

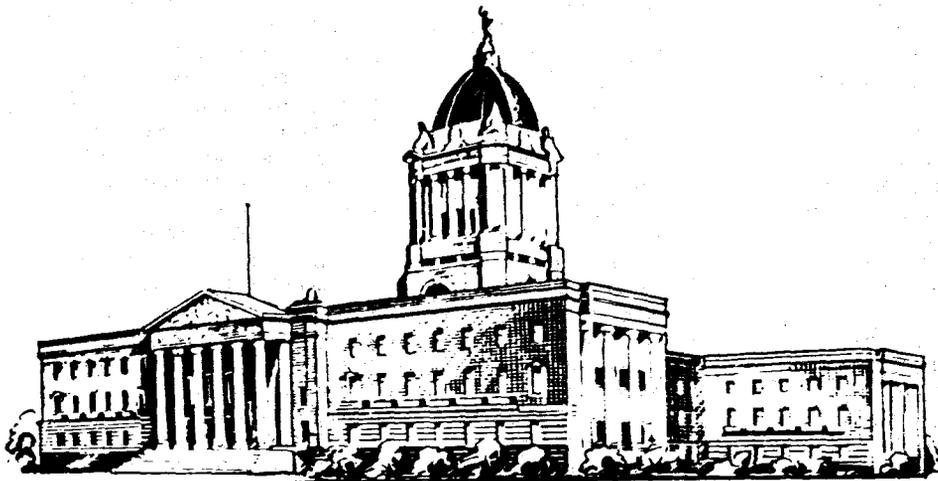


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

Speaker

The Honourable Ben Hanuschak



Vol. XVII No. 30 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 8th, 1970. Second Session, 29th Legislature.

ELECTORAL DIVISION	NAME	ADDRESS
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	Reston, Manitoba
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	10 Red Robin Place, Winnipeg 12
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	Binscarth, Manitoba
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon, Man.
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	11 Aster Ave., Winnipeg 17
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg 20
CHURCHILL	Gordon Wilbert Beard	103 Copper Rd., Thompson, Man.
CRESCENTWOOD	Cy Gonick	115 Kingsway, Winnipeg 9
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtniak	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ELMWOOD	Russell J. Doern	104 Roberta Ave., Winnipeg 15
EMERSON	Gabriel Girard	25 Lomond Blvd., St. Boniface 6
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	Cranberry Portage, Manitoba
FORT GARRY	L. R. (Bud) Sherman	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg 9
FORT ROUGE	Mrs. Inez Trueman	179 Oxford St., Winnipeg 9
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.
GLADSTONE	James Robert Ferguson	Gladstone, Manitoba
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
KILDONAN	Peter Fox	627 Prince Rupert Ave., Winnipeg 15
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	Woodlands, Manitoba
LA VERENDRYE	Leonard A. Barkman	Box 130, Steinbach, Man.
LOGAN	William Jenkins	1287 Alexander Ave., Winnipeg 3
MINNEDOSA	Walter Weir	Room 250, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	Box 185, Morris, Man.
OSBORNE	Ian Turnbull	284 Wildwood Park, Winnipeg 19
PEMBINA	George Henderson	Manitou, Manitoba
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	361 Burrows Ave., Winnipeg 4
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Room 248, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RADISSON	Harry Shafransky	4 Maplehurst Rd., St. Boniface 6
RHINELAND	Jacob M. Froese	Box 40, Winkler, Manitoba
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	2 River Lane, Winnipeg 8
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	1516 Mathers Bay, West, Winnipeg 9
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	Inglis, Manitoba
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	Glenboro, Manitoba
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RUPERTSLAND	Jean Allard	119 Provencher Ave., St. Boniface 6
ST. BONIFACE	Laurent L. Desjardins	357 Des Meurons St., St. Boniface 6
ST. GEORGE	William Uruski	Box 629, Arborg, Manitoba
ST. JAMES	Hon. A. H. Mackling, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johannson	15 - 500 Burnell St., Winnipeg 10
ST. VITAL	J. A. Hardy	11 Glenlawn Ave., Winnipeg 8
STE. ROSE	Gildas Molgat	463 Kingston Crescent, Winnipeg 8
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SOURIS-KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	Nesbitt, Manitoba
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
STURGEON CREEK	Frank Johnston	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg 12
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	Swan River, Manitoba
THE PAS	Ron McBryde	56 Paul Ave., The Pas, Manitoba
THOMPSON	Hon. Joseph P. Borowski	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	Kenton, Manitoba
WELLINGTON	Hon. Philip Petursson	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
WINNIPEG CENTRE	J. R. (Bud) Boyce	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg 3
WOLSELEY	Leonard H. Claydon	116½ Sherbrook St., Winnipeg 1

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Wednesday, April 8, 1970.

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

HON. SIDNEY GREEN Q.C. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to request the indulgence of the House with respect to the report of the committee commonly referred to as the Northern Task Force. Members well know that I was the chairman of the committee, but in convening the committee I indicated that I would not be able to participate in its activities as much as I would like to have, and that the Member for The Pas, the Honourable Mr. McBryde, did much of the chairing of the committee. I understand the rules say that the chairman of the report will table the report unless he is absent. I would ask the leave of the House to permit the Honourable Member for The Pas to table the report.

MR. SPEAKER: Is leave granted?

MR. WALTER WEIR (Minnedosa): Leave granted, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage La Prairie): Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. RON MCBRYDE (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the First Report of the Special Committee as a Task Force on Northern Affairs. Copies of this report will be distributed at once to all members.

MR. CLERK: The Special Committee as a Task Force on Northern Affairs beg leave to present the following as their First Report:

MEMBERS: Reading dispensed.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Flin Flon, that the Report of the Committee be received.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, the report will be distributed to the members of the Legislature as I stated. There's also available to the members in the library a two-volume, a full summary of all the hearings, and the actual transcripts in their very rough form are available in the office of the Planning and Priorities Committee for people who want to do some detailed research on this report.

I would like to offer **apologies** to the Legislature for the fact that this report was made public, or happened to be made public, before it was tabled in the Legislature. I'm satisfied in my own mind that it was not a member from our party or a member of the staff who allowed this information to be released. Letters dealing with the number of the complaints, problems, suggestions raised, were sent to the appropriate departments of the provincial government, entered into the private sector and into the Federal Government. When we took on the job as the Northern Task Force, which, as you know, was a bit of a hybrid in this Legislature in that we had four citizen members on our Northern Task Force, we bit off probably a bit more than we could chew at that time. We travelled to over 41 communities and I'm not sure how many meetings we had all together. The fact that we were able to get this, which is only an Interim Report, to the Legislature this Session, and the fact that we were able to get around the North as we did, I think that we owe a lot of thanks and gratitude - and I'm sure all the members would agree with me - to Mrs. Norma Dietz who was our executive-secretary and who made our travelling arrangements and who did most of the work on the Interim Report which is before you right now.

In terms of the isolated communities that we visited, two or three years ago I don't think we would have got the type of response we were able to get when we visited the North. Communities had really not progressed to the stage where they really started to deal with their problems, where they really had examined themselves. In this regard we owe a lot of thanks to the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood and the Manitoba Metis Federation for their work in talking to people in the isolated communities and getting them to think about the problems that they face as a community and as individuals in that community so that they could be prepared when the Task Force came to talk to us about their community and about the problems they face. I

(MR. McBRYDE Cont'd) . . . know for sure that the Metis Federation sent a number of workers ahead of us to various communities in order to get the communities thinking about the types of things they wanted to tell the government or the Legislative Task Force.

We also had with us in our northern visits, we were fortunate to have some newspaper men travel with us, and I see that we also have one of them who followed us here to the Legislature - I'm not sure whether it's a demotion for his poor reporting of the Task Force or promotion for his good reporting of the Task Force.

The report, Mr. Speaker, is broken down into a number of sections. The first is sort of the terms of reference or the activities of the Task Force, telling what we did. The second is the outline of the problems from the communities' point of view and some of their ideas, or some of their suggestions, as to how these problems could be dealt with. The final section, or the third section, is the interim recommendations, and I would like the Legislature, the members to keep in mind that this is an Interim Report. We hope to do more; I'm not sure if as many of us can devote as much time as we did for this report, but we hope to do more in this regard if we're reconstituted.

At the end of the report is a short submission by the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood. The Brotherhood didn't feel that sort of some of their ideas or attitudes were being reflected in the report and we gave them permission to attach an appendix to the report to state their position on some of the issues. I think it was very -- we are fortunate that the Opposition took a stand and insisted that we have some southern members on the Task Force. I think it was good for us to have them along and for them to be able to get the feel or the attitude or the experience of being in Northern Manitoba. Perhaps it would have been better if we could have even had some Cabinet Ministers along so that they could have a better idea of the attitude and feelings of the situation in Northern Manitoba from firsthand experience rather than through continuous interpretation until it gets to the top.

I think this is one of the problems of this report, Mr. Speaker, and I think the members will agree that it's pretty near impossible to get across in a written report what you pick up in the communities, especially in the terms of the attitudes and the feelings of those communities, and I wish there was some way we could do it better. Perhaps next time we'll take a film crew with us and show you a movie if we bring back a northern report. Even in the matter of us speaking in the House, and I know the Honourable Member from Churchill and the Honourable Member from Swan River have made a valiant attempt to get across some of these feelings and attitudes from Northern Manitoba, but it's still very difficult for us to do that.

You know, Mr. Speaker, it's difficult to describe to you the feeling of the old man in Easterville who was telling to us in Cree the story of their community and saying how their hunting was good, their trapping was good, their fishing was good, their community work - the people were happy in their community. Then, as he went on, losing something through the interpretation I feel, to explain now that they had to be moved because of flooding how their trapping had gone down and been almost destroyed, how their hunting was much poorer and how they had to depend solely on fishing, but more important, how the community sort of fell apart in terms of being a community, in terms of its leadership and how it functioned, and he explained the social problems that they're having in this community, these are the kind of things that are very hard to get in a written report like this.

It's quite hard to get across to you the feelings of the young miner at Lynn Lake when he was telling us about their canned TV or their delayed TV that they have there, and when he told us the story of how he had wanted to watch the moon-landing. He had heard it on the radio; he wanted to see it on TV finally when it came about, so he went to the beer parlour and he bought a case of beer and he went to a friend's place and put his feet up on the stool and relaxed in order to see the moon-landing on TV - one week late but still to see it on TV; and how, as they sat there relaxing, the film stopped just before they touched down on the moon because they had only sent one reel to that TV station in the north. These kind of things it's very hard to get across in this type of report.

In regard to TV it's hard to get across the feeling of the people at Wabowden where they have a microwave transmitter sitting right in their community and yet they can't get TV in Wabowden. And people don't understand this. I'm not sure I understand it, but you can sense their feeling in this regard. It's even harder, of course, to get across to you the feeling that we had when we got lost one night as darkness was closing in and weather was closing in and we didn't know where we were. I don't think we'll ever be able to explain that feeling. I think it's

(MR. McBRYDE Cont'd). . . hard to explain the feeling of the young parents in an isolated community who try and tell how they have felt and how they know they're going to feel again in the future when one of their children is sick and there's no doctor or no nurse to treat that child and the weather is bad; they haven't been able to get radio contact for two or three days, and there's nothing to do but sit and worry and wait and hope that they will be able to get their child to some sort of medical attention. And then if they are lucky enough to get their child to medical attention, they get a bill for two or three hundred dollars for the charter flight they had to make, which completely disrupts any budgeting they had done.

It's hard, especially hard, to get across the strong feeling of frustration that many of the northern residents have in regard to government services that affect the north; the feeling that there are paternalistic or controlling government agencies that affect their communities, and to see the frustration and the anger, or in some cases the apathy and complete disinterest that develops because of various government approaches in Northern Manitoba. These are some of the things that we can't put into this report, Mr. Speaker, but I hope that members will be cognizant of these sort of things. I hope that the report will give the members of the Legislature and the government a little bit better understanding of the north and its people, and that we'll be a little bit more effective in our relationships with the people of Northern Manitoba. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry, that debate be adjourned.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At this point I should like to introduce to honourable members guests we have with us. In my loge on my left, we have the Honourable Alvin Hamilton with us this afternoon. On behalf of the members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you.

I would also like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery, where we have with us 100 students of Grade 11 standing, of the Kelvin High School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Alward and Miss Speers. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. On behalf of all the honourable members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you here this afternoon.

REPORTS BY STANDING COMMITTEES (CONT'D)

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debates. The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Osborne. The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. BILTON: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the honourable member, if the House would allow this matter to stand. (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion. Introduction of Bills. Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

STATEMENT

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the government's position with regard to mercury contamination of Manitoba fish. The possibility that some of our rivers and lakes were being polluted with mercury was revealed late last year. Since then, federal and provincial authorities have been carrying out an intensive research program to determine the source, extent and potential effects of this pollution. While this research was being carried out, the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation continued to buy all fish caught by Manitoba fishermen. The corporation is a federal agency and is for all practical purposes the sole buyer of fish in Manitoba. All fish received by the corporation were checked, and those which were contaminated were withheld from the market and destroyed. The corporation was able to buy and dispose of the contaminated fish because the federal Department of Fisheries and Forestry agreed to reimburse it for any losses sustained while the problem was being clarified. Unfortunately, the Federal Government unilaterally terminated this arrangement on March 31st. Since then, the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation has refused to buy mercury-contaminated fish.

