

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

1:30 o'clock, Wednesday, May 15, 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 18 students of Grade 11 standing of the St. Laurent School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Yphantides. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Lakeside. 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; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Member for Riel. Someone on his behalf?

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I don't have the necessary documents before me, or whether we leave it. I could have the matter stand till tomorrow, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well.

MR. ENNS: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I 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.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce had another five minutes. The Minister of Industry and Commerce.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were a number of questions that were asked yesterday that I attempted to answer with the data that I had available at that time, and I have further information for the members of the House. Particularly, I would like to give data pertaining to assistance to Manitoba companies, incentive grant programs, showing the distribution of assistance by size of firm, by year, and showing the percentage of grants by number and by value from inception of the program to the period January 1973. As I indicated to the members, I have a few copies for the members for the various parties.

As I indicated, there has been an increasing trend towards assisting those companies that had 50 or fewer employees, which I would deem to be the cut-off point in terms of definition of a small firm. This is a definition that is used by federal authorities and we felt that it would be useful to use the same definition - 50 employees or fewer. And this is in terms of percentages. In 1968, for example - and I do have copies of these figures for the members - in 1968 there were 39 percent of the number of grants went to companies of small size, that is with less than 50 employees, 39 percent; but this increased in 1969 to 48 percent; and in 1970 it increased to 65 percent; 1971 to 67 percent of the total number of companies involved, and in 1972 - the last piece of information we have available - 77 percent. In other words, of all those companies that we've assisted through grants, 77 percent of them were in the small category. In terms of value, the figures are shown again in percentages and those figures that are in brackets, this relates to the number of dollars, but expressed in percentages, and again comparing, let's say, 1966 for example, the first year which we have a figure here for, well even going back to 1965. In 1965, one hundred percent of the value of the grants went to companies which were larger than 50 employees. None went to a small company. And by 1972, the picture was 74 percent of the value of the grants had gone to small companies, whereas only 26 percent of the value of these grants had gone to companies with 51 or more employees. And, as I said, I've had a few copies of these run off and they are available for those members that have a particular interest.

There was also some concern expressed in particular by the Honourable Member from Arthur, about the Community Management Development Program, and whether we had engaged in much activity in his particular area, southwestern Manitoba in Arthur constituency, but I

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(MR. EVANS cont'd) think he was particularly concerned about southwestern Manitoba. This program, the Community Management Development Program, we began in 1970 as a pilot project in the Town of Dauphin, where we involved 41 individual companies. We found that it was most successful and therefore decided to implement an ongoing program. And in the year 1971-72, for example, we covered selected centres in various regions of the province, including Portage la Prairie, where 39 firms were assisted - this is in the year 1971-72 - Portage la Prairie 39 firms counselled; Virden - 21 firms; Selkirk - 21 firms; Beausejour - 7; the Winkler-Morden, these two towns were taken together in one project - 37 firms; The Pas - 17 firms, and Brandon - 44 firms.

In 1972-73, we covered the towns of Steinbach, Thompson, Altona, Gretna and Plum Coulee as one group; Swan River, we did Gladstone and MacGregor together as a group, and we did Minnedosa and Neepawa together as a group. And the last category, Arborg, Fisher Branch and Riverton also as a group. In that year of 1972-73, we assisted 135 firms.

In the fall of 1973 - that's this past fall - we covered Deloraine and Melita - I'm sure the Honourable Member from Arthur would be pleased about this; 21 companies were involved; 21 companies in Deloraine plus Melita. --(Interjection)--Well I can't at the moment but I can. I can provide you with that information if you really do require them. Flin Flon - 20 companies; Roblin-Russell area 38 companies; Lundar, Ashern, Eriksdale area - 16 companies for a total of 95.

In the winter of 1974, we've thus far been active in Shoal Lake and Birtle area, Lac du Bonnet and Pine Falls, and we took Carman, St. Claude and Haywood together as a group of 28 companies; Treherne and Holland as a group; and last but certainly not least, Killarney and Boissevain together, with 30 companies involved.

There was some interest expressed in systems for industrial parks, as I indicated yesterday. We do have small amounts of money available to communities. I believe Beausejour has expressed some interest in the past. Again, I say these are very small amounts but they nevertheless provide some assistance to the communities with respect to industrial parks.

Portage la Prairie: No payments have been made yet but I'm advised that a claim is forthcoming very shortly. As you know, that particular city has been able to attract Phillips Cable Limited, which is establishing a factory that will employ 120 people to begin with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister's time is up. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really want to interrupt the Honourable Minister but I know that he will have many occasions to carry on with the kind of information that he's giving. I rise, Mr. Chairman, at this particular time, simply to solicit the Honourable Minister's support for a small business enterprise in my constituency. I know that perhaps he is not the only Minister that is involved or that can help me, that can help this particular business, but he is certainly one of them, and I'm referring to the wood-working plant that we have in the community of St. Laurent, and I appreciate what this government has done with respect to helping the establishment of that plant but, like so many such plants, it needs whatever assistance and help it can get from time to time, and while this plant is doing a commendable job in the production of ladders, wooden ladders of different shapes and descriptions, the fact of the matter is that it also has the capacity to produce a fairly significant range of office furniture. I don't know whether the Minister himself has had the opportunity to tour the plant. I suspect perhaps he has. I know for certain that other ministers of this government have, namely the Minister of Agriculture, and I believe the Minister of Municipal Affairs as well. And I make a specific plea to the Honourable Minister at this particular time when we're engaged, the government is engaged in building a multi-million dollar office building just kitty corner across the street from us, adjacent to our Law Courts Building, it's that kind of a project, Sir, where I think a government can take a hard look and see whether or not a plant that is, you know, with some understandable difficulty, is trying to make its way into the commercial world, can't receive some consideration with respect to the supply of certain office furniture that will be required to fill the many offices, the many vestibules and what have you, in that particular building.

I know I raised this matter some time ago with the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs on a suitable occasion. I know also that it's a matter more suitably raised with the Minister of Public Works, who more directly is responsible for the actual building of the public

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) building now being built, but Sir, the Minister currently before us, in the estimates currently before us, is the Minister of Industry and Commerce in this Province. I think that just in the very process that he's in right now, indicating the kind of support and assistance that his department is trying to give to various, particularly small and hopefully growing businesses throughout Manitoba, that this particular business that means so much to the community of St. Laurent be given every possible assistance and help to at least put it in a position to maybe bid on some of the furnishings required in that building - not only that building but other government buildings.

Mr. Chairman, I say this, not from the point of view that I want to see the tender system destroyed, nor do I want to move away from the fair and competitive business world. I worry about a plant such as the woodworking plant in St. Laurent. It requires to be able to, within itself, build up the necessary confidence and expertise to go out into the commercial markets, capture some of them. I just know that they have the capacity to do it. They have produced some excellent products and to date unfortunately have been too narrowly confined to one or two lines' products in that plant. Now, that's too bad, because if something should happen to those markets then the plant will find itself in economic and financial difficulty and the plant will close, and another noble venture goes down the drain, and in that area where employment is particularly important and where it's particularly important to the self confidence, the pride of that community, that kind of a loss, I would suggest to the Honourable Minister, Mr. Chairman, is even more hard felt than the kind of day to day losses that the business world experiences generally in the more affluent parts of the province.

So, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to delay the estimates of the Minister of Industry and Commerce, and I want to assure the Honourable Minister that it is entirely coincidental that there happen to be a goodly number of my constituents in the public galleries coming from the community of St. Laurent that I raise this particular matter at this time, but it occurred to me, Sir, that now would be a particularly good time to have the Minister stand up and indicate his willingness to support me in my solicitation for his support, and in all seriousness, particularly at the stage that the building opposite is at, that I through you, Mr. Chairman, would indicate to our visitors from St. Laurent that as they leave this building that they do look at that skyscraper that is being built. It's a public building, built for public offices, adjacent to our Law Courts Building. Now we know that in that building every room, every office, requires a certain amount of furniture; desks, chairs, coffee end-tables, things like this, all the things that go into modern office buildings. Now, surely, Mr. Chairman, if this government and this Minister is prepared to really help along the kind of industry that I think he'd like to help along, then here's an ideal opportunity to hurry on, before that building gets too much further into completion stage, to contact or have people within his office, some of his senior people within his office, contact the management of the plant at St. Laurent, talk to them about what they're capable of doing, and give them an opportunity, give them an opportunity to bid on some of the furnishings that will be going into that plant.

Sir, I know what it could mean in terms of stability for that plant. I know what it could mean in terms of employment for the people that are employed in that area. I also know what it means for the long term future of that plant, if they could point with some pride to the kind of furnishings that they have been able to supply, in this case in a public building, but nothing of course would stop them thereafter to pursue vigorously and aggressively the whole commercial market.

Mr. Chairman, those were the few comments I would like to make at this particular time on the Minister's estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE (Minnedosa): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make one or two comments along the same lines as my colleague, the Member for Lakeside. We don't have a furniture or office equipment manufacturing concern in my constituency large enough to handle orders such as the Member was suggesting, but we do have a business enterprise in my constituency that manufacturers a well-known product, and it's been closed for almost two years now, and I'm referring to the Canada's Manitoba Distillery. I would like at this time to possibly solicit the comments of the Minister or his efforts on behalf of the company to maybe seek out markets. We understand the reason for the closing of the plant is over-production, which could be I suppose attributed to lack of sales, but the warehouse, we

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(MR. BLAKE cont'd) understand, is filled and there is no point in building new warehouse facilities and manufacturing without sales. So I would like the Minister to use the efforts of his offices to maybe try and assist this company in finding markets or outlets for their product in order that the plant may open again, because they did employ some 25 people, and a number of them were good technical jobs, but besides that the by-product distillage was used by local cattle raisers to some advantage and also the local farmers sold a good amount of their product - rye is grown successfully in the area and a good amount of their product was used by the distillery. I understand there's still a market with the distillery at Gimli but there is some considerable distance to move the grain.

A MEMBER: Is the rye grown in bottles there?

MR. BLAKE: No, we have to go through that process and that's what the distillery does for us. I would ask the Minister to make some comment on any consultations he might have had with firms interested in purchasing the product, which I understand is largely exported, and use whatever efforts his good offices might be able, to see our plant open again and operating at full capacity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Chairman, I have just two matters, to bring to the attention of the Minister at this time, both of which I have had an opportunity to mention earlier in this session, but on both subjects I think there are some answers still to be provided. The one relates to the Standing Committee on Economic Development. Now it seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that when we are talking about economic development in the Province of Manitoba, we are talking about the kind of policies that might be initiated and at least suggested to the Minister by his Standing Committee on Economic Development. As we get into perhaps the closing weeks of this session, the opportunities for this committee to report to the Standing Committee on Economic Development are becoming fewer, and I'm wondering if the Minister would perhaps indicate to the House who the current members are of this Committee, and the reason why this report was not presented last year to the Standing Committee on Economic Development.

Mr. Chairman, it seemed to me that some time earlier there was a report from the Economic Advisory Board to the Standing Committee, and one of the recommendations of that Committee I recall very well, because it recommended to the Minister that economic development in the aerospace industry particularly in Manitoba was one that would be fraught with considerable difficulty, and that the committee recommended that the government not become too involved in this kind of industry and that it tend to direct its major efforts to those industries in which Manitoba had some natural advantages, to the processing of agricultural products and to perhaps the development of our forestry industries, to lumbering, to those industries in which we had - in mining as well - industries in which we had some natural advantages over other parts of the country and industries in which we might hope to have reasonable chances of success. But it was at that time, I think, and during that time, that the Department became very much involved in the aerospace industry, and the problems which have developed since are well-known to all members of the House.

So I simply ask the Minister now if he would indicate to us whether we will indeed receive a report from his advisory board, and the members of that advisory board as I have them now are Mr. Leonard Remis, Deputy Minister of the Department of Industry and Commerce, who is the acting chairman; Mr. Lewis Whitehead, the editor and publisher of the Brandon Sun; Keith R. Eburne, President of the Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association; Dr. Owen P. Tangri, Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Manitoba; Mr. Searle Leach, Chairman of the Board of Federal Industries Limited, acting Vice-Chairman; Dr. Paul Arthur Phillips, Professor of Economics, University of Manitoba; and Leslie Howard Butterworth, retired. Mr. Chairman, I think it would be of great interest to this House to hear from this Committee and to understand and be able to evaluate and have the explanations of the recommendations they are now making to the Department of Industry and Commerce.

The other matter, Mr. Chairman, relates to the largest seed operation in Canada, I believe, the A. E. McKenzie Company in Brandon, and I would like to add now to the questions I have asked at earlier stages, as to when the Minister of Industry and Commerce, who is the Minister responsible for this operation, would be presenting his report to one or the other of

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) the standing committees of this House or directly to the Legislature. There have been many developments in the seed industry under the aggressive leadership of the Minister of Industry and Commerce. There have been purchases of other seed businesses in Canada that have added to the total capacity of the McKenzie Seed Company and, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that we'd like to share in the progress and the increased earning capacity that has been reported to the House in general terms by the Minister, and I think it's only proper that an industry that is so completely controlled by government should report, should explain its activities to the Legislature. I would hope that the Standing Committee on Economic Development would have an opportunity to review with the Minister the advances that have been made in the seed business, the results of the expansions that he reported to us one or two years ago into Mexico, the accumulation of the Steele-Briggs Company into the operation and more recently the move of that company to the City of Brandon. All of these things are interesting developments and I am sure the Minister, if he has the opportunity to give us some insight into the directions in which this business is going, I'm sure that Brandon University will be very interested because they are the principal benefactors in any profits which might accrue as the result of the expansion of the business that's been undertaken by the Department and the Minister.

Mr. Chairman, these are the two items which I wanted to bring to the attention of the Minister and I hope that he will have an opportunity to reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Chairman, just a couple of brief comments. I find it a little bit difficult, now that some of the Minister's toys have been taken away from him and transferred to the Minister of Mines and Resources, I feel a little bit lost facing the Minister here and not being able to talk about Flyer Coach Industries and some of the playthings that are associated with the Development Corporation.

However, there are a couple of comments that I would like to make in connection with his remaining responsibilities. The Minister went to great lengths to point out how his department is becoming increasingly involved in assisting small businessmen to stay alive under . . .

MR. ENNS: Socialism.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . under Socialism.

MR. ENNS: Right.

MR. JORGENSEN: And really that's what it amounts to. The government, on the one hand, are . . .

