

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Monday, March 26, 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 60 students of Grade 8 standing of the John Henderson Junior High. These students are under the direction of Miss June McTavish. This school is located in the constituency of Rossmere, the Honourable First Minister's. On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here today.

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

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q. C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Release made by the Manitoba Flood Forecasting Committee as a result of its second meeting which was held on March 22nd, 1973.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other ministerial statements or reports? Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Member for Osborne.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS - 24, 27, 28

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

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac Du Bonnet) introduced Bill No. 24, an Act to amend The Crop Insurance Act.

MR. HARRY SHAFRANSKY (Radisson), in the absence of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon, introduced Bill No. 27, an Act to amend The Flin Flon Charter.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West) introduced Bill No. 28, an Act to amend The Brandon Charter (2).

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER: (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last and I believe earlier last week as well, the Member for Riel had asked a question relative to a study that was prepared for the Department of Indian Affairs by someone in their employ or hired as a consultant by them, a study known as the Dillon Study or Report. I undertook to check. The report does exist; it was submitted some time ago; there is, in my opinion, no reason why it could not be made available to my honourable friend. However, there is the one problem, that it's been prepared for the Government of Canada, one of its departments. So we can handle it one of two ways: either the Honourable Member for Riel can communicate directly to the Indian Affairs Branch, Regional Office, Winnipeg or, if there is any reason he'd prefer otherwise, I can make inquiry and try to obtain clearance for making the report available.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (Leader of the Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day my question is to the Minister of Urban Affairs and this deals with the Winnipeg Art Gallery. I wonder if he can inform the House why the Provincial Government has not settled the policy with respect to the Winnipeg Art Gallery and has allowed the building to receive notice of tax sale by the City of Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education) (Burrows): I believe, Mr. Speaker, this matter comes within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (St. Boniface): Well, Mr. Speaker, this is something that has been discussed with the Art Gallery on numerous occasions. We've informed the Art Gallery that if they wanted to bring in a bill it would be up to them to let us know what they wanted, we would discuss it with them. They were informed of this and we've been waiting now for a question of months. We haven't heard from them.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question to the Minister of Tourism. I wonder if he can inform the House whether the government was aware that the Art Gallery Building would be up for tax sale by the City of Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, if you remember right the Art Gallery decided to build there at the time the property - - they were the owner of the property and the building and this is something that they were - - I think that they discussed this with the Mayor at the time. The Mayor assured them verbally that there wouldn't be any taxes; they made an application for a grant and at that time they were told that let's settle one thing at a time, make sure that there's a bill introduced enabling the City not to charge them tax, and it is up to the City. This is nothing to do with the Provincial Government at this stage but we're ready to co-operate with them. We're awaiting a request from them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: One more supplementary to the Minister. Does he consider that the application for a grant is still pending before the government, the grant by the Art Gallery to the government? Does he consider that still pending before them now?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, you will be able to - - all the members will be able to question me on that during my estimates and you will see that they received the grant from the Province of Manitoba. This is something else. They were requesting a grant from the City. It's been the policy of the government, things involving recreation and culture such as this to have a contribution from three levels of government. We've done, I would say, more than our share. Now they're negotiating with the City of Winnipeg and I don't know why these questions are brought in today.

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

MR. I. H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Industry. My question relates to the Trade Fair, the Chinese Trade Fair, at which some 500 Canadian Government and business officials participated last fall. Could the Minister tell us how many Government of Manitoba trade officials attended the fair seeking new markets for Manitoba production?

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, if my memory does not fail me there were two officials of the Department of Industry and Commerce, my Deputy Minister and my Assistant Deputy Minister. Now I can check the records but I believe those were the two individuals.

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

MR. ASPER: Can the Minister instruct or advise the House on what trade prospects he feels may result from our participation, what prospects we have for developing new trade with China for Manitoba?

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that the honourable member is asking a very very general question, one which would take a long time to answer. I think that the Federal Government, the Honourable Jean Luc Pepin, the former Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, has made a great effort to stimulate trade between Canada and China, and indeed this was the reason for the Federal Government of Canada sponsoring this particular participation. I might add that I believe every one of the ten Canadian provinces sent official government representation in order to see what could be done in order to stimulate trade. I think there are a number of commodities that lend great potential but I don't think, Mr. Speaker, the question period is necessarily the place to discuss in detail the trade prospects.

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

MR. ASPER: Does the Government of Manitoba Department of Industry have any plans for further Manitoba missions or establishing a Manitoba Trade Mission or permanent trade office in China?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member should know that the establishment and maintenance of a trade office in a foreign country is indeed a very expensive matter, and our policy thus far has been to rely upon the Federal Government which has trade offices around the world, and, Mr. Speaker, my experience has been that the Canadian trade offices around the world will give you very good service if you take the opportunity to utilize their programs and their officers.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. I was hoping, Sir, that Hansard for Friday last would be printed and available but I note that it is not, and so I will have to deal with the matter as best I can from recollection. It has to do with I believe the members for - - the honourable members for Portage la Prairie and Rupertsland. I'm in the unfortunate position, Sir, of having missed part of the question of privilege that had arisen Friday morning. I indicated to the Member for Portage that Manitoba Hydro was no longer placing advertisements for promotion of energy consumption, and in particular relative to winter heating. Perhaps the best way I could explain this, Sir, would be to present to the two honourable gentlemen with copies for the table, Sir, a chart. In accordance with the old Chinese saying that a picture is worth a thousand words, I believe a chart is worth at least 500 words, and so if the Pages would simply take these two charts to the two honourable gentlemen and three for the table, it will enable me to explain what the reality of Mr. Johnston - - (the Honourable Members for Portage and Rupertsland and three for Mr. Clerk.) Honourable members will note that in the current fiscal year, which has only another month to run, that the advertising budget of Manitoba Hydro has been reduced by more than - - it's been more than cut in half, and with respect to direct agency placement it has been reduced from \$180,000 down to \$2,000, a rather dramatic change in one year, but honourable members will note that Manitoba Hydro continues to participate in the Alberta-Saskatchewan-Manitoba Farm Light and Power newspaper or publication, and I suppose - - (Interjection) - - It is, a very good paper, but there is a certain element of promotion in there and that's understandable - and I think desirable - and they also continue to participate in a Co-op advertising program or shared - by that I mean with the electrical equipment manufacturers, distributors, retailers, they continue to participate in that, in fact at an increased amount slightly. But the overall budget of Manitoba Hydro for promotion has been reduced from \$200,000 down to \$90,000 and its direct advertising from \$180,000 down to \$2,000, so I don't believe that the Member for Portage would want to conclude that in any way I was giving him wrong information. Though technically, Sir, I agree with my honourable friend the Member for Portage that he was not entirely wrong when he asked about that particular ad, he was half wrong, which means by definition he was half right, and we'll let it go at that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

ORAL QUESTIONS (cont'd)

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. In view of the rising costs of living and inflation, will the government consider abolishing Medicare premiums for all Manitobans?

MR. SPEAKER: Policy question. The question is out of order. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. JEAN ALLARD (Rupertsland): . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. There can be no supplementary to something that's out of order. It would be out of order too. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. ALLARD: I have a question to the First Minister and it relates to the sheet he has just given us. Could he advise the House whether he is going to have or has had another talk with Hydro over the fact that their co-op advertising has doubled this year from last year even if in fact they were coming down in their direct advertising. There seems to be a case of selling it as sheep when you couldn't sell it as a goat.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the policy desire is clear and it has been communicated to Manitoba Hydro; it is a matter of degree, but if the Honourable Member for Rupertsland will look at the chart he will see that while it is true that their budget for the shared or co-operative advertising with the electrical industry, while it has increased by some \$37,700, their direct advertising has been decreased by \$178,000 so that there is a net reduction of approximately a hundred and what? A hundred and thirty thousand dollars. Oh more than that. A hundred and fifty thousand - no; no. Their co-op advertising program has increased by some

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) \$37,000; their direct advertising has been reduced by \$178,000 for a net reduction of about . . .

MR. SPEAKER: One forty-one.

MR. SCHREYER: A hundred and forty-one thousand. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Urban Affairs. I wonder if he can indicate to the House why the government has not approved a form of municipal tax notice to be sent out by the City of Winnipeg, the form?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I'll take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker, but I'm just wondering whether questions asking for reasons why the government did or did not pursue a certain course of action or do a certain thing really fall within the rules of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'll ask the Honourable Minister for another question to be taken as notice then. Has the Provincial Government offered the City reimbursement for any financial loss that arises as a consequence of the notices of municipal taxes being sent out late and being collected late?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I'll take it as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the First Minister who answers for the public utilities. Could he advise the House whether or not the co-op advertising program of Manitoba Hydro will continue to indirectly push the sale of electric heat?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the co-op or shared type of advertising program which involves Manitoba Hydro in partnership in promotion with the electrical manufacturing and distribution industry is one that's been existing for a number of years. We would not like to see any pattern of continued escalation but I point out, with your help, Sir, that the overall expenditure on promotion has been reduced by \$140,000 in the last twelve-month period, and that is a matter in which we should take considerable satisfaction.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer Affairs. I wonder if he can indicate whether the government has received any complaints about the operation of income tax services in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. A. H. MACKLING, Q.C. (Attorney-General and Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (St. James): When the Honourable Leader of the Opposition uses the word "complaints" I assume he means any letters or concerns evidenced to the Consumers' Branch. I'm not aware of that, although I am aware of the general concern for what is considered by some to be very unconscionable practice and we have had occasions to make representation to the Federal Government for changes in the laws which basically are federal in nature governing this whole area. To date they have either neglected or refused to respond to our concerns.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question. Will the government be taking any additional supplementary action as a result of the investigation and the complaints in Ontario that are now being studied by the Ontario government?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, the area of the law is not as clear and simple. There is obviously jurisdiction on the part of the Federal Government in much of the area of the law dealing with the subject matter; there may be some jurisdiction for the province and we are making investigations and have had investigations going on as to what scope the province has in the field.

MR. SPIVAK: My question is to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder if he can indicate whether his department has had recent conversations with CAE about the recent layoffs at their overhaul facilities.

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MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the department is in constant touch with the aerospace industry in Manitoba and I would say never a week goes by when we are in communication in one form or another. I have not personally been in touch with CAE or vice versa. I could take the question as notice if the honourable member is interested in exactly who's been talking to who.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder if he can indicate whether the government, whether he or his department or the government have supported CAE's application to have the overhaul facilities extended and added to, to be able to allow them to be able to overhaul for Air Canada the Lockheed, Tri-Star, Boeing 707 and the potential of the DC10. Has the government assisted in their application to the Federal Government?