On Monday, April 6, the Federal-Provincial Prairie Fisheries Committee met here in Winnipeg. This committee is composed of the Deputy Ministers and other senior civil servants

(MR. GREEN Cont'd) . . . who have been concerned with the mercury problem. I am informed that the committee reviewed the results of research to date and made certain recommendations. The following facts have been established:

1. Federal health authorities will not permit the sale of fish which contain more than .5 parts per million of mercury.
2. Specimens of pike, pickerel, sauger, bass, perch, sheepshead and goldeye taken in the Saskatchewan River, Cedar Lake and Lake Winnipeg have been found to contain more than .5 parts per million of mercury.
3. Whitefish and tullibee are not contaminated.
4. None of the fish species in Moose Lake, Lake Winnipegosis or Lake Manitoba are contaminated.
5. A Saskatchewan chemical plant, which is alleged to be the source of mercury pollution in the Saskatchewan River system, has ceased to discharge mercury into the river. Federal authorities have located a chemical plant in Ontario which is alleged to be the source of mercury pollution in the Winnipeg River system, and this plant has taken and is taking action to eliminate the discharge of mercury into the river system. It appears that the Red River system is also being polluted and federal authorities are now working with the United States officials to locate and shut off the source of mercury.
6. Once the pollution of the province's water is stopped, the degree of concentration of mercury in our fish population should gradually be reduced. The flushing action of the spring run-off should help matters, but at this time we are unable to say exactly how long it will take to decontaminate our fish.
7. The Department of Health and Social Services stated earlier this year that the casual or accidental consumption of moderate amounts of contaminated fish is not a health hazard. Health authorities have now elaborated on this statement as follows: "A person may eat one meal of fish, with levels of mercury content found in Manitoba Lakes, per week without running any risk of illness. However, eating more than one meal per week may constitute a health hazard, and dependence on such fish as the main source of protein is potentially dangerous. People should not consume more than one meal of such fish per week.

The Department of Mines and Natural Resources is now considering the implication of these facts for the commercial and sports fisheries in the waters affected. The Federal-Provincial Prairie Fisheries Committee makes this recommendation and I am writing to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry to determine what decisions will be made by the Federal Government as a result of these recommendations. Following the receipt of response from the federal Minister, the Manitoba Government will make a decision relative to these matters.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that I could make a definitive statement after all of the decisions that have to be made are made, but apparently there is a need for information and I have no hesitation in supplying that need.

I would also indicate that I have communicated with the Honourable the Attorney-General and have asked his department to now look into the legal implications of the sources of the contamination to see what steps can be taken, both with regard to compensation for loss, and also with regard to any type of action which is necessary to further ensure that the source of pollution, when discovered, could be cut off and stopped. By sheer coincidence, the Manitoba Federation of Fishermen is meeting in Winnipeg today and they have also asked to meet with me later in the day and I have indicated that I will meet with that committee. They've passed certain resolutions relating to decisions that government should make or should not make; I would indicate that the statement here does not indicate a decision being made by government but merely information to the House and to the public as to just what situation we find ourselves in today.

In my letter to the Minister of Fisheries in Ottawa, I have also pointed out the fact that there is a suggestion that there will be funds available to compensate Manitoba fishermen, and I've indicated that I would be prepared to meet with him on these questions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for his report. It does strike me, though - I believe he said, "one meal per week" - would there be any way in which this can be brought home to the people in those areas affected that do certainly eat more than one meal per week; probably one meal a day.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, my intention is to disseminate the Health Department's

(MR. GREEN Cont'd) . . . statement and then this, in collaboration with my colleague the Minister of Health, to as many places as we can possibly get it to, with particular reference to places that we sent an earlier statement which contained a reference to accidental consumption, and which said that a person would have to eat 2,000 pounds at one sitting to be affected. Now that's a rather unrealistic kind of a proposition but it didn't refer to ongoing and a steady consumption of fish, and that is why we want this particular statement to be known to anybody in the areas that is involved with fish containing mercury content.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, I note that we have moved into questions on the statement and I think, as a result of the Minister making a statement, that other parties in the House are entitled to make a statement and I would ask permission for the Member of Lakeside to be able to reply on our behalf.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the remarks of the Honourable the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. My first reaction that I would like to convey to the government benches is that we on this side, and the former government, are every bit as much concerned with the situation that's developing, and I welcome the absence on the part of the Minister in his remarks this afternoon of attempting to in any way bring a political connotation into this or in any way to attempt to imply that lack of action on the part of the previous administration had something to do with this. This is not the situation and I appreciate -- I just want the Minister to know that I appreciate him not doing this. We are the recipients, unfortunately, of pollution that is entering our province as a result of the very natural fact that we are the basin for large drainage sheds, large drainage areas, and I commend the government and the Minister for taking the necessary action, particularly the reference to the Attorney-General's Department, to certainly have the source of pollution come to an immediate end, and of course the very serious questions of responsibility that may well be attached before we come to the end of this question. So, from the first flush, I just wanted to make that statement, as a member of the previous government and indeed as the former Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, that I commend the department's alertness to the situation and the government's action in this regard.

There are, however, some further, I think rather immediate situations that the Minister would be well advised to look into and to inform the House and the public as soon as possible. For instance, it's known that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation carries in stock a large amount of fish in most cases. What is the situation with respect to that fish that is presently in storage and is moving on the shelves of the consumers today? Is there any possibility of for instance contaminated fish reaching the market at this time? There is a wide group of people, for instance the Weight Watchers, who are on fish diets, who probably eat more than a normal amount of fish. Unfortunately, the per capita consumption of fish, you know, isn't that which the fishermen perhaps would like Canadians to be eating, but there are special individual groups - and I mentioned one, the Weight Watchers - who use fish as a source of protein, who eat an above average amount of fish, so I think, in terms of future statements to the House, to the public, that there should be some statement forthcoming from the Minister that would indicate to the public in Manitoba that the present supply of fish being held, either in cold storage or in supply by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board, is in no way endangering the health of those that use it, and just what the situation is in general in that respect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Minister for the statement he gave us today. Last week when I questioned him on the subject, my concern was particularly, at that time, the fishermen in Cedar Lake, who were the ones directly affected. Since then, though, the situation seems to have worsened and other parts of Manitoba are involved. I don't need to tell the Minister how very seriously this is going to affect a number of regions in the province where fishing is a major produce for many people.

I would appreciate if he would do everything he can to publicize the fact that certain lakes are absolutely clear - he mentioned Lake Winnipegosis and Lake Manitoba - to ensure that people in those areas know that this is the case. Now, I understand that the Ontario Government has decided to compensate fishermen in their province who are in the position of having contaminated fish, and I was hoping that the Minister would be in a position today to

(MR. MOLGAT Cont'd) . . . announce what the Manitoba Government is prepared to do in this regard. Last week he indicated that he was putting some pressure on Ottawa to continue their compensation, or at least to purchase the contaminated fish, until the 15th of April, but if Ontario is prepared to move on compensation, then I would appeal to the Minister to give this matter very serious consideration. It is not something that can drag on for any length of time because the fishermen must know whether or not they will be paid for any fish they catch right now.

I'd also appreciate some clarification from the Minister regarding the sport fishing situation.

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Would you permit a question?

MR. MOLGAT: Yes, certainly.

MR. SCHREYER: Before the honourable member goes on to raise matters relative to sport fishing, could I ask the honourable member to clarify his statement to the effect that the Government of Ontario is considering the payment of compensation to fishermen whose product is affected by contamination. Could he tell us whether the Government of Ontario is prepared to do this within a defined area and could he tell us whether it is not a fact that in the area of northwestern Ontario that comes under the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board's jurisdiction, in that area there is no similar undertaking by the Government of Ontario?

MR. MOLGAT: No, I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I do not have as ready access to information from the Government of Ontario as undoubtedly the government has, and if the Minister, or the Premier, can tell us what the facts are, I will be happy to have them. I don't know what they are. All I know is that I understand that compensation is going to be paid in some way to Ontario fishermen, and I would be very anxious that those of our fishermen who are affected not be in an inferior position.

So coming back to the sport fishing, I seemed to understand yesterday from news reports - and this is not statements made in the House - that there is a possibility that certain waters would be closed to sport fishing in Manitoba. Now if that is not the case, then I would appeal to the Minister to make it very clear immediately, because the tourist industry here could be very seriously affected and I think we owe it to the tourist operators to give them warning of this as early as possible. Then, of course, the next thing that will arise is whether compensation in that area will be available as well, because if we close off certain waters completely to sport fishing it is going to have a very serious effect on a number of people who operate basically tourist fishing camps, but this cannot be allowed to drag because the longer this goes on without a definite statement by government, I think the worse the situation is going to be.

Insofar as the present fish on the market, as pointed out by the Member for Lakeside, the Minister indicated last week that there was no contaminated fish presently offered for sale, that all the contaminated fish had been purchased and destroyed. Again, this should be made very clear to the public in the province; otherwise the price of fish may be seriously affected. If the public are afraid of potential contamination from fish present on the market, then our whole pricing could be very, very seriously affected, and the fishermen who are fishing in waters that are not contaminated would be suffering from that loss of price as well, so I would appeal to the Minister to make it absolutely clear that any fish on market is safe fish and that there should be no alarm or concern by anyone who is a fish buyer.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, just a few words in connection with the statement. Did I hear correctly when the Minister spoke, that after the spring run-off that the contamination might no longer be there and that as a result the lakes and rivers that were intended to be closed might remain open for fishing purposes?

Then, too, he mentioned the Prairie Fisheries Committee that met yesterday. Were representatives there of all the prairie provinces and the Federal Government?

And the final question is: If I remember correctly from press statements, that the Maritimes, some of the Maritime provinces, are going to be compensated where they had trouble in connection with the fish, and is it because of the Freshwater Fish Corporation that we are now not getting assistance from Ottawa or that this corporation will be a hindrance . . .

MR. GREEN: Junk! What you are saying.

MR. FROESE: Well, I'm asking the question so that . . .

MR. GREEN: You know that it's not true.

MR. FROESE: Well, if the Federal Government is going to assist the other provinces if

(MR. FROESE Cont'd) . . . they have trouble of this kind, how come they will not assist in this case?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I regret that although it's suggested that the remarks that I'm . . .

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that debate at this time is allowed. The Minister has made a statement and . . .

MR. GREEN: I've been asked to answer some questions, Mr. Speaker, and I'm now treating those questions . . .

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, with due respect, I don't think that a debate is permissible at this time.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker I was asked to answer some questions and I . . .

MR. SPEAKER: . . . the Honourable Minister is permitted to answer questions.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, he talks about the political nature. The question that was asked just makes no sense at all. The fact is that I indicated in the statement that the Federal Government did pay the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation for purchasing fish that were mercury-contaminated all winter and they've been doing it all along, and the presence of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board, in my opinion, if anything made that possible rather than detracted from that.

With regard to the fish that has been sold by the Marketing Board up until now, my understanding is that any mercury-contaminated fish were destroyed and paid for by the Federal Government. That has happened all year.

With regard to compensation. My information on this - and I've indicated that I've written to the Federal Minister to find out just what they're prepared to do - my indication is that the Federal Government is doing similar to something that I indicated that we would be prepared to do last week, and that is to somehow finance a suit by the fishermen against the polluting agents and then recover the money. Now, whether that is or is not what they are doing, we are establishing a contact with the Federal Government as to just what compensation will take place, and our own Attorney-General is now going to be working on the question of just what damages could be recovered.

With regard to the lakes being closed or not closed; one of the reasons that I did not want to make an interim statement is that I really don't know what's going to happen. My inclination is to think - and this is dangerous - but my ~~inclination~~ inclination is to think that we will be able to continue with sport fishing in all the lakes, provided the sports fishermen knew what they were doing and behaved in accordance with the fish that they caught, in accordance with good health conduct. Now that's just an inclination and that's why I sort of was reluctant to make a statement before I knew exactly what we're going to do, but obviously, because of the news that has come out, a statement has been made necessary.

Regarding what we are going to do with the lakes generally, that still has not yet been decided, and again I await what the federal department says must be made of the recommendations that have been advanced to them. I don't even want to explore the possibilities because I would like to have, first of all, their firm position and then I would be prepared to make a recommendation to the government.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: We are on Orders of the Day, are we, Mr. Speaker? Am I in order to ask a question now?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just pass along one or two comments with respect to the Minister's statement. The thing that comes to . . .

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . to have a ruling from you as to whether or not it is permissible for every member of this House to get up in replying to statements by Cabinet Ministers. If the honourable member is asking a question, that's perfectly all right, because we are on Orders of the Day.

MR. BEARD: May I have leave to make a small contribution to this or ask a long question?

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave to make a statement?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, may I have a ruling from you first as to the permissibility of the honourable member making a statement at this time.

MR. GREEN: . . . my honourable friend. If the honourable member asks for leave, then

(MR. GREEN Cont'd) . . . it's unnecessary to have a hypothetical ruling; therefore let's not have a debate on a point of order unless leave is refused.

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): . . . showing off today, that's all.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave?

MR. G. JOHNSTON: On the point of order Mr. Speaker, I think that the Independent member of the House should have some latitude and if he asks for leave then we'll have to take the chances. (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I do not intend to take up too much time on this. I would like to ask the Minister - and I'll ask it in the form of a question if this satisfies the Honourable Member from Morris (we want to keep his nose in position) - but will the Minister undertake to consult with the Minister of Social Services in respect to welfare, because there must -- along the line there'll be requests for compensation from the Indian people that are involved in this because there will be many that have used fish as food not once a day, and may be not 2,000 pounds in a meal, but on a continuous basis and I think that there will be probably a request to the Federal Government for assistance where they're treaty, and I would hope that the Ministers can be ombudsmen, not only for the treaty people but also for the Metis people that do in fact use fish on a year-round basis for meals.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that my honourable friend's request will be taken into consideration; and again, I don't like to be talking about everything that has been going on but in the last two weeks I've asked the department to advance recommendations for alternative employment programs if we come to the stage that there is a problem that can't be coped with in any other way. So I assure the honourable member that my mere failure to refer to them in the last three weeks doesn't mean that we haven't been looking at them. I just did not wish to announce them because I didn't want to create either false fears or false hopes. Now I'm past that stage and that's why I've made this announcement.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. On Tuesday night last in an address to the students at Red River Community College, he is purported to have said that the Manitoba Development Fund will give to those firms who desire it, instead of loans, equity from the MDF. Is this correct?

