

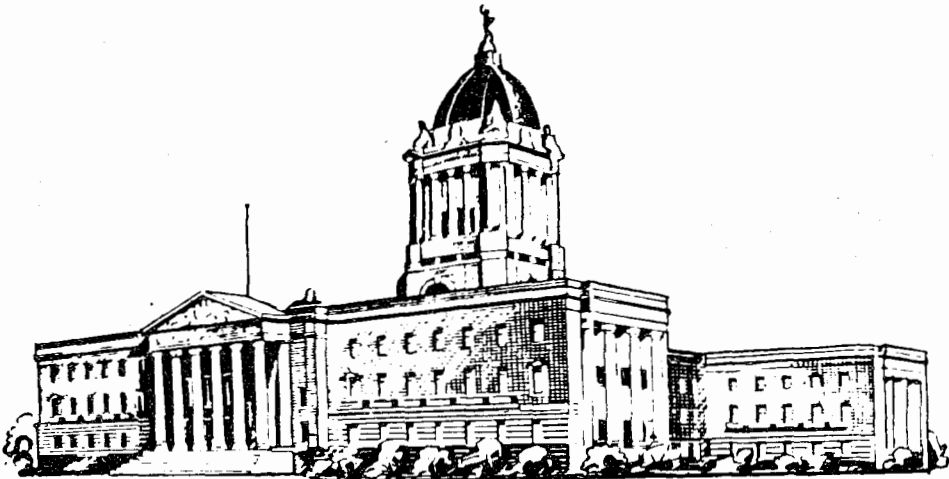


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XX No. 31 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 20th, 1973. Fifth Session, 29th Legislature.

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Tuesday, March 20, 1973

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 80 students of Grade 11 standing of the St. Mary's Academy. These students are under the direction of Sister Grace and Mrs. C. Grier. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

We also have 30 students of Grade 5 and 6 standing of the Queenston School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Forrster and Mrs. Bradshaw. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for River Heights the Leader of the Opposition.

On behalf of all the honourable members of the Legislative Assembly I welcome you here today.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Minister of Education - Mines and Resources.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management)(Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to lay on the table the Return to an Order of the House No. 1, dated March 7, 1973 on the motion of the Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Development)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Annual Report for the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba for the year ending December 31, 1972.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other tabling of reports or ministerial statements?

Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Member for Osborne.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. IAN TURNBULL (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, may I have this matter stand?

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed. Oral Questions. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

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MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Opposition)(River Heights): Mr. Speaker, I have a question first to the First Minister. It deals with the request by the Civil Service Association for a 12 1/2 percent increase for the year 1972/73 plus changes in the hours of work. I wonder if he can indicate whether any proposed increase in civil service rates are contemplated in the present Estimates or will supplementary estimates or special warrants be required once the negotiations are completed and settled?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier and Minister of Finance)(Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I believe that it would be correct to say that the normal practice, which I believe we are following in this case, is not to include any anticipated amounts in this respect in the Estimates since that could well then serve as a basis for someone saying that we are not negotiating in good faith since we have indicated in advance how much it is, that's it, no more, etc., etc.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question to the First Minister. I wonder then if he can confirm whether the request by the Civil Service for wage increases of 12 1/2 percent and plus reduction of hours would amount to around \$24 million?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I perhaps could refer this to my colleague the Minister of Labour; it's just that I don't believe that this is a kind of question which should be answered orally. I would just refer to my colleague the Minister reporting for the Civil Service Commission and he may choose to deal with it in whatever way he likes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): If I may, Mr. Speaker, I think that it would be absolutely improper for the government or any party to negotiations to

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) reveal any cost factor at all. I would suggest to the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition and any other honourable member of the House that they can presume whatever they will, we have received the requests - (I prefer to call them requests rather than demands) - of the representatives of the Employees' Association of the Province of Manitoba yesterday. Negotiations will be proceeded with. It would be presumptuous on our part, as indeed I think it would be presumptuous on the part of the Leader of the Opposition, to assume anything in connection with collective bargaining.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question either to the Minister of Labour or the First Minister. The Minister of Labour then. I wonder if he can indicate whether the government has any criteria or guidelines for civil service cost increases?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and they will be developed during the period of negotiations between the two parties concerned.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, my question then is to the First Minister. I wonder if he can indicate whether the budget to be brought down fairly shortly by the government will in fact take into consideration the increase in costs of the civil service?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The question was already answered once. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. I.H. (Izzy) ASPER (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, a question to the First Minister. In view of the somewhat conflicting statement made by, or apparent conflict between the statement made by him and the Minister of Municipal Affairs relative to the approval of the government on a rent freeze on senior citizen housing, would the First Minister make a statement as to government policy?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there is no conflict because I believe that the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party is referring in his question to a statement which I made last Friday, and at that time, sir, I indicated that there was a certain schedule that applied to public housing rentals and that this schedule would simply be followed.

Now there are two parties involved with respect to public housing, public housing rentals and subsidization of rental costs, and that is CMHC on behalf of the Federal Crown and MHRC on behalf of the Provincial Crown. Now that there has been indication from Ottawa that CMHC is prepared to follow a certain course of action the province is in a position to do likewise and this is what the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs indicated yesterday. So there is no incompatibility, Sir.

MR. ASPER: Then is the First Minister indicating to the House that senior citizens can be assured that they will not face a rent increase in government housing?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs indicated yesterday that he just received yesterday indication of the CMHC position and accordingly we now will have this position brought before the government of the Province of Manitoba and an announcement should be possible within the next two or three days I should hope.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. THOMAS BARROW (Flin Flon): I direct this question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I'd like to know if the Minister's doing anything about the apparent problem between the Hospital Board and the residents of Gillam in regard to medical services?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I had a brief meeting last evening and a longer meeting this morning with a representative of the Town of Gillam to discuss the apparent problems between the Hospital Board and the medical practitioners of Gillam and we have a meeting scheduled in Gillam on Sunday I believe to which I'm sending representatives of the Manitoba Health Services Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Labour. I didn't catch the full contents of his remarks in respect to -- my question is, has the Minister received a report from the negotiating committee in respect to the request by the Civil Service for a four-day work week and 12 1/2 percent wage raise?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have no desire to suppress. . .

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MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we will have a public hearing, the public being the representatives of the public, namely the government of the Province of Manitoba and as normal we will be fair.

Mr. Speaker, in direct answer to my honourable friend the Member for Assiniboia, yes we have received the requests of the civil servants through their bargaining agent, the Manitoba Government Employees' Association. The requests are public knowledge, Mr. Speaker, and if my honourable friend would like a copy of the request I would have no hesitation in giving him a copy once the negotiating . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. JEAN ALLARD (Rupertsland): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs or the First Minister. Would the Minister tell this House whether his department, he himself, is assuming control over the spending of all funds in the north for education, health and welfare; tourism and recreation; economic development; mines and resources; roads and any other matters that have to do with the north?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. RON MCBRYDE (Minister of Northern Affairs)(The Pas): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. BARROW: I direct this question to the First Minister, Mr. Speaker. Are Manitoba Hydro and the HM&S still negotiating towards supplying badly needed power in the Flin Flon area?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the negotiations are going on between Manitoba Hydro, Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting and I believe that there is also an involvement on the part of Saskatchewan Power. There is a connection of the power supply problem at Flin Flon that straddles the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border that involves the community of Creighton in Saskatchewan, so there are really - yes, negotiations are going on.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon, a supplementary?

MR. BARROW: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the possibility of expropriation having a beneficial effect on negotiation or otherwise?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, any answer to that question might sound like whether one has stopped beating his wife. I don't know - I would say that Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting are continuing to negotiate with Manitoba Hydro and that both parties are aware, both Manitoba Hydro and Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting are aware of the resolution passed by the Council of the City of Flin Flon requesting remedial action and remedial action as quickly as possible. So I think that's clear what has to be done.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development and relates really to the question asked by the Honourable Member for Flin Flon. I wonder if the Minister of Health and Social Development can inform the House whether he or his department have been aware of the conflict that has existed between the hospital administration, both in Gillam, and the doctor in Gillam and the Hospital Board. Has he been aware of this prior to this request for a meeting today or yesterday?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I believe I've asked members before to consider whether the awareness of the Minister in respect to a question is necessary to the procedures of this House. I don't recall that anyone has answered a question for me so therefore I cannot find that it's in order.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister of Health and Social Development can indicate whether his department has been requested to act with respect to the hospital administration and the doctor in Gillam prior to yesterday or today?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba Health Services Commission has been asked to actually attempt to be helpful to help solve some of the problems that they've had in the Town of Gillam pertaining to medical practitioners, but the essence of the meeting I had this morning brings forward other facts, that actually request the attendance of representatives of the Health Services Commission at this meeting on Sunday.

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MR. SPIVAK: Well to either the Minister of Health and Social Development or the First Minister. Was not a request made of either one of you to ask for assistance in this matter prior to today?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that I answered the question. Maybe not to the satisfaction of the Leader of the Opposition. We've attempted with the Hospital Board at Gillam to actually help solve some of the medical problems that they've held in Gillam but there's been additional problems presented to us lately that we feel additional attention is needed.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question to the Minister of Health and Social Development I wonder if he can indicate whether Dr. Tulchinsky and his staff in their visits to Churchill have in fact visited Gillam and spent time with the doctor?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware at this stage, you know, at this time if Dr. Tulchinsky himself has attended meetings in Gillam. I know that I have and other officials of the Department of Health and Social Development and/ or the Manitoba Health Services Commission have equally on more than one occasion.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. In view of the welcome news that he no longer beats his wife, does the First Minister have any information for the House as to whether he has decided to put before this House, either in the form of a White Paper or some other form, an opportunity to debate the position that the government will take at the Western Premiers' Conference with the Prime Minister?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know on what basis my honourable friend is basing the assumption that there ought to be some special formal instrument brought to this Assembly upon which to debate policy that will be discussed among the Premiers of the Western Economic - or the Prairie Economic Council. Obviously, Sir, there are opportunities for debate after the government's position is made known. Those opportunities for debate are during Estimates of the appropriate departments, during Capital Supply, on a motion of grievance going into supply. --(Interjection)--

MR. ASPER: It may be that the First Minister misunderstood what conference because he made reference to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. ASPER: Were the Premier's remarks directed to the Prairie Economic Council Conference or the Conference on Western Economic Opportunities with the Prime Minister?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, in either case, but I should point out to my honourable friend that it would be presumptuous, and I think unfair, for me to give any undertaking that there would be a special formal reference to this assembly of positions that we would be taking at the mid-summer Federal Western Province Conference on Economic Opportunities until after we have had opportunity to discuss this in the Prairie Economic Council of Premiers at the end of this month, and until there's been an opportunity to discuss with fellow premiers of western Canada their intention with respect to whether or not they would want a formal instrument brought to the respective assemblies. The opportunities for debate exist. I mentioned three or four and the Member for Morris has very easily added another one or two and there are other examples still.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. In view of the inability of the Opposition to debate something that hasn't been disclosed to it . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Would the honourable member - I must remind the honourable gentleman he has a habit of prefacing questions which are totally out of order. The questions are to be short and precise and to the point. I will refer him again to Citation 171 of Beauchesne, I think it enumerates all the ways that questions may be asked.

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

MR. ASPER: Will the First Minister give the House an undertaking to make his government's position that it intends to take at that Conference known to the House before the conference?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I really believe it when I say that this government has made every effort to provide tables, make public documents, reports of every description, so if after the holding of the Conference of Western Economic Council of Premiers certain specific

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) points are developed and agreed upon interprovincially here in the west and among the government of this province, we certainly intend to disclose at that appropriate time what our specific position will be on specific issues, and my honourable friend will have an opportunity to debate it at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. ALLARD: I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs. Could the Minister confirm or deny that his former executive assistant who is now a community development co-ordinator in Island Lake and South Indian Lake has been asked by the mayor and council to leave the community?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I have received nothing directly from that community. However, it is my understanding from the co-ordinator that some citizens of that community have requested that he not work in that community any more, but I don't have anything certainly from the mayor and council. I don't have any general request either at this point.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. BARROW: I direct this question to the Minister of Northern Affairs, Mr. Speaker. The people of Cranberry -- the size of the grant on the special area or through the Special Area Grant is \$500,000.00? Or is it \$300,000.00?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I do believe each member is entitled to a certain amount of latitude before he . . . Is the House ready to proceed? Order please. The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the people are very anxious to know the size of the grant. Is it \$500,000 . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member ask his question?

