

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Friday, May 3, 1974

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Before we proceed I'd like to extend a welcome on behalf of all the members of the Legislature. I'd like to draw your attention to the Speaker's Gallery where we have some 30 students from the Manitoba School Science Program. On behalf of all members we welcome you here.

SUPPLY - DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (d)(1)--pass. (d)(2)--The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to direct some questions to the Minister regarding the perimeter highway and as long as overpasses fall under bridges, I'm on the right item.

--(Interjection)-- Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're on (d). . .

MR. CRAIK: Have we moved on to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: On (d)(1) on page 28. Resolution 67 (d)(1). (Resolution 67 was read and passed.) Resolution 68. The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, my questions are very brief. I wanted to ask the Minister about the plans that may be in the offing with regards to the perimeter highway, and I'm speaking particularly about the intersection of St. Mary's Road and the perimeter highway where we recently had lights installed which have gone a long way towards alleviating a major problem there; the problem being that there's been a number of accidents and deaths of people at that corner. The lights have solved a lot of the problem but I know the land is in reserve and has been acquired for the purposes of grade separation over a period of time, and I wondered if the Minister could indicate at this time whether there are any plans that he can advise us of at this time with regards to the perimeter and with regards to that particular intersection and how it might stack up in relation to the other plans for development on the perimeter highway.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

MR. BURTNIAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This kind of a problem we're confronted with I'm sure the honourable member will agree from time to time in many different interchanges. We've had somewhat similar problem for example on No. 1 and No. 4 where we have installed lights there, which have been in there for about two years now and it has solved the problem to a certain degree. To the best of my knowledge we have not had a serious accident there since the lights have been installed where we did have some serious accidents prior to that. It was a bad corner and we had to look at the situation very closely, whether we were to build an overpass or put in lights. We have put in lights which of course is somewhat cheaper and has served the purpose.

Now in regards to the question on the perimeter and St. Mary's I am quite aware of the problem there too trafficwise and I must inform the honourable member that we have that particular area in the planning stages, hopefully something more can be done in the near future than just the lights, if that continues to be a hazard to the public.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, is there any order of priority on grade separations on the perimeter that have been worked out that the Minister could indicate?

MR. BURTNIAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry to say we don't have the priorities as such listed but it is one of our priorities, I can say that very very emphatically.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I neglected to mention that the 30 students from the Manitoba School Science Program are from the constituency of Kildonan, from the constituency of the Honourable Speaker of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Resolution 68. The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, one further question. Are statistics available on traffic count in the different areas on the perimeter highway - are they in any sort of readily available form that we could have a look at it some time or be supplied to the House?

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Chairman, these statistics on traffic counts are readily available. If the honourable member wants to have a count as recently as we have I would be only too glad to supply him with these statistics.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 68--pass. That concludes the Department of Highways.

(MR. CHAIRMAN cont'd)

The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. J. R. (BUD) BOYCE (Winnipeg Centre): I'm sorry the Minister responsible for the Civil Service was willing to go, I'm sorry, I misjudged the time. He said he would be here in seven minutes. If you just want to take a minute I can go back and sit for him. Mr. Chairman, rather than entertain a debate with the Member for Morris. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe that there is no particular debate. I believe that if you indicate that the Minister responsible for the Civil Service is prepared to go and because of miscalculation of time, we could . . .

MR. BOYCE: Perhaps one of the backbenchers can run out and get the Minister of Labour while I speak on a point of order. You know if somebody wants me to casually relate something to something I will, but may I suggest to the House Leader of the Conservative Party that the Minister's -- somebody get the Minister.

A MEMBER: Maybe I could help you kill time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I believe the Member for Winnipeg Centre is on a point of order.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . does not have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well I have not heard his point of order.

MR. BOYCE: I think I have a Greek speech in here somewhere, Mr. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell, on a matter of privilege?

MR. GRAHAM: Point of privilege, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe that it is the customary practice in this House for a backbencher to dictate what goes on in this House. I think we should get on with the Attorney-General's Department immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell, I think it could be a debatable point and I don't really know what the rules are with this regard but we have -- the Honourable Member for Municipal Affairs on the same point of order. The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre on the same point of order?

MR. BOYCE: No, I'm sorry to the member's point of privilege.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On a matter of privilege.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry but while I am a Legislative Assistant to another Minister and I am not representing that Minister when I speak, it was more or less as an amicus curiae to the House that I spoke . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pardon me? The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre state his point of order.

MR. BOYCE: I started, you know, a matter of privilege of the House is the privileges of the House are to expedite the business of the House and I was starting to say that the Minister . . . that the Minister had said that he would only be a half an hour or so.

SUPPLY - CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm just waiting for the particular rule in Beausheune. The Honourable Minister responsible for the Civil Service Commission. We are back on his Estimates.

Resolution 28(a)--The Honourable Minister responsible for the Civil Service.

A MEMBER: --(Interjection)--

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

MR. PAULLEY: I beg your pardon. How long? Is the clematis here? Okay.

Mr. Speaker, I note that the House is of a mood, and I appreciate that, to complete the Estimates of the Civil Service Commission and I certainly am desirous of accommodating the members of the committee. I do think though, Sir, that I should make reference to one or two questions that were raised to me by some of the members less I be accused of ignoring member of the committee.

The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge dealt with a question of within the Civil Service - that we should move away from the rug-ranking practice that is in his opinion and in some others opinion prevalent, and I agree most heartily that the texture of a rug should not be used for the purpose of establishing prestige of individuals. That as far as I'm concerned if I only had linoleum in my office rather than a rug, those that work with and for me treat it no differently in any case.

The Honourable Member for Swan River asked the question as to whether or not employees of the Health Services Commission are in effect civil servants, and I want to inform my

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd honourable friend that all one hundred staff, that they are civil servants, and when we changed the allocation of responsibilities between the Manitoba Health Service Commission and the new setup, when I'm referring to the changing of the positions, when we got out of charging premiums to Manitobans, that all 100 staff of the former Health Services Commission, whose position became redundant, have now been placed elsewhere within the Civil Service. One of our objectives at that time, Mr. Chairman, was to the effect that because of a change in governmental directives the employee should not suffer.

The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge raised the question about salary levels and I think, Mr. Chairman, that if one takes a look at our salary schedules they will find, with few exceptions, they are comparable with other provinces. The question was raised insofar as the present salary schedule is concerned. I want to say that it is in effect until March 31st of 1975, and it was agreed upon by the unanimous decision of the arbitration board. It is true that it's the first time since there was a provision for binding arbitration that this was used to arrive at a collective agreement, but all three parties concerned, that is the representative of the government, the representative of the employees, and the chairman appointed by the Chief Justice of Manitoba, reached a common conclusion and agreement.

The question now is, Mr. Chairman, in view of the ever-escalating costs of living and the application of inflation, whether or not a second look might be taken as to the wage levels. The Premier and myself some time ago, meeting with representatives of the MGEA, indicated that there was the possibility of further consideration - and I say "possibility" advisedly - of further consideration in respect of possible adjustments due to cost of living input and inflation. However, I do want to indicate to the House that there is no suggestion that the collective agreement itself should be opened up or would be opened up. I think this is understood by the employee representatives.