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, prior to the convening of this session, I had an opportunity to speak to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Transport and the Minister of National Defense, and in each case we discussed the future of the aerospace industry in Manitoba which of course includes CAE. I believe we have had some direct concern with CAE. However, the degree to which we assist or back up CAE partly depends upon the request made by that company of us. In some cases, I'm not suggesting any specific instance but in some cases a company wishes to be left alone to do its own thing.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary. Did CAE request the Provincial Government for assistance in their presentation to the Federal Government about expanding the existing facilities that they now have for overhaul facilities to be able to overhaul the three types of planes for Air Canada I mentioned? Have they requested the government for assistance?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition will have to be a little more specific because, as he will know, they did request us to provide assistance some time past, indeed I think we hired a DC8 and took 250-odd or whatever the number is that the aircraft can hold to Ottawa to assist CAE in maintenance of employment. I would like him to be a little more explicit in his questions, Sir.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, on this point I'll ask the question again. My understanding that CAE had made an application to the Federal Government with a proposal to expand the existing facilities in Winnipeg to be able to overhaul the three planes, the Lockheed 3, Tri-Star, Boeing 707 and the potential of the DC10 for Air Canada. Did CAE ask support from the Provincial Government for its recent application asking that these facilities, that the overhaul capacity be handled in Winnipeg?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I have not received such a direct request from CAE but we'll check the files. There may have been some communication at the officials' level.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, in further reply to the Member for Portage la Prairie, I would not like to leave the impression with him, as I may have in my last reply, that the matter of Manitoba Hydro promotion is a simple matter and there is very much an iron-clad policy directive. As the honourable member can appreciate, the policy certainly is not intended to in any way handcuff or impede Manitoba Hydro's ability to promote such use of energy as is most compatible with its system's capacity. By that I mean, Sir, that if there is promotions, for example, through farm light and power, which is promotion of farm use of electricity, promotion of energy that is to take place during off peak hours, during the summer season and during the winter off peak hours, this is regarded as compatible and really desirable with Manitoba Hydro System's capacity and there is no desire to in any way impede that type of promotion. I hope this clarifies it a little more. It is rather an intricate matter, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite sure who to direct the question to, either to the First Minister or the Minister of Agriculture. Has the government given advice or made recommendations to farmers in Manitoba re evaluation for capital gains tax purposes?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: This particular matter, Mr. Speaker, has been under discussion by departmental people, as I understand it, throughout the province. We've had seminars, workshops, things of that nature; so to that extent I would say we were involved.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the First Minister. I noted with interest as a livestock producer Radio Station CKY's opposition to the current meat boycott that is being presented to the people of Manitoba. I wonder if the First Minister could indicate the government's position on that very important matter.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there is no government position as such that would in any way favour that promotion campaign. I have been asked about the matter by a person who is mutually known to us who is involved in one of these regular shows, and at the time I indicated that one has to look at the current level of farm commodity prices in the livestock industry in the context of where it's been over a period of years, and that really for the first time in a long long time there is some opportunity for farmers and food producers to catch up to the point where they really ought to have been all along but because of farm policy our country they were being in a net income disadvantage position for, I would say, a generation.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I had a supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture. Did the Federal Government make any recommendations to the Provincial Government in this matter?

MR. USKIW: I'm not aware of any officially, that is not at the ministerial level, Mr. Speaker. Presumably there may have been some discussions at the staff level.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister. Are steps being taken to remove hospital administrative responsibility for the Gillam Hospital from Manitoba Hydro?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I believe that certain officials of the Department of Health and Social Development would be making some further inquiries and an analysis of the situation. I think it's relevant to advise my honourable friend that the whole question of local government at Gillam, both with respect to general municipal matters and hospital administration as well, is one which can be brought to a more satisfactory conclusion during the next 12-month period. It is my understanding that a local advisory group will be elected for the first time this spring, I think it's just a matter of days, at most just a week or two from now if it hasn't taken place already, and what is proposed, Sir, is to turn all relevant facts and figures, statistical data relative to municipal finance, local assessment, etc. over to this elected advisory group of citizens, so that they would be in a position to make an intelligent recommendation to their fellow citizens at Gillam. If it is their conclusion, Sir, that there ought to be local government in the normal conventional sense, then we certainly will not waste any time in getting to that point.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: A supplementary question to the same Minister. How many other hospitals does Manitoba Hydro run?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not certain that there are any other hospitals as such that Manitoba Hydro runs. They at different points of time in the past, would have had nursing and rather a complete set of first aid services, etc. at various construction sites, at various construction program times, but as to formal hospitals as such I am not aware that Manitoba Hydro operates any other hospital but I will check and get more precise information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. The last supplementary.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Could the Minister also then tell us whether the Gillam Hospital is accredited and when it was last inspected?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health & Social Development) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, the Gillam Hospital is accredited; I cannot indicate the last time that it was inspected. I can inform the honourable member that three officials of the Health Services Commission were at Gillam last Sunday (yesterday) for two public meetings, one that was held at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon and the other one in the evening at 8:00 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. Can the Minister clarify, is it true or not that MDC may lose or have a financial loss in the \$8.5 million in Saunders Aircraft as reported in the Financial Post. Perhaps the Minister can either reject this or clarify it to the members of the House.

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MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I indicated to honourable members that I wasn't going to, on Orders of the Day, answer as to the health or lack of health of any companies that are in either a loan or equity position with the MDC; that the MDC position with respect to those companies will be outlined at the Committee on Economic Development when it meets.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Well, would the Minister either reject or clarify the statement or do we have to get the reports from the newspapers in Toronto?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. If the honourable member is asking whether the Minister will verify something that's been in the press - I didn't catch the implication at the beginning and that may be my error - but if it was asking whether there was a press statement and it was correct or not, that is against our rules. The honourable member should take a look at Citation 171. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to the Minister: when can we get the information?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member should be aware that on at least three occasions, as I've indicated, the Chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation will be reporting at the Committee on Economic Development with regard to the activities of the corporation.

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

MR. PATRICK: Is the government's position secure in this loan?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the information with regard to details of the loan will be made available at the committee. The honourable member asks a question which depends on evaluating not only the existing goodwill, the existing assets, but the potential future of the company.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. I would like to ask him what programs the department has embarked on to combat the rising incidence of rustling in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I believe we are under the Minister's department in respect to estimates. That question would be better asked at that time. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question's to the First Minister and relates to the answer he gave the Honourable Member from Fort Rouge on the Gillam situation. In view of the fact that approximately 50 percent or better of the people of Gillam have signed a petition asking for regular local government, elected local government, why is it necessary for the government to go through the process, the outline, and thereby deprive them for a whole year of local government on an elected democratic basis?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know what my honourable friend is comparing the situation to. There are a number of communities in the province which are communities which originated because of the construction and later operation of a Manitoba Hydro generating plant. These communities have had their origination way back as early as the 1920's, some in the 1940's and some in the 50's etc., and the question of whether or not there would be local government is one that was dealt with a certain way in years gone by. I have already indicated that that is no longer acceptable nor desirable. There is a petition which has made a certain request that is contended - - However, it is alleged to me that the citizens did not really have the full facts and information relative to assessment base relative to local tax loads. It is proposed, therefore, that since there is to be now very very soon, a matter of days I believe, a locally elected advisory council, that they be given all of this information to study and to consult with their fellow citizens and to make a crisp recommendation, and certainly the government would be inclined to follow the essence of the recommendation. I believe that answers my honourable friend's point.

MR. ASPER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Taking into account the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs' answer several weeks ago, or a week or two ago to my question, can the First Minister confirm that the Municipal Department or any department of government will go to Gillam and instruct the public in their rights to form a totally independent legal town in the near future?

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MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that is something which I don't believe requires any large delegation or task force to advise the local people of their rights. Certainly that has been done and can be done in a much more expeditious and simple and less costly way. And if he's not, Mr. Speaker, contrary to the assumption of my honourable friend's question, it need not take a whole year; as a matter of fact it's a process which could be accomplished, I would suggest, in as short a time as three or four months.

While I'm on my feet, Sir, I should also advise the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge that, pursuant to meetings yesterday, that there was indication given that there is a vacancy in the local hospital administration board and that provision will be made in the interim before self-government for a person to be appointed on there, the representative of the citizenry at large rather than a representative of Manitoba Hydro directly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce. It relates to the financial problems which are now experienced by the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium and the possibility that the Auditorium may be forced to close on April 4th because of inability to meet its operating deficits. My question to the Minister is could he tell the House if he participated in the drawing up in 1971 of a draft agreement between the City of Brandon, Brandon University, the Auditorium and the Province of Manitoba in respect to providing a joint undertaking covering operating deficits?

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I believe the discussions relating to what the honourable member is referring to officially involved the Minister at that time of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs as, we believe, the responsible Minister. I participated in an informal manner.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, again to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. On the basis of that draft agreement, was Brandon University encouraged to turn over the proceeds of a grant of one mill from the City to the Auditorium for its operating purposes?

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, the University of Brandon is an autonomous body and it may do with that particular one mill that the honourable member is referring to as it so chooses. It has complete discretionary authority in this respect.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, again to the Minister. On the basis of the urgency of the matter and the possibility that the bank may foreclose as of April 4th, is the government prepared then to ratify it as the one remaining signature required in order that the university can pay over this one mill grant this year.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe I should be the Minister who has to stand up and attempt to answer the honourable member's questions because it is not in my purview.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I believe the honourable member has had two supplementaries to his original.

MR. MCGILL: May I direct a question to the First Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the First Minister if, on the basis of this urgent situation, is he prepared to say whether or not his government will ratify this agreement and enable the university to pay over this mill?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Industry and Commerce has already indicated, Brandon University is not precluded from paying over that one mill in accordance with the understanding that was arrived at several months, many months ago. My honourable friend the Member for Brandon West should be advised, and I believe he is aware, that there have been a number of additional financial obligations that have been accepted by the Province of Manitoba because of certain previous undertakings entered into for the construction of this and that, which really went beyond the fiscal capacity of the City of Brandon according to their presentations and which argument we accepted in part. That being so, the question of this one particular mill, I think it has to do - and I say this in a half bantering way - with the fact that

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) it has been offered by the City for two different purposes and one mill can hardly be dedicated twice, Sir, particularly when it's the same mill. But we'll get that ironed out and I don't believe there's any matter of great urgency. I think the City of Brandon has found the Province of Manitoba to be most amenable to discussing with them their problems.

MR. MCGILL: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the draft agreement of 1971 still before your government and is it still being considered as an agreement which will be ratified?

MR. SCHREYER: If necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister. A moment ago he praised the Hydro in their eliminating of \$140,000 in advertising. Mr. Speaker, my question is: Does the First Minister agree with Hydro policy denying the weekly press of this business?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of that particular suggestion, Sir. I have here a newspaper which is, I believe, a weekly or a monthly edition called, Farm Light and Power, as the Member for Lakeside has indicated informally across the floor. It's an excellent newspaper, Sir; it's very useful to the farmers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. I trust that they will continue with that program. Insofar as the weekly newspapers are concerned I have a very definite feeling of affinity to the rural weeklies but I am not in charge of Manitoba Hydro's advertising campaign in all its detail. I will merely convey the thought of the question to Manitoba Hydro.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I have two questions for the First Minister. The first one has to do with Rattan. Could he indicate what's the earliest time the people of Rattan Lake could achieve self government under the terms of the present agreement? . . . Leaf Rapids.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I will have to check the files on this and for the moment I can reply to my honourable friend only in the following manner, that certainly the agreement relative to the Leaf Rapids Townsite was drafted with one of the principal objectives in mind, was one of conversion to local full self-government at the earliest possible date and I think a maximum on that was put at three years and hopefully sooner.

MR. BOROWSKI: I have another question for the First Minister. Mr. Speaker, I've asked this question several times without any action being taken. In view of the four escapes from Headingly Jail over the weekend, I wonder if the First Minister could indicate whether his government's going to take any action to make it a little more difficult for them to escape from Headingly.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, as my honourable friend will appreciate, I'm hardly in a position to answer that question in any specific terms. I share with the Honourable Member for Thompson a perplexity as to just what is going on in society in recent years relative to the way in which offenders to society are allowed this and that kind of rehabilitative privilege, whether it's a case of allowing some to become board and roomers with old age pensioners, as tried by Mr. Goyer, or whether it's a case of allowing them out on weekends with or without escorts, etc. I share a perplexity and I do not pretend that I have any answers.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. J. R. (Bud) BOYCE (Winnipeg Centre): I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Speaker. In light of the question from the Leader of the Liberal Party, I wonder if the Minister could indicate to the House when the report of the committee of this Legislature, made up of representatives from all parties in the House, will be filing their report on local government districts, including the local government district of Gillam?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, the fact is that the committee did meet and the report is being prepared. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party may not be aware of that, and the report will be tabled in the House very very shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the First Minister and refer him back to farm light and power. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to the House the amount that farm light and power will increase before the next election?

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MR. SCHREYER: . . . my honourable friend, is he referring to advertising rates?