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, indeed I did have the pleasure of addressing the students at Red River Community College the other day. Questions were asked pertaining to the government's attitude with respect to the actions of the Manitoba Development Fund in taking equity positions. I pointed out to the students in the group that under the terms of The Manitoba Development Fund Act, I believe under Part 2, authority already exists, legislative authority already exists for the Fund to take an equity position, or at least this is my understanding, if the Fund so desires to take that equity position.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I have two questions then. The first one is: would it be clearly understood, then, that a firm has a free choice of a loan or asking the government to take an equity position? So that would be a question. Anyone coming to the Development Fund for assistance would have a clear choice between a loan or equity. --(Interjection)-- Well, let the Minister answer. I'm talking about someone who applies for assistance. And the second question is: if a firm has received monies from the government and given an equity position to government, then would that firm be treated on an equal basis when it came to competing for government services or supplying of contracts?

MR. EVANS: Well I would hope that -- I don't know whether it's that easy to answer your second question. I would hope that fairness will always prevail.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: . . . prevail in Saskatchewan.

MR. EVANS: This is a hypothetical problem and some of my honourable friends in the Federal House, I note, always stand very firm on this point and they refuse to answer hypothetical questions. With respect to equity versus loan, I would think that the managers and the Board of Directors of the MDF would have to treat each application as it came along and depending on the particular circumstances. In some cases, I know for a fact that there are many small firms in Manitoba today who are having difficulty in raising equity and it's possible

(MR. EVANS Cont'd) . . . that the MDF may see fit that they can stimulate that particular industry or enterprise by taking an equity position. In other cases a loan is the type of assistance, financial assistance, that's called for. So I would say that each case must be treated on its merits and the objective should be to stimulate the maximum amount of economic development that is beneficial to the people of Manitoba.

MR. FROESE: A supplementary question to the matter being discussed, if I may ask the Minister of Mines and Resources. Whenever equity position will be taken by the Fund, I take it that this will be disclosed, be an open matter? --(Interjection) -- Oh, I'm sorry. The Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, the question of disclosure is a very interesting problem or question at this time. You know that there are limitations to disclosure under the Act as it now exists and therefore, as long as this particular Act is in existence, the disclosure provisions, or the secrecy provisions if you wish to refer to them as this, must apply.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does this mean that the Fund is going to operate as it was, plus a new policy added, or a complete new policy?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, as we have indicated in the Throne Speech we hope to re-vitalize the Manitoba Development Fund to make it an even more effective instrument for economic development in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. Today the Honourable Mr. Olson, the Federal Minister of Agriculture, speaking over CKRC made the statement that all ministers of agriculture in the three prairie provinces had agreed to the federal policy in regard to the wheat reduction and wheat acreage payments. Is this correct?

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac Du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether I ought to accept that as a fact because it's quite often the case that news media doesn't report accurately. I want to say that Manitoba took no such position, and further I want to say that I had met with Mr. Olson this morning and had further discussion with him along the same lines that I had discussions with Mr. Lang some one week ago. There was one concession that apparently is coming through in the program, as was outlined by Mr. Olson to me this morning and indeed to the news media, that I'm aware of, and that is that with respect to quotas, and in particular because Manitoba finds itself in an awkward position, that anyone diverting wheat acreage into special crops will be able to use the acreage in question for quota purposes to get rid of wheat inventory. Now that is the only concession that, as I see it, was made so far in the program. And again I indicated to Mr. Olson that the program does not appear to at all apply to Manitoba because of our peculiar position and I don't know where my honourable friend gets the idea.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: . . . a supplementary question, and may I say to the Honourable Minister that I did not get an idea, I simply directed a question regarding the statement of the Federal Minister of Agriculture, and I ask him again now; has he changed his position now in regards to federal policy? He stated first in this House when the first question came up and my honourable friend and the First Minister both stated that they were in favour of the federal policy, that it was a step in the right direction.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I don't know where my honourable friend gets all the bull from. I stated in this House . . .

MR. WATT: It comes right from that side of the House.

MR. USKIW: I stated on a number of occasions -- I stated Manitoba's position in this House on a number of occasions and I don't intend to repeat it again. Manitoba is not in accord with federal policies.

STATEMENT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK Q.C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to make a statement on the Report of the Underwood, McLellan and Associates Limited, dealing with the Churchill River diversion. I have today received copies of the report from

(MR. CHERNIACK Cont'd) . . . Hydro. I might indicate that the report consists of some seven volumes. No. 1 - they're not numbered, but the first is the Churchill River Diversions - Study of Alternative Diversions; and the second is Appendix A to the above engineering investigations. The third is Appendix B to the above. Resources Investigation, Volume 1 of three volumes; and then 4 and 5 are Volumes 11 and 111 of the Resources Investigations volumes. Number 6 is the System Power Studies related to the study of alternative Churchill River diversions; and Number 7 is Appendix E to the above.

Now I've made arrangements with the provincial library that within the next hour a copy of the complete set of seven volumes will be picked up at the library. It has been indicated to me that three of these volumes are of more particular interest; that is Item 1, the discussion of resource values for various diversions; Item 2, the engineering aspect of the diversions considered; Item 6, the studies leading to the selection of a favoured scheme, taking into account Manitoba Hydro's expansion requirements.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I propose now to send to the Whip of the Conservative Party two copies of those three volumes - two sets of the three volumes each. I propose to send to the Liberal Party one copy. I will be furnishing the New Democratic Party caucus with two sets and I will be sending another two sets of the three to the library in addition to the full set of seven. And may I indicate that of those volumes which are not being sent over to the various caucuses I've been informed that the other volumes are of lesser general interest but, as I say, they will be in the library. I'm also told that Item 7, which is an appendix, is almost unintelligible even to an expert. It consists of apparently large numbers of figures of computer runs. I am further informed by Manitoba Hydro that a press release is being issued by Hydro today following a board meeting. I thought, therefore, that it might be of interest to members of the House for me to read the statement which I understand is being released by Hydro, by the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro Board. It's a bare three pages long and I assume it will be of interest so I propose to read it.

"A medium level Southern Indian Lake development is recommended by Underwood, McLellan and Associates in their latest reports to Manitoba Hydro said David Cass-Beggs today, commenting on the final section of the report that has just been received. The proposal put forward by the consultants is that Manitoba Hydro should start at once to construct a diversion from the Churchill via Southern Indian Lake that would raise the level to 854 1/2 feet and provide a reservoir with a level fluctuating between 854 1/2 and 852 feet. While this level is above the natural level of the lake, it is considerably lower than the original proposal which involved raising the lake to 869 feet. The consultants have undertaken a very thorough evaluation of the resource aspects for a wide range of levels and have assembled valuable data as to costs that can be incorporated into the study of any of a range of diversion projects. This important material forms the first report under the title 'Churchill River Diversions Study Of Alternative Diversions' dated February, 1970. Specific studies of the operating costs of the Manitoba Hydro System as it might develop over the next twenty years as reported in the Associated Report on System Power Studies dated March, 1970.

"From all of this data, the consultants have selected and recommended the compromise solution, taking into account the resource values involved. Mr. Cass-Beggs points out, however, that the new proposal which he describes as a medium level project, still involves some flooding and resource losses and will not necessarily be adopted as it stands by Manitoba Hydro. The report qualifies his recommendation in many directions, and in fact it would not be possible to proceed with a specific recommendation without first satisfying a number of conditions and verifying a number of assumptions that are made in arriving at the recommendation. For example, the report gives prior place to a diversion in Saskatchewan via the Sturgeon-Weir River and ultimately into Lake Winnipeg. This would appear to be the most advantageous, at least in the early stages. However, it is unlikely that the necessary agreements and licences could be obtained for such a scheme in time for it to be undertaken as the initial stage of a development. Moreover, although the report does not recommend control of Lake Winnipeg, it is doubtful that additional water could be introduced into Lake Winnipeg without the simultaneous development of controls at the outlet, which would permit a great release of water in the summer months.

"Another important condition or assumption on which the revised scheme is based is that it would be possible to consider Reindeer Lake, which is almost entirely in Saskatchewan, as storage that could be operated for the benefit of Manitoba Hydro. At the present time this

(MR. CHERNIACK Cont.d) . . . storage reservoir is used by the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company in its power supply for the Flin Flon activities. It is the assumed availability of this additional storage which would be somewhat larger than the storage provided by the original high level scheme, that has permitted Underwood and McLellan to cut down on the storage volume provided by Southern Indian Lake and therefore to come up with a modified lower scheme. While such a possibility may well exist, it would be unwise to develop Southern Indian Lake on the assumption of the availability of Reindeer Lake storage without first securing all necessary agreements to its use. Mr. Cass-Beggs feels that such agreements might cause prolonged delays in the development.

"Perhaps the most important conclusion of the final section of the report is the comment made in the presses which indicates that no single scheme stands out as preeminently desirable, and suggesting that there may be many designs having approximately the same economic benefit. The scope for selecting a water resource development scheme which would gain wide acceptance may be considerable. The provision of storage to make water that is available in the summer meet winter water power demands, is the essence of the problem. Underwood and McLellan recommend the use of storage within the Churchill River system in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Crippen and Associates, whose report was recently tabled in the Legislature, recommend the use of Lake Winnipeg as the storage reservoir for the combined system that would include a diversion from the Churchill.

The statement concludes with the sentence: "Manitoba Hydro is continuing to sort out these alternatives and to develop the scheme which will best meet all the conditions, taking into account the capital costs of the project and the resource values lost or gained."

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for his statement and for getting it before us. The recommendation of the medium level diversion is one that I'm sure is going to be of great interest to all members of the Legislature, particularly those who have sat through the many days and weeks and months of study of this, those people who now sit in the Legislature. I would hope sincerely, Mr. Speaker, that the government does not consider the announcement made by Hydro and this report as being the last chapter in the development of northern power. There is a sense or urgency - there's a sense of urgency can be read into the announcement by Hydro and into the recommendation by the consultants. However, the licencing still lies in the hands of the Provincial Government and I would sincerely hope that before any further comment is made on this, particularly in light of the reports which we now have received, from the earlier reports from years past, through to the reports done last summer by Mr. Cass-Beggs and Mr. Durnin, and now the reports by Underwood-McLellan and the reports by Crippen-Acres that it's going to be -- is it not Crippen-Acres? Crippen. Right. Crippen of Vancouver. That it's now most imperative that we have an opportunity to have a look at these, and I would like to say that it's most important and emphasize the fact that the Committee on Public Utilities should by all means be called before the government attempts to make any further decision on this. And I think they should be called as soon as possible, providing we have a few days or a week or two to go over the various reports that we now have before us.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for the statement that he's made on what the Hydro's intentions are, but I would wonder if I could make a request on behalf of all members of the House. We have the Crippen Report which we have received, and I'm sure that not many members have had a chance even to read that or to assess it, along with their other duties entailed in being an MLA and being in Session. Now we have three volumes here of another firm's assessment. I'm wondering if the government would see fit to call the Public Utilities Committee for a special meeting for the experts who have written these reports to take us through them so that we may have some understanding.

The Minister himself has stated that he hardly understands some of the tables and some of the material himself, and I think it would be of benefit to us all if we could have this, especially if we are going to be called upon to vote on legislation. We recall at the last or two sessions ago, when the government chose to change their methods of doing or carrying out what their intentions were, and their final method was by way of legislation asking members who were not informed on the subject, who had very little background in a technical matter such as this, to vote. And if this course of action is going to be taken by this government, well then I would

April 8, 1970

(MR. G. JOHNSTON Cont'd) . . . think that they should provide members with the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the results of the studies and also to talk to the people who have made the studies. I see my friend the Minister of Mines shaking his head and I don't know whether that's going to be the policy not to have the members to have this information, to have it explained to them.

MR. GREEN: No, not . . .

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Anyway, I make that request; also if the Minister could answer at this time, and I know that he may not be able to. It appears that the medium flooding plan that is being considered will be about half or a little less than half of the original proposal. Could he tell the House how much flooding would take place and how many people would be disturbed with this new plan?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I just **wondered** whether the Minister of Finance or Utilities wouldn't give me permission to speak. Well, he was already getting up on his feet and so . . . Mr. Chairman, I once more protest the practice that is being brought into this House now by giving reports to other parties and not to the Social Credit Party. This is happening now --(Interjection)-- Is it a point . . . ?

MR. SCHREYER: A point of order? I believe so, in that it has been clearly stated that copies will be in the library. In fact it would be a violation of the rules if a copy were to be specifically given to my honourable friend, because they're copies to be made available to a party. My honourable friend knows that under the rules he does not **constitute** a party. When he has three associates along with him, he will then be a Party, and at times I wish this would be the case, then he would spend less time bemoaning the fact that he is not a Party at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: The point of order raised by the Honourable the First Minister is well taken.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I still feel that I am entitled to these reports and I would want to get them, and if it's a matter of cost I would like to give a cheque to the Province of Manitoba signed by myself . . .

MR. GREEN: On a point of order . . .

MR. FROESE: I would like to have the page boy pick it up and give it to the Clerk so that from here on, from here on the province will not run -- it's **dated** today, so that the Minister can provide the report for me so that . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order . . .

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'm speaking.

MR. GREEN: I believe that any member, including myself, has a right to rise on a point of order. On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Minister made a statement which is entitled to be responded to by other members, other parties in the House. The Member for Rhineland asks for leave to follow and make a statement, and I submit that this is not a statement on the report that was submitted by the Honourable Minister; this is a grievance regarding the receipt of reports, which is not appropriate at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member please limit his remarks to the report that's . . . in the House.

