

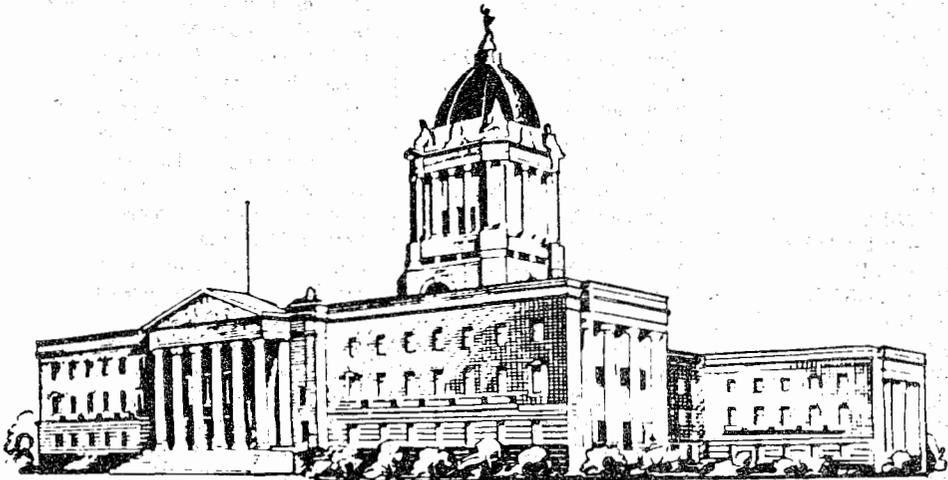


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XVIII No. 98 2:30 p.m., Monday, July 5th, 1971. Third 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	Legislative Building, Winnipeg 1
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg 20
CHURCHILL	Gordon Wilbert Beard	148 Riverside Drive, Thompson, Man.
CRESCENTWOOD	Cy Gonick	115 Kingsway, Winnipeg 9
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtniak	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ELMWOOD	Hon. Russell J. Doern	Legislative Building, Winnipeg 1
EMERSON	Gabriel Girard	25 Lomond Blvd., St. Boniface 6
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	Cranberry Portage, Manitoba
FORT GARRY	L. R. (Bud) Sherman	B6 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	Hon. 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	602 - 245 Provencher Ave., St. Boniface 6
ST. BONIFACE	Laurent L. Desjardins	357 Des Meurons St., St. Boniface 6
ST. GEORGE	William Uruski	Box 580, 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	23 - 500 Burnell St., Winnipeg 10
ST. VITAL	D. J. Walding	31 Lochinvar Ave., Winnipeg 6
STE. ROSE	A. R. (Pete) Adam	Ste. Rose du Lac, Manitoba
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	Box 1295, 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	Philip M. Petursson	681 Banning St., Winnipeg 10
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, Monday, July 5, 1971

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements.

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q. C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management)(Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to lay on the table a Return to an Order for an Address for Papers No. 1, on motion of the Honourable Member for Pembina; and at the same time, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to lay on the table the Return to an Order for an Address on motion of the Honourable, the former Member for Ste. Rose which is dated July 6, 1970. It's left over from last year's session but it contains information that was requested by the Member for Lakeside this year as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other tabling of reports? Notices of Motion.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Public Works and Highways)(Thompson) introduced Bill No. 102, an Act to amend The Taxicab Act. (Second Reading Wednesday next.)

HON. A. H. MACKLING, Q. C. (Attorney-General)(St. James) introduced Bill No. 104, The Legal Services Society of Manitoba Act (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor); also, Bill No. 105, an Act to amend The County Courts Act (3).

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (Leader of the Opposition)(River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. I wonder whether he can indicate whether it's the government's intention to proceed with the introduction of a bill which would give the magistrates in this province tenure, and which I believe was to be referred to as The Judges Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, that question I think is better directed to the Attorney-General. We have only a few more bills to introduce, less than five now, and I couldn't really say whether that one in particular would be one of them. Perhaps the Attorney-General is in a position to answer it.

MR. MACKLING: The question of a provincial Judges Act has been under consideration, Mr. Speaker, and I've had discussions. We've looked at preliminary drafts. I can't indicate whether or not it will be forthcoming this session, but it's certainly high on my priority as soon as the legislation is perfected.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, I wonder if the First Minister can indicate whether it will be the government policy to introduce the bill, whether this session or the next session.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is a policy matter. However, I can indicate to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that the government may well be prepared to proceed with such legislation. However, we do not consider it a matter of urgency for this session.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Attorney-General promised such a bill to the Bar Association, I believe some time ago, if that's correct or not.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I'm not in the habit of making personal commitments or promises or undertakings to the Bar Association or to members of the Opposition unless I have every intention of proceeding with them. I have made no personal undertaking in respect to the introduction of the provincial Judges Act, other than that I am personally committed in principle to such legislation and am working actively on it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I should like the leave of the House to move that the name of Mr. Einarson be replaced by that of Mr. McGill on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, by leave, I would like to refer to my remarks on Page 2185 of Hansard, June 25th, where I promised the other day, the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, I inadvertently quoted a newspaper report and not Hansard as I had indicated. Any inconvenience I may have caused the Honourable Minister you're assured is regretted, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the honourable member for indicating that I did not say what I was quoted as having said, and I'm sorry the whole incident arose, as you may well expect.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call the resolution standing in my name, being held by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition on Page 4 of the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and the amendment thereto by the Honourable Member for Rhineland. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have leave to have this matter stand. I have no objection to anyone else speaking.

MEMBERS: No.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I've asked for leave to have this matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member well knows that "by leave" means the unanimous leave of the House; that has not been indicated. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my purpose for asking for leave, allowing any of the other members to speak, was to determine if we could, with some finality, what the government's intentions were with respect to the remaining part of the session. I say with some finality because there has been some confusion caused by both the public statements and private statements of the people on behalf of the government. The objective of asking for this matter to stand was simply for the opportunity to be able to determine what course of action will be undertaken for the remaining part of the session.

We know that there is a possibility that the House will have to be called back into session, either by way of a new session or with a recess of this session, and be called back again before the end of this calendar year because of the arrangements that must be finalized and legislated with respect to tax sharing agreements with the Federal Government. We are aware of the fact that there will be a committee meeting at which the Finance Minister or his representatives will be present in Ottawa, and out of this there may very well be future legislation that will have to be enacted. We are aware of the fact that there may very well be new taxes imposed in Manitoba and it may require a new Act that will have to be passed, probably in another session rather than brought back in the present session, as a result of cancellation of -- or enactment of other acts already completed. For that reason, it was our consideration that in an intelligent way we would determine from the government what their intentions were before we announced our position in this respect. I may say that I consider the refusal to grant leave a very discourteous act on the part of the government and I say this without any . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I should like to indicate to the honourable gentleman that we are debating a motion in respect to procedure of this House and of course an amendment thereto. I must allow a lot of latitude for the debate, but I fail to see the relevance of the courtesy or discourtesy in allowing a member, who had desired to speak on adjourned debate, as relevant to the amendment and to the motion. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, what I'm saying has a great deal of relevance to the agreement or disagreement on our side to the proceedings with respect to the speed-up. -- (Interjection) -- Well, I wish the Honourable Minister of Labour would keep his mouth quiet at this time. I think that -- (Interjection) -- Mr. Speaker, he has nothing to contribute on this and his imagination really has no play at this time.

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd)

Mr. Speaker, the speed-up motion is not an unusual motion to be discussed at the time that the Estimates are completed; we understand that. The speed-up motion is something that will ultimately be passed because the government has the majority, but there was an attempt to try and determine - and I think that we have been trying to determine this for the last few days - what the government's intentions were. Was there to be a recess? Was there in fact to be an adjournment? Were we going to deal with all the bills? We're aware of the fact that some of the bills are not available from the Queen's Printer. Now we don't know whether that means that the government does not intend to proceed with those bills, and we only wanted that opportunity to be clarified before we agreed to the speed-up on the basis that that was the reasonable way in which to deal with this.

Mr. Speaker, we've had an opportunity of examining the various bills that are before us. We have some 50 pieces of legislation that must be dealt with by this House. Many of these bills could have been called during the period of the Estimates and at least we could have had the opportunity for the government to explain its position with respect to the bills. We can understand what the bills represent by reading the legislation, but the intent, the reasons for the proposals, whether they be new proposals or amendments to existing legislation, should have been explained so there would have been a better opportunity for the kind of debate in which good legislation could be forthcoming.

I said in this House before, and I repeat it again, that when legislation is introduced at the tail-end of the session and it is introduced in such a way that we try to steamroll it, as the expression is used, you usually get bad legislation. And there's no better example than the Uni-City Bill with 687 sections that we are going to have to deal with, we're going to have to deal with in a committee stage which will probably be sitting morning, noon and night, way into the early hours of the next morning, in an attempt to effectively contribute to the workings of a major proposal for Manitoba. Our hope was that there would be some general agreement, if it was the government's intention to adjourn, a general agreement on those bills which we consider were not controversial to in fact be brought forth; that those that were in fact controversial to have the opportunity for being presented either at the time we came back after our recess or, in turn, at the time of the next session if it was to be held in the fall, and give us the opportunity for the kind of lengthy debate which should take place with respect to the Uni-City Bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing that prevents this from happening right now, we are so obviously going to be given the opportunity, but I think if there was a general will on the part of the people opposite and the people on this side, having sat now for 12 weeks, for an opportunity for the session not to proceed as it did last time in a six or seven week marathon session of speed-up.

Now we are aware of the fact that the government has in its possession some 250 amendments to the Uni-City Bill, and those amendments were presented by municipal people who have indicated their concern for various items in the 687 sections that we are going to have to deal with. We are aware of the fact that this requires the kind of intensive study that has to take place before this bill could be effective; and this bill obviously has to cloud our whole ability to be able to deal effectively, to deal effectively, to deal effectively with the other pieces of legislation before us.

Mr. Speaker, if we examine the pieces of legislation that are before us we'll find that the snooping sections - and that's what we have to refer to them - the snooping sections that the government has introduced in several of the bills warrant a serious debate in this House. The right for the government to be able to enter and to take the records of people, whether it be under the Statistics Act, the Landlord and Tenant Act or any of the other acts - and don't say it's nonsense because it's not nonsense, it's a fundamental principle that has to be debated in this House before the government can be allowed to have that right and freedom to invade the privacy of the individual and, in turn, to exercise the degree of control that they think is necessary and wise for the carrying out of their program.

Mr. Speaker, -- (Interjection) -- By the way, the Minister Without Portfolio is entitled to stand up in the debate and I hope he will make his contribution. Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you those particular sections warrant the kind of serious consideration in this House that does not come from a session that starts at 9:30 in the morning and ends at 2:30 and 3:00 o'clock the following morning. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the proposal of the Honourable Member from Rhineland must be supported because it really is the only sane and sensible way in which we

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) . . . . . can deal with the number of pieces of legislation we have and the various acts which require serious debate and serious study.

I do not know how long the Uni-City Bill will be debated in this House, Mr. Speaker. I know that the government has been given 35 questions which we have awaited for the last ten days for them to answer. I'm assuming that at some time we'll get the answers in the morning and then we're going to be asked to debate it in the afternoon, and if we don't want to debate it in the afternoon then in the evening at 8:00 o'clock we'll be asked to debate it again and this will be considered good legislation. Now good legislation will be to have the answers given in the morning, for us to debate it in the afternoon so we can be finished with it in the evening.

Mr. Speaker, the government has as a resource, consultants who will be brought in from Toronto who have helped them and assisted them - I believe they're probably in the province today; they are going to have the resources of the civil service and a whole staff who are working in, I believe, the basement floor of this building, in the preparation of the Uni-City Bill. And I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the various answers that will be given by the members opposite to the questions that have been asked and in the debate itself will warrant from our point of view the kind of searching examination and opportunity for research to be able to present in debate the kind of discussion and the kind of contribution that Opposition are supposed to make and will make if given the opportunity.

