

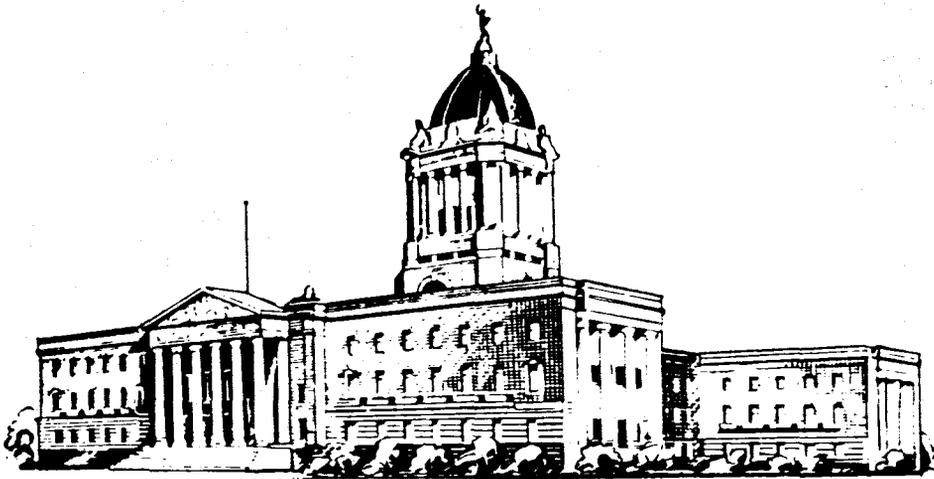


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Ben Hanuschak



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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

8:00 o'clock, Thursday, March 19, 1970

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Speaker, when we adjourned at the dinner hour I think I had managed to harp for a while on an old string about the problems of a deserted wife. I find some difficulty in getting this information through to an all-male assembly apart from myself. -- (Interjection) -- Okay, I'm glad to hear you're listening. I moved on to recommend to you the report of the Manitoba Volunteer Committee on the status of women and also pointed out the usefulness of perhaps having an educational program which would teach the young children to "keep off the grass."

Now another matter which has been causing increasing concern to me as well as many other people is the increasing use of violence as a means of resolving differences. Now this is a real threat to the secure and stable society which has given us freedom from fear. Militancy seems to be the new tool for social reform and the emphasis is on rights more than on responsibility. Differences in interests and outlook create constant conflicts between the various factions of our society, and while we may deplore the departure from rational discussion and compromise, yet paradoxically we regard violence on television as entertainment.

Thomas P. F. Hoving, retiring Chairman of a National Citizens' Committee for Broadcasting, an organization formed - and I quote - "to end the threat to our children's values, taste and sensitivity posed by prevailing television patterns." This gentleman states: "The 22,000 hours of television that an average American child will watch before the age of 18 will undo at night all that we have done with our tax dollars during the day. While the child is receiving 50 percent more of his basic education and initial impressions in front of a television set than he will in the school room, he will be witnessing five acts of violence per hour."

The American Lutheran Church has just told its 2.5 million members that children can acquire false standards, false values, false images of reality and a propensity for violence by watching television. After months of research on the impact of T.V. on youthful minds, they find that any feeling of sensitivity or revulsion or shock, or sometimes even sympathy for the unfortunate victim of continuous brutal T.V. violence, is quickly neutralized by repetition.

Mr. Richard Altovan says, "Not only has our national sensitivity been blunted when it comes to the infliction of pain and discomfort on others, but an almost frightening parallel is already apparent with the expanding brutality of ancient Rome where little by little the most unspeakable torments that can be inflicted on the human body were gradually exposed to public view in the coliseum and other public arenas to satisfy an ever increasing public appetite for sadistic spectacles."

Now while I cite American opinions, our situation is not too different. The recent decision in our courts that a man was justified in using a gun to protect his property has my sympathy, and yet I realize that if people are going to arm themselves then the criminals will carry guns for their self-defence and will probably shoot first and innocent lives will be lost. It is my feeling that we should address ourselves to understanding fully the causes and effects of the violence that you see around us and that we should institute preventive measures. In Ontario I note a bill was introduced in the Legislature which proposed a fine for showing violence. I doubt that this would be a deterrent, in fact it seems to me a licensing of violence. But I think this is enough of serious matters which I am sure depresses all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish you well in your continuing role as Speaker. It must be difficult at times to preserve the traditional chairman's neutrality. The Member for Elmwood, who finds himself in a similar situation of refereeing an unruly group, deserves commendation as well. The members from The Pas and Point Douglas distinguished themselves when moving and seconding the Speech from the Throne. This was not easy, for in my opinion there wasn't very much to get excited about.

Implementing certain recommendations from the Social Service Audit sounds very mysterious. These recommendations are of course the result of years of study by other people who have made these recommendations to us. Now, where are your ideas? I see no recognition of the magnitude of some of the problems that I have described. There's a remarkable silence on day nursery plans. Surely we may anticipate an announcement on this service now that you have the opportunity to implement your previously declared position.

And I'd like to know, and it says: "My government will introduce a measure to enable it to assume administrative responsibility for all social assistance programs in the province."

(MRS. TRUEMAN cont'd.)... I can interpret that several ways. It sounds, if you believe it the way it's written, as if they were going to take over all of the voluntary agencies as well as the government agencies and place them under one administration, which will be quite a challenge. On the other hand, perhaps you mean all financial systems will be under one administration or perhaps you really mean all provincial social assistance programs. Now I think if they are all under one administration this certainly makes for a large empire. It may be more efficient, but I think we must always remember that being big is not necessarily being better.

The section on Health and Social Services in the Throne Speech I found unimaginative, uninspiring, disappointing and a thing of platitudes. There's a caretaker attitude and we wait for further enlightenment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. ENNS: Pass.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin my comments by wishing you well in the months ahead and the difficulties you will have in restraining members of this House like my Honourable friend from Lakeside.

Since the last session of the Legislature I have had the opportunity and the honour of sitting on the Board of the Manitoba Telephone System. This is really the first chance I've had to work closely with people in a Crown Corporation of the Government of Manitoba and I would like to report that this is an invaluable experience, one that has demonstrated to me that the people who work in the Civil Service and the Crown Corporations of our province are men of great ability, men and women of great ability, and people who are able to get the job done. I would like to pay particular tribute to my colleagues on the Board of the MTS, the Chairman and General Manager, Mr. Jim Mills; the Manager of Operations and Engineering, Mr. Jim Fenton; Comptroller, Guy Williamson; and the Secretary to the Board and Executive, Mr. Sid Davies.

It was pointed out, Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne that the Manitoba Telephone System has undertaken a program of expansion so that at present there are now over 400,000 telephones in the province and a plant of some \$275 million. Also, one of the more current policies and programs that is being carried out by the MTS is the extension of service in northern communities of over 50 persons. I think that this is a real step forward throughout the province which would please my honourable colleagues who represent the northern part of Manitoba, so that in effect I suppose 95 percent or better of the people in our province are going to be covered by a good communications network, and people of course who are in more isolated communities will still find it difficult to be in communication but the so-called larger centres, if 50 is large, will in fact be covered.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to direct my comments on the Throne Speech to the question of urban government, and in particular to some of the major problems facing this government, namely in the urban field. I am somewhat heartened by the Throne Speech which clearly indicates that this government is going to attempt to tackle the problem of a new urban government structure for the Metropolitan Winnipeg area. This is something that is a very difficult and complex problem. It looks like it's going to be quite a struggle, not only I suppose with some members of the opposition but with some of the politicians in the Greater Winnipeg area. There will be all kinds of opinions; there will be all sorts of debates; but when the smoke is cleared there will be a new government structure.