Another question raised by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge dealt with the question of reorganization within government as between the Management Committee of Cabinet and the duties and responsibilities of the Civil Service Commission. I'm sure, Mr. Chairman, that members are well aware that this matter is under intense and deep consideration at the present time, and as a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, a subject of a debate going on at the present time on a private member's resolution proposed by the Leader of the Opposition and also amended by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

And then another question was raised, Mr. Chairman, by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, and he referred to it in a debate a day or two ago, dealing with the Women's Council within the terms of the Task Force Report. I can assure my honourable friend that a Women's Council will be established. I accept his criticisms of possible delay in so doing; I give him my assurances, personally and as Minister, that one will be established. We use the term "Women's Council"; it may not necessarily be a council comprised only of women because, as I have indicated in this House, one of the directives on the Task Force was to consider other aspects of equal employment opportunities as well. It could conceivably be, Mr. Chairman, that when the composition of the council is announced that there will be representatives, say from the Paraplegic Association, the Association of the Mentally Retarded, and others, so that we have a broader representation on the council referred to in the Task Force Report.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that that, generally speaking, covers the points that were raised in the original debate, and if there is an inclination to proceed to the termination of consideration of the debate on Civil Service, I think that it would only be proper for me, Mr. Chairman, to indicate that since we became the Government of Manitoba in the field of superannuation, many advances have been made insofar as treatment of our employees is concerned in respect to superannuation. I'd like to point out that on December 31st of 1969, the normal retirement age was brought in at age 65, whereas previously it was I believe 65-1/2.

As of July 1st, 1970, cost of living adjustments in pensions were introduced. The early retirement pension reduction was lowered to three percent for each year that an employee retires earlier than 65, that for the first time there was interest paid on the accumulated contributions in pensions, and that for the first time employees who had contributed for five or more years and who resigned or were dismissed, would be permitted to leave his contributions in the fund and retain his rights to a pension. Partially disabled employees were permitted to receive a pension as one of the optional pensions, and to have his pension integrated with the Old Age Security.

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd)

On May 24th of 1972, option at early retirement of having pension integrated with the Canada Pension. And then on July 1st, 1973, the average annual earnings used in pension calculations were based on the average earnings of the seven highest years of the last twelve years, which was a reduction from, I believe, ten.

Early retirement pension reductions were made from three percent a year and was changed to apply to each year an employee retires before 60. In other words, an employee had an optional retirement without pension reduction at the age of 60. And then, Mr. Chairman, at the last session of the Assembly, approval was given to continue the cost of living adjustments to be paid from July 1st in 1973-74 and 1975 to a pensioner who retired before January 1st of the previous year. So we have made some changes, Mr. Chairman, in our Superannuation Fund and our pensions since becoming government. I do say that there is room for improvement yet, as indeed there will always be room for improvement, but I think by and large it is generally conceded that the lot of our civil servants and those who retire from the Civil Service are better now as a result of some of the actions that we have taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution Nos. 28 to 32 were read and passed.) That concludes the Civil Service Commission. I believe the other department is the Department of Education. No? The Attorney-General. The Attorney-General.

A MEMBER: . . . I really needed your help except that the Member for Lakeside took both of your places. Even though he called increased pensions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Minister, the Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that Municipal Affairs will be dealt with first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

MR. PAWLEY: I would like to just commence my remarks by mentioning that during the course of the past year there has been a major change in the Department of Municipal Affairs to the extent that there is now a new Deputy Minister, Mr. Jack McNairnay, replacing Mr. R. L. McDonald who retired in January. I would not want this occasion to pass without paying tribute to Frenchie McDonald, because I think that he excelled in the example that could be provided to Civil Service in providing excellent liaison between his Minister and the municipal people in the province. Always an individual that was prepared to listen and to deal in an analytical fashion with the problems brought to his attention, always prepared to provide, let me say, his Minister with the best possible information that he could muster, and one who never hesitated when he felt his Minister was wrong in a particular course of action, to indicate that to his Minister quite frankly and openly, I think that it may be a little difficult to ensure that the reputation that he has left behind is continued within the Department.

I think that with the addition of the present Deputy Minister, Mr. McNairnay, that we are fortunate in that that tradition will be retained. Mr. McNairnay brings to the department a new, a rather exciting attitude, one who has brought many ideas which he would like to see expressed within municipal government in Manitoba; in many ways, though, having some different approaches and techniques to that of Mr. McDonald; in many other ways because of their relationship together over a number of years, one as Deputy Minister and the other as Assistant Deputy Minister, certainly understanding the purposes and the objectives of the development of a strengthened municipal government system in Manitoba.

I would also like to pay tribute to the untiring work of another individual within the Department, and that is one Mr. Gerry Forrest, the Supervisor of municipal offices and to municipal officials in general, for his co-operation in carrying out the tremendous task which he was required to carry out in respect to ensuring that the School Tax Reduction Act was conducted in as effective a way as possible at the municipal level. In addition, I should mention that Mr. Frame . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek has a difficult time hearing what the Minister has to say. The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: Pardon? Mr. Bill Frame also retired during the course of the year and also left behind a reputation for fairness and integrity in his dealing with municipal officials.

I note the --(Interjection)-- Yes, I was going to mention that. A pioneer or former

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) resident of Souris.

During the course of the year 1973, two important meetings were held, one in May and the other in October of 1973, of the Municipal Advisory Committee to deal with common concerns as we saw it from the government end and also from the municipal end. The Municipal Advisory Committee consists of representatives of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, the Manitoba Urban Association, the Manitoba Secretary-Treasurers' Association, and I have found, Mr. Chairman, that this type of procedure is a most effective means of discovering what is in the mind of those that one has to deal with day by day. During those meetings there is very frank and open exchange. We openly criticize frequently each other's approach or views. We point out where the other may be missing a particular point of view. And I want to express my appreciation to the municipal people for the input they have provided to the development of municipal law, change in the province, by this type of openness and frankness and preparedness to provide this contribution at those Municipal Advisory Committee meetings. And let me say, Mr. Chairman, that I am satisfied that if it was not for the advisory committee system that we have developed, we would have on different occasions run into problems that we were able to avoid by having that type of technique of liaison and communication between us.

Also during the year 1973 was held the second Tri-level Conference, which was held in Edmonton. Representatives from the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities, were invited to participate in the discussions with federal, provincial, and other municipal elected representatives. There are discussions presently taking place among the three levels of government as to the worthwhileness of a further tri-level conference of governments and, if so, what areas should be included within the agenda.

It should come as no secret to members in this House that one of the paramount concerns of municipal people all across Canada is that of finance. The municipal officials at the Tri-level Conference expressed their increasing concern that the senior level of government, the federal level of government, was not finding ways and means of providing to provinces by that means to the municipal level of government the sufficient finances so municipal government could continue to carry on its function, its function at the level of government so close to the people of Canada, increasing concern; and there has now developed between the levels of government, in discussion, an attempt to develop a study which the three levels of government could participate in in order to ascertain whether or not the present capital financial relationship, government to government, should be re-examined in light of the increasing demands made upon government in the present age.

The extension courses in municipal administration of public finance in the four year certificate course for municipal administration was continued. This is a joint program of University of Manitoba Extension Department, the Department of Municipal Affairs, Municipal officials, and particularly the Secretary-Treasurers Association. During the past eight years since this program was inaugurated, it has resulted in approximately 130 graduates, most of whom are now employed as Secretary-Treasurers with local governments throughout Manitoba. It has resulted in a substantial upgrading of the knowledge and efficiency of Secretary-Treasurers.