MR. FROESE: It's not a grievance. Certainly other members, when discussing the statement that was made, have brought in other matters. I certainly have been studying those reports in past years. I've **sat** on committees of the utilities, where we had the people from Hydro appear, and have had copies of the transcripts, gone over them, and have tried to inform myself. Now, as a result of this, a **certainty now will be** made so that I will not be as well-informed, and this has already gone on. Last fall when the committees were struck. Now, not only am I being denied that, now I'm also going to be denied the report. It appears there's going to be one copy for the Library. This doesn't mean that, naturally, that I will have the privilege of getting those reports, because other members might be there before I am and as a result I will not be able to read up on the reports. I welcome the reports that were made. I certainly hope that they will be of benefit . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. May I remind the honourable member again that I believe he is discussing a provision contained in Beuchesne cit. 91 (1), under which we act in the distribution of reports, and if it is the intention of the honourable member to debate that issue, I'm sure that he could find another opportunity to debate it, and at the present time limit

(MR. SPEAKER Cont'd) . . . his remarks to the matter of the report that is tabled before us rather than the question of whether he feels entitled to a copy of the report or not.

MR. FROESE: I couldn't hear the final remarks of the Speaker. They didn't come through. But I was already discussing the reports that are being tabled. It seems to me that when the New Democratic Party came to power here, what was done, why they took the pressure off by telling the people of Manitoba at that time that they would not immediately proceed with the South Indian Lake Diversion and as a result the pressure has been off, and I think it was a good thing that it was done that way so that people will be more understandable and will reason more properly and in this way, once the information is now out, will then also consider it again and probably arrive at a better conclusion, even though the conclusion may be the same as the previous one.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, if the statements are completed, which I think is a criteria .

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, on a . . .

MR. WEIR: . . . is not a matter of a statement, some other statements and a reply, Mr. Speaker, but as I understand the rules it's a statement, a statement by the other parties and the subject . . ., but maybe room for some questions. Mr. Speaker, if I understand the rule correctly and if I'm in order, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance; the question being that I appreciate the fact that the parties of the House have been given copies of the report. The thing that surprises me, I see no sign of one being laid on the table of the House for the official records and I notice no mention being made of it, and I'm only assuming - I would like confirmation from the Minister - that there will be something for the records of the House.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I had no intention of stating that I was tabling the report in the House. I don't believe I even said it because I had no intention of saying it. I indicated that I had received copies of the report from Manitoba Hydro. These are reports that were commissioned by Manitoba Hydro and they were sent over to me. The result is that I wished to make them available, as I promised I would do, as quickly as I received them, which I did do, and I made them available to the various people to the extent that I was able so to do. The report is a Hydro Report. I made a full set available to the Provincial Library; I also, as I indicated, sent to the Provincial Library two additional copies of each of the books which I have turned over to the political parties represented in this House. Those two extra copies no doubt would be available to any member of the Legislature who wishes to borrow them, and of course all seven are available. I might say that I enquired as to what would happen if I tabled these, and if I tabled them they would find themselves into a steel box entitled "Sessional Papers," and although I suppose members of the Legislature would have access to the steel box entitled "Sessional Papers," I felt that it was of greater interest and greater benefit for all members to have them kept in the Provincial Library, and that was what I did. Now as to the Public Utilities Committee, it of course has not yet been established. The question asked --(Interjection)--Right. The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party asked a particular question on a detailed, or rather an important detail contained in - presumably contained in the report. At this moment, if he has the report in his hand at all and is looking at any part of it, he has seen more than I have seen because I have not seen the report until today. I believe that I answered the questions that were asked of me.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: In relation to the answers given by the Minister, Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase my question. When the Public Utilities Committee is named, would he consider the request?

MR. CHERNIACK: Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable Minister of Finance can inform the House whether the council for the Indian community was aware of this and has confirmed that the families who are involved will not be disrupted as a result of this proposal.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I'm under the impression that there is no council of the Indian community currently involved in this matter, and all I'm aware of is that the Manitoba Hydro commissioned the report, has received it, has sent it to me, I received it, and within hours I brought it into the House.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question, may I confirm the answer that I got earlier, that the Minister does not intend to place a copy of the report on the record to find its way into the tin box that future members of the Legislative Assembly might find helpful.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm under the impression that documents to be tabled are documents which are required to be filed and brought into the Legislature. This document of course is not a document which is required by any Act that I'm aware of to be tabled in the Legislature among Sessional Papers. Now I did bring it, and I believe it was as a courtesy because I don't think Hydro had to give it to me and certainly I don't think I had to bring it into the House, but I did, and having done so I thought I would - I don't expect thanks for it because it was only what we undertook to do. If the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition is quite exercised about this and would like to see the seven volumes in the steel box, I'll see what I can do to get an extra set so that he will feel happier. If he would indicate that this is important to him, I will then attempt to see what can be done.

MR. FROESE: I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. If he is going to get an extra set, why not get another one and I will pay for it.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I'm entitled to answer that question and I'll answer it by saying I do not recognize that the Honourable Member from Rhineland represents any political party in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: In order to avoid unnecessary hard feeling on the matter, I wonder if the Honourable Member for Rhineland would not agree that if two copies are filed with the Provincial Library, that it is there readily available and members of the Legislative Assembly have priority in terms of borrowing books from the Library. I'm sure that my honourable friend the Member from Rhineland must be on good terms with the Chief Librarian and others working in the Library and that he will be well looked after with respect to access to that report.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, let me hasten to assure the Honourable Member for Rhineland that he is welcome to look over my shoulder while we're looking at our copy.

STATEMENT

HON. RENE A. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Services)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask leave of the House to issue a statement regarding a few errors that were committed on the Report of the Manitoba Hospital Commission.

It appears that a second gremlin has crept into the 1969 Annual Report of the Manitoba Hospital Commission. Under the subsection labelled "Claims" of the section on the Hospital Services Division, it is reported that some 250,000 in-patient claims were processed by the Commission in 1969 compared with 203,000 in 1968. --(Interjection)-- It's under "Claims" - there's no page number, if you have the report. It's under "Claims" of the section of the Hospital Services Division. I understand that the news media were quick to pick this up and reported that this represents a 20 percent increase in hospital utilization. This is not the case. I would like to correct the error in the report now. In 1969 there were approximately 194,000 in-patient claims and 56,000 out-patient claims processed by the Commission for a total of 250,000 in-patient and out-patient claims. This total of 250,000 claims was incorrectly reported as being in-patient claims only. In 1968 there were approximately 203,000 in-patient claims and 105,000 out-patient claims processed by the Commission. Therefore, in fact, the total in-patient claims processed in 1969 was approximately 9,000 less than in 1968, being 194,000 compared with 203,000. Also, the total out-patient claims processed in 1969 was approximately 49,000 less than in 1968 - 56,000 compared with 105,000.

However, this is not because fewer out-patient services were provided. The reason for this reduction is that there was a change in out-patient reporting and processing procedures which became effective on April 1, 1969 with the introduction of the Medicare Insurance Program. I believe that Manitoba hospitals have, in fact, found that the demand for out-patient services increased in 1969 compared with 1968. I would also warn against using statistics on claims processed by the Commission as a measure of utilization of the Manitoba hospitals claims processed. It includes claims resulting from Manitoba residents attending at hospitals in other provinces and outside Canada. It also includes claims that are in error, rejected claims and so on.

(MR. TOUPIN Cont'd) . . .

For a better measure of the demand for services of Manitoba hospitals, I would refer members to the section in the Commission's Annual Report called "Utilization Trends and Special Services". Here it is reported that Manitoba hospitals provided 1,864,354 days of care in 1969 compared with 1,896,795 in 1968, a reduction of 32,441 days or approximately 1.7 percent. At the same time, this section of the report shows that the number of separations, discharges, deaths and so on from the Manitoba hospitals increased from 173,635 in 1968 to 174,497 in 1969, an increase of one-half of one percent. And what does this all mean? I would say that the demands on the hospitals for in-patient services have not changed significantly even though this may have fallen off very slightly.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Leave was granted to make some corrections in terms of the Annual Report, not to make a speech or a statement outlining the effect and the interpretations that could be placed on the report. Now, I'd like to understand when we give leave to members opposite, whether they ask leave for the purpose given, which I'm quite happy to give, but on the other hand the kind of a statement that we're getting here has absolutely nothing to do with a correction but possibly some interpretations that may be placed on it and I'm just not happy about it at all, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I asked leave to introduce a statement that would correct errors in the Manitoba Hospital Report and I've only got three lines to go. If I want to correct these statements, correct the errors in the report, I had to make these comments.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, if the errors were in the last three lines, I wish he'd read them first.

MR. TOUPIN: . . . continue, Mr. Speaker. At the same time, demands for out-patient services may have increased although the extent of this trend, if there is such a trend, has not yet been determined and is under study now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WEIR: . . . was the correction in the last three lines?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Orders for Return. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I had some further questions.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD (CONT'D)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I'd like to ask a question of the House Leader. Has the committee that was established to set up the committees, has it met and has notice been given in Votes and Proceedings, because I am unaware of any meetings and I would like to attend such meetings.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the committee is to meet - the committee members have been informed they're to meet on I believe it's Monday at 5:30, and if the honourable member wishes to be there, of course he's entitled to be there.

STATEMENT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I wish to make a statement relative to a change of policy in the crop insurance program, and it is entitled "The Improved Practices Program" under the current crop insurance program. It makes it possible for Manitoba farmers who qualify under established Improved Practices Regulations to get a 20 to 40 percent more insurance coverage depending on the crops grown for no additional premium. A test program in 1969 in Carman and district has proved very successful and had provided the experience for the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation to extend the program in 1970 to the entire agricultural area of Manitoba.

Basically, the program is designed to provide higher coverage to those insured farmers who apply high inputs into their crop production operations. It was an attempt to cover the costs of operation of farmers following high crop input recommendations. Crops on which additional coverage is provided this year, with the same premium rates, are wheat, oats, barley and flax. The program provides for increases in coverages as follows: Wheat - 20 percent; oats - 35 percent; barley - 40 percent; and flax - 30 percent.

(MR. USKIW cont'd.)

The four requirements to qualify for the increased coverage under the Improved Practices Program are as follows: All crops grown by the insured must be fertilized at or above recommended rates of fertilizer outlined in the 1970 Field Crop Recommendations for Manitoba. Earlier final seeding dates apply for crops in the Improved Practices than in the General Practices program. Final seeding date for wheat, oats, barley and late maturing varieties of flax is May 31st, and for early maturing varieties of flax, June 5th. Recommended weed control, both cultural and chemical, must be applied by farmers in this program. The insured farmer must send in a form postmarked not later than June 6th, giving the crops seeded, dates of seeding and the amounts of fertilizer purchased.

Local all-risk crop insurance agents have further details of the program. Applications for this Improved Practices Program will be accepted by these agents until April 30th.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is not a statement; this is an Order for Return. That an Order of the House do issue for a Return, covering the provincial funds made available for the staging of the 1970 World Hockey Tournament in Winnipeg, and showing:

(A. (1) the total provincial grants for 1968

(2) the total provincial grants for 1969

(3) the total provincial grants for 1970

(B. The supervisory body or bodies to whom these grants or parts thereof were paid.

(C. The details of the various individual refunds made to the provincial government following cancellation of the tournament showing:

(1) the individual bodies making the refund

(2) the amount of each refund

(3) the date or dates each refund was received by the provincial government.

Mr. Speaker, I move this, seconded by the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

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

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

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing:

(1) The terms of reference given to the committee appointed September 25 "to examine possible changes in the policy of issuing permits for permanent trailer sites in the Whiteshell Provincial Park."

(2) The number of members of that Committee.

(3) The number of hearings held.

(4) The dates and places of such hearings.

(5) The indemnity and expenses paid to each member of the committee.

(6) The total cost of this examination.

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

GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, would you call the adjourned debate on second reading of the proposed motion by the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Bill No. 18.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say how pleased we on this side of the House are that this Bill has come back before us. A great deal of time was put in by Dr. Johnson when he was the Minister of Health and Social Services; many consultations were held with the community and general agreement reached and full support for the simplification of the religious denomination, the removal of pregnancy as a condition for marriage, and also the provision for greater opportunity for marriages in the remote areas. I think this Bill is overdue and am pleased to support it.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd.) Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MATTER OF URGENCY AND GRIEVANCE

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I now wish to rise on a point of grievance - personal grievance. Mr. Speaker, during the last session the First Minister precipitated quite a considerable debate on the subject of campaign contributions - I believe it was "kickbacks" that he referred to. We've heard of course very little since.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that I would now like to read into the record a letter that was sent by the Rowland Campaign Committee, New Democratic Party Committee Rooms, Winnipeg, 521 London Street, Munroe Shopping Centre, and it is thus: "Dear Friends: The Selkirk Federal By-Election is a vital one for the New Democratic Party and its supporters. It is a test of the Schreyer Government in Manitoba as well as the Trudeau Government in Ottawa. We have a first-class candidate, Doug Rowland, a young Manitoban with experience in politics, but to run a successful campaign for the New Democrats in Selkirk we also need workers and money. Our enumerators are noted for their excellent work during elections and have always been most co-operative in providing carbon copies of the preliminary lists so that our canvassers can get to work without delay. This is essential in any campaign and your assistance in this matter is highly appreciated.

"If you also wish to make a financial contribution to the campaign may we make a suggestion. Our enumerators across the country usually base their donations on the amount received for enumerating and give whatever percentage they feel they can afford. The usual donation is one-half of the enumerator's pay. We are in dire need of funds. Please drop in to the committee rooms with your donation or mail it to the committee rooms in c/o Connie Ginzell. Any donation is most welcome and will help assure victory for the New Democrats in Selkirk. Thank you for your help and co-operation." Signed, "Yours sincerely, (by) Connie Ginzell and Doug Hacking, Finance Committee Chairman."

