

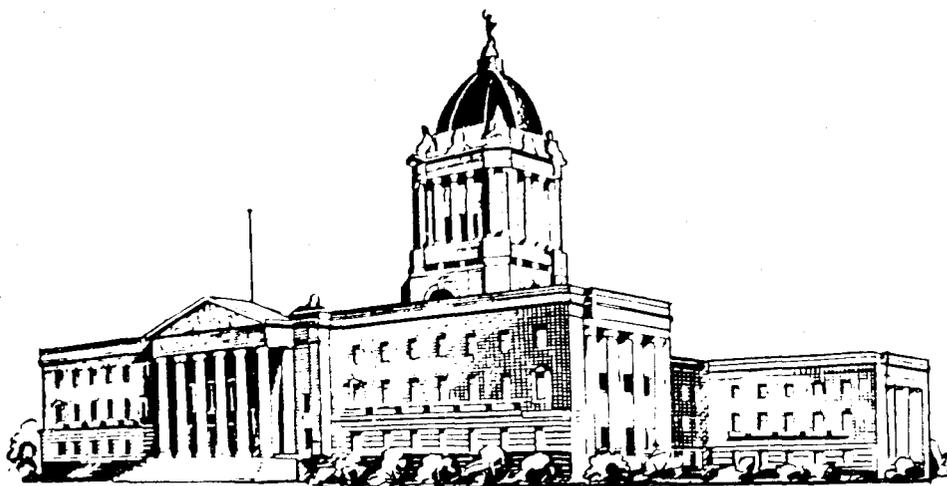


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXI No. 124 1:30 p.m., Monday, May 13th, 1974. First Session, 30th Legislature.

Electoral Division	Name	Political Affiliation	Address	Postal Code
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	P.C.	Reston, Man.	ROM 1X0
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	Lib.	10 Red Robin Pl., Winnipeg	R3J 3L8
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	P.C.	Binscarth, Man.	ROJ 0G0
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	P.C.	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon	R7B 0H9
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	P.C.	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg	R3R 1L5
CHURCHILL	Les Osland	NDP	66 Radisson Blvd., Churchill	ROB 0E0
CRESCENTWOOD	Harvey Patterson	NDP	978 Garwood Ave., Winnipeg	R3M 1N7
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtniak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ELMWOOD	Hon. Russell J. Doern	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
EMERSON	Steve Derewianchuk	NDP	Vita, Manitoba	ROA 2K0
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	NDP	Cranberry Portage, Man.	ROB 0H0
FORT GARRY	L.R. (Bud) Sherman	P.C.	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg	R3N 0T9
FORT ROUGE	Lloyd Axworthy	Lib.	132 Osborne St. S., Winnipeg	R3L 1Y5
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	NDP	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.	ROO 1B0
GLADSTONE	James R. Ferguson	P.C.	Gladstone, Man.	ROJ 0T0
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
KILDONAN	Hon. Peter Fox	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	P.C.	Woodlands, Man.	ROC 3H0
LA VERENDRYE	Bob Banman	P.C.	Steinbach, Man.	ROA 2A0
LOGAN	William Jenkins	NDP	1294 Erin St., Winnipeg	R3E 2S6
MINNEDOSA	David Blake	P.C.	Minnedosa, Man.	ROJ 1E0
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	P.C.	Morris, Man.	ROG 1K0
OSBORNE	Hon. Ian Turnbull	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
PEMBINA	George Henderson	P.C.	Manitou, Man.	ROG 1G0
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	NDP	23 Coralberry Ave., Winnipeg	R2V 2P2
PORTAGE L'APRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Lib.	135 - 16th St. S.W., Portage la Prairie, Man.	R1N 2W5
RADISSON	Harry Shafransky	NDP	4 Maplehurst Rd., Winnipeg	R2J 1W8
RHINELAND	Arnold Brown	P.C.	Winkler, Man.	ROG 2X0
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	P.C.	3 River Lane, Winnipeg	R2M 3Y8
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	P.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	P.C.	Inglis, Man.	ROJ 0X0
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	P.C.	Glenboro, Man.	ROK 0X0
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
RUPERTSLAND	Harvey Bostrom	NDP	Manitotagan, Manitoba	ROE 1E0
ST. BONIFACE	J. Paul Marion	Lib.	394 Gaboury Place, Winnipeg	R2H 0L4
ST. GEORGE	Hon. Bill Uruski	NDP	10th flr., 330 Portage Ave., Wpg.	R3C 0C4
ST. JAMES	George Minaker	P.C.	318 Ronald St., Winnipeg	R3J 3J8
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johannson	NDP	418 Home St., Winnipeg	R3G 1X4
ST. VITAL	D.J. Walding	NDP	26 Hemlock Place, Winnipeg	R2H 1L7
STE. ROSE	A.R. (Pete) Adam	NDP	Ste. Rose du Lac, Man.	ROL 1S0
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
SOURIS KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	P.C.	Nesbitt, Man.	ROK 1P0
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
STURGEON CREEK	J. Frank Johnston	P.C.	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg	R3J 2G3
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	P.C.	Swan River, Man.	ROL 1Z0
THE PAS	Hon. Ron McBryde	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
THOMPSON	Ken Dillen	NDP	1171 Westwood Dr., Thompson	R8N 0G8
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	P.C.	Kenton, Man.	ROM 0Z0
WELLINGTON	Philip M. Petursson	NDP	681 Banning St., Winnipeg	R3G 2G3
WINNIPEG CENTRE	J.R. (Bud) Boyce	NDP	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg	R3E 0R5
WOLSELEY	I.H. Asper	Lib.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
1:30 o'clock, Monday, May 13, 1974

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 43 students of Grade 11 standing of the Princess Elizabeth School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Balkwill. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Brandon East, the Minister of Industry and Commerce.

We also have 50 students of Grades 9 and 11 standing of the Ross L. Gray School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Leonard. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Emerson.

And we have 53 students, Grade 5, standing, of the Gillam School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Marek, Mr. Podhorodeski, Miss Tomasson, Miss Kirkness, Miss Brown and Miss Podhorodeski. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Churchill.

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

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable First Minister.

TABLING OF REPORTS - ORDERS FOR RETURN

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker. I have here two Returns to Orders of the House: Order of the House No. 1, and Return to Order of the House No. 6.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a report prepared by my Department, entitled Broadcasting and Cable Television, the Manitoba Perspective. I table this paper, Sir, not as a statement of government policy, but as a basis for discussion of broadcasting and cable television and its development in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements or Tabling of Reports? Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable House Leader.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q. C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management and House Leader) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Education, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education) (Burrows): Mr. Chairman, last Friday - as a matter of fact, it was the honourable member whose voice I think I heard, who is quite anxious to pass my estimates, did make a number of comments and observations to which I would like to respond today, namely, the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

I got the impression that the attitude that the honourable member--or what the honourable member wished to impress upon this House, is that we - I presume both sides of the House - should assume the role of a cheering section to praise the accomplishments of the previous government, particularly in the field of education. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable member mentioned that there may have been a number of programs which may not be at the top of the list deserving of praise, but certainly education ought to be one of them. And of course, with great reverence, he mentioned the name of one of the Ministers of the former government who no one would deny, I'm quite certain, that he did the best that he could working within the government that he was connected with and that I'm sure had imposed some restraints and restrictions upon him, and the honourable member went on to say that, well, continuing

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd). . . along that line, that whatever the government could be criticized for it was certainly not for education; that it was the Conservative Government which made it and took upon it as its foremost priority to bring--and I was making notes as I was going along, Mr. Chairman. I haven't seen today's Hansard but I think that I have paraphrased his comments reasonably accurately when he said that "they were determined to bring, physically, opportunities for education to the people of Manitoba. And I'm quite certain that he said that because he also went on to give examples, and he made mention of building of schools, building roads, consolidation of schools and so forth, all of the physical things which must be done in order to make it possible to deliver an education program. And I won't argue with the honourable member. I won't argue on that point. There is no doubt that during that period of time the unitary divisions came into being, and during that period of time consolidation occurred and small schools were closed and replaced by large schools. There's no question about it whatsoever.

But I think there was one word used by the honourable member which is very very significant of the general philosophy of my friends in opposition and perhaps reflects the general philosophy of their government when their political party was the government prior to 1969. He used the word "physically" and I think it's quite apparent today, Mr. Chairman, that that, more than just the prime but perhaps the only concern of that government, of that party when they were the government, was to make physical provision: build roads, build schools, put up buildings, and with the roads and buses and buildings that education will take place, education will take place and to heck with the programs, to heck with developing a suitable program, a relevant program designed to meet the needs of the times, of the community. That will somehow sort itself out. As long as the buildings and the roads are built, everything else will take care of itself.

Now I say it's becoming apparent today, Mr. Chairman. We have our regional vocational high schools, very necessary, desirable, geared to operate first rate programs, and they certainly are, but one thing that the former government did overlook is to work out a mechanism within the grants structure which now we must correct; when I said we have to scrap the Foundation Grant formula and come up with a new one. Because my honourable member knows full well that the Foundation Grant formula, which the previous government instituted and then proceeded to build the regional vocation high schools and at the same time retaining that grant formula, that it does militate against the expansion of the regional vocational high schools, militates against the regional vocational high schools serving the function that they were designed to serve, the people of Manitoba. Because the honourable member well knows that at the present time the bulk of the enrollment in the vocational high schools comes from the school division within which the vocational high school is located, because for every student that may enroll from another division it means it'll reflect itself in some slight reduction - or, well, in fact not all that slight but perhaps significant reduction - in the grants accruing to the home school division, and therefore those are the horns of a dilemma that many school divisions and students find themselves, parents find themselves in at the present time.

The same could be said of Frontier School Division. It's true that the previous government did establish Frontier School Division, did make provision for the delivery of a high school program at Cranberry Portage in Frontier Collegiate, but they forgot to talk to the people. They thought that they were talking to the people through an appointed committee that they had established, which they called an advisory committee, which bore the name tag of being representative of the various communities in Northern Manitoba. But Mr. Chairman, the people of Northern Manitoba had no opportunity whatsoever in determining who was to serve on that committee, as they do now - as they do now. Because today Mr. Chairman, the people of Frontier School Division do have some say in determining who will be their spokesman on the advisory committee that we have attached to the office of Official Trustee for the school division.

And one could go on, giving example after example, of cases where, when the honourable member says their prime concern was to make the physical provision for the improvement of the educational program in Manitoba, it was. Only that, and nothing more than that. Merely the concern for the physical provisions and no concern whatsoever to the program, no concern for local needs, a sort of an attitude that the needs of all are the same, be it the needs of the students in the Winnipeg School Division or the students in some rural school

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd). . . division in Northern Manitoba or wherever; that the needs are identical and whatever variations need be brought about, they can be either scaled down or increased in direct proportion to enrollment, but the same services can be provided everywhere and if that is done then that would be an ideal educational program for the children of Manitoba.

Then the honourable member went on to express his concern about the program for the handicapped children, and in particular for the multiply-handicapped children, and as I have indicated to the honourable member at that time, and when I made the response that I did when I said, "Read Hansard," I did it being mindful of the rules of the House, Mr. Chairman, because I am certain that you well know that repetition is not permitted under our rules and therefore I did not want to violate any rules of the House. However, to assist the honourable member, and if he is experiencing any difficulty in locating the particular portion within my introduction of the estimates where I made reference to the handicapped children, I just wish to make brief reference to it again today, when I said that we have moved cautiously in this area - and I am very much aware of the growing frustrations and anger of parents of children with disabilities, and I will not at this juncture even attempt to dwell in detail on this problem except to indicate that the range of handicapped children is so broad that definitions have not been clearly worked out, and the honourable member, I'm quite certain that he knows that there are differences of opinion even amongst the professionals working with children in this category.

Now, I know that the City of Winnipeg has undertaken a pilot or an experimental project at Montcalm School, where they offer a program designed to deal with the multiply-handicapped children. Now that program, of course, is in its experimental stages. I'm certain that if one were to speak to the administration and to the board of the Winnipeg School Division that they themselves, you know, could not offer any assurance whether that is the type of program that they will continue operating in the years to come or not. There are different schools of thought as to the type of program that is most suited for children suffering with afflictions of this type, but nevertheless, I think that all of us would agree, and I think that recent trends, not only in the Province of Manitoba but probably universally, have indicated, have demonstrated a swing away or shift away from the institutionalized form of training, which was quite common and for which provision is made in this province, not in the Department of Education but in the Department of Health and Social Development, a shift from the institutionalized training to providing some form of training within the child's own home and community environment. And there's no question about the desirability of moving in that direction.

But the honourable member will also realize and agree, I'm sure, that one ought not seize upon the first program of that kind that one may become aware of, and say, "This is it; this looks good, and this we're going to implement on a full scale to meet the needs of all such children in the Province;" that this will require considerable research and proceeding with caution, the exercise of close scrutiny in applying all the checks and tests to make certain that we are moving in the right direction. A number of weeks ago, when the Winnipeg School Division representatives of the board and administration met with me and the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development, we did indicate at that time, and we have committed ourselves to offering assistance for the establishment and development of a pilot program in this particular field, and certainly we'll move on that as quickly as we can and in co-operation and in conjunction with that school division or those school divisions that may be involved in such a pilot project.

Then the honourable member did proceed to ask me directly about what's going to happen to a constituent of his: Will provision be made for that young boy to obtain some form of training? Well, I'm sure that he would want to see this happen as quickly as possible, and he was very reasonable and did say, I believe next fall, being mindful of the fact that this year, well it's another five, six weeks to go and that's the end of it. Perhaps even, in the best interests of the child, it may not be wise to commence any course of training now and then bring it to an end in six weeks' time. I don't know, I'm not a medical man; I'm not a psychologist, a psychiatrist, but it would seem that way, that perhaps it would be preferable to wait until next September.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I would just like to make a brief announcement here. I'd like to draw the attention of the members to the gallery, where we have 21 students from Balmoral Hall, Grade 5. They are under the direction of Mrs. Klymkiw. These students are from the constituency of the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre. On behalf of the members, I bid you welcome.

The Honourable Minister of Education.

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MR. HANASCHUK: Pursuant to a meeting with the Winnipeg School Division and with some interested organizations who are interested in the welfare of children of this type, as I have indicated before we did make a commitment to move in this direction, and pursuant to that commitment that we made, Mr. Chairman, discussions have been held and are continuing the subject matter of which is the submission made by the Winnipeg School Division to us, and negotiations are under way to determine a plan for the implementation of the proposal, or--I should be very careful because I would not want anybody to say to me next September in the event that it's some variation of what was proposed by the Winnipeg School Division, but negotiations are under way for the development, on a pilot basis, a program which would provide training in the home environment for multiply-handicapped children such as those presently in receipt of such a training program at Montcalm School. It is my hope that the negotiations will proceed at a rate to make it possible for some formal announcement and getting under way a pilot program on a meaningful basis at the commencement of the next school year. In conjunction with that, I'll be quite happy to inform the Honourable Member for Lakeside that the interests of Stephen Neil will be borne in mind and a spot will be found for him in a school in the Winnipeg School Division.

Now the Honourable Member for Assiniboia raised a number of points. He was concerned about the provision of temporary classroom accommodation; that in one instance he felt that the temporary accommodation was not entirely satisfactory. Well, I wish to remind the honourable member that the provision of classroom accommodation is the responsibility of the school board, be it permanent or temporary. Now, we do offer assistance in the provision of temporary accommodation and this happens quite frequently upon application from the board, and I just wish to advise you, Mr. Chairman, that last year the Public Schools Finance Board paid the costs of moving temporary classrooms from divisions which no longer had a need for them to those that did need them. Last year we paid for the moving of 87 temporary classrooms in this way from one division to another.

The Honourable Member for Assiniboia also spoke about the fact that children from the west end of the school division were bused to vacant accommodation or available accommodation in the east end of the school division, and then he commented upon this as being indicative of perhaps inadequate planning of assignment of classroom space to meet the needs of the community. Well here again, Mr. Chairman, I must indicate to the honourable member that under the provisions of The Public Schools Act, that it is the responsibility of the Board to determine the location where schools are to be built and the assigning of schools, or students to schools.

The Honourable Member for Assiniboia was wondering whether any boundary changes are being contemplated for the school divisions within Winnipeg. Now the Manitoba Association of--no, I should correct myself. I don't believe it was the Manitoba Association of School Trustees but probably the Winnipeg, those trustees of the Winnipeg School Divisions, who did study this matter, and their study indicated a number of alternatives that could be pursued but at this point in time they have not come to me with an expression of any, any consensus on this particular point, so at the present time that is where the matter rests.

