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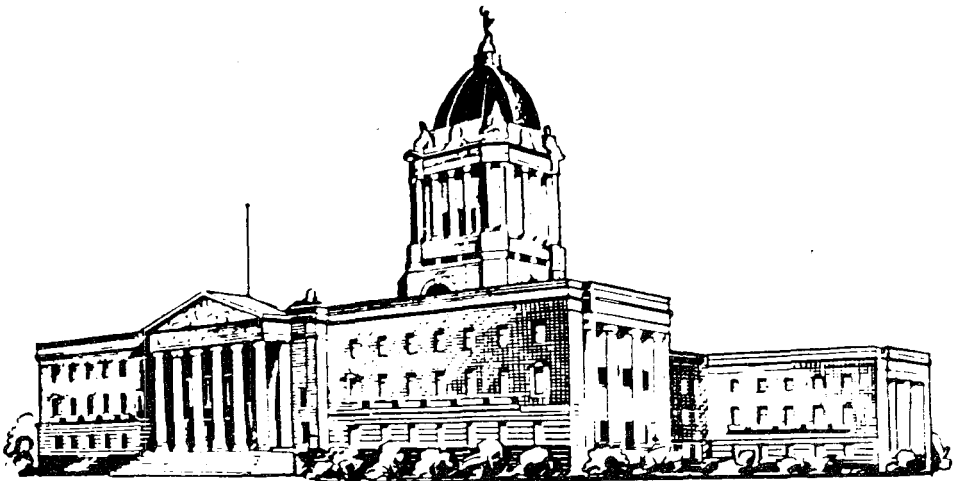


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable James H. Bilton



Vol. XV No. 13 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 11th, 1969. Third Session, 28th Legislature.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
8:00 o'clock, Tuesday, March 11, 1969

MR. SPEAKER: The Adjourned Debate - eighth day of debate. The Honourable the Minister of Government Services.

HON. THELMA FORBES (Minister of Government Services)(Cypress): Mr. Speaker, may I extend to you my congratulations on the method in which you conduct this House, and I wish for you the best of health during this session and those to come.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that just a little over a year ago you chaired a committee which brought forth a renewed set of rules, some new ones, and I think you must take great pride in having placed on the desk of each of the members of this Assembly this very nicely bound blue-coloured "Rules and Orders and Forms of Proceeding of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba." Mr. Speaker, this is the first edition, to my knowledge, that has been loose-leafed, and I am sure that as we proceed in this House and we find that from time to time our rules might be changed, that it will be a simple matter now to take one page out and have that rule amended or changed and put it back in the book without disrupting the whole book as we had to do in former times.

I would like to recall to your mind also, that although we concurred in the new set of rules, there was one item which had been brought forth by the Honourable Member from Lakeside that we did not concur in, and, Mr. Speaker, I would not like to lose sight of that, and that was the recommendation that this House at some time would give consideration to a permanent Speaker, and I hope that we keep this in mind and that we give it some thought and some consideration in the days to come. As the days go along we want to keep our rules updated and so probably we too might want to change our minds about the fact that you are there from session to session, but rather that you might like to occupy, or your successor if such is the case, occupy the position of Speaker and in a permanent manner. However, we might even think of other ways and our opinions may change, and I think ideas should be presented to this Legislative Assembly from time to time on that particular topic.

I also would like to extend my congratulations to the Honourable Member from Arthur who is our new Minister of Agriculture. I know that he is a farmer and that he has been a successful one, and I am sure that the policies that you will see coming forth from his department will be down to earth, worthwhile policies that will benefit the agricultural industry of this province.

I also would like to say how happy I was to see the three new members take their seats, and certainly I was more than happy to know that they took their seats on the government side of the House. I'm sure that this will recall to memory, for at least four of us, that some ten years ago we ran in a by-election too and in the year of 1960 we were presented in this House, and at that time it was the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Member from Rhineland, the Honourable Member from Turtle Mountain and myself. So I think that probably the four of us had some memories when we saw the others being presented to you, Your Honour, in this House.

I do want to extend to the mover and the seconder to the reply to the Speech of His Honour my congratulations for their efforts, and I think that I shall never grow tired of hearing a mover and seconder because they always do give us a very fine glowing picture of their constituency. I agree with all others that when someone like this gets up to speak, they always say that their constituency is the best in the country. But, Mr. Speaker, I have to take issue with them because certainly mine - the constituency of Cypress - is indeed the plum of all constituencies, and I certainly have the living proof of that, Mr. Speaker, because the honourable gentleman who sat on the Boundaries Commission quite recently, which decided on the redistribution, certainly decided that this gem had to be shared among all others, and you know what they did to it. The northern portion of my constituency, which includes the area of Brookdale, Welwood, Edrans, Pine Creek, Carberry, Melbourne, Sidney, Pleasant Point, Arizona, Worby, and Pratt, is now going to go into the constituency which will be known as Gladstone. And as if that wasn't enough, because they didn't split it in half but they really divided it by four, they took the portion which is north of the Village of Lavenham and all of Rossendale and they put it into the constituency of Portage. Now the other portion to the south from Cypress River, Landseer, Holland, Treherne, Rathwell and Notre Dame de Lourdes, they decided that they would award that portion to Rock Lake; and as if that was not enough, Mr. Speaker, they took the eastern portion, which includes St. Claude, Haywood and Wingham, and

(MRS. FORBES cont'd) . . . they gave that and awarded it to the constituency of Morris. So, Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to represent that gem of a constituency called Cypress and I shall continue to do so, so long as everybody lets me.

Mr. Speaker, there are many things on which I would like to speak tonight but I chose to try to inform the House something about women of Manitoba and the study on the Status of Women which took place in this province. You will recall that in February of 1967 the government of Canada appointed a Royal Commission to study the status of women across Canada. Now after the session that year, I decided that I would attempt to set in motion some method whereby the status of women in Manitoba would receive a comprehensive study, an investigation and the due consideration that is certainly deserved, and so I contacted as many women as I possibly could and I invited them to a meeting in my office for September 12th, because I realized that there would be very few around during the summer months. That first organizational meeting which was held in my office had representatives of 24 women's organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I was really enthused with the interest that the women who were present that day showed. They agreed, first of all, that they would get together and represent a single brief to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women when they met in Winnipeg, that each group would consider one particular area of concern only and do the research in that; and that they would meet again in October, on October 26th in fact, to produce terms of reference and to ensure that there would be no area of investigation that was overlooked and that all women in all walks of life in this province would be given consideration. So at that meeting on October 26th, Mr. Speaker, we had 125 women representing 40 different organizations, and individuals who attended and find that they would be willing to work on a volunteer basis - volunteer, Mr. Speaker - and they established the Manitoba Volunteer Committee. They proposed and they accepted their terms of reference and they elected their officers. The President was Mrs. Nan Murphy. They had Mrs. June Menzies as their Research Director, and to keep a record of everything they elected three secretaries, Mrs. David Glickman, Miss Ruth Loutit and Mrs. Margaret Lowe. To make sure that all was well organized, they had a steering committee and so everyone was off and running to make sure that Manitoba studied and were ready to report.

Now we recognized, although they were volunteering, that there would be certain areas where costs had to be met, and so on behalf of the government of Manitoba I agreed to provide meeting space and to publish the final report, and in order to make sure that the committee visited parts of rural Manitoba, I agreed to pay out-of-pocket money for those who went out into rural Manitoba.