MR. WATT: Referring to the cost of Hydro power.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe that Manitoba Hydro, like all utilities or most utilities certainly, follows a policy of I believe five to seven year rate adjustment cycles, and that when a rate is adjusted then a stabilization reserve is established which enables the utility to sell its power at that given price. Three or four years after it has been last adjusted they start running into deficit and that's when the stabilization reserve is drawn upon, and in the seventh year or thereabouts they go to the Utility Board or they go for another rate increase. And I believe my honourable friend, if he will refresh his memory, will recall that the last increase was 1968, and so some time in the future there will be another adjustment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Education and ask him in view of his announcement of Friday if he would provide to the House the information of assessments, balanced assessments per pupil of each division in Manitoba, so that his statement will be complete and we can understand it all with the same information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I think, Mr. Speaker, that question could be more appropriately answered during debate on my Estimates.

MR. GIRARD: I'd like to ask another question in view of the previous answer, which is a delay, if the Minister. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would suggest to the honourable member that he do not cast aspersions on any member of this House.

MR. GIRARD: Well, Mr. Speaker, his answer means a delay.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I will not have the question debated with my rulings. The honourable member may ask another question.

MR. GIRARD: Mr. Speaker, in view of his answer of the previous question, I wonder if the Minister would undertake to provide the letter he has assured me I would receive some weeks ago.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will today.

MR. GIRARD: I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Universities and Colleges and ask him if he has an answer to the questions I submitted last week?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Universities and Colleges.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Colleges and Universities) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I thought he'd never ask. The answers are as follows: The students in IMPACTE - there are 59 students in the IMPACTE Program at Brandon; the name of the person at the Student Placement Office is not a male, is not a man, it's Marilyn Keeley and she is the person to contact at the Student Placement Office, 1181 Portage.

MR. GIRARD: Yes, Mr. Speaker. In view of those answers, or that particular answer dealing with the IMPACTE Program, I wonder if the Minister would like to confirm the information given previously that we have 64 full-time teachers and we have 59 students.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, that's a very cute way of putting it but it's not factual. The word "full-time" is somewhat misleading. Full-time means a student employed by a school board full-time; it does not mean that these teachers are full-time, full-time occupations involved with these students in the IMPACTE Program. This is a training study program where future teachers are trained in a somewhat different than traditional manner, and they do take some of their practice teaching, their intern teaching in classrooms, and they may spend one or two or three months with a teacher and then go on to another classroom. So there are more, far more teachers involved in the program than would be students because the student may simply spend a very short time with any one teacher.

MR. GIRARD: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct another question to the same Minister then, and ask him if there are some teachers who work full-time with the IMPACTE Program.

MR. MILLER: That is possible but nothing like the number of 64. I didn't count them, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. Is it true that his department has made some estimates of out-migration

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(MR. BARKMAN cont'd) of people from rural areas and, if so, does the Minister have any information available now on this out-migration of people of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): No. Offhand, my answer, Mr. Speaker, would be no, I haven't the information available but I will undertake to find out what information we have and, being an open department, if I have it I can assure my honourable friend he will receive it.

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

MR. JAMES WALDING (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. Could he inform the House if he is planning any action to terminate the Elevator Operators' Strike?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, this has been a matter of deep concern to all citizens in Manitoba, I am sure, and has been the subject matter of many questions in the House. I am pleased to announce to the House that just as I entered the Assembly this afternoon I was informed that instructions have gone out by the negotiating team for the construction industry in Ontario, that the proposal of the Local 102 of the construction workers is agreed upon, the Local itself has agreed upon the terms, and I am told by the business representative that the men will be returning to work tomorrow morning.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Education. I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether or not the Department has had occasion to reach a decision with respect to those people residing in the Oak Point community that have now on several occasions petitioned the department to be allowed to be transferred out of the Whitehorse Plains School Division to the Lakeshore School Division, and to have their children attend the school at Lundar?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, there are many petitions of this type presented to the Board of Reference from time to time; that one I'll have to take it as notice and check on the present status of it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary question. It's my understanding, and I believe it's the knowledge the Minister has, it's knowledge that the Board of Reference has sat on this matter. Has the Board of Reference passed on a recommendation to the Minister?

MR. HANUSCHAK: No, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ASPER: To the First Minister, Mr. Speaker, in his capacity as Minister of Finance. I believe he took the question as notice but I'm not sure - a few weeks ago I asked - has the government received the report for the operations of CFI complex for the year ended December 31, 1972, and if so, when will it be made available to this House as it was last year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I believe I did answer that question. Perhaps it was at a moment when the Honourable Leader was otherwise preoccupied. But I can advise him again that the report was filed with the Court; it is a matter of public record, therefore, already. I believe that the Minister reporting for the MDC is in a position to provide a copy of that report, which is already available, and I leave it to him as to when it's most appropriate to do so.

MR. ASPER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the First Minister referring to the audited financial statement or the report on operations that we received last year, the detail of production, the detail of sales - the kraft paper report that we received last year?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I was referring to the audited report which is provided to the court for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1972. If my honourable friend is now referring to a detailed operating report, that is something which would be more appropriately dealt with at the committee. Now I'm not sure which report he's referring to.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, the question that I referred to and to the First Minister as having had notice taken, there were two questions. One dealt with the Touche, Ross audited statement, which I understand you answered previously in the House. The second report I referred to was the paper report that we received last year, not in committee as I understand it, but on kraft paper, the Brown Report, describing the entire operation of sales, projections

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(MR. ASPER cont'd) and future employment prospects that we were told we would receive this year, and perhaps the question now may be directed to the Minister responsible.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that that kind of report is what the honourable members may expect to receive although I'm not saying it won't be. I'm indicating that with respect to the corporations in which the Crown has an equity or in which the Crown has made advances, that details as to the Crown's position will be made available to honourable members at the Committee on Economic Development. It may be that with regard to Churchill Forest Industries there will be such a report but I won't make a commitment to that effect because I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ASPER: . . . to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation. Does the Government of Manitoba have such a report?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, we got into this kind of a hassle last week. It may be that we have. I don't recall personally seeing the report. Perhaps the honourable member has a copy, I don't know.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

POINT OF ORDER - RESTRICTIONS IN ANSWERS

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I now rise on a point of order. My point of order has to do with the extent to which details can be reasonably asked for, particularly when such detail has to do with aspects of operations that might, if revealed, impede or impinge on the competitive position of a commercial operation that is in a competitive field. And if it's of any help to you, Sir, and to honourable members, I am prepared to refer here to an enumerated list of conditions under which information in the federal House is not provided, and this is something that has just been brought down, Sir, and I would like very much to refer to it only briefly, that the Government of Canada - to some extent there's precedent here, Sir - would want to make available such material as possible without threatening security, rights to privacy, and other such matters, and then goes on to apply a list of restrictions which I am not suggesting we have adopted here, Sir, but which include the following restrictions:

Legal opinions or advice provided for government use,

Papers that would damage security or international relations,

Documents that could harm federal-provincial relations,

Papers that could result in direct personal financial loss by any person or group of persons.

Papers reflecting on an individual's personal confidence.

Documents so massive they would require an inordinate cost or length of time to prepare.

Papers relating to Senate business or documents that would cause personal embarrassment to the Queen or members of the Royal Family.

Documents related to a contract that has not yet been concluded.

Papers excluded from disclosure by law.

Cabinet documents plus those which include a confidence of the Privy Council.

Confidential papers that are not of public or official character.

International departmental memorandum.

Papers submitted in confidence to the government from outside sources.

In the case of consultant studies a decision is to be made in advance on whether it should ultimately be released or not, etc.

Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that we have made it clear on many occasions that documents that have been prepared at public expense, unless it relates to matters under current negotiation, personnel relations within the public service or matters that have to do with security and which is academic in the case of a provincial context, will be made available. In the case of a commercial Crown corporation, all information is made available that will not, however, impinge on or weaken the commercial position of that enterprise.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, the point of order that the First Minister raises, raised in the context of a question to the Minister responsible for a Crown corporation, perhaps taken separately might have been different, but he raising it at this stage of the discussion I suggest is a very dangerous suggestion to this House because it's a thin edge of a movement by the

POINT OF ORDER - RESTRICTIONS

(MR. ASPER cont'd) government away from disclosure into more secrecy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the First Minister is suggesting to the House that you rule out of order questions, or that the government will now adopt a view that they will not respond or make information available to questions dealing with Crown corporation activities. Now, Mr. Speaker, if the First Minister is simply saying that he requests a ruling in this House that the government not make available information relative to personnel, there'll be no quarrel, and if there is suggestion of revealing information which would impair current negotiations, no quarrel. But to raise it in the context of a question asking when will we, the elected representatives of the people of Manitoba, receive the report of the operations of the biggest Crown corporation, \$100 million, the biggest in recent years outside of our public utilities, Mr. Speaker, is setting the stage for one further retreat from openness, and I would ask that the point of order, that the point of order, Mr. Speaker, is very badly taken and very much out of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. Let me suggest -- first of all, let me thank both honourable members for their point of view in respect to the point of order that was raised. I should like to indicate that much of what the Honourable First Minister raised in regard to the usage in the House of Commons is already a practice here and on occasion it's probably the Chair's laxity in not enforcing it that has allowed some of the members a little more leeway than normally would be allowed under our rules. I do think, though, that in regard to the points of order raised by both members, that if we would just adhere to what we have been doing in the past, Beauchesne's 171, the honourable member would not be in the difficulty we're in at the moment. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: I suppose my point of order really would come down to this, Sir, that whereas there is really a multiplicity of restrictions that govern in other jurisdictions, that here we have made it quite clear that instead of 13 or 14 restrictions we have only three, and we have repeated what these are a number of times; that the honourable member ought to be really quite specific as to the nature of the document he wishes and should pursue by way of Address for Papers or Order for Return so that we would have the precise nature of the document that he wishes requested in a formal way so it can be dealt with properly. There is no other intention, Sir, in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. This relates really to what I consider as the undertaking by the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources in the discussion as to what would happen in the committee stage, the committee stage of Economic Development with respect to Manitoba Development Corporation matters, and if I'm correct, based on the explanation given by the Minister, then there will be an undertaking by the government to furnish the information when requested by the members. Now my understanding is that there is an undertaking to furnish the information when requested by the members with respect to current matters when we deal with the particular Crown corporations in which there is equity or in which there is some receivership problem, and on that basis it would appear to me that the committee stage will be the place for these questions to be asked and answered.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, if the honourable member will go back to Hansard and look at the undertaking that I gave, I said that there would be no refusal to answer on the basis that the date of the statement pre-dated the question that is being asked. There may not be an answer on the basis of the corporation's feeling that the answer is not properly one which it would give. I made no undertaking that every question would be answered. What I did say is that the fact that it was current would not be a reason for not answering if that was the only reason, that we wouldn't have a cutoff date based on the last statement. If the honourable member will refer to Hansard he'll see that that was my undertaking.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition. We're on the oral questions, we're not debating any more.

ORAL QUESTIONS (Cont'd)

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. To the Mines Minister. Would he give the House this undertaking, which would satisfy the Liberal Party in the House, that the information sought by the members of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs relative to Saunders Aircraft, Churchill Forest Industries and such other corporations in which the government has an

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(MR. ASPER cont'd) investment, will be no less than the information that a shareholder of a public corporation could get by attending a shareholders' meeting and asking - - (Interjection) - - Give us the undertaking then.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, let me assure the honourable member that the kind of information that is not available with respect to well over 90 percent of what has been constructed and what is now operating with the people's money in the Province of Manitoba, that is in the private sector, that information which is not available will be more available in the public sector.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. BOROWSKI: I rise on a point of privilege dealing with the discussion that took place between the Premier and the Leader of the Liberal Party. I'd like you to rule on that or perhaps take it under advisement. I'm very concerned as a member of this House in the lackadaisical and ad lib way in which agreements and arrangements and commitments are being made. There are rules in this House, Sir, made by members of a Rules Committee. They decide the rules, not the Premier or not the Leader of the Liberal Party. I do not think they have a right to make arrangements how they're going to exchange information. If they don't like the rules they should change them but not make it between themselves in this House. I think that's wrong.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: There must be a misunderstanding, Sir. I gave no undertaking to give information in a private way or in a bilateral way to my honourable friend. I was indicating the basis upon which information would be provided, and when it's provided it will be provided to the House and tabled in the normal way. I certainly did not want to leave any impression that I was agreeing to some bilateral two-sided or two-way exchange of information. And while I'm on my feet, I would like it very clear on the record, Sir, that there isn't the slightest doubt or hesitation whatsoever about making available all information, certainly every bit as much information as would be made available at a shareholders' meeting of a publicly held company. All that and more, Sir. That is a minimum.