The Honourable Member for St. Matthews expressed concern about student-initiated courses, and he can see thousands of such courses being planned and students seeking approval for them. Well, as I have indicated in the Guidelines, the requirements are fairly strict so it won't be just a matter of a student indicating to someone that he wishes to obtain credit for a course that he may have designed. So I feel quite certain that the school divisions will proceed with care and caution, and allow this new thrust in our education program to develop carefully, prudently, and therefore there would not be a sudden--(Interjection)--It won't

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd). . . create its own disaster because it will receive the guidance and the assistance of those charged with the responsibility of delivering education in the province, namely the government, the teachers, the school boards, and it won't create its own disaster, so my honourable friend needn't have any worry of that.

The Honourable Member for St. Matthews doubted whether school boards have the expertise to evaluate a student-designed course. Well when I, Mr. Chairman, when I said that this would be the responsibility of the school board to pass judgment on whether or not a student-initiated course ought to be approved or not, it does not necessarily mean that some particular school trustee, that it would become the responsibility of some school trustee or of the board collectively to pass judgment on that particular course of studies. The school board will assume the responsibility in the same manner as the school board assumes responsibility for many other facets within the education program, but many of the other functions are performed, not by the board, but by their staff who have the necessary expertise to do that particular job: the superintendent, the principals, teachers and so forth. So the school board - yes, the school board will have to give its blessings but certainly the school board will seek the advice of the professionally trained, the professionally competent people on their staff to advise them as to the merits of a student-initiated, a student-designed course.

The Honourable Member for St. Matthews, in speaking about, in stating his concern about the possible dilution of the quality of education, and he did make the comment that every student has a right to fail; well, it's a philosophic point that one could discuss, and one that I probably would not seriously disagree with, Mr. Chairman, but if he has a right to fail then he should also have the opportunity to succeed. But just simply allowing him to fail and not providing some means, an alternate course that he could pursue which will give him that opportunity to enjoy success, I don't think it's a--you know, in the absence of that, I don't think that it's a comment that we ought to pay too much attention to. And this is exactly what we are attempting to provide through the variety of educational programs that we have under way now, and which the previous government also recognized; although, as I indicated to you Friday, Mr. Chairman they locked the students in to whatever choice they make end of Grade 9. You know, the general course, university entrance and so forth; there is no opportunity for transfer. But we do recognize the fact that a student might fail. He might set out in one route and fail, or wish to change his plans for whatever reason. Then an opportunity should be provided him to transfer to another course of studies, to another program wherein he could go on to success.

I just wish to make one more comment in response to his concern about the dilution of quality of education. May I remind the Honourable Member for St. Matthews again that the school is not, or the Education Department is not the only actor having a key role to play in determining the standards of education, because by and large standards of education are determined by forces over which the Department of Education has absolutely no control. What one must learn to practice, as I indicated to you on Friday, what one must learn to practice engineering or medicine or any particular trade isn't dictated by the school, but it is dictated by that particular trade or profession, and what one must know to practice it is in turn determined by the sum total and the effects of scientific and technological progress and advancement. And that determines the standard, the level of education that one must seek in order to pursue any particular occupation.

The Honourable Member for Roblin, I'm not quite certain what it was that he wanted to put across to the House when he expressed shock and dismay over the fact that I commented, or that I responded to a statement that he made in the course of the debate of the estimates of the Attorney-General. And I repeat again for the honourable member, the reason why I responded is because he did make reference to the conduct of our youth in the public schools and therefore the proper department, or the proper spot in the estimates at which to respond to such a comment would naturally be the debate of the estimates of the Department of Education because that's what the Department of Education is all about, and therefore I chose to respond at this particular time.

The Honourable Member for Roblin wished to--he asked what specific assistance will my department offer in some of the school divisions within his constituency or neighbouring on his constituency--No, I guess all of them are to a greater or lesser degree in his constituency, namely Pelly Trail, Duck Mountain, Inter-Mountain. Now I wish to impress upon the honourable member again - I regret that he is not in his seat but I'm certain that if he is

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd). . . interested in reading my response that he will read this afternoon's Hansard - I wish to impress upon the honourable member, Mr. Chairman, that the department should not and does not interfere in matters of a local board's concern. There have been a number of matters that have been bandied about in the press in recent times, some of the incidents related to two or three of the divisions that I've mentioned, but by and large, those matters, whatever they were, education program or buildings, they are matters of a local nature. However, if the local trustees wish the assistance of my department, I would certainly encourage my staff to provide such assistance on request from the boards and administrations of the school divisions on those specific matters. I know that the honourable member no doubt is very much concerned about the school buildings in Inter Mountain. Well that, Mr. Chairman, is a local matter. If there is any dispute between the board and the architect or the contractor, that's for them to pursue, but when it comes to providing classroom space, if such is not available, then the Public Schools Finance Board will certainly come to their assistance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister's time is up. Resolution 47. 1 (a)--pass; (b) (1)--pass. (The balance of Resolution 47, and Resolution 48 were read and passed.) Resolution 49, 3. (a)--pass; (b)--The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Chairman. I think there were some questions that were asked regarding this particular item and I don't think we've got the answers on record yet. Specifically, one question here is the school tax rebate, and the question: Is there an accounting within the government that breaks down the rebate - property tax rebate rather than the school tax rebate - whether it's broken down into that portion that goes to school tax rebate and that portion that goes to municipal tax, or is it all lumped together?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: No, Mr. Chairman, there is no breakdown.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, just to, for purposes of the record, to be clearer, the amount shown for this rebate actually is school tax rebate plus property municipal tax rebate, is it not? That is, for a person in 1973 - which is the most recent year that we have - conceivably his \$100.00 minimum rebate could have been made up of, say, \$60.00 in school tax and the remainder in municipal, which would bring him to the minimum \$100.00. Providing his combined bill was over \$100.00, he still got the \$100.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HONOURABLE SAUL CHERNIACK Q. C. (Minister of Finance): Mr. Chairman. I'm not in my proper seat, but because of the arrangement made the Honourable Minister of Education is, and may I be permitted to speak from this . . . ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agreed? (Agreed)

MR. CHERNIACK: On the question raised by the Member for Riel, I do not believe we keep those records, although I presume it could be made available, with some considerable work, through the municipalities. When we first introduced our school tax rebate system, it was attributable to school taxes only, and therefore when school tax would be less than the minimum payable, then only the amount of the school taxes would be paid. When we increased the property tax rebate to a minimum of \$100.00, at that time we did so knowing that in many cases the school tax portion was less than the \$100.00 and therefore we broadened the entire field to cover both the property taxes, which would be both municipal and school. I think then it would be an academic process if one wanted to split as between the two. Probably, as we stated it here, our intent was to take over all of the education tax up to the amounts payable through the property tax credit and let any amount in excess of the school tax portion, which would still come within the formula, to apply against the property tax. But to the property taxpayers it really doesn't make any difference, and therefore we instructed the municipalities that in their billing they should credit the tax bill, the total tax bill, with the \$100.00 minimum or the total amount of the tax, whichever was the lesser. And therefore I do not believe we've kept that record. I did hear the question asked; I did make a mental note to confirm what I am now saying. I confess that I was unable to do so because I've been ill the last week, but I will go right down and see if I can get any more definitive answer than I have already given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman. The Minister, in indicating the portion of the costs borne by the Provincial Government of Public Schools Administration, he indicated it was of the

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd). . . order of 72 percent for the current year, but I think that then in view of the fact that part of the rebate, which will this year be close to the 50 million dollar mark, that a portion of that, some portion of that is actually not schools financing, it is municipal financing. So that I think it should be clear on the record that the portion of the public school administration cost carried by the provincial government probably is not 72 percent, as indicated, but is 72 less the amount of money of the 50 that goes towards municipal only.

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

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister can elaborate on how he arrived at the 72 percent figure. I'm referring to his comments on May 9th where he said, "I would like to indicate to you, Mr. Chairman, that via our tax credit system, via our adjustments in the grants system, the student grants, the student equalization grants, examining the sum total, that this year the province is picking up something in the order of better than 71, between 71 and 72 percent of the total school expenditures in the Province of Manitoba." And I wonder if the Minister at this time could elaborate in more detail on how he arrived at that percentage figure, and what percent, or what total of the property tax credit rebate program would be in that figure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: The total expenditures are 244 million dollars. That's the total expenditures of all the school divisions in the province of Manitoba. The Foundation Program, the Foundation levy; then there are some other grants for which we act as a transfer agent in a sense. You know, some federal grants for French, perhaps one or two others that don't come to mind at the moment, which total up to about \$4 million. Anyway, on the property tax credit it totals up to 175 million, and 175 and 244 is close to 72 percent.

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

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister, did you say - through the Chairman - that there was a property tax credit of 75 million dollars?

MR. HANUSCHAK: I didn't say that.

MR. CRAIK: I wonder if the Honourable Minister could repeat exactly what he said the tax credit portion was, in terms of dollars.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: The tax credit's in the order of 50 million dollars, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, in view of this, again, with the budgets now tabled by the City of Winnipeg, the increases indicated by their budgets are in the Greater Winnipeg area, 10.8 million dollars on education increase and 12.6 million dollars increase on municipal, bringing a total of 23.4 million increase, and the rebate increase in 1974 will be-- the way we calculate it, it looks like the rebate increase in the Winnipeg area apportioning the number of students in the Winnipeg area, would bring back 4.4 million, which means that only 19 percent of the increased costs on property in the Winnipeg area are going to be covered by the increase in rebate. In other words, 81 percent of the costs increase in 1974 in the Winnipeg area, 81 percent are going to be picked up by property tax, the special levy plus the municipal levy on property. Now, Mr. Chairman, the property tax credit system that the government has announced the increase of 50 dollars, increase in the ceiling by 50 dollars, then in effect on average may have some impact on people that have very low assessments, under \$6,000 assessment, but in total the increase is going to amount to - in the mill rates - this 23.4 million dollar increase was only that 4.4 being picked up by the tax credit plan. So, since the government is lumping municipal in with education in this tax credit plan, I think that somehow this doesn't seem to have been isolated yet and it is important to point out at this time that the increased costs of property tax are only going to be covered, as far as we can see from results of the information we have here and the City of Winnipeg's put out, 19 percent covered by the increase in rebate, and 81 percent is going to have to be picked up by increased property taxes in the Greater Winnipeg area.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Well, Mr. Chairman, I really don't see how the honourable member can calculate the increase in property tax credit which will accrue as a result of the variance in the budget.

A MEMBER: . . . Eight million dollars. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 49 was read and passed.)

Resolution 50. 4. (a) (1)--pass; 4(a) (2) -pass. Resolution 50--pass.

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A MEMBER: What about your (b)?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh I'm sorry. (The balance of Resolution 50 was read and passed) Resolution 51. 5(a) (1)--The Honourable Member for Laverendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to put on the record some of my thoughts, and I think they were expressed very adequately to a certain extent by the Member from Brandon West, and also by the Member from Riel. As somebody that has come out of the school system relatively a short while ago, about eight years ago, I've noticed changes, and quite substantial changes, in not only curriculum but also in the, I think as the Member from St. Matthews mentioned, a dilution of the quality of education. Just after I left school, the OEC Program was introduced and I find, speaking with teachers involved in teaching in these different curriculums, that both the academic and the OEC seems to be running together. Instead of having two distinct, different courses, the two are being amalgamated, and there seems to be a blending taking place and the recognition between the two courses is virtually gone. I think the whole system with regard to discipline and everything has taken a step backwards. I remember when, the short eight years ago when I was there, you were subject to a one week suspension if you skipped out of the Friday afternoon religious class, and now you can go to a coffee shop during the afternoon and the game that seems to be being played is how many students can skip out of a class to have coffee during coffee break.

I think another thing that's happening is because of the decreased enrollment we are possibly being forced to lower our standards in order to maintain. . .

MR. GREEN: I would just like the honourable member to take a question if he would.

MR. BANMAN: Yes.

MR. GREEN: I want to make sure I understood him. That you were suspended or had a suspension of one week for failing to attend a religious class?

MR. BANMAN: Not myself, but it was. . .

MR. GREEN: That was the rule? In which school was that?

MR. BANMAN: That was a thing that happened eight years ago when I went to school. In a Steinbach school.

Now, another area along the same lines is I feel that with again the relaxation of possibly discipline regulations, and even the academic requirements, people are now--the Mature Student is now writing a Grade 12 examination, and I would ask the Minister if, when this particular program was implemented, if a person who's writing this exam, if the age is part of the factor; in other words, when a person has to meet a certain standard of passing is age taken into consideration? Is there a sliding scale to make adjustments on who passes it? In other words, if somebody is 25, are the standards higher than if somebody is 50 years old?

And once again, just to finally sum it up, Mr. Chairman, I feel that someone that possibly wasn't that good in school because possibly I didn't exert myself properly and that was one of the reasons that I had trouble making it through high school, I feel with the direction we're taking right now, maybe by waiting a couple of years and maybe by just virtue of my body being in some educational institute, I might receive a diploma and maybe that will be the course, maybe the way that I should get my university education. And I hope this is a serious look at--this should be looked at quite seriously by the Department, I think, and I think we should definitely tighten our belt a bit and make sure that the curriculum is such where people still have to work in order to achieve their diplomas and have to definitely have somewhat of a desire and somewhat of a capability to pass on and to further your education.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for La Verendrye expressed concern about the fact that the OEC, the Occupational Education Class, and the regular academic program are running together, as he put it. That is true. Of course it is. For the reason that I have mentioned on at least two or three occasions. But we do believe that our education program should be designed in such a way as to allow for this type of transferability; that if a student enrolls in a OEC class, if it should become apparent to him, his parents, the students, the teachers, that he can enter a regular academic program and proceed with it satisfactorily, and he has the desire to do so, then the opportunity for transfer should be there. But this in no way, Mr. Chairman, is any indication of a dilution of the academic standards of our program. It simply is an indication of the flexibility of our education program which is designed to meet the needs for all students, which allows a student to transfer from

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd). . . one program to another at whichever time the need should arise, at whichever time it may be to his benefit and advantage.

The honourable member also made reference to the fact that in his day at school the rule was one week suspension for skipping a religion class on Friday afternoon. --(Interjection)--I beg your pardon.

MR. BANMAN: That is what happened in one particular instance. I didn't say it was the rule.

MR. HANUSCHAK. That happened in one particular instance and it was not the rule. Well, if that happened in one particular instance I really do not know what would have prompted the school administration to take such action as the honourable member believes or was informed was taken, or recalls it was taken. Attendance at religious classes is voluntary, so therefore I find it's just difficult to comprehend why the school administration would have taken such action.

The honourable member feels that at the present time the name of the game, as it were, in school is to practice the art of skipping, the art of skipping classes. Well that, Mr. Chairman, I do find difficult to accept. If there are students skipping classes, of course there are, and I'd be naive to say that there aren't but there had been students skipping classes ten years ago, and twenty and thirty and forty years ago, and I'm sure that all of us can confess to having skipped classes at some time or another. Now having said that, I do not wish to leave anyone with the impression that I condone that, or that something ought not be done to minimize and curb skipping classes, and in fact I think that we have done that. The time-tabling process on a semester, trimester system is quite different. It's true that students have more time to devote to individual study, to work on their own, and if the honourable member hasn't had an opportunity - and as he has indicated that just a few years ago that he left the public school system - no doubt in a few years to come he will have the opportunity to learn personally, and to acquire personal information as to what the students in fact do with their time, and he will find that today, and also with the continuous progress system of evaluation of their performance students are probably working two and three and four times as hard in school as they may have been in his day in high school and my day in high school when the name of the game was how to beat the examination system. --(Interjection)--The honourable member knows full well, I'm sure he can recall his own high school days when Easter time approached or shortly thereafter, the month of April, the beginning of May, you went around collecting old exam papers and you attempted to determine the odds of a question being asked this year on this particular topic, on that topic, and you concluded that while it's unlikely that you'll be asked on this topic because for the past three years there was a question on that particular topic, but here's one that there was no questions asked on it for the past two years and it's a fairly important one, so this may be the year for it, and you concentrate upon that. And, like I said, if the Honourable Member for St. James wishes to . . .

A MEMBER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside has gone to the library.

MR. HANUSCHAK: You know, and that's the way things went, but I know and I can assure the honourable member that for every student that he may have found somewhere, at some time, who may appear to have been skipping classes, there are probably 50 others who are working very very diligently in the school library, at home, in the classroom, or wherever else they may be.

The honourable member wanted to know whether age is a factor in the marking of the GED tests. Well the answer to that is no. They are given the number of questions of a general knowledge type which they answer, the papers are marked, and the results on that test determine whether the writer of the test earns a Grade 12, the equivalent of a Grade 12 standing, or 11, or Grade 10.

