman, just at some length because it is a most significant program. It dovetails in the kind of work that our agricultural representatives are trying to do. If we suggest or recommend, as we have in the past, that our farmers should put in the necessary in-put into modern agriculture, whether it's the fertilizer requirements and so forth, it was always very difficult to stand behind them if in fact a bad year came about and the farmer was not only out his seed and his work but also the fertilizer in-put or the special in-puts that he put into it. Under this program, which is available to them by choice, he can with a modest premium, which he surely must begin to figure as part of his production cost, hedge against the loss of same.

In addition of course our department has involved itself, as it always has, in the many other aspects of rural living. In fact, there is always somewhat of a conflict here with some of the professional people in the department, that is, is the Department of Agriculture there solely to promote agricultural production per se to the limit or indeed do we accept the greater responsibility of coping with the greater problems of rural life as a whole.

I only point to such programs as our 4-H program where we have some 40,000 youngsters, and it's again one of these programs that doesn't attract all that much attention. It's not an earth-shattering program that's in the headlines the other day, but any program that deals and works with 40,000 youngsters in this province is one of tremendous significance. I sometimes think that if we had some of these long-haired bearded weirdos that romp around our Memorial Park and after they get tired of that they come and let the air out of the Ministers' tire here in the back of the building just for kicks, that if I had some of them enrolled in some of my 4-H programs they'd find better things to do, if need be give them a pitch fork in their hands.

But these are programs that the department is involved in, and very much so, and it's amazing just how these programs reach the people and how much they mean to the people. I know that just recently I suppose many of my colleagues have received a great deal of mail, as have some of the honourable members opposite, on the question of breathalizers. Well I would have to report to the House that the mail, and I have received some of that too, but the greatest amount of mail that I have received has been because of the fact that the services of a clothing specialist was temporarily withdrawn in the Home Economics Section, and I have received more mail on that particular subject than any other one that I'm involved with. I point this out solely to underline the fact that many of the services that our department carries on to the rural people of Manitoba go on year after year, sometimes not always catching the headlines, but nevertheless playing a very meaningful role in making rural Manitoba a better place to live in.

As I said at the outset, I don't want to make any long speech here in introducing these

(MR. ENNS cont'd)...Estimates. There are of course, in addition to the regular programs that the department offers, we try to be prepared to jump into the emergency situations that develop. In this past year some \$43,000 was expended to meet an emergency hay shortage in the drought-stricken southwestern part of the province. In addition to that, we co-operated with PFRA, that is the Federal Government, in filling some 187 dugouts, in many cases making it possible to keep valuable cattle herds through the winter who otherwise would have faced -- for whom it would have been very difficult to carry through the winter without adequate water supply. Some 122 millions of gallons of water were pumped into these dugouts under this program.

You will note in the estimates as we proceed that I have a significant sum, some \$262,000 listed for improvements and renovations to the Brandon Extension Centre. I know that any of the members - and some of you of course get there from time to time - that that is a virtual beehive of activity embracing the total community, agricultural community there, and the work that our department does there is perhaps some of the most worthwhile in the province.

As already mentioned, our soil testing program is highly successful and they all interrelate with each other, that is the soil testing program, the crop insurance program, resulting in the fact that Manitoba farmers have purchased some 187,000 tons of fertilizer this year past and this figure is rising steadily. We anticipate some 30,000 samples coming in this coming year. We have been able to, as a result of some refinement in the program, reduce the cost to farmers from \$9.00 to \$6.00. Because of better information we now find we can do with one sample less. Again a very worthwhile program that the farmers are certainly responding to.

I think that one of the areas that I would want to draw your attention further to is the management area. I know my honourable colleague from Gladstone will be fast to recognize this as being that particular part of the program that breeds these elite group of farmers that my predecessor was so well known for promoting. I nevertheless want to say to him that it's again one of these quiet programs that are effective programs that do more to alleviate the cost-price squeeze than anything else I can do as a provincial Minister of Agriculture, and these programs are having their results.

I think that I would beg a question from the Honourable Member for Brokenhead if I didn't touch on the matter of marketing, and certainly marketing still is, and will continue to be in the future, one of major importance to the producers here in Manitoba. We feel, and it's my hope, that we are making steady progress in this area, and that I will have further announcements to make on this subject as time goes on.

I would have to point out that despite the somewhat unsettled situation with respect to the Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission, we did have a reasonably good year in vegetable production, and as a producer I know he will agree with me. The voluntary aspects of the program, while maybe not entirely to the satisfaction of some of the growers involved, did work reasonably well; a great deal of volume was handled through the commission building. I wouldn't want the members opposite to think that because 6 or 7 vegetables were removed from commission control that we had a white elephant standing there, the Commission I can assure handled a very heavy volume of produce and all in all served the function it was designated for.

I recognize the important problems that we face in marketing; it's my firm belief that we have to and shall in the very near future do all we can to improve our marketing structure here within the province for our various producer or commodity groups; however I would have to make it very plain that while in the first instance the idea of building protective barriers around Manitoba, sounds attractive, it certainly isn't in the interests of the province and in the producers in the long run and that while it's a subject that the producers sometimes are tired of hearing, certainly we can't shy away from it, productivity and greater efficiency in productivity are and have to be the basis under which we can hope to build a healthy industry here in this province.

I feel that there's perhaps a great deal more that I could say, particularly about such programs as the ARDA program; the FRED program. I'd rather suggest though, Mr. Chairman, that I leave those programs to the questioning of the members. I believe the members received the pamphlets so that they should be in a reasonable position to ask whatever questions they choose on those programs. I would have to close by saying that in that particular area I have some concern over the fact that while no one can deny the present controversy that's raising within the Interlake are somewhat abated now, but nevertheless with respect to the school matter, I'm somewhat concerned that this is detracting from the very real progress that is being

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(MR. ENNS cont'd)... made in that part of the country. Whether it's in the building of roads and whether it's in the improvements of land and whether it's in the increasing educational facilities, particularly the adult manpower type of programs geared to improving and upgrading the skills of people in that region. Certainly I look forward to replying in fuller detail on any questions you may wish to submit to me on that particular subject.

So, Mr. Chairman, I leave the estimates in the tender hands of the members opposite, expressing the same hope as I did last year that surely the interests of agriculture are and should still be foremost of concern to all members of this House. I know that I can expect and look forward to the debates on the estimates with the knowledge that the suggestions and advice given will serve to the end that we're both looking forward, that is ever increasing efficiencies in our program that we attempt to bring to our farmers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ALBERT VIELFAURE (La Verendrye): Mr. Chairman, first I would like to pay tribute to the civil servants in the Department of Agriculture. I have had the opportunity through the years of working with many of them and this is certainly a department where a great amount of dedication is needed and certainly we are fortunate to have in the province of Manitoba, really dedicated civil servants in this department and at this time I certainly want to express my tribute to them.