MR. BARROW: . . . or is it \$300,000.? That's my question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, the The Pas Special Area agreement contains the sum of \$300,000 as a direct grant to the Province of Manitoba for the construction of sewer and water system at Cranberry Portage. It contains an amount of a 200,000-dollar loan to the Province of Manitoba; the residents, the taxpayers of Cranberry Portage will be required to repay that amount by adding 20 mills on to their tax rates. This will be done through the Water Supply Board System as it affects other communities in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister. Is it true that commercial and industrial users of Hydro has declined by 273 during the last year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that is a question asking for a specific which I don't have in my memory just at this point in time. I would advise my honourable friend though that the amount of consumption of industrial and commercial energy categories has increased, has increased quite significantly. Still I'll take the question as notice.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary since the Minister has agreed to take it as notice. Has this decline continued into the 1973 term?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there is an assumption in that question which I believe to be inaccurate. The amount of consumption of industrial and commercial energy has in fact increased and increased rather substantially. In fact it could be argued that it has been increased too much, some would argue it has increased too much. So, I'll explain again, Mr. Speaker. The total quantum of energy industrial and commercial types has increased and increased substantially each year for the past many years.

MR. PATRICK: A question for the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Was there a reduction of businesses in Manitoba during the last year by 273?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce)(Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, the honourable member opposite seems to be bent on discouraging economic activity in Manitoba, the prophet of doom and gloom type of question that we often get from the honourable member.

Mr. Speaker, obviously I don't have figures on how many have declined or have left or have closed up, and I don't have the number of figures of those that have gone into business

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(MR. EVANS cont'd). . . . and have entered Manitoba. I think on balance the statistics that I quoted yesterday speak for themselves; the performance of Manitoba's economy the last year has been second to none anywhere in Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS(Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Highways. Is the Minister prepared at this time to give any indication to the truckers and farmers of Manitoba about the annual . . . restrictions on weights and loads on our highways and provincial roads?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. PETER BURTNIAK (Minister of Highways)(Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what the honourable member is trying to - what sort of a question he's asking. I'm not sure whether he's directing a question to me insofar as the weight restrictions, spring restrictions are concerned or what other restrictions.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's an annual event this time of the year with spring breakup, the weight restrictions come on. It's helpful to the truckers, the farmers . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question, please.

MR. ENNS: . . . if the Minister can give us any indication when they appear.

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Speaker, that is no problem. We have already advertised that spring restrictions will go on and as soon as that is given to us, as to what roads and what weights; and so on, that will be announced.

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

MR. JAMES WALDING(St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Is he contemplating any reduction in the standard work week of 60 hours for heavy equipment operators?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I understood that the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party rose on a point of privilege. I wonder whether that shouldn't take precedent over the question from the Honourable Member for St. Vital. I'm prepared to answer the question but I would hate like the dickens to think that my honourable friend . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Honourable Minister please get on with the answer and save time?

MR. PAULLEY: What did you say, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: Could we have the answer and save time?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, but we have rules of order, too, Mr. Speaker. The answer to the question is that there has been a recommendation made to me which I forwarded to Cabinet and they approved of it. That the joint and unanimous recommendation of the heavy construction industry in Manitoba, after having held hearings throughout the province, was that the previous 60-hour per week before the requirements of overtime pay would continue due to the type of construction work, namely road building. A request was also made to me to have the matter considered before the next report of the Heavy Construction Board is heard, that this matter be thoroughly surveyed and I intend to have that survey made.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, the point of privilege and I apologize for not having risen immediately it happened. A point of privilege is a privilege of the House. The Honourable Member from Assiniboia - this is symbolic and symptomatic of the privilege that I'm speaking of - rose in his place and asked a question of the Minister, and the Minister has an option under our rules to answer or not answer, but with increasing regularity - and the question that I am referring to, Mr. Speaker, was a simple question, "have there been a decrease of 200 and some users of Hydro." Mr. Speaker, the answer that came back was a breach of the rules of this House that is appearing with some regularity, when the Minister of Industry simply impugned the motive and suggested to the member that he was poor mouthing and downgrading the province.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. I should like to quote to the honourable member Citation 181, Section 4, which says, "the refusal or the answer on whatever basis is not a matter of privilege." Therefore the honourable member does not have a matter of

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(MR. SPEAKER cont'd) privilege in the way the answers are given whether he accepts that or not, whether he likes it or not. The Honourable member for Wolseley.

MR. ASPER: On the point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't making that point. The point I am objecting to is that there was an imputation of motives, not an opinion expressed but an imputation of improper motives. This occurs, Mr. Speaker, with increasing frequency, and I merely am asking the Speaker to draw to the attention of the front bench of the government that rule - that one can answer or not answer, but he must not impute motives. And, Mr. Speaker, that is Beauchesne.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would say that the point is well taken, but let me also remind all honourable gentlemen that I have been having the same difficulty in regards to the questions. There are inferences, imputations and opinions expressed totally on both sides of the House, whether they're answers or questions, and I think if all members would refresh their memories in respect to Citation 171 then we'll probably get through the question period in much shorter time.

The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Can he tell for the information, the statistics given in the Manitoba Hydro report, that between 1969 and 1972 that the number of industrial customers, consumers, changed from 5,959 in 69 to 5,7 . . .

MR. SCHREYER: Point of Order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order please. The Honourable First Minister state his point of order?

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that this is a long-standing rule that when an annual report is referred to a committee, and particularly when that committee of the House is in sittings, as the Utilities Committee is now in sessions, that questions should not be brought in this House but taken up at the committee; and the committee is now in session, it will be meeting Thursday morning and subsequently. That particular question is asking for a detail which is referred to in the annual report, and my honourable friend the Member for Riel can get all the elaboration he likes from Mr. Bateman, the Chairman of Hydro at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, on the point of order.

MR. SPIVAK: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker. The question was asked of the Minister of Industry and Commerce, the question was asked because the Minister of Industry and Commerce surely must be interested in the number of industrial users in this province, and surely Mr. Speaker, he must be one who is particularly . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Would the honourable member address himself to the point of order and not debate other issues.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I suggest that it is an appropriate question to be asked of the Minister of Industry and Commerce who has at various times given reports on the state of the economy and the number of businesses concerned and affected by various activities on the state of the economy and has also given us DBS statistics in the past; surely, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry and Commerce is entitled to be asked a very direct question, and while the First Minister may want to stick handle through this issue the fact of the matter is that the government and the Minister must answer this particular charge.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party wish to speak on the point of order, too?

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The question that is being questioned as to whether it's in order is the question, or an extension of the question that the Member for Assiniboia began. The question is this, and it has nothing to do with the issue before the committee - that there has been a decline in the number of users of industrial and commercial power. The question legitimately is of concern to the Minister of Industry and Commerce: Is there a decline in the number of commercial and industrial users? It has nothing to do with the Hydro Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would quote to the honourable members from Beauchesne, Citation 171, Section 8(h) which says:"A question oral or written must not seek information about proceedings in a committee which has not yet made its report to the House". This matter apparently is before the committee, so therefore I must rule it out of order.

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(MR. SPEAKER cont'd). . . . -- (Interjection)--

The Honourable Member for Riel state his point of order.

MR. CRAIK: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. I want to state that I'm not seeking information with regard to the report of the committee; I'm using the statistics as I would use DBS statistics, and my question in case it - to indicate the word I used, I asked if the government could account for, through their industrial development department, for a decline of 239 industrial consumers in the years 1969-1972. So I'm in no way questioning the report itself, I'm simply using the figures out of four Hydro reports running through the year 69 through to the end of March 31, '72

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the point of order which I rose to speak to is simply the fact that the Annual Report of Manitoba Hydro stands referred to the Committee on Utilities and Natural Resources. That committee has met twice now in very recent days, including today, and will be meeting Thursday next and presumably in future days. That being so, the long-standing practice if not the very rule itself, and I believe the latter, is that questions of detail that flow or emanate from a report that is already referred to a committee of the House those questions ought to be dealt with in that committee.

The Member for, the Liberal Leader says that this has nothing to do with the issue that is before the committee. Well, speaking further to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, the fact remains - obviously my friend is not aware of it - that it is the annual report that is referred to the committee on Utilities and Natural Resources and it is on the basis of consideration of the report that all issues of Manitoba Hydro, whether large and developmental or whether having to do with retail sales, number of customers, etc., etc., are proper subjects for questioning at the committee.

Now I will, Sir, if it's necessary to prolong this further, make reference to Hansards of 1964 in which the Minister reporting for Hydro at that time, the Honourable Gurney Evans, indicated to this House that questions other than overall policy, that questions of detail relative to Hydro they would refuse to answer whatsoever in this Assembly - and I will get the page references from Hansard in a few minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Speaker, the First Minister continues to insist that the question that was posed by the Member for Assiniboia and which was related to the question asked by the Member for Riel has to do with the Hydro report. It has no such thing; it's no such thing. The question that was asked by the Member for Riel bears a very remote relationship to the Hydro report but it has to do with the responsibilities of the administration of the Department of Industry and Commerce and which does not come under -- and who is not responsible for Hydro matters.

The Minister has the alternative according to our rules, Sir, to either refuse to rise in his seat if he doesn't have the answer, and obviously he doesn't, to ask that it be placed on the Order Paper as an Order for Return or to give another one of his facetious answers as he normally does. Now, he has three alternatives, and . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. ORDER! Would everyone please sit down. Just a moment ago I was informed that there were imputations, inferences made in this Chamber and I asked all members to be careful about what they were saying and how they were asking questions, and that also refers to debates. Now we have the same problem all over again. Matters of privilege being raised because inferences are being made. I think all members should consider what they have to say, what they have to contribute so that we do not have these clashes of procedural matters which take up the time of the House and get us nowhere. I have suggested that the matter raised by the First Minister should be well taken, that we should move on. Oral questions. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: I have not finished speaking on that point of order, and I ask you, Sir, to take into consideration the kind of answer that the Minister gave the Member for Assiniboia. If that was not a facetious answer then I don't know what was. Now, Sir, if the rules are going to be applied to this side of the House then I must insist that the answers be applied the same way. There can be no double standard in this Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to indicate to the Honourable Member from Morris seeing how he's so well versed in parliamentary procedure, that he knows he cannot criticize the

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

(MR. SPEAKER cont'd) Chair, he has a strict procedural form to follow. In the future I would wish he would adhere to this procedure. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, if it would help you expedite proceedings in this House, and perhaps make the matter easier for the Chair to deal with I would suggest that if the question had been put without any reference to the Hydro report as such, that the point of order would not exist. I quite admit that the question if it is asked from a context other than information taken from the Hydro Report would be in order to ask, but I must, it seems to me, Sir, that from time to time we must call attention to the rules and to certain provisions of statute law. It was not this government, it was the previous government that passed legislation back in 1964 or, yes, the session of 1964, which provided for the permanent referring of the report, annual report of Manitoba Hydro to the Standing Committee on Utilities and Resources, and Sir, I do pledge to get for you Sir, the reference from Hansard where it was then explained that questions of detail relative to the Hydro report or any fact emanating therefrom would be expected to be raised in the committee. That's my only point, Sir; I withdraw any further objection if the question is asked in isolation of that fact.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD cont'd

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to pose a question to the Minister of Industry. Has the number of consumers of industrial and commercial power in Manitoba decreased in the past twelve - in the year ended March 31, 1972?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, it should be obvious to all honourable members of the House that I wouldn't have that very specific figure at my fingertip. I would suggest from my information that I receive from the presentation we are receiving from Manitoba Hydro that the industrial load is increasing very substantially on the part of Manitoba Hydro. The exact numbers I don't have. I'll take the question as notice and be pleased to look it up, as the honourable member can look up himself if he so wishes. I am sure he can read.

MR. ASPER: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Ignoring the volume of consumption, has the number of users declined?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member is well aware a question whether it's rephrased, once it's been asked it is not permissible, it's repetitive. Oral questions. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Honourable the Minister of Public Works. Is it the intention of the government to bring in an amendment to amend the Bill re the Convention Centre and giving further support, financial support to the Centre?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. ALLARD: I have a question for the First Minister. Could he tell the House whether he has instructed Winnipeg Hydro to stop advertising heating, electric heating in the way he says that he has told Manitoba Hydro.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, as my honourable friend is well aware, Winnipeg Hydro does not operate as any agency of the Crown in the right of the Province, therefore it would be quite improper for me to issue any kind of instructions. I might add . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. SCHREYER: . . . that there have been discussions with respect to future hydro development, etc. with representatives of the City but not in this specific respect.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland a supplementary?

MR. ALLARD: I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. I would like to ask him whether there's any news from the ambulance front?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I'm not aware of any ambulance front, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SHERMAN: If I could rephrase the question, make it a little longer, Mr. Speaker, and ask the Minister whether he has acted yet on the allegations with respect to training

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) conditions and working conditions in ambulances in the City which have been passed on to him by admission of his colleague, the Minister of Health.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Fort Garry is very presumptuous in that I have received from the Minister of Health and Social Development any accusations from ambulance drivers. Yesterday the Honourable Minister of Health indicated that it was in the process of referring certain parts of the allegations to me. I do say that the mail has not reached my office as yet.