I think that there is need as well for a complete re-examination of some of the problems, and particularly some of the present powers of government. If we look at the urban government structure as it exists today we see all sorts of things lacking. For example, the Metropolitan Winnipeg government has the authority to zone but it does not have the ability to plan or implement plans. For instance, there is no co-ordination in terms of the capital projects or area municipalities. They're all competing with one another; they're all borrowing; they all have a smaller base than all of them would if they were acting in unison.

There is a distinct lack, or has been a lack up to the present in terms of urban housing and renewal. This government is going to attempt to move in the area of public housing. I think that this is something that is long overdue. There's a very serious decline in the central core of the City of Winnipeg, the very heart of our Metropolitan area, and there is of course an attempt to do something to rebuild this. For example, the Metro Corporation has come up with their downtown development plan. There are other problems in the central core; the number of welfare cases, the tax base and so on.

(MR. DOERN cont'd.)

The Economic Council of Canada, in its fourth annual review, I think very well describes the problems that - not only the problems but the needs of urban centres in this country. I quote a paragraph from their review which said this: "That the growth of the urban population in city size will be accompanied by continued advances in urban economic activity in its levels of income. The urban labour force will be more highly educated, will work fewer hours and will be increasingly employed in service industries outside the central city core. These prospects increase in numbers working and living in larger urban areas, higher standards of consumption that accompany rising income and education, and increased leisure and opportunities for recreation and entertainment will impose enormous new requirements upon the quantity and quality of collective urban services."

The primary targets for Metropolitan Winnipeg and Brandon, as the TED report I think succinctly put it, is not simply population growth but the improved quality of living. We have a problem in this province, and that is the fact that we have in the past years, and in particular in the 1960's, lost a large number of people through out-of-province migration. For example, between 1961 and 1966 Manitoba's population increased only 4 1/2 percent. The COMEF report forecast we would increase 7.9, and Canada in that period of time increased 9.7. So our population growth in the first half of the decade of the 60's was **only** half. -- (Interjection) -- I figured you'd say that. Well, as a matter of fact I did speak to a resident of mine in Elmwood last night and they certainly are. They have 11 children and that makes up for a few bachelors. In the first decade of the 60's, the first part of the first decade, the first five years, 30,000 Manitobans emigrated, and the most serious part of that emigration is this, that it's the 25 to 44 age group in particular which tends to leave and this is the most productive economic group, the people who have already received their education and are well into their careers. These are the people we're losing to the east and to the west.

MR. ENNS: Would the Honourable Member permit a question?

MR. DOERN: Well, if it doesn't completely throw me off I will.

MR. ENNS: It's merely a further clarification of the statement that he just made. Would he also agree that it's probably that age group, representing so often what they call the middle income group or the professional person that you thought of with skilled or professional standing, that is so mobile in our community that's leaving, that comprises so much of this group that he mentions.

MR. DOERN: I suppose so, but you and I are still here. Essentially, Mr. Speaker, the problem is one of job opportunity I think first and foremost; and secondly, it's the kind of environment that we provided.

Seven out of ten Canadians at the beginning of this decade were urban dwellers or classified as urban dwellers by the Federal census, and it is estimated that in 1980, eight out of ten Canadians will in fact live in large urban centres. Metropolitan Winnipeg will grow by 1991 to a population of 780,000.

A MEMBER: What about Woodlands?

MR. DOERN: Woodlands, that depends on my honourable friend's activity. From 1966 to 1991, some 25 year period, the population will increase by 270,000 in the Metropolitan Winnipeg area, and I think, Mr. Speaker, that it's evident that there will be a tremendous impact on housing and a tremendous impact on urban transportation. Both of these are of paramount importance, but I defer in terms of the question of housing to some of my colleagues who are more knowledgeable in that area, but it's on the question of urban transportation **that** I would like to make some comments to point out some of the needs of our people, particularly in this region; to point to some of the failures of the previous administration; and to say to some of my colleagues in the front bench and the backbench to attempt to show some of the direction that this government will have to move if it is to meet the needs of the people in the Metropolitan area.

I would like to deal briefly with the public transit problem, but in particular with the whole question of urban transportation excluding transit. All of us I think who have sat in this Legislature a few years are aware of the fact that urban transit in this city, throughout the province - I'm talking about public transit as well - as throughout North America, is in very serious danger and has some very serious problems. I don't think there is any doubt or any question, and I'm sure my honourable friend the Minister of Mines can explain this better than I, but I don't think there is any question that public transportation needs government support.

(MR. DOERN Cont'd.)... The degree of provincial involvement I'm not certain of; the degree of government involvement, in the sense of the various levels of government, I'm completely certain of.

I'm very pleased that this administration doubled the grant from some \$264,000 to \$513,000 to the public transit system in the Metropolitan Winnipeg area. It's not surprising in fact that transit doesn't pay its own way when you consider that a large number of the users for example are either the younger set or the older set. Most of the students pay only a fraction of the fare; senior citizens only pay a fraction of the fare; and they constitute together 42 percent of all the riders on the public transportation system. So consequently if you just made them all pay the same, which would be unwise, you would have of course less of a deficit, but even then I don't think the system would be anywhere near paying for itself. It's obviously a service in the same sense as a water supply is or roads or anything else, and it's obviously not an isolated thing because the less money you put into public transportation the more money you will probably put into private transportation, paying for highways and overpasses and bridges and so on.

Any of us who sit in our cars, and all of us I suppose drive around the city at some point, and try to drive through the downtown area from the period of 4:30 to 6:00 o'clock -- (Interjection) -- Any of us who drive in the so-called peak periods in Winnipeg, it's obvious to one and all that the problem of moving through the downtown area is becoming increasingly difficult, and if it's difficult now, if you project another decade and another 100 or 150 thousand people then it's obvious that we are going to have to provide a considerable number of new facilities.

The Winnipeg area transportation study for example, which was a very extensive study, dealt with some of the needs over the next 20 years in a detailed study of traffic, land use and economic data, and they provided us with some very long-range plans. Some of them are very costly, but these of course are for the future. But there are three particular needs that they pinpoint which I would like to put in a plug for, and in particular I would like to draw to the attention of my good friend the Minister of Transportation who sits in a rather key portfolio.

First and foremost, they say that in addition to regular street improvement and repairs that we need a new overpass to replace the Arlington bridge. This would be called something like the "McGregor-Sherbrook overpass", and they estimate, the engineers estimate that the Arlington Bridge has a total life expectancy of about two years. I'm sure the Speaker himself appreciates the need for that bridge in his particular area. This is the bridge that would service the needs of the people of North Winnipeg and connect them to the downtown area. It will take several years to build and it's a very expensive project. It's of the order of 14 to 15 million dollars.

MR. BEARD: How much?

MR. DOERN: 14 to 15. There is also a need for a - this I direct to the attention of my honourable friend the Minister, the Attorney-General and the Honourable Member for Assiniboia - there is a need and an urgent need, not a need in the sense of a frill, not a need in the sense of something that can wait, but there is a priority need for a western freeway from Hamilton Avenue in St. James-Assiniboia to Wellington. This is to relieve the traffic which is ever increasing and ever building up in that end of the city, which is one of the most prosperous and most rapidly developing, to relieve the heavy congestion on Portage Avenue. This project would also be expensive and would run in the order of some \$18 million. This is over a period of years, but preliminary work and preliminary study should be I think initiated soon.