I'd like to add however, here, a couple of caveats. One is that the department and municipalities are becoming increasingly concerned with the continued unavailability of experienced Secretary-Treasurers. We find insofar as the appointment of Administrators within our Local Government Districts, municipalities find in respect to the replacement of retired Secretary-Treasurers, increasing difficulty in obtaining applicants for those positions with proper qualifications. And it may be, in fact, that there has to be improvement in the salaries and pensions of Secretary-Treasurers in Manitoba. One of the areas that I believe there has been a common consensus upon between Secretary-Treasurers and municipalities in the province, is that the present pension plan for Secretary-Treasurers in Manitoba is highly inadequate; that Secretary-Treasurers find that after sometimes decades of service, that they end up with extremely modest pensions, pensions which do not compare with the type of pensions they would have received if, for example, they had been involved in government service during that period of time which they were contributing to municipal office.

And thus, during the past year, we hired consultants, a firm by the name of Mercer and Company from Ontario, who are noted as specialists in the area of developing programs, pension programs for municipal Secretary-Treasurers, to provide us with their views as to

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) how the present Secretary-Treasurers' pension plans in Manitoba could be improved. This was done after consultation with both the municipal organizations and the Secretary-Treasurers Association. I gather the report, if not already released, is on the verge of release from the consultants, and I expect, Mr. Chairman, that prior to the conclusion of this Session I will be in a position, hopefully, to bring forward to the House the findings of the consultants and possible need for legislative change. I think it is quite urgent, because the number of Secretary-Treasurers in Manitoba that are on the verge of retiring, or close to retiring, is increasing in percentage proportionate to the total numbers of Secretary-Treasurers, and the number of young men and women entering into the field of Secretary-Treasurer offices in Manitoba is a decreasing one.

I would like to also specify to members, to assist in dealing with the Estimates of the department, the changes in staff and in total amounts spent. Members will note that in 1974 the amount spent under the Estimates of the Department of Municipal Affairs was just a little over \$20 million, and this year the total amount is \$22,882,000, a total increase of 2.8 million dollars. This \$2.8 million of increase is accounted for by the following: an increase in Grants in Lieu of Taxes of close to \$1.8 million, and unconditional Grants of \$570,000, for a total of 2.394 million dollars. The balance of the increase of some \$400,000 is accounted for by the usual salary increases to civil servants.

During the course of the year as well, there was an increase in staff which is accounted for by increase in the Local Government District's Branch - two new supervisors; Assessment Branch nine new positions; and two assessors for Thompson District to be recruited in Northern Manitoba; one assessor for the Town of Dauphin; one assessor for the City of Portage la Prairie; one assessor for Winnipeg area; one clerk for the Thompson district; and three clerks for new branch offices which are to be opened in Thompson, Steinbach and Selkirk. The total Municipal Planning Staff increase accounted for 12 - 4 planners, 2 planning assistants, 5 draftsmen, one clerk-typist. Budget and Finance a staff increase of two: one new employee to act in a liaison role with secretary-treasurers to provide guidance and ensure continuity in accounting and budgetary matters, and one new employee to function as a statistician and also provide the necessary data to user departments, particularly Urban Affairs. For a total staff increase of 29 within the department.

In regard to the section dealing with Local Government Districts, six administrators of Local Government Districts resigned or were retired during 1973. As I mentioned earlier, we're finding increasing difficulty in obtaining applications from qualified people applying for the positions of administrator in Local Government District offices. And, as you know, there has been introduced legislation which provides for the transfer of Local Government District of any power duty of the resident administrator, the requirement of an annual public meeting in each Local Government District in each ward, where wards exist, for the purpose of discussing the affairs of the Local Government District.

There's increasing need to continue to place emphasis on the development of local management skills within the Local Government District areas. I can only say, Mr. Chairman, that I think we ought not to rest content until we have been able to transfer responsibly as much responsibility and powers as it is possible from government to those at the local level within the Local Government District framework.

Under the section Municipal Assessment Branch, there has been a move towards decentralization, and it is involved with the decentralization to centres particularly around Winnipeg that were formerly dealt with from the City of Winnipeg. So that there will be that Steinbach will be the centre of assessors who will be responsible for assessing lands, buildings, within the eastern region of Manitoba, and we hope within the matter of a few months to have located our regional assessment office for the eastern part of Manitoba in the Town of Steinbach.

Thompson will be the site of an office in which there will be located assessors to handle assessment work in Northern Manitoba, and Selkirk will be the location of assessors to handle the work within the Interlake Region of Manitoba with a sub-office located for the present time in the City of Portage la Prairie, to deal with matters closer into the City of Portage la Prairie, and possibly Portage la Prairie to become a regional office, once and if the City of Portage la Prairie should decide to obtain municipal assessment at the provincial level. Presently Portage la Prairie has its own municipal assessment staff, but we anticipate that there may be, with consultation with the City of Portage la Prairie, moves towards

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) the province assuming assessment responsibility in those remaining municipalities, including Portage la Prairie, that are presently assessed locally at the municipal level.

In Thompson we hope to recruit local people from Northern Manitoba to provide the assessment service from Thompson.

Under the section dealing with Municipal Services and Research, this branch has traditionally provided two services to municipalities: the preparation of municipal assessment roles and municipal taxation roles by computer; and secondly, a close liaison and assistance with municipal secretary-treasurers including responsibility for the secretary-treasurers' course; close liaison with municipal councils. In addition, this branch finds itself more involved in gathering information for other departments and has been heavily involved in the tax credit program. If this branch is to maintain the past level of services to municipalities and oversee the secretary-treasurers' training program, and provide municipal research information to other government departments and programs, it is obvious that we must expand the staffing of this branch. The problem of course, is finding persons who are knowledgeable in municipal problems to become part of this branch.

Under the section dealing with municipal planning, the municipal planning branch continues to work with the City of Brandon in preparing a land-use plan for the City, and hopefully this will be ready for adoption by 1974. The Planning Branch has conducted a research project known as the Winnipeg Regional Study Program. The purpose of this research was to identify the urban influence of the City of Winnipeg and settlement patterns in the area surrounding the City of Winnipeg. A two-day seminar was held in February, attended by representatives of the municipal councils and planning commissions of approximately 20 municipalities surrounding the City of Winnipeg. Representatives of the City of Winnipeg Environment Committee were also in attendance at this meeting. The seminar clearly identified some of the problems faced by municipalities. The municipalities have requested that the study be continued and expanded in its scope. It is encouraging to note the joint concern in this area of the Province, the City of Winnipeg, the municipalities, surrounding the city, and the willingness to work together to find some solution to this problem.

Now, the increase of 12 persons in the Planning Branch is required to meet additional demands on the branch by increasing awareness of municipalities for long term planning. We find that more and more municipalities are approaching the Municipal Planning Branch, asking that the Municipal Planning Branch provide to them planning advisory services.

Back again to the Winnipeg Region Study, I would just like to add a further addendum that on Wednesday afternoon we had a further meeting with the municipalities surrounding the City of Winnipeg, a very frank and open exchange again, in respect to problems concerning the municipalities in the area surrounding Winnipeg. And, of course, it goes without saying that the pressures of urban growth bring with it social and economic problems which often are not anticipated in the municipalities involved, and I would like just to list a few for members of the House.

One is the increased congestion that is created upon our transportation corridors leading into the City of Winnipeg from the surrounding municipalities, and thus we find the necessity for re-examination often of, for example, speed zones, speeding into the City of Winnipeg, the reduction of those speed zones.