ORAL QUESTIONS (Cont'd)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Osborne.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health. Since the Manitoba Court of Appeal has declared invalid Regulation 12(a) which enabled the government to prevent welfare recipients attending university to receive money if their parental income sources were not considered, has his department paid out any money to such students?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Development is operating under the laws that exist in the Province of Manitoba. There may be pieces of legislation dealing with the decisions of the Court of Appeal.

MR. TURNBULL: Just for clarification, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister saying that there will be changes to The Social Allowance Act which will require students to incorporate parental income as an income source?

MR. TOUPIN: No, I didn't say that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, has his department continued to pay moneys to students who have made application even though those students may be receiving support from their parents?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, yes we have given social allowance to individuals without taking into consideration the financial resources of their parents.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

MR. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the past two weeks my colleagues have asked me a number of questions re the possible use of Ninette Sanatorium. Although this was not asked of me I think especially the Honourable Member for Rock Lake is interested. I can now share some information with the House.

Mr. Speaker, I've asked for an evaluation of the mechanical, electrical and structural

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) condition of the former Ninette Sanatorium facilities to assist our department in considering use of lands and buildings for recreational purposes. While a thorough investigation was carried out to determine the present condition of the buildings and services - I'd say that the staff members were greatly helpful and we received some information, a report - I might say that it's not quite as easy as some of the members might think, that you can just take a building and move in. Just the first stage of the electrical, structural, mechanical change that we'd have would lead to an amount of \$633, 000; that's just the first stage. The second stage would cost another \$500, 000 - that would be something that would be started roughly five years after the building would be opened. Now this has nothing to do with changing of partitions or anything like that.

Remember that most of these buildings were erected some time early in 1900-1905 and so on, and it's not in that good a condition. The maintenance - this is not just the service - the maintenance of the building would be also quite costly, it would be an annual cost of between \$150, 000 and \$200, 000. Now, of course, further studies would be needed but this is something that was done for us by the Department of Public Works and private people; private people were also hired for this and although this is something that was for the Department I haven't shared this with all my colleagues yet, I think they're interested. I might say that as far as our department is concerned we are kind of backing away. I think that it's obvious the reason why. This would be to enable us to keep the buildings for another 25 years or so, that's all. I certainly would have no objection to show this report, let my honourable friends glance at it, make copies if they want, but this is something that would have to be kept in the Department to share with my colleagues. I hope that this will answer the many questions that were asked during the last little while.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. I have directed a question several times in the last week or so. On Friday I asked him again the question if he had received correspondence from a Director of the National Farm Union, and his reply to me, and I quote . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please. We are aware of what is in Hansard.

MR. WATT: I'll rephrase my question. Does the Minister of Agriculture consider - - are we to assume that all correspondence received from different organizations, farm organizations, in regard to the personnel of the Department of Agriculture may be considered as frivolous?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I do have to take into account the opinions of all people. When they centre on staff, staff relations, then I think I have to use my own judgment and therefore in that context, Mr. Chairman, in the context of the question that the honourable member put on a number of occasions, indicates to me that the whole question becomes frivolous.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I have, Mr. Speaker, a copy of the correspondence I was referring to in my hand, a copy of which the Minister received. Does he consider this resolution, this correspondence he's received, is frivolous?

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the honourable member that he not be silly about the matter. The question of staff relations is one that we have a responsibility for and we undertake that responsibility.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Labour, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into Committee of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House resolved into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - MINES AND RESOURCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 88 - - passed. Order, please. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$287, 500 for Mines, Resources and Environmental Management - - passed. That completes the Department of Mines. Order please. That completes the Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management. I refer the honourable members to page 4.

SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, we're now calling upon the Department of Agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer the honourable members to page 4, the Department of Agriculture, Resolution 7(a) -- The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's obvious that members opposite are probably not overly concerned about the rural picture, expressing willingness to pass the departmental estimates without debate, and I suppose, Mr. Chairman, that could be interpreted as complimentary to myself and the department. -- (Interjection) -- No, I wouldn't suggest that that's frivolous at all, Mr. Chairman, as the Member for Lakeside would believe.

The department and I, personally, am very pleased, Mr. Chairman, in trying to give the members of the House somewhat of an overview. It seems at this point in our time that things are improving very quickly in the agricultural scene. I'm very pleased to see the upward trend in prices paid to farmers for their products, and I want to say that farmers will need a period of time under these favorable conditions to recover from the disastrous picture that we've had since 1968 where farm incomes have been extremely low in each year up until this point in time. And on this point, Mr. Chairman, I want to say for the benefit of members opposite, that I would hope that the Opposition members of the House would not seize on the opportunity that may, being political in nature, be advantageous to them, that arise because of controversy emanating from the consumer interests and how farm prices affect those groups.

I would hope, Mr. Chairman, that members opposite would fully appreciate the problems of our rural people, as we have had serious ones in the last number of years, and that it's really a sigh of relief at this stage in the game and that we should do nothing that would bring about a return to the sad situation that we had facing us between 1968 and 1972 or 73, just at a point when farmers are beginning to respond, appreciating a degree of performance in the industry, a degree of improvement in prices, again wanting to fully participate in the added production that obviously will take place because of the new incentives available to them. I would hope that we don't do anything as legislators here or even in Ottawa to discourage that kind of positive development.

Manitoba, as you would appreciate no different from the other two prairie provinces, does have much more potential for the production of meat products far in excess of what we are currently producing. We have an opportunity to meet market demands, not only within Canada, within North America, but throughout the world and any time that a marketing board with the help of the Government of Manitoba launches into the development of new markets, it should be looked upon as a very positive step by all members of the Legislature regardless of political philosophy or whatever. It should be looked upon as a new opportunity for greater stabilization of our countryside, knowing that that is really the ingredient that has been missing for so long. It should be looked upon by urban members of the Legislature as an opportunity for greater work opportunities within the processing industry, for more participation, more job opportunities for our young people, less need to migrate out of their various regions, less need to look at other provinces for work opportunities at any level - management, technical or whatever. And certainly, Mr. Chairman, it goes without saying that if we could double, triple, quadruple or whatever, the production of meat in this province, that it would do well for all of the people of Manitoba and indeed for Canada.

We are not interested, Mr. Chairman, as a department or as a government, in continuing the old traditions. We are not hung up on grain production; we are gearing very heavily, as you will notice in the Estimates, the need to once and for all depart from those old hang-ups in an effort that does demonstrate very readily, Mr. Chairman, the opportunities in the processing and marketing areas. I would hope that within the balance of this decade that we will have multiplied our production of animal products many times over and that we have consumed, by that point in time, most of our own feed grain that is so abundantly produced in this province, as opposed to spending a lot of time and energy on the question of finding markets for those raw products and on the need to discuss and to develop new programs in an attempt to bring about more efficient transportation and handling of grain industry within this province and within the prairies. It would be much better if we would deal with those problems by not having to depend so much on those markets outside of Canada. So to the extent that we move in this direction, it certainly lessens the need for concern in that other area which the Government of Canada and the provinces have been so much involved in in the last number of years.

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) . . . It's obvious that there are some weaknesses within the industry, not too many at this point in time. One has to reflect upon the fact that in most commodities we do have a fair degree of producer involvement, some producer influence on markets and prices and so on. There are still some gaps in this area, however, and I think one would want to look at milk prices as one example, where we will not know until the current review is completed, current review undertaken by the Milk Control Board of Manitoba, and its policy of transition and readjustment of the milk industry in this province. Until that is complete and until the details and findings are properly analyzed, we don't know what our position is with respect to producer prices. My opinion on the question, though, is that there will likely have to be an upward revision before too long. That's an intuitive opinion, and I think I would leave it at that.

I want to say that the Milk Control Board did venture out into Northern Manitoba where they in fact tried to determine how we can broaden the market for milk products into the north, fresh milk products, and indeed we're very much made aware of the problems of supplying of those kinds of products to northern Manitoba, transportation, environmental problems and so on, but are concerned as a result of those meeting with the high cost of those products, particularly milk in northern Manitoba, costs running as high as 83 cents a quart -- something that is not desirable for any part of this province. And I have asked the board to look at ways and means that might be used to bring a reduction of these costs to the people of the north. Obviously many young children in the north are denied milk, it's not one of their food items, which we here take so much for granted, and hopefully we can come up with a program that will bring about some uniformity in consumer costs across this province. But I will await the report of the Milk Control Board in that respect before I would want to make any statement as to how we might proceed.

The obvious weakness, of course, still is in the industrial milk area. I personally am not satisfied with the prices that producers do receive in that area. It's also one of the more, if not the most, disorganized areas, if you like, within agriculture where the producers themselves are not very close together. They don't have a vehicle through which they can do something about their problem. We are attempting to assist them. There have been some measures already undertaken to develop some sort of organized effort that might deal with these problems. It's not something that can be done overnight but hopefully, with the proper spirit behind the producers, I think we can before too long, perhaps within a year, come up with some resolve to the problem of pricing, marketing and so on.

The Government of Manitoba is not at all overly impressed, shall we say, by the new, I say new conditions that have arisen in the whole grains industry because of recent opportunities in world markets. While we appreciate these new opportunities, as I said a moment ago, we would want to maintain an aggressive policy towards further stability through further diversification efforts, and in that connection you will notice that there is a substantial increase in the department's budget amounting to something like \$5-1/2 million and which also does indicate a fairly substantial increase, probably a hundred or so additional staff man-years to deal with programs such as ARDA III Farm Diversification and other programs that will be launched this year.

It's important to maintain the kind of intent of programming that we have undertaken for some period of years in order to bring about what I would call a complete transition from a grain economy to a diversified agricultural economy in Manitoba. I don't think that it's sufficient to ad hoc for a year or two and then find ourselves later onnot having achieved our goals, and it's for that reason that notwithstanding the high returns that people in livestock production, the high returns that they are receiving that is, that we are still prepared to carry on with our incentive programs in that area, and in fact are expanding those. It's a long term commitment that we are satisfied will bring about positive benefits not only to the farmer but to the whole Manitoba economic system.

One of the new programs that this department is going to be responsible for as of the 1st of April, will be the administration of Crown land leases, and this is something that is being brought about in order to conform, in order to conform and be consistent with departmental and government objectives in the agricultural area. We feel that it would be much more efficient and that it would more reflect the policy direction that this government is taking with respect to our diversification programs and so on.

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(MR. USKIW cont'd)

We intend to expand more fully the Grasslands Society's program. We think that there are exciting possibilities there where we may intensify production per acre of land. The experiments that have been carried out to date have been very successful and it's our hope to have three or four additional pilot projects throughout the province this year.

A new program that is designed to try to prevent well I don't know that we'll succeed completely, but an attempt is going to be made this year through the introduction of a beef stocker program to maintain more of our feeder cattle in this province for finishing our stocker calves. That is a program that is not ready at this point but hopefully will be within a matter of a couple of months, and may involve, likely will involve to a large extent the private sector. It's a matter of trying to get a cooperative arrangement worked out between the department and the pool program so that we may this year for the first time reverse what I've been going on for all time in the past, the trend of a lot of our feeder stockers going out of this province for finishing rather than being finished in this province. You can well imagine the benefits that that would add not only to the producers but also to the job opportunities, the processing industry of this province, if we indeed are successful. I think it has a great deal of potential. I'm not sure at this point in time what all will be required but we will certainly take an aggressive approach in the development of that program.

The Veterinary Services Program is continuing on schedule or perhaps a little ahead of schedule. We are adding to that particular program a central drug purchasing agency so that veterinary medicine may be purchased at more reasonable cost to the producer and so that the producer, or the buyer, the farmer client, will have more or greater assurance or complete assurance of the quality of veterinary medicines.