Now, Mr. Speaker, you might well say, "So what's new?" You might ask, you know. Surely it's quite understandable that active supporters of a political party, particularly if they've received a patronage job during an election campaign, are quite free to make a contribution to the party that in fact was their benefactor in this particular case, and I assure you that I would not be using up the one and only privilege that I have to rise on a point of personal grievance if this was all that was to the matter, or just simply on the basis of this letter.

Mr. Speaker, if the NDP, that is this government, believes it is reasonable, a reasonable suggestion - and I refer you back to the letter that I just read into the record - to ask election workers, enumerators, who at best, at best make a few hundred dollars, to give up half of that pay to the party, is it not also reasonable and in fact a very logic conclusion that they would have no inhibition from asking the same from other party workers, indeed that are paid party supporters. I think, Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that the press has indicated to us that members of the NDP caucus, indeed the Cabinet themselves - I don't profess to know any of their inner workings - but it seems to me that there was some news report carried that they've assessed themselves certain contribution to the cause they believe in. Of course again, Mr. Speaker, let me assure you that this is not any reason for me rising on a point of privilege or grievance.

. continued on next page

(MR. ENNS Cont'd.)

But, however, Mr. Speaker, we do have another active or another one time active NDP supporter -- or as it was then known, the party was referred to as the CCF -- active to the extent that he ran as a candidate for that party who since this government has taken office has been hired at a rate of pay that boggles one's imagination. I'm referring, of course, to the new Chairman of the Manitoba Hydro, Mr. Cass-Beggs. We have been informed of his daily rate of pay of some \$175.00 a day, but it doesn't end there, doesn't end there. Now my information may not be correct and of course the government can easily correct the situation by supplying us with all the information, but from my perhaps incomplete file let's have a look at this one person's salary arrangements.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): He's worth it.

MR. ENNS: One hundred and seventy-five dollars per day based on a five-day week. If my arithmetic isn't too wrong that works out to \$875.00 a week times 52 or as he has been reported by the press some \$45,550 per annum. In addition, I understand that there is a \$25.00 daily expense allowance based on a seven-day week, or \$175.00 per week times 52; in other words, another \$9,100 per annum. I further understand that this honourable gentleman has commitments in Ottawa and that provisions have been made for weekly round trip fares to Ottawa, the cost of which is some \$131.00, and times that by 52 and you arrive at another \$6,760.00. We also understand that he as a senior person in the Hydro is fully qualified for his automobile allowance. I think in the business community generally we rate that as an additional \$100.00 per month or \$1,200 per annum. We then have further reason to believe that on top of this he is still on an open expense account, so I have no figure there I just leave a question mark on that one. But, Mr. Speaker, we are now approaching those figures of . . .

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

MR. ENNS: . . . some \$62,610.00. Mr. Chairman, even with the enthusiasm of my honourable, the former Minister of Industry and Commerce who would like to believe that we're a go-getting province, but we're in that realm of salaries that we used to like to poke fun at, the President of the CPR or the CNR or the Governor of the Bank of Canada. -- (Interjection) -- Well I think we'd have to get a \$5.00 minimum wage pretty soon at that rate.

We all know, Mr. Speaker, that there is at least one Minister sitting on the treasury bench -- and he's not here right now and it's rather sad that he's not here -- that truly and honestly would be aghast if my figures are even close to being true, if my figures are even close to being true. I'm referring, of course, to my friend the Honourable Minister of Transportation who made his way to fame and glory on the strength of a Cabinet Minister's salary rise from \$15,000 to \$18,000.00, and he now sits on the treasury bench that has authorized a salary of \$62,000 for one single person, and that's plus. My point of grievance is . . .

MR. FROESE: Some of it's tax free.

MR. ENNS: . . . that in view of the letter that I've just read and in view of the zeal and the dedication that the honourable members opposite have indicated in their financial support for the cause they truly believe in, has the NDP come up with a very unique and shrewd way of financing their cause come election time? Because, Mr. Speaker, surely, surely if it's in order to ask a lowly enumerator who is making a few hundred dollars to kickback or -- pardon me -- to suggest the usual donation is one-half of the enumerator's pay, I must be very very naive or something like that to think otherwise, that other better paid supporters of the party would be able to accept this kind of a letter in the same light. Now I'm not suggesting that this kind of letter was sent; but, Mr. Speaker, this is something that concerns me greatly. It could be tremendously revealing if we knew what the contributions were on the part of this particular person to this party, or is this government or is this party actually embarked on a course of paying these kind of wages to individuals whom they know are friendly to them in the hope to overcome what they say - their dire need of funds.

Mr. Chairman or Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult, I find it difficult to accept the unconscionable high salary of the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro and perhaps it's this difficulty that has led me astray in this direction. Because, Mr. Speaker, let's remember that these same responsibilities under a Conservative administration were carried out for a total salary cost of \$27,000.00. Twenty-seven thousand dollars is what the former Chairman of Manitoba Hydro received. Now this new Chairman is receiving some \$62,000-plus and he's only doing half the job, because Mr. Fallis, of course, is still carrying on as General Manager for his \$27,000. So just in that connotation alone it concerns me, Mr. Speaker, at the way this government is

(MR. ENNS cont'd.) finding room to throw funds around.

MR. DOERN: Where does Vera Enns get her money from?

MR. BUD SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Not from union check-offs, that's for sure.

MR. ENNS: I find it rather amazing how quiet the question of political kickback contributions has come in this session. Is it perhaps because of the change of heart that the President of the New Democratic Party recently announced when they came to the conclusion that they should solicit the funds and this help of the business community; or is it, Mr. Speaker, that they have found other means to find the kind of contributions that we all know it takes to run election campaigns? But, Mr. Speaker, I am aghast myself that we have not been given any clear indication of whether or not my facts are accurate or whether they're not and I await the Minister of Finance to do so.

I should point out that even a basic salary arrangement of \$175.00 per day for consulting engineer is completely erroneous as stated. This is quite a fair going rate for hiring consultant firms if they carry the overload, if they pay for their cars, if they pay for their secretaries doing their letters, if they pay for the pile of books and reports that the Honourable Minister of Finance just laid out on the table, office space and overhead. It's generally accepted that out of the \$175.00 or \$200.00 consultant fee there is virtually a 250 percent overhead involved. Mr. Cass-Beggs has none of these overheads, he is not paying in addition to his \$175.00 for extra secretarial help or paying rent at Manitoba Hydro, or paying out of his pocket for the run of an automobile. So, Mr. Chairman, to leave the illusion that \$175.00 a day which is on the surface quite an acceptable fee for project consulting fees, that's one thing, Mr. Speaker; but to put this on a continuing basis leads us into the kind of a position that we are paying public servants a salary which approaches the unconscionable as far as this province is concerned, in light of what has been paid to the immediately preceding Chairman of Manitoba Hydro and in light of the specific job he's doing.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, would the honourable member now permit a question?

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, would the . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: I'm asking a question.

MR. FROESE: . . . honourable member table the letter that he just quoted.

MR. ENNS: Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I'd be happy to table the letter.

MR. CHERNIACK: Would the honourable member please explain what he means by an "open expense account"?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I recall when I was a Minister of the Crown I received a salary, an indemnity plus a fixed expense allowance which was properly allocated on the cheque, and in addition to that, in addition to that as a Minister of the Crown under certain circumstances, under government business, entertaining people from outside the province or otherwise I was allowed an open expense account. It's precisely in that term that I refer to an open expense account in this case. In addition to the specified expense allowance, original expense allowance, my understanding would be that the senior member of Manitoba Hydro would be treated not much different than any Cabinet Minister in this Assembly.

MR. CHERNIACK: May I ask a further question? Is he suggesting that this account, this expense account is a non-accountable account? Is that his suggestion?

MR. ENNS: No, I'm not accounting that at all, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHERNIACK: A further question. Did the honourable member, did I hear him correctly to suggest that the arrangements made with Mr. Cass-Beggs included an arrangement for a payment of a portion of his income to the New Democratic Party?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, that I think is the question.

MR. CHERNIACK: May I direct another question to the honourable member? Is he prepared to guarantee to open the books of the Conservative Party when we open the books of the New Democratic Party?

MR. ENNS: Now we're on our red herring again. Let's go on it if we want to, but I'm asking a simple question based on the letter that was sent to enumerators in the constituency of Selkirk.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, if he doesn't want to answer the question he just has to say so.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Honourable Member for Lakeside. How much was Mr. Cass-Beggs paid before he assumed this position? Does he have that information?

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I do believe the Minister of Finance is in a better position to answer that question. I think that he did give us a Return to an Order for the cost of that report which totalled some 24,25 thousand dollars, for that two, three weeks work that was involved in coming up with that 25-page report which was so well in tune with the political thinking of the party opposite, or the government that commissioned the report.

MR. CHERNIACK: . . . Underwood-McLellan report filed today.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question of the honourable member. The honourable member is dealing with the question of election funds. Would he support public money for political parties for purposes of election?

MR. ENNS: Well I wouldn't mind it. That may well be a worthwhile suggestion to entertain, except the fear that I have is that you have already adopted that principle, except that you haven't told us about it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Lakeside has just made a statement which is very interesting.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the Honourable Minister speaking on a grievance?

MR. USKIW: Pardon?

MR. SPEAKER: Is the Honourable Minister speaking on a grievance?

MR. USKIW: Yes, the same grievance, Mr. Speaker. On my grievance in reply to my honourable friend. My honourable friend the Member for Lakeside has risen on the point of grievance casting certain doubts on the activities of civil servants, on the activities of the New Democratic Party of Manitoba and indeed on the activities of the government, and I think, Mr. Speaker, that this is a point of grievance because the implication of his remarks are far-reaching. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that it isn't unusual as my honourable friend will admit that when people are hired on a consultative basis that their fees are very substantial. And the more the expertise, Mr. Speaker, the higher the fee is the usual case. I don't think it is fair, Mr. Speaker, to compare personnel one with the other in the public eye. I think we all know that Mr. Beggs has a great deal of expertise, one of the most knowledgeable people in the business of hydro development. And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, for the record, because I think the record ought to be set straight, that the man we're talking about is indeed qualified to do the kind of job which should be done for the Province of Manitoba with respect to development of hydro-electric energy. And it is in the public interest, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that the Government of Manitoba, no matter which government it is, would seek out the kind of expertise that we feel is the best that we can get in the country. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cass-Beggs is that kind of a person. He has that kind of quality. Just to give you, for the record, his curriculum vitae. He was born in England on October 2nd, 1908, Canadian citizen . . .

MR. ENNS: Is that a recommendation for \$62,000 a year?

MR. USKIW: . . . is married with three children. His academic and professional qualifications are as follows: BSc. Technical Engineering, Manchester, England; MSc. Technical-Industrial Administration, Manchester, England; Member Engineering Institute of Canada; Registered Professional Engineer. Present appointment: Science Advisor, Science Council of Canada, since 1966. Science Council advises the Government of Canada on science policy matters and in particular on the planning of scientific research and development. Responsibility as a staff member is for power energy and transportation fields. Previous experience: Head of Division "Man the Producer" for Expo 1967, the years 1965-1966. Man the Producer was the exhibit of applied science and technology interpreted in humanistic terms and formed part of the over-all exhibition theme of "Man and His World". It covered the areas of energy, materials, machines and communications. General Manager Saskatchewan Power Corporation 1955 to 1964. The government-owned corporation distributes electric power and natural gas throughout the province; has a capital of about \$500 million, annual revenue of \$60 million and serves some 300,000 retail customers, operates hydro and thermal power stations and a transmission network throughout the province covering 100,000 square miles. The corporation also owns gas fields in Saskatchewan and Alberta -- unlike Manitoba, Mr. Chairman, which has allowed private interests to creep into the utility field -- and purchases gas from the other fields, operates a gas transmission grid and distribution system to serve all of the city and about 100 centres in the province. Total employment is about 3,000 persons.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: What salary?

MR. USKIW: Consultant to the Saskatchewan Government and the Saskatchewan Power Corporation on various occasions from 1947 to 1955. Investigations conducted and report submitted covered: farm electrification; load growth forecasts, power aspects of Saskatchewan River development, power resources, coal and hydro, and developments needed to meet estimated load, economic feasibility of distribution of natural gas in the province. Those are the years between 1947 and 1955.

The years 1939 to 1955: University Professor, University College, University of Wales; Assistant Professor of Engineering in charge of electrical engineering, 1952-1955; taught courses involving power systems, automatic controls, servomechanisms and supervised graduate students' research work. University of Toronto, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, 1939; visiting lecturer 1940; Assistant Professor, later Associate Professor, and in 1952 resigned to take up appointment at the University of Wales. Teaching work involved power systems, applied mathematics, electronics, servomechanism, supervised graduate students' research projects in AC machines, electronics, servomechanisms, analog computers, and so forth. -- (Interjection) -- That by the way, is a good record, Mr. Chairman. His political record is a very good one, one to be proud of.

Research work during the war 1940 to 1945, under the Associate Committee on Aviation Medical Research of the National Research Council; developed electrical and control features for the Canadian Human Centrifuge and supervised its construction and operation. This was the pioneer centrifuge of its kind and was used extensively to study the effect of high acceleration and for the development of protective clothing. Technical teacher, 1932 to 1939; School of Technology, Oxford, 1935-1939; Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College 1930-1935, teaching various electrical engineering subjects. Industrial experience: technical apprentice in the works of Lancashire Dynamo and Crypto Limited, 1929 to 1932.