I cannot commend too highly the women who undertook this tremendous task because they had a deadline to meet and that deadline was March of 1968, and meet it they did. They brought in a report which reflects the views of all women of Manitoba insofar as it was humanly possible to do. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the report has five volumes. The first volume deals with women in politics and public life; the second volume concerns itself with the study of social practices and legislation; the third recommends on taxation, pension and insurance; the fourth on women and the law; and the fifth, views in depth and recommends on education and employment. The volunteer committee made many recommendations which it felt would improve the status of women, but I hasten to add, Mr. Speaker, that if certain recommendations were implemented they would, in my opinion, be discriminatory to men; and, Mr. Speaker, we must be ever mindful and alert to this particular situation.

Mr. Speaker, if women really want to take an equal place with men in this world then they must be prepared to accept the disadvantages as well as the advantages of that equal place. If you will, they must accept the bitter with the better. If women seek the same job opportunity, then they must be prepared to do whatever is required in that particular job. If they are seeking promotion, then they must be prepared to do whatever that promotion calls for. As you know, many times a promotion means that you must be willing to move, perhaps from one city to another. You must be willing to work overtime and on various occasions for the good of the job. You must be able to give all of your energy and effort to that particular job and, as women, we must not fall back on the excuse that family responsibilities preclude our acceptance of any change in condition.

Opportunities do exist for women to make of themselves what they will, but I do not believe that employers can be faulted for not giving equal opportunities to women who are not prepared to accept them. Several of the recommendations in the report appeared to ask for special treatment for women, and I quote from one: "Government search out capable qualified women,

(MRS. FORBES cont'd) whether they be housewives or office workers, professionals or members of voluntary organizations, for appointed positions on public boards and commissions, and that governments prepare a list of available appointed positions so that voluntary organizations may be made aware of the openings and therefore able to submit the names of qualified women." Well, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, I would be more inclined to accept a recommendation which would read something like this: that women's and men's organizations submit to government a list of names of capable qualified persons, regardless of occupation, who would be available for appointment to positions on public boards or commissions.

But at this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize that the majority of persons on boards and commissions over the past years have been men, but this government has appointed many qualified women to public boards and commissions and they will continue to do so. I shall not attempt to enumerate the women who are on these boards but there are upwards of 50 women who have been appointed. I have a list of these and I intend to send this list to the Chairman of the Volunteer Committee so that they will know what women do sit on boards in the province. Personally, however, I do think that it is time that everyone stopped thinking of people as male or female and began really thinking of people as individuals, individuals, Mr. Speaker -- (Interjections) -- It's easy seeing the members are not following me because they're on a different channel than I am. No, Mr. Speaker, I think it's time that we began thinking of people as individuals, individuals who are assessed on their ability, their qualifications and their devotion to the job at hand, their integrity, and not on whether they are called John Doe or Mary Doe.

Mr. Speaker, as I examined the report of the Volunteer Committee I know that in their sincere efforts they attempted to report on inequities as they saw it, but they did not attempt to distinguish the area of responsibility, that is whether it was a federal or a provincial responsibility. This I attempted to do with an analysis of the committee's recommendations. I selected those which were a provincial responsibility, and I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that I did not have much time to do this and I did not complete the task until about mid-January of this year, but since, I have given to each of my Cabinet colleagues recommendations pertaining to their own departments and I report to you and to members of this House that the Ministers, and indeed their staff, have given and are continuing to give serious consideration to these requests. They have informed me that some recommendations are already available and we shall attempt to make the women of the province aware of this.

I think, Mr. Speaker, at this point that it brings to mind, and I'm sure to your mind, that it's ever a problem that is present with us as to how we make the public aware of existing legislation or opportunities, books or pamphlets that are ready and there for their use in life, and which they do not know about. But I am thinking, for example, of the report where it's asking for an information booklet setting out the laws and regulations relating to the rights and duties of separated and deserted families, asking for this to be prepared and published. Well, Mr. Speaker, you know that for some time there has been such a booklet. It was published by the Department of the Attorney-General. It can be had on request at the Queen's Printer, and it deals generally with the laws of interest to women, with a special section in it devoted to separations and the welfare of children.

There are other examples in the report which we hope to point out in a written answer to the president that such opportunities or pamphlets or legislation does already exist but, Mr. Speaker, there are other areas that do need attention, where remedial measures must be taken and possibly legislation. I understand that some legislation will be forthcoming at this session for your consideration and some will require further study, and indeed a great deal of preparation, before any recommendations can be made to the honourable members of this Assembly. But even if it is apparent that in many areas legislation does exist, we still have to, especially in the areas of education where there are technical opportunities and educational opportunities that women are not aware of, we must attempt to find some method of making this known to all women in the province because, Mr. Speaker, they apparently are not aware of it.

Discrimination does exist, Mr. Speaker, and we admit this, but I believe that it is not intentional, or that it is deliberate but rather that because of tradition and custom we have simply drifted into this pattern unknowingly. At first, you know, women were in the home only, but because of war a large number of men were away and women took their place in the labour force, and so, many women left the home for the first time and came out into the world, working as a man. Women again, today, have the equal opportunity of education which they did not have before, and so the whole picture has changed. By and large, though, I believe that men, where they are aware of discrepancies and discrimination, they will

(MRS. FORBES cont'd) be the first to acknowledge it and try to correct it. For instance, this one comes under federal legislation, but if a man should lose his wife through death, or if they are separated or divorced, and he hires the services of a housekeeper, then he can ask for the cost of this to be deducted from his income tax, but if it should be the other way around, if the woman loses her husband, and she finds that she is the breadwinner and she must go out into the world to work and she hires a housekeeper, then she is not able to deduct the cost of that housekeeper from her income tax. I'm sure that we know that that isn't fair and I'm quite sure that when it is brought to the attention of the federal people that they will attempt to correct it. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the commission was necessary. There are inequities and there is discrimination, and we as legislators must face up to it.

Second, Mr. Speaker, I believe where there are children a woman's place is in the home, but sometimes, through death of the husband or through separation or desertion or divorce, the mother becomes the breadwinner and then, Mr. Speaker, we have a different set of circumstances.

Thirdly, I believe that we must remember that not all women marry and this again presents another set of circumstances - the single woman; the single woman who should not be deprived of her right to elect the same privileges enjoyed by her counterpart, the single man. But legislation isn't the whole answer to the need at hand because it does take good-hearted spirit and co-operation of everyone concerned if we are going to make society carry out our good intentions.

And may I close, Mr. Speaker, with these remarks. I sincerely believe that if any individual wants to achieve any measure of success in any field, then it must come from within that individual. The measure by which an individual contributes to society is the same yardstick, in my opinion, that that individual will measure the benefits that he or she will receive from society. I am proud to be a woman, and I am proud of all women who conduct themselves so as to merit respect. I am glad there are men and I am proud of all men who conduct themselves so that they merit respect, and together men and women, as individuals and collectively, can and will continue to make society in Manitoba and in Canada one which we can surely term as just, and in public and on the record of this House, may I pay a glowing tribute to the women of Manitoba who gave of their time and their talents voluntarily to produce a report on the status of Manitoba women and who recommended certain changes to the provincial government and to the federal government, changes and recommendations, Mr. Speaker, which I sincerely believe must have serious consideration and action. Thank you.

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

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, during the debate on this motion known as the Speech from the Throne, it is usual that the members cover a multitude of topics. I, this evening, would like to cover many subjects but I think that there is one that is much more important than the others at this time, and in order not to detract from the importance and also for fear of being accused of maybe being partisan in my approach, I choose this evening to limit my remarks but to that one subject, and although I share the same sentiments of the members that spoke in this debate, that took part in this debate, this evening I will not follow tradition and I will dispense for the time being with the customary good wishes and congratulations because I wish so much, Sir, to emphasize my concern.