Licensing requirements will be tightened up to make sure that the product that is sold is not outdated, that it is in fact in good condition so that we don't lose, through the purchase of a product that is aged on the shelf for months on end, and this is something that apparently is very common in the drug field. These drugs will be available not only through the private agencies that now dispense them, but also through your veterinary clinics which are somewhere in the order of 13 or 14 in number at this point in time, and will be somewhere in the order of 20 by the end of this year, so that there will be ready public access for these kinds of services.

The Farm Diversification Program is one which is most exciting at this point in time. It's a new program and it's anticipated that there will be a fantastic response to that program, at least the indications are that the enrolment will increase by about 500 percent for this year. We're looking at somewhere near a thousand participants which, if that does take place in this current year, we certainly will move a long way towards improving the income positions of many of our farm people. --(Interjection)-- ARDA Farm Diversification, ARDA III.

The Farm Water Services program also is continuing at a fairly rapid rate. We expect it to be very active this year again and that is one program that I think one could take a moment to commend the staff who have delivered that program, one which really has been received very well by the people in the countryside and one over which I have received not a single criticism, and I think this is important to note. It must reflect on the efficiency of the branch itself in satisfying the needs of those people who have applied.

One of the things that probably should require some debate, probably will generate some debate is a change in our Manitoba Agriculture Credit program. As you are aware, the Government of Canada last year pretty well froze its interest rate for long-term lending at somewhere in the order of seven percent. We have interest rates which are substantially higher and which has resulted in a falling off of interest of farm people in our long-term credit program, so we are withdrawing that particular aspect of our credit program; we will not be involved in the financing of land purchases and so on; but instead we are going to introduce a new freedom, a new option for those people that have had problems in meeting their credit needs, who actually were people that were well qualified but don't have enough equity, enough base from which to borrow. These people will be given an opportunity under our land lease arrangements which we will be introducing fairly soon. Hopefully this will facilitate, hopefully this will facilitate a transfer of farms from one generation to another without the impediments that we now face, and that credit programs as far as the land purchasing area is concerned can be facilitated by the Farm Credit Corporation so that

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) there's no need for duplication in that area; and in particular because of the fact that the MCC can provide credit for that program at a lower rate of interest.

We will concentrate our credit program in the area of land purchasing and lease back, or land lease programing and farm diversification, all of the area related to increased production in the farm unit. It is hoped that the small farm development program proposed by the Government of Canada will dovetail and the two programs will be complimentary so that the benefits of the annuities and so on to people wishing to retire from the industry can be achieved for this particular year. It's my view that it will not be long before we are into that program. Now there are still one or two small details to be worked out, the results of which I may know before the estimates of this department are passed.

On the question of insecticides, I think it would be appropriate to mention that last year we inadvertently got involved in the supply of some insecticides dealing with grasshoppers and army worms. For those two categories we will continue our program. In fact we are acting as the same supplier and the main distributor for the whole province. We are going to be using the present dealership system in the dispensing of these chemicals this year through an agreement worked out with the dealers across Manitoba. As you will recall, last year we ad hoc'd with the municipalities in the purchasing and distribution of these chemicals but only because we really had no choice at that point in time; it was a situation of crisis where this government had to respond as best we could, having not intended to get into the program originally.

It's very good to know, Mr. Chairman, and certainly pleasing to me and certainly I'm sure for farmers in Manitoba that through our negotiations with the Government of Canada and through greater participation on the part of both the Federal Government and the Provincial Government, we were in a position to announce a decrease of our crop insurance rates by one-third. It is my opinion that that will bring about much greater participation in the program and thereby greater insurance to our total economy in this province .

One of the main problems that farmers do face however is still one that is far from being resolved, that has to be in the area, Mr. Chairman, of farm labour supply. We hope to, we will in fact launch a pilot project this year wherein we will try to bring about some relief to that situation. But again I want to emphasize that it's in the nature of a pilot program and it will be a matter of trying to learn from the pilot as to how best we might proceed in future years. Obviously there will be problems and criticisms but that hopefully will serve to make a better program for next year. I would be interested in comments from members opposite as a matter of fact on how they think that kind of a program might be beneficial to our countryside, to our farm people.

The Student Employment Program is to be launched on May 1st. Here again there will be an important agricultural component somewhere in the order of a million and a half dollars allocated for student employment on the farm, in the farm community, a combination of programs; and again it's a new thrust, a new experiment. We recognize that there will be problems related to it, as there were in the PEP program of last year, but we have learned a lot in the last four or five months with respect to PEP programs; which by the way I believe has been very successful, has resulted in improving the productive capacity of a lot of our farm people, has provided employment to a lot of people that needed work during the winter period and certainly is a project that has many benefits to society as a whole.

I would not be embarrassed in defending the idea of committing funds that would go for the gain of private entrepreneurship . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister has five minutes.

MR. USKIW: Five. The farmer who some may argue should not have a windfall benefit from employment programs, I would like to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the government is not embarrassed by that because we recognize that if there was ever a sector that needed an input that agriculture is one, having gone through those rough years that I spoke about a moment ago, so that we don't want to be apologetic, we think it's a good program, many people have benefitted from it, we recognize that there are problems and flaws in everything that is attempted but hopefully we will improve as we go along.

One of the things that I think members opposite will want to engage on is the whole business of market development and here I want to say that I make no apologies for the fact that we were successful in launching a first long-term agreement in the supply of pork to Japan

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) and I would hope that we would continue pursuit of these opportunities -- and by the way I believe that within a matter of days we will be also shipping some pork to Los Angeles pursuant to another agreement which --(Interjection)-- Well, I'm not sure that that is even impossible, Mr. Chairman. The Member for Lakeside said, ship it to Israel, it would be milestone and no doubt it would be. But I am satisfied Mr. Speaker, with the efforts that have been made. My only disappointment at this point in time is that we have not enough production, that we really should be doubling or tripling our production to meet the market opportunities, and that we not, as I said a moment ago or earlier in my remarks, Mr. Chairman, not reflect negatively on what is taking place, because someone is going to have to supply the world with red meat, if that is the diet of today, and it may as well and better be the producers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, because they have a vast potential in the area of red meat production and they want to move in that direction. We should not be embarrassed over the market opportunities, in fact we should be aggressive in furthering them.

It is an example though of what can be done if you have an organized effort behind it, where you have the supply of the product under management direction, where you have the ability to sign contracts which can be respected internationally, where there is confidence in the fact that you will live up to those contracts in the years ahead. With the restructuring of our marketing system in this province, with the various producers, marketing boards and government boards we have that opportunity and we ought not to move back from that position. Anyone suggesting the opposite, Mr. Chairman would be doing a disservice to this province, and I don't think that members opposite would be responsible if they will yield to the temptations that are now being thrown in their path by media people and whoever is interested in exciting the public of Canada about food prices and all of the things that make up those prices.

One of the things that we want to realize is that it's really a philosophical debate, and those people that are proposing, Mr. Chairman, that something should be done about food prices are staging, they're acting, they are not people that are really trying to deal with the problem; they are trying to draw attention to a problem, and members opposite should not fall into that trap, because really it's a philosophical argument. If one wants to take up the question of cost in services to people, whether it be in this industry or any other industry, one really should be advocating a change in the whole business of entrepreneurship in this country; and that is one should be advocating that everything should be a public utility. That is really what one has to argue for. If one wants to be credible in his criticism about pricing in this country -- and it doesn't matter whether it's Peter Warren or the by-line or whether it's anybody else. I say this for his benefit as well, -- that stirring up public emotions and concern without being in a position to accept a change in absolute philosophy in the production and distribution of goods and services in this country is the height of irresponsibility and I challenge my friends opposite not to fall into that kind of situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Time allotted. Is it agreed that the Minister has extra time? (Agreed)

MR. USKIW: There is no doubt in my mind, Mr. Chairman --(Interjection)-- they're not meaning for me to finish?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order!

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Well I was wondering, just before he goes on, I wonder if he intends to go on at some length or whether -- if he's got a short statement to make by all means, we have no objection to him finishing that statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the Honourable Minister have leave? (Agreed) The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: There is no doubt in my mind, Mr. Chairman, that agriculture being the area with the least bargaining power that any confrontation in this country as between the political people, the consumer groups, will result in an absolute reduction of income to farm people, because the pressures that will set in will obviously take advantage of the lack of farm bargaining power in this country, and it will do no-one any good and we will back track and back slide on the progress that has been made.

So I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that those that want to promote the idea of food boycotts

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) should rather look at the need to uplift the wages, whether it be at the minimum wage level that governments have a responsibility for, whether it's a social allowance side, it doesn't matter where it is, Mr. Chairman, this is the area of adjustment; it is not fair to suggest that the producer should take a lower return, having just been brought out of a very sad situation in order to satisfy the needs of society. The country as a whole has a responsibility. Now, if one wants to suggest that there is excessive profits within the industry, any sector of it, I am the first one to advocate a utility system, I have no apologies for that. But members opposite would not advocate that, nor would my colleagues in the media, they would not advocate that kind of a system of production, distribution, processing and so on. So let's not becloud the issue, let's not build huge smokescreens, let's not excite the people of this country unless we are genuinely prepared to do something that is meaningful in the long term, and without sacrificing anyone in the process.

Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to report to the members that the department has achieved a degree of decentralization in the last year, it appears to be working rather well. We have some problems in that area but we are working them out. It is my hope that this will result in a greater appreciation in the countryside of what the department is capable of doing and hopefully an appreciation of the communication that will result as between rural communities, the rural farm people and the government; it is hoped that people will appreciate the importance of that aspect of it because I think it has long-term implications, beneficial implications.

The two new programs -- well there's more than two, but I would suggest to you that there are two important new programs that are designed to deliver the rural community programs which is the sort of balance to what has commonly been looked upon as agriculture only. We're hoping that agriculture doesn't mean the farmer himself but really the town and village that services him; and it's again interesting to note that in our rural development programs we have a lot of participation on the part of towns and villages in our sewer and water program, something in the order of 20 or so, 20 to 30 communities will be involved this year. We have participated retroactively, Mr. Chairman, giving of grants to some mine communities based on the formula; these communities who have prior to the introduction of our legislation unknowingly launched their projects and therefore were denied or would have been denied an opportunity for cost-sharing under our new program. That was retroactive to January 1, '72, and I think it's a matter of fairness which brought that decision about and I have no apologies for it.

My last point, Mr. Chairman, has to do with a couple of observations. Marketing is not one which we in this province alone are going to be able to deal with; we are going to have to enter into agreement and cooperation with other provinces, and indeed Canada; it's going to be important to the development of a meaningful livestock industry on the prairies to work out arrangements with Saskatchewan, hopefully Alberta, so that we are not competing against each other in the development of markets outside of our provinces, but rather that we complement each other. And we are working in that direction; there may be some need to formalize some arrangements to make sure that there is continuity and so on.

One of the key things that we must deal with in this country of course is the whole question of feed grain policy, is an area that is in conflict at the present time. There is disagreement, disenchantment from one part of Canada to another, and here I suggest that the prairie provinces are going to have to stick pretty close together, because they are at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, under attack and unduly so. It is not through the elimination of the Canadian Wheat Board or through the relaxation of controls that they are going to maintain their strength, and I would suggest to members opposite that the area of strength will lie in co-operation in the area of marketing and that further interprovincial arrangement controls may be necessary rather than less if the Prairies are going to be protected from the attacks from the outside.

Transportation policy is something of course that we are watching very carefully; we are very much concerned that if the right decisions are not made that we will have serious rural problems with respect to transportation. The government is involved, in co-operation with the other two prairie provinces, and indeed with all of Canada, in the whole question of rail rationalization proposals and the grain handling proposals that have been coming through the various agencies, Government of Canada and organizations. I think we need a great deal

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) of effort there to insure that our interests are not looked at as interests that are second to other regions because we have had a history of that in the transportation field in this country where freight rates and matters related to transportation have not always been fair in fact most unfair to people in western Canada.