I suggest again, Mr. Speaker, that for us at this point to deal, if we're going to have to deal with 50 bills or more and with the Uni-City bill as the major bill in this particular group of 50, at a time when the Estimates are finished and when we're going to have to go into morning, noon and evening sessions, is an unreasonable request. It's unreasonable if we are not going to be given the opportunity to at least finish at a fair hour or a reasonable hour at night and given the opportunity for the ability to be able to adjourn the debate so that we in turn can deal with the information that's supplied; and further, that we'll be given the opportunity to deal effectively in the committee.

The rules of the House have been changed and we will not be dealing with the various sections in third reading in this House in the Committee of the Whole as we have in the past, and therefore, for that reason, in the committee itself we are going to have the one opportunity to deal effectively with the amendments to be brought either by the Opposition, by the government, and to be in a position to deal with amendments as proposed by those people who will appear before the committee, and to attempt and try to railroad at that time - and we're experienced in this, we know exactly what happens - and intend to try and basically push this through at that time without the kind of scrutiny is a disservice to the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that too many major bills - and the First Minister is always referring to the experience in the House of Commons - I am not too sure of too many bills in the House of Commons that are of such magnitude, with so many sections and with so many direct implications on a significant number of people in this province or in one area, would be passed in the short period of time that we are going to have to deal with this.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's one other point. The matter of Hydro is not settled as far as the Opposition is concerned in this House. We are not satisfied that we are going to be given the opportunity to have Mr. Cass-Beggs appear before the Public Utilities Committee nor are we going to have the opportunity to debate the report of that committee in this House. We do not know what the government's intentions are in this respect, and certainly we were entitled to have from them some idea, some idea of what their intentions are in this respect, whether in fact the committee was going to meet to discuss Hydro matters at all, whether we're going to have an opportunity to in fact call the other members of the board or at least request it in the committee, whether we're going to have the opportunity to be able to debate that report if the committee, through its majority by which the government controls, passes the report to allow it to be brought into the House so that we can debate it in this particular session. If the session is to be recessed, I would assume we will still have that opportunity. The only unfortunate thing, Mr. Speaker, is that the work is being undertaken by Hydro towards the control of Lake Winnipeg at a time when insofar as the Opposition is concerned, maybe not the government, but insofar as the Opposition is concerned this matter is not settled for the people of Manitoba nor has this matter been settled in the House.

Now we have no indication at all of what the government's intentions are, and yet they would like us to agree on the basis of past practice to a speed-up which I suggest will only result in bad legislation and the kind of rancor and ill-will that characterized the sittings last

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) . . . . session and which I think can characterize it again this year.

So, Mr. Speaker, I object very strenuously for the government not to have given us the opportunity to have clarified, as we attempted to do today privately, exactly what their intentions were and to be in a position on the basis of that to make a judgment as to what our course of action will be. I resent it very much, Mr. Speaker, I think it was unnecessary, I think it was arbitrary and I think it was typical of the arrogance and dictatorial attitude that has characterized them so far.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the government feels that we are following a very standard procedure in respect to the speed-up motion and the way in which we intend to bring forward the remainder of the government business during this session. I rather suspect that in just about every session that takes place the Opposition feels that a number of items, or a major item in particular, has not been properly dealt with by the government and they would like to take more time to debate and put forward their point of view - and the same may well be true in this case. But in the twelfth week of a session - I believe we are very very close to the twelfth week of the session right now - it is the usual practice upon reaching the 80th hour of consideration of Estimates to bring forward the speed-up motion. It's been done that way for many years and we see no reason to change our procedure. Certainly nothing that has been said by the Leader of the Opposition leads us to think that the circumstances are greatly different in this session, 1971.

The member, the Leader of the Opposition, feels that because we still have approximately 50 bills or so to consider that it will be too much of a strain and too much of an atmosphere of rushing through legislation to expect these bills to be dealt with at the time when speed-up is in application or in force. I seem to recall, Mr. Speaker, that on a number of occasions in the past that speed-up has been introduced, just as we are now upon passing of the 80th hour, and there have been quite a number of bills that were still left to be dealt with in previous sessions - and this is going back quite a number of years.

The Leader of the Opposition suggests that in the case of the city reorganization legislation the Opposition will not have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with a number of the amendments and arguments that will be put forward, and I suggest to him that there is no inclination on the part of the government to insist on getting that legislation through on consecutive days or dealing with it on consecutive days, so if necessary we can lay it over and go on to other business so that the Opposition will have more time to consider some of the amendments that will be proposed in committee.

There will also be an opportunity under the new rules for the Opposition to debate the changes in the bill, in the bill itself, certainly the changes in the bill moved in the committee stage by virtue of the new rule report stage provision which we have adopted as part of the rules as of several weeks ago. I really can't accept his arguments that there will be inadequate opportunity to consider the various ideas.

Now the crucial point here to understand is that if the government were to insist that we take up, let us say, Bill 36 through committee stage and deal with it on consecutive days in the House, then it would be true that members would not have an adequate opportunity to analyze whatever new was introduced relative to Bill 36, but I have already indicated to him that we will, by way of resorting to alternative House business, be able to provide extra time in which the Opposition can analyze any new proposals and amendments.

The honourable member also refers to the length of the city reorganization bill and the number of amendments proposed, and I would simply refresh his memory - actually it goes beyond his memory - I would refer him to the similar circumstances in the case of the introduction of the Metro Winnipeg legislation back in 1960. It was lengthy, there were many amendments that were proposed at the committee stage and the Opposition had to cope with it, and I believe that a number of worthwhile changes were made as a result of reconsideration by government and by arguments put forward by the Opposition. I consider the city reorganization legislation and its passage through the House and the way it's dealt with in committee and the time requirements, etc., to be very analogous to the way in which the Metro Winnipeg legislation was dealt with eleven years ago. We have ample precedent then to show that there is really nothing about the way in which we are proceeding that is unusual in terms of House procedure itself, and therefore much of the argument of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, unless he's prepared to criticize much of the way in which they proceeded in past years, there

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) . . . . . is nothing much to accept from his arguments.

He makes reference to Hydro matters again just as he made reference the other day about Lake Winnipeg Navigation. I understand full well that his purpose is to express dissatisfaction with government action and I am not surprised that he would make reference to Hydro in the context of his arguments today, but we have made it clear to honourable gentlemen opposite that the policy that is being followed may well be policy that they disagree with. They will have ample opportunity to make their case, but it doesn't seem to me that anything is gained in the standing committee when one has the Opposition insist on simply putting forward their point of view even though they know that a policy decision has been taken. No one expects them not to put forward their opposing point of view but it doesn't require any particular instrumentality of this Legislature or procedure of this Legislature in order for them to do so.

The honourable member, the Leader of the Opposition rather, apparently has some dissatisfaction with respect to the operations of Lake Winnipeg Navigation. He is quite free to express his point of view, inaccurate as it may be, but he's quite free to present his point of view and he doesn't require any convening of any committee of this House or any resolution or motion before this House in order for him to make his point of view known.

I come now to the final point that the honourable member was talking about and that is his assumption that the government business for the remainder of the session must be predicated in large part on the question as to whether or not we will require a session this fall. Now it may well be that a session will be required this fall but it is still too early to arrive at any definitive conclusion in that respect. The Ministers of Finance across Canada will be meeting one week from today to deal with matters emanating from the last federal budget. The First Ministers from across Canada will be meeting later this summer, early this fall - very early this fall with respect to fiscal matters, and then and only then will it be possible to know in a definite way just if and when it will be necessary to convene a session of the Legislature this fall, some time later this fall.

In the meantime, the volume of business on the Order Paper is not very much out of line, if it is out of line at all, with the volume of business that has been introduced in previous sessions by previous governments. It is true that last year this Legislature put through more legislation than was ever put through by previous Legislative Assemblies, but this session the volume is not out of line with the amount that has been processed by previous legislatures and it must be said, Mr. Speaker, that the amount of time that is taken to process a given amount of public business in this House is dependent as much, in fact more upon the way in which the Opposition governs itself.

Now I have no particular quarrel, I have no particular quarrel with the way in which the Opposition governs itself; partly it's not really for me to give my view on that unless pressed and I don't feel pressed to give my point of view as to how the Opposition has conducted itself. I am not making any complaints that the Opposition has been in some way deliberately slowing the process of this Assembly, but I do say that the amount of work that was put before this Assembly is approximately equal to the average of the legislative loads that previous Assemblies have had to cope with. We are in the twelfth week, and if we seem to have a great deal yet to do it must be because we haven't been particularly expeditious in getting the business through in the past twelve weeks, and whose fault that is, if there is fault to be assigned, I suppose it can be borne by both sides of the House.

But I wouldn't want the Leader of the Opposition to be able to leave the impression that we are expecting this Assembly to do more in, say, sixteen weeks than previous Assemblies have been able to do. The way in which they allocate their time to deal with that total or aggregate workload is up to them. But because they take a given amount of time to process a certain amount of work, and if that be more than the average amount of time, they need not expect the government to therefore lessen the number of bills and the total legislative program that is placed before them. I think honourable members, if they want to be fair about it, will have to acknowledge that this session, unlike the past one, we have not brought forward an undue total or total amount of legislative work and therefore we should be able to complete this work in a reasonable amount of time, the average amount of time which means to me a matter of another two or three weeks.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, we've just heard the words of wisdom from the First Minister who completely mistrusts the question that is

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) . . . . . really before us, and that is the fact that the government has refused to allow my Leader to adjourn debate. It's rather unique, Mr. Speaker, that this is the government that is "open government," they're open to all things . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: The point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that the government did not disallow the Honourable Leader of the Opposition from adjourning debate. That is not before us now.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Speaker, may I again reword it in that he was disallowed to have the adjourned debate stand in his name. Mr. Speaker, we have many things on the Order Paper, in fact there's a bill on the Order Paper in the First Minister's name that stood there for some 12 days, and yet when the Leader of my Party in his wisdom . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: My point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that if the honourable member is stating, or even implying that I asked leave to have the adjournment stand he is quite wrong. I have not asked for leave to have the matter stand, and not calling that particular item of business has in no way slowed up the business of the House. In the meantime it is, at the end of the 80th hour, customary to proceed forthwith with the speed-up motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. I should also like to indicate that we are on government business and it is at the discretion of the House Leader. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, the First Minister is putting words in my mouth. At no time did I say that he had asked leave to have it stand in his name. If he wants to misconstrue words that's his own prerogative.

Mr. Speaker, when we're dealing with a speed-up motion to expedite the business of the Province of Manitoba, I find that I must in essence agree with this principle. We've had bills sitting on the Order Paper here for weeks that have never been touched, and it is the government's prerogative in whether they want to call them or not, but now we find that they want to speed up so they can push the whole works of them at us all at one time.

Mr. Speaker, it was only last year that we had a member of the government, a Cabinet Minister, who in essence accused us of allowing bad legislation to pass through this House. He said it was the Opposition's fault that they didn't catch the mistakes in his legislation. We are now faced with some 50-odd bills in front of us, and if there is one that passes again which may not be in the best interests of the province, no doubt the same Minister or some other Minister might well again reiterate the statement that it is the Opposition's fault.

Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that it is also the government's responsibility to ensure that good legislation is brought forward in the first place. I think this is most important, and to me it's rather disturbing that we have faced many pieces of legislation which have a retroactive clause in them which to me is not indicative of good legislation or good workmanship on the part of the government, and yet here we find ourselves with a speed-up motion asking us to hurriedly pass legislation which has considerable clauses in it which to my mind are not in the best interests of the people of Manitoba.