And finally, one proposal which at first when I recall reading about it didn't impress me very much, it sounded to be rather frivolous perhaps but I am now convinced of its merit, and that is the suggested underground pedestrian concourse at Portage and Main. You have terrific congestion at that corner. You have the new Lombard Place development and you have increasing traffic, and the result is that for the sake of pedestrians being able to cross at that major intersection you have major traffic tie-ups at the most busy intersection probably in the Metropolitan area. That, too, will cost several millions of dollars.

MR. HENDERSON: How are you going to pay for it.

MR. DOERN: How are you going to pay for that, that's a good question. Well, I think if we had a tax on sin we would have all the money that we wanted.

Mr. Speaker, the total program which I have outlined would run in the order of some \$40 million, but this is not an expenditure of one year, this is an expenditure that would be spread

(MR. DOERN cont'd.)... over a number of years, particularly I think in a five-year program. Some of my honourable friends apparently don't take me seriously because they obviously don't think there is a need for this sort of thing.

Mr. Speaker, I think the question has been asked, where will the money come from. Well I would like to tell you first of all where in fact it does come from, because the money for transportation, the money comes from our taxes on vehicles and our fuel taxes and so on, license plates. Fifty-six percent of the auto registration is in the Metro Winnipeg area and 48 percent of the total number of vehicles in the province comes from this area. If you look at some of the statistics of a few years ago from the -- if you look at the various statistics from Metropolitan Winnipeg Corporation, the City of Winnipeg, the Canadian Good Roads Association and the Department of Transportation, you see that about 48 percent of revenues in fuel and license comes from the Metropolitan Winnipeg area. About one-half of the revenue comes from this area and over 50 percent of the population lives in this area. But where is the money spent? The money is spent outside the Metropolitan Winnipeg area. -- (Interjection) -- That's right, it's spent in Minnedosa and other constituencies like -- (Interjection) -- Woodlands. I don't want to name the honourable members and their constituencies, but -- (Interjection) -- the Nairn Overpass, that was one that I enjoyed, yes.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at a breakdown of where the money is spent, 90 percent of the money, I suggest -- and I would like to hear comments on this because there will no doubt be comments that may dispute these figures that I have. Perhaps the Minister himself may not agree and perhaps the former Minister going back a couple of years might not agree as well, but I say that if you look at the statistics of provincial contributions to the Metropolitan area, it tends to run in the order of about eight or ten percent per year. You can go back through the 1960's and you can see that the expenditures in the sense of the relation of revenue from fuel taxes and licenses in relation to what was spent on streets and maintenance and so on runs in the order of from about five percent to ten percent, and I'd say the average in recent years has been about ten percent. It was under a Conservative administration in the decade of the 60's, up until the more fortunate end of the 60's, and now for the next decade or so it will be our turn to see how we handle these problems. But in the 60's I think the Conservatives struck out. They also I think didn't do very well if you compare their per capita expenditure on major roads in Manitoba from -- well in the 1960's, but for example to look at some statistics over say about '65 to '67, my figures indicate that they spent for example on the contribution that they made to the Metropolitan street system for '65 to '67 was about \$23 million, whereas on highways throughout the province it was of the order of 72 million; and if you look at a per capita basis of citizens within this area compared to citizens throughout the province....

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, would the member permit a question?

MR. DOERN: Certainly.

MR. WEIR: I'd like to know from the honourable member if he would tell me who benefits from the expenditure in terms of highways, whether it is restricted municipally or not, an example being the No. 1 Highway from Portage to Winnipeg, four lanes, for the benefit of the people at High Bluff, which is a very interesting place in Manitoba. Are they the ones that generate the traffic, or would it happen to be that there happens to be a traffic generator that is using the artery and the expenditure is not in the city but for the benefit of the city.

MR. DOERN: Well I think that's a very interesting point, but I would like to remind the Leader of the Opposition that people from all over Manitoba come to Winnipeg and they use Winnipeg streets and they drive on Winnipeg streets and they come in by truck and by car and by bus and they also use our public transportation system as well.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, on a very weak point of privilege, a weak point of privilege if I may as the former part-time Minister of Highways, the honourable member quoted some figures, which I don't dispute because I appreciate his astuteness in adding figures, but if he was using contributions, provincial contributions to Metro as such in the programs that I'm sure that he's pointing out, he would have to be or should have to be made aware of the fact that there were over and above these figures special arrangements such as the province taking on the 100 percent share of certain particular arteries, such as special arrangements for the construction of bridges which were made during the time of the Metro coming into being, and so there was a fair amount of additional monies over and above those figures. Mr. Speaker, thank you Mr. House Leader for letting me get away with it so long.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member is correct, it was a very weak point of

(MR. SPEAKER cont'd.)... privilege. The Honourable Member from Elmwood may continue.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, on that same point of order, may I suggest it was just as strong a point of privilege as has been used from the other side within the last three days.

MR. DOERN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I had expected a question but I have received a speech within a speech. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition may dispute these figures, and I suggest that I have obtained them from the Department of Transportation and from Metro and Winnipeg and Canadian Good Roads and so on. My figures may not be exactly the same as the Minister's; I think they will be basically the same as the former Minister of Highways, but I suggest to you that the amount of expenditures - I don't care how you make your argument - in comparison to the needs of this area, they have not been in relation, that the Metropolitan Winnipeg area has not received fair treatment from the Conservative administration, and I think that was demonstrated in the last election and I think it's been demonstrated in the percentage representation that the Party has had in the Metropolitan Winnipeg area. Our task is to correct this situation.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Speaker, would the member permit a question?

MR. DOERN: Well, I think I'll take one more and then I will defer from any others.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Just for my own enlightenment, I believe you quoted the figure of \$17 million for replacement for the Arlington Street Bridge. Was it 17?

MR. DOERN: Fourteen to fifteen.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Fourteen to fifteen million. Is this the revised figure now that it won't be necessary to put an overpass over the Midland Railway, because it will be removed and this should reduce the cost from what was originally anticipated -- (Interjection) --

MR. DOERN: It was twenty million -- (Interjection) -- and still is. Well, I think the Minister of Transportation perhaps could handle that later. But this is our -- (Interjection) -- He can handle the question and I hope he can handle the overpass.

Mr. Speaker, I think that what we have to do, and I say we, meaning this government has to do, is to recognize the need of our urban centres in this province. I think of Brandon and Metropolitan Winnipeg in particular, and Thompson and Churchill, Woodlands, Minnedosa, and I think that we must realize that their needs differ both qualitatively and quantitatively from the rest of the province. There is I think quite a difference in terms of the approach and the solution.

I would like to also suggest - and I now am coming to the last few minutes of my comments - I would like to suggest a number of positive proposals and I think one of them -- again to my honourable friend the Minister of Transportation, I would like to hear his view on this later on when he has a chance to present his estimates. It is my understanding that the Department of Highways does not in fact have an Urban Section, and I believe, or at least I would like to hear why it doesn't have it if that is true, or perhaps whether there shouldn't be established within the department an urban section which would include urban planners and transportation men, because I think one of the reasons that the transportation in Manitoba has not tackled urban problems, one of the reasons is because there has been a policy to concentrate on building roads throughout Manitoba and in particular outside the Metropolitan area, and I think that the only way we will have more recognition of the problems of this area is to have people in the department itself, professional civil servants who are urban experts. I also think there is a need, and we have talked about this before, for the establishment of a Department of Urban Affairs. I think these measures in combination with a new government structure in Metropolitan Winnipeg will ensure that the people of this area get a better deal.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to make a suggestion to two of my colleagues, namely the Minister of Cultural Affairs, and in conjunction with that the Minister of Transportation. I would like to raise the question of the Centennial licence plates because I think it's been unfortunate - and I have read the argument why not and I have heard the Minister explain why he was unable to bring out a 1970 licence plate, which was because of the activities or the decisions of the previous administration - it's unfortunate because there are hundreds of thousands of Manitobans who have cars and only a very small number are portraying the Centennial licence plate.