It is probably obvious to you, Mr. Speaker, and to all the members this evening that I wish to speak of national unity, speak about the satisfactory reaction between the French-speaking Canadians and other Canadians. This is important enough that all the members in the House of Commons agree that this should be number one on the priority list, and Mr. Stanfield calls it the most basic problem facing Canada today. Mr. Speaker, this evening I wish to speak not as the member for St. Boniface, not as a member of the Liberal caucus, but simply as a Canadian, a Canadian that is concerned, that is worried about the future of his country and of his province. I am only sorry that the First Minister is not in his seat this evening, because I feel that his attitude and the attitude of others to his right, their attitude saddens me because it is retrogressive, and it worries me.

This province, to its shame, has at times been most unfair to Manitobans of French origin, starting probably with the real father of this province, Louis Riel. It has made a mockery of the constitution through the now infamous Manitoba school question, and it has gone against the dictate of the courts, and the Premier tells us in this booklet entitled: "What Tomorrow Canada", and I'll quote from page 5: "Our constitutional framework has served us well in the first century." Then, a little further: "it is the belief of the Manitoba government that our

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . Canadian constitution has been an excellent servant of the Canadian people." Having said that, everyone should automatically believe this. Sir, it is practically a sacrilege to say otherwise. You might as well say that you are against motherhood. Many French Canadians were among the first pioneers, the real pioneers in the west, but they have suffered because they have been persecuted because of prejudices. Now, their rights - and I do say rights, not privileges - were stolen from them. We are not happy with being . . . question in Quebec, and I don't agree with it either. I think that it is wrong, but this is what happened in Manitoba many years ago, but it seems that when the shoe is on the other foot it is all right.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have fought and we have fought hard. We have fought for our rights. But I think that it is safe to say that the French Manitobans remain, always remain, good and loyal citizens of our country, of this country and of this province. It was a difficult battle. I think that the French Manitoba community has made a worthy contribution to this province and they've always been happy and eager to do so. It has been, as I said, a difficult battle, but lately we felt that we were progressing; our perseverance was finally being rewarded. We were better known; we were even less suspected. Myself, in the ten years that I've been here, I've seen an enormous change in the political climate of this province. At first, whenever I introduced a resolution or a bill dealing with this question, I was called a fanatic. I was threatened; I received all kinds of phone calls saying that the same thing would happen to me as happened to Kennedy in the States.

I've seen this hate that the Member from Emerson spoke about. I remember not too long ago when De Gaulle made his famous cry of "Quebec libre". There was so much hate. They had to get at somebody. They couldn't phone De Gaulle so they phoned me in the middle of the night and I was blamed for this because, on my father's side seven generations ago and on my mother's side eight generations ago, they came from this little part of Europe that De Gaulle came from, and if this is not hate I don't know what it is, Mr. Speaker. I'm a Canadian and I'm proud of being Canadian and I don't think that I should suffer any abuse because I happen to be of French origin.

Yes, as I say, at first whenever I introduced any of these bills, the government - and you might well remember, Mr. Speaker - killed these resolutions by introducing meaningless amendments, and I might say that, although I received quite a bit of support from my party, that I embarrassed the members of my caucus. It was as though by granting any of these demands, by giving any of these rights back where they belong, the members of this House would be committing political suicide, and this was mentioned many times in this House and outside of this House. But later, when the shock wore off - and it does, Mr. Speaker - the government introduced similar motions that passed unanimously. I guess that, in a manner of speaking I was blocking for the government. I was running interference. I didn't mind it at all because the role of the opposition is limited - there is so much we can do and that's all. I didn't mind at all if we had success in fighting prejudices. If any of the rights unjustly negated were being restored, it was enough of a reward in itself, and I was pleased to see that all the members of this House pretty well worked as a team, with the government carrying the ball of course, and I give them credit for this. We had to fight. We did everything we could in our own way, but I think that all the members of this House worked together and I think that this is why there has been so much change, so much political change -- the climate has changed so much here in Manitoba.

Yes, I was happy if I played a small part in making Manitoba a better place to live in. We're all Manitobans regardless of racial origin. We're starting to know, to respect, to understand each other better. It kind of became, in a few short years, respectable, not only to tolerate but to accept everyone as equal. But in just a few short months, probably starting from some time this past fall, the actions of the Premier of this province has changed all this, and if he persists, Manitoba will surely lose all the gains it has made so far. Try as he may, Mr. Speaker, the problem of national unity could not be reduced to a mere question of dollars and cents.

A year ago or so, the future of this government, and especially the future of the Premier of this province, the new Premier of this province, was not too rosy. It wasn't all his fault, Mr. Speaker; there were many reasons. And, as I said, I do not choose to get away from my subject and I will not enumerate them at this time, but I'm sure that every member here in this House tonight, if he wants to be honest, must admit - and that goes for members of the government side - that the government was on very shaky ground just a few months ago. But

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . then certain remarks made by the Premier brought fear to many. There were clear signs that in his desperation he might intend to resort to try to divide our people. This device to conquer is a strategy well-known to politicians, because unfortunately, in a country and especially in a province such as ours, it is often successful, but it is nothing new. It is true that through his action the Premier has achieved temporary success, and for those that feel that power should be attained at any cost, and that everything and anything should be allowed, should go in politics, well for them he's a realist too and he's a practical-minded politician, and they rushed to congratulate him. The fact that he probably got rid of his chief opposition, Mr. Molgat, who could never in the minds of many live down the great handicap of being of French origin, this was indeed the political coup of the century. What a victory. Yes, Mr. Speaker, what a victory. What a victory for the future of our country, of our province and our people. It appears to some that the action of the Premier has made it respectable now to have prejudice. What a victory for prejudice. --(Interjection) -- No matter what they say I intend to continue and finish this speech, Mr. Speaker.

Why then, must the Premier, while advocating certain changes, always bring in the language issue and say that it is less important. Why? Couldn't he just once try to fight for a better deal, as he says, from Ottawa without minimizing the importance of national unity? Does he believe that by forgetting national unity, by dividing our people, he has a better chance of obtaining something from Ottawa or something from the people of Manitoba? On the one hand he says, and I'll quote again from this booklet on Page 4: "Our federal system has served us well in another way, in that it has permitted, in fact encouraged, the continuation of cultural plurality in the preservation of language rights." Then he questions the right of the federal government to do just that, to bring in a bill to do this kind of work. It is true, as the Honourable Member from Emerson said, that again some of our people are starting to mistrust each other and a minority, I assure you, is afraid of the future, is losing faith in the good intentions of its fellow citizens and our Premier. And this, Mr. Speaker, is encouraging separatism. It seems that we ask: what does it matter if we are going backward? What does it matter if we're penalized and if we lose much important and hard-gained yardage? What does it matter if you must start blocking all over again, if you must go back to bloody noses, and if we have to look all over again for somebody that will carry the ball, that will not be afraid to lead in this important direction, what does it matter if the opportunist can stay in power?

This government has always talked of priorities, and now it has not only displaced satisfactory relations between our citizens as the number one priority but has wiped it right off the list by coining a word, "gradualism", a word that means exactly nothing, a word that certainly will welcome back prejudice with all its division, and yes, with its hate. How can you tell the people, "we will give you back your rights but we will do so gradually; only 100 percent of the people believe that you should have them back. You will be at our mercy but be patient. And until then, but in due course when we decide in our wisdom and without discussion with your leaders or with your people, but when we decide, then we will throw you a few crumbs and if you're fast enough you can pick them up." How would the First Minister of this province react if the rich provinces such as Ontario and B. C. should say to Manitoba, "We will agree to help you in the field of taxation. We will help you. We will help, agree to help the rest of Canada and the poor provinces, but we will do so gradually; we will do so when all our people feel that we should do it, then we will throw you a bone."