There is another thing that disturbs me very greatly, Mr. Speaker, and that is when a Cabinet Minister uses his office to bring forth legislation of a personal nature. To me, Mr. Speaker, this is not in the interests of the people, and when we find a Cabinet Minister putting certain clauses into bills because it may be that it would be in his own interest, then, Mr. Speaker, I think . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I believe the honourable gentleman in his haste to express himself let his words run ahead of his thoughts. I'm certain he doesn't want to infer or cast aspersions on any member of this House. I would ask him to reconsider and withdraw the allegation he was making and re-think his thoughts before he utters them. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw those remarks, but I can only say this, that when we see specific legislation, as it will come forward, we have no alternative but to draw our own conclusions from it. We'll have more to say when these things do come up in the House, and I sincerely hope that the Minister, when it is brought to his attention, will have the courtesy to withdraw those certain clauses in the legislation that . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the point of privilege is that even though the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell has withdrawn his first reference to someone on the treasury bench introducing legislation, clauses of which have personal consideration in them, he is now re-asserting that this is his expectation or anticipation of legislation yet to come, that it will have clauses of that kind giving personal consideration to a particular Minister's circumstance. Now either the member should withdraw and make no further reference to what he anticipates or else he should indicate what legislation, particularly what legislation he is referring to, so that the matter can be taken up then as a specific point of privilege or point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The point of privilege is well taken. I did caution the honourable member in what he was saying to re-think before he uttered those things which he did not desire to cast aspersions on members. I would ask him and caution him once more to conform to our rules or else I shall have to, according to our rules, name him. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Very well, Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw that again. What I do want to say though, Mr. Speaker, is that the legislation that we are facing is formidable. I realize that each and every one of us has a responsibility to look at this in the interests of all the people of Manitoba, and I look forward to the next days and weeks, if necessary, that it takes to bring forward good legislation for the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, we have heard from the First Minister that the usual kind of defence that he provides for every criticism that is offered from this side of the House, and despite the fact that this is the government that went to the people promising a new look in government, and in their first Speech from the Throne promised that they were going to throw out all the old traditions and ideas that have outlived their usefulness, on every occasion, Sir, when they are confronted with criticism of their actions, they say, as the First Minister has just said, you did it when; you did it in the past; there is a precedent established. Well, if a precedent and if the criticisms of previous governments were so bad, then why, Sir, do they continue to follow them?

Let's have a look at what this government has done. It's not a question of departing from a precedent that had been established, not a question of not following the precedents of the past, but it's a question of doing it much more badly than was ever done by previous governments, governments that they complained so bitterly about were incapable of management and things like that. Sir, I have never seen a government so incompetent when it comes to managing the business of the House as we have seen displayed in these last two sessions.

The purpose of the session is very simple, it's to provide an opportunity for examination of the government's legislative program as well as its Estimates. But what happened? What happened during the course of the consideration of the Estimates of the departments of government? Ministers of the Crown took up over two-thirds of the time on those Estimates, filibustering, reading useless and stupid reports into the record that could have been tabled. It wasn't necessary at all.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable First Minister on a point of order.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would ask you, Sir, if it is not in violation of the rules for an honourable member to make accusations of the members opposite, saying that they were filibustering, because to filibuster is to violate the rules of this House and therefore, if the honourable member is accusing us or any of my colleagues of filibustering, he is in effect accusing us of violating the rules of this House which I am sure, Sir, you would not have allowed.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would suggest that if we are going to have a meaningful debate, all honourable members attune themselves to the question before us and give some thought to their utterances. I am certain that no one would want to have anyone else call them names and the same should apply to the other side. In respect to the rules, I do believe that I have done my share, and with the cooperation of the members, all the members, I shall continue to try and maintain the decorum that this Assembly deserves and this Assembly desires. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Sir, as I was about to say, I would like the First Minister to point out to me where filibustering is a violation of the rules of the House. Filibustering is an attempt to bring forth a point of view by the means that are available to members through debate, and protracted debate if necessary, and that does not constitute a violation of the rules . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that when the honourable gentleman uses the term "filibuster" he must surely know that the term "filibuster" means debate that is allowed to carry on which is not germane to the item under consideration, and I repeat, Sir, that I have every confidence that the Chair in this House would not allow that.

MR. SPEAKER: The point of order is well taken. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, then I've got to withdraw my suggestion that the government were not filibustering, because when the Minister of Highways occupied the floor of the House he read into the record statements that were not germane to the consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Highways.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I should like to remind the honourable member that in his remarks he is intentionally or unintentionally casting aspersions on the chairman of a committee. I do not think that this is according to our rules, and I would ask him to reconsider the statements he's going to make and take his time about them. He does still have 34 minutes. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, Sir, I have no intention of casting any aspersions on the chairmen of committees or the Speaker of this Legislature, but I do suggest, Sir, that if I would be permitted to proceed without the interruptions of the First Minister, who seems awfully sensitive on this point, then perhaps it will not take me the 34 or so minutes that I have left at my disposal to complete my remarks.

Sir, as I was about to, or attempting to point out before I was interrupted, the purpose of the Legislature is to provide an opportunity for examination of the government's legislative and spending program, and that can be done when members are permitted to enter a debate, and if anybody who sat through the debate here when the Minister of Highways was on his feet and refused to yield the floor to anybody, he would have known what I meant.

The purpose, Sir, of the speed-up motion is to attempt to clear up the remaining items of business that remain on the Order Paper so that we can finish up the session and get out of here. But that is not what the government is doing. During the course of the consideration of the Estimates they took up, as I said, two-thirds of the time on those Estimates, preventing members on this side from making their contributions because they know there is only 80 hours during the consideration of Estimates - and I don't care how they twist and turn on that score, the fact remains that they took up two-thirds of the time of the consideration of Estimates in all the departments of government -- (Interjection) -- Well, I see the First Minister continues to violate a rule of this House in interjecting when somebody else has the floor, and he has the audacity to attempt to lecture other members on how they should conduct themselves in this Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. JORGENSEN: Sir, there were occasions during the consideration of that 80 hours when legislation that was on the Order Paper could have been introduced and could have been sent to the public, to the Law Amendments Committee for consideration. I recommended it, not only in the Rules Committee but on other occasions, that we have an orderly progression of legislation going through simultaneously with the consideration of Estimates, so that when the 80 hours are completed we have given proper consideration to the bills that are placed before us, while at the same time giving proper consideration to the Estimates. But that was not done. The bills were left deliberately off by the House Leader, because, as he just admitted a few minutes ago, he is responsible for bringing the order of business before this Chamber, and he deliberately left them off, never called 30 bills, 30 bills that he never called, simply because they wanted to get through the consideration of Estimates as quickly as possible, bring in the speed-up motion and then ram the legislation through, legislation, Sir, that will be revealed upon consideration as having more snoopier clauses, more provision for relatives on various boards and government agencies than one could possibly shake a stick at.

Sir, the only way that we can have a proper and meaningful consideration of the business before this House is if there is that proper balance between legislation and Estimates. I submit, Sir, that that has not been done. It has not been done because the government have deliberately delayed the consideration of the legislation so that it could be rammed through in a hurry. One of the reasons why opposition parties are given an opportunity to, from time to time, make contributions to legislation that is brought before this Chamber is to attempt to arouse public opinion, is to attempt to acquaint the people of this country, the kind of

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) . . . . . legislation that is being passed. There is no way, Sir, there is no way that that's going to be done when it's all rammed through in a few days as the government obviously intends that to be done. It is only when the news media are given an opportunity to properly report the debates that take place in this Chamber and the kind of legislation that is being proposed that the public can become aware of what the government is doing. And that, Sir, seems to be something that they don't want the public to know about until it's too late.

Then we come to the question of the starting of the session. The normal practice is to start the session early enough in the beginning of the new year so that the four or five months or whatever is necessary - and it looks as though it is going to take four to five months now - can be reasonably expected to elapse before the beginning of the summer holidays, but honourable gentlemen opposite seem to work on a tried and true principle, and that's the principle of legislation by attrition. They know that when members are in this Chamber from 9:30 in the morning, or whenever it is they want to start, until 2:30 or 3 o'clock the following morning, it's not likely that their legislative program is going to get the kind of consideration that it should be getting; and I can say, Sir, that this government's legislative program needs an awful lot of examination, not only by the members of this Legislature but by the public at large.

Now he goes on to say that there has been no more business than in past sessions, and although I wasn't here in past sessions prior to 1969, and I'm not going to dispute that point, but I'm willing to wager that the legislative program was brought before this Chamber in a much more orderly fashion than it ever was up until the last two sessions. -- (Interjection) -- The First Minister persists in injecting himself into my debate. I'll give him the time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, thanking the honourable member for his grace in permitting me a question, may I ask him if he was present for the session of 1968, February to May. Would it surprise him to know how many bills the government asked the Opposition to allow go through the committee stage on the 23rd of May, 1968, one day alone, how many bills were processed? Would he care to guess? -- (Interjection) -- 33 - 33 bills in one day!

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, if I'd been in the Opposition at that time I'd have complained bitterly because I think that is wrong, to ask any Opposition to consider legislation of that kind. I don't care what government is in power, this is wrong to ask any Opposition to give that kind of consideration to a legislative program in that short a time. Sir, we can draw only one conclusion, had management of this government has placed us in this situation. They're incapable of placing before the Legislature a balanced program of legislation and Estimates, as I suggested very early in the session, as I suggested in the Rules Committee and indeed my honourable friend, the Minister of Mines and Resources, agreed should be done, and I for the life of me can't understand why he would agree to such a sensible suggestion while we're sitting in the Rules Committee and then fail to follow it when we get into the Legislature, into the Legislative Chamber.

Sir, nobody objects to sitting extra hours to complete a session if there are odds and ends that need to be cleared up. I don't believe that there should be any legislation introduced after the 80 hours are completed, and I believe that all the legislation that is on the Order Paper should be introduced before the end of that 80 hours so that members have an opportunity to examine them before they go into the speed-up time. But this government are still bringing on bills. The First Minister says five, but in all probability it will be 10 or 20 before we're finished if last year is any indication of how much we can depend upon the government's word.

Sir, we're quite prepared to sit extra hours to complete a session but we're not prepared to allow the proper consideration of the government's legislative program. We believe that we have a right to insist that proper time be allocated and proper time be given for a proper consideration of the government's legislative program.

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

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, this is a debate I've always found quite interesting, and I've participated in this debate many times while I was sitting on the other side of the House. I might say, Sir, that it is a way I guess that the Opposition finds an occasion to say: well, there you go, the government is trying to ram something through and we must -- even the Leader of the Opposition, I've never seen any Leader of the Opposition who's been absent as often as the present Leader is. I don't know what he's doing, he's never here. He accepted to lead his party but he's never here, and then he has the gall -

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . . . and he's talking about arrogance - he has the gall to say I've had four days to prepare the speech but I'm not ready, I want it to stand and he's shocked, and he calls everybody arrogant because they won't let him play his game and run out -- (Interjection) -- What is the point of order, that you haven't had four days to prepare that speech? Is that your point of order? Was your point of order that you were right in calling the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would suggest to the honourable member that he, too, confine his remarks to the resolution before us. I realize that much heat can be created by speaking directly to honourable members of this Chamber. I believe if the rules are followed and the remarks are addressed to the Chair we'll have less opportunity for that to occur. One other admonition I'd like to suggest is that we do not address our remarks in respect to persons personally, we address our remarks in debate to the topic. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I'll be very pleased to comply with your decision, your advice, and I hope that your words were noted also by the members of the Opposition who have accused the First Minister, different Ministers and so on.

All right, let's talk about the resolution and what has been said so far. It's been said that this government, it's true they're talking about "you did it when," but they've acted much worse, they've been a lot worse than the former government has ever been. Well that, Sir, is simply not true. First of all, we're talking about now many bills -- I'd like to know how many of these bills are really controversial. I've also discussed this with some of the members outside of this House and they feel that there might be two or three at the worst.

They're talking about Bill 36. I have a stack at home of reports on Bill 36 and Uni-City and Metro Government and so on. This is not something new; this is something that's been introduced. The Minister of Finance has been discussing this in Manitoba and every member has been allowed, has been invited to go, and this bill, Sir, was introduced by the Minister of Finance on June 3rd, a month ago, and before that, I think a few days before that we received an advance copy. The government has done everything possible to prepare us, and if a month is not enough, two months will not be enough. Every single member on this side, on the Opposition of the Conservative Party, have spoken on this I believe - or most of them have.