My understanding of the situation is this, and I would like to make a concrete proposal which I would like to hear from the other Ministers at some point whether they think it's feasible or not. I understand, from reading the Manitoba Business Journal, that 17,000 of these plates have been sold. In the 1967 Centennial, 40,000 centennial plates were sold at \$5.00 a

(MR. DOERN cont'd.)... piece, and I understand that for the 1970 centennial 100,000 plates were ordered, but according to the Manitoba Business Journal only 17,000 plates have been sold, which means that there are 83,000 plates stockpiled somewhere in this building or at the Centennial Centre or at somebody's garage or somebody's house, there sit 83,000 of these centennial plates which some of us have on our cars. And I say -- (Interjection) -- I say this, a Fire Sale would be a terrific idea; that's my exact proposal. These plates sold for \$5.00 a piece and now if you, in the new system, if you held a \$5.00 plate before you could buy the new one for \$3.00. Well I say this, these plates cost apparently something of the order of fifteen or twenty cents a piece, and maybe if you consider the envelopes that they are put into it's a few cents more, although they were usually donated by some commercial firm. So let's say the price is somewhere about twenty cents. Even if it's twenty-five cents, if we have that stockpile sitting there unless there is a concerted drive on the part of the Centennial Corporation to get those plates out, then I say that they are going to be just put to scrap.

So my proposal is why don't we have a sort of a combined effort on the part of the two departments; sell the plates for either fifty cents or a dollar; make them available to anybody who will go to, say to the licence bureau, or is it the Centennial Corporation, and sell one at fifty cents or a dollar, because otherwise they are simply going to be melted down and they will all go to waste. I think it's a pity in our Centennial Year that people who want these plates can't get them.

Mr. Chairman, I think that's the sum of my remarks. I hope that the members of the opposition will realize now why they were defeated in the last election, because of their unkind treatment of the Metropolitan Winnipeg area. And I also hope that my colleagues here will take action on some of these issues to ensure that the New Democratic Government lasts throughout the 70's and the 80's.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I'd like to begin by congratulating you on your retention of the Speakership and on coming back to the post you hold so well. I was thinking of this in the course of the work I've been doing recently and I thought that you were probably one of the most suited persons from the House for this kind of job. The reason I say this is that frequently this place does look a bit like a classroom, and with few exceptions, -- (Interjection) -- with few exceptions the members frequently look to you in the same way as students do, hoping that you will be both firm and fair.

I would also like to congratulate the mover of the motion. -- (Interjection) -- I started out determined, Mr. Speaker, that I was not going to be political and I will not be badgered into it. I would like to say the mover of the motion did an admirable job. What I liked most about it was that throughout his speech he was positive and non-political. I enjoyed the good things he said about the development of The Pas, and, Mr. Speaker, I assure you I thought of them even more vividly yesterday. The Seconder also took a very positive approach and brought to our attention a problem which is current here and real. The illegal and non-medical use of drugs in our schools is something that we ought to be thinking about and we ought to be aware of.

I think it's unfortunate that we don't frequently hear from the people that find themselves in the backbenches of the government side. I know that there's a tremendous potential there, and I don't know if it's because of the system or because of the administration, but I would like to say that the voices back there are a little too silent. There are many times when I can think of ideas well put in the hallway by the people in the back rows, contributions that are very worthwhile to this House, but somehow on the government side they don't seem to be heard. Now I again say I don't know whether it's the system or whether it's the administration but being non-political, I would tend to say it's likely the system.

I am interested in many departments, Mr. Speaker. I am very interested in the agricultural situation that we find ourselves at present; I am interested in the educational financing and administration that we hear a little about; I am interested in the investments in industrial development of the province; but tonight I'd like to dwell on another matter which to me is very important and not frequently talked about, and that is the matter of Manitoba's ethnic culture teaching and the surrounded important areas. I believe that we are all tempered by our personal experiences in life, and the way we think and the way we act frequently are reflective of the past experiences that we've had.

In my own experiences, I might say that I was tempered by and in the same way as any

(MR. GIRARD cont'd.)... member of a French family would be. I attended both multi-cultural group schools that were not called either Catholic or Protestant. I attended the French College of Otterburne; I attended St. Paul's College in Winnipeg, which as we know is basically Anglo-Saxon oriented; I attended the University of Manitoba, which again is multi-cultural and even in some areas may say multi-linguistic. I taught in areas that were basically Anglo-Saxon, German, Ukrainian, Icelandic, Swedish and so on. These experiences have led me to respect my fellow Manitobans, and I say this because I mean exactly that. I have developed a great deal of respect for the Mennonites with their genuine Christian way of life, the simple modest way in which they go about their daily routine. I must admit, Mr. Speaker, before I start, I must admit that there are exceptions, and we're happy to leave them shine.

Mr. Speaker, we've all met the traditional Manitoban of Ukrainian origin, with his modest way of life, his flare for social gaiety, colourful dress, his lavish celebration and his frugal way of life. We know him. We know a little bit about the Indians; might I say that too frequently we know too little, but in our associations with them we realize their willingness to share. They share their meagre belongings much like Christianity teaches that others should. We have people of this origin in Manitoba who bear with a smile and frequent laughter their very difficult way of life. We have in Manitoba French people, people of French origin, and we've met them. He is excitable in temperament and he likes living. We've also met the Anglo-Saxon, the English who is calm, diplomatic, shrewd, glib. He is the warm but self-sufficient kind. Again, Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that there are exceptions in all these. But we have met them; we know them.

Now these are the people, these are the groups that make up Manitoba, and these are the people that will shape the destiny of Manitoba. Now Canada, as we've heard, as we know is bilingual historically and is bilingual legally, but I submit, Mr. Speaker, that Manitoba is even richer than that; it is both bilingual for those reasons; but it is multi-cultural, and it is a heritage that is rich indeed. The only problem is that we haven't yet realized it. In the past, ethnic groups have come to the Legislature and made demands. We made demands for the teaching of different languages, and like governments would, they finally conceded. A lot of times, some times removed it, but what interests me, Sir, is that our schools were legally permitted to teach languages because of political reasons and economic reasons. It was thought that the student would benefit economically if he were to be bilingual, and politically it was always a wise thing to give in a little. I would say that we forgot to convince our people that the reasons we are teaching a bit of other languages in school or university is for cultural reasons. And that's what we forgot, that there is a cultural value, and to achieve or realize this cultural value to the fullest it is almost essential that one speaks the language; it's certainly very highly desirable.

In the past, the French Association - and I refer to the French because it's convenient, of course I mean Franco-Manitobaine - L'association d'éducation, which is the association concerning itself with the education of French students in Manitoba, in the past concentrated, Sir, on improving the instruction that was given to the French people of Manitoba. And I commend them for it. I would like to say, however, that it is sad that we forgot in the process that there were other people that might be interested in the learning of French, that there were people who are today interested in learning French but really have very little assistance to do so. Today, the succeeding organization, l'association Franco-Manitobaine again faces the same kind of problem. It is oriented toward the bettering of the instruction of French to the students who are already fluent in the language, but what we must do is not only that - I commend them for it - but we must go beyond this, we must make provision so that the people who are not fluent in French and who wish to become fluent in French are given an opportunity and assistance to do so.