Mr. Chairman, I think agriculture as years go by is changing fast and methods are probably changing faster. It is more complicated as the years go, the methods of production are changing, farms are getting bigger, farmers are forming partnerships either within the family or with sons or even corporations to match the changing times, and certainly the needs of our farmers in this province are very varied. It is of course the responsibility of the government of the Department of Agriculture to make sure that all phases of agriculture get their fair share of the government expenditures and we all know that it is a well-known fact that about 20 percent of our farmers produce about 70 percent of our agricultural production and certainly the needs of the 20 percent differ very much from the needs of the other 80 percent. In my opinion the responsibility of the government is to, as far as the better organized, better more efficient farmers is to provide them with the information - the market information, the trend in production, the marketing trends, not only in this country but in other parts of the world so that they can cope with the situation as it arises.

I have received through the year some complaints that there was not enough co-operation between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Industry and Commerce in this province as far as promoting our products outside of this province. Although there is a great deal of advertising and promotion done by the Department of Industry and Commerce, I have, on different occasions received the complaint, by breeders of cattle mostly, that when purchasing missions were in this country, they had a hard time to get themselves acquainted with these missions, and after they did, they really did find that there was quite a potential in other countries for some of our cattle, and certainly to many producers this is important. However, the farmers themselves as individuals cannot do this kind of promotion and in my opinion there should be more co-operation between Industry and Commerce and agriculture within the government so that this particular promotion of agricultural products in certain cases or animals; for example, I am sure that Great Britain must have been in need of a great many dairy cattle after the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in that country last year.

I think the matter of research in the department is a very vital and important one at this time. Everybody is looking for higher yielding, higher energy feed grain. We found out last year I think that much of our products wasn't the most appealing to some of the buyers and certainly a great deal of research is needed in order to promote and produce grains that will be to a greater advantage firstly by of course our producers. I realize that this cannot be done overnight and it cannot be done by one province alone, it needs the co-operation of most of the western provinces but certainly it is each and everyone's responsibility and I certainly ask the Minister of Agriculture to make sure that everything done is done in that particular field.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is one group of farmers in my opinion in this province who are not getting their fair share of our gross national or provincial income, and that is our smaller farmers, our smaller producers. Many of them live in what are often called sub-marginal areas or are in the eyes of the experts, inefficient farmers. However, in many cases they are living on the border of bushed areas, they have been there for two or three generations; in many cases they were people who supplemented their income by being able to draw from the forest in the winter, however, in the last few years because of new forest management policies, and I don't criticize these policies as such, but they certainly have deprived many of the smaller

(MR. VIELFAURE cont'd)... farmers of their income and in turn they have to rely more on the income of their own little farm in order to be able to make a living. And when you analyze many of these small farmers - and they are many - I was shocked myself not too long ago when I heard that the Dairy Commission decided to eliminate from their program all shippers that had shipped last year less than 50,000 pounds of milk, this meant that they eliminated about 89 or 90 percent of our Manitoba farmers, which certainly proves the fact that we still have many many small farmers in this province.

Now, I know that it is a group that is not the easiest to work with as far as the department is concerned, however, they are people that are established in these areas for many many years and they like the kind of living they are making in these areas and in my opinion their greatest need in most cases is, drainage. I know in the southeastern part of the province, certainly in my constituency and that of my Honourable colleagues from Emerson and Carillon, and I'm sure the Honourable Member from Springfield, would agree with me that in all of southeastern Manitoba we have a great many of them who are in dire need of better drainage programs if they are to be able to stay on their farm. Now, of course, I realize that this is not an easy thing to do; however in most cases many of these people have been the subject of many enquiries, analysis and research and they hear of all kind of reports and they never know whether they will be asked to leave their farm or whether they will be getting any more money as far as providing better drainage for their areas. I think that this government will have to come out with a policy to reassure these people as to what their intentions are. I know it is not easy but this has been going on for a few years and I know personally when I am asked to attend meetings in these areas and I see these people in front of me who are not asking for handouts or for subsidies, they simply want a better irrigation drainage program for their areas. They claim they want to make a living on their farms, they want to continue to live there - it is a very difficult thing to answer unless the government comes out with a policy as far as what will be done in these particular areas.

I know that most of these programs as far as drainage are concerned are based on a cost benefit and I realize that as far as judging between one and the other, the cost benefits are probably the most logical kind of an assessment to make; however, it is certainly very difficult to assess the social problems, the social benefits of these areas in dollars and cents in order to assess the real value of going on with major programs in these areas. Now, I know that the Minister will probably tell me that, well it's all right to propose new programs but we need money and drainage needs a lot of money, and although drainage is part of water control which is under the other part of my honourable friend's responsibilities, I think the benefits are agricultural, this is why I bring it at this time, and he is certainly in a very good position to make the decision whether it be agriculture or highways ...

MR. ENNS: Why didn't you say that last week?

MR. VIELFAURE: Last week - I'll say it now and I'll repeat it. It's just the fact that you happen to be now the Minister of both. I still don't say that it's right but my honourable friend happens to be responsible for both at the time I'm speaking and this is why I'm mentioning it now. So, I still think that it doesn't give him the time to give justice to both; however at the very time right now, my honourable friend is responsible for both and he is certainly in a position to -- and I'll go further, I'll even suggest, Mr. Chairman, that my honourable friend should even think if he has to, of cutting down some of his highways program in my opinion, to supplement some drainage programs. I wouldn't be against that because many of our farmers can travel on the existing roads and cannot farm on their farms with the drainage programs that they have now. And I know for a fact that many of our engineers don't dare go in these areas because they simply don't have any money to give the relief to the farmers in these areas that would be needed in order for them to make a decent living on these farms.

Mr. Chairman, there are many many other subjects to talk about. I do not intend to bring every needs of our agricultural society but to me this is certainly one very important, very important in probably in matters of efficiency and of high production. They are not the most important, the most appealing to the people who are responsible because of the fact that these are small farmers, they haven't been able to enlarge or to be as efficient as others and in many cases for the very reason that they have not benefitted from the drainage and irrigation and water control programs that have been in effect in many other areas. So, in my opinion, Mr. Chairman, the province owes a debt to these small farmers as far as their share of the expenditures of the province, if they are to be allowed to continue to live on these small

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(MR. VIELFAURE cont'd)... farms and in these areas. And I agree probably that many would say that it is not economical as far as paper work is concerned, however, this is left to be proven yet. There are many experts that have been found wrong in their predictions and in my opinion in many of our rural areas if these particular farmers were given a chance as far as irrigation and water control, they would still continue to make a very decent living without any subsidies or without any large government outright grants except those for drainage and water control, which in my opinion is due to them.