Now, we're talking about ramming something through. I'll give you an example, Sir, I'll give you an example of legislation that was introduced in the dying days of a session. I can't give you the year but I could find out very easily, and I'm talking about the Conservatives when they were in power and they brought in the Pension Bill, the Pension Bill for the Ministers of the time to feather their own nests, and that is exactly what they were doing. And we filibustered in those days, Sir. I did and other members did also, and finally it was withdrawn. That bill was brought in the day before they thought the session would end. The Chief Justice was in the Chamber waiting to end the session on that day, Mr. Speaker, and the bill wasn't even passed the second reading that we were getting all kinds of amendments by this government who said they had prepared this bill. That's what I call ramming through, Mr. Speaker, and this is what this former government did, a lot worse than this government ever tried to do.

We're talking about what is the session for? So the people will have a chance to scrutinize. That's right. And who will decide the length of the session? Not the government but the members of the Opposition, and they can take all the time they want, two-thirds if you want. You can speak for 40 minutes, you can speak on every motion, you can amend, you can sub-amend, and you can start all over again, and this is what you did last year and you're free to do it again. Excuse me, Sir, I should direct my remarks to you. They are free to do it again, and if they are good members of the Opposition and if they're sincere and if they feel that they have to prolong this they can go right ahead.

We're talking now about not being able to do our work sitting these long hours, but how do they know, how can they criticize first what's going to be done? I remember sitting on this side when we met on Sunday, we debated on Sunday because we started on Saturday night. We started on Saturday night -- (Interjection) -- you were the Speaker, you wouldn't remember, you were probably asleep. Mr. Speaker, remember in those days where we sat on Sunday, on Sunday because it was past 1:00 o'clock, it was past 12:00 o'clock on a Saturday and we were meeting. -- (Interjection) -- If this is a challenge I accept the challenge and I will prove it. I will prove it. It might take me a little while to find out but I have pretty good records and I'll prove it.

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd)

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is what the former government has done, and now they're talking about arrogance, they're talking about ramming anything through, and this is the example that we've had. They say you did it, that we always complain about you did it when, but that this government has been worse - and this is exactly what they've done.

Now they talk about the Minister - since we started this 80 hours, I was in the House when we started this, and I think there was one more - the Department of Health could have taken a little more time and I think there was legislation - and I remember when there were four or five departments that weren't even covered and they're talking about talking a long time. Ever hear of a Minister named George Hutton? Have you ever heard of a Minister named George Hutton? -- (Interjection) -- You have, eh? Well, you've never heard him speak then? Have you heard of George Johnson? Have you heard of Gurney Evans? The only way we could get Gurney Evans to shut up and sit down was when a member of his own party sent him a note saying your trousers aren't done up properly. He starts piling books and then he sat down after hours and hours. So who's being arrogant now? All right, we've had a lot of fun so let's get down to business now. -- (Interjection) -- I beg your pardon? Sure, I've had a lot of fun, just looking at you when you were in the Chair was kind of funny enough for me.

Mr. Speaker, I say that if they want to prolong this they can go ahead if they feel that this is their duty. First of all, the Leader of the Opposition should be in his seat a little more often and conduct the affairs of the -- (Interjection) -- it's none of my business? It is my business when I'm in this House, just as much as it is your business to keep yapping when you're sitting down. Especially for a former Speaker, you're not doing too well.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, this is a debate that we've had a lot of fun in the past but I think the words of the last two or three speakers were a little too much and I felt that I had to make these brief remarks.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, I made my views very clear on what I thought of speed-up motions a little earlier, and I am going to take the opportunity to speak on the amendment which says we should not sit after 10:00 o'clock at night. I certainly am going to support the amendment, and I would do it because I wouldn't take any chance that the people of Manitoba or anybody in Law Amendments would have to go through the indignity and the indecent way that things were handled last year till late at night. I don't believe people in this province deserve that kind of treatment; I don't think the men in this House deserve that kind of treatment. We're not a bunch of animals to be herded around late at night and get up in the morning and try to do some work.

You know, Mr. Speaker, a little comment that was made by the Minister of Transport at one time in this House not too long ago, he said - you know, when you're finding how much fat there's on a pig you push a needle in him and when it finally gets to the flesh you squeal, and I seem to be hearing it from the other side at the present time. We're getting that squealing going on, and unfortunately the Member from St. Boniface, who's lost a lot of weight, is squealing sooner than he used to, and I suggest that it was lost between the ears.

But at the same token, Mr. Speaker, I would say, Sir, does nobody on the government side learn from experience? Don't you learn from experience? The First Minister gets up and talks about precedents, Metro when it was put through. It was wrong then. Does nobody learn from experience? -- (Interjection) -- Yeah, well you didn't learn from experience, and the government does not seem to have learned from experience. They seem to be saying what was done before, which they disagreed with, we will do again, -- (Interjection) -- That's right. They've learned that Metro went through with a great big bill and it shouldn't have, according to the First Minister, but we get precedent again and because it was wrong before we're going to do it wrong again this time.

Mr. Speaker, there is no sense in sitting past 10:00 o'clock in this House. I can tell you last year, with no reflections to the House Leader, that the rate that we went at was almost sadism to the point of making people feel as if they were nothing but a bunch of cattle to be herded. And it's not right. Sir, I would rather be here at 8:00 o'clock in the morning - I'd rather have a good night's sleep and be here at 8:00 o'clock in the morning than to sit here till midnight and be back at 9:30 after you've had no chance to work on any bills at all. Really, there is no business, as I've mentioned before, more important than this Legislature to the province and now we're getting these bills rammed through.

(MR. FRANK JOHNSTON cont'd)

When we talk about the bills being rammed through, Sir, we have 100 bills approximately; there's still 50 on the Order Paper. We've been sitting for three months and it looks like they want to finish them in three weeks. Now does that make sense? Can anybody justify taking 50 of the bills and doing them in three weeks when we've already been here for three months? What kind of justification is that, Sir? We are just getting bills rammed through; we are getting it all the time, a snooper clause has been mentioned two or three times. You know, Sir, we all had some opportunity in the last four days to sit down and do a lot of reading, and what we read is not very encouraging as far as some of these bills are concerned. They're not going to be rammed through without debate, and I suggest that they should be debated when we're all feeling wide awake.

MR. SPEAKER put the question on the amendment and after a voice vote declared the motion lost.

A MEMBER: Yeas and Nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members. Order, please. The question before the House is the proposed amendment to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources' motion.

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

YEAS: Messrs. Barkman, Bilton, Einarson, Ferguson, Froese, Girard, Graham, Henderson, F. Johnston, Jorgenson, McGregor, McKenzie, Patrick, Sherman, Spivak, Weir and Mrs. Trueman.

NAYS: Messrs. Adam, Allard, Barrow, Borowski, Boyce, Burtniak, Cherniack, Desjardins, Doern, Gonick, Gottfried, Green, Hanuschak, Jenkins, McBryde, Mackling, Malinowski, Miller, Paulley, Petursson, Schreyer, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, Uruski and Walding.

MR. CLERK: Yeas, 17; Nays, 26.

MR. SPEAKER: In my opinion the "nays" have it and I declare the motion lost. Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

. . . Continued on next page

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I have a few remarks to make just on the general motion and they're not intended to be a repetition of what was said before, but in the light of the statements of the First Minister and also in the light of the contribution that the Member for St. Boniface has now made to the House, I think it's necessary. First may I say, Mr. Speaker, it ill behooves the Member from St. Boniface to talk about others feathering their own nest, and I think if we start on that basic premise we can pretty well disregard most of what the Member from St. Boniface has said.

But there is a principle involved, Mr. Speaker, and the principle involved is the degree of co-operation that should exist between a government and Opposition in attempting to in a rational way work out the legislation that is before them so that the kind of presentation that should be made, the kind of presentation that should be made is made, where there is an opportunity for the legitimate debate to take place.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we've had an opportunity of examining the bills that are before us. There are some 30 bills that have not been introduced for second reading. In turn, we are aware of the fact that the speed-up motion last year was approximately six weeks - six weeks. We have been in session 12 weeks, and if we talk in terms of the speed-up motion that would be similar to the speed-up motion of last year of a similar period of time, we're talking about a session that's 50 percent longer than our present session.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it may be that the Uni-city Bill does not appear to be that controversial and therefore we are not going to have that kind of debate or that kind of discussion in the committee, but the truth of the matter is that those sections require the kind of intensive study that should take place within a committee sitting probably for a period of a week or ten days or two weeks at a time, dealing with the various items that have to be discussed. The problem we have, Mr. Speaker, is that we are going to have to be rushed in the committee whether we like it or not, and we're going to be rushed in the House to try and put through legislation. We have already had an opportunity of examining the other piece of legislation, and I must say to the Member for St. Boniface that if he thinks there's only three or four bills that are worthy of consideration he's mistaken. If he's prepared to accept and pass The Personal Investigation Act, pass the Landlord and Tenant Act, pass The Statistics Act and pass the various other . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Point of order by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: My point of order is, Sir, that I never said there was only a few bills that were worthy of being scrutinized. I said that there were just a few bills that were controversial. This is what I said.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, there's been a disagreement for approximately over a year as to what really is controversial and what isn't controversial between the Member for St. Boniface and the other members on this side, and I suggest that his interpretation of what he should be concerned about and our interpretation of what we should be concerned about are very different. I suggest to you that there are sections in Acts such as The Hearing Aid Act and others which warrant the kind of serious debate in this House and that cannot be passed just as a matter of course. We will not have the passage of 33 bills, as was suggested on third reading by the First Minister in a session, but we have already 30 bills on the Order Paper that have not even been introduced, and we were led to believe, Mr. Speaker, that there was going to be an opportunity for some kind of agreement to be arrived at if a recess was to take place so that many of the controversial bills would in fact be postponed and an opportunity would be given for us to devote our time to the Uni-city Bill, if it is the government's desire to see this rammed through, at least to be able to make the kind of contribution that has to be made and do it in an intelligent way.

Frankly, this was the reason for the opportunity being asked to have the matter stand so that agreement could have been arrived at. It's unfortunate we've had to proceed this way; there is nothing that indicates that the government's position is clear. At this point we have no decision from them as to how they're going to proceed, in fact we probably will not be given that opportunity, and I suggest that this is an error because this is the only way in which you can at this stage, having sat for 12 weeks, the Estimates having been completed with the exception of concurrence, this is the only way in which we can arrive at an intelligent way of dealing with this legislation so that the matters can be dealt with, particularly in view of the

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.) . . . . fact that the suggestion has been made that we are going to be recessing and going to be meeting again.

Certainly there are a number of bills that are not controversial and certainly a number of bills that we'll be prepared to pass. We know what those bills are right today, Mr. Speaker, and had we had that opportunity we would have indicated that to the House Leader and indicated in no uncertain terms our intention to allow this to go through because we cannot see anything controversial in them, although at Law Amendments or at other committee stage and other committees it's possible that some representation will be made and we may have been in error in our judgment. All we asked for was some reason to be applied on the part of the members opposite, and instead we've had basically what I've suggested has been an arrogant attitude adopted by them.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources will be closing debate.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Member for Rhineland wish to speak? Oh, he's already spoken on the question. Sorry. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I think it's only fitting that I speak on this motion since I am the person who introduced it, and when I introduced it I knew full well that, as has happened historically, the person who is really doing a lot of people a favour is often the person who gets most severely criticized for it.

Now I know that the members on the other side would like to use this motion as one on which they could raise great issues as to how debates will or will not proceed, but in reality, Mr. Speaker, if there was a lack of real sting in their debate - and I think that that's fairly obvious despite the admirable efforts of the Member for Morris - if there was a lack of real sting it's because the honourable members wish, as much as members on this side of the House do, to be able to work longer hours for the purpose of getting more work done and, Mr. Speaker, if I was of the opinion that the bringing in of this motion somehow reduced the level of debate in the House, Mr. Speaker, I would seriously consider bringing it in. But that has not been the experience in the past and I think one need only look at last year's session for an indication.