MR. SHERMAN: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. While the Minister is fiddling on this question are there people continuing to lie . . .

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

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I am not diddling on any businesses of the Province of Manitoba and I would ask my honourable friend to withdraw that particular allegation.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker the question arises . . .

MR. PAULLEY: I ask my friend to withdraw.

MR. SHERMAN: I ask the Minister to listen for half a minute, Mr. Speaker. The question arises out of information conveyed yesterday to the effect that the allegations had been passed on to the Minister of Labour.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, on the point of privilege, my honourable friend, the Member for Fort Rouge, accused me of certain conduct which I resent and I ask him to withdraw.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Same point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. It's the Member for Fort Garry, not for Fort Rouge.

MR. PAULLEY: I apologize to the Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. SPEAKER: Have we got the matter cleared up? The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. ALLARD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs. As a result of his close attention to the winter hauling situation out of Ilford, could he tell the House what percentage of the total freight to be gotten out of Ilford has been gotten out as of this date, and what the situation is?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE: Mr. Speaker I don't have a more recent report than yesterday.

MR. ALLARD: Mr. Speaker, I think that was a facetious answer yesterday, that report will do. Does the Minister have any information as of yesterday as to what percentage of -- (Interjection)-- he gave nothing.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable the Minister of Highways. Have contracts on Highway 30 been let?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

MR. BURTNIAK: I'm not sure that I heard the question correctly, Highway what?

MR. FROESE: Whether contracts on Highway 30 have been let?

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Speaker, I think the Honourable Member for Rhineland has been in the House long enough to know that until the highways program is presented to the House I cannot give that information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Can he confirm or otherwise that there were in 1972 four percent less industrial firms classified as industrial than there were in 1969?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I'll take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is an Order for Return on the Order Paper which has to be taken up first.

ORDER FOR RETURN

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. DAVID R. BLAKE (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Honourable Member for Charleswood, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Pembina THAT an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing the total amount of moneys paid out to The Pas Forestry Complex by MDF or MDC from May 8, 1972 to March 1, 1973.

MOTION presented as read.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed to ? The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is no problem in responding to this order. Would you proceed, Mr. Speaker to call the Bills that are adjourned on second reading, all of them.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - SECOND READING

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for - the Honourable Attorney-General. The Honourable Member for Birtle Russell. Bill No. 2.

BILL NO. 2

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping that the Attorney-General would be in the Chamber today, Mr. Speaker, because quite frankly the report or the remarks that he gave when he introduced the bill probably posed more questions than what they answered. However, I'm sure that he will have the opportunity to read Hansard and maybe at a later date he can answer those questions.

Mr. Speaker, when this Bill was given first reading I was quite anxious to see what the Bill contained. Being a rural member and knowing a little bit about the garage keepers and the various mechanics that they employ to assist us in keeping our vehicles running on some of the roads in rural Manitoba, I had an intense interest in it and I thought maybe they would be dealing with the Mechanics Lien Act because I have a few things I would like to say on that Act if the government ever brings it in, but I find out that this has nothing to do with the Mechanics Lien at all and it's strictly with the Garage Keepers Lien.

Mr. Speaker in 1969 in this province, we had a board set up where the government appointed one member to an arbitration board; the Manitoba Motor League appointed one member and the Automotive Trades Association appointed one member. This Arbitration Board was set up to deal with disputes between client and garage keepers throughout the province. When the Attorney-General introduced this Bill and in the remarks that he made, he gave no indication whatsoever that this Board was not working well, so we have to assume that the results have been very favourable, and yet we find that he is changing the Bill to provide for another means of redress of grievances, and I would hope that some members of the government bench can provide us with information before this bill leaves second reading debate -- and I understand the Attorney-General cannot do that so it would have to be through some other avenue. --(Interjection)-- I know, but he closes debate when he does so. But before this debate is closed I would hope that members on this side of the House can get some form of information on the activities and the success of this Arbitration Board that was set up in 1969. Under that Arbitration Board the customer if he felt he had any redress of grievances could make a deposit of \$15.00, or I understand 10 percent of the amount that the bill in dispute came to, and then the board without having to go through the costly procedure of law courts and lawyers, was arbitrated by this board, and one of the stipulations that was given by all members of the garage keepers who belonged to the Automotive Trades Association was that they would be bound to accept the awards of this Arbitration Board. This eliminated the need for lawyers-- and maybe this is one of the reasons the Attorney-General being a lawyer and possibly after the next election he may be again a practicing lawyer.

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK Q.C. (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, on a matter of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Johns state his matter of privilege.

MR. CHERNIACK: The honourable member is suggesting that people on this side, and the Attorney-General in particular, may have a personal interest in the Bill that is being proposed and being debated. I'm sure that it is absolutely unparliamentary to make such a suggestion. I even suggest to the honourable member that he really had no intention of seriously proposing that that is the motivation of the Attorney-General or other lawyers on this side.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, I think that the Member for St. Johns is reaching rather wildly here because I can assure him that if that is the inference that he gets, well I'm sure it isn't intended. I was just saying, Mr. Speaker, that the Attorney-General may not be in this House after the next election, quite probably he won't be --(Interjection)-- I'll take my chances on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. May we stay with the Bill.

MR. GRAHAM: The thing is that when the Attorney-General introduced this bill he never indicated in the remarks that he made whether he was introducing this bill as the Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs or as the Attorney-General.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this bill properly falls under the field of consumer legislation. I think it is quite properly oriented in that respect. We've had considerable consumer legislation in the past and I think the Member for St. Johns is well aware that when we were in committee before dealing with the Consumer Protection Act that I stated at that time that consumer legislation as drafted by this administration or any other administration was doing one main thing that certainly bothered me, and that was it was providing a very fertile field for litigation. The whole aspect of consumer legislation that we have seen so far has been oriented in that direction.

Here we find under this bill that the customer if he is dissatisfied can go to a lawyer, he can pay into court the amount of the claim that the garage keeper has assessed in his particular case. He does not have to pay any more. If the garage keeper is successful in the lengthy legal procedures that carry forward he then may find himself in a very difficult position if the judge awards him costs as well, in how is he going to collect his costs. He finds out earlier that he had difficulty collecting his bill, how is he going to collect his costs? There's no provision in the Act for any additional amount to be paid into court to cover costs if the judge so awards.

I don't know if the Attorney-General before he introduced this bill consulted with those garage keepers of the province. He says in his remarks that there have been situations where there have been very very serious hardships occurred without I'm sure any ill intent on the part of the garage keeper. He gave us no indication of how many, and when I was speaking to any of the garage keepers that I know, Mr. Speaker, they all gave me a very similar answer, that they knew of none. So I would like the Attorney-General to give us some indication of how many cases have been brought to his attention where hardship has been so-called assessed.

There's another point, Mr. Speaker, that has bothered me as a rural member and I can only assume that maybe the problems in the urban area are somewhat different than they are in rural Manitoba. Maybe all the complaints that the Minister has received have come from the urban area, but I know that in rural Manitoba this avenue which he is suggesting, which in his opinion would be beneficial, might in fact prove to be a more arduous avenue of redress than the Arbitration Board. Because we do not have courts in every village and hamlet in rural Manitoba. We have garages in practically every village and hamlet. We do not have legal assistance in every village and hamlet, and in fact the legal profession, if you can believe your local lawyer when he tells you that he is practically snowed under with legal work now, that you may find it very difficult to get the required action that the Minister proposes by this type of legislation. So, Mr. Speaker, this creates in my mind more doubts about improvement than the positive points that are suggested by the Minister in the remarks that he gave when he gave this bill second reading.

Far be it from me, Mr. Speaker, to in any way try and prohibit improved legislation coming forward in this House, but I think it is our duty to ask questions, to be able to point out what we consider to be some of the dangers and the weaknesses in the suggestions that are put forward in the legislation. I'm sure that there are other members in this Chamber who are going to have other points to bring forward that will be just as valid and require just as much attention from the Minister.

So at this time, Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that from my own point of view I have some misgiving about this Act or the amendments that are proposed in this Act, as to whether or not they will actually be practically possible as an improvement in what we presently have. Thank you very much.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable member would hold back his motion to give me an opportunity to speak.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I suppose it was the innuendo of the member who has just spoken about suggesting that a lawyer such as the Attorney-General would want to secure for himself additional revenue by proposing this bill, that made me perk up my ears to listen to the honourable member. I often listen to him but sometimes I don't know that it is really of that importance on a bill of this nature which I felt was what I would call a housekeeping bill. But because he made these innuendos which he then sort of weaseled out of, if I can use that expression, I did listen to what he had to say and I've just obtained the remarks that were made by the Honourable the Minister for Consumer Affairs as well as the remarks made by the Attorney-General in introducing this bill, trying to understand what could be the reasoning behind the honourable member's questioning of this bill.

Having listened to him very carefully after he'd made that rather rude and unfair remark, I went back to the bill and I went back to the introductory notes which the honourable member seems to have in front of him, and it seems to me that there is a complete and rational explanation of the bill and the bill itself. And I would suggest that the honourable member did not caucus with his group, nor would I suggest that he'd consult a lawyer or a person who may be aggrieved but mainly a lawyer. He probably didn't even consult with the Garage Keepers Association, because I would be really surprised if any fair-minded person could object to this bill. So let's look at the bill.

The remarks of the Attorney-General and the Minister of Consumer affairs do not have to be repeated, they are actually a resume of the bill itself and are straightforward. What the bill and the remarks postulate is that in today's law a person giving his car into a garage for repair, then upon the completion of the work receives a bill. If he disputes the bill then he has an alternative of refusing to pay it. As long as he refuses to pay it that car is tied up in the garage of the garage keeper, under his control, in his possession, and the owner of the vehicle cannot get the car out unless it's paid. He is therefore put in the very unfair position of knowing that his car is tied up and maybe worth 3 - 4 thousand dollars; the car may be of need to him not only for his comfort but also for his business and he has no way of getting it out. Now the Garage Keepers Association as such, I believe, recognizing this problem and recognizing that there may be unfair charges did set up a form of arbitration board, which is voluntary, which is not compulsory on anyone, but once they agree to it it's binding. -- (Interjection)-- Pardon me?

MR. GRAHAM: Binding on the garage keeper.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that a garage keeper cannot be forced to go to arbitration. I'm not aware that the Association of Garage Keepers has a legal right to force a garage keeper to go to arbitration. Now I would be wrong if we have passed legislation forcing a garage keeper to go to binding arbitration, but I am not aware that we did. If the honourable member says that we have provincial legislation that forces a garage keeper to go to arbitration then of course I am wrong and I would expect him right now to inform me that I'm wrong in my information.

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

MR. GRAHAM: This is just to clarify, and this is from the Garage Keepers Association, the Automotive Trades Association. "Every member of the Automotive Trades Association in 1972 has to, as a condition of being a member of that association bind himself to accept the award of this Arbitration Board."

MR. CHERNIACK: I thank the honourable member. That means if he wants to be a member of the Association, the Association reserves the right to kick him out if he does not agree to arbitration. But there is nothing in any legislation I'm aware of that compels a garage keeper to belong to the association, nor is there anything to prevent a garage keeper from leaving the association at a time when he doesn't want to comply with this voluntary

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) arbitration, that's all it is. So there's no law really that forces a garage keeper to arbitration. If the garage keeper agrees to it, if the owner agrees to it, then by all means that's the cheapest, the most proper way, fair way; but this legislation is designed to take care of those cases where a garage keeper is not prepared to go to arbitration, nor is the customer bound to agree to arbitration; and unless the honourable member is prepared to pass legislation compelling a customer to go to arbitration rather than to go to court then there is no such way that he could do it. I think the honourable member will acknowledge that we cannot now force an owner of an automobile to go to arbitration, and I suspect, having listened to the honourable member for a number of years now, that he would fight vigorously any legislation that compelled a citizen to go to arbitration. He is nodding his head so I interpret him correctly. --(Interjection)-- Yes, he'd probably compel a worker to go to arbitration on a grievance matter but not a citizen in this case.

Therefore, I plead with him to read again the remarks of the Honourable the Attorney-General and Minister for Consumer Affairs, read the bill again, and it is so apparent that in a case where a garage keeper retains his lien and retains possession of a vehicle until he's paid then the person who is the owner of the vehicle and objects to the bill and wants to question it, he has several choices: he can go to arbitration if he wants to and if he can force the garage keeper to go to arbitration which is again questionable; or, he can fight out the case in court, and now apparently he has to sue, he owes the money but he has to sue to get his car; or he sits and waits with his car tied up in a garage for some length of time before he can use it.