Now I believe the point that he was trying to make in his closing remarks was that had he perhaps dropped out of school earlier, waited a few years, he could have written the GED test today and obtained a high school standing, as sort of being indicative of some form of dilution of the quality of education of today. Well that isn't so at all. All that the GED test does, or what the writer of a GED test receives upon the successful completion of it, is a statement saying that his level of academic educational competence, and knowledge is the equivalent of a particular level, but it doesn't indicate that he has produced evidence or proof of having mastered a certain level of competence in any particular subject area. And

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd). . . even the mature students, the mature student who may wish to enroll in the Faculty of Medicine or the Faculty of Engineering or Architecture, which requires a certain basic level of proficiency, knowledge of certain basic concepts in mathematics or physics or chemistry or whatever, those requirements will still be there. And if he wishes to enroll in a faculty such as I have mentioned, or any other that requires some particular skill in some definite subject academic area, that he would still have to acquire it, he would still have to develop it, regardless of his age.

So the presence of the GED test in no way--has no bearing at all upon the quality or the level of standard of education or of requirements of students of today. But for all practical purposes in the world of work, for example one applies for a job as a sales clerk or in some other field of work, and the requirement is that he have Grade 11 or Grade 12 standing, and the 35, 40-year-old or whatever age he may be, who may have discontinued school at the Grade 9 level, despite the fact that what he had learned through actual experience in his years after school probably equalled if not surpassed what may have been taught in the school system, and in fact in many of the subject areas, he on his own, he may have read history, he may have been very active in various groups which were in history, political science, psychology, whatever else is a very relevant factor, and through a process of experience and reading, perhaps not writing any formal exams but in those various other ways, he may have developed that type of skill and proficiency, but because he had not the opportunity to sit down and write an examination to show that his level of proficiency is at whatever it may be, the best he can produce applying for a job is his Grade 9 or Grade 10 certificate. So this is an opportunity for people like that, who have developed certain skills over the years, to obtain credit for them and use them in the ways as I have suggested. But I repeat again, that insofar as the requirements of our post-secondary institutions are concerned, whatever mathematics one must master to handle a certain post-secondary course or physics or science or whatever else it may be, still remains there. That hasn't changed one bit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister, during his last few words anyway and certainly up until now in his Estimates, has used statements like "work on their own" referring to students; he's also said we'd be amazed at what they do with their own time. He's also talked about, you know--basically his statements, the way I interpret them, they're asking a student to decide at a very early age what he wants to be in life, and it was at one time, Mr. Chairman, and I would hopefully think that it will be this way in Manitoba, that when a boy or girl leaves school that they are equipped to maybe go into some form of occupation or work, but if they wanted to decide to do otherwise in their life, they would then be able to go to university and do it. And the way we are approaching the curriculums at the present time in our system is not doing that. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we are boring the girls and boys in our education system to death. They are bored with school, Mr. Chairman.

I am going to be a little like the Member from St. Boniface who used his own family and his own circumstance as an example. When I say circumstances, I'll talk about a group of boys and girls that have been close to our family through my children for many years. I have a daughter that I didn't have to send to school. She was anxious to go there, anxious to work, and I really had no problems in any way, shape or form. Many of her friends were the same way. I have a son who, if you were to say to him, "Would you like to go to school? Would you like to go to a study period when you've got a free class?" he would say, "no, I would rather go skating; I would rather go out and play football with the boys or go down to the pool hall with my friends that have quit school because they're bored to death with school." And I assure you there are many, many boys and girls like them.

The Member from Winnipeg says it's the parents' job, and I am sure here we all are as parents. My son and his gang are a bunch of Hoosiers. I've never met a better gang of guys in my life. They don't get in that much trouble, any more trouble than any other group of boys. They can be convinced; they can be talked to by their parents. In fact, we can take the car away from them for the weekend if they're not going to do their studying. We also have to say, "You've got minds of your own," from time to time, but when we send them back to school, or they get there they're bored to death. "Why am I here? Nobody here is saying there's discipline to make me do this. At home they want us to do this. At home we get some discipline, but when we get to school we've got another story entirely."

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(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd)

Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is going to be so naive as to think that you are going to be able to say to a boy or a girl, most of them - not all - there are terrific students but they're not all students; they're all human beings; they're all normal boys and girls, and studying is a bit of hard work. And a bit of hard work, to some boys and girls that age, is something that they just don't like to do that readily, and they have to have some discipline to make them do it.

Now, we are just dreaming if you think otherwise. And yet we are saying we are going to have them decide what courses they are going to take; we are going to have them decide all of these different curriculums that are set up. You know, the CORE Report - which is a bunch of drivel - the students at the St. James Collegiate discussed that CORE Report about a year or two ago and they generally - generally - thought it was a terrible thing. The students really believe they need guidance and the students want guidance. Now if anybody seriously believes that a happy student or a happy boy and girl is one that is trying to make decisions that they really don't know how to make without proper guidance and some discipline, you're wrong. A happy boy and girl is one that knows where they're going, and sometimes they may not like it but they have this direction and they know where they're going.

Mr. Chairman, I use my own instance. I ended up in the "home for incurables" as we called it, St. John's College School for Boys; where we did something wrong we were put over a chair and got six across the rear end. Now I'm not saying that that is the proper way but it made me open a book once in a while, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, and we would have boys there when I was a prefect at that school, who were very much at loose ends because they didn't know where they were going. But once they got it laid down before them, and got it explained to them that the reason this is being done is so that when you leave this institution you will have the chance to probably do whatever you want to do in this world, they started to understand and go to work. And once in a while when you have convinced and talked to a boy or girl, and I don't believe that we should try to convince them unless we do have the time to talk to them, that "what we are doing is really for your own benefit," they will accept that certain disciplines that have to be laid down for them to do some good. And remember, Mr. Chairman, that every day we grow a little bit older we learn something, and here we are sitting here talking about boys and girls who are fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, who haven't been out in that hard-knock world for a while, or have never been there - and they're going to be there. And the way we have to talk to them and convince them is that certain disciplines now will help you an awful lot when you get out there. So don't let's live in a dream world that says the average boy and girl loves school.

You know, we often hear "it was the happiest day of my life when I was in school." Do you know why they say that? Because it was easy there. And we should make it just a little tougher in there. We should have those little bit of disciplines, and if you think really that - as I say again - that you ask a boy or girl--and I could say to some of the honourable members on this side and that side, you know, we talked about skipping. It wasn't a practice to skip school. Frankly, it was an art if you could get away with it back in those days. We used to have the odd truant officer at one time that dragged you back to school. But don't get any funny ideas that the average boy and girl, when he's at school, or she's at school, will say, now that I've got a free study period, will automatically go and pick up a book and study, is absolutely wrong, because it just won't happen. The man upstairs, the man upstairs, you know, he hasn't changed the way they made us yesterday or last year, and it's human nature and it's kids who would like to enjoy life. They're not bad because they want to skip a class and do something else. The Minister obviously only taught children who wanted to keep studying all the time, but there are those that don't, and I say that it is pretty much a majority. And the boys and girls today are bored, absolutely bored. You go up to Thompson, the fellow I know in Thompson who owns a pool hall. They were all quitting school because they were bored with school. Go down and ask the fellow that owns the pool hall in St. James where the gang hangs out. The kids are there because they're bored with school. You're not giving them any challenges or any discipline, and the work, work ethic. Sports in schools. Where's the day gone where somebody said to you, you can't play football unless your marks are better? Because maybe you'll go out and make them a little better.

Now if you think that the boys and girls--(Interjection)--Well it would seem that way

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(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd). . . because they're not given any challenge to do so. But the day will come that you'll be all sitting around very surprised, wondering why the kids haven't really taken hold and worked at their classes, because there's no challenge being given to them, there's no direction being given to them, there's no discipline being given to them. Everything we're doing today is taking it away. And they want to work. They want to work hard and they don't want it made easy. There are teachers today who want to take the challenge to work with boys and girls. You know, we hear a lot of criticism of teachers, I might say, from time to time but that's not entirely right. I know the teachers in my constituency, in my area, certainly want to take the time to work with students but, you know, they don't get the chance. We keep changing the curriculum to let the student make the decision all the time, and that just isn't going to work.

Mr. Chairman, this particular subject has been well worked over in the Education estimates. We can talk about it as long as you like, but it boils down to the fact you're dreaming if you think that you can have curriculums the way we're going to, and have a good educational system without direction and guidance and some discipline for the boys and girls that are going there, and they're also going to need that kind of guidance so that when they leave Grade 12 or Grade 11 that they can go on to whatever they want to be. If a boy or girl wants to quit school, that's fine. In fact sometimes, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest with the way its going right now they might be better off to quit and go out and get a job. You can almost believe that. But if they're going to be in that school system and working and staying there, they should have the discipline, direction, challenge, people working with them, so that when they leave they're prepared and ready to go into different walks of life. And stop asking boys and girls to make up their minds on their future when they're very young in life, because many times I think any of you gentlemen here, if we'd asked you when you were in Grade 9 if you were going to be sitting in this Legislature, you'd have said "You're crazy." All our times and lives change when we start getting into the working world. Give them the chance to get in that world prepared to do whatever they want to do. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. HARVEY BOSTROM (Rupertsland): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As usual, I disagree with the Member from Sturgeon Creek. I'd like to make a few comments on what he has just said. Most of the comments he made, most of the statements he made, seemed to be conflicting in terms of a logical argument. He said that the students in the schools are bored, and he seems to attribute this to a slackening up in discipline and a change in the way in which curriculum is being devised. It seems to me that if students are bored in school that they're not bored because there's discipline or they're not bored because there's a lack of discipline, they're not bored because there are challenges in the system whereby they can have some say in how the subject matter, the course curriculum is laid out. Students are bored generally because they're forced to learn courses, forced to learn subjects which have absolutely no interest to them whatsoever. The departmental system, as the Member for La Verendrye had said, it's eight years since he was out of school, out of high school, and he made some comments on his experiences in high school. Well it's ten years since I was in high school, since I graduated from high school, and I can tell you that the students that were attending high school when the departmentals were in force, where you wrote your exam at the end of the year and whether you passed or failed that exam determined how well you did. It meant that if you knew course material that didn't happen to be on the exam that you weren't able to put down in that three-hour period that you sat and wrote an exam, it meant that you didn't get any credit for learning that material. You weren't learning to learn for any interest on your own part, you were learning to pass an exam. That wasn't learning. This is the kind of discipline the Member from Sturgeon Creek is talking about, discipline of the type "learn or I'll beat you." Well, the result of that kind of discipline in schools, that kind of a learning situation, is that you memorize. It's rote memorization. You learn and you regurgitate it back on to a paper, and as soon as possible afterwards, you forget what you've learned because you didn't learn it with any object of understanding what you were learning, you were learning it just for the purpose of getting it on to an exam. And many of the students, the most successful students within that system were the ones with the photographic memories that did absolutely nothing all through the year; they did absolutely nothing, and two weeks before the exam they would take their books home, they would take their books

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd). . . home two weeks before the exam, memorize the material, come to the exam, write the exam, pass them. Two weeks after the exam they had forgotten everything they'd memorized, because the object of their studying, the object of their working on those courses was not to have any basic understanding of the material, any basic understanding of the subject matter of the courses, the object was to learn to memorize just in order to get it down the next day on the exam.

The kinds of changes that are coming about in the education system, where the curriculum can be made more meaningful to students, where students can have an opportunity to learn what they want to learn, this is a lot better than this rote memorization. I submit that rote memorization of this type, which is motivated by departmental examinations, is not real learning at all. I would say that understanding comes through discovery, understanding comes through learning something because you want to learn it, not because somebody's standing over you with a stick or standing over you with a departmental examination which says, "Learn this stuff for that exam or you fail."

They talk about challenge being lost in the schools. Well I can say that there was no challenge under the old system. You were channelled into a particular area; you had five courses to take; you had absolutely no option. You took physics and chemistry and French and English and whatever else there was, You had absolutely no choice. That kind of learning that kind of forcing people into subjects and courses they have no desire to take, is what brings on boredom in the schools, and I commend the department's efforts to change curriculums, to make them more meaningful to people; make them more meaningful so that students in the high schools can get some meaning out of learning. They'll have an opportunity to learn things that they want to learn, not be forced into taking courses that they have absolutely no desire to take.

I'd like to comment further, Mr. Chairman, on the Education Estimates as they apply to education in the North, and I heard the Honourable Minister's comments on his department's Native Education Branch and I commend the department's efforts in this area. They can't do enough as far as I'm concerned. There's a number of concerns in the North regarding curriculum in the schools. If curriculum is a problem in the high schools in the South, curriculum is doubly a problem in the high schools in the North, and in the elementary schools. I commend the department's efforts as far as they have gone in the development of means by which the native languages can be taught in the schools in the North. I know that in Norway House at the present time the Cree language is being taught, Cree syllabics is being taught, and there are some efforts made at introducing Cree language in the high schools, or the elementary schools, rather in the North in the elementary grades and the primary grades. And I would say that I would support the introduction of the Cree and Ojibway languages, particularly in those remote and isolated communities where the main language of the children when they enter their first year of schooling is the Indian language, whether it be Cree, Ojibway or Chippewyan and that the first years of their educational experience should be in that language. They should be taught in that language for the first several years and be introduced to the English language as they develop a grasp of schooling.

In other countries this experiment seems to have had considerable success where the language of instruction, the first language of instruction is the first language of the student and not introduce them into a foreign educational system where they are expected to compete with other students who enter the education system at that stage already being able to speak the English language, and having been speaking it for three or four years.

I believe that there should be more effort at teaching of culture into the schools of the north. We must recognize the culture and contributions of the native people, and I commend the department's efforts in this area to take out the discrimination found in textbooks, discrimination which lends one to believe that the native people of Manitoba and of Canada had no real contribution in the history of this country. These inaccuracies should be omitted from textbooks and the proper, the true story be told. And the real contribution and culture of the Indian people and their contributions to the history of this country should be recognized, and they should be recognized through course content in the elementary schools of this province and in the high schools. In this area I commend the department's efforts towards the curriculum development in schools in Northern Manitoba. I don't believe however that enough

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd). . . has been done; I believe more should be done over the next fiscal year and following years. The program of curriculum development should in fact include the actual communities that fall within the jurisdiction of Frontier School Division, and certainly some effort should be made to include the native communities that fall within the jurisdiction of the Department of Indian Affairs, and actually get the people involved in assisting the department in devising a curriculum which would be meaningful to the people of the north and not try to transfer the southern curriculum directly into those schools and expect it to be successful.

I commend the department's efforts in the IMPACT Program, the involvement of the IMPACT Program. I know that a few years ago, in fact four or five years ago you could hardly find a native teacher in any of the schools, in any of the remote communities or reserves. Yet today there are teachers graduating from these programs who hopefully will be the new staff of the northern schools in the future, and we'll have staff that are aware of the problems of the people and are best able to relate to these people. The IMPACT Program as I understand is working well in Fort Alexander where it has been introduced, teaching it right in the community. There are plans as I know to include this program in the Norway House area to actually teach the native teachers right in the north, to train the native teachers right in the north, and I believe this is the way it should be done. I believe that the development, the establishment of a Native Studies Department at the University of Manitoba will enhance this whole trend towards the development of a better curriculum in the elementary schools. We'll have people who will be graduating from the university with some basic understanding of the native people's contribution and culture in this country.

In the couple of minutes that I have left, Mr. Chairman, I would like to briefly say that the utilization of the schools that are built in Northern Manitoba remote communities and reserves and in rural areas should be looked at. These buildings that are often well over a million dollars in cost should be more effectively utilized and I think that this will come about through more local control of the education system at the local level. The trend towards local control of schools in the north should be stepped up. The local people in the north should take over the control of their schools as quickly and as soon as they're ready, as soon as the department can assist them in taking over the control of their schools. And in this way they can better utilize the full resources at their disposal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Committee rise. 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 Emerson, that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Questions.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister in charge of Environmental Management. It's with regards to the announcement by the report of the U. S. State Department to the Federal Government regarding the Garrison project. I wonder in view of the recommendations of the State Department's report whether the Provincial Government is now prepared to move ahead and push for an independent study of the effects of this project on Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the only thing that I am aware of is a report in the newspaper that is alleged to come from an informed source. I would accept for the moment that the report is correct. If there are indications to the Federal Government, which we will be made aware of, minimizing the adverse effects which we are already cognizant of, then, Mr. Speaker, as indicated previously the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada together will do such things as are necessary to either verify or qualify such reports.

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MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, in the April 4th Hansard on Page 2143 the Minister indicates that the evidence produced showed significant proof of damage to Canada, significant proof of damage to Canada as opposed to the more recent recommendations which indicate that. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. CRAIK: . . . that the damage would be very minimal. Can the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada move rapidly enough on their own studies at this point in order to prove their position, which at that time apparently was a belief that there would be significant damage, and what measures, if I can ask the second question at the same time, what measures can Canada and Manitoba now exercise to halt the project until those studies are done?