MR. ENNS: Don't mince words, Warner. Make it clear. Call a spade a spade.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . are making it more and more difficult for small businessmen to survive, and not all of those impediments that are placed in the way of small businessmen are the creation of this government or indeed of the Minister. Such programs as the Welfare program, which makes it difficult for the businessmen in the rural communities to get help. Unemployment Insurance program is not the responsibility of this government at all, but belongs to another level of government. Other such measures that prevent a flow of workers into the rural areas to take up those positions that are available are perhaps one of the greatest impediments to rural development in this province. Another one of the responsibilities of a government - and the Minister has to share that responsibility - is the providing of an adequate network of communications, and we have pointed out on an earlier occasion that the networks of communications in this province is the despair of rural communities. The neglect of our highways' network . . .

A MEMBER: Provincial roads.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . provincial roads, etc., are making it increasingly difficult for rural people to survive in their industries. The government maintains that by simply running around the country counselling and advising them in the setting up of that bureaucracy with which to counsel businessmen in rural communities they're compensating for that. That's not happening. It's providing employment for a lot of bureaucrats, that is true, but it's questionable just how much help. To what extent it has assisted the development of business enterprises in rural communities is something that the Minister has yet to explain. I am somewhat annoyed, when talking to small businessmen, when they tell me the real obstacles that are placed in their way, and almost invariably those obstacles are the government themselves and I find it somewhat incomprehensible that this government has not been made aware, or if they

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(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) have been made aware seem not to care, that they should be removing those obstacles rather than trying to place businessmen more and more dependent upon the government for survival with grants and things like that. If they would just leave them alone and let them operate with a minimum of red tap, a minimum of interference, they would perhaps survive and do a good job of surviving, but the government continues to advertise how they've encouraged this and how they've encouraged that, and how they've increased business activity in this country, while the real fact is they've done more discouraging than encouraging. Sir, they remind me in their false - actually what it is is false advertising. And they remind me of the manufacturers of padded brassieres . . .

A MEMBER: Now now, Warner, watch it.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . who carries on a program . . .

MR. ENNS: I've got my school kids up there. Keep it clean.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . who carries on a program of advertising warning his customers to beware of imitations. And nothing was more typical of this than the Minister's comments to the Railway Branch Lines Association in Brandon as contained in an April 26th News Release of the government. Sure that the Minister is not going to rise on his feet on a point of order and deny that this was said, because it comes from his own Press Release, but the statement really intrigued me. It says: "If, despite all the reasoned arguments against closing branch lines, the railways continue to pursue their policy of abandoning rural and regional centres, they would be required to provide full compensation to individuals and communities located along the right-of-way." What a hypocritical attitude. They are the same people, Sir, you must be reminded, that took over the automobile insurance industry. Did they compensate those people who lost businesses as a result of that takeover? They are the people that introduce a program in the milk industry that has virtually destroyed the fluid milk industry, and have they been compensated for the price that they paid for those quotas?

A MEMBER: No.

MR. JORGENSEN: Not on your life they haven't. Sir, this was--(Interjection)--Oh, my honourable friend from Ste. Rose, in that wisdom that he from time to time exhibits in this Chamber, pointed out that the takeover was legal. As legal, Sir, as the takeover that Adolf Hitler accomplished in Germany in 1933 through the introduction of the Enabling Act. That was legal too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Minister of Industry and Commerce on a point of order.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I know you are a very generous Chairman and we all expect people to stray from time to time from the estimates under review and this is only human and one enjoys it, but I must admit, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable member is straying far away from the estimates of the Department of Industry and Commerce. I want to hear his criticisms, his comments, his suggestions on how we can do a better job of running the Department of Industry and Commerce, not Autopac or what have you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the Member for Morris pardon me for a minute?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a moment please.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . it can be accounted for by the interjection of the Member for Ste. Rose, who diverted me only for that moment. I couldn't resist the temptation to draw that analogy.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member for Morris, but I'd like to draw the attention of members to the gallery, where we have nine students from Grades 9 and 10 from the Mennville School. The students are under the direction of Mr. Friesen. They are from the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. George, the Minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. On behalf of all members, I bid you welcome.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I know there are others who wish to participate in this debate, and unfortunately we have reached almost the end of the time allocated for the consideration of estimates during the committee, and I don't want to go any further than I have. I wanted to draw to the attention of the House, and hopefully to the people of this province, the attitude of hypocrisy that is characterized by the actions of this government insofar as it relates to the businessmen of this province. On the one hand, on the one hand they take away that which they have made; on the other hand, they try to create the impression that they are contributing so much to the development of business enterprises in this province. I could not let this opportunity go by without pointing this out to the House, Sir.

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

MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM (Ste. Rose): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to make a very short comment and thank the Department of Industry and Commerce for assisting the Thiessen Industries at Glenella in the establishment of a very very good manufacturing plant of farm implements. I had the occasion to be at their official opening on Saturday, and John Thiessen, who is formerly from Miami, Manitoba, I think has opened up a farm implement manufacturing plant there and he's going full speed ahead, and he has added on quite an extension to what started as a part-time operation of welding, and has now turned into a viable manufacturing industry. So I want to thank the Department of Industry and Commerce for trying to assist private enterprise and small businesses in the rural areas to maintain and encourage the stay option in rural areas where young farmers, who are forced to leave and find employment elsewhere, may be able to find meaningful and gainful employment in their own area.

I would also like to ask the Minister if there is any possibility that we could give similar assistance to the area of Amaranth, Manitoba. Some of the - I believe it's Western Gypsum Mines or BACM have property there which they are not utilizing, and I don't know just how this works. I think that Western Gypsum is leasing this land from the government and they in turn lease it to other firms which are not utilizing it and, as a result of all this, several people have been laid off a couple of years ago because of the closing down of this Gypsum Mine. My understanding, Mr. Minister, is that the quality of the gypsum that is produced at Amaranth is a very high quality, higher than that which is produced at Miami, Manitoba. The freight rate is competitive. I believe the product is shipped somewhere to Alberta as an ingredient for processing of other material, and I think that there's some answers--we want answers as to why they are not utilizing this property, because there are conflicting reports. You get one set of figures from the company and then when we make investigations, independent investigations, we come up with a different set of figures, and we'd like to know why. Thank you.

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

MR. I. H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): Mr. Chairman, I want to, before making my observations on the estimates specifically, record the disappointment of the Liberal Party in the House that once again, for the I guess, fourth consecutive year that I can recall, we are at the end of estimates, the 90 hours having nearly expired, and the departments of government, many departments of government . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. We are dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Industry and Commerce. The member will have an opportunity to debate that issue at a different time. I do not believe that it belongs at this particular time.

MR. ASPER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'll confine my criticism to the presentation of this estimate at this particular time in the debate, that total time being allowed to one of the most pressing problems in Manitoba, in the prairies, in Western Canada, is approximately two or three hours out of 90. Mr. Speaker, this department will now not get the kind of exhaustive scrutiny and contribution, I would hope, that it so richly deserves and so badly requires.

Mr. Chairman, my comments and criticisms and requests of action are not aimed at the administration level of the Department of Industry and Commerce. Having worked with that department both in public life and private life, the personnel of the department rank with and perhaps exceed the quality of departments in any other province in Canada. But the quarrel that one must have and the complaint that one must lodge is at the political level, the governmental level, the ministerial level. Mr. Speaker, six years have elapsed since the election of the government, the present government, and we still stand--(Interjection)--Sorry, Mr. Speaker, it just seems like six; it's actually only five. We stand here five years later with

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(MR. ASPER cont'd) no industrial blueprint for Manitoba, none whatever, no coherent plan, no identified plan and also no programs aimed at implementing that plan.

Mr. Speaker, the mute evidence that this government does not yet have an industrial policy for Manitoba, unless that policy is to de-industrialize Manitoba, can be seen from the estimates themselves, all estimates. This department has a modest increase in budget, only enough to increase the salaries to cover the cost of living increases for staff, very little new programming, if any; but, Mr. Chairman, the spending department of government that don't produce wealth, that don't produce opportunity, they enjoy a 20, a 30, a 40 percent increase in some cases, some divisions of those departments enjoy a several hundred percentage point increase over last year's or the base year of 1969-70.

Mr. Speaker, it can only be read as a confession by government that there is no program, that there is no desire to launch a program, and of course that evidence permeates the entire Manitoba spectrum. Mr. Chairman, there has been no major industrial event triggered by the Department of Industry and Commerce and the current Minister, not a single major industrial event in five years; and such industrial events as have occurred with the unfortunate lack of regularity that have happened in the past five years, not one is attributable to this government. They may be attributable to Federal Government action, the Boeing Aircraft Plant, the Phillips Plant at Portage, where the Minister of Industry and Commerce had the colossal nerve to go to Portage la Prairie to hold a reception, at government expense presumably, and if I'm wrong then perhaps at his own expense, and to welcome Phillips Industry to Portage la Prairie when the Province of Manitoba had done zero, nothing . . .

A MEMBER: Oh, they tried to put it in Selkirk.

MR. ASPER: . . . nothing except to take it out of Portage la Prairie and try to put it into an NDP riding - Selkirk.

A MEMBER: That's right.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, the financial incentive that brought Phillips were strictly federal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose on a point of order.

MR. ADAM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my point of order is this. The honourable member, Leader of the Liberal Party, has said that not a major happening as far as development has happened in Manitoba in the last four years. I want to tell him that what happened Saturday in Glenella is a major development . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. Order please. That is not a point of order. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, it is sad, it is sad indeed when we celebrate in this House, desirable though it may be, the business action in Glenella, but if we celebrate that as what our objectives must be and that's how we measure our success, that when we produce a few jobs here and there, Mr. Chairman, we are slipping behind even further.

Now, after six years of inaction, no program and no incentive, the only industrial event to which this government can lay claim of any scope - five years - are those initiated by the Manitoba Development Corporation and which have resulted in financial loss and business failures: William Clare (Manitoba) Limited, Flyer Industries, Saunders, Tantalum. Mr. Chairman, in each of those cases. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Vital on a point of order.

MR. JAMES D. WALDING (St. Vital): Mr. Chairman, we're discussing the estimates of the Department of Industry and Commerce, and not the Manitoba Development Corporation which comes under a different department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Member, the Leader of the Liberal Party. Proceed.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, those are the industrial events. All but one involved the takeover of something that existed before. Nothing new created, just the takeover of something that existed before. Tantalum was there before this government dreamed of putting money into it, or buying it. Mr. Chairman, I will admit that William Clare didn't exist before, but it doesn't even exist now. All it is is a piece of paper that has a million two of our tax dollars in it, and no jobs and no supplies being bought in Manitoba, and so on.

Mr. Chairman, the Industry and Commerce Department is charged with a mandate. I

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(MR. ASPER cont'd) don't know if the Minister knows what his mandate is but the mandate as we understand it is to create a climate to cause his colleagues if necessary to legislative action to create a structure within which industry, business will be created to provide jobs for the public and tax revenue for government. Mr. Chairman, that has not happened. Compare what happened in Manitoba with what's happening in Ontario and then weep.

In Ontario, we have an incentive-oriented industrial development division. They have regional development corporations. Those regional development corporations have money. They have power to influence development within their regions. Mr. Chairman, we set up regional development corporations in Manitoba and then abandoned them. We give them a pittance budget, we give them no real authority over their own events, and they who are closest to the scene are dictated to by the Government of Manitoba and do not have any degree of autonomy. In Ontario, Mr. Chairman, only a few weeks ago in order to stimulate economic development in that province which really, compared to Manitoba, doesn't require stimulation, but even in Ontario, that government introduced tax incentives, tax savings, tax deductions for those businesses, those industries, which would invest in other new ventures, in order to create new companies, new jobs, new production. That's only one of the many incentives that Ontario has been introducing in the last couple of years.

Mr. Chairman, government, even in a constitutional sense in a provincial scene has authority through the tax system to influence industrial growth. This government regards that as anathema. We proposed last year for consideration, and the government wouldn't even consider it, that we could establish a major financial industry in this province, we could establish a major financial centre by use of the tax system, through our capital gains rebate system. We could establish a financial industry which doesn't pollute, which doesn't use up raw natural resources, which simply services Canada, requiring no freight--(Interjection)--Mr. Chairman, that's right. The Honourable Member for Lakeside indicates that the reason the government can't bring itself to give incentives for the creation of that kind of industry is because it doesn't like money in the hands of private individuals.

Mr. Chairman, the government instead, its answer to creating a financial institution in Manitoba or creating a financial industry, its answer is to open state owned Treasury branches - that's progress. Mr. Chairman, the use of the capital gains tax system as one example, and the death tax system has already proved in Quebec, in Alberta and in Ontario to create the desired level of industrial activity, creation of jobs. I told this House earlier this session, and I'll repeat it again, that the Government of Quebec adopted the plan that I introduced to this House last year, adopted it this year, adopted the plan that even the NDP's high priest Eric Kierans proposed. The NDP couldn't do it, the government couldn't bring in a tax incentive to create jobs. So Quebec, very quietly abolished provincial income tax on investment income. And, Mr. Chairman, in speaking . . . the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Industry for Quebec, he is into the thousands of jobs which they allocated, as signed, having been created in the financial community by that very simple thing. They estimate that the tax income foregone by the incentive is less than one-tenth of the tax income earned on the salaries that are generated by the new jobs created. That's the intelligent use of the tax system for industrial development.

Mr. Chairman, this government said it was committed in an industrial policy to regional development, regional decentralization, and we have no evidence of that. We have minor examples. A bakery shop opened in Waterhen, Manitoba. Let us have a national holiday. Three jobs created. Mr. Chairman, that's not good enough. That's just not good enough. The people of this province are entitled to expect much more. Even if the government would listen to its own advisor, Mr. Kierans, when we proposed that if you want to take industry and put it into regional areas where they're socially desired, the north, rural communities in the west, then, Mr. Chairman, you use the tax system to recover or to offset the impediments that the company faces when it moves to rural Manitoba, in terms of communication costs, long distance costs, freight costs and so on. We went into an election with at least a specific program on industrial growth and Mr. Chairman, the government carefully went into the election with no policy on industrial growth, has come out of it with no policy on industrial growth, and today at the end of the debate on the department's estimates still has no policy for either industrial growth or regional development within the province.

Mr. Chairman, we recommend action to this government. Putting aside our criticism,

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(MR. ASPER cont'd) we say we must begin by instituting effective work for welfare programs because we have industry seeking people to work and no one willing to work. So there must be work for welfare for the able-bodied, not discretionarily but as a matter of course, and that failing, Mr. Chairman, we must establish a Department of Immigration in this province which will monitor our immigration system, which will attract immigration and which will have an industrial policy behind it to create jobs for the immigrants.