I'd like to just quote an experience I've had just recently. I happened to be principal at Lorette School which is 65 percent French - I say 65 percent of our students are of French origin, and I had a student come to me from Regina lately who was a graduate of Grade 12, and she came to this school precisely because she wanted to become fluent in French. She was going to go on to other things and she thought that this, for cultural values as well as economic values, would be desirable. But it was regrettable, Sir, that we had no course convenient, we had no facilities to accommodate her. In fact, although we put our heads together (maybe because we didn't have too much to work with) however, because there was nothing there we couldn't do anything for her. She

(MR. GIRARD cont'd.) . . . stayed only a few days. May I suggest that we ought to concentrate on this area in the courses that we're going to design in our schools. Now I've been dealing with French because I want to use it as an example, but I don't mean to exclude other languages as well. I think that it's very important that in our schools Ukrainian be taught from an early age, and that facilities be given so that students not only can maintain what they have, but others can acquire more than they have had chances to acquire in the past. What we need, Mr. Speaker, is not loud announcements about concessions or legislation of laws saying that we dictate certain percentages should be or should not be, what we need is teaching of language for cultural reasons, and interest in learning languages for cultural reasons. What we need is to have our students realize the value of our heritage, the cultural value of our heritage. I'd suggest that what we need, therefore, is permissive legislation giving a little responsibility to the school board to determine degrees, and as much as possible courses designed with the end of interesting students in the cultures that exist in Manitoba.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I'd like to congratulate you in the manner in which you are carrying on with this great responsibility that you have. I think that you are well regarded by all the members of this House and I'm sure that they will keep on co-operating with you and try to make your job, your responsibility easier. Although I wasn't fortunate enough to hear the mover and the seconder of the Speech from the Throne motion, I might say that I read Hansard with interest. After what I read I'm sure that these two members will certainly bring in a contribution here in this House.

I would like to thank the Honourable Member from Morris for taking notice of the Festival du Voyageur. I think that he covered this quite well. I think that there's an awful lot of credit coming to the good people, not only of St. Boniface but of Greater Winnipeg and I would say even Manitoba and maybe even other provinces for the interest. It seems that, speaking a bit on what the last speaker said on the group of Manitobans, the Manitoba Mosaic and so on, I think that we had an example a few short weeks ago of how people can rejoice together, can be happy together and respect each other. I think that this is something that was demonstrated. I am sure that we all give credit to all the people that made this a success. It might be dangerous if I were to start naming some, maybe the First Voyageur, Mr. Forest who travelled all across the country and even across the line. I think that he made an excellent voyageur, First Voyageur. I think that probably Magistrate Trudel, who was the Chairman of the Festival, also did quite well. His Worship the Mayor and all the members of the committee. I think that, well, that there was even a first. I think that there was -- there might have been drinking on Sunday. Of course it was at the Oblate Fathers' property and I think that there was no abuse and I think this is the important thing. Maybe, if nothing else, the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition might make the members of this House realize where we need some changes in certain laws and it's the abuse that we are trying to change, not prevent people from having a good time as long as they don't abuse the privileges.

Mr. Speaker, I think that first of all maybe we should now try after the few months of this government in office, I think that every member of this House should ask himself how best he can serve Manitoba. I think that first of all we should all agree that our first priority should be the interest of Manitobans. We should have the interest of Manitobans at heart, and not a special or privileged class, or even less should have at heart personal ambition or self interest. Of course there's bound to be some partisan approach to some questions by the members of this House. This is bound to happen no doubt. But surely the members of this House should have enough self discipline to place the interest of Manitoba first when it counts. And I must assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I do not object to the two motions of non-confidence that we have in front of us. This is traditional. This is good. Criticism of the government policies also is to be expected, especially if the members of the opposition are doing their homework, are taking their responsibility seriously. Because this is democracy and this is the name of the game. But Sir, there's limit to where you can go, to how far you can go, and I'm sorry that the Honourable Member from River Heights is not in his seat today, because I think this member, it is personal vendetta that he's had against this government even before this government really had a chance to take office. I think that it has been obvious that what he wants more than anything else is to become the next premier of this province, and this ambition is fine, but I hope that he will stop in some of his actions, some of this personal vendetta before destroying the province in his try for power. Yes, of course, I'm referring to the Honourable Member from River Heights, the former Minister of Industry and Commerce, and it's not my fault if he's not here today; I thought he would be. Because I think he's the biggest baby in this House, the biggest cry baby in this House, and Manitobans are tired of listening to this prophet of gloom.

He likes to give the impression that he's a big-time politician, maybe even a professional politician. But again I say, I repeat, I was here tonight because I'd like to implore him to follow the rules; any rules; the rules that he wants to write himself. But once he's written the rules, he should not try to change them to suit himself. I think that this is what's wrong. He's been going around here in the last few months across Manitoba and outside of Manitoba, saying how much this government wants to hurt business or businesses, that it would destroy business. He's practically suggested to the businessmen that they should leave the province. Well, what proof has he got? Why doesn't he come with something more specific and make certain points, certain accusations on this Schreyer Government, that they are trying to chase

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) business away from this province? I'd like the member to be honest and as I say, play by the rules, any rules, but the same rules for everybody.

On May 13, 1969, if you look at Hansard on Page 2157, this is what he had to say, and I quote him now: "But there's a state of mind that exists on the part of the opposition that has to change, and unless it changes I am suggesting, and I repeat it again, and there may be some who dislike it, you are going to be hurting this province, and your intention is not to hurt it, but if it's your desire to try and minimize the accomplishment of the government - and that's your function - or to expose them, to use the term of the Leader of the New Democratic Party, in your enthusiasm I am suggesting you are doing a disservice in this area." Well, is that a rule? Does he really believe in that? What is that they say about living in glass houses? What they say about your skirt is showing? Did he really believe this when he said that at the time when he was sitting in the front seat? And if so, what has changed his mind in a few short months? Does he really think that he's helping Manitoba by carrying on the way he has been doing? Does he think that this will help attract businesses here? He's talking about innuendoes. Well I think he's a master at innuendoes. Is the present government really to blame, as he says, for everything that goes wrong? Again, I wish he'd go by the rules not only when it suits him.

I would like to quote from the Free Press of June 21, 1968. "Who's In Control" is the heading. The other heading "Not Politicians - Spivak". "Industry and Commerce Minister Sidney Spivak Thursday warned a group of local businessmen not to attach too much importance to the outcome of Tuesday's federal election. Mr. Spivak was speaking to the Winnipeg Real Estate Board in the Westminster Motor Hotel. 'Whoever is elected, the course of action is pretty well determined,' he said. I feel that there are factors and dynamics working in this country that will reshape our national identity and our economy. Although the politicians can give expression to this process they have very little control over it."