So, Mr. Chairman, I will have further comments to make on other parts of the agricultural estimates; however, at this time I would certainly ask the Minister to try and tell us what the policy of the government will be as far as these particular people are concerned.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW (Brokenhead): Mr. Chairman, I have been looking forward to this particular department for some time. I wondered this afternoon whether this was another one of those days where I would have to cart my books in here and cart them back out, only to have to do the same thing tomorrow, as it appeared that the department of Industry and Commerce was not quite settled down to passing the estimates. Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the fact that we have finally gotten around to the Department of Agriculture and I certainly appreciate the fact that I have the privilege of participating in this debate.

The initial remarks of the Minister this evening indicate something which all of us are only too familiar with, namely, the fact that he suggested to us a few moments ago that again Manitoba had a very high level of production but that because of lower prices, we have had a lower income. This is a story that's been repeated in this House, probably many times before, it's a story that's been repeated across the nation many times before and I'm wondering what other segment in society has to bear this type of story practically every year, the question of although production is going up, the farm income picture is either static or we've lost some ground. And I'm becoming very impatient that although we repeat this year after year, there is really nothing meaningful done to correct the situation.

So, Mr. Chairman, I say that it isn't enough for the Minister to get up before us this evening and tell us what our position is. His responsibility in my opinion, Mr. Chairman, has much more to do than to indicate statistics which we're fully aware of in any case. His responsibility, Mr. Chairman, must be that he ought to enunciate policy as a means in dealing with these type of statistics. So any Minister, Mr. Chairman, in doing an administrative job can simply jot down some figures and say this is where we were 10 years ago and this is where we were last year and this is our position this year. This is nothing. You can get any school boy to come down with these these type of things. But what is the solution to the problem before us, and this is something that I had hoped I would hear from the Minister and I'm sorry to say that at this stage of the game he hasn't offered the House a clue as to what his policy is, or what his position is with regard to policy in agriculture, at the provincial or the national level for that matter. When I say that it's at the provincial or the national level, I'm saying that he has a responsibility as a Minister within a province in the Department of Agriculture to press for national policies that will improve the position of farmers in Manitoba, so he has a stage at the national level in the policy-making area. This is something that has been lacking in the Province of Manitoba for a great number of years; and Mr. Chairman, I suggest it is more lacking this year than it ever was.

The former premier, the former First Minister, for a number of years, stomped the province and suggested to the farmers that what we really need is a conference on agriculture. This is what he has been saying for a number of years. I'm happy to see that the Member for Wolseley is in his seat, because I want to remind him and ask perhaps whether this is still the position of the government on that side, simply that we ought to press Ottawa for a conference on agriculture. Surely we must be past the pressing stage, that we must get into a stage of activity. I think that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture is in a position where he could do something more than just say that we ought to urge Ottawa to talk about agriculture because we are in dire circumstances here, economically. I think this is something that the Minister could have mentioned to the House to give us some indication as to what his position is with respect to agricultural policy.

I wonder where the First Minister is this evening because I was hoping that he would be in his chair so that I may pose a question to him asking him whether or not he is still waiting for a conference with the government at Ottawa, because this was the old trump card of the First Minister last year, and I'm wondering whether since we had a change in the head of

(MR. USKIW cont'd)... government in Manitoba whether there is in fact a change of policy and it would have been interesting if the First Minister would be in his seat this evening.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture a few days ago has suggested to us that he has pretty well looked after his area of responsibility in Manitoba and in doing so in his remarks he suggested that the place to go to find answers, or to develop answers insofar as agriculture is concerned is Ottawa. In other words, he is back to the old game of passing the buck, as has been done for many years in Manitoba and seems to be a continuing policy of this government. Certainly, Mr. Chairman, it isn't time to pass the buck. I think we ought to take a more honest appraisal of our farm situation in Manitoba in particular, than to simply say it is not our baby, go and talk to the fellows in Ottawa. This isn't the time to do that. Because, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that members opposite on the government side of the House are fully aware of the circumstances which our farmers find themselves in today and they are certainly not an improvement over a year ago; as a matter of fact, they are much worse and I'm sure you will all agree with me that they are.

Let's just go back and examine what has happened since a year ago. Since a year ago, we have had a drop in wheat prices, farmers are getting something like 20 cents a bushel less for wheat than they have been getting in the last 3 or 4 years, and certainly this isn't something that we ought to ignore because you can't expect a 10 percent reduction in the price of a commodity and at the same time pay an increase in the cost of producing that commodity and come out with a balanced sheet at the end of the year. So, Mr. Chairman, I say that this is very serious. We've had a 20¢ drop in the price of wheat and even if we take into consideration the new International Wheat Agreement there is no guarantee at all that the buyers are going to pay at the maximum level of that new agreement. In essence what seems to be developing is that they are going to buy at the bottom end of that agreement. The bottom end of that agreement, Mr. Chairman, if I may, is \$1.95 1/2 as you are well aware; and that, Mr. Chairman, is still 20¢ below what we have been getting for the last few years. I'm sure, Mr. Chairman that the members on the government side of the House know that this wheat payment which the farmers in Western Canada receive this year is the last big one we are going to get for some time. I am sure they are fully aware of it and this is a sorry state of affairs for these wheat producers of Western Canada, particularly Manitoba.

Not only have we suffered a substantial loss in the price of wheat, Mr. Chairman, but we have also suffered a substantial reduction in volume of sales and this is very crucial. I'm sure we are all aware that volume sales of wheat have dropped substantially, in fact the figure is 200 million bushels less than a year ago. Mr. Chairman, 200 million bushels is approximately 400 million dollars in gross terms. I don't know what an economist would suggest to you that \$400 million pumped into the prairie economy would do, but I'm sure substantially greater than the \$400 million figure which I mentioned. I'm sure that there are many people in the three prairie provinces whether they be car dealers, implement dealers, lumber suppliers and so forth, that are very interested in what a loss of \$400 million is going to do to the economy of the prairies and I'm sure our people in Manitoba that depend on the farmer for their livelihood are very sorry that something is not being done in the area of wheat prices so that we don't have these serious fluctuations.

This is an area, Mr. Speaker, where the Minister has not offered solution, has not offered suggestions. The new wheat agreement comes into effect July 1st next. I'm not sure whether or not all the signatories to that agreement have yet ratified that agreement, but even if they do, I have some doubts as to whether that agreement is really that worthwhile. I have serious reservations.