Mr. Chairman, we have in the garment industry, in the warehousing industry, in the forwarding industry jobs going begging and no one to fill them, and the government steadfastly refusing to either go to work for welfare systems of allowing immigration to fill the jobs. Mr. Chairman, I have indicated in this House before as a result of the inaction by the government other provinces are here daily with their industrial development divisions wooing our industries. And it's no secret that several garment manufacturers because of the government's hostility have indicated an intention to decentralize from Manitoba to Alberta. And it's happening, and that's a fact. Mr. Chairman, the question is: can you blame them? And the answer is: perhaps not. We propose to this government, and we ask them the question: in the last 12 months how many industrial trade offices did the Minister open in any country in the world? How many of the Canadian External Affairs offices and the Embassies of Canada are staffed with a Manitoba Industrial Development Officer who will look for opportunities for our industry to sell abroad and will look for opportunities to bring new industry to Canada. Answer: zero.

Mr. Chairman, how many industrial sales forces has the Minister launched as a commission professional basis that are travelling the world looking for outlets for Manitoba markets production and looking for new industry to move into Manitoba. Answer: zero.

Mr. Chairman, when will the Department of Industry and Commerce take inventory of everything we consume in this province and test that against what we produce and then determine what things that we consume that we can produce to create new industry? Mr. Chairman, if he does--(Interjection)--the Minister says from his seat he does that. Well then I want to know, Mr. Chairman, why after six years of trying - no six years in this case, six years in this case - we have not got a glass bottle plant in Manitoba. Mr. Chairman, the raw material for those glass bottles, silica sand, is taken from Manitoba, exported as sand and turned into glass bottles in Alberta and in Quebec and then shipped back to us in the form of glass bottles, depriving us of 200 jobs in Manitoba.

Mr. Chairman, where is the carpet mill that has been proven feasible for Manitoba for five years? Where is the tile manufacturing plant for the five, six, seven, eight thousand houses we build per year for the flooring that has been proven feasible for five, six, seven years? Mr. Chairman, what can the Minister report to us on his thrust to insure that the Arctic pipeline, that five to seven billion dollar industrial event will go through Manitoba, opening the north, opening Churchill, new towns throughout; new industries, \$5 billion minimum? What initiatives is the government taking? Are they still in the letter-writing stage? Or do we have a delegation permanently in Ottawa lobbying, or lobbying with Pan Arctic?

Mr. Chairman, it goes hand in hand with the failure to budget for this department, to create jobs, that the department which we won't even get to, Department of Tourism which is in my view an adjunct of industrial growth, also has a minimal nominal increase, so that we in Manitoba, the Manitoba economy, through the lack of budgets are deprived of the \$300 million more per year spending that we could get from tourism if we only got our share of the national average. We are deprived of the 30,000 jobs that that \$300 million of spending would have created if this government had a tourist development, tourist promotion policy that gave us our share of the growth in Canada, which we are deprived of.

Mr. Chairman, where is the head office relocation plan, the thrust by this government to go back to the companies that treat us as a branch office economy, create the grants, the incentives, the stimulus, to decentralize, as is happening in the United States, to decentralize those head offices to create the executive jobs here in Manitoba? There is no such program. Mr. Chairman, Hudson Bay Mining is not effectively operating any longer in Manitoba and yet - I'm talking in terms of its head office - and yet its raw material comes out of the ground of Manitoba. We need a tax incentive system that encourages those who make money in Manitoba to maintain head office facilities in Manitoba. Mr. Chairman, you seem to be indicating that we are running out of time, or at least that I am.

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(MR. ASPER cont'd)

Mr. Chairman, I want the Minister of Industry to tell us where are we at on the sale of Hydro power to the United States to feed the industrial mill of the United States? What action has he taken to say to the American industries, we will not supply you with power, we will give you power if you move your industry and your jobs to Manitoba. I want to know what studies have been made there, Mr. Chairman. I want to know when he's going to set up a foreign business takeover screening agency for Manitoba, which is our constitutional right, to protect Manitoba against further erosion, further pushing into branch office economy. When are we going to establish an industrial research centre as B.C. has done to examine industrial economic opportunities and bring them to fruition. Because his government isn't doing it, his department isn't doing it. --(Interjection)--Yes. Mr. Chairman, his answer is to prepare a report which recommends we'll take over the cement plants, an existing industry. We won't create anything new we'll just take over what's there.

Mr. Chairman, the rural growth areas that we were promised to be designated five years ago have not been designated. There is no small business development agency that has any teeth, any power as has been the case in the United States and Australia for over a decade now. And we have the Manitoba Development Corporation. Mr. Chairman, it has not been reorganized and it must be reorganized to become a tool of his department. It's got to specialize in loans in the north and rural Manitoba if you believe in regional decentralization. It's got to become an insurer of export sales to the extent that Ottawa doesn't do it, so that Manitobans can produce goods for sale abroad. It's got to become a stock underwriter for small business, to make shares in those businesses available to the public, not to the Crown, to the public, to help those small businesses finance. And it's got to be a wholesaler of money, to lend money to those agencies which will in turn lend money to small business that will decentralize and regionally move to where jobs are required.

Mr. Chairman, the opportunity is lost in this five years in the food business, in the pipeline business, in the whiskey business. Mr. Chairman, in Ontario there are several hundred jobs associated with the Government of Ontario importing scotch and other foreign liquor for bottling. They bring it in in bulk and they bottle it and create jobs in Ontario. The bottling and the handling jobs are not in Scotland, they're in Ontario where the product is consumed. We've recommended to this government that they do that, in conjunction with Alberta and B.C. The bottling business of imported liquors. No action on that at all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, we talk about a stay option for rural Manitoba and yet we double the price of rent on Crown lands leased to farmers for beef raising. In some cases we tripled it. We are anti-development in this government. We are not selective growth in this government, Mr. Chairman, we are no growth. Mr. Chairman, it is a matter of extreme regret that we have to end the few moments of estimate debate on a most important gap in Manitoba's government and not have sufficient time for the debate for enough members to express themselves.

I want to conclude now by hoping that the Minister will instead of his usual tirade and instead of his usual condemnation of Ottawa and all the other forces that conspire against him to rationally deal with the proposals we've made, and to explain why he has failed so desperately to give Manitoba the industrial growth to which it is entitled and which it could sustain and which our work force is entitled to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I am going to try to deal with as many items as I possibly can in the short time that I have available. I can only say that the last remarks of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition simply have to be based on the fact that he's been absent from the House during the introduction of my estimates when I went over the critical factors which were restraining the amount of economic development of the Province of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon West on a point of order?

MR. MCGILL: Yes. Mr. Chairman, the Minister referred to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. Surely he meant the Leader of the Liberal Party?

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

MR. EVANS: I'm sorry, I didn't know I was being so kind to the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party. I didn't mean to promote him to be the Leader of the Official Opposition. The last remarks I feel a sense of regret for the honourable member because he displayed his ignorance of the departmental programs; he's displayed his ignorance of what has actually

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(MR. EVANS cont'd) happened on the Manitoba scene; he has displayed his ignorance of the process of economic development. To compare us with Ontario and say, look what's happening in Ontario and then look what's happening in Manitoba, is ludicrous, it's not a fair comparison. Yesterday when I introduced the estimates I gave some of the critical factors that did hamper the rate of economic growth in the Province of Manitoba, and indeed all of the western provinces recognized this and laid it on the table at the WEOC Conference in Calgary, when we told the Federal Government categorically why there was not sufficient industrialization in all of western Canada, all the western provinces were united in this matter. And I might add for the benefit and information of the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party in this province, that the fact is the Federal Government is not assisting Manitoba in its rate of industrialization to the extent that we are entitled to. Eighty percent - for example, eighty percent of the PAIT money, that's the Program for the Advancement of Industrial Technology, 80 percent of that federal budget, which is a multi-million dollar budget of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in Ottawa, 80 percent goes to Ontario to enhance the further growth of industry in Ontario. Most of the budget of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce goes into that particular province.

The fact is that, you know, the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party in a very cavalier fashion tosses off developments in small towns. I don't think some of our rural friends will appreciate, nor will the people who live in those towns, appreciate those cavalier remarks even if it be a ten person or a fifteen person facility or enterprise, the fact is for many of our small towns this is significant. The fact that we have increased the budget - we're looking at a budget of nearly a one million dollar increase - I would suggest is no small increase either in terms of absolute dollars or in terms of percentages.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party said, you know, we couldn't take credit, and we should not take credit, for any major industrial development, any specific new enterprise in the province whatsoever. It was all because of the Federal Government, all because of our friends in DREE. I'd like the honourable member to know that virtually every DREE application, virtually every DREE application that is made by any Manitoba Company in this province is made with the assistance of this department, the Department of Industry and Commerce. --(Interjection)--We have a program of assistance to the companies so they may hire accountants - if you want to listen - they may hire accountants, or what have you, engineers, etc., to make the proper application. The honourable member refers to Phillips you know, that this was only in Manitoba because of DREE. Well, Mr. Chairman, I know otherwise. I know otherwise. And I'm not at liberty to go into further detail. I invite the honourable member if he's really concerned to phone up the Chairman of the Board of Phillips Cable and ask him why he was particularly interested in Manitoba, because there are many good reasons, many good reasons why Phillips Cable Limited has established a plant in the Town of Portage la Prairie. And they came to the Department of Industry, and the Minister of Industry, long before they thought of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. So I will not take any of that nonsense that a company such as Phillips came here simply because of some financial assistance from DREE. The honourable member displays his ignorance of specific projects that have happened.

Micro-Com Electric. A new electrical apparatus company that is doing very nicely indeed. I'm not sure what the employment level is, it must be 75 to 125 jobs, somewhere in that order. They're doing very well. Their sales are excellent.

Sekine Bicycles. The honourable member will laugh and say, yes this is on a federal training program, it's on a federal base, Rivers base. The Rivers Base which the Federal Government closed down and put hundreds of people out of work in that area, civilians as well as removing military payroll, but the fact is that the initiation, the development of a bicycle industry for Manitoba started in the Department of Industry three years ago, long before the Federal Government ever heard of Sekine bicycles.

Viscount Trailers have moved into the Town of Morris. Federal Pioneer Electric although they suffered a disastrous fire, we were able to maintain them in the City of Brandon, and indeed they have expanded into an excellent new facility in that city.

There has been an expansion in many of our existing industries which I think is just as important as a brand new facility coming to the province. I can mention many of them. Loewen Mill Works, Electro-Knit Company, Agri Steele, this is a company in Minnedosa, added 50

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(MR. EVANS cont'd) employees. Kendon Industries, CCIL expanded, Flyer Industries expanded, Imperial Industries, this is a new company which manufactures camping equipment, came to Manitoba. There has been expansion in other areas as well - Hudsons Bay Mining and Smelting as a matter of fact added a new copper anode processing facility in Flin Flon, where I had the pleasure of visiting only a week or so ago. The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that one could go on for hours indicating individual companies in terms of coming to Manitoba, or expansion of existing industries, but I think that you have to look at the over-all statistics to see the fact that Manitoba's rate of industrial expansion has compared very favourably with the Canadian scene. The fact is that I said that Statistics Canada has indicated that the rate of manufacturing growth in the past year has exceeded the natural, or rather the national average growth of manufacturing.

Specifically, the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party - I'm taking these in reverse and I will get to everybody I hope - mentions our concern about Industrial Research. Well if he looks at the estimates he'll see that there's far more money available for industrial research, which is indeed going on, than has been available in the past.

He talks about bringing electric power using industries to Manitoba. We have established a task force, a special task force in the department to look at this. The fact of the matter is that there are very few industries that are extremely electric power intensive industries, that is where electric power is a very critical feed stock, or whatever, for that particular industry, and it's not a simple matter the availability of electric power is not that critical a factor in the case of attracting certain industries.

Pipelines: What are we doing about this pipeline from the Arctic, and so on? It was suggested that we had done very little. I want to inform the honourable members of the House that we have discussed this matter with the Federal Minister of Energy, the Honourable Mr. Macdonald in Ottawa, we've corresponded with him. We're meeting with the head of Pan Arctic next week here in Winnipeg. I've had conversations with the Ontario Minister of Energy Darcy McKeough who has the same interest in seeing the pipeline come along the west side of Hudson's Bay as we do, and there are many other things that we are doing in this area.

Unfortunately the Leader of the Liberal Party having made his cavalier, usual cavalier type speech has left the Chamber and has been absent during most of the estimates of the Department of Industry and Commerce, which he indicates he has such a great interest in. However I'm glad to see that there are other members who do have a sincere interest.

I'm sorry that the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party has gone. He mentions trade missions and offices. We have made it a deliberate policy not to duplicate federal trade offices. We feel that we should not use the taxpayers in this duplication, but rather make more effective use of those trade offices, and indeed we are; we're spending more money in the field of trade promotion and trade development, and our policy is to use more effectively the existing Canadian trade offices abroad. My experience has been when you approach these trade offices and you have specific problems, and specific trade opportunities, you get 100 percent co-operation, so I'm throwing a bouquet to the Federal Trade Service. I think if you discuss this with your honourable colleague the now Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Mr. Gillespie you'd find that this is appreciated because there is, I consider, an unnecessary proliferation of trade offices by certain provinces that I don't think are worth the expenditure. We are sending more people abroad on individual specific missions, if you like, on specific industrial projects, and this is far more effective than maintaining, on a continuing basis maintaining an office, or engaging in large trade, showy as they may be, large trade missions with large numbers of people.

He mentioned the immigration of people into the province and he again referred to the garment industry. Well, Mr. Chairman, the reason the garment industry is having difficulty in attracting people is that they are not keeping up with the increase in the average weekly wages in Manitoba. I have with me, and I'm prepared to distribute many copies of this table, showing where the gap has widened since 1957 to 1973, the gap in the average wage paid weekly to the garment industry, or the clothing industry, in Manitoba for female employees, and just relating to those industries that have 40 percent or more female employees, you will find by looking at this chart, which I will distribute, that the gap has widened. The fact is that the increase in the average weekly earnings of female oriented industries, if I may refer to them as such, has widened and this is a very good reason why there's difficulty in attracting people to the clothing

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(MR. EVANS cont'd) industry. They're not keeping up with total manufacturing, they're not keeping up with trade, they're not even keeping up with other services, or total services. I will ask the page to distribute a number of these, and I've got them even in colours so you can look at them and not be confused.