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is asking me to comment on a report which indicates that the studies say something which should qualify our present government action. I've indicated that we will see what the report says and as a result of seeing the report we will decide on what action should be taken. I also indicated to the honourable members that the phase that would link in to Canada does not start until 1979 at the earliest, possibly 1980. We feel that we will have sufficient time to review the material which the honourable member is now referring to, to see whether it in fact is acceptable to us, and such studies as are necessary to make that review would, Mr. Speaker, await seeing what that information is, and to this point I have not received that information. I believe that the report said that this information was handed by the United States State Department to the Canadian Embassy, and our first step will be to review the information. If further steps are necessary, we will take them, Mr. Speaker, and we will rely on the United States State Department note that no constructions will be commenced which would pollute Manitoba water to the injury of persons or property. Up to this point there appears to be no argument from the United States. If an argument does take place, which I advise the honourable members in the House may indeed occur, we will then have to deal with it on the basis of that argument.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's statement that in time we do have some time. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. CRAIK: . . . to prove or disprove but the question, Mr. Speaker, is whether or not in over-all terms of the Garrison project if the American Government cannot proceed. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am asking the question. If the American Government cannot proceed with the diversion into Canada, does this not in the Canadian Government's or the Manitoba Government's examination of this not really rule out the entire Garrison project on a cost-benefit basis if they. . .

MR. SPEAKER: The question is hypothetical. The question is wrong.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker. . .

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable gentleman knows it.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, then I raise a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well.

MR. CRAIK: I raise a matter of privilege, Mr. Speaker, and this question has been aimed at several times in the House as to whether or not the present examination of the project do not indicate that the project would be entirely unfeasible. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. That is not a matter of privilege, that is an opinion. Unfortunately the honourable member is trying to use the question period to debate this particular point of view. It cannot be done, I'm sorry. The Honourable Member for Wolseley, Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. I. H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Mines. This relates to information that he has had I believe for some time on Garrison, dealing with the solution to the pollution problem by injecting water, fresh water, into the river as it enters Manitoba. Has he made any investigation as to how much channelling would be required on the Souris River to accommodate the increased flows of water that would result or that are proposed to result from the Garrison diversion and the pumping of water into the system to get rid of the salinity.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, the question of additional water in the Souris River

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(MR. GREEN cont'd). . . has been one of the factors that has been taken into consideration but I have to advise honourable members that I cannot deal with the issue piecemeal. The present position as we are aware of it is that the United States State Department has indicated that the Boundary Waters Treaty will not be violated. As to whether or not that makes the Garrison diversion feasible from the point of view of the United States, that question has not been looked into because that is a United States problem.

With regard to whether or not the United States is able to take ameliorative steps which would satisfy Canadian and Manitoba authorities that is hypothetical and I'm not prepared to comment on it.

Mr. Speaker, before I yield the floor there was an indication by Economic Development Committee that they would want to take a Saunders aircraft up to Gimli. A circular was presented last week which indicated that the greatest number of members of the committee would be prepared to do this tomorrow. So I would like all party whips to indicate to their members of that Committee that there will be a Saunders aircraft ready to leave Ramp 1-A at the International Airport tomorrow at 9:45 and we will be back before lunch so that members will be back in Winnipeg shortly after noon. I would ask that this having been arranged that those members of the committee who are involved would please undertake to be there.

I am also advised that this would not largely affect Municipal Affairs Committee which could meet tomorrow as well to deal with the matters now before it, so I would like to schedule Municipal Affairs Committee tomorrow at 10:00 o'clock if that meets with agreement of honourable members.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, it's so long ago I forgot the question. Dealing with the Garrison, is it a fact that the pumping of fresh water into the Garrison and thereby softening the salinity would actually meet the requirements of the International Boundaries Treaty by allowing water to enter Canada unpolluted but would in fact, without breaking the International Boundaries Treaty, create a greater flow, greater than our river the Souris can accept without some further channelling.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the question answers itself. If there is more water to dilute the salt there would be more water in the Souris. I would indicate to honourable members that there has been some suggestion for some time that more water in the Souris would be a benefit. I'm not prepared to take that position at the moment. I have indicated all of these things would have to be looked at before the government took a position with respect to any alternative plan.

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

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a final supplementary. In view of the fact that the plan to dilute the waters and the salinity has been known for some time, has the government got any Manitoba or Canadian based studies on the step that would be required to permit the Souris through channelling to absorb that inflow, or are we still relying exclusively on U. S. data?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't accept the original assumption. The fact is that there have been various speculative ways of dealing with this. One is desalinization; one is diverting the canal southward into South Dakota rather than northward into Canada. The Canadian Government and the Manitoba Government will be dealing with the information that is provided to us by the United States and if an additional report has now been provided, that is what we'll be looking at.

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

MR. L. R. (Bud) SPERMAN: (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable the Minister responsible for Environmental Management. I would like to ask him if there are any initiatives left to the province with regard to the predicted cankerworm epidemic this summer in Winnipeg or whether they are precluded by the course that is being followed by the Clean Environment Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the Clean Environment Commission has made an order which I believe that the City of Winnipeg has not appealed from and is implementing.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What I am asking the Minister is

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd.) whether there are any initiatives left to the province in this field, or whether the province is not going to take a further initiative in this area?

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, the issue is being dealt with by the City of Winnipeg which has traditionally dealt with cankerworms. They have made an application to the Clean Environment Commission, which has been largely accepted and which they are proceeding to implement. As to whether any additional steps could be taken by the province, we would then have to go before the Clean Environment Commission in the same way as the Department of Highways goes to the Clean Environment Commission with regard to the spraying of ditches. We are bound by the Clean Environment Commission the same as the City of Winnipeg is.

MR. SHERMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. At this present time may it be assumed that the province is not intending to go before the Clean Environment Commission on that question?

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, let it perhaps be said the more positively that the action dealt with by the Clean Environment Commission deals with the problem of cankerworms to the extent that the city has dealt with it and we have not had any indication that there is any deficiency with respect to that particular matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Welfare. Has the Minister received a signed petition from the people throughout the Birch River area regarding the re-opening of the hospital which has been closed for some time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Seven Oaks): No, Mr. Speaker, I have received no such petition.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Public Works. Is the Minister, his department at the present time investigating the feasibility of purchasing the Winnipeg Public Safety Building?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. RUSSELL J. DOERN (Minister of Public Works) (Elmwood): No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Is the Minister -- has any kind of investigation at the present time on recommendations from either his department or the City of Winnipeg?

MR. DOERN: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I would ask if the member could repeat that, I did not quite understand his question.

MR. PATRICK: Is the Minister or his department conducting any kind of investigation on purchasing the Public Safety Building or has he got any kind of report from the City of Winnipeg government?

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, we are familiar with the Public Safety Building and our own requirements. There has been no formal request from the City, merely the observations or comments of one councillor.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Has any decision been reached on the construction and location of a provincial court building and if they are, can the Minister give details to the House?

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, there is a decision to proceed with an addition to the Magistrate's Court Building adjacent to the existing Law Courts.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister can tell the Manitoba Hog Producers what, if any, encouraging news he may have for them with respect to trying to break through the present log jam in the marketing of hogs. I understand this week's marketing will again be severely restricted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I think the Honourable Member for Lakeside would be well advised to contact the producers Hog Marketing Board for any information he wishes.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, despite the obvious disregard that the Minister shows for the producers in this province, would his government consider as a possible measure to lifting the

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(MR. ENNS cont'd.) compulsory feature of the Hog Marketing Board even if it were just on a very temporary basis to allow the farmers, the producers to find their own markets seeing that under the present situation the board is finding it difficult to do so.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, there are no new markets. The only way in which a new market would be affected according to the statement of the Honourable Member for Lakeside is by way of farmers reducing their prices so that someone can afford to buy and store or whatever they wish to do with the product on a long term basis. I assume that's what he's alluding to.

MR. ENNS: Has the Minister through the help of his department been given any indication of the cost to the producers, the current economic loss to hog producers by having been forced to keep the hogs on the farm to overweight conditions, the resultant loss in terms of quality and grade.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, since every member of the Hog Producers Marketing Board is elected and every member is supported by a regional committee, I suspect that those people are in constant consultation with the board that has been elected and that they are doing the things that they feel they must do given the present situation of markets in North America.

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

MR. ASPER: My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister for Health. Has the government been advised that the day care program that begins on September 1, because of the five dollar per day payment per child will cause a decrease in the quality of programming and may force some day care centres to cut down on programming staff or equipment for the children?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I, too, am in receipt of the same telegram which the Leader of the Liberal Party obviously received. I don't agree that the five dollar per diem which has been established is too low. I believe that it can make possible an excellent program. This has been compared to other provinces and I think that what we've brought forward in Manitoba is a good program.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. In view of the information that he obviously has received to the effect that per child costs range as high as seven or eight dollars, will he not consider an upward revision in the five dollar daily payment, even take into account parental income?

MR. MILLAR: Mr. Speaker, the formula that we've come up with is one which we worked together with the Federal Government, it's a cost-sharing program. The five dollars per diem is calculated and based on a formula which takes into account the average income of a family of four in Manitoba and it is that figure which really is the key figure in arriving at the formula. We feel, as I said earlier, that the per diem we've come up with is one that can and will be effective in providing day care for those who need it across the province and not simply for a select few who may or may not be able to pay the money.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister, and I don't wish to debate it, but would he agree to meet with the 200 parents representing the ten day care centres who believe that they are going to be impaired by his program, to at least discuss and let them make their case to him.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I believe I know the case, I'm not sure if meeting with 200 is going to resolve anything. Those people, the leaders or the representatives of these groups can of course meet with staff at any time and if a meeting with me is felt desirable I could certainly meet with them as well. I wouldn't undertake to meet with the entire 200, I don't think that would prove anything.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I wonder, Sir, if he can indicate whether he is in possession of a copy of the report that was instituted some time ago with respect to Concordia Hospital?

MR. MILLER: No, Mr. Speaker, I have never seen that report, if there is a report.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister feigned some question as to whether or not this particular hospital was subjected to some kind of investigation or report, I think that was subject matter well discussed in this Chamber. My simple question is, has the government ever received a subsequent report and can it at this time give us any indication of what that report contains?

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MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the report - I now recall the subject matter - the report was never ordered by government nor was it to come to government to the best of my knowledge. It is a study by the Board of Concordia, by, I think, the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses was involved, I believe the Health Services Commission, but it was not the Department nor the government per se. I've never asked for the report, I've never received a report. If it's completed it may be so, in which case the board of the hospital itself will be dealing with it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Would the Minister inform the House as to the price per cwt, class 1, fluid milk producers will be receiving for their milk in the month of May?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, based on the calculations as to the way in which milk is utilized in the province and the planned prices, it is assumed that it should be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 9.50 per cwt for the best quality of milk available in this province, and somewhere in the area of \$8 to \$8.15 for a grade 2 quality of milk.

MR. BANMAN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister received a report, the results of a report of a study done by members of his department recommending that Class 1 fluid milk producers receive an excess of \$11 per cwt?

MR. USKIW: Well I would assume, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable member has not researched that particular subject fully, in that that particular reference has to do with only one concept of the dairy question and only one aspect of the milk that is marketed in this province, namely No. 1 milk for the bottle trade. That does not mean, Mr. Speaker, that had that report been adopted that that would be the average price to the producers. It would be much less than that.

MR. BANMAN: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister confirm that the Manitoba Milk Control Board is considering a further five cent a quart increase in milk?

MR. USKIW: No, I don't believe they are considering any such thing at the moment, Mr. Speaker, because we have an agreement with the Government of Canada with respect to the five cent a quart subsidy to consumers of milk in this province which does not expire until sometime towards the end of the year. And at that particular time of course there will be an opportunity to reassess the price question vis-a-vis the producer and the consumer, and it is true that if the Government of Canada withdraws from the subsidization of milk into a new contract - rather from a renewal of their present contract or if they refuse to renew, then there would have to be a price adjustment in the amount of the subsidy itself, which is five cents a quart. But I don't know what the federal intentions are in this respect at the present time.

MR. BANMAN: Another question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister confirm that the milk prices in Manitoba are the lowest in Canada?

MR. USKIW: I am not sure whether I can answer -- Well I'm sure I can't answer yes or no on that question because in each province you have a different way of marketing of milk and you have price differentials between various uses of milk. In Manitoba we have changed the system now to the point where milk producers are being paid on the basis of quality rather than its end use, so where some provinces may have four or five different prices, we have two prices in this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question I suppose would be to the House Leader or to the Minister responsible to communications, and I apologize for not having been here when the statement on broadcasting was tabled, but the question was asked on Friday, I believe. Can the Minister indicate, because of some of the very important recommendations, well I can see beneficial recommendations in this report, will we have an opportunity to debate it or discuss it in committee or through the Minister's estimates. Is there any possibility that we'll have an opportunity to explore this in our legislative work this session?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, there will be some opportunity. The honourable member if he examines the nature of debating provisions can see that there is; I couldn't guarantee the type. The Minister's Estimates are coming up later but we are rapidly nearing the 90 hours. But if it's not in the Estimates there are other courses open to honourable friends.

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MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might impose on the Minister responsible for Communications. In view of the fact that presumably this report will be presented to the Canadian Radio Television Commission hearings in Winnipeg tomorrow, would the Minister consent to giving members a briefing, for those who are interested in the subject, giving us a briefing of the Government of Manitoba's position sometime in the next couple of days, perhaps even at our own time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. TURNBULL: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd be quite happy to meet with the Leader of the Liberal Party and anyone who is interested in this topic. I should be in the House but we could do it this afternoon after my press conference.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY (2)

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, before we get to second readings, the Honourable Minister of Finance has a message.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

MR. SPEAKER: The Lieutenant-Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba estimates of further sums required for the services of the Province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1975 and recommends these Estimates to the Legislative Assembly.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Mines that the said message together with the Estimates accompanying the same be referred to the Committee of Supply.

MOTION presented.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I'm just wondering whether it would be in order for me to make a brief comment as to the nature of the Estimates that are being distributed now.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave? (Agreed)

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it will just be a moment. There are three items, all of which, I'm sure will not come as any surprise to members. The first is an item of \$1.9 million under Tourism, which is the amount estimated to take over the administration and the operation of Assiniboine Park. It has been announced that agreement has been reached between the Province and the City of Winnipeg that the Assiniboine Park will be operated as a provincial park and the provision of 1.9 million is for that purpose.

The second one is self-explanatory in that it's \$5 million for flood control emergency expenditures. It is of course an estimate but I don't think it will exceed that amount. I think that this will be adequate.

And thirdly, Mr. Speaker, again is the item that was announced in regard to the extension of the property tax credit plan by an increase of \$50 in the minimum, and in the maximum, providing for a contribution by way of rebate of property tax credits of a minimum of \$150 and a maximum of \$250, or the total of the property tax bill, whichever would be the lesser. And that item is \$8 million which has previously been announced to honourable members. So that the total of the three items will now form part of the estimates, and I believe that the House Leader is prepared to co-operate with members if they wish to have these items brought in ahead of any of the other departments to ensure the opportunity for a debate on these items during the estimates review and otherwise then of course they would just be with all the other estimates to be dealt with at the end of the 90 hours.

I understand the House Leader is prepared to consider with members opposite, with the leaders, the arrangement as to when these items can be dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION put.

MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

SECOND READING - GOVERNMENT BILLS - BILL NO. 46

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, would you call Bill No. 46, followed by the other bills on second reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 46. The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Speaker, I adjourned the debate on behalf of the First Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister shall be closing debate on Bill No. 46. Agreed? The Honourable First Minister. --(Interjection)--Oh, the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the indulgence of the First Minister in allowing me to say a few words on this bill. I was not present in the House in the last few days of last week and therefore didn't have the opportunity at that time and I wouldn't want to let this particular bill pass without having a chance to make some comment about what I think is one of the more important pieces of legislation that have been introduced in this House in this Session and one which perhaps is more important by what it doesn't do than by what it does.

I'd like to begin first by commenting upon the, what I thought was a highly unusual presentation by the First Minister when he introduced Bill 46; unusual to the extent that it seemed to indicate in a very brief statement that he made that in the first two and a half years, or close to three years of operation of the very complicated and very difficult operation of the new City of Winnipeg structure, that the assessment, by himself at least, as Minister of Urban Affairs, and I presume by his colleagues, was that the only real major amendment that was required to make the system function in a proper and good way was to re-establish the direct election of a mayor along with the proposal to undertake by Cabinet the decision on boundary changes and the arrangement of community committee arrangements, along with the technical amendments that he talked about that were proposed by the City of Winnipeg. I thought that was unusual because the City of Winnipeg and Bill 36 was a recation of the Province of Manitoba. It was obviously a very innovative and very forward innovation at that time. I would have thought that one of the primary concerns of the Minister of Urban Affairs and the government would be to ensure that in the shakedown period of that new vehicle, as other ministers have referred to it, there would have been a very careful assessment of how it worked. That there would have been a very cautious and very detailed appraisal of which parts were functioning according to the objectives and which weren't, and that there would be a continually important application of the required changes that may be necessary to ensure that those parts of the machinery that they introduced which may not have been functioning according to the plan, could be repaired or replaced.