Mr. Speaker, the Premier of this province has the colossal nerve to say, and to say loudly to the applause of some of the members opposite me, that Manitoba can and will show the way to the rest of Canada. You might well ask, Mr. Speaker, "What Tomorrow, Canada?" Show the way to what? To backward progress, to prejudice, to division, to hate, to ignorance all over again? Foreword of this book by Walter Weir, and I'll read some of it. "The Constitution is not a dry document of interest only to lawmakers, historians and the courts; it is a living document that affects the way in which we shall continue to be governed and through which Canadians are served. Because of this, the widest consultation is required to ensure that all interested Canadians can have a say in the type of constitution we should have." - All interested Canadians and widest consultation, Mr. Speaker. And then it goes on to say, "Our purpose is to ensure equality of opportunity for all Canadians." And the last paragraph: "The Constitution must reflect our hopes and aspirations for the second century of nationhood. In it lies our future, our hopes, aspirations and our future in nationhood."

Some members, some of the leaders of the French-Manitoban community has tried to offer advice, to consult with the Premier, but he was always too busy. Finally, he did accord

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) them a polite but cool reception and they left there without feeling that too much progress is being made. "Equality of opportunity for all Canadians," he says, Mr. Speaker, "but gradually, take your time." The Premier also stated that why should he worry if the people of Manitoba does not understand the language bill? After all, this was the responsibility of the federal government. Sir, isn't this a narrow-minded attitude? And what is worse yet, he is directly responsible for much of the misunderstanding. He has done everything to give the impression that French will be compulsory, that it will be shoved down everybody's throat and that if the language bill is passed then all kinds of Manitobans will be hurt and that all the west will suffer. Does he mention anything about the bilingual districts in which the French-speaking population would have to be sufficient to obtain anything? Does he mention that probably there won't be any such district in B. C. and one, probably only one in Alberta?

Mr. Speaker, prejudice is not something that you can eradicate gradually. It is something brand new with every child, every new child that is born. A child is not born with prejudices, it's something that is transmitted to him by his parents. It is very contagious indeed. Sir, by standing up in this House and saying how wonderful everything is, this will not make prejudice disappear. By pretending that it does not exist does not mean that it will exist less, that we will get rid of it. Prejudice is probably - well dealing with the society that we live in - worse than cancer. It's something that will make people turn against -- brothers turn against brothers and so on. It is something that can destroy any country, Canada included. And it could be that there's only one way to work at this and it's the way that we were. I agree with the Premier when he said that during the last five years there was much more gained and obtained than there were in the previous 95 years. I agree with this statement, but I say that if he persists in the attitude that he has taken now, I think that it will hurt us an awful lot more. If we want to get rid of this prejudice we have to remember that it will be painful. It is a risky thing, politically, with certain people it will not be popular, but this is the only way that our country will progress and this is the only way that people with different beliefs, like we have in this country, in this province, people of different faiths can live together happy, progressing and united in diversity.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, how many times must we say and repeat that unity is not uniformity. Why don't we practice this business of live and let live? I am not moved so much at the sight of the Union Jack; I am not moved when somebody in this House will get up and say, "A British subject I was born, a British subject I will live and a British subject I will die", but I respect him and I do not want to stop him from feeling this way at all. There is enough room in this country for all of this. I will not lie and to say that I'm affected, that I'm all full of emotion when he says that. It doesn't mean a thing to me. But why should I prevent him from enjoying this, from wrapping himself with the Union Jack if he wishes - I don't care. But why can't all the people, not just the majority, have the same rights and the same privileges? I think that we have a unique chance in this country to show the rest of the world, to show the United Nations, how wonderful it can be when people try to work together, to respect each other's beliefs, tradition, culture and so on. I think that there is so much that Canada can contribute to the rest of the world. Yes, Manitoba can indeed show the way to the rest of Canada, but not by mere words and not by enunciating platitudes here in this House or anywhere else, but in the united leaderships of all the leaders, political leaders and otherwise. There shouldn't be any -- this should certainly be above any partisan politics.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote the words of one of Manitoba's native sons. "Dean Maxwell Cohen is confident of the future of Canada as a bilingual society." And I'm quoting from the Tribune of October 22nd, 1968. "In an address to the Manitoba Law School Foundation Monday, Dean Maxwell Cohen, head of the Law Faculty at McGill University, added, however, he is not confident that this can be reached without understanding on the part of all Canadians. A crowded meeting at the Monarch Life Auditorium heard the native-born Winnipegger declare, 'I believe that we Canadians possess the wisdom, the compassion and the courage to achieve a bilingual society in Canada and to create a people both unique and united. The question to be faced,' he said, 'is whether Canada can survive as a federal system embracing the French language of Quebec in the other provinces and developing in the process a self-image at home and an identity abroad that is identifiably unique.'"

I think that we have a great challenge here, Mr. Speaker, and it might appear that I was unduly harsh on the First Minister, but when you are dealing with things so important this must

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . take precedence over any political ambition, anything else. It is true that we have been progressing very well and you and I have seen it in a province the most westerly to us just a few months ago. We have seen things there that nobody thought would be possible just a few years ago. And even in Manitoba, I remember when I - and I think, Mr. Speaker, you brought in one of those amendments that I felt was a meaningless amendment but of course you were speaking for the government at the time - but when I brought in a Bill suggesting that French be made a language of instruction it was considered ridiculous at the time. It was just a figment of my imagination and I was just a fanatical nut, but two years after the same motion - in fact I would have been satisfied at the time, as I explained, for recognition - but two years after the government brought in a motion and I purposely asked for an official vote, a recorded vote in this House, and if you remember it was 54 for and none against.

Well, Sir, we are I think at the crossroad, important crossroad of our country. Will this country have any future as Canada, and if so, we certainly have to pitch in, all of us, and this has to be, as I said, this is something that definitely has to be above party politics but we have to pitch in and if we do so I think that we will achieve an awful lot and we will certainly make this country and this province a better place to live.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other day I was making some comments under the amendment from the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party and I wasn't able to finish what I had to say at that time. At this time I would like to bring forth a few thoughts on some other items that I felt and still feel are very important and that should be brought to the attention of this House.

I would like to remind, however, the honourable members when I did close off I wasn't able to finish what I had to say on the matter of a balanced budget and pay-as-you-go policy. There is a distinction here in that a pay-as-you-go policy includes capital, not just operating expenses, and I would like to quote just this other paragraph that I referred to the other day. "The pay-as-you-go philosophy may not appeal to the leaders of all governments in Canada because a government which subscribes to this philosophy inflicts a limit on its own powers. It also creates an unusual sense of pride and responsibility in its citizens and a sense of humility and service in its employees. I have seen a great deal more here of what I can do for my country and less of what my country can do for me," Day claims. That was the party I referred to the other day and, Mr. Speaker, I heartily agree with what he had to say in that respect.

Today, we heard the Honourable the Finance Minister mention that this government was floating another loan, borrowing from the United States, and the amount of interest that we will be charged with under that new loan. The figure of 7.9 percent was mentioned and this is a very high rate to pay. Indeed, by the time that loan will be paid off we will be paying for it more than twice if it's over a lengthy period, and I feel that as governments we are paying too much in the matter of interest costs. How often do we hear from members of other parties in this respect about interest. We hear very little. In fact, no one brings in a solution to the matter and this is where I feel that this House is very weak indeed. Two years ago, I think it was, the interest ceiling was lifted that the banks could charge, and we see what has happened since. We have enormous rises in the interest rates, even in the prime rates, and this need not be the case at all because we have the machinery in this country whereby the banks can extend the credit in this country and that the rate charged need be a very nominal one just to pay for the expenses of the banks in their operations, and certainly this is a matter that merits more discussions than what is taking place here in this House. I feel that the interest ceiling should definitely be restored and that banks should not have a free will and going sky-high on money that they lend to people and governments. The rate on the national housing is exorbitant in my opinion and certainly here we should have lower interest rates.