I want to quote to you from an article in one of our daily papers of last week dealing with the question of wheat and the headline here is "U.S. has world wheat price key." It's Canada's hopes and I quote incidentally, "Canada's hopes for keeping international wheat prices equal to average prices since 1962 were based on false market assumptions says an American political economist speaking Thursday at the 9th National Farm and Business Forum, Alec F. McCullough, Assistant Professor Agricultural Economics at the University of California said that even if the International Grains Agreement with its higher minimum prices is ratified by all participants, it will have great difficulty maintaining prices at the minimum." A very serious proposition isn't it? He said "The proposed minimum reflects an inflated wheat price as a result of heavy Communist sales which may not continue. Professor McCullough said he doubted the United States would co-operate toward maintaining the proposed minimum." This

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(MR. USKIW cont'd)... is very serious, Mr. Chairman, and I don't know that our Minister has studied the problem, whether our Minister has made some recommendations to Ottawa with respect to the problem or whether he has consulted the farm organizations as to what can be done to solve the problem. Personally, Mr. Chairman, I think it's something that we have to take a very good look at.

The other aspect of the changing situation since last year, Mr. Chairman, has to do with the wheat quotas and of course, it's directly related to the fact that we've lost these sales. In most areas of the prairies and in Manitoba, I find that our quotas are anywhere from 4 to 6 bushels. Mr. Chairman, you, I'm sure, as a farmer can appreciate the fact that farmers are indeed in dire straits if they have to try and get into a new crop year with only a 4 or 5 bushel quota at the present time; a time when they require additional sums of money to put in their new crop; a time when the expense load is considerably larger than at other times of the year.

Another fact, too, which we must tie in with this problem is the fact that interest rates are now up to around 8 percent. If farmers want to borrow money for operating capital this year they are going to have to pay about 8 percent for their money. I'm sure that you will all agree with me and you are all aware that there is virtually an absence of farm improvement loans being made throughout the country, simply by the fact that the banks refuse to loan money to farmers under the Farm Improvement Loans Act, simply because they will not be bound by the 5 percent ceiling on interest rates, and that the Act is a permissive piece of legislation which does not require them to make loans under it, and therefore this, Mr. Chairman creates a very serious financial problem to the farm community this year - wheat prices lower, grain sales down substantially, and very little money available.

Now the other interesting aspect about the availability of money, Mr. Chairman -- and I've discussed this with a number of bank managers in the country - is that they tell me they are making loans at 8 percent, demand note type of a loan, which in effect means they have to be extremely selective in who they are making these loans to. They are sorting them out somewhat more carefully than they used to do, recognizing the fact that 8 percent is a substantial charge and that they want to be assured that this money will be repaid in the absence of a guarantee which they were so accustomed to under the Farm Improvement Loans Act.

So, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that many farmers in Manitoba are going to find it extremely difficult to find working capital for this year's operation. I find this is very disturbing and I find that government ought to be doing something about it. The Farm Improvement Loans legislation is going to be amended I understand to provide guarantees and to provide a higher rate of interest, but because of the situation in the federal field, the uncertainty as to whether we are going to have the House of Commons doing business at all or whether we are going to be into an election campaign amplifies the problem to the farmers of Manitoba; because if the House in Ottawa does not sit and does not pass needed legislation, I'm sure that many farmers are going to find that they are simply not going to be in a position where they can borrow money. So what position is our Minister taking? Surely this is an important area of policy which our Minister could have enunciated policy on and I have yet to hear from him what his position is. I know he can throw his hands up and say well, but this is a Federal problem. Every problem, Mr. Chairman, is our problem, because we are dealing with people, we are dealing with citizens of Manitoba, and I don't think we ought to get into that old rut of saying that this is too big for me, let someone else worry about it, because it is in fact their jurisdiction.

I think there has to be pressures to bear on people to make sure that positive policies are adopted to cope with situations as they arise, because nothing is static, we have changing times and we have changing problems and we ought to have an alert Minister of Agriculture to make sure that he's on top of things at all times.

So, Mr. Chairman, I don't accept the idea of my honourable friend the Minister of Agriculture that this is Ottawa's baby. It isn't. It's his, just as much as anyone else's and I expect from the Minister an answer on this particular point. My suggestion, incidentally, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister is that if he was at all positive in approach, that he would sponsor a prairie conference on agriculture and that he would invite the premiers or the Ministers of Agriculture of the other two prairie provinces, he would invite farm organizations, and he would say to them we have a serious situation fellows, what are we going to do about it as a prairie block? This is the position our Minister should be taking. And I'm sure if the three prairie provinces got together Mr. Chairman, that the powers that be at the Federal level

(MR. USKIW cont'd)... would be very cognizant of it. The fact of the matter is that neither province seems to be willing to get off its fanny - and this is what it is - to do anything because they simply think they can get away with passing the buck as they have been used to for too long. Mr. Chairman, I sincerely suggest that that time is long past. People in Manitoba expect their Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Chairman, to be on top of events and to inform them and to prod other people in other jurisdictions to bring home the story of the necessity of the farm community in Manitoba.

I would suggest to the Honourable Minister that he can let someone else look after the Highways Department. There is a great deal to do in agriculture, a great deal to do in agriculture, Mr. Chairman. Anyone can worry about the Highways Department. I'm sure that all of the members on that side of the House are quite capable in dealing with the Department of Agriculture and I don't think that a Minister of Agriculture should in fact occupy that position as a part-time Minister. I think the situation in agriculture is sufficiently serious to make certain that we have a full-time Minister of Agriculture and I suggest to the First Minister of this province and to the Minister of Agriculture that they ought to take a good look at it, and the Minister of Agriculture should say to his Premier, 'Mr. Premier, I think there's a big job to do, find someone else to handle Highways and let's get on with the job of the Department of Agriculture.'"

There's one interesting thing that disturbs me, Mr. Chairman. A few years ago we passed an Act in this Legislature - and this is before my time in this House - it's called Bill No. 108, an Act Respecting the Establishment of the Manitoba Agricultural Productivity Council, and I was sort of wondering who these people are. I have yet to hear of anyone being appointed to that Council, and if I wanted to read the Act to you - perhaps I should but I wouldn't, I'm sure you're all familiar with it - there's some very noble ideas within this Act; to establish a council to define goals in agriculture, consideration of obstacles to the economic growth and development of an agricultural society, and so forth; many ideal goals that could be derived by such a council. And I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, this was passed in 1966, this is 1968, and I don't know why the Minister has not acted. I don't know why we have legislation simply to have it on paper; it doesn't mean anything. I would like the Minister to give me an answer as to what the government's intention is with respect to the membership of the Manitoba Agricultural Productivity Council. I would like to know who they are; what they are doing if there is such a group; because in my checking I find that we simply haven't bothered to enact or to appoint anyone to such a council, and this is an area that I'm sure is worthy of consideration.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Souris-Lansdowne I'm sure is in sympathy with me when I suggested a few minutes ago that the Minister of Agriculture should give up his Highways portfolio, and I suggest to the Honourable Member from Souris-Lansdowne that he ought to keep up the pressure because he has taken a very positive approach to problems, and if he is not successful in these pressures on his side of the House, I want to assure the Honourable Member for Souris-Lansdowne that there are a lot of people on this side of the House that think very much like he does and I certainly want to extend him that invitation. As a matter of fact, I can almost -- in fact I can go as far as to suggest to honourable rural back-benchers that there is a lot of room on this side of the House, and if they are not happy with the handling of the Department of Agriculture, if they take a positive notion, this is the place they'll come and they'll have a lot of good company on this side, Mr. Chairman. So I want the Member for Souris-Lansdowne to take notice that I am extending him an invitation.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture on a number of occasions has always talked about areas of responsibility and he always sort of suggested to us that his areas of responsibility are related to matters of the university research department, trying to find new varieties of grain, feed grains, wheat, marketing, crop insurance, and this is sort of the limit of his responsibility. If it is, I don't know that the Minister has fully exercised those responsibilities. I think that the Federal Government has a large role to play, naturally the largest role to play when it comes to the question of productivity which is largely in the export area, or which is largely exported out of the country.