So I can only assume from the brevity of the First Minister's introduction that by lack of any other description, or lack of any other appraisal, that only this part of the bill that he saw was wrong and the rest of it was fine. And this particular point of view was reinforced I believe by listening as I did to the remarks of the other members of his government who spoke on the bill and by reading the remarks I think quite carefully, all seem to indicate that according to their appraisal, whatever it may have been, basically it was all right, and that once we got by this change it would be okay. That once we had a direct election of the mayor then that seemed to be putting things in their proper balance and we could then put Bill 36 back on the shelf and allow the City of Winnipeg to roll on.

That I assume, or I can only assume by what has been said so far, has been the position taken by the government in relation to the City of Winnipeg Act. And yet one of the disturbing aspects of which I think emerged in the debate that we have listened to so far is that many members of this House are not convinced that that is so. That the Member from St. Boniface and the Member from St. James, both of whom have had experience as councillors, commented I think in fairly extensive and detailed form about their concerns about the malfunctioning or misfunctioning of the system; that there were some serious problems with it and that those problems should be corrected. And I don't think much heed was given to their words when they were presented.

The Leader of the Opposition made some very strong assertions, and I would say they are only assertions, about the lack of application and policy and program in the City of Winnipeg, and again all the reply that I was able to note was from the Minister of Health and Social Development, who said again, "Lookit, the thing is fine." You know, it's like the old story about the dog walking on its hind legs. You don't comment on how badly it's doing; the fact that it's walking at all seems to be appropriate response.

BILL 46

(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)

But what I find particularly worrisome about that is it does indicate that there has been a lack of evidence, a lack of information, a lack of intelligence if you like, about what is happening in the City of Winnipeg. How well is it working? Because we have received nothing from members of the government who are responsible for that bill, to indicate that they have done an appraisal. We have not received from them any evidence to say that the objectives that were set out in the White Paper in 1970 are in fact being achieved. There were assertions; the Minister of Mines and Resources said in a kind of ipso facto argument, "we introduced Bill 36 to end fragmentation. The fragmentation has ended. Therefore the problem is solved." What he didn't say is that is simply a method that he was proposing. Whether in fact the initial appraisal of what the causes of the problems of the City of Winnipeg in 1970 were right has obviously not been done, because they are assuming that because of their first judgment as to what the problems were have now been corrected and that Bill 36, that there mustn't be any problems at all. Which I think is a serious mistake in logic, if we sort of went back to some basic formulas of logic.

So I'm concerned about it and why I would want to speak this afternoon is to pose some questions to the First Minister responsible for Urban Affairs about what kind of appraisal has been made and to what degree can we expect some evidence, perhaps in his concluding remarks, to convince us or demonstrate to us that in fact all is right with the world and the City of Winnipeg in fact has no problems with it, other than the one that he wants to correct, and that is the direct election of the mayor.

If that is not the case, if in fact there are some problems, then I can only assume that the Minister is waiting for a future date to make the correction. I believe that there is some talk about providing a review in 1975. And in this case I could again only express my concern because I don't believe that we should wait that long. If there are serious problems with it, by 1975 those problems will become entrenched and become part of the tradition almost of city government; they would become part of the natural operation of the system and be much more difficult to correct. So I can only assume again that the Minister, being a responsible man and prepared to act at problems when he sees them, can only again go back to the original position that there are no problems. If that's the case then I would have to voice my very strong disagreement with the Minister, because I think there is increasing evidence that there are serious difficulties with the operation of the City of Winnipeg Act and that those serious difficulties are in fact providing a number of serious problems faced by citizens of the city.

I would like to go back, if I may, Mr. Speaker, to the original objectives that were set forward in the White Paper and since elaborated upon by the Minister of Finance when he was introducing the bill, about the reason for the bill, and provide the First Minister with some evidence to show that in fact those objectives are not being achieved and some of the reasons for it.

I believe in the White Paper they set forward four objectives. The first one is to achieve a degree of financial equity between what was in the 14 municipal jurisdictions that were amalgamated into the one city and provide some balance in the economic position of one citizen to the other so there wouldn't be some advantage of one citizen living in one part of Winnipeg against the other.

I would say on balance according to the research that we have been able to conduct, that generally that has come close to being achieved, by the very nature of providing a common mill rate, with the exception of the school mill rate, that there has been a degree of financial equity. That does not mean however, in any respect, that the financial problems of the city have been solved and that I think it is a serious mistake, and a misdemeanor in fact, to assume that somehow by equalizing the fiscal base that now the fiscal problems of the city no longer have to be approached, and that there no longer has to be some serious examination of the revenue position of the city, and to what degree the ability of the city to operate not only the traditional functions of city government but the newer functions of city government can be supported by the property tax base along with a continuing strategy of providing conditional grants or taking over services. Because I don't think, as far as we can see, that the Minister or this government has really yet seriously faced the question of what does that form of financial inferiority or that form of financial subservience create in a city of a half a million people. What it simply means is that it has to kind of cut its sail to match the cloth that its given, which means it begins to

(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) retrain itself very seriously in many of the important kinds of programs which the government itself indicated they would like to see the city undertake in its White Paper. That it would like to have seen the city make a serious attack on problems of urban poverty, and problems of inner city development. But you can't do that if you don't have money.

It has struck me as exceedingly strange why this government has been so reluctant to provide for some form of growth revenue for the city. I would refer particularly to the proposal made in the Ontario budget of this year. That they indicated that the Ontario government is now prepared to begin meeting some of the problems of its municipalities by passing on its own growth revenue annually over bases, and asking the federal government to do the same. Now that to my mind is a form of provincial leadership, and it saddens me that our own province, wouldn't have undertaken the same kind of leadership to try to reassert a much more useful and comprehensive fiscal base for the City of Winnipeg so that it would be able to undertake the very things that a Provincial Government in 1970 said it wanted the city to undertake. But you can't expect them to do it when you are scrapping around to find resources.

The same thing is true in the capital market field, where again there is an increasing burden being put upon the cities to provide major public works. It goes back I think to a theory, I believe again the Minister of Mines and Resources and his comments on this bill talked about government as it used to be. I keep finding that the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources is a very conservative man in many respects. He has been called a radical I think by others throughout the province. I find him to be a very conservative man, conservative sort of on the basis of his own theory, that if that theory is outdated he holds to it, and the fact that he has an appreciation and sense of local government which I think is sadly outdated. Because he is looking at government as it used to be in its caretaker form, turning your lights on, making the snows cleared up, making sure that the police forces are out on the streets and so on, without ever looking at what I suppose could be looked upon as the increased entrepreneurial activities of the city, which must be taken in terms of development, of beginning to create sort of an urban environment which has a sense of livability and quality and harmony to it; of beginning to engage itself seriously in many of the social problems of the urban system which go far beyond the caretaker style of government as he described it. But they can't do it if they don't have the means, and they must look to the senior government who has the responsibility to either give them the means or to make very clear at least where they stand on the situation, rather than these kind of ad hoc negotiations. You know, it gets to be kind of curious as members of this House walk in, sort of daily in to attend sessions, to watch sort of groups of councillors scurrying to and fro from the Premier's office, you know, sort of doing their kind of genuflection asking for a few more sort of shekels to pay the bills next month. That's the meaning for the city councillors and it's the meaning for the City of Winnipeg. And simply by sort of what we can say then is that the fiscal problems of the City of Winnipeg have not been answered and I think it is unfortunate and it does denote that there is a serious problem that has not yet been addressed by this government.

Let me then point to a second objective that was put forward by the government, was the, and I'm quoting, "The need to eliminate conflict and stalemates then existing between the separate municipalities in order to expedite better planning, better development, to provide a better industrial strategy for economic growth, to eliminate that kind of problems that we used to see between Metro and the city where they were sort of sawing off at one another and you couldn't get any agreements on where to put a building or where to develop an industrial park or where to put a transportation system." So the answer that was proposed in Bill 36 was we amalgamate and we eliminate the stalemate and conflict somehow by eliminating the municipalities. Well again I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that you don't eliminate conflict simply by changing a structure, that all that would simply happen is the conflicts that existed before were simply transformed from 14 separate arenas into one arena, but the basic conflicts still exist and need to be worked out.

I think the proof of that again is that the City of Winnipeg is no more successful today than it was four years ago in providing for effective planning and development of this city. It is still being done on an ad hoc basis, and in fact if you really want to look at the record, the evidence, we are in far more serious trouble now than we were four years ago. That there is virtually no land left for industrial parks in the City of Winnipeg, and you begin to go back and

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) ask the question why; you say well how could that be because we were told that this reform was going to change that, and you find out that when you talk to people who are interested in acquiring industrial property that they must go through 17 or 18 kind of decision desks or groups or agencies, organizations within city government. So what really happened is that the fragmentation was not really eliminated, it was just transferred and we don't have any better industrial development now than we had then. So as a result the city which must develop an industrial strategy in order to properly provide for the sustenance of its citizens is being hampered and limited. In fact there's an interesting--I was talking to a city official who will go nameless, who said they've developed a new theory at City Hall, it's called the vacation theory of how not to get things done. There's about 18 different guys left to make decisions, this guy goes on a vacation for three weeks and the proposal sits on his desk, and just as he gets back the next guy goes on vacation at the next desk, which means you can really hold things up. But look at the results. It is that we are building far less housing now than we need to build in order to meet demand. We are not developing the kind of industrial sites that are required in order to meet demand. That we are still in a downtown area sort of unable to provide for a rational, effective downtown plan until we get sort of clobbered on things like Trizec, where we simply sort of sell out, because again there is no ability to properly bring the full powers of city government to bear on an effective way of providing control and regulation and direction in downtown. And that's not corrected in this Act and yet city officials and politicians have said, lookit, there are many things that we need to do in order to bring that about and there may be some people on council who don't want to bring that about and are not prepared to debate to what degree there are property interests dominating or not dominating in City Council. But I am saying that at the present moment the basic function of eliminating fragmentation has not been eliminated, in fact probably has grown somewhat worse. And I don't place the full onus of responsibility on the Provincial Government although it does share some of that responsibility. Obviously there are conflicts within council that need to be resolved. But there is one major area where that responsibility must be borne, and that comes down to probably the central function of government, and that's its capacity to make executive decisions, its ability to decide things and to decide them in as open and as rational a way possible.

Now I would sort of refer again the Minister to some research that was done as to-- interviews that were done with all 50 councillors, with members of the media covering the council, with the public at large and with administrators and the Provincial Government itself, and they said, what is the major problem facing the City of Winnipeg? The answer is - lack of effective executive decision-making. Because when this government changed the rules in Bill 36 to make a direct election of the mayor they made for a hybrid system, they took away the mechanism that would have enabled the executive powers within the city government to require a majority control to enable it to make decisions, when the theory of Bill 36 and the White Paper was in fact a form of parliamentary system. What they did when they changed to the direct election of the mayor was in fact change it to a kind of half form of congressional presidential system but without any of the powers.

So if you're going to do it one way then do it the right way, don't take half measures. Because if you're going to make for direct election of the mayor then you are making him a chief executive. If you are making him a chief executive give him some power so he can act like a chief executive; give him the power to make the budgets; give him the power of veto over bylaws; give him the power of appointment over civil servants in the civic structure. In other words, if you are going to adopt that system then carry out the logic of the original design, but don't create sort of a half measure system which all it ends up is creating in a sense - I would hate to use the word eunuch in relation to our present mayor - but in fact the office has no virtual powers to it, because you have taken those away from--you took away what is the essential value of a parliamentary system as the Premier well knows, that he can exercise sort of executive decision because he knows that to stay in power he can command a majority and that's the way our parliamentary system works. You don't have to set those out because the informal arrangements make it work that way, that there is a way of linking a cohesive majority. But when you've taken that requirement away then you must replace it with something else, and that was not replaced under Bill 36, nor is it replaced under Bill 46.

So with this most serious weakness faced by the City of Winnipeg Act, the most serious liability enabling it to undertake effective executive decision-making is not being corrected in

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) any way, wit or form. In fact it may even be heightened or exacerbated by the proposals in Bill 46 which indicated, and although the Minister didn't say so, if you read between the lines, of saying, well lookit, it's unfortunate that we had to make for this direct election of the mayor and we regret it, so what we'll hopefully do is that the deputy mayor will really take over those powers and the mayor can become a ceremonial figure, he can do the things he wants to do and the deputy mayor can then become in fact the de facto chief executive. Well if that's the case then you're headed for trouble because no system of government can stand two chief executives.

There is another problem associated with that which I would also like to raise, and that is once you eviscerated the capacity and power of a political executive system that was created under Bill 36, the Executive Policy Committee and the Mayor, once that was eviscerated then you left in place a very potent and powerful executive agency called the Board of Commissioners. They were not eviscerated, their power is still retained. So what in fact has happened, and again I would refer to research that was undertaken over the past two years of the transition state, that again if you ask both the administrators and the councillors and those observing at close range what is another basic problem in the working of the City of Winnipeg Act, again the conclusion is in the stalemate and conflict between the Board of Commissioners and executive political people. Because again there is no way of providing some command over that. It would be almost as if the Premier of this province was faced daily by a board of deputy ministers who come together daily to make decisions and you didn't have any powers sort of to appoint them or to control them or to countermand them. And that would be a very interesting system if the appointed civil servants in a sense were on equal par with the Premier of this province. And the analogy is not too far-fetched, I think it exists under the City of Winnipeg Act. You create a weak political executive and a strong appointed executive, the result is stalemate and the lack of capacity to make effective decisions on the critical sort of innovative areas of urban government. And the logic of that thing should have been seen and should have been corrected in Bill 46. So again I think there is a strange sort of unusual character to what Bill 46 is, that it doesn't really address itself to that particular kind of problem.

A third objective set forward in the White Paper - again they sort of paraphrase - was the desire to achieve greater efficiency in municipal services through the amalgamation of the fire, police administration, public works, etc. But what is the evidence on that, Mr. Speaker? Again I refer to a study which was done again to determine what has been the efficiency. Again the conclusion of most of those interviewed and assessed and according to the budget priorities is that in fact it has not changed. There has not been any significant improvement nor has there been any decline which I'm the first to admit. But there's been really no change in the delivery of services. They are the same. The only thing is they cost a lot more. Now I'm prepared to say okay, that obviously inflation has taken hold over the past three years. But there was also enough evidence that was presented both by the local boundaries commission, enough evidence that has come about through the examination of research of amalgamations undertaken in the Thunder Bay amalgamation and in amalgamation systems in the United States demonstrate that in fact it does cost more to get the greats you know, sort of under amalgamation when you unify services.

So the point that I would like to raise is what evidence does the Minister have at this stage to demonstrate that the services are now more efficient as a result of amalgamation. And I'm prepared also to say that I think that because of the overall logic of the innovation that at least what the government should have done is recognize that that new efficiency or that amalgamation was going to cost more money per se, not just through inflation but per se, simply because of a need to catch up on costs where salaries and personnel costs between different services were unequal. And because in many cases there's a certain logic to local government that when they do amalgamate they tend also to want to kind of upgrade their services at the same time, which I don't think anyone would object to. But again there was no assistance given by the Provincial Government in carrying this out. There was no sort of preparedness to provide for additional capital or assistance to assure that if amalgamation of these services was to take place it would again take place without placing an additional burden upon the property tax base of the City of Winnipeg. Again that really didn't occur. That there was that sort of transitional grant system that was worked out that when the Minister was asked questions in this House about two months ago indicated that they were not prepared to consider or even analyze to what

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) degree there might have been additional costs acquired by the City of Winnipeg as a result directly of amalgamation and to help pay for those. So that becomes another problem.

So I think again when you come back to the question of efficiency, has it in fact become more efficient? Well the jury still might be out, but at this stage no, it hasn't, it's still the same.

Let's go back to Objective No. 4, perhaps the most innovative and I think the most salutary aspect of Bill 36, was its very strong concern to achieve a greater democratization in local government by decentralizing the political system down to the community committee and resident advisory level by creating small wards and by trying to open the system of government up. And I believe the Minister of Finance would bear me out to say that at that time in my private capacity I was a strong sort of supporter of that particular thrust and direction. Well again what has been the result? Well again I'd like to point out to the Minister that in again sort of the research that was undertaken it indicated that what has happened in the two and a half years.