The Social Credit policy in connection with banking certainly has been heard of over the last number of years, and we have always advocated the progressive transfer to the Bank of Canada of the national debt and its orderly and ultimate liquidation, that this debt that we presently owe to the chartered or private banks should be transferred to the Bank of Canada so that the interest accruing would then go to the government coffers and would mean debts much less in taxes to pay by the people of this country. And this is an enormous amount because, as I mentioned the other day, the interest figure of the federal government that they have to

(MR. FROESE cont'd) provide out of current funds is one billion, 417-odd million in a single year. This represents more than 10 percent of the total federal budget and it's an enormous amount that we could save. There's no need why this has to go to the private chartered banks. This could go to the Bank of Canada which is the people's bank. The pay-as-you-go policy, as I mentioned, includes the capital expenditures as well as operations and therefore is something that we should recommend to this House and a measure that should be used in this House here in Manitoba. We find that in B.C. they are doing this and at the same time they are having very good results. Their provincial debt is paid off and the money that they would be using to pay interest costs can be used for other purposes.

Last year I mentioned the fact that we should have interim financial statements from the government here in Manitoba. I feel that this is still warranted and that we should have statements of this kind presented to the members of this House annually that would be more current. I have here a copy of the British Columbia News which gives an interim financial statement as of December 31, 1968, and surely we in this House should get information that is much more current. It states here: "I have presented to the House today, for the information of the honourable members and the citizens of British Columbia, the Comptroller-General's financial statements covering the provincial government's operation during the period April 1st to December 31, 1968. The report shows that with revenue accruals of \$688, 988, 000 and expenditures or accruals of \$649 million, inclusive of current operating and all-capital expenditures, we continue to live within our limits of our current income while at the same time providing high levels of service in all areas of provincial government concerned. The \$112, 316, 000, or 19.5 percent increase in the total revenues during this nine months' period over the same period in 1967 reflects the excellent condition of the overall provincial economy." And there is a few further remarks: "Total expenditures increased \$111 million or 20.6 percent, of which 26 million more went into education of our youth; 13 million into hospital insurance services; 12.8 million to social welfare; 8.8 million more into grants to municipalities; and 3.6 million to homeowner grants." So they are getting much more current information than what is given to this House in Manitoba.

Then also they are implementing new programs and giving more financial support to some that are already in effect. For instance, they too are increasing the direct grants to municipalities in that they're providing an additional \$3.00 per capita grant, raising the 25 to \$28 per capita grant to the municipalities. This involves the figure of \$5 million. This is quite a bit more than what we're giving our municipalities here in Manitoba. We're now increasing ours to \$8.00 whereas they're increasing theirs to \$28, so you can see the difference that the municipalities are in in B.C. compared to ours. The annual homeowner grant was raised from \$130 to \$150 in 1969. This is what we have compared to our tax rebate what we have in Manitoba which is \$50 in those areas that do not have the unitary system.

Then, too, they have in effect the home acquisition grant, which I mentioned last year, which gives any new couple, a young couple that buys their first home or any older couple that are buying their first home, an outright grant of \$1,000. Now they're coming out, in addition to that, with an alternative to that \$1,000 straight grant by providing a second mortgage loan, and I have the provisions here of the new housing -- or new Home Building Assistance Act provisions. "The main provision of the Bill introduced by the Honourable the Minister of Finance in the British Columbia Legislature on February 7th gives the following provisions: First, the provisions are the existing Provincial Home Acquisition grant of \$1,000 remains unchanged. Secondly, the loan is an alternative to the grant, that is a person can apply for either the grant or the loan but not both. The maximum amount of this loan is \$5,000. The loan must be secured by a second mortgage, that is, there must be a first mortgage. The interest rate is to be established by the Minister but can not be more than the maximum first mortgage rate for NHA insured loans. Each year, if there is no default, a refund of 10 percent of the required annual payments, but not exceeding \$50, is made to the borrower. This means a substantial reduction in the actual effective interest rate to the borrower. If the borrower was a spouse and the principle support of the family dies, the total debt is forgiven. The loan is available on new premises which have not been occupied before the 7th of February, 1969, and where the borrower is the owner or the first occupant. The applicant must have resided in British Columbia for a continuous period of not less than 12 months immediately preceding the date of purchase or the date of occupation."

Those are the provisions in the new Act in respect to getting help for a second mortgage loan, and certainly this is something that helps the poorer people, the people that can not get

(MR. FROESE cont'd) . . . monies from NHA for the full amount when they want to buy or purchase a new home, and this is and will be of great benefit to the people of British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard quite a bit about the constitution and its possible amendments during the few days that we have been sitting at this particular session, and when you hear people speak on the matter of the constitution, most of them come out by voicing that we must have a strong federal government. Mr. Speaker, I, too, believe in a strong federal government but not at the expense of the provincial government. I feel that we must have strong provincial governments and then we will also have a strong federal government.

Then, too, I feel that the matter that I have just raised, the matter of banking, should not be the sole prerogative of the federal government. Presently under the British North America Act that is the case, and I feel that this should be an area that should be subject to joint jurisdiction because we're too dependent on the banks for the provision of capital and for investment and also to bring about industrial growth and industry in general. Where we find the most industrial progress is where you have the banks, the head offices of the banks located. It's the central provinces where the banks are located that have the most increase and more industrial growth. This is also one reason why B. C. wanted a bank, and they have their bank. It's in operation, and in the few months that it operated they showed a surplus and a profit of \$240,000 in addition to putting quite a bit aside into reserves, and certainly this is what we need in Manitoba. We need a bank that would be oriented to Manitoba and would give the industries in this area probably more preference. I think it's also a necessity in order to do away with the regional disparities. I think this is one of the reasons why we have regional disparities, because whenever industrial concerns or larger businesses want to get loans they are being referred to head office down east for approval, and sure enough this has an influence on whether the loan is granted. I feel very strongly that we should have a bank here in Manitoba. We should have our own bank so that we would have a source of credit where credit can be created and expanded for these people in Manitoba.

We also find that the Maritimes are suffering for that very reason. They too are in the same category and this is where you have the lower income groups present. We have organizations such as credit unions, but we know that their powers are very limited. Certainly as far as extending the credit supply, it's nil, and this is not and never will replace the banks. Quebec has savings banks of their own and maybe we should investigate what we could do in that respect here in Manitoba.

Another area that I feel where we should have joint jurisdiction is in the matter of agriculture. We have agricultural departments both provincially and federally, but I feel that we should exercise greater powers in connection with agriculture here in Manitoba. One, for instance, would be in the licensing of grain varieties. We find that this matter is now solely in the hands of the federal government, and I feel that if we exercised this power here in Manitoba we could certainly benefit by it. We find, for instance, that we have only one variety of durum wheat listed in the variety of recommendations put out by this Department of Agriculture here in Manitoba. Surely, Mr. Speaker, we should have a greater variety and we should be more up to date on this matter. One new variety is coming out but the seed will not be available for general distribution yet. I attended a meeting of the North Dakota durum wheat celebrations out there. The following day they had a business meeting and they reported at that meeting that the business, as far as durum wheat sales were concerned, for the next six months were all captured by the United States, so that we will not have any markets for the coming months in connection with durum. All the durum produced in the United States is practically produced in the State of North Dakota which produces 85 percent of the total durum production in the United States. They have other varieties than what we have, yet we will not recognize these varieties and licence them here in Canada, and yet the countries that buy their wheat are only too glad to get it. So why can't we have those varieties which are much superior as far as yields are concerned, and other characteristics, and grow it here in Manitoba. We would be able to do this if we had a provincial licensing agency.