With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I'll let it go for the moment and respond a little later.

. . . . continued on next page

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, as my friend and colleague, the Member from Morris, is sometimes moved to remark, so endeth the first lesson, now let me begin the reading of the second lesson. And it is in the philosophical approach that the Minister himself dealt with at some length in the introduction of his estimates that I'd like to deal briefly with the Minister and the department at this particular time. My colleagues will certainly be following up in more specific detail on specific programs. But let's talk about the philosophy of this Minister and of this government very briefly.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, the first thing that has to come to mind, even to this Minister and to this government, that the current buoyant situation in agriculture generally has nothing, absolutely nothing in common and bears no reflection on the policies of this Minister and this government. I think that's a statement that stands the scrutiny, bears the light of day - examination by light of day, that in this particular area when we deal with agriculture it is one of those few occasions where we can talk about the world around us and the world conditions that make itself felt, you know, in terms of how our farmers prosper or how our farmers do not prosper.

Mr. Speaker, it was with interest to listen to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture to don the philosophical hat and lecture us in ministerial tones in a very generalized paternal kind of way because he really could not in all conscience, because he is an honest man, but he really could not - he really could not in any way you know seek the congratulations from us members in opposition, or indeed the farmers of this province, for the current situation that is being enjoyed by the farm sector in the Province of Manitoba, as it is in Canada, as it is on the North American continent generally, as it is in the world generally at this particular time. What it does, Mr. Speaker, of course is underline in a manner and in a way which we could not do for ourselves the correctness of the position of the Progressive Conservative Party that it always had, that it maintained even in the difficult years, in the faith that we have in the agricultural industry, which was one of expansion, one of hope, one of need, and recognition of that need that our products are not in short supply, not in real surplus in this world today, and for that matter that there was a necessity to address ourselves as to how to overcome temporary problems situated by distribution problems in our country, but never, Mr. Speaker, never, Mr. Speaker, to accept as this Minister, as this government did just a few short years ago the doom and gloom that pervaded the agricultural scene at that particular time. Which was the Minister and which was the government, Mr. Speaker, that was the first one to embrace that group that was so aptly described by the Minister of Labour just a few nights ago in this House, that government currently in Ottawa that didn't give a "continental" for the western farmers or for the country or for the western position at all; which Minister embraced those futile programs of just a few short years ago when that misguided government decided to spend some fifty millions of taxpayers' dollars to encourage farmers not to grow, to encourage farmers not to produce, who fell trapped to their own philcephizing about their ability of supply management? Mr. Speaker, the Minister administered to us today and to the opposition members how we should not fall into any traps of our own making or of those who are making it for us. I concur with the Minister's remarks in that direction but, Mr. Chairman, this Minister and this government is the last one to minister to us in those terms.

Mr. Speaker, clearly the current situation demonstrates, and should demonstrate for all time, that agricultural surplus is in effect non-existent in this world. All kinds of data, very worthwhile, very worthwhile and expertise data points out to that simple fact. Now, Mr. Speaker, this Minister and this government are students and they worship at the altar of supply management. And I'd like to take the Minister of Agriculture just for his own refresher - as a refresher course from what that really entails. Because Mr. Chairman, he should not really be allowed to attempt to ride out the situations that are politically expedient to him at any given time. Supply management means precisely what it suggests. Management of the supply. Mr. Speaker, because at the particular time there happens to be a undue buoyancy in a commodity, or a market, should not hide from Manitoba farmers the fact that sooner or later at the time opportune to him politically this Minister and this government intends to exercise the full idea and the full meaning of the term "supply management" which means restricting the supply, which means what the consumers are concerned with in this country of a group in charge and control of the food production in this country being able to arbitrarily

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(MR. ENNS cont'd.) restrict supply, to force prices up to what they may consider to be an unfair measure.

Mr. Speaker, although the editorial writer of the Tribune was obviously ill-informed and mistaken when he indicated in an article some time ago, or a few weeks ago, or a week ago, at which the Minister brought to the attention of this House when he indicated that there was a restriction, a management of supply as far as hogs were concerned. Obviously that is not the case. The reason that is not the case because of the buoyant market right now. The Minister can not sit on his chair and tell me that he will not institute that degree of supply management the moment he feels it is politically opportune to do so, and that moment. Mr. Chairman, I suggest to you will arrive if there should be a downturn in the prices of hogs.

Mr. Chairman, let's come back to the basic philosophy that we have confronting us when we talk about these two major concepts in agriculture. Supply management as is practiced to its ultimate in many countries of the world; supply management as its practiced in Cuba, in Russia, in India, Mr. Speaker, North America -- North America happens to be the last bastion where you have a relatively free-wheeling incentive agricultural policy still operative. It's I think apparent to all, and to some embarrassment to some, that they have to admit failure and defeat in being able to produce under rigid supply management the necessary foodstuffs that their people require. Mr. Speaker, the greatest condemnation, the greatest condemnation of the supply management concept surely has to be the example that the U.S.S.R. has set for us as of recent times. For that great nation endowed with many many millions more acres of fertile land than we have here in North America, with many many millions more people occupying, fully occupied, in tending to those acres, with the example of central control, supply management at its height where the government can presumably make those wise decisions which individual farmers cannot, where they can take the expert testimony of their experts, their far ranging experts as they view the total global agricultural scene, they can make the decisions in that country as to which crops should be planted, when they should be planted, how they should be marketed, at what price they should be marketed. In other words, Mr. Speaker, total supply management at its zenith in the countries such as that. And it has to come down begging on its knees with hands outstretched to the independent free-wheeling incentive farmer of the United States and Canada to see that sufficient foodstuffs get into the U. S. S. R.'s citizens' hands.

Mr. Chairman, you know we can debate the subject matter on academic terms and we can talk about the necessity to assure that any segment of our society has equal opportunities, or in offsetting unequal opportunities such as lack of political representation and so forth, and we can condone efforts, certain collective efforts, in seeing that groups, commodity groups, farm groups, and so forth like that, be given additional aid and help in strengthening their position vis-a-vis collective bargaining or on the markets in terms of their foodstuffs. But the one thing that you can't shy away from is that supply management, supply management which this Minister and this government is capable and quite capable of introducing if they feel the time is right, breathes chaos and disaster for one of our most promising, for what certainly is our basic primary industry in the west. Its health immediately assures health of other secondary industries in our economy and, Mr. Speaker, there's no question in my mind that the basic health of the economy that the First Minister alludes to from time to time in anticipation of the budget that we'll be hearing tomorrow night essentially and to a great extent is there because of the health now being enjoyed in the agricultural sector of our economy. The fact that our grain is moving at reasonably acceptably prices; the fact that our livestock is at an all time high; the fact that we have been blessed with reasonably stable weather conditions and have had the enjoyment of good growing conditions and good crops by and large in this province, all this, all this has added to the strength of our economy, will play a significant role in the kind of budget that we will undoubtedly hear tomorrow.

Now, Mr. Chairman, all this to date has been provided and has been -- the farmers of Manitoba have proven capable of producing under what the Minister and his cohorts really believe is not a satisfactory condition and is not one that they in the long haul would like to see. The Minister speaks about, about moving the agricultural industry, or the production of food, to the extent of a utility. Mr. Speaker, he shouldn't be talking to us about that because it is in his handbook that that is the direction that the agricultural industry should move, and must move, according to his principles and according to his beliefs with respect to the long-term

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(MR. ENNS cont'd.) . . . future for agriculture. It is politically expedient of course at this particular time not to talk about it.

But, Mr. Chairman, let me simply say and underline at this point, and I will encourage my colleagues to do so every time they have the opportunity, that what is needed, that what is needed is not more control, not more restrictions, what is needed is reasonably - a reasonable acceptance of the fact that it is unlikely that in the future that we will in fact be dealing with permanent agricultural surpluses. I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that the events in the past year have indicated to us that those surpluses of the last year or two were in fact not surpluses, were imaginary, were temporary dislocations in terms of our distribution system.

And so the answer to alleviating these problems lies not in tinkering with the machinery, not in tampering with the ability and the will of the farmers, the individual incentive-driven farmers who have indicated and have shown us on so many occasions their ability to produce. It is quite the contrary, Mr. Speaker. It is quite the contrary, Mr. Speaker.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Honourable Minister for moving forward specifically in the direction that was envisaged by the COMEF Report, that certainly echoes the now sentiments of the Minister of Agriculture when George Hutton was around in this Chamber; he wrote out the postscripts for us with respect to what kind of a livestock industry we would be requiring in the mid '70s. Well we're in the mid '70s, we're approaching them, and all this has gone to prove that that particular document with respect to agriculture has been uncannily accurate.

And, Mr. Speaker, certainly this opposition party will approve of and congratulate the government and the Minister in its moves in that direction whether it is in the supply and in the maintenance of the necessary veterinary programs to assure a healthy livestock industry, its additional help with respect to the financing of these programs, but, Mr. Chairman, what worries me most is that the Minister is temporarily thwarted from carrying out the kind of control that he believes he alone has the wisdom to do, and it was revealed in one of his last statements that he made that when he delved into and he discussed briefly the aspect of marketing. He figured that -- or at least he indicated to us that it was a very important field for not only the Government of Manitoba to be involved in but other governments, the Government of Saskatchewan, the Government of Alberta, indeed the Federal Government. At no time did he even acknowledge, Mr. Chairman, that there was an area here for the private sector to participate in. At no time did he acknowledge that the world's greatest single agricultural sale was made by a private sector this past year, the billion dollar wheat sale to Russia. You know, Mr. Chairman, it's just beyond his comprehension that the private sector essentially can do the job that government does a great deal more efficiently, a great deal less costlier without, without the constant danger of entrapment with reams and reams of red tape and reams and reams of controls. Mr. Chairman, if the agricultural industry of this province is going to realize the potential that it's standing on the threshold of, it will become increasingly important, increasingly important that the farmer, that the farmer be encouraged to maximize his opportunities in a very free and wheeling style. --(Interjection)-- Yes, certainly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: I'm interested to hear further on that private sale that you talked about. I wonder if you'd indicate the attitude of the farmers of the United States in respect to the price they got in respect to that private sale.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, that's a very good question. I would suspect that the attitude of those farmers is about the same that the attitude of most Canadian farmers very often are when day in and day out they are unhappy with certain long-term agreements made for them by the Wheat Board, such as the prior sale of barley all throughout last year; such as long term commitments of wheat in years gone by to Great Britain during the war years, for instance, which committed us to five years of sale; such as I suspect that most hog producers are going to be concerned with the long-term sale of pork to Japan at 36 cents a pound.

MR. MACKLING: A further question. Isn't it a fact that there is such concern in respect to that sale that there's a Senate investigation as to the sale itself? --(Interjection)-- That's how good a sale it was.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye. Order, please.

MR. BARKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I enjoyed listening to the last speaker. --(Interjection)-- Apparently, they're probably not quite through yet but I think just about, and while I probably

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(MR. BARKMAN cont'd.) am supposed to bring the third lesson as the Honourable Member for Lakeside mentioned, I'm not quite sure if I'm going to dare to be a Daniel or have to stay on a little happier signs of some of David's Psalms but we'll try and make a few comments in regards to this department.

I wish to go on record though before I proceed to congratulate the many people that are working for our Department of Agriculture. They are putting in a lot of time, and they are putting in a lot of effort, and I think this has to be mentioned, as also are many ag reps in the country that have to apparently today strive with even more problems than they ever had before and I think it is only fitting that we mention them.

I would also like to congratulate the many 4-H members across Manitoba that have become such important people to our fairs, and some of the work they're doing I think is of concern to all of us because after all many of these youngsters today are going to be the backbone of our farmers in the not too distant future.