I think the Provincial Minister has the responsibility in dealing with those commodities which are largely consumed within the country and this is the area in which I would want our Minister of Agriculture to put his emphasis, apart from the fact that I would require him to be very active in the policy-making area at the national level. When you get down to the nuts and bolts of it, Mr. Chairman, our Minister has a great deal to do within his own framework here

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(MR. USKIW cont'd)...in Manitoba. When I say he has a great deal to do, I mean that there is a lot to be desired in the area of marketing research and marketing achievement. I'm sure if we take a look at the record of the last few years we will determine that we have failed miserably to enhance the bargaining position of farmers in Manitoba. I'm sure the Minister knows what I'm trying to get at; I'm sure he knows that I'm talking about his mismanagement of marketing affairs within certain commodity groups; and I hope, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister has learnt the error of his ways. He seems to be nodding his head, Mr. Chairman, and I'm happy to see him nod his head in the affirmative because I was rather worried a short time ago that the ...

MR. ENNS: I wouldn't want you to worry, Sam.

MR. USKIW: I was rather worried, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister was stuck in a rut that he could not get out of, and that simply it would mean a situation where we would have to simply move the Minister from that side of the House before we can have some progress in the field of marketing.

I'm told -- and I notice that the Honourable the First Minister has arrived and I'm sorry that he is late because I did have a few remarks that I wanted him to hear. Possibly I might repeat some of them as I go along and I hope he will stay with us because I'm sure, being a man from the rural areas of Manitoba, that he would want to know what is wrong in the administration of the Department of Agriculture insofar as the Province of Manitoba is concerned. You can never find that information from within your own group, you always have to find it from the opposite side.

.....continued on next page

(MR. USKIW cont'd.)....

Mr. Chairman, last year, I think we can recall, we had considerable problems in the area of development of marketing boards. I can go back a lot further than to last year but I don't think there's any point in rehashing what has already been said a number of years ago, and in fact last year, but I'm sure the Minister knows what I'm talking about. Last year we had a number of instances where the mismanagement of the department resulted in a real fiasco insofar as the marketing of vegetables and potatoes were concerned, and I know in listening to the report of the Chairman of the Manitoba Marketing Commission, it reinforced the position which I held last year, that in fact there was total mismanagement on the part of the government in that he talked about substantial lack of enforcement of regulations which the government themselves placed on the statute books.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I know that the Minister will say that we didn't have a referendum and how could we enforce something without having done it democratically. I only want to remind the Minister that one ought to legislate in that manner if one is not prepared to back up the legislation, because really legislation is worthless if you're not prepared to enforce it. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, and I hope I'm wrong - I suggest I'm wrong and I hope I'm wrong - that the Attorney-General's Department or the Minister of Agriculture in his department does not use discretionary power insofar as the enforcement of laws, laws which we ourselves as legislators create in the Province of Manitoba.

I have reason to believe - a very strong reason - in fact it had been brought to my attention that insofar as the regulations under the Natural Products Marketing Act are concerned and how those regulations relate to the operation of the Manitoba Marketing Commission or the Vegetable Commission, that there was definite lack of enforcement of those regulations, and that there was simply an impossible situation. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, there were members opposite that encouraged their constituents to bypass or to contravene the regulations.

Mr. Chairman, this is not a tolerable approach to laws which this Legislature passes. Surely we're serious when we create new laws. I don't know how any member on that side of the House can instruct his constituents and advise him — he knows he's suggesting to his constituent that he should break the law but that he doesn't agree with the law as a member of the Legislature and he would advise him that he might break the law and that he might protect him in the process of the administration of law. Mr. Chairman, this is intolerable. Really, if the Attorney-General has the power to create law or to interpret law in such a way that he will prosecute one individual on one occasion and not on another, or will prosecute one individual with respect to an offence and not another, what kind of law do we have? This kind of law can be seen probably in the area of South America where you have dictatorships - one man rules - but we don't have that kind of thing in Manitoba I hope. Mr. Chairman, I know that members opposite recognize what I'm talking about. I know they recognize what I'm talking about and I know many members opposite don't agree with the law that's on the statute books, but, Mr. Chairman, all of us have some exception to the laws of the land and if all of us wanted to disobey any particular law, where would this country be? Mr. Chairman, I suggest that if the Attorney-General didn't exercise his authority to proceed with the law under any statute, then possibly what he should be considering today is a refund to all the other people that were fined for contraventions of other laws, because to be fair this would be the only approach.

So when we put laws on the statute books, Mr. Chairman, let's be sure that we're going to support those laws. Let's not be hypocrites in this process of law-making. If we put it on the books we have to abide by them; that's why we are entrusted by the people of Manitoba as legislators and we should be worthy of that trust, Mr. Chairman.

I could go further, Mr. Chairman, in that connection. I don't want to name specific people. I don't think it's going to get us anywhere anyway, because if I was to name specific people, Mr. Chairman, I would be placing the blame on one individual probably, but really you can't place the blame on one individual because it's the total environment on the government side that creates or makes this individual that way. So really if you're going to reprimand anyone, you have to reprimand the government, and in the process this is in fact what I'm doing. I'm talking to the Minister of Agriculture - this is my way of reprimanding the government for lack of proper enforcement of laws. So I'm sure the message will get home and I'm sure that members opposite will know what I'm talking about, that we can't afford to break the laws of the province. If we feel that our laws are not right, Mr. Chairman, then we ought to be bold about them and we ought to make changes in those laws if we feel that they're wrong,

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(MR. USKIW cont'd.).... but we shouldn't encourage people not to abide by the laws. —  
 (Interjection) — The Highway Traffic Act? I'm not sure that we're through with that one yet.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to suggest to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture that he has substantial responsibility with respect to the operation of the Manitoba Marketing Board and he has substantial responsibility in providing the farm community of this province with a reasonable approach to their requests for marketing legislation. And I suggest, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister — and I'm very consistent — that I don't want him to dictate to the producers of Manitoba so far as any commodity group is concerned, but I suggest that he should not prevent a majority of producers in any commodity from exercising their rights, Mr. Chairman. I know the Minister is going to say these are discretionary things, but if there is a substantial majority that makes a request to the Minister for an improvement in their marketing arrangements, Mr. Chairman, I suggest that the Honourable Minister ought to give them the necessary consideration, because really, if the majority in fact want changes in their marketing administration then they ought to have the opportunity at least to have a referendum on the question.