What this bill provides is the same provision as the Mechanics Lien Act applying to real property. All it says is that if I dispute the bill that I've received for the repairs to my vehicle the garage keeper, is retaining the vehicle for one reason only legally, that is to protect himself for payment, security for payment. The reason is an improper reason if he just wants to make it inconvenient or costly to hold back the car, that's not a proper reason at all. But he needs security. So what security can he have that's better than money -- in court, tied up to protect him in case he can prove his bill.

So all the owner of the car does is walk into court, with or without a lawyer -- and let me tell you he doesn't need a lawyer, and I would be glad to inform the honourable member how to go about it because it's so simple that I'm sure he can understand it even if he doesn't have legal training -- to go into court, to pay the money, that is the amount of the bill plus -- it says here something about a fee, court fee, yes -- "Pay required amount into court together with such court fee as may be prescribed" -- he pays it in, he gets his car and now it's up to his creditor, the garage keeper, to sue him in the normal course, and I suspect he can go through the Small Debts Court -- we've just enlarged the scope and authority of the Small Debts Court where I'm sure that the citizen doesn't need a lawyer, but probably would be well advised to use one, but in any event doesn't need a lawyer, goes into court, when the garage keeper sues for his money, and the garage keeper knows that if he wins and the court agrees with him, then he can get the money out of court.

The important point, Mr. Speaker, is that nobody is forcing the procedure on them. The only one who would object to this bill would be a garage keeper who is so unfair as to wish to take advantage of possession of the vehicle in order to try and force payment rather than looking for the security of the vehicle which he would get by payments into court. So that the only person to object to it is not a garage keeper, unless he is unfairly motivated in asserting his lien. Because if all he wants is protection, he gets the protection when the money is paid into court. There is nothing in this bill that forces a customer to pay the money into court, there is nothing in this bill that prevents a customer from going to arbitration, I think this bill is entirely permissive. It gives another avenue, and a fair one, to the consumer.

Now the Attorney-General didn't mention in his introductory remarks that this was a matter that was recommended by the Law Reform Commission but I would suspect that it would be the kind that would be supported by it. I have tried to answer the honourable member in as fair a way as I could. I know I made some rude remarks to him. I only made them really because I didn't like his suggestion that lawyers in the Legislature might have a motive other than the same as he has.

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MR. SPEAKER: The question will remain adjourned in the Member for Assiniboia's name. No . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if --(Interjection)-- No, no, standing in the name the Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. SPEAKER: No, 15.

MR. GREEN: I want to proceed, Mr. Speaker, with Bill 23, the supply bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for ---- the Honourable Member for Emerson is absent. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I understand you are calling Interim Supply Bill. I think the Leader of the Opposition wanted to make a few remarks and I spoke to the Member for Emerson and he had to be away, but he has no objections to anybody participating in the debate if it remain in his name, and I think the Leader of the Opposition will be in in one moment.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 23. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with a bill which is referred to as the Bill on Interim Supply which is to grant sufficient monies for the government to be able to operate beyond April 1st and which is an allocation of a proportion of amount of the budget. I'm assuming that the request this year is consistent with the request in previous years in terms of the proportion, although I do not know that as a matter of fact, -- (Interjection)-- the former Minister of Finance indicates that it's less and I realize that --(Interjection)-- well in any case it's about the same, Mr. Speaker, so that the principle involved with respect to the approval by the Opposition of the government's request is one which should come automatically, it's consistent with our parliamentary tradition and should not in itself be the subject of too much of a debate or discussion. But, Mr. Speaker, I would if I may, like to make certain observations with respect to the problems of spending and the problems of taxation in this province.

Very shortly the Premier as Minister of Finance will be presenting the budget. On that occasion, Mr. Speaker, we are going to have the opportunity of making an assessment of a total picture that has not yet been completely unfolded to the people. We have some information on the basis of the estimates that have been furnished and even then Mr. Speaker, that information to a certain extent is clouded, because we have not dealt yet with all the estimates. But, Mr. Speaker, I must say that we on this side for some time and still believe now, more than ever are of the opinion that both spending reform and tax reform in Manitoba are long overdue.

During the discussion of this year's spending estimates and indeed during the estimate debates of the last several years, the members of the Progressive Conservative Party have been urging the government to examine its administration, to evaluate its own programs, to curtail its growth, and essentially to tame what we consider its wild spending. We have watched the government closely enough to know that millions of dollars of excess spending can be eliminated without reducing the benefits of government spending for the vast majority of Manitobans.

Mr. Speaker, spending reform, spending reform, Mr. Speaker, is an important objective in itself. It is equally important because the savings it provides can be converted into tax reductions for all our citizens.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, the estimated Provincial Government spending was \$575 million. We calculated that this amount would be about \$55 million -- we could cut at least, Mr. Speaker, \$55 million simply by tightening operating procedures and cancelling programs which produce no direct public benefits. We propose to channel most of the \$55 million into programs of tax reductions, primarily in personal income tax and total tax removal of the education tax from farmland and from senior citizens accommodation.

Mr. Speaker, this tax reform program is just as valid today as it was before since it is increasingly evident the provincial government's spending in the fiscal year 73-74 will rise well above the \$615 million already estimated. Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated that in our opinion the provincial government will be spending an equivalent of about \$663 million. If we add whatever the civil service increase will be and whether it will be \$24 million or \$12 million that's added onto that. Mr. Speaker, the total estimates are approximately \$100 million higher than they were last year. From the spending point of view, tax reform simply requires the re-introduction of efficiency and economy. From the revenue point of view tax reform is positively begging to be implemented in this province. Mr. Speaker, this government has been

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) wallowing in money for the last four years, and when the revenue picture is examined, the excuses offered by the government for its failure to introduce significant general tax cuts can be dismissed almost as being absurd.

In 1969 - 70, the actual revenues exceeded estimated revenues by over \$13 million. The government's accounts were only balanced, Mr. Speaker, by transferring \$17 million to the Capital Division and \$800,000 to Revenue Surplus.

In 1970 - 71, the actual revenue exceeded estimated revenue by over \$32 million and the government's accounts were balanced by transferring over \$20 million to Revenue Surplus and to subsequent fiscal year.

In 1971 - 72, actual revenue exceeded estimated revenue by over \$18 million. In the same year there was an admitted surplus of nearly \$3 million.

What has happened in the current concluding year of 72-73 can only be guesstimated at this time, but with the limited information that is now available, Mr. Speaker, we already know that \$10 million has been transferred to the War and Post - War Emergency Fund and that there was a \$7 million surplus in the Manitoba Hospital Commission which has been used to create the illusion that there is some control of the spending in the welfare department. Mr. Speaker, I feel that there is much more to come. We cannot be sure yet because the Public Accounts will be not out for awhile. As a matter of fact, the Public Accounts will be out after the next election, but there are several indicators. This was a year of tax increase in Manitoba. An estimated \$12 million was to be produced by the increased taxes levied against production machinery, liquor and cigarettes. \$12 million for this past fiscal year, \$20 million forecast for this year. It will be interesting to see what those forecasts will really be for this coming year, based on the performance of this past year. In addition, the government has already admitted that it has underspent in some areas. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am reasonably confident that the pattern of financial cushioning, and I repeat, the pattern of financial cushioning will be repeated once again this year and perhaps even to a greater degree than in previous years.

Mr. Speaker, our premise and a very simple one is that Manitobans are and have been heavily overtaxed in the last three years. They have been taxed by a government that was not prepared to reduce taxation but in this election year, in this election year will use the monies that have been hoarded over a period of time to enhance, to hand out to the people some of their own money in an effort to essentially bribe them on the assumption that the government has been both efficient and has been, you know, it has managed the economy of this province in a proper manner.

Mr. Speaker, there is a significant pattern to be found in the figures that I have suggested. Every year a surplus, every year estimated revenue is higher than expenditures, every year a transfer of that money to some other source. But not this year, Mr. Speaker, This year it will go back to the people because this is an election year. But let the people of Manitoba not be fooled, they were entitled to tax reductions over the last few years.

A MEMBER: Hear. Hear.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, the government has each year under-estimated its revenues and by doing so has concealed its true financial strength. Whether deliberately or not, Manitoba's ability to provide major tax cuts has been hidden from public view. Second, in spite of the extravagant growth of provincial government spending, revenue has been flowing in so rapidly that it has been possible each year to create a financial cushion by capital or surplus transfers. It is ironic that the government which spends money so inefficiently is still too inefficient to spend all the money it receives.

Well what does this financial information mean to the average Manitoba taxpayer? It means that the provincial government has had a healthier financial cushion for the last several years than the government cared to admit. It means that we in Manitoba have been overtaxed, even relative to the government's extravagant demands. It means that government has had almost since the day it came into office the ability to hide its inefficiency under an ample umbrella of revenue. Most important it means that the government has already had the financial means to introduce major tax cuts but has lacked only the willingness to provide them. If the government had been willing to give this House detailed information on capital budgetting and sub-appropriation transfers, we would no doubt have an even better case, but the proof of the

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) government's financial strength is strong enough anyway.

Mr. Speaker, I received just a few moments ago a letter from the Premier dealing with the capital sub-appropriation and the sub-appropriations of the departments of government in the normal expenditures. I requested that this information be made available to us and the Premier has indicated that he is going to follow the practice of previous years which would be to include this in the Public Accounts that will be published next year, in March of next year, --(Interjection)-- yes, as we used to do. But Mr. Speaker, what this really means is that there is no way in which we or anyone on this side is in a position to make any assessment or judgment of the way in which the money has been shuffled around this year -- and money has been shuffled around, it's been shuffled around, Mr. Speaker-- and when the budget comes out we will see the, you know, the outcome

MR. FROESE: I'd ask that the letter be tabled so that we'll all be informed.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm quite happy to table the letter and I'll table my letter to the Premier and I'll have a copy delivered to the Clerk if that is in agreement with the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

Mr. Speaker, the government may try to use the upcoming budget, and I suspect that they will, to rescue itself from its failure to provide significant tax reform over the last four years, and that tax reform comes from expenditure reform, and consistently we have said that along with tax reform, along with any attempt to try and, you know, re-arrange a tax structure, based on so-called ability to pay, has to be an assessment on the government of the kinds of programs that should be rejected, cancelled, altered so that in effect the tax payer could receive particular benefits from government programming and should not be put in a position where government just continues on and on and on without any attempt to try and get some control on the total spending that they have undertaken. And the fact that there's been so much money available or that taxes have been easy to raise does not justify the kind of action that has taken place.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that whatever tax relief proposals are going to be offered in the budget -- and I expect that there will be and can be substantial tax relief proposals because the government has a lot of money -- will be more than token measures. Minor tax adjustments, temporary transfer payments, or publicity seeking giveaways will not do the job or tax reform that this province requires.

Mr. Speaker, a year ago I indicated that the provincial government had the ability to channel at least \$50 million into direct tax reductions. Mr. Speaker, the government has that kind of money this year. The opportunity to offer tax relief on this scale does exist and the necessity today is even greater than it was last year. For the government to offer tax relief of any smaller scale will be a great disappointment to all Manitobans.

Mr. Speaker, the references that I have made to each successive year which has indicated the revenue surplus and the transfers that have taken place, are surely indicative of a pattern which indicates that the government had sufficient moneys to have been able to alter taxes, that in effect with all the announcements of the new programs budgetted in the estimates, with the estimates being understated as they are -- and I want to clearly state that they are understated in terms of the total cost -- there is still I suggest a tremendous amount of money available to them for tax reductions and that is only an indicator of the extent to which this province and the people of Manitoba have been overtaxed.

Let me now talk about the \$615 million that was estimated. To the \$615 million we must add approximately \$10 million of nursing home care that was taken out of the Social Assistance Program, transferred over to the Manitoba Health Services Commission and netted against the \$7 million cash surplus that they had, which indicates only a small rise in the Manitoba Health Services Commission and gives the illusion that somehow or other welfare in this province has been controlled, the Social Assistance goes down by \$10 million.

Mr. Speaker, to the \$615 million must be added at least another \$11 million that we now know from the Federal Government with respect to the credit to be given with respect to education, which I assume that the Honourable Minister of Finance and First Minister is going to pass on in some way to the municipalities, and in addition, another amount yet to come I would believe in the Supplementary Estimates which will increase the Unconditional

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) Grants over and above the amounts that are now in the estimates today, because the proposal in the estimates is less than the proposal for last year. And based on the City of Winnipeg's request and the discussions and correspondence that took place between the former Minister of Urban Affairs and the Members of the Government with the City of Winnipeg and the discussions that have taken place with the municipalities, one can only assume that there is additional amounts to be added there. Let's say another \$10 million there.