Mr. Speaker, I venture to say that if anything is quoted, if any speeches having merit are quoted out of the 1970 Session of the Manitoba Legislature they'll be speeches that were made during the speed-up debate. I suggest to you that the speech that the former Leader of the Opposition made respecting automobile insurance and the plan that was introduced by him was made during the speed-up debate -- (Interjection) -- after the debate had passed. The Honourable Member for -- the present Leader of the Opposition, I don't like to give him credit for a great deal, but he made some fairly creditable speeches on civil liberties during the last session of the Legislature and those speeches were made after the speed-up debate.

I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that many other of the backbenchers on the government side, who often do not get into the debate, made excellent speeches to the extent of their capacity to do so, made their best speeches during the speed-up debate. It wasn't the hour at which the debate was taking place, it was the intensity of the subject matter which they were debating, and I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that you could follow this as a general rule, that all of the members on the opposite side made their best contribution to debate after the speed-up resolution had been passed.

And one could go on and give examples, Mr. Speaker. The disposition of what was the Jehovah's Witnesses' bill occurred after the speed-up resolution had been passed, that's if my memory serves me correctly, Mr. Speaker, and I'm sure that it does because we were in Law Amendments Committee at the time and there were speeches made on the subject and they were good speeches made on the subject, and my recollection, Mr. Chairman, is that those galleries were filled with 300 people listening during the time which followed the bringing in of the speed-up resolution.

I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that any member in this House starts to relinquish his responsibility because we start working longer hours, and I know, Mr. Speaker, in my heart of hearts - and they know that I am right in my heart, they know I'm right - that they welcome this debate as much as anybody on this side, because what it means is if we are coming to an end of the session it will merely mean that we will get there faster, not because we reduce our effectiveness in debate but because we spend more time in this House.

(MR. GREEN cont'd.)

I have never noticed that that has affected the level of debate, Mr. Speaker, and I suggest to you that one can look at debate prior to speed-up and after speed-up, and if there is anything to choose from then I would say, in the last session in any event, that debate was better after we were involved in longer hours, merely because parliamentarians are conscientious, merely because parliamentarians will do a job, and we don't expect the Opposition to suddenly stop doing their job because we're in the House more. They haven't done it in the past and we don't expect them to do it in the future.

If, Mr. Speaker, every bill that we have on the Order Paper requires a week of discussion or two weeks of discussion or a month of discussion or two months of discussion, then let it be. The honourable members of the Opposition know that they have the right to extend the debate in that way. Last year after the resolution I heard somebody name the period of seven weeks, within that period - and I think the session went almost five months - and I suggest that if honourable members require that amount of time to debate the resolutions and the bills now on the Order Paper, by all means do so. It is not the intention of this resolution to lower the level of debate, it's the intention of this resolution to give all of the members of the House a chance to work longer hours for the purpose, if it's possible, of completing the session early.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition says that there has been no statement of the government's intent. Well, Mr. Speaker, let the record be clear. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition asked me privately what is the intention of the government, we want to know it before we vote on the speed-up resolution. I indicated it privately, I repeat now in the House that it's our intention to try and get the work done. As to whether that will happen or not depends on exactly what my honourable friends are talking about. If there are bills on the Order Paper that can't be passed because they require extensive debate, so be it, we stay here and we debate. We don't relinquish our responsibility and we don't do our job any worse. But our intention is to try and conclude the session. If we can't conclude the session, if there are things that can't be debated, as happened last year, some bills were referred to committee, some bills were withdrawn, if we can't complete the session then it happens in Ottawa and it could happen this time, that some bills could die on the Order Paper. But as for a statement of government's intention, it is the government's intention to try to complete the Order Paper. We don't make any prediction as to whether that will or will not happen because we don't wish to prejudice - and we can't, that's one of the good things about Parliament - any member's right to use whatever provisions are available within parliamentary rules to take a position either opposing or moving forward a bill. If that's the statement of intention that the honourable members of the Opposition are looking for, then I tell you that that is the government's intention. I don't think it takes us much further ahead; we still don't know what would happen and that depends on every member in the House.

The Honourable Member for Morris - and I respect this, I think it's an indication of the success of the tactic of the Opposition - he said there never has been a worse managed session, and, Mr. Speaker, I am the manager apparently and therefore that charge is made against me and I have to start looking at it. The session is about three months gone; usually in the years that I was first here, we not only completed the regular, the 80 hours by that time, but we completed the rest of the business by that time, so there are unusual things that happened this session. I suggest to you that one of the things that the Opposition has been successful in doing, and I give them full marks, is they have succeeded - in putting the business of the House in the position that it is now, and I don't think it's anything serious, but if they do, then I say that they have succeeded - they have succeeded in putting us where we are now, and then saying what a terribly managed session, because, Mr. Speaker, I had to think about this - we didn't do any less work, it's still the same hours for the Throne Speech; it's the same hours for the Budget Speech, and even if my honourable friend was right about the two-thirds, that we spent two-thirds of the time on the estimates, and I'm not going to argue it, but I will undertake to have my Executive Assistant tape the pages together - it's already been done. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, even if that was done, it's still 80 hours. We can't extend the estimates beyond 80 hours - our members didn't do that, so here - - we somehow are in the position ...

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Would he not agree, would he not agree that if a fair proportion of time was allocated to the consideration of legislation, that could have been processed at the same time that the estimates could have been processed, because then we would have had an

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd.) . . . . opportunity to go into Law Amendments and consider those bills in committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Every moment we do that, we take off the 80 hours. So if we had done that, we'd still be in the 80 hours of estimates, and according to tradition we would still not be, if we followed tradition, we would still not be in the - the famous, notorious speed-up resolution. Just let me continue, because I'm going to disclose although you know it very well, because, give your side the credit for engineering it, how is it that we spent the same 80 hours in speed-up; we spent the same eight hours in the Throne Speech; we spent the same time in the Budget Speech debate, and we haven't had what he has called, and I'm not sure whether he's right or wrong, but he's made that position, we haven't had a good mix of bills and legislation.

Well several things happened, the same three months that ordinarily a session would have been finished -- well several things happened, Mr. Speaker. First of all, the Opposition adopted a particular tack with regard to bills -- (Interjection) - No they adopted attack which they're entitled to, but I want to make up, to find the time of mismanagement, that my honourable friend is referring to, and he knows where it is - it took me a little while but he having engineered it, he knows where it is. The first thing that happened is that they took a particular ploy with respect to bills. Whenever the government said that we needed a bill, that we needed a bill passed, that there was some urgency about it, if not whenever, most of the time, then the style was to adjourn it a couple of times until they knew that they would be trying the patience of the government. And after that, have one speech on that bill, taking approximately a half an hour or 40 minutes and then adjourn it to the next day, so that one bill although it could involve 10 or 12 speeches as happened with Bill No. 9, the style was to adjourn it a few times, and then one speech adjourned, the next day another speech adjourned, the next day another speech adjourned. And they did, Mr. Speaker, the exact same thing with Bill 36. The style was adjourn it a few times, then one speech and then adjourn it. So we had this mix that my honourable friend is talking about, the only thing is that we were always when we were mixing legislation and bills, it was the one bill that we wanted to get through which they decided to extend and speak on every day for the purpose of having that bill spoken to and extend it out.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Before I allow the honourable member to pose his question, I would suggest that it be pertinent to clarification of the debate, because I find that there is a tendency to increase the debate and to debate when members are making the question, and this consequently does not follow our rules and it does engender heat occasionally as well. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well I assure you, Mr. Speaker, I don't intend to engender any heat. I simply wanted to ask the Minister if he would not agree that the time that was taken up in the consideration of Bill No. 9 resulted in a bill beyond recognition of the one that was introduced. There were sufficient amendments passed to that bill to justify . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: I'm not here - I thought that I was here extolling the virtues of the Opposition to the benefits of their tactics with regard to Bill 9 by the time we got it passed, much of what was in it in the first place was found to be not needed any more, but let me not take away one little bit of credit from the Opposition, because, Mr. Speaker, they're in trouble and any little bit of credit that we can give them will at least give them some credibility in the eyes of the public, so let's say, let us say that they improved Bill 9. I was talking about how we used up this time without taking any more time than normally in all of the matters that come before the House.

There was another thing, Mr. Speaker, we had a new style this year and it's - the honourable members are entitled to it - we had a new style on dealing with reports from Committees - which also comes as part of the mix - we found that rather than debate the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture -- and let's look at this, Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Party in Manitoba, which really believes itself to be agriculturally based, gave up all the debate of the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture. Do you know why, Mr. Speaker, because it didn't use any of the 80 hours - they could leave it to another department, and they could debate that department during the report of the Committee of Agriculture, which they did, and, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member knows what I'm referring to -- maybe there are a couple of things that he did that I don't know about, but these things I know about. The fact is that they then, taking the same mix of time, as between estimates and the other business of the House,

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) . . . . were able to extend their hours of debate, Mr. Speaker -- and I give them full marks, full marks, very good tactics, very good for the opposition, very good way of having debate extended to put their point of views forward -- I don't take a card away from them but I say, let them not say then mismanagement -- it's not mismanagement, it's well-managed opposition, and I give them credit for it, and now we are going into what we hope will be well-managed government and you have to give us our day in court so to speak, and that's what we are now asking for.

There was one other feature, Mr. Speaker, that used a lot of time, which represented that same mix because don't forget I come back to this each time, the length of time we are here is exactly the same in terms of the number of hours that are confined for a certain thing, and yet we are here three months and haven't got to the period that my honourable friend says we should be.

We had the report of the Committee of Rules, which we thought was agreed to by both sides of the House, and I'm not going to be critical of my honourable friends, there were changes of mind; there were private members who were not party to that Rules Committee report, and I have to say that they are entitled too, that they spent that amount of time in dealing with that one question which used up a lot of debate which otherwise would have found that we reached the 80 hours much sooner. So I say, Mr. Speaker, to the honourable man, and he knew it before I said it, that the same amount of mix as between bills and other business and other legislation, was employed in the so-called mismanagement of the House this year, as is employed in other years, and that we are now coming to a period, where having passed the 80 hours of estimates, we are asking members to work a little harder and, Mr. Speaker, the thing that sort of gratifies me in this position and after listening to the honourable member's attempt to try to be angry with me, is that I know that they are very happy that I had the honour of bringing this resolution. They too, just as when they were in government, now in opposition, wish to see whether they can put more work together in one day without in any way, Mr. Speaker, and I repeat this, without in any way reducing their efficacy and I say that if you will look to examples, the speeches that the Leader of the Opposition made during -- after the speed-up resolution was passed last year, were if it's possible, better than the speeches he made before the speed-up resolution was passed; the speeches that other honourable members made on the other side, were better; the attention of the public was more focused because more things were happening in the Legislature and we did not suffer, Mr. Speaker, we did not -- (Interjection) -- No, Mr. Speaker, I would have to leave others to say whether my speeches were better before or after speed-up -- it really wouldn't be for me to do so. But I do want to, Mr. Speaker, since the Leader of the Opposition, since the Leader of the Opposition has raised Bill 36 as being the prime example of such far reaching, such weighty legislation as requires that it be debated before the speed-up, and by the way, it was debated much before the speed-up, debated right through to the point where they had to introduce a six month's hoist in order to have another round of speakers, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. GREEN: The honourable member said that none of us spoke. The custom in this House before this government came in, was for a Minister to introduce a proposition, no members on his side, no members on the government side to speak to that proposition, to hear from the other side and then to close debate. Now I know that that custom has changed, and I think for the better, but it's changed, because members on this side have had a broader range of responsibility for everything that has been brought in than used to be the case with the previous administration. But, Mr. Speaker, it is the general rule in parliament that the Minister introduces a proposition -- there could be some backbenchers speak on it yes; there are backbenchers from the other side, speaking on it. But we have done more in the line of what my honourable friend is talking about than was ever done in the past.