Now I can go on and on, Mr. Speaker. There are many qualifications one can mention -- and there are political ones, my honourable friend says. That's right, I understand that Mr. Cass-Beggs is a person that is interested very much in the social development of mankind and in the betterment of standards within the human system. But notwithstanding that, Mr. Speaker, that is not the basis on which a responsible government chooses the kind of expertise that it must have to make sure that it develops hydro-electric energy in a way which is (a) reasonable as far as cost is concerned; and (b) takes into account all alternatives that may be within the area. I think this is the reason why the Government of Manitoba has chosen to second such a very capable person, on a very interim basis, as far as I'm aware to date, on a consulting basis. We didn't hire him for a year, Mr. Speaker; he is in here for six months and at that time I'm sure the position will be reviewed and if he's put on a salary and continues with the Province of Manitoba, that other arrangements will be made.

But I want to say that this is not a political payoff to anyone. The Government of Manitoba didn't owe anything to Mr. Beggs. He has a very good position as a consultant in this field; he didn't need a handout, I can assure my honourable friends that, and that is not the basis under which he was employed. But insofar as the question of kickbacks, Mr. Chairman, the question of people asked to make contributions to a political party, I want to say it is not unusual; every political party seeks out ways and means of financing its operations. We are not any different than any other political party in that respect. It is and has been the practice within the New Democratic Party at the provincial and federal level, to solicit support, financial support, and in particular from our elected people; we are asked to commit a percentage of our earnings for the purpose of the provincial office, for example. Any people that are employed, that have an income, that are not necessarily connected with government, are asked to contribute a percentage of their income to this political party. There's nothing wrong with that. If it happens to be that an enumerator, for example, is employed by the Government of Manitoba -- or it isn't the Government of Manitoba it's the Federal Government -- if it happens that an enumerator is a party member, it's not unusual for the party to suggest that we would appreciate a contribution to the Party. This isn't a kickback, Mr. Chairman, because the implication of a kickback is you make the deal in advance or the person doesn't get the job. That's the implication of a kickback and the letter which my honourable friend read out for the record, Mr. Chairman, is nothing of the sort. It is simply a letter addressed to a supporter of the party asking that they make a contribution to the party. -- (Interjection) -- That may be so; I don't know; I have no idea. But all people that are involved actively in the New Democratic Party are asked for a contribution. I want to say,

(MR. USKIW cont'd.) Mr. Chairman, that I have made contributions for a great number of years, a great number of years. This is a standard practice and not surprising at all.

My personal belief on this matter, Mr. Speaker, is that I don't believe in the system whereby private people finance elections for political parties because I think that is most undemocratic, the connotations of which are far-reaching and a very dangerous practice, very dangerous practice from my point of view, because there is always the question in everyone's mind as to who is doing the financing, what is he getting in return. This is a logical and natural question. I would hope that some day, Mr. Speaker, that we extend the arm of democracy to make sure that the people of this province, or the people of Canada, can participate most fully in the democratic process without fear of remuneration or lack of it, without worrying about whether they can afford to participate; and I want to say my own personal viewpoint on this matter, Mr. Speaker, is that it is in the public interest for the public to finance a political party and it should be done. It should be done through a system of grants to each political party based on certain formula, so that whenever that political party is elected to office, Mr. Speaker, it is truly, truly responsible to the people that voted them into office and has to pay no attention at all to anyone that has made a contribution to make it possible for them to be elected into office. And when we reach that time, Mr. Speaker, we will indeed improve our democratic process in this province, and I would hope that it won't take long.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: I have three questions to direct to the Minister, two are related to one aspect, one is related to the other, and I'd like to deal with the first one. In the history of Mr. Cass-Beggs that was presented to us, can I ask whether the Minister is aware of any salaries or consulting fees that Mr. Cass-Beggs received in his capacity in holding the various executive positions that were referred to?

MR. USKIW: Well obviously, Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't have that information at hand. I didn't even know I would have this much. Fortunately it was provided for me.

MR. SPIVAK: Secondly, the Honourable Member from Lakeside has made certain representations with respect to salary and expenses. Is the Minister aware whether this information is correct or not?

MR. USKIW: I again, Mr. Speaker, don't have that information before me. My honourable friend knows that he can ask the appropriate Minister for that.

MR. SPIVAK: Well certainly, Mr. Speaker, and this question refers to his last comment in connection with his concept of the arm of democracy reaching out and government financing or the public purse financing parties. In view of the incidents that have occurred today, is he prepared to accept that while officially one party here is not represented, or is not recognized as a party because there's only one member, is it his concept that such a party, even if it has one member, would be financed in the same way?

MR. USKIW: My honourable friend knows that there are problems with that kind of a proposal. I said that certain rules of the game would have to be established and they would be established by this kind of a group, by this kind of a group, and where there is a recognized political party and whatever methodology we use to recognize a political party, I think that this can be established, Mr. Speaker, I know that my honourable friend can appreciate the fact if you didn't have some rules of the game that you would have a million independents running for office, which isn't very practical.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, would the Honourable Minister allow a further question. I asked a question before of the Member for Lakeside. Could he substantiate whether the salary of Cass-Beggs previous to coming here was \$24,000.00?

MR. USKIW: I haven't any idea, Mr. Speaker. The honourable member can ask that question of the appropriate Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister permit a question? My question is relative to his statement as to the financing of political parties. Did I understand him correctly to say that he approved of the, in this case, the approach to someone who was an enumerator to contribute a portion of the fee?

MR. USKIW: Well, I simply indicated that it is not unusual and all of us that are involved in the political process, Mr. Speaker, are approached from time to time to make a

(MR. USKIW cont'd.) contribution so that is not a matter of approval or disapproval. I simply stated that this is the case and that it was my view that this is not in the best interests of democracy to finance political parties in this way but this is the way we've been doing it for a hundred years. It's time we changed, perhaps.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the principle really. I understood the Minister to say that he approved the principle that those who participated make contributions. Is that correct?

MR. USKIW: I don't recall precisely what I said, Mr. Speaker. I said it was not unusual, it's a common practice and every political party has to find means of financing its operations; and all people that are identified with this party and are known to the party, or to the executive, to the party organization, are from time to time requested for contributions, including people that are not involved in directing the political process.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Elmwood in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're dealing with the Department of Agriculture. The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the other day when I was trying to complete my remarks as you know the time ran out. I didn't have a great deal more to say. I simply want to take a few minutes to complete those remarks.

I was dealing with the question of cash advances as I recall it and the idea that perhaps the Government of Canada might consider more seriously a proposal which was made by the Government of Manitoba that the cash advance program be substantially broadened so that farmers could get paid more fully for their production a lot sooner in the year, and that in essence it amounts to simply getting paid for work done and not a matter of a farmer getting into debt as was suggested by the Member for Lakeside; that it's only in recognition of the fact that there has to be some additional responsibility by the Government of Canada to the primary producer and in this instance, the grain grower.

The Member for Lakeside, when he spoke last, indicated that it was very questionable whether the future of agriculture was secure as far as Manitoba is concerned, because of the lack of farmers in the Government of Manitoba, the caucus of the New Democratic Party. He didn't know that he should classify a potato grower and a turkey producer as farmers, and I don't know where he gets that notion; but I want to say for the record, Mr. Chairman, that it is true that the biggest crop that I produce is potatoes, that is the cash crop, but I want to say to my honourable friends opposite that at the present time I have somewhere in the area of 4,000 bushels of wheat that has carried over for the last couple of years. It isn't a great amount relative to some of the large producers in the province, but it does indicate that I am also involved in that particular part of our industry and it is untrue to say that the qualities of the Minister or members in the government as far as farm expertise is concerned, is lacking.

I want to say that despite the fact that members opposite when they were in government had a fair sprinkling of rural members, despite that fact, I want to say that it was possible for the Department of Industry and Commerce to really suppress the Department of Agriculture and that the Department of Agriculture had really very little significance in the total operation of the Government of Manitoba for the last number of years. This has been evident for some time. It is not a new accusation which I am making; I have said this on a number of occasions during the time that I was in opposition and on one or two occasions since.

Let me just illustrate, Mr. Chairman, what happened just a year ago, just a year ago when money got a little tight, when interest rates started to climb -- and I know that governments have to look far afield for their financing, for their capital supply, I realize the problem -- but who was dropped first a year ago, when money got a bit tight, hard to get? It was the Department of Agriculture that was dropped. When things were getting tough in the credit field it was the farmer that was told he can't get any more credit from the Government of Manitoba. He was the first one to be dropped in the credit program. My honourable friend didn't suggest to the Manitoba Development Fund - I don't say that they should have - but other credit agencies in the government, that they curtail their activities. Indeed not. But they told the farm community from this point on you are going to have to look elsewhere for your

(MR. USKIW cont'd.) financing, at a time when the interest rates were climbing so rapidly that from month to month one couldn't predict what the interest rate was going to be.

-- (Interjection) -- They're pretty darn high, Mr. Chairman. Far too high for comfort.

I want to say that that is the reason why in opposition I criticized the move on the part of the government and since then that is the reason why the credit program has been reconstituted with a great deal of improvement and in some instances with very substantial incentives in the program to make sure that our farm community is not starved for the needed cash in order that they may make the necessary adjustments that they must make because of our current crisis in agriculture. And if there ever was an example, Mr. Chairman, of neglect, here we had an agricultural industry approaching crisis and the government of Manitoba, a year ago, walking out on the industry by saying we've got no more money to keep you in business. This is really what happened last year. And I say that this was a direct result of the importance that that government placed on agriculture a year ago, a direct result of the policy-decision that was made, and that my honourable members opposite which were in the backbench, and with all due respect my honourable friend the former Minister of Agriculture, did not carry the necessary influence to make sure that the farm position in Manitoba was secure and that indeed there was going to be a program which would help alleviate the farmers in their current crisis. The Government of Manitoba ran away from a situation which required a great deal of attention. So I don't accept the fact, Mr. Chairman, that the opposition, the Official Opposition has some expertise to offer in the field of agriculture simply because they are larger in number. And I say that again simply because the fact that they had the numbers didn't prove anything to the people of Manitoba when they were in government only nine or ten months ago.

What did happen, Mr. Chairman? As you know, since July 15th there was a great deal of activity within the Department of Agriculture to appraise a lot of the programs that were on-going and a great deal of activity in the development of new programs, and the program that is offered to you during this session, both in the budget and in legislation which will be introduced, is going to provide for members in this House the most exciting time that they've had in a number of years with respect to the debates on agriculture, and only so because we have the input that is going to bring about the kind of debate that it ought to.

One only has to look at the estimates to see a lot of items in the estimates which bear a lot of discussion and which in my opinion are very commendable. And in the short space of time, Mr. Chairman, that we have had, I want to say that I think that we have gone as far as we could have gone in the few months that we had to develop the kind of program that we have before us for this current session. I appreciate the fact that what we are doing here isn't going to solve all the problems for the farmers because their problems are very substantial and will not be solved overnight, but there are certain trends that will be taking place because of the program before you which will have long-term benefits, and I would hope that members opposite appreciate the fact that this government is prepared to recognize the serious situation in the countryside and to do as much as is possible within the realm of provincial jurisdiction to try and do something for the farmers.

When in the history of politics, if you like, of government, has a provincial government of either the three prairie provinces offered, offered and requested of the Federal Government their co-operation to make sure that funds were placed in the hands of the farm people that were unable to sell their grain. I don't recall ever a provincial government making this kind of proposal. But I want to say to you that this government made that kind of proposal because it knew that something had to be done, and when we went to Ottawa we made a proposal that the Province of Manitoba be allowed to enter into the cash advance program to the extent of some \$12 million to pump into the pockets of our grain farmers that are unable to sell their grain and that we would get the co-operation of the Federal Government in so doing. And my honourable friends opposite know that to launch into this kind of a program we must have the co-operation of the Federal Government because they have the responsibility for the farming industry and the grain industry. They control the deliveries of grain to the Canadian Wheat Board and indeed can control their recoveries in any cash advance program.

And we made two proposals, just to prove, Mr. Chairman, that we were quite sincere. Despite the fact that it was also a pressure tactic to make the Federal Government move in some direction, it was also a sincere proposal to this extent, that we had two proposals in fact, one of which said, or asked that the Federal Government co-operate with the Province of Manitoba to provide cash advances of up to \$2,000 per farmer and that they would ensure

(MR. USKIW cont'd.) that the Province of Manitoba would receive its cash advance on a last-in first-out basis when the grain is sold or marketed. That was proposal No. 1. Now some people would say, well that's pretty rough. You know, you really weren't serious because you don't expect Ottawa to do that. Why should they put themselves in second place with respect to collections? So all right, we said that is one proposal, but if you're not prepared to go along with that one we will propose, and we do propose that you consider an alternative, that we will provide additional cash advances providing you the Federal Government, on a proportionate basis, collect back for us the monies extended when the grain is sold or hauled to the elevator. This was a serious proposal, Mr. Chairman, and it was never done in the history of the operation of the Canadian Wheat Board or in the history of Canada that I can recall, where a provincial government made that kind of a substantive proposal, which indeed would have cost the Province of Manitoba probably a million and a half or two million dollars in forgiveness of interest charges alone if the Federal Government would have co-operated with the province to launch this kind of a program.

So my honourable friends are far from right when they have tried to indicate the government of Manitoba does not know the problems in agriculture and the Government of Manitoba is floundering; does not know the kind of policies that are necessary; doesn't recognize the crisis in agriculture as it is today. I want to say that we do recognize it and that we have made certain moves to try and deal with it at the provincial level and that I'm hopeful that my honourable friends opposite, despite the window dressing, will appreciate the fact that Manitoba put some very serious proposals to the Federal Government on the question of agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR (Virden): Mr. Chairman, in addressing my Minister of Agriculture, I'd certainly first like to congratulate him and his department. I think over the years we've been very favoured here in Manitoba with strong Deputy Ministers—we could think of Jarvis, Wallace and now Cormack. In my term here, I've always found the finest co-operation and I suspect they were never belonging to our particular political party and this spells well for them.