I'm wondering what the problem is in some of our areas of production when I see clippings to the effect that some vested interest groups — if you want to put it that way — or some corporate groups would like some privileges, some exemptions from the Natural Products Marketing Act. I'm sure that the Minister should not be yielding to these people, that he should be bargaining away the rights of primary producers in the interests of the Minister of Industry and Commerce because that is the basis upon which he may attract someone to establish an industry in the Province of Manitoba. The primary producer, Mr. Chairman, should not be the sacrificial lamb in the process; the primary producer ought to have a fair shake when it comes to the establishment of bargaining units within his jurisdiction. And I'm sure the Minister, after the experience of last year, knows fully well what I'm talking about, Mr. Chairman.

We can look to other provinces and we see substantial movements into the area of orderly marketing. The Province of Saskatchewan is talking about a marketing board for eggs; a Saskatchewan egg plant is coming before the egg producers of Saskatchewan. In Alberta there is a proposition, three propositions with respect to marketing — one voluntary proposal for the marketing of hogs and two compulsory proposals.—(Interjection) — It's the Province of Alberta. In B.C. they have marketing boards substantially in many areas of their agricultural production. This isn't something out of the blue, it's not something new; it's something that Manitoba has dragged its feet in, Mr. Chairman. We have not been leading the way in trying to overcome the problems, the bargaining problems of producers; we've been dragging our feet, Mr. Chairman.

We have here, for example, the broiler industry. It wants to know why — is it three and a half years since they requested a vote on a marketing board? Why does it take three and a half years for a decision from the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Chairman. I don't know what the answer is. Perhaps the Honourable Minister will tell me what the answer is.

But really, all farm organizations today are saying the same thing from coast to coast. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture in a clipping talks about Marketing Boards, more bargaining power for producers. The farm union people, every farm organization is pressing government to improve marketing legislation so that they can get some bargaining position in the market place. Mr. Chairman, it is high time that the rural people of Manitoba as well as the rest of Canada did get some bargaining power. Every other segment of our economy has bargaining rights, Mr. Chairman, if they choose to use them. The labour people have the right to organize; they have a right to bargain for their worth. The business people in the community have a way of passing on increased cost of production on to the consuming public, Mr. Chairman. The tariff walls that are built in this country to protect the business community, and indeed to protect labour in that sense, are substantial.

You know, Mr. Chairman, as well as I do, and I'm sure all members in the House are aware, that the farm community in this country does not have the protection that is afforded to other segments of society and we can not ask them to bear the brunt of the market place on their own. It's time that we took a positive stand to improve the bargaining position of our farmers in Manitoba and in Canada. I know that some people will tell me that it is too early to set up an egg marketing board, or whatever have you — I'm just using that as an example — because there are too many producers and we have to wait until most of them disappear, then when we have just the big ones left we can get together. Mr. Chairman, when you only have

(MR. USKIW cont'd.).... a few big ones left you don't need a marketing board at that stage of the game. Substantially in the broiler industry today, substantially the numbers of people in that industry have been reduced over the years simply because the Minister on that side of the House refused to act. Not only this Minister, Mr. Chairman, but other ministers in the past.

I'm aware, Mr. Chairman, that as far as the broiler industry is concerned, that there are not too many farmers left in the business and that it isn't going to be too long, Mr. Chairman, until those that are left are going to reduce themselves in numbers further to the point where I wouldn't be standing in this House asking for protection for the broiler people because the ownership and control of the industry in a very short time, Mr. Chairman, will fall into the hands of just a few big giants, and this isn't the type of agriculture, Mr. Chairman, that I want to see developed in Manitoba. So I want to know what approach the Minister has, Mr. Chairman, with respect to the consistent requests by the farm communities for action in the area of marketing boards and so forth.

I have two briefs here before me and I'm sure you have all received the same ones, a brief from the Farmers Union, a brief from the Farm Bureau, Mr. Chairman, and they have devoted substantially to the cause of marketing boards within their briefs. In one I think there are five pages dealing with questions of marketing only, five pages of their brief deals with the question of marketing and similarly with the other one, Mr. Chairman. The people of Manitoba and the farm organizations, Mr. Chairman, want some action, they don't want any delaying tactics that may be employed by the Minister of Agriculture in the interest of some group not related to agriculture at all but related to the retailing of agricultural products.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Chairman, in his speech to the 17th Annual Convention, Manitoba Farmer's Union said many things about marketing and he talks about the fact that he has a Manitoba Marketing Board that is responsible to supervise, to instruct him or to inform him or advise him and to supervise in referendums on the question of marketing boards, and I know this is so, Mr. Speaker. But I also am quite certain that the Minister does not always take the advice of the Manitoba Marketing Board. That in many areas it's the Minister that is holding up progress with respect to marketing questions in Manitoba. And I suggest to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture that he ought to adopt a new attitude with respect to marketing of farm commodities. Because, Mr. Chairman, this is the only way in which farmers are going to get themselves into a position of bargaining power. This is the only way in which they are going to ask the market place for a reasonable return for their work and their production and their investment. Mr. Chairman, this is no more, no more than any other segment of our society asks for. No more at all.

There is a headline here where there is speculation that International Mills wants exemptions for their company in any regulations or controls of the Turkey Marketing Board. I'm wondering whether the Minister of Agriculture has made any concessions to anyone with respect to exemptions from the Turkey Marketing Board which is now being set up. I would like to know, I would like the Minister to give me that answer. Because, Mr. Chairman, if I may, I don't believe that anyone ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I would like to remind the honourable member that he has about four minutes left.

MR. USKIW: Thank you. Mr. Chairman I want the Minister to know that I don't want him to restrict anyone or to provide exemptions for anyone and I'm sure that the farm community of Manitoba doesn't want him to provide exemptions from the Natural Products Marketing Act for anyone in terms of commodities which we produce in Manitoba.