A MEMBER: Make it \$15.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, let's talk about the \$28 million which this year on the education tax credit program will be netted against the income received to try and indicate that the rise in actual estimates is not as high as the previous year. The \$28 million is not indicated or shown on our estimates; all we have is \$300,000 that is shown for administrative expense. The \$28 million will be netted against the income and the First Minister when he presents the budget will say our income is down and will be able to say to the people, my God our income isn't as high as it was in previous years. But the truth is, Mr. Speaker, that in every other year when the estimates were dealt with, when the estimates were dealt with all the rebates to be given with respect to education were listed as an expense in the estimates so that you could adequately see what revenue was coming in, against what expenses were being charged. But this year unlike the previous years it's not recorded. So if one has to make a judgment of what really is happening in this province in terms of tax increases or estimated increases one has to add that \$28 million and the result is that you have \$663 million. And, Mr. Speaker, there is more to come, much more to come,

There were \$28 million in special warrants last year more or less and one can add \$20 million for this coming year. So therefore, Mr. Speaker, we're talking close to \$700 million. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm saying that with all of this money, with all of this money and with all the additional expenses which amount to far more than a 15 percent increase in estimates, the Premier still has in his kitty and within his ability substantial tax cuts to be given to the people and the fact that he transferred that \$10 million was only an indication that he didn't know how to hide the money. He was faced with a situation, he had \$10 million, he had to hide it, he had to throw it into capital account because he did not want in any way to indicate to the people, indicate to the people, indicate to the people that he had raised taxes beyond - you know, beyond necessity and therefore followed the pattern that has been followed in the previous years of not giving back the people the money.

That goes to basic philosophy; they still believe, Mr. Speaker, and they continue to believe that they know how to handle the money better than the people. They still believe that they are in a better position, and they have the right at this point and that is their mandate, and we're going to dispute that mandate, that they can shift it around as they see fit and as they want and in doing it that way they are reflecting what people want. And, Mr. Speaker, it's our belief that the people essentially want the money for themselves. They want the money for themselves, they want to be able to deal with it themselves, they want to make the decisions for themselves and they do not want government imposing on them.

MR. SCHREYER: You go back to \$200 premiums; you go back \$200 medical premiums.

MR. SPIVAK: So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we will pass and we will approve the interim request of the government. We will approve it in terms of the pattern that has been established before. But, Mr. Speaker, I conclude with one specific assumption and premise that we have stated, that this province has been overtaxed by a NDP government who in fact could have reduced, could have reduced taxes substantially based just on the revenues that they receive, but who could have substantially in addition to it, the substantial decrease in taxes, could have decreased it even further had they attempted any kind of expenditure reform.

We're in election year and the Premier is going to announce certain tax changes and there isn't anyone on this side that doesn't know that in some way he's going to come up in some dramatic way to try and indicate how efficient and how capable they were, But, Mr. Speaker, I say this to you, the people have been overtaxed for the last three years, they are still overtaxed, they are entitled to substantial reductions and I believe that \$50 million at this point is an under estimate of the kind of money that the Premier has to give back to the people.

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) There is far more that should be given back to the people.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, it seems somehow that somebody's trying to make me work and I really think it's unfair of the Opposition to be putting me in the position which they know I must be in, of just feeling it desirable and necessary to respond to statements that are made by members opposite.

I can understand the Leader of the Opposition wiggling, losing sleep, worrying how is he going to face the public come the election. He is going absolutely wild looking for an issue which he can attract the people to support; he is looking everywhere because he has a terrible time. The fact is that everything that this Party across has been saying all along since their defeat is bouncing back at them and they're in a very awkward position. I can sympathize with them personally, especially those amongst them whom I like, and there are a number; and I can even sympathize with those amongst them who do not stand in the same position in my mind.

MR. SPIVAK: I'm not worried.

MR. CHERNIACK: But I kind of like the Leader of the Opposition and I'm not sorry for him because it's something he wants. He fought for the right to be the Leader of the Party; he fought for the right to stay on being Leader of the Party and now he's fighting his best in the vain hope that he can sit on this side of the desk in the seat occupied by my Leader. I say "vain hope" because I don't believe he can fool the people with all this wiggling and all this talking that's going on.

I have a note here - I've had notes here, I've had them with me for years and I've never used them, and when he started to talk I thought I should look and see what other bright people in the past have said and I sort of got on to one where Theodore Roosevelt once said: "nine-tenths of wisdom consists in being wise in time"; and that's where the wisdom has been so late in catching up with the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. When we ran in the election campaign back in 1969, and prior thereto, that wisdom was lacking and the wisdom has been acquired in the last couple of years when he has been seeing what this government has been able to do, in terms of serving the people, in terms of giving them a greater opportunity -- I will never say that we have created equality in the human condition, but I will say that we have been fighting towards it all along and in such a way as to make some stride in that direction -- and the Leader of the Opposition and his gang, his group, -- I'm sorry, his group are wiggling under that difficult situation where they just don't know what to say and how to get about.

I have another note here what somebody said, this is some quotations of various people:

R. B. Sheridan whom I know not of but I assume was a member of the British House of Commons, only because he referred to the Right Honourable Gentleman, whoever he was, and about him he said, "He's indebted to his memory for his jests and to his imagination for his facts." That, too, I think applies to the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. That man who when we were elected was crying along with his cohorts gloom and gloom, the economy of Manitoba is going to suffer so much, you are driving people away, you will drive industry away, you will drive the economy away, Manitoba is faced with a terrible future economically. And it must hurt him terribly, hurt him very much, to find that the economy of Manitoba is bouyant, that the gross provincial product is up, and way over any inflationary aspect, So don't use inflation as some excuse for trying to justify what you said.

A MEMBER: Doubled in four years.

MR. CHERNIACK: The gross provincial product, the unemployment -- you know, Mr. Speaker, I've been working here the last few weeks, working over my old files and getting rid of things, and I was a little too enthusiastic throwing out matters that I thought were no longer of interest; I threw out two clippings from 1968. One clipping was that in January, and I assume January 66, and this can be checked if I'm wrong and I may be wrong, I'm speaking from memory, now I'm relying on my imagination for my jest, right, I'm pretty sure that the headline read: "Manitoba Highest Unemployment in Canada in January". Now I know that can't be right because we never could have been as bad as Newfoundland and some of the Maritimes, but it was very low -- well, let me put it that way, it was very low. --(Interjection) -- Yes, my memory serves me best when I have resources. The Honourable the

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) Leader of the Opposition has no memory at all because if he didn't he wouldn't dare say some of the things he's saying today; and at least I'm trying to be careful to qualify or to protect anything I say relating to my memory.

The other memory I have, and that can be checked, was a speech made by the then Premier Weir in 1966 saying that in 1968, saying next year I can foresee the need to raise taxes because it will be necessary to have additional revenues for the province. That can be checked because -- Premier Weir in 1968, and I believe it was at a, I think he spoke to a meeting of urban municipalities. I'm speaking from memory, check me up and see if I'm wrong. But you know I also have records in my hand to support me, and that is -- you know Mr. Speaker, it's a tough job being in the Legislature, it's a tough job being in the Cabinet and on occasion it's a tough job being Minister of Finance, although I think that the Premier has been enjoying it because he's been able to report so much success in the work he has been doing; and it is an excellent department for which neither he nor I alone can take credit, because I think that the department has been built up over the years to serve extremely well.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that has bothered me in my brief time as a Minister of the Crown is some of the cracks that have been made by members opposite, and the Leader of the Liberal Party made some remarks, but the Leader of the Opposition also made some remarks that hurt me personally in my job. You know that in common law you don't have to prove damage if somebody attacks your competence in the job you have by slanderous statements; but here it's okay. The Leader of the Opposition did say, and it's recorded; "The statements of projected expenditures are conveniently low and the projected revenues are certainly optimistic". . . didn't say that today, did he? I think he did not quite the same thing. He said the reverse, that's right. But back on May 17, 1971, Page 975 of Hansard, he said: "The statements of projected expenditures are conveniently low", that he said today "and the projected revenues are certainly optimistic," he said. That was back in May 17, 1971, that's when he hadn't yet acquired the wisdom that he now seems to have.

He also said in the same time on Page 977: "I can't help but suspect that a year from now we will all be calculating the amount the government has overspent on this budget. If that happens, Mr. Speaker, we'll have to seriously question the competence of the Minister. He is a righteous man, but there is little in this budget to make us optimistic about his handling of our affairs. I will not now charge that the spending Estimates are incomplete but that the revenue figures are impossible of fulfillment. But I would warn the Minister we will be watching him closely because I suggest that the government has again promised more than it can deliver, promised more than it can deliver; I suggest the government's own mismanagement is getting them into a tight fiscal corner". Who said that? --(Interjection)-- Who said that? --(Interjection)-- "The government's own mismanagement is getting them into a tight fiscal corner." How this must hurt him; now he must writhe to find that all he said was wrong; that his accusations were wrong; that he said -- and I haven't got the quotation right here --(Interjection)-- no, but I'm quoting him as of today, that he was wrong. I don't have the quotation here, but he said something about the books being cooked, and he said publicly, "The Estimates of revenue are exaggerated". He said it, let him deny that he said it. And he said that, quite right. --(Interjection)-- He said it a year prior to the time I'm quoting, and he said it last year. And now what's he saying? It hurts him. Mr. Speaker, it hurts him but he's got to say it because he's got to go to the public; he's got to say something to them. So, having preached doom and gloom, having preached a downturn in the economy as the result of a New Democratic Government, as a result of all he said, and I suggest that he even hoped that there would be a downturn to justify his statements. Do you remember his remarks last year? That production machinery tax would drive business out of Manitoba. Do you remember that? Do you remember the remarks he made about how unfair it was to be increasing income tax --(Interjection)-- Well, he said that, he still says it. Do you remember that he opposed, he opposed the education property tax credit plan, do you remember that? --(Interjection)-- He does, and he'll be reminded of it time and again because what he is saying to us is, give back the money to the people who pay it because they know better than you do how to spend it, and they do.

The people in Manitoba who have money, and I mean money, know better than we how they would like to spend it. And when we have been able to bring in revenue to this province

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) from people of higher income -- and I'm not talking about the people who earn \$500,000 a year, I'm talking about the people who are better off than those whom we have served. Well we have been able to do that and create a tax shift to pay that money to redirect it into those needy people who are now getting the benefit of programs -- that's what hurts them, because he is now nine-tenths wise; because he is now catching up to the times; because he is now able to say things like \$55 million, \$50 million, can we say. Do you know that in this House he asked several times, in fact years, what are your bank deficits as of a certain date? I want to know how much does the province owe the bank as of a certain date, and not just the province, but Hydro and telephone and all the other agencies that have bank accounts, because he was already thinking that maybe the province was borrowing from Hydro, maybe it was using Hydro's money in order to finance itself, so rather than go to the bank it would borrow from Hydro. It must have been a terrible shock to him when he discovered that the province is lending money to Hydro at the time that he asked. Because he was trying his best to justify his own forecast that we were going to receive less money than we expected to receive, that we were going to be in trouble; that hurts him, and it should hurt him, because he made suggestions, he made accusations which were false, so now he's turning the other way around. Now he's saying, well you didn't save the money you should have saved. I'd remind him that apparently the government of which he was a part started to worry, started to worry about proper controls on expenditure, and they paid -- was it half a million dollars or more to the P. S. Ross Company, to Joe Martin, and whoever else was involved in that? --(Interjections)-- Oh, I -- Joe Martin was the --(Interjection)-- No, Joe Martin was not a New Democratic, that I know. But Joe Martin, who's also a nice fellow like the Leader of the Opposition, did with P. S. Ross carry out a very expensive review of government operations and he made recommendations, some of which were implemented by the government before they fell down to disaster, others of which were implemented by us. They set up the Planning and Priorities Committee of Canada. They said that we really have to have a better measure of control of program. We want to be able to consider program and overall long term planning for programs so we shouldn't be in the rut of year after year continuing with redundant programs and let's think ahead. They set up the Planning and Priorities Committee, they took a man that somebody opposite --(Interjection)-- Well, apparently the government, apparently the government and its backbenchers had no authority in setting up the Planning and Priorities Committee; the Premier did it without consulting the four ex Ministers opposite me.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Member for St. Johns was using "they" and "we" in referring to P. S. Ross. I was merely attempting to clarify that P. S. Ross didn't set up anything; they recommended certain things that the government, then headed by Walter Weir, implemented certain things.

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MR. CHERNIACK: If the Honourable Member for Lakeside would stop screaming from his seat and get up and make these corrections I would welcome them, but when he yells from his seat then it becomes necessary somehow to respond to something one can't really comprehend because not always can I comprehend him.