I also have a chart here which compares the clothing manufacturing industry with the industrial composite of all industries and with the food and beverage industries, which some people seem to think is a low wage industry. Again the figures show that there's a widening gap in the average weekly wage paid to the clothing industry compared to these other industries. That, Mr. Chairman, is the fundamental reason that this particular industry is having difficulty in attracting manpower or womanpower. I say again that if you pay Manitobans decent wages, offer them good working conditions, you will get that manpower supply. Again, therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would have these charts distributed. I have a dozen or so to those members who might be interested. I can make more, have others available if other members are interested.

The Honourable Member from - if I can just pass on quickly because we are running out of time, quickly - the Honourable Member from Ste. Rose mentioned the problem, the question of development of the gypsum mine at Amaranth. We are looking at it, plus other possibilities, and we will do our best to expedite something in this area if we possibly can.

The Honourable Member for Morris chastised us--(Interjection)--I'm sorry. Oh yes, I'll get to St. Laurent too. I'm doing this in reverse order. I should have been fair and started the other side. But in the case of the Member from Morris, he chastises us and makes mockery of our assistance to small businessmen in rural Manitoba. I want to remind the honourable member he can talk to some of the businessmen that participated in the program,

- (a) they paid to get into the program. They have to pay to get into it; and
- (b) this is a community management development program;
- (c) 80 percent of the companies that were counselled on an individual basis reported that they had made some, at least one improvement, a substantive improvement in their business.

You can come to some of these wind-up meetings that are held and you can hear the businessmen yourself. Let them explain to you. I want to invite the Honourable Member from Morris to come with me at some time. We were in Flin Flon about a week ago; one small retailer described to the group how he had made some progress, based on the advice and the assistance he received, the counselling assistance he received from this program. There was a businessman in Brandon who got up and said he's \$30,000 ahead annually, based on assistance he got from the particular program.--(Interjection)--

Well, Mr. Speaker, I haven't got time to engage in repartee with the honourable members across because I want to answer some other concerns.

The Member from Minnedosa in the case of Canada's Manitoba Distillers - we have been in contact with them through our food products branch and through out trade development people in the departments. We're working with them, their problem is sales to the United States. The Honourable Member from Minnedosa I hope is listening, and we are seeing what we can do to try to assist them in exporting their product, their valuable product, to the United States market. This is the main problem that they are faced with. To compare them with the Gimli situation, I can simply tell you the difference in the two. The difference is the fact that at Gimli you have a very strong company with a very well known product and they have less difficulty in selling. I think they have a stronger marketing force, you might say, they've got a stronger market penetration, and that's what it's all about.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member from Brandon West, as I indicated the Economic Development Advisory Board has reconstituted. The previous chairman went to another position. We've had to bring in new staff. We have, as he knows, appointed new members to the Board. They have met, a report is being drafted under the guidance of the Board, and as soon as they're ready we will have the chairman and staff come to the Legislative Committee and report.

Likewise I have in the case of McKenzie Seeds, I have discussed the matter with Mr. Bob Clement, who is now the chairman of the board of McKenzie Seeds, and he is prepared to come at our mutual convenience and discuss the progress of the company in detail with the honourable members.

I would like to remind members that we are moving, and this is a switch, 60 jobs from

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(MR. EVANS cont'd) Toronto to Brandon, Manitoba, which I think we should all welcome.--(Interjection)--I beg your pardon? It happens to be located in Brandon West, but I don't discriminate.

In the case of St. Laurent, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member from that area I want him to know that we are not neglecting St. Laurent; in fact we have actively worked with the people in the St. Laurent area with the Board. We've met - by "we" I mean senior people in the department have met with the Board, and indeed are meeting regularly, several staff members have been up to the plant. We recognize that there's a need to diversify the products that they produce, good as the products they are now producing are. But nevertheless we are engaged in attempting to diversify, to help them diversify their products and we have hired a designer and have assigned him to work on the design of office furniture, wooden office furniture; hopefully this will be of a quality and of a nature that will be very competitive for government use as well as for commercial use. And not only are we assisting them in the design area but we are also working in the area of sales of the products of that facility, and I'm glad the Honourable Member from Lakeside and I share the same concern in the future of that particular facility. I would add also there are other government agencies that are working in this area, including the Communities Economic Development Fund, I believe, and the Department of Agriculture, because the Minister of Agriculture is involved in the ARDA-FRED Program and there was some funding under that particular program.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how much time we have left - one minute? And that is the end of the 90 hours so . . . I have considerable information here that I would have loved to give to the members in detail indicating--(Interjection)--Well you haven't been here, the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party, as I repeated when he was out of the House, has not been here throughout and I don't think he has done justice to the department therefore that he is apparently very very concerned about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In accordance with our Rule 65 (2), at the end of 90 hours in Supply, unless the debate has been previously concluded, the Chairman shall interrupt the proceedings and forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the remaining resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS

Industry and Commerce. (Resolution Nos. 69 to 73 were read and passed.) That concludes Industry and Commerce.

Executive Council. (Resolutions Nos. 1 to 6 were read and passed.) That concludes Executive Council.

Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services. (Resolution Nos. 37 to 43 were read and passed.) That concludes Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services.

Department of Finance. (Resolution Nos. 52 to 56 were read and passed.) That concludes the Department of Finance.

Health and Social Development. (Resolution Nos. 57 to 63 were read and passed.) That concludes the Department of Health and Social Development.

Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management. (Resolution Nos. 83 to 89 were read and passed.) That concludes the Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management.

Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. (Resolution Nos. 109 to 124 were read and passed.) That concludes the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

That concludes the Main Estimates for 1975. Committee rise. Order please. There is the Supplementary Supply.

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3, 250, 000 for Highways - pass.

Resolution 2 on Supplementary Supply. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3, 000, 000 for Health and Social Development - pass.

Resolution 3 Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$7, 700, 000 for Health and Social Development - pass.

Resolution 4 Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1, 000, 000 for Mines and Resources - pass.

Resolution 5 Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4, 927, 500 - pass.

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Resolution 6 Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$627, 500 - pass.

Resolution 7 Resolved that there be \$1, 294, 000 passed for General Development Agreement - pass.

Resolution 8 Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$14, 000, 000 for Manitoba Cost of Living Credit Plan - pass.

Resolution 9 Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1, 900, 000 for Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, (c) Park Maintenance and Operations; and (2) Other Expenditures - pass.

Resolution 10 Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5, 000, 000 for Flood Control and Emergency Expenditures - pass.

Resolution 11 Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$8, 000, 000 for Manitoba Property Tax Credit Plan - pass.

That concludes Supplementary Supply and Main Supply. Committee rise. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered resolutions, reports passage of all resolutions . . .

IN SESSION

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

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

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Questions, Orders of the Day. The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I would like by leave to make a brief statement, and it's my understanding that the matter is known to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? The Honourable First Minister.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

MR. SCHREYER: It is to the effect, Mr. Speaker, that news reports indicate, I assume honourable members are aware, that terrorists have been reported by news agencies and eye witnesses as having killed and wounded several children kept hostage in a small school in Maalot, Israel, in exchange for the freedom of 20 jailed terrorists. Our Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Sharpe has spoken on behalf of Canada already deploring international acts of terrorism, and provincial leaders of all political parties have expressed shock at this recent act. Although details from news services are to some extent still incomplete and confused on the matter, it would seem that after the Government of Israel had agreed to free the 20 terrorists, the guerrillas or terrorists had asked that the 90 children be kept as hostage, be flown to Syria with them to guarantee their safety.

Israel had apparently refused to accept this latest demand and it is then that the several terrorists are reported to have attacked the school and killed many children and wounded several others. The statement by the Honourable Mitchell Sharpe confirmed that he has spoken indeed on behalf of the Government of Canada deploring this degrading act and offered the usual sympathies to the families affected. And I would suppose, Sir, that the only point and purpose of my making this statement here at this time would be to simply reinforce to the extent that it is of any practical value, to reinforce the statement made by the appropriate Canadian spokesman so as to lend voice to the outrage, the way in which there are some on this planet who apparently cannot see clearly that this is in fact the most degrading manifestation of human nature and of human action. Of course one could say much more, but my only point here, Sir, is to lend all possible voice and support to those who have already spoken in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (Leader of the Official Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, I follow the First Minister in stating that as far as I know from the news reports, we are witnessing once again a lunatic act, an atrocity really against civilized society. The Arab attack on defenceless children cannot be justified on any grounds whatsoever. It must be condemned by those who believe that life is important; it must be condemned as a cowardly act by cowardly people. But, Sir, it really is only symptomatic I believe of the indifference of

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) civilized society in the past to the atrocities of the past. Sir, it is on the conscience of those who believe in freedom who did not stand at the time that the Munich massacres took place, at the Olympics, who were indifferent to the gangster acts of the hijacking by Arab terrorists, who believe that they are not affected. Sir, our life and our values are threatened when gangsterism and atrocities such as we have heard about today are allowed to take place; and Sir, it is appropriate that we stand and speak our mind and condemn and if necessary we act.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Party and I particularly, join the Premier in expressing the sorrow and the sense of outrage that we all feel at the wanton and cowardly slaughter of the Israeli children by the Arab terrorists a few hours ago. The shock of this act of barbarism is still too fresh in all of our minds to permit any kind of an indepth comment, but it has to be said that it is hoped that all civilized men of any goodwill will share the revulsion at yet another animal act by the same group of madmen who only a few weeks ago had a slaughter in another Israeli settlement of a group of innocent women and children. In cold blood murder, Mr. Speaker, people are dying in senseless brutal fashion and it's only when the Arab terrorists or terrorists throughout the world understand the depth of anger that their acts, these brutal events against defenceless and innocent children are arousing in the conscience of all civilized men that there will be any kind of hope that could lead to an end to these inhuman acts.

We share the grief the families of the victims of these senseless killings must feel. We extend our most profound sympathy to those members of the Manitoba community who have family and friends living in Israel, and there are so many. I join with the Leader of the Opposition and the First Minister in asking rhetorically how many Munich massacres, how many Rome Airport massacres, how many Laud Airport massacres, how many slaughters will there have to be before world opinion, the opinion of leaders, the opinion of statesmen, the opinion of writers, the opinion of activists will converge to bring home the message that civilized man will no longer tolerate this kind of atrocity.

In the name of humanity, Mr. Chairman, the Liberal Party joins with the Secretary of State, Mr. Sharpe, and the political leaders of the other two parties in expressing the grief and the sorrow and the sense of shame we feel for all mankind at this act, and adds the voice that it is time that civilized men, the leaders of our societies stood up, took a position, denounced this and then acted.

. . . . continued on next page

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

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question's for the First Minister. It relates to a question dealing with Hydro and a meeting that was alleged to, or was supposed to have taken place between Hydro representatives and the Nelson House Community and the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, and I believe the Manitoba Metis Federation. It would appear that the Hydro members did not show at the meeting, and I wonder if the First Minister is in a position to give an explanation of why they did not appear.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not in a position to give an explanation because I'm not in a position to accept that that was in fact, the case. I can inform my honourable friend that in the course of the past several months, representatives of Manitoba Hydro have been in communication and in meeting with the Nelson House Band, members of the band, on a rather frequent basis. The specific meeting that is referred to now, I would have to have the specific date so that I could check in a specific way.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my belief is the meeting was to take place on Tuesday. I wonder if the First Minister is in a position to inform the House whether the Executive Assistant to the Executive Council informed him, or informed members of Hydro, of the meeting and the commitment made by him that Hydro representatives would be in attendance.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not sure who my honourable friend is referring to, the Executive Assistant to the Executive Council. If he means the clerk of the Executive Council, I will make inquiries. This much, Sir, I can report that I received a letter from the President of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood in reference to a meeting that was to be held in Nelson House or Thompson, I just don't recollect which, and that this was communicated to Manitoba Hydro and that Manitoba Hydro have held meetings with the Regional Director of Indian Affairs, Mr. Thomas, and also more recently with the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Leseau, and that in addition to that field men of Manitoba Hydro have been in communication with the Nelson House Band directly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, by way of clarification to the First Minister, I assume that Mr. Oatway is the Executive Assistant to the Executive Council, and I believe that's the gentleman that I am referring to - I wonder if he's been informed or was the Cabinet informed by their Executive Assistant that that meeting had been arranged, that Hydro was going to be asked to be in attendance.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, obviously I'll have to check to ascertain whether the arrangement or understanding was that Manitoba Hydro was to be invited directly by the Band or by the regional organization of the MIB, or the MIB itself, or whether the request was to be relayed through a third person to Manitoba Hydro.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley, Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question's to the First Minister. Could he indicate to the House relative to answers he gave yesterday on the Nelson House options open to the government in the flooding scheme, could he indicate whether it's true that the cost of constructing a weir at Nelson House to prevent the flooding that was described would come to some \$10 million approximately and if that is - or on the assumption that the alternative is the movement of houses to prevent them from being flooded, has he a cost figure to compare it?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is certainly implicit in the options open to discuss with the local community council whether they would have any view or preference to recommend as between the expenditure of an amount in the order that my honourable friend is referring to, or an expenditure of a like amount towards the moving of or construction of housing and related infrastructure that would make improvements in the community at a somewhat changed location, that is to say, perhaps several hundred feet or yards removed from where the water side part of the community is located now. And that is precisely what is proposed, what is under discussion and what is proposed for further discussion with the community and with the Department of Indian Affairs.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister confirm or advise the House that his department will study both alternatives: (1) the development of the weir; and (2) the alternative

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(MR. ASPER cont'd) of moving the houses; and get benefit figures and present them to the public before a commitment is made as to which alternative will be chosen.