I don't want the Minister of Agriculture to bargain away the rights of producers in the Province of Manitoba. I think that he should recognize that they are equal citizens in society the same as all of us here, the same as the labour people, the same as the manufacturers, the same as the businessmen and they have a right, Mr. Chairman, to demand of the Minister, their rightful place on the bargaining end of the table.

I was happy to learn the other day, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister is going ahead with developing the turkey board and I thought perhaps in his remarks this evening that he would have elaborated a bit more on the question and I hope that before his Estimates are over, that we will have more information.

There is one area, Mr. Chairman, that I want the Minister to concern himself with and that is with the extension of powers required re international trade of commodities under

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(MR. USKIW cont'd.). . . . board control. Now I know that the government of Canada has the jurisdiction over interprovincial trade but I also know, Mr. Chairman, that where there are marketing boards established provincially, that it's a mere formality to get the extension of powers, constitutional powers from Ottawa to the provincial level, so that any marketing board that is setup in the Province of Manitoba or other provinces can control that particular commodity which is controlled by the board whether it be within the province or in trade with other provinces, interprovincial control.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say that the Premier of this province has said to us on an earlier occasion we are an affluent society; at the same time, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Agriculture says he knows that farm income is low. So I'm wondering when the Premier suggests to the House that we live in affluence in Manitoba, that whether he does that with the qualifications that he exempts the farm community from that affluence, because seemingly the Minister of Agriculture and himself don't get together on the question very often, they both made contradictory statements. So, Mr. Chairman, I suggest let's see fewer headlines and more good government action with respect to the department of agriculture. Let's appoint someone else, Mr. Chairman, to handle the Department of Highways and let's have a full-time Minister of Agriculture and let's get together with the farm organizations and the other provinces. Let's call that prairie conference, Mr. Chairman, because we have got to deal with the problems of agriculture. We can't shelve the problem any longer and we have got to bring to the attention of the people in Ottawa that there has to be something done. I suggest let's be first for a change, first - don't wait until someone else acts - let's do the acting ourselves and let the others follows. This is the positive approach in dealing with farm problems.

So Mr. Chairman, I move, seconded by the Member for Seven Oaks that item 1 (a) be amended by reducing the amount of \$15,600 to \$1.00.

MR. ENNS: One dollar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of the motion, please say aye.

MR. RODNEY S. CLEMENT (Birle-Russell): Mr. Chairman, it's rather late in the evening but I think as usual I'll try to be brief. It's going to be a little more difficult tonight to take part in this debate on agriculture as one who represents a rural constituency. I want to at the outset congratulate our part-time Minister of Agriculture. He is a very charming young fellow who I believe has tried to do his work to the best of his ability.

He is fortunate that he has a good department of agriculture underneath him that has been developed through the years, but, he is still the Minister of Agriculture and, Mr. Chairman, one man cannot be part-time Minister of Agriculture and part-time Minister of Highways and do a job. It is rather interesting to notice that agriculture in my opinion is the backbone of our economy. We have got about three Ministers, the Minister of Finance — oh I'm sorry I thought he was having a little snooze, he's still awake; four Ministers in the front row, there were only a few minutes ago, the Premier himself has got a comfortable chair there and he can look me in the eye just as well from where he is sitting as he could behind that microphone.

I want to say first of all that I was all prepared to give a 10-minute speech a few days ago when the Honourable Mr. Speaker thought that perhaps I shouldn't and technically he was right. However, it was rather disappointing because normally I only give a ten minute speech. There were about 35 members from my constituency sitting up above; I'm sure they would have loved to have heard me say a word or two. However, that's part of politics, you just can't have it all of the time.

So instead of a 10 minute speech perhaps I can work this one into about a 40 minute speech; I'll have to end up a little later or sometime tomorrow. However, the Honourable Member from Gladstone says take your time. Now maybe I should take a leaf out of his book, because he takes his time and he does a really excellent job. —(Interjection)— Sure he does and if some of the honourable members in the front row knew as much about agriculture as my friend from Neepawa does we'd be better off in Manitoba.

However, a few days ago in the coffee shop one of the honourable members of the NDP party was sort of, well he wasn't exactly complaining, but being a city lawyer, you know the way these city lawyers are, he said "You know Clement," he said and I won't use the word he said, but he said "eighty percent of the time in this legislature is spent on agriculture and he says twenty percent of the people are involved in agriculture. It doesn't make sense." Well, Mr. Chairman, I suggest to you that perhaps eighty percent of the people of Manitoba derive

(MR. CLEMENT cont'd.)..... their livelihood either directly or otherwise from agriculture, whether it be in the manufacturing of farm implements, fuel, feed plants, all the various departments connected with agriculture, and that one of the main reasons why the — the Honourable Leader isn't here; where is the Honourable Leader of the NDP party — why his party perhaps only derived twenty percent of their support from rural Manitoba. Because they are not familiar with agriculture and they don't care about agriculture. Look at the whole front row is away, we've got...

MR. USKIW: Would the honourable member permit a question?

MR. CLEMENT: Sure.

MR. USKIW: Where is the Leader of the Liberal Party?

MR. CLEMENT: The Leader of the Liberal Party doesn't need to worry when the Honourable Member from Birtle-Russell is here. And that's more than your leader can say.

I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that the Honourable Member from Ethelbert Plains, who is a nice sort of a chap, I understand he's a little under the weather right now, but if his constituency is still in existence when the next election comes around, that he'll have difficulty getting back here, because it was only through a few mistakes and a little inefficiencies in the Liberal Party that he got elected in the first place. So that will leave you perhaps to look after the NDP party, because there sure won't be any more —(Interjection)— Okay I only hope you are around after the next time, because I'd like to see you around here.

Where were they in Turtle Mountain? Where the devil were you in Turtle Mountain? Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the Honourable Member from Lakeside told us of the early days of this legislature when honourable members could stand up and talk for two and three hours and they went on until they were through with what they had to say. I'm not one who is endowed to speaking lengthily but it's high time that somebody in the legislature stood up and talked for a couple of hours and let the people of Winnipeg and Manitoba and these members in this Legislature, know a little bit more about agriculture.

There are some of you in here, and I happen to be one of them, whose grandparents came to this country in the early 18, I think it was 1882. It's men like your grandfather and my grandfather and perhaps our great grandfathers that made this country what it is today.

That's quite right, it's all right. Thank you for saying sure, sure sure but all the years that you fellows spent in a University, you never learnt much about agriculture. I would suggest though that the Honourable the Attorney-General, if he was made Minister of Agriculture has the ability and would get out and at least learn; it might take him a long while before he started kicking that stuff of the wheels, he'd be worrying about the shine on his shoes, but he could do it. This country was broke up somewhere between 80 and 90 years ago and it was agriculture that made Manitoba, agriculture and the fur trading business. I can remember my old grandmother talking about sitting in the room and the Indians coming in and chasing her around the room. I can remember — well they had knives and they were wanting something to eat. The Indians of those days were unlike some of the members on the Opposition Party today, I mean, they don't worry too much about eating and there sure as the devil wouldn't be anything there to drink. So my father even today at 80 years of age takes as great an interest in our farming operation as any young man. He can still skin a muskrat in two minutes flat and I defy anybody over there to even dirty their hands at that sort of a job.