Mr. Speaker, what has happened to change the honourable member's mind? Has he changed his mind now and is it all the fault of the present government? Are we here, Mr. Speaker, to serve a privileged class? Are we to be interested only in companies, in big business? The honourable member yesterday had to defend himself and he had much concern for those poor people, these poor companies that were just trying to do a job. Not once did he mention the ordinary people, the taxpayers of Manitoba. Not once. He talked about giving jobs. But what kind of a job are they? What kind of a job? This is the same member that had advised this House to be very careful with minimum wages. He's one of them that went on with the companies, such as Gerhard Kennedy, who squawked about the minimum wage; a company who I at this moment challenge to open their books of the last two or three years to tell us how much work they were doing in Manitoba and to deny that a lot of this work was contemplated being farmed out in New Brunswick; people who had let their designer go and a lot of other people go. Now what kind of a truth is this? This government, and I give credit to the Leader of the Opposition, this former government I should say, asked for a mandate. It was refused, this mandate. The people felt that there was something wrong and they elected another government. Is it to the interest of Manitoba not to be critical? This is fine; but to be unfair and to be prophets of gloom, like the -- and I'm not accusing all the members of the government at this time. I'm accusing, although he's not here (as I said before he can read Hansard I'm sure,) who is, as I said, conducting a personal vendetta. It's time that this stopped and it's time that this government be given a chance, for the good of Manitoba. Criticize our policies and I'll be joining you if I feel that there's something that should be criticized, but don't try to blame everything and to scare the people, the businesses out of Manitoba or away from Manitoba.

If we are doing our work, if we are accepting our responsibility here in this province, we must look after the interest of all our people. We cannot say the only way is to take taxes off the big businessman; not to fool around with the minimum wages; to give all kinds of give-away and then after that to say we cannot divulge anything to you poor dumb taxpayers; it's your money we're playing around with, but why the hell should you know where this money is going? Get back in your hole. Get back in your hole because you're talking about big businesses. And this is exactly what the member has been saying. This is exactly what he's been saying. He challenged the First Minister not too long ago in one of his weekly or daily Press Statements -- (Interjection) -- well practically, but the press has not been that gullible yet. They don't take all his press statements. He's challenged the First Minister of this province to tell us what was the matter with these deals. And the First Minister did. And what is he saying now? How dare you, how dare you say anything against the companies, and the First Minister never

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) said anything. He gave the companies credit for making a good deal. But this is the red herring that is being thrown at us now, you've got to pretend that you're defending the company. The only blame that was put on was on the former administration for making a bad deal and keeping it a secret from the people of Manitoba. That's the only thing. So why should we keep the people in the dark?

All right. There's some people that believe in the free enterprise system more than others. For myself, I believe in the free enterprising system if it can do the job and if you don't have to penalize or get somebody else to subsidize them, because this is no longer free enterprise. Not at all. And this Minister is talking about wanting to know, this former Minister, wanting to know everything. It looks like if he was running a dictatorship, because the member from Riel yesterday had three strikes and he struck out. He asked three different questions, because he was sure that the final contract had not been signed by the former government but by this administration, and, as I say, he struck out. Because somebody's fast and he doesn't know about it so, I think the then Cabinet knew too much about it. I don't know if it's only the former Ministry, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, but the fact is that that contract was signed approximately five days before this government took over, when the former government knew that it was on its way out. Now what was the rush? Why the secrecy and why the rush? You know, things don't change that fast. It's not in eight months that all of a sudden all these businesses will be chased out of here. Let's promote our ideas, all of us. Let's promote our ideas and fight for what we believe, but let's not bring in these things of wanting to hurt the companies. If there is any statement, if there's a proof of that, I'd like to hear it. I'd like to hear it, because I'm not interested in this kind of doings and I would be the first one to join with the former Minister to chastise the government if this was the case. But as I said before there's -- and this is my ideas of liberalism -- live and let live and work for the people of Manitoba, all of them, not just for a privileged class. It's all right to give lip service to everybody but when it comes to helping somebody, just the privileged class, I think that this is wrong.

I would like to say a few words about the Member from Assiniboia who said in his Throne Speech today -- he brought in a resolution that would relieve the old age pensioners, all of them, if they qualified or not; and when he was asked where you'd get the money he said, "It's your promises. That's all that I'm interested in. Fulfill your promises." I don't know about the promises that the members of the government made, and I don't really care. This was when they were fighting for a job. Maybe they got a little excited like many of the candidates do, of all parties. But the fact that here we were elected to take our responsibility, and if the member had some ideas, fine, but he's got to be able to say where he's going to get this money. I heard him say today that he didn't believe in sales taxes, or some of them anyway. -- (Interjection) -- Some of them. The honourable member didn't say that this afternoon, that he felt that it should be lowered on certain things? All right. Well the sales tax brings in \$60 million; maybe some day he can tell me how much of that he wants them to knock off. Then his program of today -- some people had figured at a few million dollars, but he says it cost \$900,000.00. --(Interjection) -- All right, well you just tell me in money what you want to do. You have good points. I'll back that too. I've said that in the past and I agree with you.

Now, I think that the honourable member said a few months ago that he didn't believe -- he believed in ability to pay but the personal income tax and the corporation tax had been increased too much when this government did this. Well that's \$24 million. Wasn't there a note of be careful. Ability to pay, yes, but don't go too far in corporation tax. That's the point I'm trying to make.

And then the succession duty tax also should be returned to the people and that's \$4 million. And then of course he wanted to reduce the premiums and so on; I think he did last year when we shared a few of our ideas a little more than we do this year. And I would like to -- the member now, I don't blame him for his ideas but I think that he has a responsibility. You can't say I want this, I want this, I want that, and you're charging too much taxes and then say, "Well, you made a promise. Go ahead. Why should it be my responsibility?" If you're not serious, if it's strictly a political, partisan politics, this resolution, that's fine. We'll play the game; it's been done before. But if the honourable member is serious, when he's asked "where will you get the money?" he will try to answer that.

Now we have in front of us two votes of non-confidence, and both of them talk about the property taxpayer, the Conservative also a property taxpayer at municipal and school level. This is a big interest, and I say again to them, what a difference eight months makes, because the spokesman for the former government, the Honourable Member for Wolseley, exactly a

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) year ago today on March 19, 1969 had this to say on the subject after a lengthy speech: "I think that it is in the area that" - and that's on Page 531 - "I think that it is in the area that you must look at, not necessarily the mill rate but the actual amount of money that the real property taxpayer is called upon to pay, and I can't honestly say that the taxpayer has been called upon to shoulder an excess burden as has been indicated in this House, and I'll repeat, I can't honestly say that the taxpayer has been called upon to shoulder an excess burden as has been indicated in this House."

Now, was this program of this government so good that the members of the Opposition could not find anything to give as a vote of non-confidence, and after all it's traditional that they have to take this, or did they change their mind now that they're sitting on that side? Last year it was all right. In fact, the member who spoke to the government at the time made a point to say they should be charged to these people and then you'll see that you'll have way less frills in education. Do they still think that there are too many frills in education? That there's not an unjust load on the shoulders of the taxpayers of Manitoba?

They talked about taxes and everything has changed apparently now. You're chasing businesses and you're challenging the people for why there's so much taxes, but just a few years ago, as Frances Russell of the Tribune said: "Provincial Treasurer Gurney Evans' no tax increase budget was to be described as a masterful stroke of political and financial buck passing. The political buck was passed to Ottawa, the financial buck went to the province's municipalities." But crossing in front of you, Mr. Speaker, apparently makes one look at things much differently, and I have your note, I think that I have about five or six minutes. I would like to join the last spokesman who showed his interest in the Manitoba mosaic, in the people that form the population of Manitoba, in Manitoba, and I agree in certainly what he wants to achieve - a suggestion I think that he might have been a little wrong or unfair at times to say that some members of the minority group were not interested, or more specifically let's call a spade a spade, some of the French-speaking people were not interested in others learning their language. This is the impression that I had, that they were -- I don't think that he was trying to accuse them too much, but this was the suggestion that he made. But you can only have the time not too long ago when French was being taught not as a teaching language but as a language of instruction only in the fourth grade. When you start fighting to get something yourself you don't want - and especially when you're a member of a minority group - the last thing to do is try and shove it down anybody's throat, which too many people are being accused of doing.