The same holds true for Triticale. This certainly is a grain that can be used for seed and is high in yield and therefore should also be licensed. Then when I take another look at the table here, there is nothing mentioned as far as spring rye is concerned, and getting two breweries set up, two new industries in Manitoba and not having a single variety of spring rye to seed, looks to be a very dismal picture. Surely enough we should see to it that if we bring industries of those kind that we have the necessary seed, that we can produce the crops that could be sold to this new industry. But if we haven't got the seed we can not produce it, and therefore our

(MR. FROESE cont'd) new industries will not be processing home-grown cereals for this use.

Mr. Speaker, one further matter that I would like to discuss very briefly has to do with the matter of assessment. We know that there was a case before the court last year in which the people took the government to court in connection with the assessment that they were awarded. The award was made in their favour and the market gardeners who took them to court won the case. This had to do with assessing of their properties which was assessed by the provincial assessors according to what speculators paid for land probably adjoining theirs and which have no relation to the land use which should be taken into consideration, in my opinion, when assessing farm lands. So that these people won the court, or won the award, but we find later on that the government appealed the case. And then on December 28th the following article appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press: "Land Ruling Upheld. Court backs gardeners on assessment." And a paragraph further down says: "Friday's Appeal Court decision upholds the principle that the yardstick for land reassessment is present land use rather than potential market value. It is thought future interpretation of Manitoba's Municipal Act, as far as assessment is concerned, will be affected by the disposition of the case."

I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, whether the government will take this into consideration when future assessments are being made. I note here that the Rural Municipality of Stanley, when sending out notices a year ago, they mentioned that property values had changed and that property values had gone up and as a result assessments had gone up. But, Mr. Speaker, I feel that this is not fair to the farmer who, regardless of whether the property is going up, his income will be no less or more because of that, and that in order to pay his taxes the assessment should be based on land use and on the possible income that he will have, and I feel that we definitely need a change in respect to assessment and to reassessing land in Manitoba and that, where we had assessments made upward because of the matter of increasing land prices, that they are being reduced to their proper level. Surely we know that business tax as such is based on rental value and that they will not pay any additional burden because of property values going up. That not necessarily has a bearing on it because it's based on the rental value. And I would hope that we hear from the government at this session to that effect that future assessments will be made accordingly, that they will be based on land usage rather than on the increased market value.

Mr. Speaker, I had some more things but I feel that my colleague or my deskmate here also wanted the floor, and I will at this time relinquish it to him.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my honourable friend for cutting his speech short. It really wasn't necessary for him to do so because at this stage I don't think that I can develop some of the points that I wanted to make. Needless to say, this will probably be the last speech that is made in connection with the Throne Speech debate and I will follow the tradition, Mr. Speaker, of congratulating yourself for the dignified manner in which you have conducted the proceedings of the House, and I'd also, Mr. Speaker, like to congratulate the three new members who have taken their seats this week. I hope to be in a position next week of congratulating a fourth, who hopefully will be a member of the group which I have the honour to be part of.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have made some remarks on the question of the Canadian constitution because I, too, feel that this is one of the most important issues facing the population of this country. It's an issue on which the divisions appear to be more apparent than real, and I think, along with what the Honourable Member for St. Boniface has said, that an element of racism has crept into the discussion on this question. I regret that very much and I must say, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable the Member for St. Boniface and the French-Canadian people are not the only ones who have an interest in seeing to it that the population of this country develops a mutual respect and mutual understanding for people of different ethnic groups. I am in a constituency which, if the Honourable Member for Emerson says that this constituency is a miniature United Nations, I'm sure that the constituency which I represent could likewise be labelled as such, and I think that the interest of the many Ukrainians is one in seeing to it that race does not become a feature of Canadian life, that is, negative attitudes respecting race. Certainly that community has been discriminated against as well as the French-Canadian community. Certainly the Polish people in my community have an interest in race not becoming a divisive element in the personality of our country. Certainly that community, especially during the past few years, was subjected to the most vicious type of ridicule in the long line of so-called

(MR. GREEN cont'd) Polish jokes which found their way by some strange mechanism into the everyday language of many ignorant people. Certainly the Germans, the Russians, the French-Canadians who live in my constituency, and the Jewish people in my constituency, know the problems that develop when the question of race becomes divisive and when people seize upon the question of race to possibly achieve gains which otherwise they could not achieve, and I certainly agree with the Honourable Member for St. Boniface that this country and all of us - French-Canadians, English-speaking Canadians, Jewish-Canadians, Ukrainian-Canadians - have an interest in this not being a divisive issue, because, Mr. Speaker, what the Member for St. Boniface said was true. If a community can't be divided on other grounds, then there are those in whose interests it is to divide, to divide them on racial grounds. Because on this issue our thinking, and that's each of us, is most subjective and less clear; and I have the notion, Mr. Speaker, that what the honourable member said was true. I just disagree with the way in which he says it came about.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that in the past five years, particularly from 1962 to 1968, there was considerable progress on this issue, and my honourable friend now says that the Premier, attending a federal-provincial Conference, somehow did some damage to the progress that had been made. Well how, Mr. Speaker? He never said anything that I understood to be a divisive statement on the question of race. He never said anything of that nature, and yet, Mr. Speaker, and I notice that for the first time in three years I have some of the Conservative backbenchers nodding their heads when I speak. But, Mr. Speaker, I've indicated that this is an area where people don't tend to think as clearly as they think in other areas, and what the people saw, whether the Premier intended it or not and whether the backbenchers agree or not, they saw a Premier from the west standing up to a man who apparently they saw as trying to legislate linguistic equality between French and English across the country. And they reacted, Mr. Speaker, I believe they did react emotionally on that question. They did have some of the reactions - and I've heard it in the community - that have been described by the Honourable the Member for Emerson. And it may be that some success was achieved on the basis of that reaction even though unintended.

But, Mr. Speaker, where did it start? There is a peculiar parallel to the Federal-Provincial Conference of this year, because last year there was a Federal-Provincial Conference, and last year it was publicly televised, and last year there was the Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec at that conference who was advancing what he thought - and maybe he was wrong - but he thought they were legitimate aspirations on the part of French-Canadians living in this country. And someone stood up to that French-Canadian Prime Minister, and who was it? It was Pierre Elliott Trudeau. And, Mr. Speaker, I say that the reaction in this part of the country was exactly the reaction which my learned friend now complains about and which he says was used as an issue to gain narrow political ends. And what did Mr. Trudeau do?

Now let's remember that for five years, Mr. Speaker, there was considerable progress on that issue, progress which I say, Mr. Speaker, as a Jewish-Canadian, I have significant interest in because I think that it's in my interests and in the interests of Ukrainians, in the interests of Poles and the interests of Germans, and in the interests of Icelanders, that this country not be a country which strives towards some homogeneous culture, and I can't say, Mr. Speaker, that my own culture should be one of the official cultures of the country or the official languages - because every culture needn't be official - but we have an interest in seeing to it that this country progresses on the basis of mutual respect for peoples, and the only official way that can happen is by virtue of the French-Canadian fact in this country.

And so for years, Mr. Speaker, this issue crossed all party lines. The Liberals certainly spoke of deux nations before the Conservatives spoke of deux nations. The Liberals certainly spoke of "special status" before the New Democrats spoke of special status. They still speak of special status. The Liberal Party in the Province of Quebec is committed to special status and has never changed. But the issue crossed party lines and it was never, therefore, made an issue upon which the Canadian people would be confronted until it was done by the man who subsequently gained success, not as the Premier of the Province of Manitoba, but as the Prime Minister of Canada. And I say, Mr. Speaker, that that's where it started, not with the Premier's visit to Ottawa, although I think the same characteristics were true and the same confrontation took place, a confrontation with somebody who was standing up against what appeared to be an advance by French-Canadians.