Quite right. I was referring to "they" the government set up Planning and Priorities. Of course they put at its head, at its administrative head, a person who had been prior to that, I believe, a very successful, very well thought of Deputy Minister of Agriculture. Somebody opposite tried to make some suggestion that he was let go in some way but he was a man who stayed on with Planning and Priorities. Of course they didn't give him the staff he needed. He was -- I think about half the expected -- the establishment of the staff was filled at the time we came in, as I recall it, but in any event they started that. They, the government, set up the Management Committee with direct instructions to keep a constant overall review of expenditures of money, and we've continued that. We've expanded them both, you know. You know, Mr. Speaker. We expanded the Planning and Priorities Committee. We've given them more muscle. We've expanded management committee; we've given them more muscle in order to do those things which were suggested should be done. And now the Leader of the Opposition says why, there's \$55 million that could be saved in tightening procedures and cancelling programs.

I challenge him, Mr. Speaker; and I think I challenged him last year, to be a responsible member of the Legislature and to bring in responsible and accountable suggestions of how that money could be saved, and if they are responsible and if they are accountable, I'm sure the government will listen to it. But if they are going to pick on some man and say, "You shouldn't have hired him," then that's nonsense. And if they're going to say, "You've increased Planning and Priorities," -- which they have said -- "Cut it back," then all they're saying is "Go back to where we were when we were just starting the program."

So let's say if there's \$50 million to be saved, it's the responsibility of that gentlemen who is the Leader of his party to spell it out: where can the money be saved? And then we can discuss the program. But talking this way is just for somebody -- it's not for this House. He's talking for the electorate out there and I can understand that, but I hope that they will ask him to account, as I am asking him to account, for the statements he makes. If there are procedures that need tightening, by all means help us. You've had more experience in office, some of you, than we have -- some of us. Help us, but be concrete and be specific and don't talk in broad terms. He used the expression "the reintroduction of efficiency and economy" as if it existed before. You know what existed before was exactly what they tried to correct when they hired P. S. Ross and Associates. So let's not go back to what they thought was not tenable.

Of course he did talk about certain things that were done. He talked about using current revenues for capital expenditures and vice versa. I had something to do with that. I took precedent -- and you know you can learn from the Opposition -- and I took precedent from what Duff Roblin did. When Duff Roblin shunted roads back and forth, current -- we have ...

A MEMBER: He was a fine man.

MR. CHERNIACK: He was a fine man. He made mistakes, he certainly made mistakes, and so do all, so do we. We all make mistakes. But if the balance of the good things we do are attributes that weighs against our liabilities and on that this government, just like the financial statement of the people of Manitoba's government, is that the balance sheet is heavily weighted on the assets side. But Duff Roblin did exactly what is being suggested by the member. On occasion he found that he could pay out of current revenue capital expenditures, so he said roads are current. On other occasions he said that this is something that is a long term investment and we can pay out of capital items that were formerly called current. He was the one who decided on occasion to use accumulated reserve and didn't on others. But you know, nobody, nobody, as I recall it, had the nerve of the Leader of the Opposition, other than he, to come into this House and say: Let's borrow \$25 million repayable over I suppose 20 years at whatever the current rate of interest was which may have been 8 percent, and give that \$25 million to old age pensioners.

Did the honourable member say that? Yes he did. Nobody, nobody suggested that. I remember -- (Interjection) -- No, he wasn't talking about a surplus, he was talking at a time

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) when he wanted this government to go into hock because he knew in his own mind that we were running such an administration that we were going to lose money, and he was the one who not only was prepared to shuffle current and capital -- and you know, there's nothing wrong with that, nothing wrong with that -- he was prepared to go out to borrow money repayable out of future generations to pay a one time, a current payment to pensioners. Well, Mr. Speaker, we managed that without having to borrow. We managed to do all these things without having to go to the drastic and unusual financing proposals made by the honourable leader. And so he now uses it against us to show that we've been running a good shop.

We've been following -- who was it in Charles Dickens and David Copperfield? I think his name was Webber, was it? Oh, Mr. Micawber, maybe. Anyway, somebody in Dickens who said something about, if you earn twenty guineas and you spend nineteen-point-something, things are good, but if you earn twenty and you spend twenty-point-something, things are bad. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, that was the authority of the Member for Lakeside, Arnold Beaton. -- (Interjection) -- The Member from Morris? -- (Interjection) -- Yes, I'm sure it isn't but the intent is. I'm sure the intent is. But you know it must hurt the Opposition to know that we've been running a good shop and, you know, we're not hung up in principle on running a deficit budget. You know, the funny thing would be that if we did have a deficit, that that side would start screaming and yelling, "You're spending future people's moneys. You must not run a deficit." The ideal, of course, is to know exactly what you're going to have next year based on this year, but anybody who knows that, he's the one who doesn't exist in this world; he's the one who makes a bundle and loses a bundle on the stock market.

A MEMBER: Quit talking about Joe.

MR. CHERNIACK: So that for us to feel apologetic for the fact that we've been able to show surpluses year by year by year in the face of times and statements made by the Opposition of downfall, of downgrade, of gloom, of doom, is something for us to be proud of, especially because in doing that we have been able with tax increases, ability-to-pay income tax increases -- who can question that that's ability to pay? With tobacco and liquor, which is not progressive taxation but which is, as I quote again, Premier Roblin's choice taxation, you don't have to pay it if you don't want to smoke or drink, and with production machinery which was supposed to be the end. Oh, that was going to hurt everything -- and hasn't hurt anything. You know, we know what the economy is like and so do the members opposite. The economy is buoyant, not the way they said. So with all these things we have been able to give back to the people of Manitoba, to give them tax cuts, but selective tax. That's what hurts the Opposition. The people they serve -- and I use that term advisedly -- the people they serve are the people who want to bolster and strengthen the private economy for their own advantage, people who are . . .

A MEMBER: Farmers, we're talking about farmers.

MR. CHERNIACK: The farmers are supporting our party. The people they serve are the people who are not prepared to make their contribution on the ability-to-pay principle. -- (Interjection) -- Then I'll be glad to.

Mr. Speaker, we've never accepted the theory that has been posed on the other side that you take it out of one pocket and put it into another. They've said it before. I hear this fellow, this political economist on CJOB who's on in the morning. . .

A MEMBER: Peter Warren

MR. CHERNIACK: This authority -- yes, Peter Warren, this authority on the economy who talks about "we middle income poor." A man who I estimate earns about \$20,000 a year, I don't call middle income poor. But even he is not suffering, I guarantee that he is not suffering. I guarantee that people who earn \$20,000 a year are not suffering; they are indeed contributing to making this province a healthier place in which to live, a place where people with minimal incomes are being helped by this government with their tax moneys. It's not our money; it's the tax moneys that we collect is being used to raise to some degree the standard of living of some of the people of the lowest income. The opposite side -- and there are four Ministers in this, four ex Ministers on that side -- who are part of the program of bringing in a Medicare premium of how much? -- (Interjection) -- \$217.00 including health, proposed by a premier who is quoted as saying -- and I'm sure he said it: "I don't like this

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) program. I am opposed to the Medicare program. I am forced into bringing it in." And I would like to hear members opposite, and especially the Member for Rock Lake, stand up and oppose the Medicare program. Let him do it in his constituency. Let him go there and say, "I oppose the Medicare program." Let the Member for Fort Rouge say it, because their leader did. Their leader did. Their leader, Premier Weir, said, "I oppose the program. I don't like the program. I am forced to bring it in." And when he brought it in, he brought in that premium. He brought in a premium which cost every head of a family, every single earner, every single adult \$217.00 a year flat premium, the most regressive form of premium there is. They're the ones who brought it in, we're the ones who changed it. -- (Interjection) -- Is the amount wrong, Member for Lakeside?

A MEMBER: 204.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that other members have a right to speak because -- (Interjection) -- Oh, I'm corrected. The figure was \$204.00. I would expect the Member for Lakeside to get up and indicate where I was wrong. Not now. On your time; on his own time. -- (Interjection) -- Ah, he's talking about people who are already receiving aid from the province and who continue to receive aid from the province, and who receive social assistance to a lesser degree than they're receiving today. If he wants to fiddle around with that that's his privilege. I'm talking about people who were paying taxes and I'm talking about the fact that they have been getting tremendous reductions. It was a \$204.00 regressive premium tax imposed by those four people down below who are sitting here now by their colleagues and supported by a number of those who sit behind them. And now they are getting bright. Now they're getting their wisdom. -- (Interjection) --

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. Will the Honourable Member for Lakeside please sit down. Would the Honourable Member for Lakeside please contain himself. He'll have an opportunity. I would suggest to all the honourable members that they all contain themselves. There's only one speaker on the floor and that's the Honourable Member for St. Johns right now.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I seem to be doing a fairly good job if I can get the Member for Lakeside to jump out of his seat. Usually he sits in his seat and makes remarks to all other members, but when he jumped out of his seat then that's really an accomplishment because it is showing that I must be hitting home in some way, and to that extent it means that I must be making a point.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we never claimed that we know better than the people how to spend their money. We do claim, Mr. Speaker, that the New Democratic Party's platform and program and philosophy have been known to the people of Manitoba over years, and that they recognize that our philosophy is the philosophy that the people of Manitoba wanted to support. And therefore when we brought in our program here, we did it after making it loud and clear how we stood, and so did the Conservative Party. They made it loud and clear. They believed -- maybe still do -- in a flat premium tax of the most regressive nature. They must have believed in it; they brought it in; they didn't change it. We said we would and we did.

Mr. Speaker, we never said we know better than the people but we do say we represent the people, and we represent the people who are in the greatest need in this province and those are the people for whose benefit we have been raising income and raising revenues, and it is also because of our programs -- and let me stop for a moment and talk about employment programs where we stood alone for awhile, this province, to fight the Liberal Government's plan to fight inflation by creating depression, by creating unemployment. We told them, I told them at Ministers of Finance meeting, the Premier told them at Premiers' meeting, "We will fight your program. You want to bring in a program to create unemployment, we will fight you to the limit of our abilities," and we then went into a program of bringing money into the economy by construction, by the grants to senior citizens for improving their homes -- not a tax benefit, actual grants, to help them improve their homes for that double purpose, to help them achieve a better standard of home protection to create something in the economy to make it work, and Mr. Speaker, it far exceeded my expectations.

Maybe other bright members of our Cabinet and the caucus could foresee how well we did with that program but being a conservative by nature I confess that it exceeded my

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) expectations, and the economy is buoyant and when the economy is buoyant so are the revenues of the province, giving us an opportunity to make the tax shifts we've done. Who is going to vote against the proposal that old age pensioners should not pay health insurance premiums? Who will oppose that? Well the Conservatives should because they believed apparently, that it was right and they're the ones who will say, or should say -- they won't say it, Mr. Speaker, they won't say it, but they should say, "You brought in a production machinery tax. How dare you use that money to remove the premium taxes from the old age pensioners." They will say, "You made Manitoba the highest income taxing province; how dare you use that money that you're getting from the higher income groups to reduce education property tax the way you've done?" They should say that if they were sincere about their programming.

They are the ones who should say, "You have increased corporation income tax. How dare you, how dare you use that money in bringing further relief to people in the lower income group," but they're not saying that. They wouldn't say it. What they would rather say is, "Well, you've got extra money. We said you would go down, you would run down your income, you would endanger your revenue." That's what they said we said. Now they're saying, "But you didn't, so obviously you did something wrong. Why, you should give back to the people their money." We're giving back to the people their money. In every respect everything this government does, as did previous governments, is give back to the people the revenues they raised when they raised them out of taxation.

When you build a road isn't that giving back taxpayers' money to taxpayers in a different way? And when you provide any other service in government, aren't you indeed giving back to taxpayers the moneys you raised? But the government is the conduit between an anarchic economy, one where there is no government and therefore no planning and therefore every man for himself, the government is a conduit for the people to redirect the sources of providing a service to the community into the service itself, and we are dedicated on this side -- and the other parties aren't -- we are dedicated on this side to act as a conduit to create a greater benefit for the . . . hewers, the carriers of the pails of water, the hewers of wood, the people who have built Manitoba, and they are the people who usually are the least able to speak for themselves, to re-direct the great resources of this province and the revenues derived from them to those people who are in greatest need.