But I'm awfully pleased and I know that he at least, and I'm sure that many others because the political climate has changed, will back the policies of this government. He's talked about permissive legislation, and I think if you read the Throne Speech, this is what this government promises. I can assure the honourable member that since approximately last August there's been an awful lot of studies made to promote this biculturalism, this bilingualism and multiculturalism that he talks about. I can tell him that there's been a lot of studies in the field of education -- (Interjection) -- would you talk a little louder please then I can at least get a chance to answer you.

MR. ENNS: We'll be with you, Larry.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, now I have three with me, Mr. Speaker, I have three with me from this side of the House at least. -- (Interjection) -- I beg your pardon?

MR. ENNS: In our hearts we know you're right Larry.

MR. DESJARDINS: I wasn't too sure you had a heart, but Mr. Speaker, I wanted to be especially serious on this because I think this is a serious matter, the question of promoting national unity and to promoting also to do everything possible to make a success of this Manitoba mosaic that we have. As I say, I would like to tell the honourable member that there's been a lot of work done. One thing, in the teaching of French as the first language; in other words, French predominantly for the people of French origin and also for French as a second official language, that is French for the English people.

And then I might say to him that we're in the process now of trying to have the ethnic groups of Manitoba organize a congress in conjunction with our Centennial Year where they will have a forum to bring in constructive suggestions to this government, and I hope that with the help of all the members of this House we will finally take politics or partisan politics out of the question of people's language and culture, and I hope that all the members of this House, as we started to do at the last session where we were very proud to unanimously recognize the Queen, but also in a context of recognizing a bilingual province in a province where the government and the members of this House will do everything in their power to promote the Manitoba

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) mosaic where, as the honourable member said, Manitoba can really be an example to the rest of Canada where the people will live in harmony and unity even if there isn't uniformity. Thanks very much.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I at the outset express my pleasure that you are again presiding over the business of this Assembly, and I know that you will, as you have in the past, endeavour to apply the rules in an impartial manner to the end that the business of this House may be conducted in an orderly manner.

I would also like to express my personal goodwill to the mover and the seconder of the Address from His Honour. The Honourable Member from The Pas who has the interests of his constituency at heart and who has such great respect for civil rights, he has indicated his concern and his approval of the items that are contained in His Honour's address that deal with that subject. He particularly singled out the subject of invasion of privacy as one of the civil rights that he was concerned with and the legislation on which he looked forward to, and we can certainly join with him in that enthusiasm, because as you recall the resolution in that respect did originate on this side of the House.

To the Honourable Member from Point Douglas, again a very interesting address, and his very carefully proposed concern for the increasing drug addiction amongst the younger people in our society is a concern that is shared by everybody in this Assembly, I'm sure, and we join with him in his eloquent description of the problem and the way in which he has brought it to the attention of his colleagues in government.

Mr. Speaker, the speech from His Honour included of course mention of our centennial celebrations and his pleasure at the acceptance of the invitation from Manitoba to Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Philip, the Prince of Wales and Princess Anne, who have all agreed to come to Manitoba and to be with us and join with us in at least part of the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. It is now 9:30 and I must interrupt the proceedings and put the question on the sub-amendment.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the sub-amendment lost.

MR. PATRICK: Yeas and nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members. For the information of the few members that may have been absent, I just wish to remind them that we're now dealing with the sub-amendment to the main motion of the Throne Speech debate.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Bilton, Craik, Einarson, Enns, Ferguson, Girard, Graham, Hardy, Henderson, Johnston (Sturgeon Creek), Jorgenson, McGill, McGregor, Molgat, Patrick, Sherman, Spivak, Watt, Weir and Mrs. Trueman.

NAYS: Messrs. Cherniack, Green, Paulley, Petursson, Schreyer.

MR. SPEAKER: With leave of the members we would appreciate if we could have the vote repeated because we had the wrong list to work from. -- (Interjection) -- It was difficult for the Clerk. I think the Clerk had attempted his best to use the list they started off with but it's becoming more and more difficult as the vote proceeds.

MR. SCHREYER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, that being so, will you call the Yeas and Nays again? Is that the idea?

MR. WEIR: To make it completely legal, may I say we grant leave.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the sub-amendment lost.

MR. PATRICK: Yeas and Nays, Mr. Speaker.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Bilton, Craik, Einarson, Enns, Ferguson, Girard, Graham, Hardy, Henderson, Johnston (Sturgeon Creek), Jorgenson, McGill, McGregor, Molgat, Patrick, Sherman, Spivak, Watt, Weir and Mrs. Trueman.

NAYS: Messrs. Allard, Barrow, Beard, Borowski, Boyce, Burtniak, Cherniack, Desjardins, Doern, Evans, Fox, Gottfried, Green, Jenkins, Johannson, McBryde, Mackling, Malinowski, Miller, Paulley, Pawley, Petursson, Schreyer, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, Uskiw and Uruski.

YEAS, 20; NAYS, 28.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the sub-amendment lost. The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for The Pas and the proposed motion of the Honourable Leader of the official Opposition in amendment thereto. Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, we left off at that point in the speech from His Honour where I was commenting on his pleasure at the visit from Her Majesty and Prince Phillip.

MR. SPEAKER: For the information of the honourable member, we did not leave off at the point, the honourable member is now debating the amendment; previously he was debating the sub-amendment.

MR. MCGILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said at the outset, Mr. Speaker, you can now understand my pleasure that you are in charge of these discussions and that you are administering the rules in an impartial manner. We certainly -- and I join with the government in the pleasure at the visit which is to take place in July. I think the Centennial celebration is one that could not have a more appropriate visit than the one that is discussed. There are of course other invitations which have been extended in connection with our Centennial and these of course are properly not catalogued in the Address of His Honour.

I recall with a great deal of interest and pleasure the opportunity which I had to visit with the First Minister when he was a guest in the City of Brandon in January at the annual dinner of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, and I can tell you that on that evening he was very well received by the four hundred guests that were assembled in our new Brandon Centennial Auditorium and when he had completed his remarks he received a standing ovation, and I think this was a tribute to a man in his office as the Premier of our Province.

I was very interested in his remarks, being privileged to sit beside him during the dinner, and he discussed what he felt was the proper way to observe a Centennial, and he said, "I think that in a Centennial observation we should do our own thing," and he described this phrase as the modern phrase. Then he went on to say, "I know I did my own thing, I invited John Lennon." This brought down a great round of applause, and then as an aside, or almost as if he was thinking out loud, he said, "and I wish I hadn't." I don't know whether this came over because the crowd was quite an enthusiastic one and whether they received that or not. But I thought it was interesting because he was admitting that this was perhaps a quick decision and something that was, we might call in sport a "judgment call", and he had made it and he was having some other thoughts about it. -- (Interjection) -- Thank you, Mr. First Minister.

I couldn't help but think afterwards of a cartoon I had seen in a periodical. I don't know why I related it, but it was a cartoon of a man carrying a sandwich board down the street and there was a sign on the sandwich board and it expounded the wares of an accounting firm, and they said "Tax Returns Prepared," and underneath was their business slogan, "Honest Mistakes our Specialty." I don't know why I should relate this in any way but it was an interesting slogan, "Honest Mistakes our Specialty". I thought of one or two things, going way back to election days, that were printed in the campaign literature and these are things that people hit on, I mean reducing real taxes, two thousand dollars in the assessments and so on. They're done at the time probably with reason because they feel that these are things that should be done and then there are difficulties come up. These are honestly things that they felt they could do but perhaps they couldn't really carry out at a later date. So these are not things that you can really be too critical.