Two, we find the problem which constantly confronts residents of the municipalities surrounding the City of Winnipeg in dealing with increasing assessment, which is relative to the fact that, once land is sold for subdivisions, the value of that land has increased and assessors in dealing with assessment must reflect that increased value in the calculations of their assessment, and as a result of that we find that there is need to re-examine the area of assessment relationship to planning and zoning, to ascertain whether there's a way or means by which we can discover a method for ensuring that those that are not interested, not whatsoever are interested in holding their lands for purposes of urban development, can continue to enjoy their lands for purposes of agriculture. And this is a matter of concern, I think, to all.

A third question is septic tanks and pollution often caused; the amount of acreage which is required in a new subdivision in order to ensure that there is a prevention of health hazard. And there is conflicting material on this, but it is obvious that we have to increase our studies of septic tank fields and other types of operations as to the best technique of dealing with this

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) type of development insofar as possible pollution and its effect.

Another area, of course, in the urban rural pressure zone is that dealing with the question of the Clean Environment Committee and the need to ensure that those that are engaged in farming operations will not be affected by the development of subdivisions close to feed lots or other farming operations, and thus the built-in conflicts that too often occur as a result of poor planning between those that are engaged in farming operations and those that are attempting to develop lands for residential areas within a rural setting.

Well, these are problems that I think we should want to discuss intelligently among ourselves, as those responsible for people within the areas that we represent, and the municipal councils in and about the City of Winnipeg have expressed an interest in the forming of a committee which would be representative of the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba, and possibly one representative from each of the municipalities surrounding the City of Winnipeg, to discuss these problems relating to this expansion, and to possibly provide and with the assistance of the Municipal Planning Branch and the technical and expertise that can be provided there, to attempt to develop an understanding as to where we head within the immediate period ahead insofar as ensuring that the development of those areas, as a result of urban pressures, can be done in the soundest and in the most responsible way. And I want to indicate to members that I'm really overwhelmed by the co-operation and the interest and enthusiasm that has been shown to me over the past few months by those representatives of the municipalities in the areas surrounding Winnipeg to work together with our Department to attempt to bring solutions to these problems that are facing us all.

Just one area that I would not want to shy away from, Mr. Chairman. - I notice I only have two minutes but I would not want to shy away from - is by mentioning to the House that I have discussed quite frankly with municipal people the future role of municipal government in Manitoba and the fact that we ought to not be hesitant to examine the future of municipal government, the strengthening of municipal government, and that where we find that there are some weaknesses within municipal government, we might be well to look at whether or not municipal government can be strengthened, strengthened either by providing municipal government with some more responsibilities and powers, those that can possibly be handled better at the local level than the provincial level. And I would mention here for the information of the members, my belief that much of the planning which is done at the provincial level, at the Department of Municipal Affairs level, could be better handled if it was under the control of municipalities working together in a regional planning board or authority; that I think the planning, that the ultimate objectives of planning could possibly be better secured under that type of arrangement, and it is that direction which we intend to proceed in insofar as planning is concerned in Manitoba. I wonder if I could just have two minutes to finish this one item?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Leave? (Agreed)

MR. PAWLEY: On the entire question of regional government, I have requested that we discuss this very frankly back and forth. There is, of course, differing points of view among municipal people as to the need for municipal change. I have indicated to municipal people that we will not bring about any change insofar as municipal structure is concerned in Manitoba without the fullest and the most complete consultation between the province and municipal government. But in that, I really trust and expect that we will all be working together in order to ascertain whether or not we can better handle some problems on a regional basis than on a municipal or a provincial basis. It's a two-way street, and I think that we should not hesitate to look at this area and I would welcome opinions from members in this House in that area, because I know that municipal people are considering it at their level and I think it should be discussed in this House as well.

Those are just some of the comments I wanted to make and I look forward to representations by members, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 90 -- the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to compliment the Minister on his report on his estimates. He took the time to go through the departments, one by one, and explain very clearly the reasons for the increases such as adding people and assessors, etc. and the opening of branch offices for assessment, and the problems -- not the problems, but the reasons for adding people in the local government districts. I would also like to briefly comment, Mr. Chairman, on Mr. McDonald, who has retired as we all

(MR. JOHNSTON cont'd). . . . know, and also say that the opposition, I believe all oppositions of this government and the government itself, would like to say that we are disappointed in losing a man of this calibre, but he has served a long time and we sincerely hope that he enjoys his retirement as much as he should, because he has spent many years working very well for the people of Manitoba and especially in Municipal Affairs.

My comments regarding your concern for secretary-treasurers would only be also a compliment. I have had experience, not so much with municipal secretaries rurally, but with many of them in the city area, and it is quite true they do work very hard and very long hours, and certainly they should have the opportunity to have a good pension plan the same as anybody else, and I say that the Mercer and Company, which I have had personal experience with dealing with pensions in the City of St. James-Assiniboia, are probably as good as you can get, and I can only say that take a look at their recommendations very carefully and don't argue with them too much, because I found they were very expert in their field.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that regarding the -- (Interjection) -- Mr. Chairman, my colleague wonders if I'm not feeling well, that I am being very complimentary at the present time, but I must say the Minister did give a good resumé of his estimates. I think probably later on, in a few minutes from now, I may have some comments for the Minister that won't be disagreeable but in the way of advice that I think he should follow.

Mr. Speaker, on the Local Government Districts area, we have a bill before us which we know has passed second reading of the House and will be discussed in Law Amendments, and on that particular bill there are some changes that were recommended by the Municipal Committee, some changes that I mentioned while we spoke on the bill that we would question in Committee, and I'm certainly looking forward, if we get to it on Tuesday morning, to having some discussion with the Minister on those particular points.

On the Municipal Board, Mr. Chairman, I would say to the Minister that the problem right now with the Municipal Board is that for an ordinary citizen to try and get before them seems to be impossible. Now, I'm not saying that they are aloof to people, but the rules and regulations, that if you go before a Community Committee or you go before a council and you have some disagreement and you want to bring it before the Municipal Board, and it is referred to the Municipal Board, if that person who represented a disagreement in the council area, he almost has to be a Philadelphia lawyer to know the rules and regulations that he has to comply to in order to appear. And many times, the person who felt that they would like to go further to the Municipal Board where the problems have been referred to, they find themselves in what I believe the lawyers call "out of court" because they have not complied with the proper regulations in order to make their representation to the board. On many occasions I have been told that people just don't really understand that when they've made their problem to a council or to a municipality and it is referred to the Municipal Board, they very often feel that, well, when the meeting is called and the date is called, that they can just appear, but if they haven't written letters ahead of time, if they haven't gone through these regulations that are very foreign to the ordinary person, they cannot appear before the board. And, Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the Minister would look at that situation very carefully. I know that they have to have rules and regulations, but most people are not that clear on the procedures in order to be able to be in front of the Municipal Board.

Mr. Speaker, on the municipal assessment, I'm sure my colleagues, at least two of my colleagues, will have comments on municipal assessment. The problems that you're speaking of, of municipal assessment around the urban areas is a serious one. We have been in conference with it, we have discussed it and we have tried to solve the problems in many ways. But I do think that the person who keeps his land for agricultural reasons certainly should be protected while he uses it for agricultural reasons, but I also believe that if the urban center starts to grow and he has the opportunity to sell his land at a profit, that he should be able to do so. I don't think that we should put too many regulations on the basis of because by accident we're saying that his property becomes more valuable. I don't think -- It may be by accident that the city grew, but after all, the man did buy the property; nobody told him the city was going to start to grow out and become part of his land, or people would want his land, and if he owns it and it becomes valuable he should be able to sell it without too many ties involved.