I have yet to meet a person who will say, "I deny them, those underprivileged, those low income people." No we never denied them but we made it very difficult, we made it very difficult when we fought, when we -- and I'm talking now about the Conservatives, when they were dragging their heels fighting the introduction of Medicare, when they admittedly brought it in because they were forced to do it, not because they wanted to. When they imposed a premium tax, the Member for Souris-Killarney says, "We wanted, we wanted to help those people," and -- (Interjection) -- I want the member to talk because if he talks sincerely, honestly and uses his memory for his facts, if he uses memory for his facts, he will expose himself and his party for what they stood for in all the previous years when they were in government and in all the last four years up to this election year, and now they are switching around and now the Leader of the Opposition is wriggling, he's trying his best to obtain an election issue and he's having trouble, so I come back to what I said at the beginning. I sympathize with him but I'm not sorry for him. He brought it on to himself, both with his actions as a member of government in the past, both in support of the Conservative party for years prior to his becoming a political figure, and for his continued carping and harping at the programs we have brought in, of which we are proud. Our mistakes which we have made, all of us, are unfortunate, but in the balance, when the people of Manitoba come to weigh the balance, we will see that they will recognize that the advantages that we have brought in by far, by far, exceed those that any previous government or any supposed opposition party has been able to bring in in a responsible way.

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, with just an answer to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition. He asked about whether the amount requested here is in line with previous years and I said less, and my memory served me over a period of time; 1970, 40 percent was requested on Interim Supply; 1971, 30 percent was requested on Interim Supply; 1972, 25 percent and this year it's 25 percent. The reasons, I'm sure, were explained at that time.

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) They had to do with the lateness of the time when they were brought in when it was expected that the final estimates would not be approved over a longer period than three months. I'm pretty sure we'll be through in three months this year. Like last year, 25 percent is the amount requested.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable member would permit a question and it relates to that, it relates to the information which was just furnished, and I wonder if he could indicate whether it's been past practice, when he was Minister -- that was . . . last year, to have the department actually ask for all accounts outstanding to be sent to the government prior to the end of the fiscal year. Has that been common practice?

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

MR. CHERNIACK: May I, I know I have no right to ask him a question but I'll ask a rhetoric question. Is the member suggesting that that was done this year, or the member must be suggesting that that was done this year.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, if I'm correct there are advertisements in the newspaper suggesting that those who have accounts with the government should file them before the end of the fiscal year. I'm just wondering whether this has been past practice or not.

MR. CHERNIACK: As long as I was Minister, and I'm told that prior to that, it was always a great desire of the finance department to bring in all the accounts it possibly could in order to know exactly how they stand so that they can bring in as full an accounting in public accounts as possible. It's always been attempted in the past, every year, and may I say that I'm sure it's no secret to members of government before, I would guess that each of the four ex ministers that are in the House today may recall that his department was being bugged for, towards January, February, were being bugged constantly to get their accounts in so that the books can be balanced.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Just a question. If I may be permitted to ask a question of the Honourable Member for St. Johns. If the economy is so buoyant, how come we have a \$22 million deficit in the MDC?

MR. SPEAKER: That opens up a new area in debate which is not permitted under our rules.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, . . . to respond, but you won't give me the right.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I have another question relating to the same item that the Minister just referred to. I wonder if he can indicate, when he was Minister of Finance did his department advertise in advance of the end of the year, asking for accounts to be sent it?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I have been advised that that is the case and I received that information and am receiving it at this very moment. I do not recall it myself. I didn't have the time to read the newspapers that the Leader of the Opposition seems to have.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): I just would like to ask a question of the Honourable Member for St. Johns. When he talks about their programs and the ability to pay, my question is, Mr. Speaker, on the one hand we have young people, and I refer particularly now to farmers, young farmers, who are labouring under heavy mortgages for land that they bought at a very high price, the payments for high priced machinery, who are now expected to pay their Medicare bill or to continue to pay their Medicare bill, their premiums; on the other hand we have people at the age of 65 and over who, as of the 1st of April, will no longer be required to pay their Manitoba Medical premium. Is it on the basis to pay, then, that this program has been instituted where the farmer, the young farmer I'm talking about, with a heavy mortgage, who is struggling to make ends meet and to feed his wife and family, should pay for those over 65 who are comfortably established and have been able to pay for their own health and welfare?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the point made by the honourable member. I of course would ask him to think back to the time when he was a member of the cabinet which introduced this Medicare premium tax to apply to all, and ask him if at that time he didn't worry, he didn't worry about the very people he's speaking about, the people

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) with low income, be they the young farmer who's having trouble or be they the old pensioner. Well, Mr. Speaker, I have to ask: if you have so many dollars what do you suggest we do? Nothing? Because it seems to me that the member, the member for Arthur would do nothing, because if he can't help the farmer, the young farmer, then why should he help the old age pensioner? But if what he would do is to reduce the income tax, then, Mr. Speaker, he would not be helping people who are the hardest pressed on an ability-to-pay principle, because the vast majority of pensioners don't pay income tax. So let him follow his leader in the path of reducing income tax and do nothing whatsoever for those who don't earn enough money to pay income tax. That's what is the proposal of his leader. If he doesn't know it, he'd better realize it, that that is the proposal of his leader: reduce income tax, which means help those who pay income tax; do not -- do not -- give that assistance to the people who are not able to pay income tax because their earnings are too limited.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, it always amazes me that members of the government front benches, the treasury benches, like the Honourable Member for St. Johns who's just spoken, can get up and tell the story they do about the virtual tax-free paradise in which Manitobans live, and do it with such gusto and with such conviction and with such commitment, and the Honourable Member for St. Johns is not the only one who follows this practice or makes this kind of hymn of praise to the taxation and fiscal policies of the government. A few days ago in the Chamber the Minister of Mines and Resources said, essentially as far as taxes are concerned, what the former Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Johns, has attempted to convey in effect this afternoon and that is essentially -- and I may be paraphrasing here but I think that fundamentally I'm correct in saying that the message from the honourable gentleman is that the NDP has done wondrous things for Manitobans in the last three and a half years and all without -- (Interjection) -- wait for it, Mr. Speaker, I'm not finished the remark I was making. . . . have done wondrous things for Manitobans and all without increasing taxes to the people of Manitoba.

The Member for St. Johns responds with a look of some consternation but the Honourable the Minister of Mines and Resources agrees that this is essentially the message that this government, through such agents as the Minister himself and I suggest agents like his colleague the Member for St. Johns, whether he understands what he was saying or not, are trying to deliver that message and make the point that there has been no increase in taxes to the people of Manitoba.

Well I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Minister and the member who's just spoken are going to have anywhere near as much success in terms of trying to put that message across on the hustings to the electorate, to the people of Manitoba, as they seem to have putting across among their own benches in their own caucus, because, Mr. Speaker, surely it's a distortion of the fiscal position and the cost of living position for Manitobans to have the government, or anybody, argue that there had been no increase in taxes in Manitoba or in the rate of taxes in Manitoba in the last three and a half years. It depends entirely, Mr. Speaker, on whether you're arguing semantically from the point of view of the government, and trying to make a special case and a special pitch for the specific term "taxes" or whether you're out there in the public where the rest of Manitobans are and where all of us are when we're not in here, having to pay the prices and handle the cost of living and meet the fees and the other costs that have accrued and multiplied and escalated during the past three and a half years, and that add up to the only thing that really matters. . . .

MR. MILLER: From coast to coast.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, from coast to coast. The Minister of Higher Education says from coast to coast and I don't deny that. It's from coast to coast but we're part of that society from coast to coast who's struggling with the cost of living and struggling with the increased burden in that area, and for this government to say, to try to argue that there has been no increase in the rate of taxes is, I suggest, a smokescreen, Mr. Speaker, for what is happening. -- (Interjection) -- No, essentially it is not true. The Member for St. Johns asked me is it true, and I say essentially it isn't because while they have been doing the kind of bookkeeping that they've been doing and the kind of fiscal reorganization that they've

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) been doing, so that they can make the argument that the rate of taxes haven't increased, the costs of fees, the licensing costs for innumerable other activities, touching almost every phase of the lives of Manitobans have increased sharply, dramatically, during the past three and a half years.

MR. CHERNIACK: . . . a question?

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd be delighted to entertain a question except that I sat patiently through the Member for St. Johns' address. I waited while several questions were answered. I am racing the clock to a certain extent, but I will attempt to, I'll attempt to organize my thoughts and my words, so that I can entertain a question.

Mr. Speaker, if they haven't increased the rate of taxes in Manitoba, if they haven't increased the rate of taxes of the people of Manitoba, they've raised the cost of virtually every fee and permit and licence in this province, and those fees and permits and licence costs range from liquor permits, driver's licences, taxicab licences, land titles fees, virtually every type of activity -- trailer licences, camping licences, virtually every type of activity affecting the lives of Manitobans, except possibly for sex, Mr. Speaker, and if there were any way that this government could charge for that, they'd probably do that too.

So it comes down really, Mr. Speaker, to the epitome of playing with words, and I don't think that the electorate will be fooled by it to the extent at any rate that their colleagues in the government caucus are obviously fooled by it. The greatest expenses for the people of Manitoba, that's what it comes down to, whether they've raised the rate of taxes or not, and that's what Manitobans have to cope with in terms of their take home pay and their daily cost of living, and as long as expenses are going up they're going to have one heck of a time selling the argument that they have ushered in the tax free paradise or tax freeze paradise that they seem to insist on promoting and insist on publicizing in their own way whenever they have the opportunity to speak on this subject.

But, Mr. Speaker, one of the things I want to talk about in the few minutes available to me today is really not the area of taxation or the area of permit and fee increases, the area of rising expenses for Manitobans, but I couldn't resist the urge to reply for a moment or two to the things that the Member for St. Johns had said because they were reminiscent of what the Minister of Mines and Resources had said during the Throne Speech debate, and I didn't have a chance to challenge him on those claims at that time and I don't think that that kind of claim should go unchallenged. Certainly the members of the Conservative benches in this House cannot let that kind of claim go unchallenged because we just don't accept the argument that life and existence is not as expensive in terms of the regulatory cost imposed under this government as it was under the former administration; we think it's more expensive, substantially so, and we make that case and will continue to make that case outside the House as well as in, and we find growing and substantial support for it and I think the government should be apprised of that. If they're living under the illusion that people don't think that life is costing them more, then they should be disabused of that illusion and they should be told that you can't get away with that argument with us. You might be able to in your own caucus room but you can't get away with it with us. It doesn't wash and it isn't true.

But, Mr. Speaker, the thing I really wanted to talk about in the few minutes available to me has to do with the Department of Health services and medical services, medical practice in the province, and it qualifies in the particular debate at hand, Sir, on the grounds that at least \$49 million, presumably, of the Supply amount being sought in the bill before us would be directed to the administration of the Health and Social Development Services of this province. The Interim Supply bill calls for an amount approximating 25 percent of the total Estimates being sought; the total Estimates being sought for the Department of Health and Social Development are 196 millions plus -- and 25 percent of that is close to 50 million, or 49 million dollars, and it's that aspect of the issue before us that I want to zero in on, Mr. Speaker, in these few moments, and I do so out of a feeling of concern for what I think is a highly unfortunate if not a potentially tragic situation for Manitobans in the area of their health services and medical practice and in the whole field of the relationship that exists between the government of Manitoba and the practitioners of medicine in Manitoba.

Sir, there has been misunderstanding and there's been confusion and there has been a serious loss, a serious breach of trust and good faith existing between this government and

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) the medical profession, and I suggest that much of it is due to the government's own choice of language, to its own verbal footwork, and it all adds up to evasiveness where the government's policy and philosophy towards doctors, medical practitioners and health services in the province are concerned. The people of Manitoba are vitally, critically involved because this province has always had a great medical reputation; this province has spawned many of the great medical institutions and medical individuals serving Canada and the western world generally; and I suggest that Manitobans are concerned that the kind of environment, of excellence that had been developed over many years and through many different administrations of different political stripes is now seriously impaired, is seriously injured by the attitude of this government towards the medical profession, which is one essentially, Sir, at least of open season if not of open warfare.

MR. PAULLEY: Nonsense.

MR. SHERMAN: The area of health and the relationship between the government and the medical profession, Mr. Speaker, is one of the most critical existing in the whole of our society at the present time, and I don't think that this government really understands the damage that it's doing in this particular field. I think that virtually everything that's been done in the field of health care policy and virtually every utterance that has been made in the field of health care policy . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. We are on Bill 23, we are not on the budget debate, which is an interim measure and I do think the honourable member should . . . The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, on that point of order, Interim Supply is one quarter of all the estimates of the departments of government. That enables any member to discuss any subject that relates to every department of government.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I do hope the Chamber is aware of what they want to intimate when they say this because our rules call for eight days of debate. The eight days have not started yet in respect to the budget so therefore we cannot use the same rules in that regard.