First I would point out that - what has happened to the resident advisers? Who are they? Are they now participating? Well one interesting result of a public opinion survey is that fewer people know who their councillors are now than they did back in 1970, which is perhaps simply a product of the fact that with the new system it takes time to work it out, but it does demonstrate that the essential element of any government system, and that is a direct communication between the representative and the people who elected them has not opened up sufficiently. And if that was the case it would have seemed to me highly imperative that the Provincial Government take steps to correct that, to insure that that system that they introduced would work.

What about the resident advisory system? Well again through a very extensive interview and assessment that was undertaken we found out that some important things are happening in the resident advisory area as of last summer, pardon me, as of last fall some 400 people in the City of Winnipeg were nominally involved in resident advisory groups. Of those about 250 would be what you would call activists; and in case anyone's interested the characteristic of those people was that they were all previous activists in city affairs in any event. So the result of the resident advisory group has been this, that it has provided a forum for activists. But what is a serious deficiency about it it does not provide a forum for people who were not previously active. It has not widened or expanded the scope of involvement necessarily, it simply provided a place where those already involved could bring together.

I have no criticism of that, I think it's highly important for those citizen activists to be in a position where they can face sort of councillors at least on a monthly basis and get information and so on. But if you ask the question of the resident advisers as to why is there not greater involvement, they say because we don't have the means to do it; that several resident adviser groups taking seriously the mandate set down for them in the White Paper were interested in providing for new communication systems, of establishing an information basis, developing newsletters, of beginning to reach out into the community. But what were they given to enable them to do that? Absolutely nothing. That your government and the municipal government established no policy, no program, no assistance, no wherewithal whatsoever to enable that very important and very vital link in that system to work.

I find it extremely contradictory that when I went through the estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs I find that the Department of Northern Affairs was spending several hundreds of thousands of dollars to help sort of send organizers and so on into local communities up north to enable people to get to know - to discuss a new system of government, to provide for better contact but we wouldn't spend one cent, not one red penny or whatever it's worth to help the City of Winnipeg where half a million people live to do the very same thing. And it strikes me as exceedingly strange why to begin with there is that discrimination, that if there was an obvious need as I think there was in the north to enable people to understand a new system of government better, to help them come in contact with it, why that it shouldn't be also true in the City of Winnipeg. So here again is another fault if you like in that system, that the application of support for the resident advisers was totally ignored, and in fact I think the only answer to this was again given by the Minister of Mines and Resources when he was Urban Affairs Minister who said, if someone wants to pay for it let the Federal Government do it.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) Well it's not a federal responsibility, it's a provincial responsibility. Bill 36 has the name of the Government of Manitoba on it, not the Government of Canada. I think sort of any neophyte in the field of sort of local government or community organization or communication would have said if you want to make that system work then you're going to have to help pay for it.

Another major fault with that system of decentralization was simply this: that under Bill 36 there was serious confusion in the powers and responsibilities that were provided to community committees. That one of the most important aspects of decentralizing a government system is to create some degree of control and autonomy on the local level. Otherwise don't do it. There is no point in giving someone sort of responsibility in name but not in fact. And the Provincial Government I think made a serious error when after the first several months of operation of Unicity they clarified the position of what they meant "supervise"; it was not to make decisions it was simply to advise the central council. But what has happened, if I can again refer to some research that's been done, the problem has been that there is such a confusion between which level of the city system should be doing what that they do everything, every level tries to take every step possible and therefore it extends the time, extends the responsibility and it freezes the system. And yet there are I think some very specific services that could be decentralized and left on the community committee level. There is some degree of responsibility for zoning and planning and recreation use and parks and even streets and so on. And the decisions should be made there. If there is to be one appeal the appeal can be made to council, but let's not have seven levels of appeal which is what we have now; that if you want a zoning variation you have to go up and down the ladder sort of like a fireman in the busy fire season, because there's no one that says that's where the buck stops. And yet if you're going to try and create within the City of Winnipeg some sense of local identity in community you must establish institutions which have some substance and some powers in those local communities to do it with. And yet the community committees have not been working that way because again, if we can sort of refer back to the opinion surveys that were done, people don't really believe they have any power anyway. If they don't have any power they don't gain any respect, or they're countermanded. We've seen case after case after case over the past eighteen months where decisions have been made in the community committee level and then sort of overturned up and down the ladder. You can go all the way to the Municipal Board now to overturn them. So why bother fooling around at the community committee level?

So again I think that the responsibility of the province to correct what it might have the power to correct within Bill 46 was not done, and yet the problem I think is very glaring and very evident. So, Mr. Speaker, I asked myself the question, why? Well I think the basic question why is that this government is divided amongst itself as to what they think the city should be doing, that there are different members of the Cabinet and government who themselves are not prepared to say sort of what the city should really be. Some who say sort of let's leave it alone and others say let's get into it, and others say we want it totally amalgamated, and others who like to see the community committee die away and the resident advisers go off to sort of the history books; and others who on the other hand are much stronger supporters of the system. So when you have a government that's divided the only answer is to do nothing. When the government is not able to make up its mind the only resolution is to do as minimal an amount as possible. I think that is the explanation why Bill 46 is as weak and as ineffective as it is, that it hasn't addressed itself to the problems because there is no agreement as to what the solutions might be.

So I would simply suggest, Mr. Speaker, that to begin with--(Interjection)--Well I think it's the right of this side of the House to try and understand why because I think that's how we get solutions. So I think that to begin with we should be looking at how do you reorganize the executive structure. If you're going to have direct election of the mayor give him powers. Make him into a strong mayor; give him the power to act, and of the budget, appointments and a certain degree of veto powers. If you're going to have community committees give them some power to make real decisions and if there is to be one court of appeal or one level of appeal, fine. But make the decision-making level on the community committee level. If there is to be fragmentation in terms of development and planning then let's clear it up, let's get into that Act and see where the problems are. And if we have to develop new institutions, totally not part of the traditional system but simply if they have to be forums of downtown development

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) corporations, fine, let's set them up and go to work at it. But let's not wait.

If we're going to have resident advisory groups as a way of giving people access to government then give them some strength to act, give them the ability to provide information to citizens, give them the ability to have their own offices, to do some of their own research, to provide for counter reaction to what councils are proposing. Give those private citizens some strength, don't ignore them. If the problem is lack of industrial strategy then you have a Minister of Industry and Commerce who should be putting his nose in that problem and we should be developing a growth strategy for the City of Winnipeg that makes some sense.

And finally I think in terms of the problems one of the major areas that have emerged over the past two and a half years has been the problem of intergovernmental relations. Deny or not the fact is the province and the city do not get along and they do not agree on very much and there is conflict, and one of the reasons is because you haven't really worked out the priorities between you, cleared up the fiscal base and establish who should be doing what. It's been left in sort of that grey area of confusion. And that's not the way to establish clear-cut intergovernmental arrangements.

So I think there are things that this government could be doing and should be doing. If they can't do them because of a division amongst their own ranks, then I would make the suggestion that one of the first things we should do perhaps - and perhaps the Premier would take this under advisement - is why don't we establish a legislative committee of this House to meet over the next three or four months to assess the problems, to meet with the various representatives of the cities and municipalities and the private citizens groups and come up with some proposals.

I believe that the same thing was done for Northern Manitoba. A task force of legislators was set up, they visited the north, they talked to the people there, they came up with a series of proposals many of which have been incorporated as part of the program of this government. I don't want to take away the power of decision-making from the government but we may sort of provide, as this House can, some initiative as to what could be done. I believe that there are members in this House on both sides, I've heard the Member from Winnipeg Centre, I've heard the Minister of Public Works, you have the Member from St. Boniface, from St. James, all of whom have had experience and interest in local government, on how to make governments work, and I think if you take the discussion of this kind of thing out of this particular forum which is designed for conflict in effect and put it into a forum of a committee which is designed for discussion then we may be able in fact to provide for a serious assessment and appraisal of what is going wrong and of what solutions may be provided and that may be of some benefit to the Minister of Urban Affairs, but he must sort of convince his other colleagues as to what might be done to correct the abuses or the problems.

I think the government owes that to the citizens of this city because I don't think that we should any longer ignore what is happening. I think it is an extreme disservice and in fact an act of irresponsibility to ignore it much longer. And if the consensus cannot be made amongst the government itself then perhaps with a vehicle of a special committee of this House we might be able to sort of overcome that gap and provide for a common meeting of minds.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member's time is up.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the comments of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, many of them no doubt are of substance but there's no denying the fact that he is following the old adage that if you deal with enough subjects in a broad brush approach that at least hopefully some of the points raised will have validity.

I do not wish to be sarcastic, Mr. Speaker, but I certainly sense a good deal of internal contradiction in the points raised within the one speech just given by my honourable friend the Member for Fort Rouge. It is just not possible to be in favour of the principle of greater degrees of decision-making and autonomy for city government and then on the other hand to propose all kinds of constraints on them by way of local resident groups, by way of superimposition by Provincial Governments of structures and policy directions and planning desired for the future. You just can't have your cake and eat it, too, Mr. Speaker. That's one bit of advice my honourable friend the Member for Fort Rouge would be well advised to ponder.

One of the main points that he was making is that the structure of the City of Winnipeg is

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) a hybrid and therefore is not likely to work; a hybrid because he suggests that initially it was conceived that the new form of city government would be based on a parliamentary or quasi parliamentary system with the chairman, the mayor being elected from among those who control a majority in City Council and that we have departed from that to provide for a mayor to be elected city-wide by the electors across the entire city. I do not believe that there is any great deal of validity to be found in trying to draw comparisons between city governments and provincial or federal levels of government. I believe that the mayor being elected city-wide by all the electors, majority of all the electors, possesses the kind of political credibility that gives him a leadership base which will be there regardless of the specific nature of the form of structure of government.

We choose to believe that it is after two years, too early to arrive at firm and final conclusions as to what fundamental restructuring should take place at this point in time. To use my honourable friend's own expression, "the jury is still out," with respect to quite a number of aspects of the City of Winnipeg Act and its operations and we resist any suggestion or advice that we should be making more fundamental changes than we are prepared to make as provided in Bill 46 or Bill 38.

I do not believe that the mayor of the City of Winnipeg under this legislation will have greatly reduced powers, or powers greatly in variance from that which in practical terms applied all along even under the old City of Winnipeg arrangement. The suggestion that under the old City of Winnipeg arrangement that the mayor had control with respect to budget, the budget process, is simply inaccurate and demonstrates that my honourable friend is not really aware of both the formal and the practical basis upon which city budgets were determined, and the mayor's role and powers were under legislation of some time ago. --(Interjection)--

Mr. Speaker, I didn't interrupt my honourable friend and I would appreciate if he would-- Well if it's a point of order yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member state his point of order.

MR. AXWORTHY: The point of order is at no time did I say that the mayor under the old system had powers of budget making. That was not--this is an inaccurate statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, Hansard will indicate whether that statement was or was not made or if words intimating that to substantial effect were not in fact said by my honourable friend. But I don't make much of it, it is not really central to the remarks of my honourable friend. I simply go on to say this, Mr. Speaker, that all of the talk we hear about the present City of Winnipeg legislation, even as amended or as will be amended, somehow leaving it very awkward for the exercise of executive decision-making, I don't buy that argument, Mr. Speaker, because there is at the present time and in the foreseeable future, it is completely open to City Council to provide the amount of backing for those who constitute the Executive Policy Committee as Council sees fit, and that really is determined by majority votes in Council itself.

Those who argue that the way in which the Board of Commissioners are structured and the authority given to the Board of Commissioners puts it into some kind of juxtaposition of authority conflict or competition with the elected councillors and their Executive Policy Committee simply do not understand the essential point, that the Board of Commissioners carry out policy that is determined for it by the City Council and the Executive Policy Committee. And any matter of administrative action or any aspect of administration that is deemed by Executive Policy Committee and City Council to be important enough as to merit policy consideration, discussion and resolution becomes a matter of policy by definition and in itself, so that the Board of Commissioners are in no way deemed to be in policy opposition or conflict with the elected people. And, Mr. Speaker, it's as simple as that. It is always a case, whether it's City Government or whether it is senior government, it is always a case of policy being decided by those elected and anything that is important in the way of administration can become in itself seized upon and brought forward as a matter of policy deliberation. So that nothing is precluded, nothing of substance can be precluded from policy deliberation, discussion and resolution.

Mr. Speaker, most of what my honourable friend had to say, and one or two others in this debate as well, was to suggest that the City of Winnipeg was hamstrung because it lacked an adequate fiscal base upon which to obtain the necessary revenues to carry out its programs, policies and plans. We are cognizant that municipal government has a much more limited revenue base than is adequate in our time, in our day and age, and accordingly we have along

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) with other provinces suggested to the Government of Canada that there ought to be detailed consideration of possible ways and means of expanding revenue sources available to provincial, and in this context, more importantly to municipal government. And there has been agreement, it has been slow in coming but agreement has been reached for a meeting of federal and provincial representatives and representatives of municipal governments as well, known as the Tri-Level discussions, to meet sometime in the reasonably early future to deal with ways and means of expanding revenue base for city government in our country. We recognize that it's desirable to increase the amount of growth tax room available to municipalities and in that context we were one of the first jurisdictions to take at least some tentative steps towards the allocation of some growth tax or revenue fields to municipalities. We realize it was only tentative and relatively minor but we are prepared to proceed further in that direction. And furthermore, Mr. Speaker, we had let the representatives of the City of Winnipeg know that should they be wanting or willing to levy certain forms of taxation of a growth nature that the province would be willing to administer or collect such taxation on a sort of tax collection agreement basis.

We hope and trust that by 1975, that for the 1975 fiscal year the city will be in a position to advise specifically as to what kinds of growth taxes it may wish to have levied and perhaps collected for it by the province, if so desired, and we in that include such possibilities as the city taking up something in the order of 800,000 to \$1 million in amusements tax which the province is prepared to vacate. In addition to that we have advocated to the city that they consider seriously and systematically the advisability of levying a land value enhancement tax which strikes me as being a very valid, a very valid tax for municipal government to levy inasmuch as it is actions of municipal government that in rezoning and in alteration of land use permitted that really does give enhanced value to many parcels of land. And it strikes me as only logical that municipalities should have the right of first access to tax revenue resulting from enhanced value of land rather than by default letting that revenue go to federal and provincial governments by way of capital gains taxation. Now surely as between the two an enhanced value tax collected by municipalities should have precedent and priority over capital gains taxation calculations by federal and provincial governments.

Much that has been said in this debate, however, has been of retrospective nature. The suggestion, for example, that if we had only left the Metro form of government alone that somehow, some way this would have worked out better than it had worked out in the first several years and that it would have by this point in time become a very acceptable and welcome form of government. I suppose that debate will be never-ending but I think that we do have some comparisons to draw in other parts of Canada as between the two basic forms of city government. We look to Metropolitan Toronto which has retained a two tier system of urban government and then we look to Edmonton and Calgary which do not have a two tier system and I say that after the great plethora of detail, of argument and discussion as between these two basic forms of government I for one would sooner opt for the Edmonton and Calgary approach to urban government than the two tier system by whatever variation it exists such as in Toronto or the Ottawa-Carleton County area, etc., etc.

Mr. Speaker, nor do I accept the argument that whatever escalation there is in city government spending today is a direct result of the change in structure that was brought about with the City of Winnipeg Act. As I look back at the level of spending of municipal governments in the Greater Winnipeg area through the entire decade of the 1960s one can see that in percentage terms there were at least three years in the decade of the 1960s when the escalation of aggregate urban spending in the Greater Winnipeg area was in excess of 12 percent. And I note, too, the fact that in the first two years of City of Winnipeg government under the Unicity legislation that the level of spending was considerably less than 12 percent, and so as often happens there are periods of relative restraint followed by periods of additional expenditure partly accounted for by the preceding year or two of restraint. So then one can say well why did the spending in the Greater Winnipeg area in 1966 have such a much higher percentage increase than in 1965 and '64. The reason for that being partly and due to the relative restraint of the preceding two years. And so it is again in this particular period in the 1970s relative to urban government spending.

I don't feel that there is anything inherent in the City of Winnipeg structure that militates for or against its greater or lesser spending. In the final analysis much if not all of the

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) determination of the level of spending comes back to a matter of policy decision-making at City Council level. There is this however to be candid about the matter, that some amount of spending at this point in time is due to the catch-up that was necessitated by the previous fragmented system of urban government and bringing about rationalization and a greater degree of parity of wages as between employees of the different 13 municipal units are concerned. But I am mindful of the fact that those who are in senior administrative positions and who have worked for many many years in city government have voiced the view, which I tend to agree with, that some of the increase in spending now is no doubt a direct result of the legislation, the City of Winnipeg Act, but that it, in the long run it should prove able to bring about certain rationalizations and efficiencies, and therefore they would still maintain, as I would, that the intermediate and longer term effect of this rationalization of urban government should be beneficial by removing redundancies overlapping and the like.