But, Mr. Speaker, the observance of the Centennial has taken many forms, but there's one story I think that I must tell you, and I will be taking a chance here of being called parochial, but I'll accept that chance because this is a story of the theme of the Brandon Centennial Celebrations and I think it's a story that's got to be told, or in the modern phrase, a song that has to be sung. It's the story of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce and it's Secretary Manager, George Murray, and his Assistant, Roy Brown, who were charged with the responsibility of coming up with a theme. Roy Brown was the man particularly in charge and he must have been reading W. L. Morton's history because he obviously believed in the way in which Morton describes Manitoba as the "child of its rivers." He said we'll go back to the river and find out what Brandon really was like a hundred years ago. Well there wasn't any Brandon a hundred years ago and he found that there had been a settlement, a little village called Grand Valley which preceded the formation of the City of Brandon, and it was a child of the river. It was born of the Assiniboine and sired by the half a dozen or so sternwheelers that used to fly up and down the river, and the traders and trappers and hunters used the river as a means of transportation, because in the beginning the rivers were the food and the drink and the way of travel and life for Manitoba. This was pretty important,

(MR. MCGILL cont'd) and all our early settlements belong to the rivers. Winnipeg was fortunate, it had two mothers, the Red and the Assiniboine; and two fathers, the Voyageur and the Selkirk Settlers. So it grew to be bigger and stronger than any other of the early settlements and now it isn't just Manitoba, it's all of Western Canada; it extends beyond Manitoba as the great metropolis of the West.

But Roy Brown, when he went to the river, discovered that Brandon didn't really belong there. He found Grand Valley and he started seeking out its history and he discovered that Grand Valley became a Post Office because a Mrs. McVicar was appointed Postmistress by the Manitoba Government in Winnipeg. That area wasn't even in Manitoba at the time but they had the authority to appoint Postmistresses and she was appointed. She had heard about the beautiful valley at Grand Valley - it was not named then - and she named it without having seen it. But General Rosser, the Chief Engineer for the C. P. R. had originally, it was thought, intended to build the C. P. R. main line northwest from Winnipeg through such cities as perhaps Rapid City and on up in the northwest to Edmonton.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Swan River.

MR. MCGILL: I don't think he went quite that far.

MR. BILTON: Oh, I'll tell you about it tomorrow.

MR. MCGILL: However, in the early spring of 1881, General Rosser visited out in that area and he came to Rapid City and by this time they had a grid of eight square miles of streets laid out because they expected to be the divisional point for the CPR. But General Rosser apparently addressed the Chamber of Commerce, or whatever institution it was in those days that did the same thing, and he said in effect there's no way I can build the main line through Rapid City. What he was saying was really that there was no useful right-of-way that he could use through Rapid City, but having made the same speech at Gladstone and perhaps Neepawa and Minnedosa, then he was shortening it up and it became there's no way.

He then journeyed south, having now decided to build the CPR straight west from Winnipeg towards the community of Grand Valley, and the land speculators were hot on his heels. He got to Grand Valley and visited in the main store and he found Dugald MacVicar who owned the property there and he said he would buy the townsite for 25,000, but Dugald had other ideas and he decided that it was worth \$50,000, whereupon General Rosser moved to the southwest and established the city of Brandon on high ground to the southwest, and this turned out to be a rather fortuitous decision because later that spring the site of Grand Valley was under six feet of water. So Brandon was never a village and never a town; it became instantly a city in 1882 and was established as a result of the Provisional Council deciding they'd go for a city status immediately, and there were times in the summer of 1882 that they had 5,000 people on the site according to history.

But getting back to Roy Brown, he decided he'd go to the river in Grand Valley, so he has now reconstituted the Town Council of Grand Valley and he has decided he's going to have a stern-wheeler on the river because that was the important way that the country was developed. And he had, as you recall, a little fun with the Bonaventure last summer but this didn't work out, so he was then told that there was already a stern-wheeler just a mile down the river from Brandon and it was sunk and in the river bank, so he went down there and with the help of the Jaycees began to excavate an old stern-wheeler. This turned out to be a boat that was built in about 1909, of all places in the town of Coulter, Manitoba. Now if anybody - and I'm sure many people know where Coulter is, you may have been hunting pheasants there at one time in your life, but it's right close to the border of the United States south of Melita, and a man named Large, who after became Captain Large, decided that he'd like to build a riverboat, and he built it in Coulter and used it on the Souris River to run excursions down to the United States. He sat up in the front apparently and played his guitar and everybody had a box lunch and had a wonderful time. But this wasn't very productive so he decided he'd move the boat to Brandon, which he did by taking it apart and loading it on trucks and then on to boxcars over the railway to Brandon.

Now we're in 1910 and the name of this boat, Mr. Speaker, was the Empress of Ireland. I'm sorry I couldn't tell this story on Tuesday because I think it would have been of interest to the Sons of Ireland who were here visiting us from the Town of Killarney and others who claim some Irish descent. But Captain Large moved to Brandon, his boat had trouble, there wasn't as much passenger traffic as he thought, and it eventually became a coal barge to take coal down the river from Brandon to build a bridge for the Grand Trunk which was then

(MR. MCGILL cont'd) on the way. Captain Large, because of his respect for Irish parentage, decided that he wouldn't let this boat go down the river as a coal barge under the name of Empress of Ireland so he changed the name to the Assiniboine Queen.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to take a great deal of time, but the Assiniboine Queen has now been partially excavated, parts of the stern-wheel, paddle-wheel are now being put on display, and as a result of this a Brandon Historical Society has been formed and they have discovered the site of at least two more stern-wheelers on the Assiniboine River, one right in the City of Brandon that nobody apparently had ever noticed before and one just north of the Town of Cypress. The one north of the Town of Cypress is 136 feet long and it's presently being excavated and they think, although it hasn't been definitely established, that it may be the stern-wheeler Alpha. It was one of about six stern-wheelers that went up the river from Winnipeg to Fort Ellice between 1876 and 1882 when the CPR arrived in Brandon.

So we're going to have a very interesting summer, and when Roy Brown was down digging out the Alpha he discovered a cabin in which a man had left all his treasures of years ago, and I think the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs has some knowledge of this. There are a great many historical relics in that trunk that are going to be put on display in Brandon.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I tell this story because I think it's an example of the kind of thing that can be extremely interesting in a Centennial year and I'm sure will have an amazing effect on the subsequent life in Brandon, in that it will provide many tourist attractions. The tourists will be anxious, I'm sure, to see the kind of relics and the kind of historical collection that the City of Brandon and the Chamber of Commerce are now collecting together. So I think that the people of Brandon, and particularly the Chamber of Commerce and George Murray and Roy Brown, are to be congratulated for this original and exciting research and this program that's coming up.

And just one final word, Mr. Speaker, the dates of the Grand Valley Days are from July 1st to July 15th, and I would like in advance of the formal invitations to invite you all to come to Brandon on those days and to take part in the celebrations with the city and the community of West-Man, and I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that this is a firm invitation and that there will be no changes in this.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I'm wondering if this may not be an opportune moment for the honourable member to bring today's session to a close, and he may continue when this matter next appears on the Order Paper. It is now 10:00 o'clock; the House is adjourned and will remain adjourned until 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.