MR. SCHREYER: Well I believe that that is a sort of reasonable common sense procedure, which I would certainly assume will be done, and will make effort to see that it is done, in that manner.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister, could he also give an assurance that no act will be taken to commence the flooding process, or deal with it through the construction of the weir or the housing movement, without all that information first being given to the residents of Nelson House and allowing them to take their legal action if they should so desire.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the entire development of the Nelson River is predicated on a certain amount of diversion of energy in the form of water from the Churchill River via the Rat and Burntwood River systems. We have never pretended that that component of Nelson River development is not fraught with considerable difficulties and requiring a number of adjustments. That is one of the reasons why we have always felt it incumbent upon us to proceed as expeditiously as possible with regulation of Lake Winnipeg, because until the Churchill River diversion engineering works are completed we have no way of feeling completely secure as to what may happen. There's many a slip between cup and lip. But certainly the diversion of the Churchill River is a necessary component, fraught with difficulties though it may be, and therefore the only assurance we can give is that we will undertake, as we have undertaken in the past, to follow all reasonable efforts to arrive at settlements and adjustment provision for those who may be adversely affected.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Development. Could the Minister confirm whether there was a major disturbance by prisoners at the Headingley Jail on Monday night, and would he report on - if there was such a disturbance - on the number of prisoners involved, if there was personal injury suffered by either staff or prisoners, and the extent of property damage that might have occurred during that disturbance.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health,

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, yes, on May 13th, that was Monday night I believe, May 13th at around 11 p.m., I am informed that nine men who were in Dormitory No. 2 proceeded to smash some electric light bulbs and created a disturbance. Staff tried to replace those light bulbs and a scuffle ensued. Because of the noise, the disturbance affected some of the people in other areas of the institution and as a result a chain reaction set in. Some damage was caused to some of the furniture and to the fittings. However I am advised that the damage to the institutional fittings and furniture is minimal. The whole matter was quelled within an hour I am advised. The affected dormitories were habitable again by late afternoon, that is by the next day, and that the atmosphere of the institution has returned to near normal. I have no further information except that an investigation is currently under way and when I have more information I'll report it to the House.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister explain why there's an apparent reluctance on the staff of the institution to allow public reports of this disturbance to be made, or why in fact a report was not made to the House on the occasion of the disturbance immediately thereafter.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I don't agree that every time there's a disturbance this should be reported to the House. I don't think there's anything to be gained by it, I think it would be wrong on my part to hold a press conference every time something happened. The question was asked and I've answered it. I don't think anything can be gained - as a matter of fact I think it would be a bad idea for me to get up every time there was a disturbance in one of our penal institutions.

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes, Mr. Speaker I'd like to ask the Minister concerning the investigation of the causes into this disturbance, could the Minister tell us who is conducting that investigation, and what its terms of reference are, and are they going to look at the general level of unease and the atmosphere of dissatisfaction that is prevalent in Headingley Jail, or it would just be to this one disturbance by itself?

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MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the investigation will of course address itself to this particular disturbance. With regard to the broader question certainly the department and its Corrections Branch is constantly looking at the institutions that we have on the correctional system, and that's part of an ongoing process.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary. I asked the Minister if he could inform us as to who is conducting the investigation and what its terms of reference are.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I did not establish terms of reference; this is done almost automatically. Dr. Tavener, the ADM of his department, Mr. Cox, the Director of Corrections, and the Superintendent of the institution itself, they'll be the ones in charge of the investigation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L.R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question's to the Honourable Minister of Labour. I would like to ask him whether he's planning any refreshments for members of this Assembly, or other recognition of the fact that today marks the 55th anniversary of the beginning of the Winnipeg General Strike.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Well not, Mr. Speaker, not really. I don't know whether I'm one of the few, or possibly the only member in this Assembly who vividly recalls the 1919 strike, at which time I was only ten years old. I recall going down on Main Street and listening to the then Mayor of the City of Winnipeg - I believe his name was Charles Gray - in around about that time, reading the riot act, and then subsequently I did have the opportunity of witnessing the overturning of one of the Winnipeg Electric trolley, or street cars, at that particular time. I do thank my honourable friend for drawing attention . . . I have no intention of having a celebration as a result of the incident of history, that this is the day of the commencement of that. I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, that you and my honourable friend from Fort Garry will agree that in my present position as Minister of Labour in the Province of Manitoba I am doing whatever I can to prevent strikes from occurring and have been successful, at least on a few occasions, and the most recent, I think that my honourable friend would agree, was in respect of the Health Services potential strike in the City of Winnipeg.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister have one drink with me?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to have one drink with the Honourable Member for Fort Garry, providing he buys it. -- (Interjection) -- I have none.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable the First Minister in his capacity as being responsible for Manitoba Hydro. I wonder, Sir, whether the Minister is in possession of any information as to whether or not the projected new, or indeed record levels, of high water on Lake Winnipeg will in any cause difficulties or impede with the construction program as scheduled for the Narrows in this coming summer's construction period.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Mines and Resources in another aspect of this matter has reported to the House with respect to the anticipated record, or near record, water levels on Lake Winnipeg this summer. It would be correct to say, Mr. Speaker, that at this point in time it would appear as though Manitoba Hydro may be hampered by a delay of some several weeks, or possibly two months, in terms of the commencement date of finalizing the engineering work relating to Lake Winnipeg regulation because it involves the building of a copper dam for a temporary period, and that is not likely to be advisable with water levels at what they are anticipated to be this summer. Hopefully by fall the picture will have changed sufficiently.

MR. ENNS: One supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. There is then - I direct my question to the First Minister - that there is a distinct possibility that even perhaps in the matter of delay with inflation and interest costs being what they are in a project of this size that as a result of the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. ENNS: . . . high water, there could be additional, considerable additional costs to the project, to Manitoba Hydro.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, some of the problems are man-made, and in this particular case water levels have to do with the amount of inflows into Lake Winnipeg all through the months of April, May, June which are already very high, and those watersheds that are to peak yet in May and June are also very high, and so it is a natural adverse phenomenon that we face this summer.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a question on a related subject but to a different Minister, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and Environmental Management. I believe in the last day or two that the government is in receipt of a request from the Community of Gimli particularly, requesting assistance from the Provincial Government, as well as the Federal Government agencies, with respect to building breakwaters, dikes and general improvement for the anticipated high water. Has the government given any indication to the Community of Gimli that such help indeed will be forthcoming?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm not immediately aware of the request that the honourable member is referring to, but I can advise the honourable member that beginning some weeks ago - and I've had the Lake Winnipeg Management Board alerted to the possible problems, and I believe on Monday of this week I requested them to look into specifics as to whether there are any ameliorative steps that can be taken, and what indeed emergency measures could be recommended. In saying this, Mr. Speaker, I think that I should balance any optimism by the suggestion that the problem is a mammoth problem; it is not difficult in the areas concerned, and with the lake concerned, to adopt measures which would greatly alleviate water levels which could reach between 717 and 718 and with wind effect as the honourable member knows, higher than that.

But even without the specific request and with the members in the House who are involved around Lake Winnipeg having also expressed their anxiety, a report has gone through to the board to look into the question referred to by my honourable friend.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the First Minister. The question is based on the announcement by oil companies this morning that they'll be increasing the price of gasoline to the consumers and I wonder in the light of the statement made earlier by the Premier that a portion of that increase would be subsidized, whether he will be introducing legislation to give effect to that announcement, or whether that can be done otherwise.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I did indicate to the House on two previous occasions that it was the intent of the government of the province to provide some degree of cushioning within the parameters of the revenues available to do so, derived from the incremental value of Manitoba production. And accordingly the specific amount of the cushioning will be made known when the Minister of Finance introduces the legislation, which I anticipate, Mr. Speaker, will be either Friday, or Monday or Tuesday next week, but certainly within the next seven days.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, if the Premier would indicate whether there would be any retroactive feature to that cushioning. I understand some of the oil companies have already increased their price.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I would not want to commit to a retroactive provision in the event that there would prove to be administrative problems involved. However we're confident that the time lag should not have to be more than approximately 30 days.

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

MR. J. PAUL MARION (St. Boniface): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Honourable the First Minister in his capacity as Minister for Urban Affairs. Does the provincial takeover of Assiniboine Park involve a purchase or a lease agreement; and what are the details regarding the financing and the duration of the term of the contract?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the provisions of the basic agreement involved an intermediate term, intermediate to long-term lease of the facilities and the assumption of the annual costs involved therewith, and it is pursuant to, as my honourable friend is aware, pursuant to about a year's intermittent discussions, and finally a mutually satisfactory

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) arrangement was arrived at. In terms of further details it would be awkward, Sir, through the question period to attempt to give any greater amount of particulars. My honourable friend might consult some of his former colleagues, or with me, apart from the question period.

MR. MARION: A supplementary to the same Minister. Has the government now enacted a program therefor that it will broaden with all municipalities with respect to municipal parks? Will it be entering into agreements with other municipalities in this respect?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the concept involved here, which was discussed with the City right from the inception of discussions, was that this would be a provincial park, the justification being largely due to the fact that the nature of Assiniboine Park and the zoo and the conservatory are rather unique to the province. There's an admission on all sides that many if not most of the visitors streaming through the gates of Assiniboine Park are resident from outside or other than the City of Winnipeg, and even for that matter significant numbers from outside the province, therefore it seemed to be logical to have this operated as a provincial park and zoo rather than carried at the exclusive expense of the City, since many non Winnipeggers enjoy the benefits thereof.

MR. MARION: A final supplementary to the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister advise us if the term of the agreement calls for a no-admission fee for the duration of the agreement?

MR. SCHREYER: Exactement, Monsier le President,

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Thanks, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Mines. Can the Minister inform the House what participation the Provincial Government plan to take in regards to Pembelier Dam at Walhalla, North Dakota?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I read a release that was published by the Pembina Valley Association, I believe, it's - I'm sorry I can't remember the name of that group - the water association, which was a bit optimistic. The group saw me; we were discussing one facility, not the Pembina project which involves an expenditure of some \$46 million estimated, but one dam that is part of that project involving possible expenditures of \$4 million, on which our recent cost benefit studies show a plus. These are now being checked with other officials in other jurisdictions; if the checks of those figures do indicate a cost-plus benefit, then we will put this project into those lists of projects which the Government of Manitoba is applying for to the Government of Canada, in the hope that we can get the same sharing formula which ranges from 50-50 to 60-40 federal; in this particular case it also involves United States funds.

In reading the release that was published by the association, I would only say, Mr. Chairman, that it was certainly satisfactory to have them feeling so good about the meeting, but I tried to keep it -- (Interjection) -- Well I believe that the Member for Rhineland was at the meeting, and I believe that he will confirm that what I am saying is correct.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I received a letter from Bismark, dated April 23rd

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. WATT: I'm coming to it . . . regarding the Garrison Dam, and apparently a meeting was held in Washington to discuss the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. WATT: The question then is, was the Government of Manitoba represented at that meeting in Washington to discuss with Water Control in the United States what effect diversion of the Garrison Dam would have on waters entering Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, if it was an international meeting involving the two countries, then the Government of Manitoba would be represented either through the Government of Canada or through our officials. I am not certain what meeting the honourable member is referring to. I know that a meeting is now being scheduled by the Minister for External Affairs with the government at Washington to discuss more recent development. At such meetings the Province of Manitoba is a participant as part of the Canadian delegation.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask a question of the First Minister. In respect to his announcement concerning the intended review of the zoning and planning procedures of the City of Winnipeg Act, can the Minister explain how that review will be undertaken, who will be involved, and whether there will be provision for public representation or submission by a variety of city officials and private officials.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend is asking a question based on an inaccurate interpretation of something that may have been said at yesterday's meeting of Municipal Affairs. I believe it would be correct to say that we certainly would be prepared to discuss with the City of Winnipeg the advisability of conducting a rather thoroughgoing review of planning and zoning procedures, and that this presumably could be carried out within a period of several months. We meet quite regularly with the City of Winnipeg, and this will be one of the matters that we will be wanting to discuss with them.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the First Minister consider the appointment of a special all-party committee of the Legislature to undertake this review of planning and zoning procedures of the City of Winnipeg Act to bring forward a report and to hear submissions and proposals from groups other than strictly city officials?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I would think that the case to be made for that is a case that could be made with respect to any and all proposed legislation or proposed legislative changes, but by and large it would seem appropriate to first ascertain the views and desires of the City, the elected people of the City. I would think that if there is to be a thorough going review that provision will be made for interested persons and groups to make their representations or submissions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. He was given a question yesterday as notice with respect to whether any civil servants within his department were given leave to participate in the Nova Scotia election. I wonder if he's in a position to answer that question today.

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

MR. EVANS: Yes. One employee was given leave but he was not a civil servant under the terms of the Civil Service Act.

MR. SPIVAK: Well I wonder if the Minister would indicate who the employee was who was not a civil servant under the Civil Service Act?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Well, the individual was on a contract, is a contract employee.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I just want to understand the situation. You're saying it was a contract employee of the department, not a civil servant. Was it a technical officer under the Civil Service Act as well? Was he a technical officer under the Civil Service Act?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe he's got any particular - I'm not sure whether he's got any particular classification title such as the honourable member refers to, but he is a person who has entered into a contract with the Government of Manitoba for a period of time.

MR. SPIVAK: Another question to the Minister. I wonder if he can indicate under what section of the department he was employed under contract.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, if I may, and as I indicated yesterday in response to a similar question, that our policy is that with respect to requests for a leave of absence without pay, that our policy is to opt for the greater freedom of the individual, and accordingly we are prepared, and have been prepared to grant leave of absence without pay in those circumstances.

MR. SPIVAK: On a point of order, the question . . .

MR. SPEAKER: State his point of order please.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, the First Minister has given a restatement of the position he said yesterday, and I'd like to be able to phrase a question which really has nothing to do with what was said yesterday, and I think that that should be very clear, because in the statement yesterday, the First Minister indicated . . .

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MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, again . . .

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

MR. SPIVAK: Well, I go to the point of order, because the First Minister has restated only a portion of his statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member is not stating a point of order, he's stating a point of view that he has in regards to a statement made by the Premier, and that's not a point of order.

Order please. Let me indicate that the question period is for brief questions, questions that are of urgent nature. Now if the honourable gentleman has a series of lengthy questions with details, I think there's a format of procedure that he can use which is more suitable than the question period. This is not a third-degree hour when we have to go into details back and forth for a lengthy period of questioning, and I'm sure the honourable member realizes that. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, on a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. On a point of privilege, Sir, I think that your use of the word "third degree", Sir, is really a reflection on the questions. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. I apologize for the use of that, but again I point out that the question period has been described on many occasions, and this is one of the particular areas where this House is having difficulty in its procedure, and I'm asking for the co-operation of the honourable member, that's all.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I will pose the question again to the Minister. I would like him to indicate what section of his department, the individual who participated in the Nova Scotia election was under contract.

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

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. I wonder then if the Minister would take as well as notice and would indicate to us the name of the individual and his salary.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs)

(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, may I have leave of the House to make a non controversial, a non political announcement. Pardon?

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? The Honourable Minister.

ANNOUNCEMENT

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately yesterday I could not get to my feet to congratulate publicly the Selkirk Steelers hockey team for their victory over the Smith Falls Bears 1-0 last evening - it was an overtime goal - and to announce that the Government of Manitoba and the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs recognizes the championship calibre of these athletes. I have personally sent a telegram to this effect, and will be making a suitable presentation on behalf of the government to each of the members of the Selkirk Steelers Junior Hockey Club in the very near future. So I hope that this presentation can be endorsed by all members of the House. (Applause)

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. HARVEY PATTERSON (Crescentwood): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Labour. Could he advise if all of the retail stores will be closed in Winnipeg on May 20th, the Victoria general holiday?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, last year after one or two retail outlets had remained open on a statutory holiday, for which payment was made to employees under our legislation that they had been open, I personally appealed to employers to voluntarily grant a holiday to their employees. I made the same request this year. I have had an indication by way of correspondence in this particular instance from Gamble Incorporated that they will remain closed on the Victoria Day holiday, and the indications were at that particular time that there was a uniform agreement generally speaking with all of the outlets in the province. However since that time, Mr. Speaker, a rumor has reached me to the effect that there is the possibility of one of the grocery chains remaining open on the Victoria Day holiday. That's the only information I can give to my honourable friend.