But these are the things that made this country, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry I keep calling you, Mr. Speaker. However, perhaps you will be some day. I want to point out a little bit, and if I had the time and was taking the time, but this report of the Royal Commission on Consumer Problems and Inflation, it gives you a little bit about the background of agriculture. On page 383, the Prairie Development prior to World War II, I'm not going to take the time out to read it but if I had a couple of hours, I would. It would help some of you fellows. How many of you in the front row know that in 1929 the price of wheat was \$1.05; and in 1932 and 1933 it was 35 cents. Now the men —(Interjection)— you know that; well my congratulations. But, Mr. Chairman, the people who were farmers in those days and were able to go through those '30s — they call them the dirty thirties — stayed with agriculture, if it wasn't for the men and women that were in agriculture an awful lot of you fellows wouldn't be sitting over there today, I'll tell you that.

I could go on and spend quite a bit of time in there but it's not my intention to do so. I am basically concerned, and I was a few days ago, about this business of a part-time Minister. I think it's rather unfair; it's unfair to the Minister — admittedly the First Minister says

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(MR. CLEMENT cont'd.).... it's only temporary, but temporary would probably be like the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce - he said it would be "soon", soon we'll have a Minister. Well, perhaps we will. But it appears as if the Honourable Minister of Agriculture is perhaps slated for highways and I think he would be a good Minister for Highways. What do we do Mr. First Minister? I know it's of great concern to you. If I was the Premier of this province, I would have the best man in my ranks as Minister of Agriculture, it's important - it is this important and I'm serious. But where would you go? There isn't a farmer in the front row. I've already pointed out the Honourable the Attorney-General. If he made up his mind, he could do it. I'm convinced he could do it. The next gentleman beside him, the Honourable the Provincial Treasurer - I'm not quite so sure that he could do it.

A MEMBER: He could do it.

MR. CLEMENT: I just don't think he could dirty his hands that much because it's a rough job. Although he admits he's a friend of the taxpayer and coming to work the other morning in my automobile, and pretty near went through a red light, I hear this very charming and pleasant voice and right away I realized who was speaking. The question was asked to him about is there any chance of sales tax coming off of childrens school books and ... "oh he said, I have to beg off, I can't answer that question. It would have to be told in the legislature first." I've been listening for a week and I haven't heard him say that he's going to take it off of school books.

MR. EVANS: There's no tax on it. There's no tax on any books.

MR. CLEMENT: ... but you wouldn't know what that means. He also says he's a friend of the taxpayers. He's a friend of the taxpayers - not once did he say that but he said it twice. Mr. Chairman, I suggest to you that if the Honourable the Provincial Treasurer thinks he's got to depend on the taxpayers for his friends, he'll be the loneliest man in Manitoba. I'd just like to see him come out in the country and get mixed up in a little bit of conversation and arguments in some of these rural towns. I'm afraid, Mr. First Minister, we'll have to bypass the Provincial Treasurer. He couldn't do it. --(Interjection)--

The other two gentlemen - we've got a legal man and a radio announcer - I don't think we'll take him, but there we have the Minister of Municipal Affairs and I'm sure she'd like to get out of the job she's got.

MRS. FORBES: No, I wouldn't, Mr. Chairman. But I know more about farming than you do, I'm quite sure of that. So I accept that.

MR. CLEMENT: Mr. Chairman, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture is a little too quick to get off her seat. I'll admit that she knows more about agriculture now than she ever did about municipal affairs when she first came into it.

MRS. FORBES: Oh,no.

MR. CLEMENT: And I'm not saying you wouldn't be a good Minister of Agriculture, I would go along with that.

MRS. FORBES: Why - is the job ....

MR. CLEMENT: We'd give you a trial anyway but the wavy haired good looking man to your left we'd have to pass him by. Well anyway as far as the Cabinet Minister is concerned, we've got to forget about him. There isn't a farmer in the whole lot. But, Mr. Chairman, we have in the back row 7 full-time farmers. The Honourable Member from Arthur - yourself - is one of them. Perhaps one of the better. The Honourable Member from Springfield, the Honourable Member from Rock Lake, the Honourable Member from Dufferin. We come over here, the Honourable Member from Rupertsland, who doesn't say very much but he's got more between his ears than an awful lot of these fellows that are talking all the time; and we have the Honourable Member from Virden and what have we - the Honourable Member from Lansdowne. Mr. Chairman, these men are full-time farmers, but you were not elected here to be rubber stamps, just to stand up when somebody told you and sit down when you are told to. Let's hear you stand up and protect agriculture. That's what you're here for. I don't blame the Honourable Member from Lansdowne for getting a little hostile and talking about sitting in an independent seat. I sat in that independent seat for quite a few years. It's not a bad spot, particularly if you've got Mayor Juba behind you.

But Mr. Chairman -- you gentlemen, most of you haven't said a word yet. Most of you haven't said a word yet. I'm sure you can and I expect to hear from you. Last spring, when we were having a little difficulty with education in this legislature and I brought forward a resolution to increase the grants from the Foundation Program, perhaps you didn't get up and

(MR. CLEMENT cont'd.). . . . stand too much, but I'm sure behind those heavy oak doors down the hallway, something happened because you convinced the government to do something. Well, you can do this and keep on doing it. The Honourable Member from Roblin, who has been connected with agriculture all his life, he at least got up and said a few words the other day and told everybody how people rode around in fine cars up in that country. That's because they've got a good automobile dealer - no argument about that. I admire him for doing it. Now, getting back to business which is a little more serious, we have here the annual report of the department...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I wonder before the honourable member starts back on agriculture if we might call it 10:00 o'clock.

MR. CLEMENT: I'll give you something to think about anyway. Mr. Chairman, just before I leave, just before, I just want one brief - it will take me about 30 seconds. I'm very pleased to see the Honourable Member from Wolseley is back in the House, because if there's anything on earth that he knows a little bit about, it's agriculture, and this is the place to find it. I suggest to him, if he'd like to come out in Marquette we could teach him a little bit more about agriculture.

MR. LYON: Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I congratulate my honourable friend in his usual delicate intervention in the debate. I daresay I know far more about agriculture than he'll ever know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions and directed me to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

IN SESSION.

MR. DOUGLAS J. WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Springfield the report of the committee be received.

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

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Provincial Treasurer, 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 Tuesday afternoon.