Mr. Speaker, the Research Branch that the Minister mentioned is a welcome one. He mentions the -- Well, it's in our estimates and we've always certainly had it, but he mentioned

(MR. JOHNSTON cont'd) that some of the far-reaching research that is going to be done working with, or I guess the best thing to say here is "looking at the problems" of municipal areas that we seem to have cropping up all the time between towns and municipalities, and I would certainly hope that the Research Branch would take a look and make very solid recommendations towards the particular problems facing the municipalities and towns; and I say that, giving the example of the one that we have in Dauphin that we've been trying to solve for years and certainly we've tried to saw it off on a couple of occasions, and I think that those type of problems should be looked at very seriously.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister went through the whole of his discussions on his estimates and waited until the end, and he said he would very frankly like to talk about the problems - and he touched and briefly mentioned "regional government". You know, I think that the government at the present time seems to be mentioning this every once in a while, and I have had experience with this government that when they start mentioning things two or three times, look out, you know. The glove is being thrown and we better start watching for what's going to happen. And I would mention that the Minister of Municipal Affairs of Saskatchewan, who talked to the convention last year, he mentioned regional government and he mentioned the municipal government, and when he was speaking he ended up liking both very much, you know. He didn't give us really any decision as to what he was for or what he wasn't for; he was saying there was some good on both sides; but he still wasn't able to have any sound policy as to regional government in Manitoba or non-regional government in Manitoba.

Mr. Chairman, there is only one way to solve it, and I would say here that when I was an alderman in St. James-Assiniboia and we had the opportunity to amalgamate the two areas, it took us two years to amalgamate it. I certainly wish the City or the government had learned a lesson from what we did when they put Winnipeg into one big city, but it took us two years of very long meetings, reports from engineers, clerks, Public Works people, police chiefs, fire chiefs. We read reports; we threw them back; we asked for new reports; and even after that, after we had put it all together, we still had some problems but what we had accomplished was a working of people that are experienced in that area.

Now there are some problems in the rural Manitoba regarding municipalities and towns, and I wouldn't like to use the word "regional" at this point. I think that I would like to say that there are areas in rural Manitoba between towns and municipalities where they can economically sit down and work out what is best for that community, and I used the word "economically". And that's basically what happened when we amalgamated St. James and the Town of Assiniboia. What we did, we said that, you know, here we are; we have St. James Street as a boundary; we have the river as a boundary; we have the airport as a boundary; and we have machinery within the two municipalities that could very well be worked and put together for savings of people in this particular instance. There is no question, there is no question, Mr. Chairman, that there are areas of rural Manitoba that have exactly that same problem, and we don't want to start talking regional government. What we want to start doing, and the Minister has touched on it, is bring the people involved, the experienced people in the municipalities and towns in Manitoba, bring them together where they believe they have a problem or they are showing the Minister problems, and say, "Now, look. You know the problems better than I do. You know and I know that the way you're working at the present time is costing the people more money, and if we continue to do it the way we're doing it, it's going to continue to get more expensive because one of you will not have the tax income that the other has, or vice versa." And you're going to have to say to these gentlemen: "We have to find a way to help lowering the tax burden on the people of the rural areas. Now we want you to find a way. In other words, we want to throw you a challenge, you gentlemen who know the problems better than anybody else, to sit down and try and work them out. We in the Department of Municipal Affairs will be available at any time to help you with advice. We will give you the services of the departments that we have and we will work with you."

But let those people sit down and work out those problems. You may have to show them that they have a problem, and they're not too hard to convince when they're shown that they have a problem, but you will work with them much better, much better, if you take those people with experience. And, Mr. Chairman, I'm saying to the Minister at the present time, he may have to be a little tough; in fact the word "toughness" to the Minister of Municipal Affairs is a good one. I don't think that at times he's maybe tough enough. I once had to tell him that because I hear of no problems in the department and I find that people are saying that

(MR. JOHNSTON cont'd) he's a good Minister and there's nothing wrong, that I get very suspicious when there's no problems.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would say that the Minister may just have to be a little tough in this respect in saying, "You people have a problem here. We have found the problem in our research and studies. We would like the problem solved but we would like you to solve it. You are the people with experience and it doesn't have to be solved overnight; it can take one, two, maybe three years to be done." And in my discussions with the rural members of our caucus - and we have quite a few - we find that that is the answer. There are confrontations between municipalities and towns; there are confrontations as to who should do what work and who should not do it. But they are intelligent men; they are devoted people. They don't really want to live in their own little bailiwick, as some people would believe; they want to advance the rural part of Manitoba in the municipalities and the towns.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would say that the problem is more than the municipalities - apparently I have one too - but the problem that we are coming up with at the present time is one that can be solved by the people, and this government has always said that the problems that we have in this province can be solved by the people. The government keeps telling us it's the people that will solve the problems. Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has a chance to prove that. He has a chance to prove that he can, with his Research Branch, identify a problem in different areas, have these people come in and say to them --(Interjection)-- No, not create one if it isn't there. And he can say to them, in no uncertain terms if he has to be that tough, that "this problem must be solved and we want you to solve it."

So, Mr. Speaker, with that, I would say that the Minister of Municipal Affairs has given a good rundown of his estimates. I would say also that the Minister of Municipal Affairs is working to try and solve these problems but I'd say that the Minister has to be a little tougher. We have to confront the problems that we have. We don't want to call it Regional Government; we might want to call it People's Government, their ideas of how to solve the problems of the different communities in the rural areas, and I think if we work from there, we can do it. But the attitude of saying, "Well, I don't want to rock the boat, I don't want them annoyed with me," I don't think they'd be annoyed with the Minister if he confronts them straightforwardly and says, "These problems have to be solved. I'm sure the people will do it." Thank you.

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

MR. MARION: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well I, too, would like to add on behalf of the Liberal Party our congratulations to the Minister for giving a very succinct and terse presentation of his budget. I think that there are few areas that he did not cover and cover well, and for a novice it is most important that all of the activities carried on by his Ministry should be outlined so that we may comment on them.

I think that the first and the global comment I would like to make with respect to this budget is the fact that it increased 15.2 percent, and perhaps that's not enough. Now that's rather a cliché for an Opposition member to be saying that maybe the Minister isn't spending enough money, but I do feel that where he is spending, or where he is showing an increase over the previous year, I can't help but feel that these are the areas which very definitely should have been increased, so it would seem that perhaps our thinking is going along the same lines. He mentioned that the grants in lieu of taxes have been increased by \$1.8 million. I would suppose he realized that the municipalities were perhaps not getting a fair shake on the former basis and this is why he increased his grants, to offset the ever-increasing cost of municipal governments to operate. He also increased by \$.6 million the unconditional grants. And here again, I would suppose that the Minister realized that the Provincial Government, who has a great deal more fiscal power, should carry a greater share of the burden. This total increase of \$2.4 million almost accounts for the entire amount that the Minister has increased in his budget - almost the entire amount. There leaves approximately \$400,000 not accounted for, and again I'm pleased to say that the major part of that \$400,000 is covered by the additional expenses incurred in the Municipal Assessments category and the Municipal Services and Research category. Here again, this in my opinion is a very healthy sign, because it denotes the fact that the Provincial Government realizes its responsibilities towards the municipality to increase its services to its residents.

It would seem to me one of the comments that the Minister made should be investigated a bit, when he mentioned that he wanted particularly more participation by the municipalities themselves with respect to services and research, and I think that by this the Minister implied

(MR. MARION cont'd) that he was going to take the leadership that is incumbent upon him and devise, with the municipalities concerned, methods by which this can be brought about. I would say to him that I wish him well in this venture because I think that he is correct. No one but municipal people know better their problems and probably can find the solutions that are most adequate to these problems and it would be indeed a step in the right direction if the Minister brought about this kind of progressive step.