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MR. PATTERSON: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Honourable Minister advise if he is contemplating bringing in legislation to make it compulsory to close on general holidays?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated, I hope that we can have the voluntary co-operation of all of the outlets in the Province of Manitoba, and failing that I want to indicate, I want to indicate that we will give serious consideration to legislation making it compulsory.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. I wonder can the Honourable Minister advise the House if there's been any negotiations between himself and the Jets Hockey Club, or the business group who contemplate the purchase of the Jets regarding setting up a lottery for the hockey team?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I haven't been drafted yet by the Jets, no offers, but I've had a meeting with a lay group and we discussed different alternatives - you know, that is some time ago. I think I related that to the House approximately a week and a half ago. It has been pursued I think more actively through the First Minister who reported to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Labour and ask him, as an employer of a considerable number of civil servants in government, is it his intention to adjourn this House for that particular day as well?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Well, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for the Civil Service Commission and in general the employees, they will not be required to work unless because of the urgency of some business that must be transacted, on Monday May 20th, and I believe that there is general agreement, and if I have the real authority, I could say precisely that this House will not meet on Monday, and I appeal to my colleagues and particularly my colleague the House Leader to make provision so that we will be allowed to enjoy the privileges that I think should be the privileges of all Manitobans.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. JORGENSON: I would like to direct my question to the House Leader and ask him if it is his intention to call Caucus at the earliest opportunity to make this decision?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, having received such a gracious polite request from my honourable colleague the Minister of Labour, and knowing that it's almost without certainty that everybody else on the other side feels the same way, I can say here and now at the risk of being tarred and feathered that we will not sit on the Monday following.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Because the Minister by edict has eliminated the fluid milk producers' quota, does the government have any plan to compensate dairy farmers who have paid sizeable sums of money for quotas and others who are presently paying off quotas, does the government have any plan to compensate these men?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I should correct the Honourable Member for Portage. The quotas have no relevance at the present time mainly because there is no restriction on production. If we arrive at a time in this province again in the future, where we will require some restriction on production because of a surplus position, then quotas will have to be applicable at that time. So that it's not a matter of government edict, it's a matter of market opportunity which we want to fulfill, and therefore everyone that wants to get into the milk business can get into the business without restriction for the next couple of years I'm sure to say the least, so that Manitoba can meet the full impact of the market share agreement that we have entered into with Ottawa. So to that extent yes, people are free to get into production without restriction. That doesn't mean that we have consciously decided to remove from someone something that they had, we are just giving new opportunities to people that didn't have them before.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister then is it a true assumption to say that those who have paid sums of money for quotas will just have to suffer the loss and the

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(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd) province do nothing to help?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, is asking for an opinion.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I'm not asking for an opinion, Mr. Speaker, I'm asking for the policy of the Minister. I'm asking the Minister on behalf of those who have paid sizeable sums of moneys for quotas, does this mean that they will be stuck and the government is just going to sit and watch them suffer financially.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, quotas have never been purchased from the Crown and therefore we have no authority to decide on their value. Quotas were a matter of a transaction between a buyer and a seller because of restrictions in production over the years, but we have not condoned, nor is it a legal practice and therefore we are not involved in that decision. That is a matter for the individual producer to decide.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister has there not been a precedent set in this province whereby the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council have already made payments to automobile insurance agents for destruction or loss of their business, and is this not in the same category?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member for Portage would care to check he would find that all of our marketing provisions do not allow for quotas to be traded between individuals, that quotas are the property of the marketing agency or the marketing board in question, and therefore since the province has never been involved in the sale of quotas therefore we cannot at this point in time assume any responsibility as to their value.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the honourable, perhaps the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Was the province ever involved in the purchasing, sale of, or resale of private insurance businesses prior to the government compensating them for the loss of the government with the entry of Autopac? The situation is announced.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I think that for further clarification I should point out that no one has lost their rights of production, that the new policy allows people who have been in production (a) to increase their production without restriction . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. USKIW: . . . and for new people to enter the production area without any restrictions, so it's a more liberal approach to production, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

SPEED - UP

MR. GREEN: I would like to move, seconded by the Minister of Agriculture, THAT for the remainder of the session the House have leave to sit in the forenoon from 10 a. m. to 12:30 p. m.; in the afternoon from 2:30 p. m. to 5:30 p. m.; in the evening from 8:00 p. m. and each sitting to be a separate sitting, and have leave so to sit from Monday to Saturday, both days inclusive, and the rules with respect to 10 o'clock p. m. adjournment be suspended and that government business take precedence over all other business of the House;

AND THAT for the remainder of the session the operation of sub-rule (3) of Rule 88, The Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceedings of the House be suspended, but the report stage of any bill shall not be taken into consideration prior to twenty-four hours following the presentation of the report of the Standing or Special Committee with respect thereto.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister wish to speak to the motion?

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, the only point that I would like to make is that if the motion is passed, it would be my impression that there would be no inclination to sit Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, of course Sunday is not a sitting day, and that if there was strong objection we would not proceed with three sittings tomorrow or on Friday, we wouldn't sit Friday night. So we're really talking about going into three sittings per day starting next week, unless members were inclined to have three sittings tomorrow, but that's not my intention in presenting the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

SPEED - UP

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, we have no intention of delaying the passage of this motion. It's a pretty standard one since almost time immemorial the government have been introducing. There's just one or two questions I should like to ask of the Minister, however. I presume that the Minister has no intention of introducing or giving effect to the motion until Concurrence is completed, which is actually the completion of the consideration of Estimates. I can't say at this time if that's going to take a long time or that will be dealt with expeditiously. I do believe though that there are a number of members on this side who haven't had an opportunity to examine various departments of estimates who would like to be making some comments on Concurrence and I would just like to know if the Minister intends to introduce speed-up following the completion of the consideration of Concurrence on these estimates or whether he will intend to do that prior to the time we start considering estimates.

Other than that, Sir, we do not intend to oppose or delay the passage of this motion at this point.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Assiniboia that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, could we proceed now with the Bills on the Order Paper, with the exception of Bill No. 55.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT BILLS

BILL NO. 43

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. The Honourable Member for St. James. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, the Member for St. James adjourned this Bill on my behalf and I would like to proceed at this point. The Bill before the House purports to seek some amendments to the existing Farm Machinery Act and the Minister offered in his explanation in introduction of second reading, the argument that the amendments were introduced as a result of experience on the part of the Farm Machinery Board, consultation with those involved, presumably the farm implement dealers across this province and the farmers. Now I have no doubt that he's had consultation with the Farm Machinery Board. I have some doubt, however, that his consultations included those who are most directly affected, and that is the consumers of farm machinery, namely the farmers, unless he has a very select group of farmers that he gets his advice from, in which case if that's the group he gets his advice from I would be suspicious of the usefulness of the amendments that he is proposing. He most certainly has not consulted with the farm implement dealers or the association because in the telephone calls and the letters and the submissions that I have been receiving from members of the retail trade in the farm implement industry, there is something less than agreement with the proposals, or I should say some of the proposals that are contained in the present bill before the House.

One of the things that the Minister has apparently yet to learn, that is that the problem that he seeks to resolve between the farm implement manufacturers and the consumers of farm implements, the farmers themselves, will not be resolved by using the farm implement dealers as a convenient scapegoat. If there are problems with the manufacturers, and I am not going to quarrel that there aren't, and if certain farmers do have problems in the type of equipment on occasion that they buy, then by alienating the kind of goodwill and the co-operation that has hitherto existed between the farm implement dealers and the farmers themselves, he is not doing anything to solve the problem whether it is contained in his imagination or is indeed a fact. But what the Minister obviously has not learned is that you cannot legislate goodwill; that has been built up over the years by the various implement dealers across this province.

When there were a large number of dealers, as indeed there was a number of years ago, the dealers that survived were not the ones that bested their customers, they were the ones that provided the best possible service that satisfied their customers and charged prices that were realistic in order to keep themselves in business. That was axiomatic. Unless a dealer

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(MR. JORGENSON cont'd) charged prices that enabled him to stay in business he soon went out, and unless he provided the kind of service to his customers that was satisfactory to those customers there were very few of his machines in the area in which he serviced. One could almost assume if there were a large number of a particular brand of machines in a given area, that the reason for it was because there was a good dealer there. Now as time went on and the farm implement industry became more centralized, those who inevitably survived were those who had run their business in a way that enabled them to stay in business and provided the service to their customers that kept them in business, and to a large extent they are the people that the Minister is attempting to legislate against today. And I use the word legislate against in its proper context because that is almost precisely what the Minister is doing.

In addition to that, Sir, there have been changes and there are constantly changes in the farm implement industry. Because of policies of government, in many cases, misguided policies, there is a trend and a tendency toward larger machines today because of the shortage of labour; it's almost inevitable when a farmer finds that he is unable to hire the help that is necessary to put in and take off a crop, it becomes necessary for him to do one of two things; that's to train his wife how to drive a tractor, or get a machine that he can handle more acres in a shorter period of time and we see throughout the province a combination of both of those alternatives.

The bill that is before us seems to assume that every dealer in the country is a crook, and of course that is a normal assumption on the part of members of this government, and that, Sir, is not the case. There are a large number of implement dealers in this country today, and in this province, who have earned the respect and the support of farmers in the communities in which they serve. Any impediments or difficulties that are placed in the way of the kind of relationship that exists between the dealers and the farmers, as this bill will do, and as the bill which this one seeks to amend has done, the net result is greater difficulty for the farmers who use farm implements, and greater difficulties for the dealers who attempt to service the machines.

The Minister learned, or should have learned, when he attempted to introduce those warranty provisions in the last bill, and indeed contained again in the amendments to the bill in this one, that the increase in the warranty provides an obligation on the part of the dealer that can only be compensated for by an increase in the price of the machine itself, and in talking to dealers throughout this province, I have discovered that very few farmers are interested in the kind of the warranty that the Minister seems to think that they should have. Very few of them have ever taken advantage of it. In fact, the Implement Dealers Association told me that one farmer in the entire province have taken advantage of that high warranty that the minister seems to think is such a good thing for the farmers. And the reason they don't want it is because it cost that much more to buy that machine. Provision that should be contained in the bill is one that will enable farmers to take the kind of warranty they want. They should have an alternative of either no warranty, the factory warranty that is provided by the machine companies, or the higher one if they want it.

The Minister seems to think that he in his great wisdom should be the arbitrator, that he should arbitrarily decide as to what is good for the farmer, and of course it's characteristic of the Minister in everything that he does, in every piece of legislation that he brings before this House, and every action that he takes with respect to the farmers, and it is manifested, Sir, in the kind of response we find today amongst farmers to his legislation and to his agricultural program. A program, Sir, that has aroused and angered farmers throughout the length and breadth of this province. It's an attitude on the part of the Minister that he personally is going to supervise every farm in the province as to what machinery they should buy, and on what terms they will buy it. If it's a hog producer he will determine how that hog will be marketed, and when it will be marketed, and how it will be marketed. Milk producers find themselves in the same position. The AI technicians he has angered to the point of frustration. I doubt very much, Sir, if there is one section of the agricultural industry that the Minister has not alienated in the short space of time that Murray Cormack, that he got his new Deputy Minister, that Murray Cormack left. It's a remarkable performance on the part of this Minister.

Mr. Speaker, there are several clauses in the bill before us that are disturbing to say the least. The Minister can suspend, for example, a dealer without any hearing, without

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(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) giving any reason, without giving any causes. Arbitrarily he can suggest to a dealer that he is finished, and that man is out of business and he has no opportunity for appeal. It's a classic example of the thinking of the Minister. He's setting up two forms of - I don't know what you would call it, Sir, but he insists that the dealers have a bond, and there is no quarrel among the implement dealers that they have that bond. But then what is the purpose of what has been referred to by the Member for Birtle-Russell, what is the purpose of the slush fund then? The fund of \$300,000 that the Minister, at will, whenever he chooses, decides that he wants to replenish and then levy against the dealers themselves. What useful purpose is that fund going to serve if they already have a bonding provision in the bill? The Member for Birtle-Russell I think described it accurately, and I don't intend to deal with that aspect of it any further. The Minister introduced a few years ago in the dying moments of this session, after having assured us on this side of the House that what he intended to do was to introduce the bill, get it through second reading, and then let it go before the committee during the recess. The Committee on Agriculture during the recess. He reneged . . .

A MEMBER: He gave us his word.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . he reneged on that promise and then rammed it through the Legislation right during that session, which was in the dying moments of the session.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member state his matter of privilege?

MR. USKIW: I don't believe, Mr. Speaker, that that is an accurate report, and I would suggest to the Honourable Member that if he wants to allege that I misled the House in that way that he should indicate on the page in Hansard where that was stated.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member the Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: conniving, Machievellian mind of the Minister. He knows darn well he never said it in the House, he told it to me outside the House.

A MEMBER: As the House Leader.

MR. JORGENSEN: As the House Leader. That he intended to introduce the legislation, give it second reading, and then let the bill go before the Committee of the Legislature between that session and the following one.

A MEMBER: It was a promise.

MR. JORGENSEN: You see, Mr. Speaker, that is an indication of how slippery that person is. He knows darn well there is nothing on the record, nothing except the conversation that he had with me indicating that what he was going to do was to introduce it for second reading, and then let it go before the committee. --(Interjection)-- Well, Sir, the Minister has no point of privilege. He's going . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please.

MR. USKIW: He claims I made a commitment that was subsequently broken. I simply want to point that in the discussions that have taken place surrounding that bill, that I did discuss it with him, and others, in the context if it was possible we would proceed, and if it wasn't we would defer to the next session. He should not imply from that, that that was a commitment not to proceed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Now the Minister slips around again, and the trouble, Sir, is that when you have a gentleman's agreement, it requires two gentlemen.

A MEMBER: Hear. Hear.