So, Mr. Speaker, I agree with the position that is advanced by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. I don't agree that there was any intention, but I agree that the feeling did

(MR. GREEN cont'd) . . . exist, but it existed not because of what the Premier of Manitoba started but because of what Pierre Elliott Trudeau did when he confronted Daniel Johnson a year ago on television at the same Federal-Provincial Conference and then made an issue of it in the election campaign, to the detriment, Mr. Speaker, of the progress which the honourable member says was made and which I agree was made on this question. Because other than that difference - and I submit that that difference is not a real one, that that is an emotional one - I agree with the Prime Minister of this province, the Premier of this province, that the real constitutional questions are fiscal, economic, that those are the issues on which this country has to be united and those are the issues upon which we have to agree.

But, Mr. Speaker, what is the argument between the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of this province? They both agree with exactly the same things as far as this constitution is concerned. The Prime Minister of this country has not only written a book, but has repeated time after time his policy that the Federal Government should get out of the cost-sharing programs where it interferes with provincial jurisdiction, which means that it would get out, Mr. Speaker, of \$99 million worth of cost-sharing programs which it now contributes to the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Weir's program is to the same effect and we see the beginnings of it, we see the beginnings of it in the resolution that is presented by the Honourable the Member for Winnipeg Centre where he says that the Federal Government should remove itself, abdicate itself from these cost-sharing programs.

Now I want to make one point, Mr. Speaker. Every time we get out of one of these cost-sharing programs we lose money, because those programs are so formulated that the Canadian Government receives more from the other provinces than it receives from the Province of Manitoba, and if the programs are proceeded with they pay more back in to the provincial treasury. And it's these programs, Mr. Speaker -- I'm going to conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker, by saying that there was no difference on these issues between the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of the Province of Manitoba; any fight that took place was a pillow fight; and the real division of the Canadian people was on the basis as the Honourable Member for St. Boniface put it.

MR. JOHNSTON: Would the honourable member permit a question, Mr. Speaker?

MR. GREEN: I'd be happy to have a question, Mr. Speaker, because I'd like to answer it, yes.

MR. JOHNSTON: Does the honourable member consider the recently concluded agreement between Canada and Prince Edward Island for \$728 million over the next number of years - is that his idea of Canada opting out of helping the provinces?

MR. SPEAKER: Two words.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister of this country has stated in his book, has repeated ever since . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. GREEN: . . . that he wishes to remove the Federal Government's participation in the federal cost-sharing programs.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I'm afraid we must deal with the matter at hand. It's some days since the honourable members heard the motion. I will repeat it for the edification of all concerned.

Moved by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake, seconded by the Honourable Member for Roblin, that an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as follows: We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subject, the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in Session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious Speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address us at the opening of the present Session.

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, that the address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be engrossed and presented by such members of the House as are of the Executive Council and the mover and the seconder of the address.

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

MR. EVANS: I have a message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Lieutenant-Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba estimates of sums required for the services of the province for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1970, and recommends these estimates to the Legislative Assembly.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Transportation, that the said message, together with the estimates accompanying the same, be referred to the Committee of Supply.

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Health and Social Services, that this House will at its next sitting resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, on this occasion I would like to take the opportunity to present a statement on behalf of the government concerning the estimates. The extensive reorganization of government departments which took place on October 1, 1968, is reflected in the expenditure estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1970, which you now have before you. The printed estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1969, have been adjusted by department appropriation and sub-appropriation on a comparable basis to fiscal 1969. This task has greatly increased the problems of estimate preparation this year, both for the departments and for the Budget Branch. I do not propose to discuss details of the reorganization at this time as these will become apparent during the debate on the estimates of each department. The government has approached the subject of preparing fiscal 1969 estimates with two main objectives in mind: (1) Holding the line on provincial taxation; (2) relieving the load on the municipal and school taxpayers by providing savings out of our regular estimates and making them available to him.

A matter of additional concern to us was the uncertainty which existed, and still exists, regarding the continuance of various federal-provincial cost-sharing programs. I intend to explore this subject more fully when presenting my budget address. This problem, however, has been uppermost in my mind when dealing with the preparation of the current estimates. Our general aim has been to hold the line on government spending wherever possible. We had to make provision for uncontrollable increases in the cost of labour and materials necessary to maintain essential government services. In view of our two main objectives, it was necessary to apply very stringent restrictions on departmental spending and to decide on those areas having in our view the highest priorities. To accomplish our major aims we had to cut \$51 million from the original departmental requests, and, Mr. Speaker, these requests were not light or frivolous proposals. Many things that we would like to have done have had to go by the boards. The citizens of the province may well have to get by with less services than they or the members of the Legislature would like.

In fiscal 1968 the Manitoba Hospital Commission appropriation included \$35,075,000, which represented estimated shared-cost receipts recoverable from the federal government. The Hospital Services Insurance Act, subsection (3) of Section 16, requires that these revenues be deposited to the Trust and Special Division of the Consolidated Fund. Therefore, these anticipated receipts from the federal government have been eliminated from both fiscal 1968 and 1969 in the estimates now tabled.

As a result of our intensive estimate reviews with the departments, we held our normal estimates to \$365,583,527, an increase of 7.3 percent as against the 14 percent average increase of the last two years. By holding the line on normal expenditures we have been able to allocate a total of \$10,787,815 specifically and additionally for the purpose of relieving the increasing tax burden on the municipal and school taxpayers. In summary, these special allocations will consist of the following:

(a) A special addition to the school grants under the Foundation Program totalling \$5,800,000. This will be over and above the requirements for normal growth which have otherwise been provided for.

(b) Grants for urban transit assistance will be increased from \$264,800 in fiscal 1968 to \$513,000 in fiscal 1969, an increase of \$248,200.

Unconditional grants to municipalities, local government districts and areas will be

(MR. EVANS Cont'd.)... increased from \$3.00 to \$8.00 per capita. Unconditional grants will thus total \$7,601,304 in fiscal 1969, an increase of \$4,750,815 over the current year. With these special additions in relief of the municipal taxpayer, the total estimated expenditures for fiscal 1969 will rise to \$377,843,687, an increase of 10.5 percent.

Education continues to account for our largest single expenditure, increasing from \$136,555,926 in fiscal 1968 to \$149,457,365 in fiscal 1969 and accounting for 39.6 percent of the total government spending. School grants have received special attention, as I mentioned previously. They will increase from \$71,323,000 to \$81,020,000, an increase of 13.6 percent. Grants to the three Manitoba universities will increase from \$36,600,000 to \$43,750,000, an increase of 19.5 percent.

As a very important part of the reorganization of government departments on October 1, 1968, the former departments of Health and Welfare were combined into the new Department of Health and Social Services. On a combined basis the new department will account for 25.4 percent of total government expenditures in fiscal 1969. The proposed expenditures for this department total \$96,035,599, an increase of \$8,594,976 over 1968.

Mr. Speaker, the estimates now tabled total \$377,843,687. These are the largest public expenditure recommendations ever made by a government of Manitoba. They represent a concerted effort to hold down provincial taxation, to provide special relief to school and municipal taxpayers, and to provide those very essential public services which have long been demanded and approved by this House. These estimates will ensure that all vital aspects of the social and economic life of the province are supported to the fullest possible extent.