I think that the Minister mentioned one specific area that I feel perhaps there has not been the leadership that there could be from our Provincial Government. He mentioned the Tri-Level Conference. The original one took place, if I recall, in Ottawa, and there was a follow-up in Western Canada. And I recall reading very assiduously the report of the original presentations that were made at the Ottawa Conference whereby the then Minister of Municipal Affairs realized the very basic responsibility of a province vis-a-vis the municipal governments. It was a point of the Minister at that time to mention that he realized that the financial resources available to a Provincial Government should be shared with this infant stage - if we might call it - or the creation of the Provincial Government, namely, the municipal government, because more and more demands were being made of that form of government by the people, by the residents of those areas. There is no doubt in my mind that as we progress into the 20th and 21st century that people will have a great deal more time on their hands, and the municipal government is the one that will be saddled with providing the kind of recreation and educational demands that will be made of that form of government by the citizens, and it was perhaps to this that the Minister of Municipal Affairs was alluding to when he agreed that more sharing had to be done, more dialoguing had to be done with municipal governments so that together both the forms of government would be able to better fulfill their responsibilities vis-a-vis the citizens.

The part that makes me sad is that after these presentations were made by the Province of Manitoba and the then Minister of Municipal Affairs at the Tri-Level Conference, very little progressed with respect to cost sharing, and even if I were perhaps not as pecuniary as I am being, but not even did we see an appreciable difference in the dialogue that was lacking between the two levels of government. To the point - and I'm sure that the Honourable Minister, Mr. Chairman, can't help but know of the presentations that were made at the ensuing Tri-Level Conference whereby municipal governments right across the country - I suppose that the problem is not incumbent only in this province but throughout our Dominion - but the municipal governments requested that the Federal Government let them place their case before it directly and, rightly so, the Federal Government decided that this was not a step that it could approve but it would certainly take under advisement an observation role for municipal governments whereby municipal governments could listen to the dialogue between the two senior forms of government but not partaking in the actual decision-making.

I think that if municipal governments took this step at the Tri-Level basis, it's because all of the to-do that had gone on at the first conference, where really it seemed that things augured well, that both the federal and the provincial governments were going to take a much closer look at how they could improve the position of municipal governments vis-a-vis their responsibilities, when all of this went for naught in results, it would seem that the provincial governments then at the second conference should have taken a second look at their position, because really a great deal of what can be done rests on the shoulders of the Provincial Government. There's no doubt, as I said, that the Federal Government should not in any way, shape or form, deal directly with municipal governments except in special pilot projects and, again, with the approbation of the Provincial Government. And I say this because I'm a decentralizer and not a centralizer of power. --(Interjection)--

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. MARION: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad that you brought my honourable friend from Lakeside in order.

In any event, it would seem, Mr. Chairman, that with the new guidance of the present Minister for Municipal Affairs, that we should look at the possibilities of getting together the municipal governments of this province on a Bi-Level Conference so that we can explore the things that were said by the province at the two Tri-Level Conferences. We could explore the position of the municipal governments at that first conference anyway, and then decide how best both the pledges that were made at that time could be brought to the service of, after all, that citizen who is dependent upon making or getting the maximum kind of service for his tax

(MR. MARION cont'd) dollar. So much for the possibilities of a Manitoba Bi-Level Conference, which I hope the Minister will study.

I can't help but take up the cudgels again on another point which was made by the Minister when he was dealing with the area of no urban expansion, or that area immediately outside of the territorial limits of the City of Winnipeg. I think that there's no doubt that I share the Minister's feeling that any growth has to be orderly, because if it isn't orderly it's a mishmash, and a very costly one at that. But I think that there have been some inequities that have been brought to my attention, and perhaps now with the committee that has been set up of reeves and members of the Committee on Environment of the City of Winnipeg, perhaps the owners of the land in the immediate area, or the area concerned, will be able to transmit to the people who own this land, or that the joint committee will be able to transmit to the owners of that land exactly what is expected of them.

I can't help but allude to a situation that was brought to me by a man or a resident of East St. Paul, and this gentleman wanted to subdivide or develop a nominal piece of property. I think it consisted of somewhat in the neighborhood of 25 acres and he wanted to subdivide this so that people could opt for five-acre lots. Now he was already being assessed, or rather paying tax on an urban mill rate and not on a farmland mill rate, so he felt that this immediately indicated that there were no reserves being held by any of the planning authorities with respect to his subdividing. To his great consternation he found out that there was no way that he could subdivide his property because there were pollution effects; it was strip developing, which in essence would not serve for orderly expansion, and he was extremely unhappy because he felt that a grave injustice was being perpetrated against him. The fact was that the case had never been made abundantly clear to him that development in the area that this gentleman resided in, or owned property in, was not an area in which he could subdivide and develop as he saw fit, and I think that this has been a problem and a major problem. The government of this province and the Department of Municipal Affairs has not translated to a great number of people who are interested in developing property, it has not transmitted to these people the kinds of caveats that actually exist. Now I happen to appreciate the kinds of caveats that exist, and I endorse them. As I mentioned before, I don't expect that we should permit people to develop just because they have a piece of property. I think that any development should be done with over-all plans. I suspect that this is what is now being developed by the joint committee of reeves and councillors of the Committee on Environment. I would expect that this will help make the case crystal clear to all of those people who own property in the area of no urban expansion, and in areas within the city limits that are labelled areas of no urban expansion.

I think the Minister mentioned something that struck very very true to me, and also to the member for Sturgeon Creek, when he talked about regional government and the fact that he was never going to introduce any form of regional government without serious consultation with municipal people. --(Interjection)-- I certainly hope, notwithstanding the comments of my honourable friend from Lakeside, that this is true, because we have a regional form of government that I think is the worst experiment that has ever been undertaken and foisted on the people of the Province of Manitoba and that's the City of Winnipeg. I would hate to see any further perpetration of, I don't know really what term I can use to express my --(Interjection)-- That's a very strong term. --(Interjection)-- Totalitarian might. All right, I will accept that term. I think that there was never any meaningful discussion when the decision was taken to amalgamate the City of Winnipeg. There were a lot of propaganda meetings, I will agree, but there was never at any point meaningful discussions. I recall reading a great number of presentations, well a great number - if three is a great number I read a great number of presentations made by very competent municipal people to the commission that was listening to the presentations, and little if any benefit was derived in the final outcome of Bill 36 by the participation of these municipal people. I would hope that we're now living through this experiment, and we're coming up every year, as someone mentioned in this House not so long ago, with innumerable amendments to Bill 36, exactly because of the fact that we did not pay heed to the comments and to the participation of municipal people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Member for St. Boniface will have an opportunity to debate his point under Urban Affairs. We are dealing with Municipal Affairs. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface may proceed.

MR. MARION: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am merely making an analogy between what was foisted on the people of Winnipeg and what I do not want foisted on the people of the Province of Manitoba.

SUPPLY - MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside on a point of order.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): On a point of order, it is eminently correct that you should remind us that we are discussing Municipal Affairs. It is therefore eminently correct for me to remind you, Sir, that the single biggest municipality that we are concerned with is, namely the Municipality of the City of Winnipeg. So I find the remarks and the comments made by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface eminently correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I also find it eminently unnecessary for the Member for Lakeside to prompt the Member for St. Boniface.