MR. JORGENSEN: Both gentlemen that will keep their word, and I find that the Minister is one that did not keep his word on that occasion because he gave me the assurance that the bill would only be passed through second reading, and what happened, Sir? He rammed it into the committee immediately, and then brought in more amendments to the bill than there were clauses in the first place, because it was so poorly drafted, so hurriedly drafted, and so --(Interjection)-- as the Member for Lakeside said so fraught with disaster, that he had to make some changes in it. Well he's still not through amending it, and the reason he's not through amending the bill yet is because the bill still is a disaster. It has not achieved what the Minister suggests it was the intention of the government to achieve, and that is, greater assurance to the consumers of farm machinery that they would be properly treated. Sir, in this business it's something that the Minister has not learned, and I don't expect he will ever learn because with his totalitarian mind there is no probability that he could ever possibly understand that there is a working relationship between a dealer and a farmer that far surpasses

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(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) any legislation that the Minister himself could draft -- (Interjection)-- based on trust, confidence and the assurance that one person is honest with the other one.

A MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. JORGENSEN: With a mind like his, Sir, it's no wonder that he can't understand that very simple process of business arrangements in the country. One that has survived through the years because there were dealers in this country long before there were Ministers of Agriculture like that. There were no problems. No problems because the very principle of trust, honesty, and an understanding of what was necessary to keep customers. Well I hear the Member for Winnipeg South, who is a self-admitted authority on the subject of agriculture . . .

MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . has perhaps taken his information from.

A MEMBER: No I took up the same committees that you were on.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well that's just exactly what I was going to say. He has perhaps taken his information from those who appeared before the committee, --(Interjection)-- perhaps in many cases. The same farmers that many dealers have trouble with, and there is always a few bad dealers and there is always a few bad farmers. Gradually both of them are weeded out. Gradually both of them are weeded out because the bad dealers will fall by the wayside because nobody will deal with them. . .

A MEMBER: Right.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . and the bad farmers, those who abuse the privileges that they have will not be trusted by the dealers, and there is a gradual process of weeding all the time, and that's not the sort of thing that you can legislate against. It's the sort of thing that will develop of its own accord. But essentially throughout this province the farmers of this province have been well served by the people who have sought to provide a service to those communities in which they live.

The Minister in this legislation is not going to make it easier for those farmers, those that he claimed he's going to help. What he's going to do is to make it more difficult. It's going to strain those relationships between dealer and farmer. He's going to make it more cost - he's going to add to the costs that are already too high by the kind of legislation that he intends to introduce. He's going to create problems, Sir, that would not have been there, had the Minister in his foolhardiness taken a little caution and a little more care in developing legislation. I don't think there is a dealer in the country, Sir, that doesn't welcome the introduction of legislation as sort of a guideline under which they operate. I think almost every dealer is interested in ensuring that he, as well as his customers, are protected by legislation to the mutual benefit of both. But they are not happy, neither the dealers or the farmers about legislation that tends to want to create suspicion and mistrust between the customer and the dealer, such as the legislation that the Minister had introduced into this House has done.

Sir, we cannot support certain provisions of this bill because we feel that they are going to create more problems than they will solve. But hopefully the Minister - and I would like him to make that statement in the House so we do have something on the record - hopefully the Minister will allow this bill to go before a committee and that the committee will be permitted to hear witnesses, so that we can examine this bill in greater detail and determine just how well it purports to serve the farming community. My guess is that it will do more harm than good, and as I've said earlier, and that will be the observations made by both farmers and dealers, if they appear before this committee, or if they are given a chance to appear before this committee, I should say.

Mr. Speaker, with that, and without attempting to discuss the details of the legislation, because that can be more properly done in the committee, we let this bill go to the committee in the hope that some advice will be forthcoming that may cause the Minister to change his mind and to amend certain portions of the legislation that is now before us, so that they will become at least workable and will not cause near as much harm as we think they will cause as it is presently drafted. (Applause.)

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker I . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister will be closing debate.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) Finance, that the debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

Bill No. 49. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: With respect, for the time, Mr. Speaker, may I let the matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed. Bill No. 60. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

Bill No. 62. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

BILL NO. 62

MR. CHERNIACK presented Bill No. 62, an Act to amend the Financial Administration Act for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I believe that five minutes should be ample for me to introduce this bill on second reading. Members who have looked at it will realize that it's more of a housekeeping nature than anything else. There are several features to the bill. Firstly there is an amendment which will extend by two weeks the process of dealing with year-end vouchers if the department finds that the additional time is necessary.

There is also a provision for a settlement of claims where the Attorney-General is of the opinion that a judgment might likely be obtained against the Crown. The present wording is that the claimant would obtain a judgment, and I think no lawyer could really say I believe that a judgment would be obtained, he'd rather say that it is likely that a judgment would be obtained and makes it more logical to deal with claims of this type and the settlement of them.

Then there's a section that would provide that vouchers be destroyed after seven years rather than after 15 years, it being a matter of storage, and members surely know the increasing and mounting costs of storage.

And finally is a rather important section which changes the method whereby charges can be made on self-sustaining debt. The way the section now reads, the cost at the time, and from time to time, of any debt owing from a Crown corporation or to government will vary by the nature of the debt. The practice usually is that where moneys are required by Crown corporations they may be advanced on a cash basis out of short-term or demand paper until enough accumulates to assign a particular long-term issue. For example, Hydro may borrow from time to time on a demand basis and when there is sufficient owing by Hydro to government, then an issue can be put on the public market for long-term and hydro would then be paying the interest rate of the kind of security in the nature of the term as the interest would attract for that term, and it would be a variable. That means the Crown agency would not know in advance what the term would be or what the interest payable would be. This amendment would bring us very much in line with the procedure that the Federal Government follows when the borrowing agency is asked to estimate the length of time that, or the term of that particular borrowing would be, and then we could, in the Department of Finance, estimate the interest rate that would be payable for that kind of term, and then the agency would know that it would have to pay interest based on that term, regardless of how the money is financed from time to time.

I think that is all I need say to describe the nature of this clause at this time. When the bill moves into committee my deputy will be present and it may be considered advisable to enlarge on this nuance of change in this section.

I indicated last night, Mr. Speaker, when debating another bill that in the event that that bill is defeated, I would be prepared to bring into committee on this bill an amendment dealing with Section 42, Special Warrants, and I described last night the nature of the amendment I had in mind. I don't believe it can be debated under this bill. I'm just indicating the possibility that when we move into committee stage, Law Amendment stage, on this bill that I might be able to bring in an amendment such as I described last night depending on the disposition of the other bill before us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Brandon West, that the debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR - RESOLUTION 35

MR. SPEAKER: Private Members' Hour. The first item is Resolution 35. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. MARION: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie,

WHEREAS there is increasing evidence that the existing regulations standards and practices of fire safety are not adequate for the fullest protection of residents of high density accommodation; and

WHEREAS construction safety standards in public buildings need review:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Provincial Government consider the advisability of establishing in co-operation with local communities a task force to review old codes, regulations, and administrative procedures, pertaining to safety protection of all apartment buildings, office buildings and public facilities.

MOTION presented.

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

MR. MARION: Mr. Speaker, I don't know if it's in order but if it were I would dedicate this resolution to my honourable friends on my right inasmuch as if perhaps some of the things that I suggest in this resolution would have been in effect, they might not today be without their home.

The City of Winnipeg has had a number of sad experiences with respect to fires in the last three years. Now although the resolution addresses itself to high rise buildings I think that it's worthwhile reviewing what has happened, and the experiences that have occurred, in the City of Winnipeg in the past three years. Some of the results are rather sad. I think of the Haslemere Apartments which burned in January of this year, and where unfortunately nine lives were lost. Following this fire it's interesting to note the sort of comments that were made by Winnipeg's Chief Fire Fighter namely, Chief Shewan. He mentioned a number of things which should not have happened, and if the residents of that apartment block had been protected to the fullest extent probably a number of lives could have been saved. I'm referring to basically the alarm system being inoperative, which was the first comment that was made by the Chief, and he felt that perhaps the fire had burned for up to 30 minutes before the fire department had been advised. You can imagine this was not a new modern block but rather a block of a certain era which had in its makeup materials that were highly combustible because of the fact that they had been kiln dried as it were over a period of 25 years or more. But here you have a situation where the alarm system was not operative and we had given the false sense of security to the inhabitants of that apartment block in believing that the alarm system was operative.

I think with respect to the alarm system one should also remember that even if there is such a system in an apartment block and even if it is operative, that does not necessarily mean that it relays its information, or when it is kicked off it immediately advises the fire department that there is fire on the premises. Far from that being the case, Mr. Speaker, in perhaps 75 percent of the cases or more there is no direct rapport between the alarm system and the fire department. It would seem to me that this is a situation that should be remedied.

A second comment that was made by Fire Chief Shewan was the fact that the stairwells were open and had acted very positively in spreading the blaze rapidly throughout the building, and while they spread the blaze they also spread the smoke throughout that three-storey building. I would like to underscore the fact that this was but a three-storey building.

Enclosed stairways would certainly have stopped the chimney effect, and would have certainly to a great extent curtailed or reduced the speed with which the fire spread throughout the building. Now I think that the last comment that is worth emphasizing that was made by Chief Shewan, was the fact that the block itself was not amply protected by either smoke and heat detectors or a sprinkler system. I think that these are comments that are worth keeping under consideration when one talks about fire fighting and the safety measures that should be taken in this new era that we are now fully within, and that is the era of the high rise apartment buildings and public buildings.

I think that the Minister had made some comments when immediately after the opening of the session the point of fire protection was brought up, and I think that they are worth taking a look at. The Minister was reported as saying, and I think we'll all remember, that although there had been a special committee set up to study the possibilities of setting up a

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(MR. MARION cont'd) task force, he had mentioned that there had been a committee set up and this committee felt that recommendations that they could make would probably not alter very greatly the safety codes that were in vogue, and are in vogue at this time. Mr. Speaker, I think that because of the fact that we have had situations where Winnipeggers have lost their lives in apartment buildings that are not of the high rise variety, it is important to look at the sort of dangers that people are now being exposed to if we do not give, and if we do not insist on protection in the high rise buildings that are necessary to save, or at least to minimize the opportunity of a fire destroying not only the building but lives of Winnipeggers.

I think that when we speak of a high rise we have to understand that we are talking about a building which by and large is a hundred feet or better. I think that it is also worth noting, and with all of the material that I've read with respect to high rise apartments, it's worth noting that at that height there is absolutely no way that you can fight effectively a fire from without. You have to fight that fire from within. I think that a picture is worth a thousand words, it has been said, and one has but to look at some of the literature where you have aerial ladders that are roughly 85 feet and you're trying to fight a fire at 140 feet, and that ladder certainly looks very insignificant, and certainly very ineffective.

I think another matter I would like to lay at rest immediately is that aerial ladders are of little consequence with respect to evacuating a building, a high rise building, when a fire is in progress. Can you visualize 25 or 30 people trying to evacuate from a building on an aerial ladder. It is not, Mr. Chairman, and the experts agree it is not an effective way of evacuating a building. You can fight a fire from within, I mentioned, and you can only fight that fire from within properly if you have the kinds of fire fighting equipment that will permit you to do so.

I think that the first kind of effective material that you need are standpipes on every level of a high rise building, and these standpipes should be strategically located so that when the hose is extended it will reach in every single area of that floor. Now I mention one standpipe if the floor itself happens to be greater than the possibility of one standpipe, naturally I'm insisting that there be two of these locations. I think that smoke and fire detectors are a piece of equipment that is not being used in the City of Winnipeg to the extent that it should, and that is why we are recommending that a task force review all these possibilities. The smoke and fire detectors Mr. Speaker, can very definitely, if properly set out, indicate that there is a problem of smoke in an area, or there is a heat accumulation in a given area. They play the role, and it's a secondary role to the sprinkler system, which is by far the most efficient to combat fires in the very early stages. But it would seem to me from all of the reading that I have made that after the sprinkler system, which should be mandatory and should be up to the kinds of regulations that could be set up by a task force, it should be complemented with, as I mentioned, the smoke and heat detectors and the standpipes.

I think that the comment made by Chief Shewan with respect to hallways is one that should be looked at. In all of the material that I have read with respect to fires in high rise buildings it was noted and deplored as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, that stairways act as a chimney and the building then becomes the furnace. Now we all know that a well fed fire is one that will progress very rapidly. Where there is very poor draft, the fire does not tend to spread and reach holocaust proportions in rapid order. Now in all of the high rise fires it was noted that stairways acted as the chimney and that had these stairways been blocked off with fire doors, chances are that the fire itself would have been brought under control at the early stages by the fire fighters and loss of human lives would have much decreased, not to mention in second importance, the loss of property.

Now it would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that we have a number of older blocks, while we're talking about fire fighting procedures, there are a number of older blocks that have neither adequate sprinkler systems if they have sprinkler systems at all, and certainly they have the same situation that we had in the Haslemere fire which is open stairways that act as a stack and are in themselves, very, very dangerous. It would seem to me that a task force, Mr. Speaker, would certainly make mandatory that all of these situations be immediately corrected, and I don't think that there would be any duress or any disadvantages brought about by the owners of these older apartment buildings because there is no doubt that you can't buy a human life. Also, it is a known fact, Mr. Speaker, that whenever there are additional costs involved in providing safety measures in a building, that these costs are over a period of time amortized and passed along to the consumer, in this case, the lessee.

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(MR. MARION cont'd)

I think that this is totally appropriate and it would seem to me that a task force would very rapidly bring in mandatory regulations or a mandatory code that would insist on having fire doors at all levels in a building, and a sprinkler system. It would seem to me too, Mr. Chairman, with all of the reading that I've done that although today's materials are probably as heat repellent, fire repellent - and I don't use the word fire resistant because no material is fire resistant, Mr. Speaker - some of them are less conducive or less reacting to fire than others, and this is the kind of material I'm referring to now. Although modern materials are as heat resistant and fire resistant as man has been able to make, they nonetheless burn and they form toxic gases.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in reading an article that was written on the hazards of high rise living, and in which a number of fire fighting firms contributed, an insurance brokerage firm stated that "our experience indicates that when a large building catches fire, death is caused by two main factors, smoke and panic." It would seem, Mr. Speaker, that some of the materials that are presently being used are of the non-combustible or least combustible properties, that they still nonetheless spent or give out toxic gases that are extremely dangerous, and it would be a responsibility of the task force to examine the kinds of gases given off by these slow-burning materials, and in that way try to eliminate as much as possible the toxic gases that are given out.