Mr. Chairman, I have to bring up again, and I don't know the solution -- it always disturbs me when I find out that our annual reports in agriculture, the same as in practically any other department, I don't think it really matters at this stage if they were brought out two or three months later or two or three years later, as long as they get ready for our history books -- I don't think they're really current enough for us to use as a guideline of what has really happened in the last year or two. I understand some of the problems that are laid on with getting data and putting them into a report, I realize this, but I've often wondered surely there must be a way of getting away from this.

Mr. Chairman, over the years we've taken the attitude that, to a great extent at least, that most of our problems are federal problems when it comes to agriculture. I realize that perhaps the greater percentage is, but I've changed my attitude to a great extent and believe that many of our problems exist right in our own province and as the Minister said in his opening remarks, especially with the combination of the other western provinces, I think this is something that has changed somewhat and we should keep on demanding more autonomy in this respect if we can at all afford it, and if we can at all help move the progress of western agriculture forward.

I realize as has been mentioned by the last two speakers that a lot of things have changed as far as the financial aspects are concerned in agriculture over the last year, or even more than a year, and we're happy that we've experienced a revived grain market and perhaps finally the farmers have come to a point where they also can get a bit of a breather, but my main concern in this respect is that we not now take the attitude that all is well and that is all just the way it ought to be. I think now is the time that we should begin planning for a long-term program for our agricultural problems. We lacked a long-term program for a number of years and it was hard with all the things that beset the farmer to probably lay down the grounds for this long-term program, but I think the time has come where we have to take a greater look at this point. I realize fully that certain disputes, and I don't intend to go into them at this time, but they probably will never be settled and we'll never agree on just - are we only going to depend on the law of supply and demand, or are we going ahead too far as far as taking only into consideration the supply and management. I know that these are problems that beset us, and I know that many attitudes exist, and a lot of them rightly so.

I think the point of importance - I want to come to a few points of opinions as the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose mentioned. I hope he will also later on when he gets up on his feet, I'm sure he will, and I hope he will contribute to the Agriculture Department.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned before we should begin to start planning for a long-term healthful program in agriculture. I think that, especially western Canada, have faced over the years certain problems. As I mentioned a while ago that leave alone the attitudes and ideas of various groups, I think somewhere they have to come to a pinpoint and have to be ironed out but as was said by both speakers, or the Minister and the former speaker, we are in a better position today to start, just have a breather and start thinking of what really is happening and what really, what steps should really be taken. I don't have to bring in the fact that the elements of rain, the elements of weather, are perhaps a much higher element than most rural, - or urban people realize and I think these are factors that enter into some of our long-range programs or long-range planning.

I think we have to go further than that. I believe one of the main concerns is that there be

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(BARKMAN cont'd.) a much greater sensitivity to the opening of new markets. I'm glad the Minister mentioned part of that in his opening remarks, but I think the time has come where we, I for one am happy, we got this Japan market but I think this is just a 'small step to where we ought to be going. I think we should be thinking of Asian markets and many other places that have openings, that want our products, and we're favored, we're actually favored in this province that probably our producers are producing a product for less money than nearly any other province or any other country in the world. Not perhaps only because of their hard working type and their ambitions but also because of conditions that fit into the agricultural economy in western Canada.

I think also, Mr. Chairman, a great concern is the fact that we ought to curb . . . and feed production. Production of feed grains and other crops ought to be established as a prime goal. In view of some of this would mean perhaps more direct federal financial intervention to give farmers a guarantee of feed grain prices, to remove any doubt that production would be worthwhile, and I think that we've reached the stage where some consideration should be given in this respect.

Mr. Chairman, as we all know a boost in farm income as a result of improved markets is going to be undermined by a lot of factors. The one that I'm particularly concerned, and it has been mentioned in this House, and probably one of the greater factors as far as our economy is concerned not only in agriculture but especially in agriculture, is inflation. With inflation a lot of problems arise. I realize that the changes are probably not as big as many people think they are but I found it rather interesting when I started studying some statistics from Statistics Canada and I wish to put them on the record just to give you the Consumer Price Index. These figures are from 1961 to 1971 and I think we'll see after - and I'm sure a lot of you have studied the statistics or studied the figures, but they really reveal some very outstanding things that actually I doubt if a lot of our consumers are aware of.

The first items are the prices, wages and salaries in manufacturing and they have gone up from a period of 1961 to 1971 by 75 percent and it's no wonder that farmers are complaining of their combines going up from the \$6,000 mark to the 14 and perhaps now even closer to the \$20,000 mark and here of course are one of the reasons.

Now the next one, I believe, while I realize it's not the highest, only the second highest, but government services have gone up by 70 percent. This of course includes municipal, provincial and federal, but this - when I seen that figure I just could hardly believe this.

Now services, such as we talk of railroads, Air Canada, in fact it includes advertising prints, secretaries' wages and what not all, has gone up by 50 percent.

Farm inputs by 36 percent and food up by 36 percent. Now I realize that this is hard to pinpoint, and a lot of people would want you to believe that it's the farmprices that have gone up, or blame it on some big grocery chain, this is a matter of across-the-board 36 percent. Then of course - or that contains the food, and the food and vegetable canners up 27 percent.

But this one I think is most important one, and an important one to remember. Believe it or not, farm prices along the same line have only gone up by 15 percent up to 1971.

A MEMBER: How big a period? Ten years?

MR. BARKMAN: Over a period of ten years. Feed manufacturers have only gone up 7 percent; the import price index has only gone up 7 percent and of course the export price index by 5 percent.

Now, Mr. Chairman, one could mention many more items that have gone up. We just have to take lumber for example lately but I think - I wish to stick more with the agricultural field, but I think these are remarkable figures. I'm not standing here to condemn government and say, this is the whole answer, but it certainly is part of the answer. The 70 percent in government services, this government as well as any other government must take responsibility of that high figure and if it isn't too high then surely 15 percent as far as agricultural's concerned is way out of line.

Mr. Chairman, I'm probably getting hung up on figures here but of the 22 million people we have in Canada, there are 8.4 million who work. About one person in three, about 360,000 of these people work as farmers; about twice as many people as farmers are unemployed, between, as you all know, between 600 and 700,000 people last month. Of the 8.4 million people who work, something like between two and two and a half million people work for governments. That's one person out of four. The income tax people incidentally say that 50 percent -

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(MR. BARKMAN cont'd.) 23 percent of tax returns are from public employees. For example, I think that we should keep in mind that there are about 360,000 farmers in Canada, and there are about 405,000 Federal employees, about 85,000 in the Armed Forces. I bring these figures up to make a comparison, 386,000 provincial employees, and that is across Canada, and 312,000 teachers, and so on, for a total - they make up approximately from 1 - 3/4 million people and here we haven't even started to count government agencies. What I thought was of significance was that the farmers' returns averaged \$5,200; and employees non-government work at \$6,500; and all government employees are well above this with the federal employees averaging -- and I don't have the statistics for the provincial -- averaging around \$8,000.00.

I can only point out, Mr. Chairman, I think these figures go a long way towards explaining why farmers are in the situation they are. The average income of \$5,200 that farmers receive would perhaps not have seemed so bad six or eight years ago but again inflation has set in and we've seen some of the reasons for inflation make it quite a different position today.

I realize also that I'm speaking of Canadian figures, and in fact I should probably bring in one more item that we should consider, taxes on personal income tax. Income in 1970 grew by 13 percent, and 71 by another 12, and all this money was spent, and you don't have to look any further for the reason of inflation.

But, Mr. Chairman, I think I've said enough about that point and I think we agree it is hurting farmers possibly more than any other segment of Canada's population.

Now turning to another problem that while prices for farm goods have somewhat risen, or risen by extensive amounts, I think we have to bear in mind some of the other problems that exist. The farmers are, as admitted, getting better prices but they had a long ways to make up. We just have to think of their machinery needs that they're way behind, the repairs of their buildings, the repairs of everything practically owned on the farm, leave alone that in some cases soil conditions were not being kept up-to-date as they ought to be. I remember the Honourable Member for Morris a year or two ago mentioned that perhaps fertilizers were hurting our soils and I understood his point, and I believe that eventually we will have to accept that fact, but with the price of agricultural goods being as they are today I hope our farmers will have the initiative and the moneys to probably use fertilizers heavier than ever this year, and I can say this the last couple of years without pretending to be a fertilizer dealer. I'm not saying it for that reason, I hope we can produce more from our lands.

So, Mr. Chairman, after what I've said and many other facts that have been brought to this House, I think it boils down that a farmer today has to be a good businessman or he just will not succeed.

I think I know that some of the members of this Legislature say, well when I bring up the fact of feed mill operators that I may be a little bit biased because I have so many in my constituency. I do not wish to bring it up again on that point but I think the fact that just approximately some months ago last fall when we had so much of that frozen grain up in northern Manitoba, I think even our northern Manitoba friends could say that there was some use for the southern feed mill plants in Manitoba. Mr. Chairman, I know from experience in my area that a policy that the Minister was referring as far as - well he wasn't referring directly to feed mills but I am of the opinion that while many would like to suggest that you could buy feed grains directly and arrange for your own feed mill to perform all functions except buying the feed grain should be the item to consider. I'd like to put it a little different, and I think that much could be said on this point because there is when we think of rural development, when we think of many of the . . . that feed mills have done to a community, I for one just can't see how they should not be allowed because most of the feed mills buy their feed grain and supplies from their own livestock consumers, or customers, and they're hardly going to as some times is suggested that they're going to try and take the best price advantage. I don't think they will take advantage of their own customer. If they do, they'd be very silly to go along that line. And I think the same reasoning applies in the case of the arguments that large scale hog and cattle operations should be forced to buy grains at board prices. Again I think it would be impossible to police in the first place. I thought it was rather a good time to mention this because I feel that this government, and I'm sure other provinces, are concerned about some of the problems and it does develop, but I don't think the scrapping of the feed mills or trying to put in new laws to just about stop them from operating is the solution.

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(MR. BARKMAN cont'd.)

I would like to touch briefly, Mr. Chairman, on technology. We've gone through a lot of changes; most of the members in this House are aware of this in their own constituencies, especially the rural members. We're aware that a lot of -- through automation or through practically a revolution of automation that things have changed, and they had to change. Our farmers have increased from 150 acres per person in 1946 to 350 acres per person in 1966, and I think we all realize that we have to go faster; we have to make more technology changes for the sake of keeping abreast with the costs of our grain especially, and of course this applies to other agricultural products. And so, Mr. Chairman, with the increasing technology and the consequent reduction of the number of farms in Manitoba and the resulting increase in the size of farming operations that has become necessary to make it a viable unit, the problem of farm managing for the remaining farmers has become much more complicated, and I have no doubt that we agree on that. He has to learn today a lot of new things that our forefathers didn't have to. We don't have to tell anybody today that many of these communities in the 1880s, and even a little later, when four or five miles was a great distance, which means nothing today as far as transportation is concerned. And I think we have to accept these changes because if we aren't going to, we're not going to be able to keep ourselves on top of the problems that beset the average farmer in Manitoba especially, and in western Canada.

Mr. Chairman, I was happy that the Minister mentioned the fact that the Manitoba Dairy Association were having their problems because I think certain things are developing, and especially as far as manufactured milk conditions are concerned, that really should be of concern to us. I understand that on going back to the dairy production that in 1962 we had 247,000 dairy cows, where in 1972 this was cut down to 113,000 head; and on the same basis where we had 1,300 producers in 1961 as far as fluid milk is concerned, in 1972 we're down to 550 producers. And surely with the DBS figures relating or stating that there is only probably 23,000 heifers for potential dairy cattle the next year, I think we have a problem and I would certainly have to agree not only will the price of fluid milk have to go up but we may even then be in short supply. And I'm sure that many of the policies that are taking place will have to be reviewed by the Milk Board. I am thinking of things like as one that he mentioned the north but even in the south, or even in the southeast, we have problems. I know one grocer in the Town of Steinbach is subsidizing his milk customers to the tune of approximately \$4,000 a year just simply for the fact that milk is two cents a quart higher in Steinbach, or in that area, than it is in the City of Winnipeg.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has five minutes.