MR. MARION: Well, Mr. Chairman, it's gratifying to me to see that I have friends that are willing to take up the cudgels for me. Mr. Chairman, I think that I have no reservation in saying that the Minister for Municipal Affairs is one who really believes fundamentally, he really believes fundamentally in dialogue. He is most interested in knowing what the other man thinks, and for this reason if I am strong in my criticism of what was foisted on the people of Winnipeg, I think he will take it for what it is worth, that I am agreeing with him indirectly that before any sort of regional government is brought about in the rural areas of our province, a great deal of dialogue should be permitted to happen in which municipal people as well as the Honourable Minister, will participate, so that the final outcome will be meaningful change, if change is required and wanted by the municipal people other than the people living in the City of Winnipeg.

Now I think that there have been some very interesting experiments that lead me to believe that some form of regional co-operation is required, and I allude to the Regional Library and Information Services, that have been extended in the Dauphin area, and from what I hear from the people in that area, this has proven to be extremely successful and viable. We are permitting people in those areas to obtain 20th century services that would otherwise be impossible for them to obtain if they had to fund these programs by themselves. Now this is really co-operation between a number of municipalities under the leadership of the Provincial Government, and I think that, Mr. Minister, this is the kind of thing that you should look into and develop further, because I think that these are worthwhile projects.

I can see that in the areas of recreation again, some fundamental kind of collective approach is required. This is also something that perhaps your department could be spearheading to give the people of the rural areas the kind of services that they should be expected of. I think that--(Interjection)--you used that word "communes", I didn't. I think that this is the only kind of regional co-operative approach to certain services that will be tolerated by my country cousins, who are without doubt people that will want to feel that they--(Interjection)--I'm glad to hear that. This is the kind of service that I'm sure the people from the rural areas will agree to and it will not impinge upon the kind of liberties that they are now enjoying and want to continue enjoying. I think that competition in some of the areas, in some of the municipal areas is one that is healthy.

I can't help but see some of the little cities and towns that are growing by leaps and bounds in Manitoba because of initiative being taken by the municipal people in those areas. I think this is great, and I would hate to see regional government be brought about that would really dampen this kind of personal initiative by people in certain municipal areas. I know that yesterday the Minister for Mines, Minerals and Natural Resources mentioned that he for one did not like the kind of competition that was going on for the industrial input that was available in Manitoba by the different municipalities.

Well perhaps this had a good side as well. It made people fully aware that if you wanted to attract industry, you had to think and plan ahead for where you would house them, how you would house them, the kind of industrial parks that you would develop, and it had a good side to what I think was in all, a question that perhaps was not altogether right, but I would think that in the context of the rural municipalities it would be important not to dampen the personal initiatives that have been taken by some of the municipalities.

I think that I rest my case after those few comments by saying to the Minister that, do not hesitate for five minutes in spearheading the leadership that you want to spearhead; make sure though at all costs that you have total participation by the municipal people and don't foist on them the kind of injustices that have been foisted on the people of Winnipeg by Bill 36.

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

SUPPLY - MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

MR. A. R. ADAM (Ste. Rose): Mr. Chairman, I don't believe I've been recognized yet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I did recognize the honourable member if he was listening.

MR. ADAM: Thank you very much. I just want to make a few comments on the Minister's estimates. I perhaps could have raised this on resolution 95 but I'm not sure whether I'll be given sufficient latitude to bring this particular matter to the Minister's attention, but it has to do with the apparent confusion that does exist insofar as municipal planning is concerned. For the record I would like to read into the record a couple of letters from the Municipal Board to one of the surveyors in Manitoba and it's relating to the Village of Rosssburn, which suggests that there are some confusions insofar as municipal planning goes, and the letter reads as follows:

"Dear Sir: In respect to the application for approval of the above named plan of subdivision I have been instructed by the Board to inform you that before giving consideration to the application, it will require your response in writing in respect of the condition set out in this letter. Your response must be received by the Board not later than six weeks from this date. Failing this the Board will not proceed with consideration of the application.

"The Board requires your comment on the following:

"That in lieu of a planning scheme the applicant prepare an agreement, same to be filed as a caveat in the Neepawa Land Titles Office, setting out therein certain building restrictions acceptable to the Municipal Planning Branch and the Municipal Board.

"In the event that you indicate to the Board that you are prepared to meet the above conditions please so advise and as well forward a copy of the said agreement in order that we may consider the application further. Yours truly."

It's signed by the Secretary, Mr. J. Achim. Now this copy goes out to Mr. Whiting, Mr. Clough, Mr. Mudry, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Stephen, Mr. Furness, Public Health Inspector, Health Unit in Birtle; Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Wurga, Mr. Godfrey, Mr. Karmazenuk at Rosssburn, the Secretary Treasurer of the Rosssburn Municipality, I presume.

Now the surveyor replies in this fashion:

"With respect to your letter of February 26, 1974, could you please give us an indication of what type of building restrictions would be required in the agreement mentioned and whether it would pertain only to the above noted subdivision. Perhaps you could enclose a copy of a similar agreement prepared for some other village that would enable us to compare the form and similarities of requirements.

"I would like to take this opportunity to ask the Board whether the planning scheme or agreements that suggest certain building restrictions are realistic if they are not enforced. In almost all towns and villages in rural Manitoba, including larger centres such as Dauphin, Roblin and Russell, Swan River and The Pas, existing planning schemes are not enforced insofar as proper locating of buildings is concerned. Most towns when issuing building permits, inform the builder or land owner of the restrictions but actually seldom know whether the building was ever placed in the required position.

"When mortgages are required, most financial institutions request a certificate and a sketch to be made by an authorized land surveyor in order to verify the position of the building on the property and if a copy of this survey is forwarded to the Town or Village concerned, this is usually the only way in which they become aware of compliance or non-compliance with the building restrictions.

"Because of a lack of survey monumentation throughout the province, caused by the deterioration of original survey monuments, along with the complacent attitude of local municipal and provincial authorities with respect to any consistent program of re-monumentation, the landowner encounters unreasonable survey costs as far as he is concerned and tends to rely on hearsay or unauthorized persons in determining the limits of his property. This haphazard manner of establishing property limits too frequently causes ill-feeling and considerable financial transactions between neighbours.

"If planning schemes were made and enforced properly I believe they would be extremely helpful to all communities, but the manner in which they are now carried out is of no use to the average landowner.

"Perhaps you could advise further on the benefits of planning schemes in general so that I could present these views to any future municipal clients. Yours truly, B. A. Balchen, Land Surveyor's Office."

SUPPLY - MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the honourable member table those documents, and I believe the last letter.

MR. ADAM: I am prepared to table the documents, Mr. Chairman, and also I would ask the Clerk to kindly make copies, so that they can be distributed, and I would like to have two copies back.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member does realize that the last letter that he was reading does not pertain directly to the Municipal Affairs Department as it does to the Attorney-General. I do not find. . .

MR. ADAM: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I believe that they do come under the municipal planning, on resolution 95, and I'm speaking on the Minister's salary, and I believe that I have more latitude on the Minister's salary than on the resolution 95.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 90 (1) (a) - The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the remarks of the Member for Ste. Rose and the concern he has for the Village of Rossburn, and I am sure that the Minister will take urgent action on this matter. I just bring to the Minister's attention that the name referred to the secretary, Mr. Nick Karmazenuk retired over a year ago, and I'm sure that the Minister for Ste. Rose would like to be apprised of that, and I'm sure that the Minister has probably dealt with this matter already.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, when we're dealing with the Minister's estimates, I was very happy to see the Minister make a good pitch in the House for the credit to one who has served this community for so many years in the person of Frenchie McDonald. Everybody in this Chamber and every municipal council in this province, I am sure, has a very fond spot in their heart for the contributions that Mr. McDonald has made to the Province of Manitoba in serving the Minister and the government of this province regardless of the nature of the government. He has served as a civil servant should serve in promoting the department that he represents.