But the Honourable Member refers to that bill and I want to go back to another speed-up day, the infamous day that was referred to by the First Minister, May 23, 1969. Mr. Speaker, on May 22nd which was --'68 excuse me -- which was the day before, there was a bill introduced to the legislature at 12:30 in the evening, 12:30 in the morning I suppose one should say. It was a bill to amalgamate the cities of St. James and Assiniboia. There was a speech made by a member of the government caucus -- there was a speech made by a member of the government caucus, not by leave, it was a bill that introduced. I got up, Mr. Speaker, in an attempt to adjourn that bill at 12:30 at night. I was met with the anguished objections of the government members who said that people were going to appear before Law Amendments the next morning

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) . . . . and had already been invited to appear the next morning. Even though that bill was being introduced at 12:30 at night. They had -- they were annoyed that anybody would speak to that bill at 12:30 at night.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you that that bill was brought in after midnight. Well, Mr. Speaker, I will read you the remarks -- the Honourable Member, are you reading May 22nd?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. I would like to suggest to all honourable members that interjections are uncalled for except on a point of order and honourable members who are debating should not have a cross fire in their debate, they should conduct their remarks to the Chair. It creates a lot less heat, and creates a lot less problem for the chair. I am trying to have decorum in this Chamber. The only way I'll succeed is if I have the cooperation of the Members. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the honourable member's interjections if it means that I am incorrectly stating the facts. The honourable member indicates that the House adjourned -- at what time -- (Interjection) -- 12 o'clock. It was midnight, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't 12:30. I want to read the remarks that I made the next day because I think they are very pertinent to what my honourable friend says, and they are very prophetic with regard to our discussion on this bill." Mr. Speaker, this bill was first read yesterday" -- and I'm speaking on the 23rd -- I believe it was approximately midnight -- I note that the honourable member didn't interject at that time to indicate I was wrong -- and I believe that all of the members in the House were not at that time in their most receptive mood to hear any comments on the subject and it was for that reason that I felt that it should be adjourned, so that it could be considered in a more favourable atmosphere. Because I was told, Mr. Speaker, the previous night that they didn't want to hear me on it. They wanted the bill to go to committee the next day, but I think, Mr. Speaker, that if this bill is of significant importance for what it does not say, and what it does not say, Mr. Speaker, is that the idea of co-ordinating services of various municipalities in Greater Winnipeg, is so obvious that even if a suggestion that a matter of this kind should be delayed for one day, is looked upon as being some kind of obstruction. I wanted to delay it until the next day, the amalgamation of two important municipalities in Greater Winnipeg but it was thought to be so obvious that it was considered to be an obstruction to delay it to the next day.

Now what is the situation with regard to this bill, Mr. Speaker, we have two municipalities in Greater Winnipeg, whose municipal councils have decided that they should form one municipality or one city, and then they say with pride -- I believe it was mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. James, and some day it will be the Honourable Member for St. James-Assiniboia, I don't know -- but they say with pride that it's going to be the second largest city in the Province of Manitoba. They didn't come to the legislature and ask, oh well, there are two members sitting for that particular constituency; they didn't say to the Province of Manitoba, we would like you to have a commission to study this; they didn't say that a referendum should be taken on the subject; they didn't say that it needs study. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, they didn't say it, and what is significant is that nobody else said it either. There wasn't a single voice raised to suggest that this is a very complicated, difficult, social and economic problem that will require years of study, years of procrastination and years of doubt as to whether it's a good idea. It was such a good idea that it was read on the dying days of the session at 12 o'clock midnight and there was some surprise that the debate would be adjourned on the subject. It was so obvious that anybody who moved adjournment would be looked upon as possibly delaying the bill and there'd be a distinct surprise if anybody suggested to you that it had to be studied, but that's exactly what's occurring with Greater Winnipeg, not only was there one study, but my recollection is, and the member for St. Johns would know better than I, that there were three studies and not only were there three studies, then it was referred to a Boundaries Commission, and then there were reviews, and then there were suggestions that we should have referendums, and then there were suggestions that we should have cost studies. I want the people who are making those kinds of recommendations to remember this bill, because you are now making those type of recommendations, remember the St. James-Assiniboia bill. Remember that all that was needed was in effect the consent of two municipalities, who, Mr. Speaker, I believe are consenting to the right type of thing for all of the wrong reasons, because it appears to me that this bill is meant to put

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) . . . . St. James-Assiniboia into a stronger municipal position when it comes to the question of discussing what's going to happen to Greater Winnipeg as a whole.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I make a prophecy here, they will probably - and I know what I heard from members of those councils before - they will probably take a greater stand against co-ordinating all services than they would have had if there were two cities rather than one.

Well, Mr. Speaker, where did the biggest complaint come about the re-organization of Greater Winnipeg, from St. James-Assiniboia, who re-organized themselves in 1968 and complained that we were going to adjourn the bill at 12 o'clock to think about it the next day and the honourable member, the Leader of the Opposition, was sitting then as a member of the government benches, participating in this particular social change, which he now says is so weighty and requires such great study and consideration.

And, Mr. Speaker, this was second reading, it went to committee in one day it was back and it was passed. Mr. Speaker, did I vote for it? I indicated that I would support the bill and I'll read why in a moment Mr. Speaker, it's all here, and I said it in '68, I didn't have to wait until '71 -- (Interjection) -- Well just wait -- and for that reason, Mr. Speaker, they would probably think that they are staving off a greater co-ordination of services.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if we recognize that the only right thing that prevents this kind of thing is the consent of the municipal council and if we also recognize that there is no special reason why they would know more about co-ordination of services than members of this Legislature, and in fact they are probably the last ones to be able to express an objective decision on this question, then I say that following the precedent of this bill, remember this bill and don't give those kinds of arguments against the co-ordination of all municipal services that have been raised in the past but are now rendered irrelevant by the way in which we have behaved when this bill came to the House. Remember that bill. And I said in '68, "Remember this bill.

"Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to object to the bill. I think that the reason that is being presented is the wrong reason. I think the kind of thing that is suggested is a good thing. I'm going to support it and I'm going to ask the members of this Legislature to look at it as a precedent when they are talking about doing this on a bigger scale and having a better situation for all of Greater Winnipeg than we have at the present time.

"Mr. Speaker, I think my honourable friend from St. Johns also indicates to me that the preamble, I remember it, refers to this bill as being in the public interest, and I think that that's a very key phrase. Not merely in the interests of St. James and Assiniboia but in the public interest as a whole. Remember that preamble when we are talking about Greater Winnipeg as a whole. The public interest."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I made this speech in 1968 and I said at that time that the municipal councils will be the ones that object but I asked the members of the Legislature to remember that they thought it was so obvious that this thing be done that they didn't want to adjourn debate from 12:00 o'clock midnight to 9:30 the next morning, and at 12:00 o'clock midnight it was given its first reading.

So I say to you let's not talk about this bill as being the main reason why we shouldn't be in the speed-up resolution. I'm satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that if I was on the other side, and I don't want to be egotistical in this because I think that the members on the opposite side deserve the credit for being able to marshal their arguments to deal with the question and not to give one inch because we happen to be working longer hours. I say, and I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that the reason that I don't really feel that we've had anything more than an oratorical exercise here this afternoon is that despite the posturing the members on the other side want to try to get the work done if it's possible. They don't want to give anything away and I agree with them. But if it's possible they'd like to work longer hours and therefore I bring in this bill knowing that no matter how the vote goes, I feel that I have the moral support of everybody in the House.

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

#### GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Call Bill No. 52, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I intend to be fairly brief on this bill, Sir, but I kind of feel like, a little like a Cheshire cat in that the -- actually the opposition can sit back grinning regarding this bill because the only reason that the government gave, or the real good reason that they gave, was that they could save 15 percent on automobile insurance in the Province of Manitoba. This is the reason they gave for displacing companies in this province that have been here for a long time. This is the reason they gave for displacing agents who have been working in this province for a long time. This is the reason they gave for causing what could be unemployment in insurance companies in this province. It has had an effect all the way down the line right to janitors, office workers, etc., that work in this industry. And as I say the reason for doing so was that we could save 15 percent.

Now we find, Mr. Speaker, that that is not the case. The comparison of rates that were given by my leader the other day showed very plainly that the Autopac which the government is presenting is just as much as the insurance companies that were in business in this province were presenting and we also have a charge on licences and, Mr. Speaker, it's very hard to tell just where the cost of insurance is on a car. If you were to take a family that has three or four drivers and one car in the family they've all paid a certain amount on their licence. Previous to that there was an insurance policy on the one car. They make the claim, Sir, that young people will be paying less and this is true. But the subsidy of demerits on licences in this province, and when they dug back to 1961 in many cases to find demerit marks against people it was unfair and they're certainly using this to subsidize the amount of money that they claim they're saving or that they claim they're losing on Autopac or on the young driver.

Mr. Speaker, the bill has so many little hidden costs, or Autopac has so many hidden costs - you could take for example the driver or the person that was born in November if you would rightly say that he should pay, well he should pay seven-twelfths, or approximately that when he buys his licence, but it's one dollar for the man that has a birthday in November. I guess the computer won't work any better than a dollar. Really he should be paying if his birthday is in November about 68 cents or something of that case. But it's all rounded out in even dollars and when you have twelve months and you're talking \$7.00, everybody has to pay the even dollar, there'll be money picked up in there too.

So all of these little things are hidden and when the Minister makes an issue about whether we're talking '71 rates or '72 rates, let's not kid ourselves, the Autopac will have 1971 rates in November, and they will bring in 1972 rates the following November. The car companies would bring in 1971 rates probably about this June, and the auto insurance company will bring in '72 rates approximately next June, so let's not play on words regarding comparison of rates regarding what year.

Mr. Speaker, the Autopac or the Bill No. 52 which is in front of us, it also has a very playful little clause in it that says the Autopac does not come under The Insurance Act, it is not governed by The Insurance Act in this province, which gives the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council the authority to decide if a driver has had an accident, and if they feel that he has broken the law, they'll decide whether the insurance will be paid. The insurance companies at the present time pay the claim and it is up to them to collect the money from the bad driver, impaired driver, speeding driver or anything they want. But not so. If the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council decides that they are not going to pay the claim this just again saves Autopac money, and they're not giving the service that the other companies have been giving them.

Mr. Speaker, the four insurance companies that operated in this province have proven beyond a doubt that they had competitive rates. The First Minister stood up and said well you know it wasn't unusual to have people phased out of businesses, people change jobs or businesses fade out. And here we have the companies that were keeping competitive rates, and they are being phased out, and it's not understandable. It's not understandable to me that the First Minister can get up and make a statement like that when we have just been on a delegation that CAE, when I was on that delegation to Ottawa, to put up a battle for a group of men that have been phased out by a government, and now we have a government who has phased out these businesses. The battle was put up to keep these people in work and on the opposite side of the fence you have a government that is not putting up a battle or making it convenient, and making it bad for agents and people working in insurance companies. You know, Mr. Speaker, the insurance agent is not a rich man. He's a guy the same as many

(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd.) . . . . others who associates himself with the community clubs in my area, with many people that work for CA E, and I can assure you, but you know none of them understand, in fact the people that are not involved with the insurance business understand why this has to take place when better rates are not being given. The people of Manitoba have basically been conned because this was the argument that was given. We're going to save you 15 percent and it hasn't happened, Sir.

The Autopac is here now and I realize, or we all realize much to our dismay, that it is going to be fact very shortly. But the insurance agents that I have had the opportunity to talk to have made it very plain to me that the remuneration or any arrangements that have been brought forward to them by the government is such that they won't possibly -- they can't possibly live on it. The extra package, or the extra coverage, which will be sold by the government puts them in a position of not being able to compete, and we are already finding out that one insurance company as we all read last week, the Co-op Insurance, which was the one that was the good company by the fellows on the other side, these were the fair guys, who last week said we will not sell any more policies. Several of their men have reported to other insurance companies which have offices in this area and have made requests of them to see if these companies had positions in other provinces where they could work and sell insurance. Mr. Speaker, here we have a proven situation where the province is going to lose people. What will happen, Sir, if other companies take this step right now? Will the people selling cars be in trouble? Autopac doesn't come into effect. Other companies if this carries on and they discontinue selling policies at the present time, we are going to have a very serious problem.