There are those who in this debate have argued that relations between the province and the city are not good, that there is a certain rivalry and have implied that somehow there is an onus on the province to attempt to improve co-operation as between the two levels of government. Mr. Speaker, I regret that the Member for St. Boniface is not here because he for one, and as you read his speech in Hansard it bears out, that he was fair in terms of his comments relative to the degree of co-operation between the province and the City of Winnipeg. We have held many meetings, many discussions with respect to a great variety of problems facing the city, both in terms of immediate budgeting and in terms of longer range planning. I am not engaging in wishful thinking when I say, Sir, that it is my distinct impression that we have been co-operative, we have been willing to spend a good deal of time on discussions, I rather suspect, Sir, far more than was ever the case in the past. Perhaps on the other hand we are in that phenomena known as "rising expectations", that no one expected there to be close liaison between province and city in years gone by but there is that expectation today. Well if that's the line of reasoning I would say that measured in terms of the ideal perhaps we have not been able to liaise and to meet as often as we should, but in terms of the past certainly there has been a great deal of improvement and a great deal of increase in frequency of liaison and co-ordination between provincial and city elected people and certainly at the administrative level as well.

I'm not aware that there has been any kind of design or running battle of confrontation or mutual resistance as between province and city. As a matter of fact, I would go so far as to say that many of the people who hold elected positions in the City of Winnipeg government have been very conscientious, have been very fair in putting forward their proposals, their requirements to the province, and in many cases this attitude I think is reciprocated and that there would be a willingness on the part of many of the elected councillors in the City of Winnipeg to acknowledge that we have certainly tried to accommodate many of their legitimate requests. That is not to say that there are not some - I hope they are very much in the minority - that there are some on the City Council who have been really trying to embarrass the province at every twist and turn, but I suppose to an extent, Mr. Speaker, that's to be expected. All we do is serve notice that we are prepared to carry on as we have in the past in terms of making time available to meet, to consider a considerable amount of detail.

I want to also refer to one of the oft-repeated comments in this debate by a number of honourable members with respect to clarification of the method of the election of the mayor, with respect to the role and function of that of the deputy mayor. I must confess a certain amount of confusion as to just what honourable members opposite really think in that regard, since I know that one or two members opposite feel that we should not have made any legislative provision whatsoever in Bill 46 in terms of the more clear definition of the role and function of the deputy mayor is concerned.

On the other hand, the Member for St. Boniface warmly endorsed the putting forward in this bill of a section or sections which does go all, at least part way towards clarifying just what the relative role of the deputy mayor is with respect to Executive Policy Committee, his function as a deputy chairman of that committee and his position on the Board of Commissioners, just to clarify and to provide enhanced liaison or co-ordination between the Board of Commissioners and the Council, the elected Council. We feel that this is a relatively minor matter which however can help to clarify and therefore reduce certain problems which have arisen in recent months in respect to the relative role of the deputy mayor on some functions

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) of committees of Council, and with respect to Board of Commissioners as well.

Some honourable members opposite were rather alarmed, perhaps that's putting it strongly, but certainly opposed to the idea that by Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council that it should be possible to change ward boundaries, change the number of community committees and to name wards and community committees. Lest there be any misunderstanding on that score I say simply that this was put into the Act so as to enable the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to act when action was required should it be at a time when this House was not in session. But clearly I can indicate that it is not the intention to use that section in a way that would depart from what is being recommended to the government in any case by an independent Boundaries Commission.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, I cannot conceive of circumstances in which we would be proceeding to make changes in community committees or wards in a way that was initiated and determined by the Cabinet or Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, and in a way that was at deviation from the independent Boundaries Commission which is required to be established from time to time under the Act to update and recommend revisions and boundaries. Therefore if this House is still in session before the matter of boundaries is finalized this House will have the opportunity to deal with the matter if it is unsatisfied with the way in which government has acted to implement a Boundaries Commission report.

Furthermore, I should think that in the event that it's simply a case of re-endorsing the existing boundaries arrangement which we have lived with now for three years, and if this re-endorsement is carried out by Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council I fail to see why this should be something to be viewed with alarm.

So, Mr. Speaker, all in all the main reason why we have brought forward in this bill changes that are of a relatively technical nature, most of them, is because we do not see fit to adopt the position or attitude that the City of Winnipeg requires fundamental restructuring as to its form of government. We certainly do not believe that to be the case, therefore we are confining ourselves to those changes which in almost every single case come forward to us as requests from the City of Winnipeg and are pursuant to their own experience and their desires and recommendations and request based on their own experience. We do not feel that it is appropriate for us at this time to adopt an attitude that the province should set up a legislative committee which will ponder urban government in the 1970s and come in with changes that may or may not be in harmony and in accord with those who are elected to government at City Hall. We have every reason to believe that all of those who serve on City Council, having worked with a new system, a new structure for three years, having been given the opportunity to advise us as to what changes they think are practical and desirable and necessary, we have embodied these in Bill 46 and are recommending them for passage into law.

But I find a fundamental inconsistency on the part of those who would say that we are trying to superimpose, we're trying to impose on elected city people certain ideas, certain forms of government, and then on the other hand argue that we should be setting up our own machinery for planning for the city; we should be setting up a separate legislative committee system to engage in thoroughgoing fundamental future reforms for the City of Winnipeg, that we should impose on the elected people of the City of Winnipeg an advisory system which is far more than a resident advisory system but one which is financed separately and apart from the City's budget, regardless of what the attitude of the elected representatives of the city are; that we should be willing to finance some other group with ways and means that they could hire outside personnel, staff, offices, administration and in that way start to reintroduce by stealth or indirection something which we have tried to get away from in recent years which is duplication of effort, an imposition on one level of local government of another level of quasi government with separate means of financing, etcetera. This we are not about to do.

And accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I feel that what we are recommending for enactment into law here is perfectly consistent with what we put into the City of Winnipeg Act in the first place, namely a desire to set up a structure and then as much as possible to leave it to the elected members of that municipal government to carry out decision-making in a way in which their own best judgment tells them is optimum.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

BILL NO. 43

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 43. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I am generally in agreement with most of the proposals in the bill, but there are two or three clauses that I think the government might do well to examine and perhaps replace or make better by way of amendment. For example, the clause that gives no option on a three-year warranty. I would think that a farmer should have the right to opt for a one-year warranty and not necessarily the three if he didn't wish to do it. I did some checking on the weekend and I found one of my farmer friends - he says he's not going to make use of this at all because he has a good relationship with the dealers that he deals with and he doesn't want to put out that kind of money. And when you're talking about a \$20,000 tractor or a \$30,000 combine that extra two or three percent is quite a bit of money.

Now the fact that the established dealers are able to have a bond and a bond protects the farmer I don't see the need for somebody putting up \$300,000 for a fund, and the somebody in my opinion will be the farmer himself because it's not a cost that will be absorbed by the manufacturers, nor will the dealers want to pay that out of their money, so that'll just be added on to the cost of doing business, and if the fund is maintained by a levy from the dealers, the large ones and the small ones, well then the dealers will just have to increase their markup a little bit to take into account this new cost of doing business.

Now another thing that is already happening that is going to have an effect on the sale of farm machinery to farmers is that there'll be a new method. A dealer won't take a written contract and be held liable to a fine or a penalty if his delivery date is not honoured. Through no fault of his own the dealer may have to advise the farmer that a piece of machinery is not available as to the agreed upon date, so that we'll find that dealers won't be taking contracts or sales orders as such; there will be more of a verbal understanding between them, and this in itself could lead to problems because whenever there's a verbal agreement and something goes wrong and we're dealing with large sums of money, then you're liable to have disagreements and lawsuits and so on. But if you can write a reasonable contract and it's for a good sum of money . . . reason has to be used. For example, it's my understanding that the big manufacturing companies for farm machinery are working two and three years ahead, they're not building from year to year and they can't program and they can't forecast their needs, and if they run into shortages in the manufacturing process and back down the line it goes to the dealer, then to the farmer where the agreement has been made between the farmer and the dealer, then we find that the dealer is being held to an agreement that he wasn't able to honour through no fault of his own, and now he's going to suffer financially. So you'll find that there will be no more contracts written up; there will be a way found around this. When two people get together and there's a law they don't like they'll find a way to avoid or to get around it.

I would like to read to the Minister here a notice that has been sent out from Versatile Machinery Company to all their dealers, and I want the Minister to cogitate on this and just see what this may have to do, how it may affect the relationship of farmer, dealer and manufacturer. And I quote from the notice. It's April 15, 1974: "All dealers. Manitoba only." So we are now going to have a different type of relationship between Versatile and the Manitoba dealers and between Versatile and dealers in the other provinces or states. I quote: "Delivery of new Versatile equipment to the retail purchaser may from time to time be affected and delayed for reasons beyond the control of you the dealer as well as the company. Such delays in deliveries could ultimately result in the dealer being held responsible for late delivery of such new equipment. The dealer will be responsible to supply like equipment or reimburse the customer with normal rental rates for similar machines until a new unit is delivered to the end user. This procedure is clearly outlined in the new Farm Machinery Act for the Province of Manitoba. Our company is suggesting that Versatile dealers not write up retail orders which are forms of contracts with any customer until the new equipment is in your possession and ready for delivery to the end user. The company will accept no responsibility to supply any equipment on any specific date as may be indicated on any retail sales contract. Therefore no dealer should make definite commitments regarding delivery dates until he does have such machine on his lot for delivery to the retail purchaser. All dealers in the Province of Manitoba would be well advised to obtain the most recent copy of the Manitoba Implement Act. There are many aspects of the new Act which will no doubt affect the operations within a dealership but which could be costly if a dealer is not aware of the possible implications."

Perhaps the letter isn't all that serious but if one thinks what dealers and farmers may

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(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd) do now to keep from being involved with a contract if it were broken would cost a lot of money. --(Interjection)--Well the dealer will not sign a contract and he'll hope for delivery of the machine. But what about the manufacturer, do you think the manufacturer is going to favour pushing his machines into a province where there's a restriction on trade between the farmer and the dealer? I would think that officials in some of these companies would be inclined to do the bulk of their business with people who they found they had an easier working relationship with rather than being tied up by legality and contract.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: I'm wondering whether the member is alluding to the theory, or his opinion that a contract should not be a binding thing between a seller and a buyer and that if a contract is not lived up to that there should not be any consumer protection in that respect.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, let us distinguish between consumer protection and a contract that through no fault of one of the parties cannot be adhered to. I agree that there should be a good agreement and good contracts, but with the shortages that we have in the manufacturing world today, dealers can't be expected to depend that his manufacturers - and every dealer has several - that his manufacturers are going to be 100 percent on time with all deliveries. Strikes, shortages, transportation tie-ups, all of these things have an effect here --(Interjection)--What I'm saying is there should be an option. --(Interjection)--Well, there's not an option on the three-year warranty. --(Interjection)--Well, whose strike?--(Interjection)--Well then it's not hardly a contract at all. If there's one person strikes between the manufacturer and the farmer is that agreement void?--(Interjection)--Well then why do you put it in?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Anyways, Mr. Speaker, I make the point, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward with interest to hear the Minister's replies. But basically I haven't had any complaints from farmers over the Machinery Act as it was last year, but I just point out these two possible examples of where there could be problems in the administration of the Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman, my remarks to the Act will be very brief. I look forward to seeing the bill in Committee and I am at least thankful to the Minister for this, that unlike the last major attempt to change the legislation having to do with sale of farm equipment in the Province of Manitoba that on this occasion there would appear to be at least some reasonable time to have a look at the Act. There will be time on the part of the - really the people that are most directly involved, namely the equipment manufacturers, the dealers and indeed the end user, the farmer, to come and look at aspects of the Act and to tell us in Committee what in fact the consequence will be of the Act.

Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker has indicated that he has not had a great deal of problems in having people coming to him complaining about the way the Act has been up to now. Well that may be so in his particular case, and I suppose it's so in many individual members' cases, but the single major and important fact that the last little bit of dabbling with the Farm Machinery Act had was just an across-the-board rise of all machinery prices in this province, precisely for some of the reasons that the Honourable Member from Portage indicated, that, you know if you put out certain conditions of doing business in a province then the cost of doing that kind of business has to be picked up. We found ourselves being picked out, being penalized by the manufacturers for the kind of legislation that we had and every farmer had to pay that additional four percent, three to four to five percent, and there were some provisions for a farmer that chose to sign off from some of the particular warranty clauses that that charge would not necessarily be passed on.

But nevertheless the fact of the matter is that it seems that whenever the Minister of Finance or the Premier or somebody else decides to give somebody in this province two or three hundred dollars in the form of some rebate, the Minister of Agriculture is there to somehow louse it up and take it away on them. Because, Sir, you know four percent on a \$5,000 tractor, four percent on a \$20,000 combine it will take a lot of property tax rebates figured out by the Minister of Finance; you know they'll have to find some similar kind of a program to reduce Medicare costs, some similar programs for tax property goods, you know every year to offset the mounting costs that this Minister of Agriculture inflicts on the farmers of Manitoba.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: The Honourable Member for Lakeside, Mr. Speaker, would he indicate to the House why it is that certain manufacturing companies in the manufacture of farm machinery charge more in Manitoba than in other provinces even though the Act does not significantly or have any effect on the cost with respect to those sales in Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Well the answer is probably very easy. They just don't like doing business with socialists and that's a penalty that all Manitoban face, that's the penalty we all face. So their answer is let's get rid of the manufacturers, let's take over the manufacturing business as a whole, which of course is what they hopefully want to do. But there is no big secret. The fact of the matter is an honest question deserves an honest answer. The answer is simply they don't like doing business with socialists, and quite frankly I don't blame them. But the fact of the matter is, the fact of the matter is, the farmers, the people that are buying the equipment have to pay the extra five percent. I was glad to have the Minister get up and at least acknowledge that that is correct; that even if there was no reason for the charge, but his legislation, his legislation has cost farmers an additional five percent.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'll end simply saying that this is the kind of legislation that comes forward from the Minister of Agriculture these days. The Minister of Agriculture has, you know, despite the aura of plenty and well-being and affluence in the agricultural community today, despite the fact that the general agricultural outlook is probably at its best we have havoc and chaos ruining and ruling in our agricultural industry. Farmers can't produce and market hogs any more; the milk control people are threatening to get out of the business - and I suspect that we'll be hearing a lot more of them shortly. The cattle industry is in the doldrums; the chicken and broiler people like that have to also rely on embargoes. All in all, Mr. Speaker, I would as a farmer member and as an individual farmer become very wary of any legislation that's introduced by this Minister. So, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to say anything more. I look forward, this bill will be before us in Committee. But I would suspect, Mr. Speaker, that we would be well advised, we would be well advised to listen to those representations made to us.

Now I could deal with the bill more specifically although that's not the - really the important or in fact according to our rules at second reading. This \$300,000, you know, \$300,000 fund that they are talking about is fraught with all kinds of problems that I can see. I can see that becoming all wrapped up and entangled into No. 1, firstly, just a straight levy against dealers that all of a sudden just becomes incorporated into the price of all equipment. No. 2, a \$300,000 fund that gets kicked around and abused politically. --(Interjection)--Well, Mr. Speaker, if it's no longer a question of whether or not that dealer because of his up to now reasonably good and honest relationship with his farmer can satisfy an account and if at election time it seems it's more important to put a little bit of political pressure on from a candidate or for somebody to have that mower fixed, this is the kind of nonsense that we're walking into in this bill. This is the kind of nonsense we're walking into with this bill.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we'll see what happens, how that \$300,000 fund is supposed to operate. We'll look forward to getting some reaction on the part of the people on whom that fund will be levied and assessed against. We would most assuredly like to have some idea of what possible reaction the machinery companies will take to this added piece of legislation. Will there be as a result, any additional kind of general levy laid against the sale of farm machinery in this province? Mr. Speaker, if that should appear to be the situation, or if it should even be suggested by some of the major companies then I for one would take a very dim look, very dim look at this legislation. I think we have to stop penalizing so many of the farmers that don't require any kind of legislation, that know how to buy machinery, and I don't think the many reputable dealers and equipment manufacturers require most of this kind of legislation. I think the Minister and I both understand that we are legislating for that minority few where abuses take place, where proper warranty isn't issued or where the warranty clauses as set out aren't respected and adhered to. But this is the kind of general tarnish approach that my friends opposite take to all legislation; if there is a little problem area, you know, legislate everybody into some kind of conformity instead of trying to rectify and correct the problem area. The great ability to overkill is what's, you know, kind of the background, you know, to all or most of their legislation. And, Sir, if it's in this bill then we will dig in our heels much more substantially on this seemingly not all that major piece of legislation. We want to be assured

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) by different farm organizations, by the representatives of the industry, and indeed hopefully by farmers themselves, as to their reaction to the bill and we will reserve our judgment with respect to what we decide to do with the bill further at Committee stage or indeed even at third reading up until such a time as we've heard that.