When the Minister brought in his estimates, Mr. Chairman, I must say that over the last four or five years while the Minister has been in charge of this department, I feel that the response that he has received from the Municipal people throughout the province has been a good one. He has tried hard to serve his portfolio in a manner that brings accolades, not only from members of his own party but from the Municipal people in the province and also from members from this side of the House; that at the same time, Mr. Chairman, we have to realize that the Minister has certainly had problems when he is dealing with the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, as one of his responsibilities. Another responsibility that he had, the Autopac, was an absolute disaster. We now find that he is the Attorney-General and the way in which he has handled that department is still to be assessed in this House and in the community at large; we do give him credit for doing a reasonably good job, an exceptionally good job in fact in Municipal Affairs.

While I may have some personal disappointments in the fact that the Minister has refused to bring in any significant legislation dealing with municipal assessment, I think that I would be the first to admit that I have a more than average interest in municipal assessment and have been very concerned ever since I have been a member of this Chamber to bringing about changes in the municipal assessment field in the Province of Manitoba.

But, Mr. Chairman, one of the remarks the Minister made today did cause a little bit of concern to me. While he paid tribute to the former deputy minister, he said when he was paying his tribute to the new deputy minister. . .

A MEMBER: He said, God bless me for the new one.

MR. GRHAM: . . . that he said the new Minister brings many ideas to the department which he would like to see expressed. Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that every man that serves in the Civil Service field in the Province of Manitoba probably has some ideas or another that he wants to see expressed in the House. But I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that the expression of ideas in the Legislative Chamber and the direction that is applied to any department should properly come from the Minister, and the Minister should have the responsibility for the success or failure of the ideas that he has expressed throughout his department. So I would be a little hesitant if I was the Minister to stand up in the House and say that he is espousing ideas and expressions of opinion of the deputy minister, because I don't believe that that is the intention of the deputy minister, nor do I believe that really it is the intention

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(MR. GRAHAM cont'd). . . of the Minister; and I think really what happened is the Minister probably made a slip of the tongue and didn't really intend to make that a statement of policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Municipal Affairs on a point of order?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, I hesitate to rise on a point of order but I would certainly like to ensure that the record is clear, that I was referring to fresh insight and ideas that the deputy minister would bring into the department. Certainly I assume responsibility for all ideas and views expressed at my level.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the Minister has stated that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, that was not really a point of order. We shall proceed.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, we do realize that the Minister has a busy schedule. He has more than one portfolio and because of that I wanted to raise this point at this particular time because I feel very strongly that it is purely the Minister's discretion in consultation with his cohorts to establish policy and direction.

A MEMBER: The word is colleagues.

MR. GRAHAM: I prefer to use the word "cohorts" rather than colleagues. And I think that those directions should properly come from the Minister rather than from the deputy minister.

Earlier in the session, Mr. Chairman, I spoke on the municipal assessment changes that the Minister has proposed and expressed my disappointment. Today we again hear the Minister talking about assessment practices, especially in the area immediately surrounding the City of Winnipeg, and the problems that his department, the Assessment Branch, are having with that area. And again I want to stress as strongly as I can, Mr. Chairman, a conviction that I have, and I'm sure that many other people in the Province of Manitoba have, that assessment of property cannot be carried out on an expected return, or expected evaluation, some place off in the future, that assessment of property can only be done on the basis of present use of that property and on that basis only. We have in the laws of this country on the federal field, we have laws which adequately assess unexpected capital gains where those gains are taxed, so I see no need for assessment of property on anticipated capital gain.

So again I want to just make that simple point that in my belief, Mr. Chairman, the assessment of property can only be done on the real value of the property at today's evaluation and for the use that that land is put there. Once it has changed ownership and is put to a different use, then quite naturally assessment can change; the province will get the benefit of the increased taxation. But I say to you, Mr. Chairman, that if government intends to tax on anticipated use, that they are not fulfilling a proper function, in fact they are penalizing and deterring progress to such an extent that they may very well cause the owners of property to lose their property through their inability to pay taxes on the anticipated revenue of that property.

Mr. Chairman, there's one other point that I want to make at this time, and that is in respect to the question of regional government. The Minister in his remarks made reference to regional planning. He has also repeatedly told municipal authorities through this province that there would be no form of regional government without full discussion with municipal authorities; he has not gone so far as to say that it would only occur with the consent of the municipal authorities. But when we look at the total picture we find what the Minister is saying and what the government are doing, are two different matters. We find for instance in the field of the Department of Agriculture that the Minister of Agriculture is carrying out a reshuffle of his department, which in my view, Mr. Chairman, is based on the concept of regional government. We're finding that the Home Economist Program that has existed in the past in rural Manitoba is now being regionalized. We find in the field of health. . .

A MEMBER: Their position on whether it is suspect, Harry; that's the whole problem.

MR. GRAHAM: In the field of health, Mr. Chairman, we find the same procedures are occurring, that we are moving towards a concept of regional government.

In the field of education, we find the Minister of Education has now embarked on a program of what he calls decentralization; Mr. Chairman, what I call again centralization in the form of regional government.

I say to you, Mr. Chairman, that when these changes become practice in the field of agriculture, in the field of health services, in the field of education, that then the Minister can turn around and he can say to the Municipal people, well we have done it here, we have done

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(MR. GRAHAM cont'd). . . it there, we have done it there; we are now going to do it in the field of municipal politics. We will then come to the stage where we will have regional government, even though the Minister has told the municipalities that this will not occur without their consultation, but to my knowledge, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has never told the municipal authorities that it will not occur without their consent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I believe the hour is just about 4:30. Before I call in the Speaker, I'd like to extend a happy birthday to our Clerk, Jack Reeves, who will be celebrating his 39th birthday. 39.

A MEMBER: Happy birthday, Jack. (Sang Happy Birthday)

MR. JACK REEVES: This is too much.

CHANGE OF HOURS OF SITTING

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would also like to remind members of the amended sitting hours agreed to May 3rd. Starting Monday, May 6th, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday the House will sit from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m., from 7:30 to 10 o'clock in the evening; on Wednesday, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.; on Fridays, 10:00 to 12:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. These sittings will be in effect until the end of the 90 hours has elapsed on the debates on the departmental estimates. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON (Gladstone): Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the amended sitting hours that we have, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are listed as 1:30 to 5:30 and 7:30 to 10 p.m., the ones that were handed out this afternoon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I indicated just now that Wednesday it's 1:30 to 5:30; there is no evening sitting on Wednesday.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, the document that we have before us indicates that there is an evening sitting on Wednesday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a misunderstanding.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, that's correct and I want the acting House Leader to make sure that the misunderstanding is known, that we do not meet on Wednesday evening.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Correct. I just read it out. Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered certain resolutions, has directed me to report same and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. HARRY SHAFRANSKY (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Flin Flon, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I understand that there is agreement between the various parties in the House that we should not carry on at this particular time, that we should adjourn. If that is the case, and I understand that it is the case, Mr. Speaker, then therefore I move, that the - I suggest, Sir, that you call 4:30, 5:30 and the House convene again on Monday at 1:30 as indicated by the Chairman of the Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The hour of adjournment having been agreed upon, the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until Monday 1:30 p.m.