The management and handling of Autopac, Sir, has been disgraceful. I can really understand why because the man that has been in charge of doing it in my opinion is not experienced but the government listened to him. This government has taken the time, Sir, to listen to everybody with any experience other than in Manitoba. And we've found out that it has hurt Manitoba because he wasn't able to do what he said he could do and now these fellows are finding it out. I know that the government does not agree with that statement but it's been proven, he didn't save 15 percent. The situation when automobile insurance went into Saskatchewan was entirely different than it was in Manitoba in 1970, and the situation in Manitoba will deteriorate as far as insurance is concerned because we are not going to have as good a coverage; we are not going to be 15 percent cheaper; we will not have the service but what we will have is people out of work, loss of taxes to the province, splitting the people of this province. There's no question about the fact the government has decided that there is a group of people that they care about, the group of people that they don't care about, and they move very fast in this way.

Mr. Speaker, as I said before the people of this province as far as I'm concerned were conned. I think the government got led down the garden path by people who give them advice who know nothing about the situations in this province and they choose to listen to them and I assure you that all Manitobans will suffer as far as not only car insurance is involved but loss of industry, taxes and people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for River Heights, that debate be adjourned.

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

#### CONCURRENCE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Youth and Education, that the Resolution reported from Committee of Supply be read a second time and concurred in.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. CLERK: I. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,041,500 for Legislation, Resolution 1 to 3 separately and collectively for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1972.

Resolved there be granted to Her Majesty . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Chairman, these are the resolutions that

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) . . . . we were unable to discuss in Committee and I would have to have some remarks to make in connection with the Provincial Auditor's Office. We will be meeting in Public Accounts tomorrow morning in order to discuss the Annual Report as of March 31st, 1970. This report will be more than a year old and I feel that we should be discussing much more current matters in this particular meeting than stuff that's that old and I repeatedly in this House asked for interim reports from the government on the finances and the operations of this government and I also feel that this should be pertaining to the Provincial Auditor's report. Why not have a half-yearly report from the Provincial Auditor? Certainly this would bring us much more up to date than what we will be discussing in committee tomorrow morning. I see no reason why this cannot be done and I had hoped that this government would take action before this to bring this matter about so that we could deal with more current matters than what will be placed before us. No doubt the issues or the matters that will come forward need attention because as the Minister of Highways mentioned on one occasion during this session that there were considerable shortages and we will no doubt be asking for information on this to find out where these shortages are, what they amount to, were they reported to Cabinet and so on. I feel this is also information that the House would like to know when we meet in committee tomorrow morning. So, Mr. Chairman, when we're spending some \$640,000, no, \$661,000 on the Provincial Auditor's office I feel that we could spend a little more and have a half-yearly audit because from what I understand this is more or less a continual audit and that we could be furnished with much more up to date material than we will be having at our disposal in committee.

There are other matters that I should touch on because we have an item here for \$6,000 to the Leader of the second Opposition party which will not be used and why should we pass the item, why should we allocate monies for it if it's not going to be used unless the government will accommodate the members on this side who are not getting any share of it in total, and may put the money to use. Certainly it is not that we do not need it because we need assistance by way of research - the new rules provide for it. But I would like to know from the Minister concerned whether any monies are allocated to assisting the opposition for this session and for this year, because I think the matter has been agreed to when the new rules were adopted and when the report was brought in by the committee. So not having been able to discuss this in committee I do hope that the Minister concerned will get up and give an explanation on this.

The matter of the increased indemnities is statutory, it's not included in the resolutions, so that it would not be proper to comment on that aspect. But there are some other things that should be mentioned and one is the matter of the Ministers' Assistants for which legislation was passed a year or two ago, and I would like to know just what is being done by these assistants. What are they producing? Just what assistance are they providing to the Ministers? Just the other week, I think it was the Member for Rupertsland left for Africa. He's back now. Just what was the mission that he accomplished? What was he supposed to achieve? Surely enough if we're going to spend money for these people to travel around the world -- (Interjection) -- Is it on a point of order?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The member is referring to a matter which is not an expense of the Provincial Government; it's an expense of the Federal Government, and therefore I don't think that it properly finds its way into this debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Well, he was away from the House so I took it that he was on government business. This is a . . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I said the point was well taken. The Honourable Member for Rhineland should continue his remarks in another vein. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: I will continue, or discuss other matters, but certainly he is being paid by Manitoba people so he should be attending Manitoba business, if I'm correct.

The matter of the type of work that these people are doing, I certainly would like to know more about it because certainly not much has come to light during the session, during the current session, and we're paying considerable moneys for it. In fact I think we're paying so much so that the government is not very interested in increasing indemnities because their members are taken care of as it is. And surely enough when we're spending money in this way I feel that the moneys should be properly accounted for and also a proper explanation should be given.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I think that I could give some information as far as I'm concerned anyway to the honourable member to say that as the Legislative Assistant my first responsibility was to direct the Secretariat of Dominion and Provincial Cultural relations, and that I've done this. This of course I think the honourable member is aware of the mandate of the Secretariat, of the responsibility that it has. This has been my main function.

As far as the Member for Rupertsland, I think that the House Leader meant that he was part of a -- certainly he was acting for the people of Manitoba, but he was part of a Canadian delegation and the cost of the trip was financed by the Federal Government. I think that during that time he was representing Manitoba. Of course he can speak for himself.

I don't know if this satisfied the honourable member. I can say that I've had my hands full, it's been practically a full-time job to look after the responsibility of the Secretariat.

MR. SPEAKER: The Clerk.

MR. CLERK: II. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,488,200 for Executive Council, Resolutions 4 to 7, separately and collectively, for the fiscal year ending 31st day of March, 1972.

III. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Again I feel this is another section of resolutions that were not being considered in committee and I had started writing out a motion of regret. I hadn't quite completed it. However I wanted to mention the matter of Dominion-Provincial relations. I feel that this is an area which is getting to be of greater importance year by year. We have the federal MPs in the House of Commons who are no doubt doing their work pertaining to the business of the Federal Government; but of recent years we have had a number of meetings of First Ministers under the Dominion-Provincial Affairs program and which are of increasing importance to Manitoba and to the other provinces, and I feel that this government has not given the necessary leadership, has not provided the necessary leadership in this respect because we are now relegated as a backbench province under the new proposition that has come out in connection with the amending of the formula of the British North American Act, when it comes to amending we are relegated more or less to a nonentity. We will not be considered because all they need is two provinces from western Canada with the majority of the people. Well, any two of the other provinces will do it. British Columbia no doubt is one because they have the largest group of people in their province so we will probably not even be considered, not even be asked for that matter because they needn't come to us.

I feel that we are really a backbencher now and that we will have very little to say. If you take a look at the eastern provinces, it's not the same situation. They have a better situation as far as their individual provinces are concerned and I feel that this is not proper, this is actually shameful for the people of this province, that we should be relegated to this position and that this should be acceptable to this government here in Manitoba. It's not acceptable to me, I can tell them right now. They haven't brought in the proposal to the House. This should in my opinion have been done before this so that we could have given more consideration to it, proper consideration to this whole matter. We didn't discuss the estimates on this part. I had expected them to come forward much earlier and I had planned to discuss them quite fully, especially on this very issue. Certainly we should be treated more as an equal. We are ten provinces in Canada meeting with the Federal Government when they do meet. We should actually have equal say, but already by the proposition of this formula it already indicates that we are not recognized as an equal partner but that we will be put into a lesser position.

These Dominion-Provincial meetings, not only of First Ministers but also of Finance Ministers are of great importance and I feel of greater importance as we go along. The Ministers of Finance of the various provinces will be meeting shortly and new fiscal arrangements are to be made, and I do hope that when our Minister of Finance goes down there that he really does bargain well for this province because we are in need of assistance, financial assistance from Ottawa more than ever. The revenues, if the economy will continue to lag, will no doubt go down and will not increase, and therefore if the same amount of money has to be dug up that this means that we will have increased taxes in the province unless we do get additional assistance from Ottawa.

The matter of the constitution I already touched on that before. Certainly this is very

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) . . . . important to us. I don't know just where the matter rests at the present time, whether further meetings will be conducted in the near future or not, whether this has been determined at this point, I am not aware. I had really hoped that the First Minister would be present so that he could at least bring us up to date on this very important matter. Not only is that important but there will, if the constitution should be repatriated that the other matters such as delegation of powers will have to be considered and I think we should have discussions on these points long before the matters come up and for debate in these meetings; that we should know beforehand as a Legislature what stand Manitoba will be taking. We as members I think have a right to know what this government intends to do and what they will be asking for. Certainly we should not be kept in the dark on these very important matters. And we're allocating monies toward it too; we're spending money, and Mr. Speaker, I feel that we should have a proper accounting, we should have a report by the Minister on this very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: We'll have a temporary delay till the Clerk gets back. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my intention is to speak on Items 4, 5, and 6, but I'll deal with (4) at this time as I gather we are dealing with this. I deal with it not in the context of the presentation by the Honourable Member from Rhineland but I think there is a comment that should be made with respect to his remarks.

I'm sorry that we did not have an opportunity in this House to in fact discuss the proposals that were made at Victoria. I recognize that it was a government decision that had to be arrived at first, and a communication should then have been given as it was undertaken to Ottawa. But, Mr. Speaker, the rules were changed to allow ministerial statements to be made in the House for the opportunity for all members to hear from the government their positions on policy and this is one occasion on which the new rules change was not used to the advantage of all the members here when the government saw fit to communicate it. Only as a result of an oral question did the Minister make a statement, and by not allowing statements to be made in the House or even allowing a special debate or an opportunity for debate there was no opportunity for the members on this side to make in this House the contribution I think that has to be made and should be made with respect to the proposals that were presented at Victoria and the potential that it has for the development of the kind of national identity and national consensus that many of us believe is necessary if we are going to continue as a nation in the years to come.

But, Mr. Speaker, I rise on Item (4) because this is the one occasion on which in discussing the administration of the Executive Council there is an opportunity to pinpoint and deal with government policy that is presented through the First Minister. The First Minister is the one who answers on behalf of Manitoba Hydro to this Legislature. He is the one who is the person responsible to this House for answering the questions of the Crown corporation, questions that may be asked by the members opposite. He as such is not involved in the day-to-day decision, nor is he expected to know the details or the manner in which the Crown corporation operates, but he is required to answer those questions that may be asked by members on this side with respect to Hydro matters.

Mr. Speaker, the First Minister in this capacity represents the government in terms of any specific policy that is either approved of or directed to Manitoba Hydro, and we have the issue before us, which the Premier would like to indicate has been settled but which I suggest to you is not settled, of the control of Lake Winnipeg and the sequence that has been undertaken with respect to Lake Winnipeg and the Churchill diversion. I don't have to recount the debates that have taken place so far in the House or even the debates that have taken place in the committee; but I think it's necessary, Mr. Speaker, to indicate that we on this side are not satisfied that the government has acted in the best interests of the people of this province. We do not believe that the policy which Hydro has arrived at, which the government has directly approved, and we suggest influenced, is a policy that is in the best interests of the people of the province. First, because it will cost substantial sums of money that are being spent that should not be spent; and secondly, that the concern that many in this House have expressed in the past, and even expressed today about the flooding of Southern Indian Lake, will not in any way be relieved because Southern Indian Lake is going to be flooded no matter what happens, that Hydro by undertaking the course of action that has been proposed is in fact committed to a course of action which will flood Southern Indian Lake.

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.)

The only point to what is happening is that the flooding will take place in a period in years to come, probably after the next general election, and the government will have timetabled a sequence, with the approval of the Hydro Board, timetabled a sequence to indicate that somehow or other they have followed a course of action which they determined as a result of the very cursory examination that Mr. Cass-Beggs gave when he came here as a consultant.