MR. JORGENSEN: Sir, there is no intention to conduct an eight-day debate; what we're attempting to do is make some remarks on Interim Supply, which is our right under the rules of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, the debate is Interim Supply. It covers the budgets, and the items within the budgets and would continue. The only thing that I would make known to the Speaker is that there would be no inclination to adjourn this debate indefinitely but the rules permitting debate, I suppose, we have to abide by.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, we certainly have no intention of adjourning the debate any more often than is absolutely necessary to accommodate individuals wishing to speak who are otherwise occupied, but we would like to continue the debate through in an unbroken sequence to its conclusion.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, the fact is that we are talking about the point of order on the debate. The debate can proceed within the rules on the items that are being debated, which is interim supply of all of the departments. My indication to the Speaker was that there may be a time when the House, as a majority, feels the debate has continued long enough. When they wish to do so they will vote accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, on that same point of order, since all departments are included in the bill, naturally we will have an opportunity to speak on any item pertaining to the Estimates, and I don't think this should be denied in any way.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. GREEN: I said members can debate what they want but a debate can last only as long as the rules of the House say that it lasts.

MR. SHERMAN: We understand the House Leader's point, Mr. Speaker. We're dealing here with 25 percent of supply, and 25 percent of the supply for the Department of Health

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) and Social Development as I suggested at the outset of my remarks, Sir, comes to almost \$50 million, and while we're dealing with that \$50 million I want to put one or two things on the record with respect to that department, and I say that virtually everything that has been done in the field of health care policy and virtually every utterance that this government has made in the field of health care policy has, whether it's inadvertent or no, has had the effect of undermining the confidence of the doctors in Manitoba and undermining the confidence of the people of Manitoba in their doctors.

MR. PAULLEY: That's nonsense.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Party is concerned that a state of tension has developed since 1970 between the Government of Manitoba and the medical profession here, and the Honourable Minister of Labour can say that's nonsense if he likes, but he can prove otherwise to his satisfaction any moment that he wants to go out of this Chamber and talk either to representatives of the medical profession or to a fair cross section of the public which deals with the medical profession.

The condition of tension, Sir, has been intensified in recent days and in recent weeks by the unnecessary bad feeling that's been generated over the question of a revision in fee schedules for practitioners in the MMA, and without arguing the merits of upward fee revision or hold-the-line situations where fees are concerned, the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that the medical profession, or that part of it that belongs to Manitoba Medical Association, has operated during past months in the trust and in the faith that the government was dealing openly and fairly with it and was looking objectively and fairly at the necessity for an upward revision in fees to compensate for the rise in the cost of living since 1969, and the latest exchange of communications between the members of the Medical Association and the government and between members of our Party and this government, Mr. Speaker, indicates very clearly that there is no such good faith and that the government has not been negotiating openly and objectively.

MR. PAULLEY: That's nonsense.

MR. SHERMAN: For the members opposite to talk about \$600, 000 is the height of rubbish, Mr. Speaker, because nowhere in society have the figures in terms of income for any professional or non-professional group subject to such wide distortion and to such irresponsible bandying about as are the figures that are accumulated in so-called objective assessments of what is being paid out to members of the medical profession.

MR. PAULLEY: Poor fellows, I'm sorry for them.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, it's our belief that the tension does not exist from the misunderstandings and mistrust over the area of fee increases although, as I say, there's been an intensification of it recently as a consequence of some dispute over that matter; but the tension really results from the experimentation, and in most cases the ill-conceived and irresponsible experimentation of this government in the field of health care without resort to proper communication or consultation with the people who practice medicine and know the field for themselves. There has been no communication to speak of, of a realistic and viable and meaningful nature between this government and representatives of the medical profession with respect to the directions that health care services should be taking in this province. The tension has built up as a consequence of that, Mr. Speaker, and as a consequence of the fact that the medical profession itself has some distrust of the motives of government in this field generally, and with some justification I might say, Sir, where the present government is concerned . . .

MR. PAULLEY: They haven't got us in their tool bag like they used to have you.

MR. SHERMAN: Because this government, Mr. Speaker, because this government has failed to initiate any meaningful dialogue with the profession, the mutual suspicions between the two sides have crystallized and the result, Sir, is a government and a medical profession no longer operating as partners in this province in the quest for better and less costly health care for Manitobans, but rather a government and a medical profession operating as adversaries, and I would suggest, Sir, that if this polarization of positions is permitted to continue, it will have the consequence of destroying the faith and the doctor-patient relationship and the two-way communication that has long been at the base of the excellent medical and health services and the excellent profession that has served Manitobans well.

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd)

I am not dismayed, Mr. Speaker, by the rantings coming from the Minister of Labour in particular on the other side of the Chamber at the mention of the issue at hand, because he does not know, Mr. Speaker, he does not know the damage that the kind of closed mind attitude that he carries into these situations can do. He does not understand what excellence in medical service had been built up in the province in the past 100 years or more and he doesn't care what damage is done to it, but I say, Sir, that if this polarization of positions exemplified and personified on the government side by people like the Minister of Labour is allowed to continue, then a great disservice will be done to the people of Manitoba and to the medical profession.

The people of Manitoba essentially, Mr. Speaker, don't want to be guinea pigs for the kind of experiment that this government is tinkering with. They don't want to be guinea pigs for experiments and they don't want to be the pawns in a struggle between the government and the medical profession for control of the medical field. Mr. Speaker, Progressive-Conservative administration would undertake as a top priority to restore the channels of communication between government and the medical profession, channels that have no longer . . .

MR. TURNBULL: Who would be the Minister of Health?

MR. SHERMAN: . . . channels that are no longer workable due to the mutual suspicions and the mutual distrust that has been generated in the last three years. Mr. Speaker, the cost of health care is of course a major concern to all Canadians and all Manitobans, and we are deeply committed to trying to develop a means of controlling the rising cost of health care. It's something that's admittedly desired by all taxpayers, but at the same time, Sir, access to the highest standards of health care for one and one's family is of probably greater importance in the minds of individual citizens, and this government has failed to meld the two and to work in search of those two goals . . .

MR. TOUPIN: Hogwash.

MR. SHERMAN: . . . in such a way as to ensure that the search for one doesn't impair the search for the other. They're twin goals, Mr. Speaker. One must not be pursued at the expense of the other. Certainly there is deep concern over finding a method and a means and a mechanism for bringing rising health costs under control but, as I say, there is equally deep concern, perhaps deeper concern in the hearts and minds of individuals for ensuring that medical services don't deteriorate, for ensuring that the kind of safeguard that Manitobans have always had in the excellence of their medical profession and the services related to it are not allowed to be dismantled by a government either acting overtly in the interests of control over the profession, or acting out of ignorance in the interests of pursuing experiments of a laboratory type whose ends they don't understand. -- (Interjection) -- Well, we would take every step, Mr. Speaker, I say in response to that aside from the Minister of Health and Social Development, we'd take very step to put the government and the medical profession back together again in communication. There is no progress that can be made in solving the problems either of health care costs or of health care delivery and efficiency as long as the two sides are at loggerheads and are not speaking, and as long as they distrust each other, and that's the condition that's been generated by the kinds of outbursts that have been made by many members of the government benches and by the kinds of experiments that have been indulged in by the present administration.

We take as a first step, Mr. Speaker, the two sides and remove the cold war zone that exists between them now and put them back together in communication, and we would ask further that the Manitoba Health Services Commission include on its board of directors a directly elected representative from the Manitoba Medical Association rather than someone who is selected by this government. Mr. Speaker, essentially we'd ask the opinions of the profession and the related professions. We'd ask them what needed to be done to make sure that the two goals I've talked about are pursued and met rather than indulging in fancy and fantasy with theorists who are not involved in the day-to-day delivery of medical service and the day-to-day performance of practitioners in the profession. We would deal with the two sides as equal partners in a Manitoba partnership, not a Manitoba confrontation. And that's what's happened here, Mr. Speaker, under the present administration, there's confrontation

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) now between those two sides.

Mr. Speaker, one area of irresponsible tinkering and experiment and extemporaneous off-the-cuff damaging remark has come in the field and in the discussion of community clinics. We have said from the outset that we have no doctrinaire opposition to community clinics as such, but unless the concept can meet the two requirements, can you bring health care costs into line through the initiation of them and can you improve health care delivery, what is the logical and reasonable purpose in throwing out the existing practices and the existing institutional organizations that we have for an untried framework? That in fact is a framework in deep question in many jurisdictions in this country.

The Ontario Medical Association, Mr. Speaker, insists in recent papers on the subject that health care costs and medical costs are greater under the community clinic system than they are under the existing private practice institution type of operation that is common to Canada today. The question that this Minister has to answer when he faces the concept of community clinics and what he and this government would like to do about them is this. What is a community clinic, Mr. Speaker? What is a community clinic? How many services would this Minister and this government tie in to a community clinic operation, because you can't increase services and hold down costs, and unless he can answer the question as to what's involved, then he can't prove to me or to Manitobans or I would suspect to any of his intelligent colleagues that there's anything to be said for introducing community clinics. I'd like this Minister to tell me what he thinks a community clinic is supposed to be.

MR. TOUPIN: I told you already; you don't understand.

MR. SHERMAN: How many services and related services are involved? And then I'd like him to tell me how many of those services are going to cost -- what the cost of those services are going to be, and how much increase in cost there is going to be to the taxpayers of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Minister this question point blank. Will the taxpayer carry the burden, for example, of the expense of running a practice? He's never faced that question in his approach to community clinics in this Chamber.

MR. TOUPIN: Do you want me to answer you?

MR. SHERMAN: The average . . . yes, I'd like him to answer me when he speaks. The average general practitioner in Manitoba earns about \$45,000 a year, Mr. Speaker. That's the average general practitioner. He earns about \$45,000 a year. His expenses, Mr. Speaker, run to \$15,000 a year. His income tax runs to another approximate 12 to \$15,000 a year. His net income is in the neighbourhood of 20 to \$23,000. Now the members opposite may think that that's an exorbitant salary. The members opposite -- (Interjection)-- Yes, the members opposite may think that that's an exorbitant salary for a professional, Mr. Speaker, but I'm not concerned with whether they think that's an exorbitant salary for a professional or not, an exorbitant net income. What I am concerned with is this, that if you take the \$45,000 figure as the average gross income for a general practitioner, and if you allow for the expenses, if the government is going to set up general practitioners in community clinics, it's going to mean that the government in effect is going to be paying the doctors more than they would otherwise earn in private practice because the expenses will be taken care of in the operation of the community clinic. I ask the Minister whether the taxpayer, I ask the Minister whether the taxpayer will carry the burden of that additional expense of running a practice.

The Minister of Mines and Resources says how come they're not chasing after us to get that kind of a setup. Because they happen to be, in the main, independentists who don't want to be. They don't want to be clocked in and clocked out eight hours a day five days a week by a government bureaucrat. Mr. Speaker, what the Minister of Mines and the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Health and all their colleagues in all their cat-calling fail to realize and have always failed to realize from the day they went into politics is that some people don't want to be ordered around on a timetable by a government bureaucrat. The incentive . . . Let me put it this way. -- (Interjection) -- Let me put it this way. -- (Interjection) -- Let me put it this way in language that they may not understand. The incentive to hustle won't be there, gentlemen, the incentive to hustle simply won't be there.

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) -- (Interjection) -- So the result, Mr. Speaker, will be that the government or the taxpayers, it's the same thing, will be paying more for reduced services from the doctor, paying more for a doctor who will only work from 8:00 to 4:00 or 9:00 to 5:00 and then by golly he'll be gone because there'll be no incentive for him to do the kind of things in private ministrations to his patients that he does now if he's operating in that kind of a setup where the government is paying him more than he'd make in his private practice.

Well a few years ago, a few years ago, Mr. Speaker, there was an expression that some of my honourable friends opposite may have heard; "More bang for a buck", and what it reflected was a condition in industry -- and this was particularly during World War II -- when expense dollars and going into the defence industries produced armour and other weaponry necessary at that time, that delivered more effectiveness and more efficiency for less money spent, and the old expression was: "More bang for a buck". Well I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that under this kind of setup that we would have with the community clinics system and we would have with regimented bureaucratized doctors, we'd have in the medical field a lot less bang for a buck. The government would be paying more, the taxpayer would be paying more, and the delivery would be less. The product that the consumer would be getting would be less.

Mr. Speaker, there are areas of course in the province where the community clinic concept is worth consideration and application. There are under-serviced areas in the province where we would like to see a community clinic concept type of institution introduced. And the Green Paper, as a matter of fact, makes note of this, but that's not the only solution to the problem of under-serviced areas. No matter how justifiable the case is for delivering better medical services to areas that are under-serviced, the government still has to answer the question to the taxpayer, Mr. Speaker, as to how much is it going to cost to take the service into those areas. How much are they going to spend to service those under-serviced areas?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The hour of 5:30 having arrived, I'm now leaving the Chair to return at 8:00 p. m.