Regarding our Minister's recent trip to Ottawa and his stand, I find it a little hard -- in speaking to him personally, he told me his position, and in reading Hansard I tried to get out the exact facts, and why the Minister would not have a position paper there to be sent, to leave there rather than a word I'm not sure, but I'm certain he has a good reason for this, but I think it would strengthen our hand as rural people to tell our constituents what our Minister did say in Ottawa and show it in print. This would hardly be interpreted in the form that I would appreciate showing to my farmer friends.

I sometimes question if our agriculture is progressing in the proper direction. We can think of the Extension Service and many of the scientific researches that are going on, and we can think of the sperm of a boar pig that they're now -- I'm quite sure the Minister is aware of -- working that one day you will be able to produce all females and another day, male -- and this is the aim of it. There's a lot of money spent in this field, and it does relate to my thinking when you drive out in rural Manitoba in the summer time and see cattle roaming and you see probably a bull making up to a cow, you wonder if the author of the statement "How now brown cow" maybe originated on some of this thinking. -- (Interjection) -- I'll give you time to interpret that.

Another area I think is certainly -- the grain is the main subject these days and should we be changing or advising Ottawa to change their look. We know the big elevator companies, the Pools, the Grain Growers and the Line Elevators, build huge elevators and they fill them and they know full well that we're paying for those new buildings even though we're shareholders of that company. Would not the right approach be to cut out storage or cut it down, increase handling, but they only get paid when they move grain, because I really think there's laxity all along the line in this selling from the Wheat Board. And I'm not criticizing any one field, but we have just simply got to work harder right from our own approach. We've seen a new grading system in the offing; we've seen the new quota system that I think favors the elevator company rather than the farmer, where they demand this week a Grade 4 -- you have nothing but Grade 2, and if you're desperate for the grain you're going to accept the Grade 4 price. This is cutting you back.

We've heard of the new grains council who are undoubtedly the top grain men in Western Canada, or some of the top -- Mr. Runciman, Mr. Givens, and Mr. Heffelfinger -- but I

(MR. MCGREGOR cont'd.) question this. They are experienced men in the top end, but in this desperate situation, do we maybe need other people in this grains council. Probably we consider them amateurs that are willing to stand up to hit the ball in major league fashion. I really think we need new blood in this whole field.

We certainly heard enough of the wheat reduction program, and if it's 140 million I'm quite sure agriculture is going to pay five or six hundred million in order to collect this if you take it in the full concept. I can take my own small acreage and relate it. I can build my quota up for 1970-71 by having a large summerfallow, but what is going to happen in the 1971-72 period? This is one reason the farmers are so extremely angry today. They can work with the Federal Government unhappily and certainly not satisfied, but if Ottawa would only say they had the opportunity of having this larger quota of the two, the year beyond the one - they say it's a one year shot - and when the farmer's been brought up on the farm and taught only one thing, to have more bushels, to have better bushels, and then suddenly he's told to just reverse it, for us who are in the middle age group it's really hard to accept this position and with the future only one year away, I would urge my Minister to urge Ottawa, and I would like to hear him in print what he told me personally a few days ago after he come back from Ottawa, because I think his approach was quite reasonable and it would be fair to the public of Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a few comments for a few minutes on the reply that the Minister has given us thus far on the comments that have been made on his department. And I want to say first, Mr. Speaker, that of all the things that the Minister has said in reply, I think that I've heard everything in this House when I hear a Minister of the Crown attacking another department. You know it's beyond my scope of reasoning, Mr. Chairman, to understand exactly what the Minister would have in the back of his head when he got up or stood in his seat and attacked the Department of Industry and Commerce and in effect said that they had dominated . . .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege . . .

MR. WATT: . . . and detracted from our agricultural policies -- Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the point of privilege is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has a point?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I did not attack the Department of Industry and Commerce, I attacked members of the former government that were in charge of that department.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I don't think that anyone could misinterpret what the honourable member said as far as the Department of Industry and Commerce was concerned, and he used the issue of the farm credit program as a basis to attack that department and the former Minister and myself. I've asked quite a few questions of the Honourable Minister in regard to federal and provincial policies since this House sat or convened this Session and I have had no direct answers, in fact most of the answers that I've got are simply in line with the answer that I got today when I asked him a very simple forward question and all he had to offer was to shout back across the House - "bull". Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't go along with this type of decorum in the House and language. I won't suggest that my honourable friend has been throwing out a lot of bull from that side of the House because the terms that I might use, Mr. Speaker, you probably would ask me to leave the Chamber.

So I think my honourable friend should be reasonable when he takes a look at the agricultural credit program of today and of last spring and of the year before, and I think that he will recall that I explained very fully and gave a reasonable outline of the reason that we were shifting in direction in the farm credit program in the Province of Manitoba. And the situation has not changed now insofar as our policies in the Province of Manitoba at that time as they related to the federal policy. We did discontinue direct loaning for long-term purposes because of the fact that our interest rates were in excess of that of the Federal Government and because in fact we were not in a position any further to offer the line of credit at the rate that the Federal Government were offering to the young farmers. And if my honourable friend recalls, or if he knows anything about what had gone before, that it was the Tory Government in this Legislative Assembly that established a line of credit for the farmers in the Province of Manitoba that brought the Federal Government policies into line, which eventually resulted in farm credit established by the Federal Government that was acceptable and in fact has been utilized and is still being utilized by the farmers in the Province of Manitoba.

(MR. WATT cont'd.)

And I want to say further, insofar as our credit was concerned, our change in the shift in credit, which was guaranteed loans through the lending institutions, that if it had not been for the tight money situation coming in right on the heels of that policy that the interest rates that we had negotiated with the banks, which was simple interest, was less than what it is going to cost the farmers of the Province of Manitoba through the system of credit that my honourable friend is offering them now. He has talked about this line of credit and what it is doing to the farmers in this province, and yet he can not stand in his seat and give us one example of money that has been loaned to an individual farmer in this province under his program. And I repeat what I said in my former remarks here, Mr. Chairman. I repeat what I said in my former remarks, that the statement in the Throne Speech that the program had been fully utilized is not in line with fact because it has not been utilized. My honourable friend can talk all he likes about his credit program but he can't stand up today and point out one single instance where money has been directly loaned to and individual farmer.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, insofar as the estimates are concerned, the Minister has pointed out that he has a well-rounded program. I can't disagree with him on this, because, Mr. Chairman, I see very little change in the estimates other than they appear on the estimate forms in a different form. It's a little bit harder to distinguish exactly what each item does relate to, but by and large I think that it's an estimate actually laid before us that is in line and consistent with what the Tories have been bringing in year after year up to this point. He talks about his new exciting programs. Mr. Chairman, I see very little excitement in the estimates that I see before me. But I want to point out, Mr. Chairman, that the responsibility of the office of the Department of Agriculture in the Province of Manitoba goes far beyond the service that it renders to agriculture within our province. There is a responsibility in that office to stand up and speak from that office for the farmers of Manitoba insofar as the federal policies are concerned that are directly related to the Province of Manitoba.

And while we are still on the Minister's salary, I want to refer again, which I have already done twice in this House since we convened, and that is to the policies of the Federal Government in regard to the wheat surplus in Western Canada. I have been unable to get any answer out of the Minister of exactly what position he has taken, because at the outset when the program was announced the Minister of Agriculture and the First Minister, both in this House and without the House, agreed in principle to the policy of wheat reduction and quota reduction insofar as our farmers are concerned.

The Minister indicated earlier today in the question period that I was talking so much "bull" and I want to refer him to the Winnipeg Free Press of Saturday the 28th, to a headline which says: "Wheat Plan Approved. Manitoba Agriculture Minister Uskiw said Friday that the Federal Government's plan to pay farmers for wheat acreage taken out of production in 1970-71 is a step in the right direction." Is a step in the right direction. And I want to ask my honourable friend now, I want to ask my honourable friend now if he was taking the same position last Saturday when he sat in the Auditorium in Winnipeg under a banner which said, "Down with the Federal Policy". Now which position is he taking? Or is he taking any position? Is he riding on the fence right now, Mr. Chairman? That's what I want to know from my honourable friend. But it's not possible to find out from him. I don't expect we'll find out today, tomorrow or next week. I say, Mr. Chairman, that now is the time that the Provincial Minister of Agriculture should be saying, is he in favour of a plan that there isn't one farmer in the Province of Manitoba agrees with; and if he is not in favour of it, if he is in line with the farmers in the Province of Manitoba why has he not said so to Ottawa. We have asked him repeatedly to tell us what position he took when he abandoned Manitoba, the House, his estimates, important events that were taking place in Western Manitoba and went to Ottawa to further discuss the plan which he had previously on February 28th agreed to, and we have not found out what position he took when he went to Ottawa. -- (Interjection) -- I don't know if we will or not, but I know that there are an awful lot of farmers, 35,000 of them in the Province of Manitoba, who would like to know exactly what the Minister of Agriculture is thinking in respect of our wheat problems and the problems of the farmers in this province.

Mr. Chairman, I want to talk for a few minutes about our problems in the Province of Manitoba and in Canada as they relate to the United States and to world conditions. And I am a little surprised, Mr. Chairman, that we have not heard from the Minister, in detail or at least in some detail, regarding his trip to Rome which he mentioned the other day. He went as a responsible Minister to seek out and to find out how world production and world need

(MR. WATT cont'd.) related to the Province of Manitoba. We have no report on that, Mr. Chairman. -- (Interjection) --- That's right. My honourable friend from Roblin says "no report".

The figures that I have and I think they're reasonably close, Mr. Chairman, is to the effect that somewhere in the area of 50 billion bushels of cereal grains. I think this particularly applies to wheat and to rice, are grown and consumed every year on this planet. And out of that 50 billion bushels about 2 billion bushels appear in world trade. Now we are talking in terms at the moment of roughly a surplus in the Dominion of Canada of one billion bushels. But let's have a look across the line in the United States. I have figures that I think are pretty authentic, Mr. Chairman, to the effect that in the United States, in the hard wheat growing areas, they are sold out. And here we have a federal program and a federal policy now to reduce our production of wheat. It's lauded by those across the line in the United States and I don't blame them.

A MEMBER: Approved by the Provincial Government.

MR. WATT: I really don't know whether it's approved or disapproved. It seems to be approved in one instance and disapproved in another. It seemed to be disapproved of at the meeting where for the first time in the Province of Manitoba the farmers felt that they must come to Winnipeg to make their voice heard. The first time in the history of this province, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure whether that day, that was the policy, that was the thinking of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture or whether his thinking is still that of February 28th.

But I want to go back for a moment, Mr. Chairman, to the situation as I see it, and I think that my figures are reasonably authentic, that across the line in United States the planned production of hard wheat will be going up approximately 9.7 percent; they are increasing their wheat production. And I wonder, Mr. Speaker, while in Rome if the Minister had those figures for other parts of the world, including United States, and whether he used his knowledge of what he had learned in Rome when he came back here and in the first instance agreed that we should be reducing production in Western Canada.

I go further insofar as the central states in United States, and here, Mr. Speaker, I'm referring to Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Indiana, Wyoming, northern North Carolina, Nevada, Washington, these are most of the states that are involved to some extent in the production of hard wheat. And in the production of oats they have a planned production this year over that area of 4 percent increase. Barley they are increasing 5 percent. -- (Interjection) -- That's correct. Sorghums they are increasing 6 percent. Soybeans 6 percent. Total increase over the total cereal grain, oil production areas of United States this year are planning an increase, and in Canada we have decided to summer-fallow and decrease our production.

What I want to know, does the Minister of Agriculture in the Province of Manitoba agree under these circumstances -- and I'm using some figures here, Mr. Chairman, they are statistics, I believe they're right. I got them from what I believe authority -- but I want to, for the record, probably just to bring in my own experience, because I have been down in United States and I have found in United States, particularly in North and South Dakota, that the figures that I have before me are correct. I visited one farm organization storage area, Mr. Chairman, where I found they had a facility that would carry 560,000 bushels of grain. I asked the manager of that particular facility how much wheat he had in store and I was informed that there were 90,000 bushels in store. I said to him, "How much wheat is out stored on the farms in this area?" And he just laughed, he said, "There is no wheat out on the farms in this area." He said, "They're sold out." -- (Interjection) -- Yes. The Honourable Minister says they have a better program. I'm asking him, which I have repeatedly for days and days, for weeks, what would he do in this particular case as far as program. Would he agree with the Federal Government or would he disagree with them? Does he agree with the Federal Government or does he agree with the farm union? These are questions that I'm asking the Minister and I think that he should answer.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I've given you some of these figures, I've given you the experience that I've had in the North Dakota and South Dakota areas, I point out to the honourable member that there is not a privately owned or a commercial cleaning plant in southern Manitoba today that has not been going day and night to sell Manitoba Hard Wheat to the United States to seed, to reproduce in United States next year. Admittedly, Mr. Chairman, we are selling for a pretty low price. We are caught in a jam here because of the fallacies and because of the

(MR. WATT cont'd.) bungling of the Federal Government regarding our wheat policies. We are caught in a jam. The Americans would buy more wheat right now than what we can possibly clean and get across there before road restrictions go on for seeding purposes. But because of the locked-in system that we've got in Canada today many farmers will be left with wheat on their hands which would be gladly received and seeded in United States if it could be gotten across there. The reason that I bring this up, Mr. Chairman, is because I wonder if the Honourable Minister is aware of this. I wonder when he is trying to make up his mind whether he is going to support the position of the farm union or the position of the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Wheat in Ottawa, if he is getting these statistics and getting an understanding of what is going on out in rural Manitoba in order that he might be able to make up his mind? I'm sure there isn't a member on this side of the House that would not like to know exactly what is going on in the mind of the Minister. Which side of the fence is he on? Mr. Chairman, I'm sure it's difficult to get across to the Minister; I'm sure that he will get up and that the whole thing will just be a joke to him.