I look forward to presenting to you in the near future with ways and means by which the government proposes to meet these expenditures. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, I commend the expenditure estimates to the study of the committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the intention that we -- I believe the business is completed to now, is it?

MR. EVANS: There is a motion before the House, Mr. Speaker, that the House will at its next sitting resolve itself into a committee to consider of the supply to be granted to Her Majesty. Is that the motion I presented? -- (Interjection) -- Put the question.

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Labour, that this House will at its next sitting resolve itself into a committee to consider ways and means for raising of the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I may, if my understanding is correct the Honourable the Provincial Treasurer did indicate that this committee would not meet, or we would not go into this committee until some time a little later in the month. I think that this should be clarified at this particular time, particularly in view of the fact that we have three or four new members in the House and just to bring up to date the situation respecting -- even those of us that have been around for a little while.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I did indicate that I would not be prepared to bring down my budget before, or much before the end of the month. The day has not yet been fixed or decided upon and so I am not able to tell the day upon which I would propose the traditional motion that the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of ways and means for raising of the supply to be granted to Her Majesty. That motion will come some time, if not at the end of the month, then probably early in April.

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

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the House would permit me to make a couple of observations about House business, particularly relative to tomorrow's sitting. The Committee of Supply will be called tomorrow after the Orders of the Day and discussions have taken place with all sides of the House with respect to the first department to be called. I believe everyone is in agreement that the Department of Labour will be called first tomorrow. After there has been further discussion we'll then be in a position to give the whole list of the departments after the Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the New Democratic Party and the Member from Rhineland have had an opportunity to consider the matter further.

There is one other item of business that I might mention at this time with permission, Mr. Speaker, and that is a Bill standing on the Votes and Proceedings in the name of my colleague the Minister of Education relative to the Foundation grants. That Bill will receive

(MR. LYON Cont'd.)... first reading tomorrow and it is a Bill which will be distributed tomorrow. It's a Bill that provides for the increase - presuming that the message from His Honour is with it - it provides for an increase from 65 to 70 percent in the Foundation Grant and also contemplates the situation relative to the vote that will be taking place on unitary divisions and making retroactive to the 1st of January of this year the grants that are available to divisions that choose to become unitary divisions in the forthcoming vote. It would be the hope of the Minister that the House would be disposed, not necessarily tomorrow because there will be a large number absent tomorrow, but perhaps on Thursday to give accelerated readings to this Bill because of the importance of it in the drawing up of budgets of the various school divisions across Manitoba. I believe the date March 15th is the date that has been expressed. I am not seeking any commitment at this time because I was not able to make or to have consultations with the Leaders of the other parties to indicate that this would be the government's hope, that we could obtain unanimous consent from the House to move the Bill along fairly rapidly in its stages. I think it will become apparent to members when they see the Bill that this may well become possible. If, on the other hand, there are matters of debate that arise, and of course if anyone objects it can not be done, but when the Bill is distributed tomorrow I hope that members will have an opportunity to see it and perhaps to give consideration to moving it along as quickly as possible in order that there might be some hope of the Bill being passed on or about the 15th of March, getting Royal Assent very rapidly, if that is possible, in order to facilitate the budget-making processes of the school divisions in Manitoba.

MR. PAULLEY: May I ask my honourable friend a question in connection with this? Would it be your intention, if consent was granted, that the Bill be given second reading tomorrow and go into Committee of Supply?

MR. LYON: I think that would depend — tomorrow I know my honourable friend will be absent, the Leader of the Opposition will be absent, very probably the Premier and others in the House will be absent. Tomorrow might not be a propitious day to do that, but Thursday might be a more suitable day. If there is any disposition tomorrow to do that, by all means we would like to take advantage of it, but having regard to peculiarities of attendance tomorrow, Thursday might be the better day.

MR. PAULLEY: If I may, Mr. Speaker, I might say that the disposition of our group would be not to brook any delay in giving to the municipalities the pittance, and in order to facilitate the making up of their ballots we would be prepared, but of course, Mr. Speaker, with the reservation of every member of this group having an ample opportunity to express their opinion respecting the Bill.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, there is a resolution on Page 13 of the Order Paper standing in the name of the Honourable the Provincial Treasurer. I wonder if that item could be called now — at the bottom of Page 13.

MR. SPEAKER: The Proposed resolution. The Honourable the Provincial Treasurer.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor recommends a proposed measure to the House. I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, that the resolution standing in my name — I move the resolution standing in my name on the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: Moved by the Honourable Provincial Treasurer, seconded by the Attorney-General — are you ready for the question?

MR. CHERNIACK: Are you calling the vote, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: I was.

MR. CHERNIACK: That's what I thought you were doing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John's.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a point of order before the Honourable Member for St. John's speaks. I think it has been agreed in past sessions that either the mover of the motion or Mr. Speaker would read the motion into the record so that for the purposes of Hansard it is recorded, so I would suggest that in keeping with the practice that we continue to follow that procedure.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to do so.

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly at its Second Session of the 28th Legislature on Friday the 24th day of May, 1968, established a Special Committee of the Legislature consisting of Hon. Messrs. Craik, Evans and McLean and Messrs. Bjornson, Cowan, McKellar,

(MR. EVANS Cont'd.)... McKenzie, Guttormson, Hillhouse, Shoemaker, Green, Paulley and Steen to review the variations in automobile insurance rates, as well as any rate increases which have been effected in recent years, for the purpose of considering and weighing the factors to which these increases have been attributed and thereby assessing the justification for such increases, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing to investigate all aspects of automobile insurance as it deems appropriate for the purpose of safe-guarding the interests of the public and to make recommendations;

AND WHEREAS this Committee reported on Friday the 28th day of February, 1969 to the Legislative Assembly that the Committee has not completed its work and requested that it be constituted with the same powers as outlined in the resolution passed by the House on the 24th day of May, 1968;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Special Committee of the House consisting of Honourable Messrs. Craik, Evans and McLean, and Messrs. Bjornson, Cowan, McKellar, McKenzie, Guttormson, Hillhouse, Shoemaker, Green, Paulley, and Steen be constituted to review the variations in automobile insurance rates, as well as any rate increases which have been effected in recent years, for the purpose of considering and weighing the factors to which these increases have been attributed and thereby assessing the justification for such increases, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing to investigate all aspects of automobile insurance as it deems appropriate for the purpose of safe-guarding the interests of the public and to make recommendations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Special Committee have power to sit during this Session and in recess after prorogation;

AND to report to this House during this Session or at the next Session on the matters referred to it;

AND THAT the said Committee may exercise all the powers of commissioners appointed under Part V of "The Manitoba Evidence Act";

AND THAT the Provincial Treasurer be authorized to pay out of the Consolidated Fund to the members of the said Committee the amount of expenses incurred by the members in attending the sittings of the Committee, or expenses incurred by the members in the performance of duties ordered by the Committee, in recess, after prorogation, as approved by the Comptroller-General.

AND THAT the Provincial Treasurer be authorized to pay out of the Consolidated Fund all other expenses of a kind and nature required to assist the Committee in carrying out the provisions of this resolution, and provided the same have received the prior approval of the Treasury Board.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John's.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, because of the unhappy history of the meetings, or lack of same, of committees of this House between sessions, and because of the government's apparent reluctance to see to it that some of the committees should function, I have a proposal to make which I hope will be acceptable to the government, disregarding what I said up to now and just considering the method in which one would proceed with a committee of this type, and I hope that it will be an acceptable amendment to the government so that we could proceed on that basis.

I therefore move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains, that the following paragraph be added at the end of the resolution:

And that the first named convene the first meeting of the said committee within thirty days of the passing of this resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Judging the hour, I think I'll take this matter under advisement and give it a little consideration.

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