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

MR. MINAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Rhineland, that the debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 49. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Stand, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 60. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Stand, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 62. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I'm moving into Supply. I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Colleges and Universities, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, during the last half hour or so of the consideration of the estimates of my Department a number of members have spoken. I would like to - well I will commence with the comments made by the Honourable Member for Rupertsland. He expressed concern about one particular area namely native education, native education in all its aspects and particularly as it relates to education in Frontier School Division or Northern Manitoba. I did indicate on a number of occasions that a Native Education Branch has been established within my Department and perhaps the function and role of the Native Education Branch can best be described by quoting from a letter which I had sent to Chief David Courchene of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood in which I had outlined the rationale for a Native Studies Branch. And in the letter I said as follows: "The decision to form the Native Education Branch was taken in response to a concern on the part of the provincial government for responsiveness and leadership with respect to native education. It is hoped that this branch will co-ordinate the existing programs within the department, act as liaison among the various departmental branches, local communities, native organizations and different levels of government. It is hoped also that this branch will be a focal point for the response to concerns of native education, a conduit of information between communities and the provincial government and a source of expertise for the examination, development and recommendation of policy with respect to native education." And then I went on to say in the same letter, "The decision to place the Native Education Branch under the supervision of Planning and Research was made because one of the major responsibilities of Planning and Research is the development of new thrusts in response to expressed needs in various aspects of education in Manitoba. Once the Native Education Branch has passed through its formative stage its position in the departmental structure will be reviewed."

Now I think as the last paragraph which I have read indicates at the present time there are a number of programs related to native education and various aspects of it probably tucked away in various branches of the Department and I felt that there is a need, firstly, to compile an inventory of the various programs and then to take the necessary action to establish a structure which would co-ordinate all the various activities and thus proceed to work towards an enriched and enhanced Native Education Program. I do agree with the - as I had indicated before - with the Honourable Member for Rupertsland that we must work toward local control and I believe that we are moving in this direction as rapidly as possible. Perhaps I should add I think that the community is working in this direction as rapidly as possible because I think it would be unwise for us to move at a more rapid rate than the community is prepared to move and it would be equally unwise if we did not keep pace with the rate at which the community is prepared to move. The advisory committee has been made aware of my interest, my desire

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) to move in this regard and there is need for discussion at the local level and this is being done.

The Honourable Member for Rupertsland was also concerned about what has happened over the past year to make the education program more meaningful and relevant to the people of Northern Manitoba, what has happened to improve the quality of education in the north. Well I suppose I could take the time of the House to also comment on our school building program and so forth, on the physical structures, but I don't think that I will. I think that insofar as the school building program is concerned that is only one aspect of the total education package. As I had indicated earlier this afternoon it is regrettable that the previous government probably was overly concerned about the physical and less about some of the other component parts of an education program. So therefore I would just like to very quickly review for the benefit of the honourable member and you, Mr. Chairman, and other members of the House what has transpired in the north since 1969.

When we came into office experimental nursery programs were tried for the first time in September of 1969. The Cree language was also used for the first time as the language of instruction during the transitional period at Pelican Rapids. Occupational entrance course classes were introduced at Frontier Collegiate. The division continued to encourage and assist teachers to take cross cultural courses and to develop in service training to improve teaching services. Supplements to the social studies curricula designed to assist instruction in cross cultural situations were prepared by the Department of Education and distributed to Frontier Schools. A course in American Indian history was being developed at Frontier Collegiate. And then the following year a home placement program was added to the Frontier high school educational offering, recognizing the fact, Mr. Chairman, that not all students can function with equal efficiency in an institutional type of setting such as we have at Cranberry Portage as some do require the type of environment that only a home can provide and if it cannot be their own home, that of their parents, then some other suitable home as opposed to an institutional type of place such as you have at Cranberry. And approximately 40 high school students from the division were placed in boarding homes in various parts of Manitoba and from these homes the students attended local schools through arrangements made by Frontier Division and these students were placed in communities in various parts of the province, some in Winnipeg, Teulon, Dauphin, just to mention a few and perhaps places--Gimli I believe, and perhaps others.

Parents' visits to Frontier Collegiate were organized. The purpose of this project was to increase the familiarity and confidence of parents with respect to the residence and school in which their children are getting their high school education. And this is very important, Mr. Chairman, because here you are dealing with people, a community, in some cases hundreds of miles removed from Cranberry Portage; you're dealing with people many of whom may not have had the opportunity to travel beyond their local community and the suggestion of taking their children, boarding them on an aircraft and taking them hundreds of miles away to a - and leaving them there in a place entirely strange and unknown to them, is no doubt a frightening thought. You know, not really knowing what Frontier Collegiate is all about. And therefore we felt it advisable and necessary to develop within the community, within the minds of the parents a better appreciation of what Frontier Collegiate is all about by arranging for parents to visit the school.

Then Frontier School Division took an active role in establishing a program for the education of native teachers at Brandon University, referred to as the PENT Program. Teacher aides from Frontier, from the Indian Affairs Branch, special schools, may through this program gain regular teacher certification. The high school home placement program after the first experimental year was extended. Several Grade 9 classes were set up - this was in '71 - in local school communities where previously only kindergarten to Grade 8 had been offered. And Grade 10 was added at Grand Rapids and Wabowden. Pilot classes in pre school education with Cree as the language of instruction was sponsored by the Department of Education in two Frontier schools and it was the first time that the division was divided into seven regions for the purpose of electing seven members to the Central Advisory Committee. Two additional members represent the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood and the Manitoba Metis Federation, were appointed by the Minister of Education. A liaison secretary was appointed to serve the Central Advisory Committee as well as the local school committees, and the advisory committees,

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) Mr. Chairman. Their duties and functions vary. Within the provisions of the Public Schools Act and without in any way encroaching upon or eroding the powers of a school board which in the case of Frontier are in the hands of the official trustee, still allowing the official trustee to exercise his authority, there are many functions that could be delegated or the responsibility for which could be shared by the official school trustee with other people in the community. And then of course - and I wish to emphasize the fact - the board or in this case the official trustee still assumes full responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of the school division. But there are many such areas in which there could be a sharing of in the decision-making process and it's been left up to each community committee to decide what particular areas they wish to involve themselves in, and the advisory committees function in that manner.

Now I wish to remind you, Mr. Chairman, that this is only - we're now completing the second year, the second or third year of this type of advisory committee structure and of course this system is in the process of evolution and changes have to be made and as evidence for change becomes apparent, change will be made to improve their functioning and to enable Frontier School Division to continue on its role towards self government.

Development of school libraries was emphasized. Efforts were made to involve the adult communities and the library development in a number of areas. The aim of the division is to provide library services to the entire community wherever possible. Several schools were involved in hot lunch programs for students who travel to school by bus and the programs were organized and operated by the local school committees. Here is an example of one type of project that the local school committee was involved in.

Native culture, crafts and skill courses were developed in a number of communities; examples include a home handyman's course at Berens River, trapping course at Moose Lake and a course in Cree at Norway House. School staff, school communities and other community people co-operated in providing the courses.

And I could go on, Mr. Chairman. One other that catches my eye, teacher involvement and the organization, operation of in-service professional development in Cree, teachers developed in-service programs in an effort to meet local needs and find solutions to local problems. And perhaps I should also point out, Mr. Chairman, while I'm on the topic of native education and particularly education in Northern Manitoba that in 1968 there were four kindergarten classes in Frontier School Division, today there are 22; prior to 1969, there were no nursery school classes. We started off with one in '69 and today we have 12, all of which is done with the purpose in mind of enhancing the quality of education in Northern Manitoba.

The Honourable Member for Assiniboia, he commenced his remarks by saying that the students in our schools today are bored and apparently he did some sort of--I'm sorry, the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek - and apparently he took a sampling of the school population, somewhere he did - I'm not sure whether that's where the survey was done or not, he did make some reference to a poolroom at Thompson. Well I suppose a certain percentage of our population frequents poolrooms; there's nothing wrong with poolrooms I suppose. But I would like to point out to the honourable member, you know, when he says that they're bored and one would imagine if they are as bored as they are, our high school population would tend to decrease. Well it's interesting to note, Mr. Chairman, and I must indicate that I picked out these two pairs of years simply at random - and the honourable member has, he received the copy of the annual report of the Department of Education and these figures are out of the report and he can use any other sets of figures in there to make his own comparison - but I note that in 1965 there were close to 19,000 - 16,885 students enrolled in Grade 8; those are the students who in 1969 would find their way into Grade 12. Well of those 16,900 students, 12,252 ended up in Grade 12 - a dropout of about 4,600 out of the 16,900. And then I note that in '69, and also in '69 in Grade 8 there were 18,800 Grade 8 students who last year were in Grade 12; and 14,400 ended up in Grade 12, a dropout of 4,200, 4,200 as related to 18,800 now and 4,600 as related to 16,800 of the '69 Grade 8's. So it's strange that a larger percentage choose to remain in these institutions wherein the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek says that they're getting bored. So perhaps the honourable member could dig up his copy of the annual report of The Public Schools Act and just reflect on that for a moment.

Then of course he went on to say that - oh, and he was very very emphatic about this. He says, but for goodness' sake, don't force these young kids, you know, at the end of Grade 8 or

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) . . . whatever, Grade 9, to make a decision as to what they're going to be when they grow up, and he used as an example, you know, which student in Grade 9, you know, would be able to predict that some day he's going to become an MLA or whatever. Well I don't know whether the honourable member was in the House on Friday morning or not, he may not have been or if he was perhaps the comment that I made at that time may have escaped him, but I would suggest to the honourable member and this he may not know because he wasn't in the House at that time, I would suggest to the honourable member that he do either contact some of his school teacher friends or contact someone who was in government prior to 1969 and find out a thing or two about the old General Course program that we had and how that locked students into a certain definite route off which there was no way of changing course once you set out in a particular direction. The only way that you could change was go back to Square One and start over again, as opposed to the opportunity of a transferability that is now built into the system where a student can obtain university admission standing by a combination of university entrance or what formerly were described as university entrance in general course subjects and now the even 100, the 300 and the 301 courses.

So when the honourable member is going to chastise this government for locking students into a definite program at an age before they're capable of making such long term decisions, what we have done now is to correct the errors of your government, when you were the government.

Now - so I think, Mr. Chairman, that that probably is about all that the contribution of the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek deserves by way of reply. Some of the other points that he has raised - well, he expressed a bit of nostalgia about the good old days when, you know, the - if you over-stepped the line or a six over - I've forgotten the expression that he used - and well maybe it worked with him, I don't know, but he must also remember--(Interjection)--Did it? I don't know. Surely he's a better judge of himself than anyone else can be and I wouldn't want to . . .

But the honourable member must also remember, you know, if he wants to compare - or maybe he doesn't want to remember, and this is something he chooses to ignore, that today we have designed and developed an education program for all people in Manitoba, for all those of public school age as opposed to the elitus form of education program that we previously had, which was reserved for a select few, only for a select few. Somebody set up certain standards and said that the standard is going to be, is going to be university admission and those who qualified to handle a university admission course of studies remained in school, all the others dropped out by the wayside and probably ended up in the poolrooms and wherever else that the honourable member spoke of.

Well, perhaps - oh yes, yes, there was a question asked of me on Friday by the Honourable Member for Charleswood and I'm sure that before we conclude the estimates of my department the honourable member would want the reply to it - and this dealt with aid to private schools. There are no grants paid directly to private schools. However any private school which is accepted as such under the - or recognized as such under The Public Schools Act may make an agreement with the board of the school division in which it is located to share the educational services offered by the division. The department pays to the division a grant based on a formula to reimburse it for the services rendered. In addition, all private schools may requisition through the division in which they are located, text books, library books and other print and non print material to the value of \$12.00 per pupil per year. The division is reimbursed by the department for the amount so requisitioned. At the present time, Mr. Chairman, I know of no private schools which do not know of these provisions and if there are any perhaps the honourable member could at some time let me have the name or the names of such schools that may not be aware of this form of assistance that is available to them under the Act and I'd be only too happy to accommodate the honourable member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . pass--The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. MOUG: Just one question, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering, did you mention anything there - I missed part of it on grants for - pupil or student grants, for salaries for teachers in private and parochial schools?

MR. HANUSCHAK: No I didn't mention anything about salaries. I said only the texts and the print and non print, library materials and the shared services arrangement.

MR. MOUG: . . . that, Mr. Chairman, of that being available to the schools, but I was

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(MR. MOUG cont'd) wondering is there any school that you know of in the Greater Winnipeg area or in the province that are receiving grants, teacher grants towards their salaries in any of the - and if you do or don't, is that available in any way?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Schools other than public schools?

MR. MOUG: Right.

MR. HANUSCHAK: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MOUG: The information I get is different, that the school boards, for instance St. Boniface, Norwood School Board, there's money comes out of that board, out of that division, to pay grants for a teacher's salary on a student grant basis, although the City of Winnipeg School Division will not co-operate with these schools and apply to the government to get this money and it has to go through the Board itself.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated, the grants are paid to the public school divisions and not to any private school.

MR. MOUG: My question is, are the grants restricted to text books and such as you mentioned just now or do they include teachers' salaries in any way, shape or form?

MR. HANUSCHAK: They merely include the services - just what I had mentioned a year ago.

MR. MOUG: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 51 - the Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I have a few minutes left.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The honourable member may proceed.

MR. BOSTROM: I thank the Minister, Mr. Chairman, for his comments in reply to the comments I had made earlier on the education in the north. I maintain that the courses that are available to northern students and to students anywhere in this province really should be more meaningful, should be made more meaningful so that in fact learning can be interesting for people and not a chore. It seems a bit ironic or surprising I think to hear some of the comments from members opposite when they obviously believe that students should be forced to take certain courses. At least this is the impression I get from some of the comments from members opposite that the school system should be very structured and that the courses that are offered to students should be mandatory courses, that they must take these courses or else. I've heard members opposite comment in the past and accuse this government of being totalitarian in their approach and I wonder how this measures up when you consider their own attitude on the education issues in this province. If anyone is being totalitarian in their approach I would say that it is members opposite who hold the view that people should be forced to do things, forced to take courses that they don't want to take. And I submit that this was the case over the last ten years previous to the recent changes in the education system where students at the age of 14 years were forced to choose and channel themselves into three or one of three or four areas of study, and within those areas of study there were no choices. They had to take the courses that were available and that was it. I would say that this kind of a system, this approach to education destroys any kind of creativity that a person may have. When you're forced to do something, when you're forced to take courses that you may not even like, how can a person be creative? How can they enjoy the process of learning? I would say that a system which is designed like that is designed to create uniformity not to create individuals in our society.

And in the north and in the rural areas of our province I believe the courses can be made more meaningful to students by just incorporating some of the things that are real to the students real in the sense of the - in the environment, in being relevant to the area in which the person resides, being relevant to the kind of activity, activities of the people in his area. For example I know of an area in southern Manitoba where an enterprising parent took it upon himself to help out at the school and build a greenhouse right beside the school so that students could in fact learn by doing in the process of learning about plants and the growth of plants and so on. This was in a farming area, a farming community, and this kind of innovative experiment in education is what makes learning fun in these areas and it doesn't have to be a chore for people.

In northern areas in our province I'm encouraged to hear that the Minister has referred to experiments whereby courses in trapping have been introduced in our northern schools. This kind of thing in northern remote communities where the economic activity in the past and in fact at the present centres around this kind of activity, makes learning relevant. If a person can read and learn about the kinds of things that are of interest to him it makes learning more

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) interesting, more meaningful. I would encourage the Department to follow this up, to encourage this to be part of the curriculum of the north; I would encourage the Department to incorporate more and more the courses which would have some reflection on - would incorporate some of the economic activities of the area. In the past we've been creating students, bringing students out of the north, giving them a formal education which is based on southern curriculums. If they do not follow up on that education that they have been given and go on to university or to a trade school they return to their communities and they are absolutely ill-equipped, completely unequipped for the kinds of economic activities that are taking place in their communities. So that education in a situation like that becomes irrelevant to students, for unless a student is academically oriented that he wants to go on to university or to a trade school, this kind of education is absolutely meaningless to him. He sits in school and he is the kind of person that the Member for Sturgeon Creek mentioned earlier, he is the bored student, the one who sees no meaning at all in the subject matter before him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour being 5:30, I'll be leaving the Chair to return at 7:30. Before I leave I'd like to mention I indicated that the plane is supposed to take off from Hangar No. 1; it is from Ramp 1A at the International Airport.