MR. BARKMAN: Thank you. However, this doesn't seem to be solved that easily and I can't really understand -- I don't know if the Minister knows -- I understand that places like Morden and others where you have a processing plant, I can understand that that milk, especially since southeastern Manitoba is perhaps shipping in approximately two-thirds of all the milk that's being consumed in Greater Winnipeg, I can see a double transportation cost, but this rule apparently does not apply. As I said, I realize that where processing plants exist this two cents a quart, or whatever it may be, I'm sure it's a lot more in the north, can be saved but there are points in southeastern Manitoba, and I'm not so sure about western Manitoba where milk is being sold for the same price as it is being sold in Winnipeg and there are no processing plants, and I wonder if the Minister either he can give me an answer on that or perhaps can look into it.

The other thing that is disturbing, and sincerely disturbing, is the fact that the -- call it the manufactured milk, seems to be losing its price. I just had a farmer phone me last night and he says his manufactured price went down 20 cents the last week or so, 20 cents a gallon, a week or so ago, and this is a grave disappointment to many of the farmers because a lot of them have just put in a lot of -- quite a bit of money into new buildings to take advantage of the subsidy that was offered, and a lot of them have even bought up quotas to try and produce this milk, and I don't know what is happening with our cheese position. Apparently the market is weakening, or somewhere we've failed to capture the sales that we should have and I think, while I realize that the Minister will say, well we'll have to go back to the Milk Board. I think these are some of the problems that the Department of Agriculture must accept.

So, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure there are many members here that would like to bring on the fourth and the fifth epistle so I shall not at this time hold them up. I do hope though that

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(MR. BARKMAN cont'd.) . . . when we talk of prices being a little bit better, we talk of the situation just being quite a bit different, now is the time to start on long-range planning as far as some of the problems in agriculture are concerned, and I'm sure that with the efficient staff that the Minister has, and with his intentions, I'm sure that we will do something about it, and if we aren't going to we are very foolish because this is a break in life in agriculture that we should be starting to plan for the future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake); Well, Mr. Chairman, having listened to the various chapters from the Bible as it's been stressed here now on three occasions, I can't help but relate to the fact that I have the experience of knowing so many people who are believers of a socialistic form of government, and I can't help but feel that there is a significance here in the comments that have just been made, that those who are dedicated socialists it is like a religion with them, and they are really dedicated.

I would also hope, Mr. Chairman, I would also hope, Mr. Chairman, that we will have a little better co-operation with this department than what we had with the Department of Mines and Resources. You know I can't help but feel, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Mines and Resources that . . . Mines and Resources Minister, when he was dealing with his estimates, we asked questions and if we ever got answers they were so round about that we were lost in the . . . of debate.

My colleague from Lakeside sort of set the stage in establishing our position insofar as the Agricultural Department is concerned. I hope that, --(Interjection)-- Mr. Chairman, we're getting comments from the wilderness over there. I consider where it comes from, Mr. Chairman.

You know, Mr. Chairman, we do not hope to dwell too long on the Minister's Salary in the agricultural estimates. I know my colleagues are going to have some questions to ask on some of the, I think, important aspects of the various items, and while the Minister indicated that the drastic situation that has been going on since 1968 -- this is a comment that he made; I can fully agree with him.

And now the trend has certainly changed for farmers of the Province of Manitoba only in the past say five, six months, and many of the reasons for this is because, Mr. Chairman, there are many things that happened in other parts of the world because we must not forget we relied on exporting much of our produce. We don't have the population to consume our products in this province and therefore we have in the past had to rely on our export trade.

And in dealing with this subject, Mr. Chairman, I want to deal firstly with one of the comments that the Minister had to make and that is in regards to the sale of pork to Japan. I think this is one of the highlights insofar as his department is concerned, and I recall my colleague from Morris saying that when he made the announcement of the sale he had made to Japan he wasted no time in getting to that podium of an NDP meeting and announcing that particular deal that he had made. Mr. Chairman, I rather got the impression that we now suddenly have a Minister of Agriculture who is doing so much for the agricultural industry while in the past no one has ever done anything for the farmers of this province.

And I would like to make a few comments in regards to this matter, Mr. Chairman. I want to say that just about four years ago there were meat sales made to Japan to the tune of about five million pounds. This rose to approximately 21 million pounds in 1971 and in 1972 the increase to that country was in the tune of 46 million pounds. And, Mr. Chairman, I want to give credit where credit is due but I do not feel that it's fair for the Minister to take credit for something that he has given the impression to the farmers of Manitoba that he alone started -- and I don't think this is correct to say -- that there are other people in this province who have spent time and money in establishing markets for the products that we are producing in this province.

MR. USKIW: I wonder if the honourable member would know, or could advise the House, at what price these private entrepreneurs sold the product to Japan when they were in the business of selling it, and what the producer got specifically for that product?

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, the statement I made about what the private sector has done and the question that the Minister of Agriculture asks has no relevance to what I'm talking about. It has no relevance to what I'm talking about. The point I'm trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is, as I said, I'll give credit where credit is due but the Minister is giving the

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd.) farmers of Manitoba a false impression when he tries to tell them that he's God Almighty when it comes to finding markets for our products that we're producing in Manitoba. And this is just not a fact, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: I want to say, Mr. Chairman, I attended the Outlook Conference in Brandon in January and there were a good many farmers there who were interested in knowing what's going on in Manitoba. The Outlook Conference, which the Minister of Agriculture was there to give a speech and tell the farmers what they could look forward to for 1973, I want to say to you, Sir, what the majority of his speech was. He picked up the Country Guide; he looked at the editorial and spent a few minutes tearing the editor of the Country Guide to pieces for what he had to say. He also then took on the Government of Alberta and told the farmers what terrible people they were and what terrible things they were doing in that province. He also, Mr. Chairman, was quite concerned about the news media in what they were saying and how they were saying it. You know, Mr. Chairman, this was a good part of the Outlook Conference that the farmers heard from our Minister of Agriculture. Now I asked him a question, if he could indicate to the House, to the meeting, the particulars of the contract with regards the pork sale to Japan, the amount and the price. And if I remember correctly, and I stand to be corrected from the Minister of Agriculture if I'm wrong, that his reply was, you know, the Wheat Board they negotiate sales to the countries of the world and they don't divulge the prices. Mr. Chairman, that's not quite correct; they do tell you the nature of the sale, whether it be a million or 50 million bushels, and they do indicate to you the total price that is negotiated, so that you can figure out for yourself what you're going to get for your bushel of wheat, approximately, you don't have to be right on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Does the honourable member not recognize that any given price that the Wheat Board establishes for any given market is then pooled into an average price and producers do not in fact get the actual price sold on any contract?

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I didn't say that the farmer knew exactly to the penny what he was getting for his bushel of grain at any given transaction, but the total price, Mr. Chairman, the farmers are made aware of it, the total price --(Interjection)-- of the total amount of grain sold.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Order, please. ORDER! When the member on the floor is speaking I wish the other members would keep quiet.

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, in asking that question, I found it very interesting to find that the Minister was very critical of one particular magazine, the Country Guide; a magazine I think that is well accepted by the farmers of this province. And I was very interested in noting that he made no mention of the Manitoba Co-Operator, because the Manitoba Co-Operator in the editorial just that week before, or that week I guess it was, was asking the very same questions that I was posing to him at that Outlook Conference, but he never said one word about the Manitoba Co-Operator; he didn't criticize the editor of that paper. Why, I don't know, Mr. Chairman. However, Sir, that's par for the course insofar as his operations are concerned in this matter.

And I also want to say that, you know, Mr. Chairman, the Minister feels that he has his rights within protecting the farmers, the pork producers, he still feels he has the authority to dictate to the packing houses and say, lookit, I'm sending you a directive; I want to know exactly what you're selling, your pork products, or your meats to all the retail stores. Now, is this not infringing on the rights, whether it be an individual or a company. And I'm not saying, Mr. Chairman -- I don't want to give the impression that I'm sticking up for packing companies, or trying to protect them; I'm talking about a principle here, a principle, the rights of an individual or --(Interjection)--

MR. USKIW: Will the Honourable Member submit to a question?

MR. EINARSON: No, Mr. Chairman, I want to make another comment in regards to -- our transportation system of grains is a subject that is of great concern to the farmers of this province. I note the Minister is hoping that we're going to see a greater diversification of our farming industry in this province, and that's something that I agree with him on to a degree. But we still have farmers who are producing grain in this province that will never have it

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd.) consumed in Manitoba. We had meetings throughout the province and I'm given to understand, Mr. Chairman, with regards to our rationalization program of transportation of grain; I'm given to understand, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister was not interested in this particular series of meetings that were going on. I never heard him, to my knowledge, make any comments as to where his department, or where his government stood on this particular matter. It's the matter of whether we abandon railways, or whether we don't, Mr. Chairman, and farmers are very concerned as to the future of the transportation of their grain from their farms to the elevators that they - to the point where they may have to double the distance or even triple the distance they have to haul their grain. This is something that has been going on for the past number of months and whether the Minister -- he may have some comments to make on this, I don't know, but it will be interesting to hear from him.

He was also discussing the livestock situation, and I think he was pertaining probably more to the beef industry, or the beef cattle, dairy cattle, and what have you. I have a resolution on the Order Paper, and I'm not going to dwell into that aspect of it, but I think that that is an area in which farmers who are in the beef industry have proved to themselves that they have been able to look after themselves by promoting their own product and doing it without government interference.

This is, Mr. Chairman, is the time when we probably have our differences in our views. The Minister through his marketing branch would like to see marketing boards for all commodities of all farm products in this province, and this is an area where I think that the farmers in this segment of society proving to the Minister that this is just not necessary. And I want to make it clear insofar as our Party is concerned, Mr. Chairman, that I don't approve of marketing boards as such. I don't agree with the supply-management program that the Minister has been advocating over the years and through his regulations thereby controlling it and maximizing the amount that any one farmer can produce; but rather, and I qualify this by saying that if the producers of any one commodity through their choice want to establish a marketing board to control their own business, then I will not stand in their way. I think, Mr. Chairman, this is very important that we have that understanding.

I think this is significant, and I want to make mention of another area that the Minister has talked about and that is we're now going to be debating on moneys that are being allocated for land acquisition. And I can't help but wonder, Mr. Chairman, whether the Minister has ideas in the back of his mind that are somewhat similar to what is going on in British Columbia. I'm given to understand, Sir, that -- just how true this is I'm not able to establish -- but a certain farmer who has been farming now for about a year is able to get funds to buy land, that is to get into the business of buying land, build a barn, purchase dairy cows and get into the dairy business, without any security and really without any real experience; and I believe this is a test case, Mr. Chairman, that is being used by his department, and I believe he will have an opportunity to operate for five years, and having fulfilled that five-year term if that farmer is not able to meet his obligations and carry on that business, the government would then take over. I make mention of this fact, Mr. Chairman, because the Minister mentioned something about the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation whereby they were getting out of the lending of moneys to farmers for buying land, land in itself, and getting into another area which is something similar but I think it's establishing their way into land acquisition, and probably even eventually taking over a farm if necessary. I know when we hear so much about them talking about getting into the mining business now -- they've already taken over the insurance business on your automobile insurance -- they're now talking about getting into the mining business, and as I've asked questions, and this is something that is very much the concern of farmers is to those who own the mineral rights to their property, if this government is going to be re-elected and they carry out the expansionary program or the repatriation program of the mining industry, what's going to happen to that farmer and his mineral rights? --(Interjection)-- Will that be taken from him? --(Interjection)--

And so, Mr. Chairman, I can't help but wonder, and the number of things that have been going on, Mr. Chairman, in the communities in different parts of this province, I regret to have to say that I've become very suspicious of the programs that they are announcing because of the motivations that may be behind them all. And the unfortunate part of it is, Mr. Chairman, these motivations that they have are not going to come out before another general election; this is something that I'm pretty sure of. And when he talks about, again I must repeat, when he talks about getting out of the

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hour being 5:30, I'm leaving the Chair to return at 8:00 p.m. this evening.