You know, Mr. Chairman, when my father came to this country back at the turn of the century and along with other free enterprisers established the base for which our province might grow he at one time used quite a few mules on the farm, did some railway construction, roadbeds and that with mules, and he was known as one who could probably get a little bit more out of a mule than most other people could. I had a particularly balky horse on my farm some years later and I said to my dad one day, "You knew something about mules at one time, what will I do with this horse?" And he said, "Well you know the mules really weren't all that bad. Once you could communicate with them," he said, "and a little kindness then and a little understanding," he said, "you could get a mule to do almost anything. But," he said, "you had to get his attention, get communication." I said, "How did you get his communication?" And he said, "Well of course you had to let him have it between the ears with a two-by-four." I'm not suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that I should use a two-by-four on the Minister or a pitchfork, I'm really not a violent person, I don't believe in violence, but I would like to try to get across to the Minister that there is a problem in western Canada and in Manitoba in the farming area and that we would like to get a position from the Minister, what is his position today in respect of the Federal Government's policy on wheat reduction and acreage payments?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Chairman, I just want to take a few minutes to add to this debate. After listening to the Minister's remarks last evening and those that were conveyed to myself I couldn't help but rise again and reply.

MR. ENNS: Say it in Icelandic, Henry.

MR. EINARSON: The Minister did make some comments that are recorded in Hansard and I would like to first and foremost to, for the record, to make sure that things are correct insofar as I'm concerned. I don't want to prolong this debate about going to Rome vs probably should have been at Pilot Mound or anything like that, but I just want to say, for the clarification of the members of this Assembly, that I attended that particular meeting. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, he's quite correct, the Minister is quite correct, there was a representative from the Department of Agriculture. And I also want to say, Mr. Chairman, that the Chairman of that meeting indicated that it was unfortunate and they regretted -- and I don't say this facetiously, Mr. Minister. I think the Minister and I get along very well outside the House, but you know this is how it works when you're inside this Assembly -- he did indicate, the Chairman of that meeting, that he regretted the Minister could not attend this meeting. He was the guest speaker and there was no one to take his place. I have no objections to the Minister going to Rome. I would like to hear a report from him, incidentally, on his trip to Rome, what happened there. I would like to think that while he was there he sold about two or three million bushels of wheat to the Government of Italy. Then he would be making a worthy contribution, Mr. Chairman. So I ask you, Mr. Chairman, I would be delighted to hear what went on in that conference when he attended in Rome. If, as he said, that it was not done by previous Ministers of Agriculture, he had the first opportunity and I think it's a welcome one and a good one. I've no quarrel with that. But I'm wondering if the trip he made to Rom on the taxpayers' money that was used to get him there, whether it was a worthwhile exercise. I'd be delighted to know that.

But getting back to this meeting that I started out to tell you about, the Minister did not attend it and he did not send anyone in his place. And so it was with regret . . .

MR. USKIW: My statement was that I did and I insist that I did.

MR. EINARSON: If he did send someone, Sir - there was a representative, I'm fully aware of that. That's quite true. But for the record, the Chairman had to ask the speakers who were there, speaking previous to him, to extend the length of time of their speech. If this had been done as the Minister is saying, this would have all been in order, but it came so late that they had no alternative but to juggle the program and use other speakers that were there to fill in the time.

MR. USKIW: I wonder if my honourable friend would permit a question?

MR. EINARSON: Certainly.

MR. USKIW: Would my honourable friend state for the record, state explicitly what happened at that meeting?

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to go into one lengthy speech about the particular meeting.

MR. USKIW: . . . accusations and I would like to have it on record what happened.

MR. EINARSON: The fact is the Chairman stated the guest speaker, who was the Minister of Agriculture, would not be attending the meeting on that Friday and that there were other speakers - Mr. Heffelfinger was one of the principal speakers, and was asked to extend the length of his speech because the Minister could not be there. It was on Thursday night that the meeting were notified that the Minister would not be there and the people were very concerned. They thought the least courtesy he could have given was to send someone in his place, but this was not done. This was not done, Mr. Chairman.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I beg your pardon. I indicated on two occasions publicly in this House that a person from my department was sent to represent the Government of Manitoba at that meeting and my honourable friend keeps insisting that there was no representation, and either he withdraw it or substantiate it.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, it all depends on what the Minister means when he says "I had someone from the department sent there to represent me." Now then, let's make one clarification on this point. I agree with him that there was a representative from the Department of Agriculture, but there was no one to represent him insofar as his speaking engagement was concerned. Now are we clear on the matter?

MR. USKIW: Well, I think, Mr. Chairman, that my honourable friend ought to indicate what the remarks of the person that was there to represent me, were.

MR. EINARSON: The person that was there to represent him made absolutely no remarks whatsoever, Mr. Chairman. No remarks whatsoever. I was there the full day and I heard no remarks. It was just done, to my knowledge that is, by the Chairman of that meeting. However, that be as it may . . . -- (Interjections) -- I think we've got this straight for the record, Mr. Chairman. Let that rest as it may. -- (Interjection) -- Neither was Rome. Neither was Rome.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's a tough choice because I've been both to Rome and to Pilot Mound.

MR. EINARSON: Okay, Mr. Chairman. I merely want to add a few further remarks, Mr. Chairman. There's been so much said and I don't want to waste too much time on repetition, but the things that my honourable friend from Arthur has stated insofar as this whole program is concerned with those of us in Manitoba and the significance it has with the United States. I commented once before but I didn't make any comment in my remarks in this regard and I want to for the record now. I want to emphasize how serious the situation can be, not just for today or tomorrow, but for next year and the year after, what the consequences could be. The Federal Government are indicating that this is now Step one that we are taking in this acreage program that they are going to involve us this coming year; but Mr. Chairman, I shudder to think what step number two might be, what step number two might be. This is the one that I am concerned about, more than what I'm concerned about step number one.

I'm wondering when the Minister made his trip to Ottawa, he had to leave his departmental estimates, I'm wondering if he made a written report to the Minister, and as I asked in the question form, whether there was any opportunity of getting that report from him, I would appreciate very much having that report so that we have some idea as to what his thinking is and what direction he is taking us as the Minister of Agriculture in the Province of Manitoba. I think this is very important in light of the fact of the stand we know now that he has taken at one time and probably rightly so, he has the privilege to change his mind. This I think we can all do.

(MR. EINARSON con t'd.)

But I merely want to state for the record, Mr. Chairman, that the implications that this whole program has for farmers in Manitoba has a very serious connotation as to how it may affect us next year, say, step number two and how it relates to how things are going in United States, because the figures that my honourable friend from Arthur gave certainly bear that out. I hope the Minister will take another look at this whole program and give it very serious thought. In this way he can add to the contribution that I hope he will be able to make in helping those people in Ottawa in getting direction as to how they should go. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 7. The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, there aren't very many minutes left in today's deliberations. -- (Interjection) -- My honourable friends say "Tell him about Pilot Mound." I think that I shall use the opportunity, perhaps not today because it will likely take an hour, but at some other opportune moment will indicate to members opposite, and will respond to the questions that were put.

I want to say that my honourable friend, the Member for Arthur, (a) he can't hear when I reply to the question put; (b) he probably doesn't know how to read because he doesn't seem to check Hansard; because if he wanted the information that he is seeking to questions which he put to me over a period of time, all he would have to do, Mr. Chairman, is pick up Hansard. If he can't read it during the deliberations of this House perhaps he could take it home with him so that he can study it more fully so that he might be informed as to what the program of the Government of Manitoba is and in particular the Department of Agriculture.

The honourable member made mention of the fact that when the credit program was in effect during their term of office, that the interest rates were substantially lower -- that's true, they were -- and that the Province of Manitoba currently is not able to offer a fair interest rate to the borrower under this new program of ours. I think you're right. I think the interest rates are exorbitant. I think they're unfair, they're too high. But it just happens to be that that is what the money market is today, Mr. Chairman and that Manitoba is subsidizing the program to the extent that we are at least picking up the administration charges and that the borrower is getting the money at the lowest possible rate, the rate that the province has to pay for its money through its capital loan measures. Notwithstanding that, Mr. Chairman, I have to remind my honourable friends opposite that built in to the current credit program is, in one particular area, a very substantial system of refunds or a grant on the principal of the loan, which my honourable friends opposite try not to mention, try not to mention. That is, that there is a 20 percent grant of every loan of \$15,000 which is used for the purchase of breeding stock of cattle in the Province of Manitoba. Twenty percent of \$15,000, Mr. Chairman, happens to be \$3,000; that's a very substantial grant for anyone that wants to participate in that kind of a program. There is also the waiver of the interest on that particular 20 percent, so that in essence there is a very substantial saving to the farmers of Manitoba that indeed are participating in the program; and as I outlined before and will do so again, will indicate the participation to the extent of almost a million dollars of applications for the breeding stock program; the applications to be exact, as of March 24th, Mr. Chairman, for the purchase of breeding stock, is \$9,600,890.00. This is all subject to a 20 percent write-off in the fifth year. Now that's only three months since the program became operative, only three months, Mr. Chairman, and I am very pleased with the kind of response that we are getting to the program.

With respect to the total of applications, we have a total of -- no I'm sorry, I gave you the wrong figure in the first instance -- the 9 million was the total. The figure for the breeding stock is somewhere just under a million dollars. The feedlot portion is somewhere in the area of 1.7 million dollars. The loans if processed and approved for the 222 individual applications would amount to \$7,870,890; so that in total we have almost applications amounting to some \$10 million in round figures. When the Premier stated that the program was fully utilized, he is right, it's more than fully utilized, if you understand that we had only \$6 million of direct capital available up to the end of the fiscal year 1969.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, move the committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has directed me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kildonan, that the report of the Committee be received.

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

MR. SPEAKER: It is now 5:00 o'clock. The House is adjourned and will stand adjourned until 2:30 tomorrow afternoon.

Page 456 - Mr. Toupin's French speech given on March 31st, 1970.

MR. TOUPIN: Monsieur le président, honorables membres de la législature manitobaine, il me fait plaisir de vous présenter les crédits budgétaires du ministère de la santé et des services sociaux. Il y a presque exactement 80 ans toute la documentation présentée à la chambre de la législature manitobaine était donnée dans nos deux langues, anglais et français. Cette pratique avait duré quelque vingt années. Je suis heureux d'être un de ceux, qui en notre année du centenaire, croit encore aux faits du passé et à la réalité de l'avenir. Je veux bien que mes compatriotes comprennent par mon expression que je ne joue pas dans le domaine des rêves éphémères mais j'exprime dans ma langue ce que je ressens de plus profond.

Permettez-moi, honorables membres, de vous donner en quelques lignes, les idéaux que nous proposons pour le ministère dont j'ai l'honneur et la joie de servir comme ministre. Vous constaterez que les prévisions budgétaires devant vous totalisent environ 136 millions et le ministère comprend environ 4,066 employés.

Je vous présente un document ayant comme objectif principal d'accorder à notre population manitobaine, un service non pas restreint, et sans conséquence mais bien un service avec esprit; un esprit qui comprend toutes les mesures préventives tant dans le domaine de la santé que des services sociaux. J'estime qu'il est important de reconnaître et de faire un diagnostic précis d'une situation avant que sa progression devienne un cas de soins.

Je veux aussi penser que cet esprit en soit un de développement.

Quand nous pensons social, nous pensons trop souvent à remédier les situations plutôt que suivre de près ce qui est bien et s'assurer qu'il devienne meilleur.

Comme vous le savez, mon ministère est une dualité; soit santé et services sociaux. Ceux-ci furent conçus pour donner deux services très distincts l'un de l'autre mais nous nous apercevons que santé et bien-être, ou ce que nous appelons services sociaux, ne peuvent être logiquement divorcés. L'interdépendance des deux exige que nous regardions la personne comme une entité et non pas comme deux ou trois corps catalogués selon des besoins bureaucratiques. Il nous vient donc à l'idée que la dualité dans la distribution des services est impensable si nous voulons que la personne ne soit pas aliénée dans un enchevêtrement de bureaucratie. Je conçois donc des services davantage unifiés tout en maintenant l'expertise dans chacun des domaines.

Je crois fermement qu'il est de mon devoir de rendre la fonction publique au sein de mon ministère, très consciente du développement social. Jusqu'à présent, celle-ci a rendu d'énormes services à la population manitobaine mais il faut que chacun des employés à son service soit animé et motivé d'un même désir si l'on veut que nos services de santé et de développement social soient compétents et même justifiés. Nous voulons alors pourvoir l'animation et la motivation parmi nos employés ainsi que dans les différents secteurs du ministère afin de favoriser de meilleurs communications.

En peu de mots, santé et développement social auront une orientation distincte et nouvelle; soit prévention et développement.

En terminant, je veux vous faire part du fait que nous aurons un nouveau sous-ministre du développement social qui comblé de beaucoup d'autres qualités, sera aussi bilingue. Si nous voulons que nos services soient dans l'esprit que je mentionnais tout à l'heure, j'ai l'impression qu'ils ne seraient pas encore complets si nous ne les prévoyons pas bilingues. Que toute la population manitobaine sache qu'au bureau du ministre de la santé et du développement social on peut s'adresser dans les deux langues officielles et j'invite tous les honorables membres qui siègent ici et qui veulent bien se prévaloir d'un tel droit, d'adresser leurs questions en français. Je me ferai un grand plaisir de leur répondre ainsi. En plus, tous les

April 8, 1970

719

(MR. TOUPIN cont'd.)

manitobains qui voudront s'adresser au gouvernement dans une des deux langues officielles voudront bien le faire et je suis certain que tous mes collègues ici présent feront l'effort nécessaire pour répondre dans la langue choisie du correspondant. Monsieur le président, voici le dossier des prévisions budgétaires du Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux. (du Développement Social).