Mr. Speaker, the commitment that the government has undertaken with respect to Hydro is a commitment that's been made because the government is not prepared to stand up and admit that it's been in error, that in effect the whole debate that occurred with Southern Indian Lake and the whole study that was undertaken has in fact come to the conclusion that Southern Indian Lake is going to have to be flooded in any case, and while it may not be a high-level diversion, the damage to the ecology is going to be the same and that the delay that was undertaken, the delay may have in fact resulted in a middle diversion rather than a high-level diversion, but the truth of the matter is that the delay itself still does not mean, or the work that's been undertaken by the government and its consultants does not mean that Southern Indian Lake is not going to be flooded.

The over-all effect, Mr. Speaker, is that Southern Indian Lake will be flooded, the Indian community is going to be moved, and the government through its course of action, through its policy that it has now announced as its policy, is committing the province to an expenditure that has been estimated between 50 to 140 million dollars. Mr. Speaker, this is basically not only an error in terms of the money that is going to be spent or the funds that are going to have to be allocated that should not be allocated, it's an error because it has to go directly to the ability of Hydro to provide reasonable priced power.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the First Minister is the Minister who answers on behalf of Hydro. Under normal circumstances Hydro's decisions are made by Hydro Board or by the Hydro Board itself. The broad policy is determined by the Hydro Board but is obviously under the supervision of the government. The relationship of Mr. Cass-Beggs as the consultant, the relationship of him as the Chairman, his presentation at the committee would indicate that his involvement as Chairman of the Board is really not as Chairman of the Board but as an arm and an instrument of government policy, and government policy that is committed on a basis that is purely politically motivated and really is not in the best interests of the people of this province.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Swan River, that while concurring in Resolution No. 4, this House regrets that the government through its Hydro policies has failed to protect the best interests of Manitoba.

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

A MEMBER: Ayes and nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members. Order, please. The question before the House is Resolution No. 4 as reported from the Committee of Supply.

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

YEAS: Messrs. Barkman, Bilton, Einarson, Ferguson, Froese, Girard, Graham, Henderson, F. Johnston, Jorgenson, McGregor, McKellar, McKenzie, Patrick, Sherman, Spivak, Weir and Mrs. Trueman.

NAYS: Messrs. Adam, Allard, Barrow, Borowski, Boyce, Burtniak, Cherniack, Desjardins, Doern, Gonick, Gottfried, Green, Hanuschak, Jenkins, Johannson, McBryde, Malinowski, Miller, Paulley, Petursson, Schreyer, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, Uruski and Walding.

MR. CLERK: Yeas, 18; Nays, 26.

MR. SPEAKER: In my opinion the "nays" have it and I declare the motion lost. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I move, that while concurring in Resolution No. 4, this House regrets that this government . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The motion has been negatized, consequently no further motion can be made on that. It's been negatized. Further, I'm informed, and the honourable member is aware that he has already spoken on Resolution 4, so therefore he cannot again speak on the same resolution. Order, please. We were on 4, 5 and 6 --- The Honourable Member for Rhineland, I should like to hear his point of order.

MR. FROESE: On the point of order, I feel that I still have the right to introduce a motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I just want to clarify. I understand that 4 has not yet been passed, that we negated the motion therefore we are still on Resolution No. 4. If Resolution No. 4 passes the honourable member can speak. If we are still on 4, the honourable member having already spoken cannot speak and introduce a motion.

MR. SPEAKER: That is my understanding too. Shall we proceed from there? The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I indicated that I intended to talk on 5 and 6 in my remarks and my remarks for one will apply to the other. Mr. Speaker, this deals with Planning and Priorities of Cabinet and the Management Committee, and I deal with this, Mr. Speaker, because we did not have an opportunity at Estimates to deal with this at the time. I suggest to you that . . .

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance on a point of order.

MR. CHERNIACK: I would like clarification. Is the Honourable Leader of the Opposition speaking on 5 or on 6?

MR. SPEAKER: Did the Honourable Leader of the Opposition indicate he was speaking on 5 and his remarks would also be attributable to 6? Is that my understanding? The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, of course I'm not limited, I guess I can make my remarks on 6 as well, but there are certain similarities, or my position is similar on 5 as it would be on 6 and I thought for the benefit of the debate I would make it once and this was my point.

Mr. Speaker, there is no better example of the inefficiency of the present government than in the manner in which Planning and Priorities of Cabinet and the Management Committee operate. There is no better example of the waste, the sheer and utter waste of the present administration than the way in which both those committees have operated. Mr. Speaker, we are at a time when taxation has reached its high point in this province; we are at a time when there in fact should be the kind of examination, and action taken as a result of the examination, to cut and pare down government expenditures, and instead we see a build-up, the development of a Secretariat which in fact circumvents the civil service and operates as another administrative and bureaucratic arm of the government.

Mr. Speaker, I have before me the Estimates of -- not the Estimates, the statement of Public Accounts of March 31st, 1970 and we will be dealing with this tomorrow morning. It's interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that the budget of Planning and Priorities Committee of that Cabinet for that time was \$231,586.63, and Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet at this time is \$1,000,869. That's a 400 percent increase - 400 percent increase. Planning and Priorities - planning what and establishing what priorities? -- (Interjection) -- 400 percent. If we don't want to deal with the Management Committee we'll deal with a 200 percent increase.

The Honourable Member for Morris says that's a lot of relatives. Well, Mr. Speaker, it may not necessarily be a lot of relatives but it would be a lot of people, it's made up of a lot of people who belong to the same political party and who, I suggest, have been brought in, have been brought in to basically circumvent the civil service and to implement government policies and to commence the supervision and snooping that has to be undertaken on other government departments.

Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of the fact that the previous government of which I was a member had undertaken a study and had proposed a procedure and a change for an examination of government programs so that in fact priorities could be established, government programs that were redundant could be dispensed with and money could be transferred to other programs. I am aware as well, Mr. Speaker, that that procedure has been undertaken and followed by the Federal Government in its Planning and Priorities group and in turn in the manner in which it was restructured. But, Mr. Speaker, this particular committee has been used rather for other purposes and, Mr. Speaker, we have to simply suggest that if we examine the economic and social factors in this province that in effect nothing has been accomplished by the committee. If we examine government expenditures which have arisen to astronomical figures and are higher than ever before, no priorities have been established; and if we examine the legislation that we've been asked to deal with in this session and in last session, auto insurance and Uni-city, both of which cannot be classified as programs of social reform, then, Mr. Speaker, I must suggest that the concept of planning and priorities established to develop

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.) . . . . . programs which would contribute significantly to the economic and social life of this province is incorrect.

Planning and Priorities has been another means in which intensive study could be undertaken by the government in determining whether some of their preconceived concepts before they entered government were correct or not and for the purpose of trying to develop some pragmatic ways in which to implement some of the philosophical approaches they have, and instead of devoting itself as it should at this particular time - with taxation reaching the levels that I've suggested are high in this province and are considered exorbitant, Mr. Speaker, instead of examining the programs that in fact can be cancelled, the boards and commission that can be cancelled and transferring some of the money to programs of real social reform, they have been preoccupied with the carrying out of their own specific pet theories. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have no idea on this side the exact studies that have been made. We are aware of some of the studies that have been undertaken and I have indicated in the past, and I'm not even sure that Planning and Priorities were involved in this, but I know there was a wheat utilization study done by I believe the Minister of Industry and Commerce, and I assume with Planning and Priorities or someone involved, and I understand that after a wheat utilization study was completed that study was handed over to Mr. Sam Grower who is a member of the Department of Health and Social Development.

Mr. Speaker, if this is the case, if this is the case, Mr. Speaker, and if he's involved in this kind of particular study, then I have to at this point - and I'm not attempting to try and delve into personalities, but at the same time I have to suggest - well I have to suggest that we on this side have a right to question the judgment, the competence and the necessity of spending so much money on programs that are supposed to, you know, supposed to deal with effectively examining and establishing priorities for action, both in government and in economic development. So far, if we examine the results, the results are very few, and if we examine what information is furnished here, it has been very little, and it would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that at this particular time, unless the government can justify its actions, unless they can explain to this House what it is doing in its particular program, it would appear to be a sheer waste of time and it would appear to be a sheer waste of money and would appear just to be a proposition whereby the government can surround itself by people whom they believe will be more sympathetic to their political way of thinking.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the remarks of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition merit a few minutes of reply, although I think just a few minutes will suffice.

To begin with, it should be pointed out that until a few years ago there was only one cabinet committee of an inter-departmental kind in government operations and that was the Treasury Board. It was true here, it was true in other provinces and at the federal level. Then sometime around the mid-1960's it was felt on the basis of growing trends in government towards greater inter-departmental action and problems having to be dealt with that were of the nature that required inter-departmental co-ordination to a greater and greater degree, that there was born the idea of adding a second kind of cabinet committee other than treasury board, which was termed Planning and Priorities.

In the case of the government of Manitoba, this was established, as I understand it, sometime after 1965 or 6, 67 or 8. Now it's true that the committee existed here in Manitoba but I think could be best described as having been a skelatel type of operation. We have, since forming the government, added staff numbers to this cabinet committee and the secretariat serving that cabinet committee. We have done so for two very important reasons, Mr. Speaker. The first reason being that we felt that there was really more need for an inter-departmental planning committee and secretariat simply because there was a growing need each year for more planning and prioritizing in government programming and spending. Secondly, we felt that because there were a number of joint Federal-Provincial special area agreements, FRED, ARDA, The Pas Special, Brandon Special, Churchill Development, ARDA 3B, that all of these kinds of programs, joint Federal-Provincial kind, inter-departmental in scope as well, required a greater inter-departmental effort which could best be co-ordinated through a Planning Priorities Committee, so we established this continuing program secretariat for this purpose. Much of the administration and actual implementation is delegated to various different line departments but there is a larger need today than there was three years ago for staff under this particular appropriation simply because more is being

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) . . . . done. It's as simple as that, Mr. Speaker. Much more is being done under the aegis of the Planning and Priorities Committee than was being done three years ago.

The honourable Leader of the Opposition should also be aware that we have made some effort, we've moved by degree, we haven't been acting in any dogmatic way about it, but by degree we have assumed some of the work that was previously farmed out or hired out to consultants, we have had some of the economic analysis previously done by outside consultants done within the Planning and Priorities Secretariat. So there is yet a third reason why the amount of money allocated has been increased.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition should also be made aware of the fact that the government of Ontario is now moving toward the establishment of a Planning and Priorities Committee as well as restyling their treasury board into a management committee and I would ask the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to acquaint himself with the budget allocation of the province of Ontario for their Planning and Priorities Committee when it is established. He will find I'm sure, I'm confident, that even in proportionate terms, they will have a relatively large appropriation.

Insofar as his assertion that we are staffing this secretariat with persons who are being, although he didn't use the term, being hand-picked - you know, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that I caught the full implication of his words, but if he meant what I think he meant, I don't apologize for it, since if we are going to have advisors advising on planning and prioritizing, then we would want advisors who we are confident will be able to reflect the same kind of main policy thrust as we would want to give. I think that my honourable friends are just about running out of yards when they try to create the impression that there is something very wrong when a government hires senior advisors who are of an orientation similar to that of the government of the day. In fact, I believe that it really should be so, Mr. Speaker, and I can say as an afterthought that if this government has made any mistakes in its earlier months of being the government it was that we did not take steps to insure that in at least one or two critical places we did not retain senior advisors whom we could have confidence in. However, looking back in retrospect is perhaps not very productive at this time. I say in conclusion that we apologize not at all for the fact that the Planning and Priorities Secretariat size has been increased, for the reason that there is much, much more responsibility and much, much more co-ordination in programming that is being formulated and co-ordinated through that particular apparatus of this government.

MR. SPEAKER: The hour being 5:30 the House is now adjourned and will stand adjourned until 8:00 p.m. tonight.