I think that we live, particularly in western Canada, in an area where ventilation systems play an important role, in our case it's to dispense the heat and air conditioning equipment that is used in the make-up of a building. Now you can appreciate that this kind of equipment, this kind of ventilating equipment that processes huge amounts of cubic feet of air, will rapidly put through the entire building any smoke that has built up on any floor of a high rise. One can imagine the kind of disaster that this equipment, which is beneficial when the property is not in flame or involved in a fire, becomes an instrument of death, because toxic gases and large amounts of smoke can kill within three minutes, and this is a proven factor. So it would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that the task force could investigate the possibilities of rendering useless in a large building when a fire has been detected, the ventilation system that will spread death.

I think that evacuation of a high rise is something else that has to be looked at very seriously. I read an article which gave the optimum time that a building can be evacuated and this is certainly information that's worth taking a look at. This is based on evacuating 90 people per minute, entering only one stairway, and there are evaluating 240 people on a given floor. With those bases, Mr. Speaker, an 11 storey building can be evacuated in 6-1/2 minutes. That's the beginning of the high rise, 11 storey building with one stairway can be evacuated in 6-1/2 minutes. An 18 storey building, Mr. Speaker, can be evacuated in 7-1/2 minutes under the same conditions. A 30 storey. . .

REV. DONALD MALINOWSKI (Point Douglas): With smoke or without smoke?

MR. MARION: That's without smoke, that's accepting the fact that the stairways are habitable, that people can run through them or walk through them. A 30 storey building, Mr. Speaker, again with the one stairway, 90 people per minute and 240 persons per floor can be evacuated in one hour and 18 minutes. I would say that this becomes absolutely useless. And we have 30 storey and more high rise apartments or office buildings in this city.

Fire proof buildings, there is no such thing as a fire proof building but we refer to it as a fire proof building. A 50-storey building would take 2 hours and 11 minutes.

From the figures I've quoted, Mr. Speaker, it becomes absolutely evident that there is just no way that you can evacuate people rapidly enough to save their lives. And the question was put to me, are these stairways that are free from smoke and they have to be stairways free from smoke even at the 11 storey level, because at 6-1/2 minutes in a stairway and smoke, will kill in 6-1/2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, there is no such thing, I repeat, as a fireproof building. There are buildings that have a low combustible rate but all of these buildings are appointed and have furniture that are all inflammable and will contribute to death. I hope that I have made a case; I would be interested in listening to the other kinds of comments that will be made by the speakers that will join in on this resolution so that we can impress the government on forming a task force of competent people that can analyze the kinds of codes that should be brought

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(MR. MARION cont'd). . . . about to make our high rise buildings safe.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I feel that it is incumbent upon myself to consider the resolution as proposed by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, and at the offset, Mr. Speaker, I want to say how much I appreciate his concern in the area of fire safety. It is a concern I'm sure, Sir, that is shared by many if not all of the members of this assembly, but it is not really a simple matter. And while I appreciate the intent, I question very much whether or not the resolved portion of the resolution really would accomplish anything. Because it says NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government consider the advisability of establishing in co-operation with local communities a task force to review all codes, regulations and administrative procedures pertaining to safety protection of all apartment buildings, office buildings and public facilities.

At the present time, Mr. Speaker, this is a responsibility of the Department of Labour and its respective departments; that we are concerned with building codes within the Province of Manitoba be they related to actual safety, apart from fire or other safety provisions as well. And I might say incidentally, Mr. Speaker, that Manitoba is one of the few provinces, as I understand it, that has adopted Supplement No. 5 to the national building code which makes provision for safety facilities in respect of the handicapped people, paraplegiacs, etc. in the Province of Manitoba. We have by and large, been one of the jurisdictions in the forefront of safety in our buildings. It is true as my honourable friend from St. Boniface has suggested, that with the ever-increasing provision for buildings to go up and up and up, it does appear that safety provisions, particularly in relation to fire, have been overlooked.

I'm informed that pretty well all of the buildings that have gone up in recent years, and what I mean by recent years, the last 3 or 4 years, which buildings are higher than 10 storeys are in effect fireproof buildings, that the fire fighting equipment that is available, Mr. Speaker, at the present time is only able to take care of the people who live in the tenth storey or below that storey. I think I recall the other day in the House, Mr. Speaker, that having had the opportunity of being down south at a Labour Ministers' Conference, and having had the opportunity of speaking to the fire fighting forces in the City of Louisville, that they informed me that it was difficult to be able to provide for escape mechanisms of people who resided above the tenth floor.

What we are really concerned with I think, Mr. Speaker, is not so much the actual fireproof construction of high rise apartments, but rather the fact that after the high rise has been built, people take into the apartments materials, furniture, and other accommodations that are not fireproof and this is where we're having the difficulty, not only here but in other jurisdictions as well. I'm sure honourable members are aware of the travesty and the huge loss of life which took place down in, is it Argentina or Colombia, in South America, with a large loss of life. The same thing has happened in a few instances on our own North American continent, but it was the human element involved that really . . .

A MEMBER: Would the Minister entertain a question?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: I'm following the Minister's remarks with respect to his concern about the type of furnishings that are being brought into these high rises and I concur with him that that often is the difficulty in terms of fire hazards and so forth. I'm wondering whether the Minister would possibly be giving some serious consideration to making it compulsory to have waterbeds from the tenth storey up as a way of assuring some greater safety factors?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I really can't answer that specifically. Maybe my honourable friend the Member for Lakeside has had some experience in associations on waterbeds. I must confess, I must confess that I have not, but I have heard of some of the incidents that do take place on a waterbed, but possibly by virtue of my age or because of my virtue, I haven't been able to participate on a waterbed. It could be. It could be.

A MEMBER: A good safety factor.

MR. PAULLEY: Well, I don't know if a waterbed that my honourable friend refers to, Mr. Speaker, is any safer than other beds that some of the rest of us that were born ahead of my honourable friend encountered in years gone by.

However, I do want to say, Mr. Speaker, that it is the human element really that

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd). . . . --(Interjection)-- I'm not opposed to the waterbed but had it of been invented a few years ago I'm sure that I would have been very favorably agreeable to its complete acceptance as far as the Minister of Labour is concerned.

But one of the difficulties that we're really encountering at the present time, and this is the purport of the resolution of the Honourable Member from St. Boniface, is that a task force be set up by this Assembly in co-operation with the respective municipalities to consider codes. Well, Mr. Speaker, one of the problems that we're having here in this jurisdiction, and I think that it's also a problem in other jurisdictions as well, that by and large it requires people of knowledge, experts, to assist us in arriving at conclusions. And in the Province of Manitoba we have the Director of the Fire Commissioner's Office in the Department of Labour, a person who is constantly conducting inquiries and surveys by other fire commissioners across Canada, we are members of the Canadian Safety Association, and in co-operation with them have under constant review, not only changes in the building codes, not only in the provisions of safety devices, but constantly we are on the alert to try and figure out ways and means whereby greater safety provisions in construction and in particular safety provisions insofar as fire is concerned are drawn to our attention. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I will be introducing a bill - I think that on Votes and Proceedings that we have received today there is an indication that I intend to introduce for the consideration of this Assembly a piece of legislation dealing with buildings and mobile homes for the purpose of safety provisions, and encompassed in the general approach of safety provisions, is contained provision for fire safety as well as other safety factors as well. So I do want to say to my honourable friend the Member for St. Boniface I appreciate his resolution, but I do want to indicate to him that this is an ongoing consideration of the department of Labour, the Fire Commissioner's section, and also the Mechanical and Engineer's section, and of course I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, that my honourable friend will agree that unless we have safety provision in heating equipment, in the use of gas equipment and electrical equipment, that we can't really have any true safety provisions.

I think my honourable friend the Member for St. Boniface would have been interested had he been in this House, oh maybe five or six years ago or more, when we had quite a fiery debate. And this isn't meant to be a pun. We had quite a fiery debate in this House on the provision of smoke detection devices, and when we went into Law Amendments Committee we had agents from certain corporations that manufacture smoke detection devices. The end result was that where there was a desire to have established in many of our apartment blocks devices for the detection of smoke, that it was pointed out that these devices in many instances gave a sort of a sense of false security to the people who were living in the apartment block. My honourable friend the Member for St. Boniface referred to a recent tragic fire, Haslemere by name, that we had; people were in there and they had a sense of false security because they felt that if in the event of a fire a bell would go off, or a smoke detector would automatically send in an impulse in to the fire department, that they were okay. Such was not the case.

I can appreciate that there are many buildings in the City of Winnipeg, and not only City of Winnipeg, I think the same could hold true in the Town of Swan River where the buildings, and I'm not certainly picking out Swan River out of context, Mr. Speaker, but in many areas of the Province of Manitoba there are many of the older buildings that have not been upgraded, to use that phraseology, to what we now consider standard construction requirements. And if we look all across the broad spectre in Manitoba it could conceivably be an immense hardship to, as of today or tomorrow, make a requirement that all buildings that were constructed say 30 or 40 years ago immediately should be brought up on to the higher plane. It is our endeavour, and our desire, that this be done. --(Interjection)-- Yes they did. But because of the new - my honourable friend the Member from Swan River says they built them to last in those days. Structurally Mr. Speaker, I would say my friend is absolutely correct. But I would say that the involvement of the human factor in those days, and the involvement of the introduction of new technological construction in furniture, such as foam rubber and plastics, and the likes of that, has changed from that day, that structurally the buildings are still good but they haven't got the detection devices that are a requirement due to the human factor today. I again would say to my honourable friend the Member for Swan River, I doubt very much whether in those days that he referred to, in which I concur, very many people smoked in bed, and here again is one of the problems that we are confronted with. --(Interjection)-- Yes, and

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) they looked after their fireplaces, and I have a fireplace in my home that I look after. But I can imagine in some cases, Mr. Speaker, that fireplaces in some homes are not looked after as adequately as they were in the days that my honourable friend from Swan River is referring to, that there's a difference.

Now my honourable friend the Member for St. Boniface made reference to Haslemere, the investigation that was made by the Chief of the City of Winnipeg Fire Department Cam Shewan, a man with whom I have had constant consultation. I want to say to him, I want to say to the members of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, that we at the present time do have unified approach in this very vital area of fire prevention. May I, Mr. Speaker, just in passing indicate that the department is so concerned in these particular areas, that in the recent two or three years the facilities of the department in respect of fire prevention have been expanded. We now have a fire commissioner, or assistant fire commissioner, domiciled at Thompson, another one at Brandon. We're taking a very close look as to whether or not we shouldn't continue our expansion by the domiciling of an assistant fire commissioner say in Dauphin, or Swan River, or those particular areas, in order that our process of education in fire protection can be enhanced.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't reject the suggestion of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface as to the establishment of a task force, the basic principle, all I suggest to him, and to the members of the Assembly, that this is an ongoing concern that we have within the Department of Labour and the Fire Commissioner's Office, and I would in all due respect suggest, Mr. Speaker, it wouldn't matter whether we were the government, the Conservatives were the government, or the Liberals were the government of the Province of Manitoba, we would have to continue a full involvement in these particular areas that are so vital to the well-being of all the citizens of the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, there's no way that anybody could disagree with the intention of this resolution. I agree with the Honourable the Minister of Labour who has just spoken when he says that he is in sympathy with the purport of the resolution itself but that this kind of thing as is advocated in the resolution is an ongoing practice. We certainly subscribe for our parts on this side of the House to the intent of the resolution but it's a little like endorsing motherhood in that it bespeaks necessary activity and exercise that, as the Minister has pointed out, goes on to a certain extent in a continuing way anyway. But even if it didn't, even if it didn't I don't know that the establishment of the kind of task force or investigative body that the resolution requests would necessarily produce the kinds of results that we all hope to achieve in the fire prevention field. So, as I say, it seems to me to be a little like endorsing motherhood, but I'm not going to stand up here and fail to endorse motherhood, so I'm not going to stand up here and fail to endorse the intent of this resolution.

My concern, Mr. Speaker, with the whole subject is in the area of design of buildings, and the degree to which they're designed for safety or for aesthetics. I have talked to a number of builders and architects on the subject in the past few months and I've had some admissions to me from the building industry, and from the architectural profession, that the emphasis in this day and age is probably on aesthetics and on beauty more so than on some of the other features that we desire and require for the sake of safety. It used to be that buildings were designed for durability and for the usefulness, and insofar as it was possible, for safety. There was an ugly old fashioned fire escape down the side of the building or down the back of the building. Well those mechanisms were pretty unsightly but they served a purpose, Mr. Speaker, and I wouldn't hazard a guess at the thousands of the countless lives that they no doubt saved in times of fire.

Nowadays the old fashioned fire escape of course would be regarded as an ugly eyesore that would destroy the architectural beauty and the aesthetics of a building, and it's not even contemplated in the planner's mind or in the builder's mind. But I think that unless we can come up with a substitute that is as efficient as that old fire escape was, that it may not be entirely unreasonable to consider that there should be a re-emphasize back on that kind of an access route for buildings over a certain height. Now you can say to me Sir, that a 40-storey high rise or a 50-storey high rise is going to have to require an awfully long fire escape. And I admit that. I admit that, but I suggest better a long fire escape than no fire escape at all.

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) If you're up there on the 38th floor and if there is access, or there is escape from the danger, and from the fire, available to you by a window and by an outside route, I am sure there is nobody in this Chamber who would deplore the fact that that fire escape happened to be extraordinarily long.

I think the difficulty is in persuading ourselves and persuading the design and building professions that that kind of practical feature served a purpose that is not replaced, is not replaced in any way by simple beauty and simple aesthetics. I don't know whether on buildings of that type it's practical to construct an exterior fire escape but I suggest that the time has come because of the emphasis on high rises in our society, I suggest the time has come to consider that some kind of shift of emphasis is overdue. That we need to get back to the safety angle, because we're not going to be building less or fewer high rises because of the cost of land and the congestion of urban areas, we're going to be seeing more and more high rises built, perhaps not taller and taller, but more and more up to a certain height. The time is overdue, Sir, it seems to me to stress with the building and design professions the need for some kind of practical escape route, and if it has to be as ugly as a fire escape on the exterior of a building then so be it.

The Minister has suggested in his remarks, Mr. Speaker, that his research and his advice indicates to him, persuades him, that high rise buildings being built today with today's modern materials and modern techniques are essentially, for the sake of argument anyway, fireproof. I've heard the same case made by the building industries and the building trades that high rise buildings are fireproof. But if firefighting machinery is only capable of reaching to a certain altitude, and if high rise buildings are exceeding that altitude, we've got high rise buildings, and we've got people and we've got firefighters all living in the same community, how can the building trades, how can the designers, how can the architects say to the Minister, and say to me, that these buildings are fireproof. They're not fireproof if they exceed the ability of the firefighters and firefighting equipment to cope with an emergency on their upper floors. They may be technically fireproof in the jargon of the building journal, but they are not fireproof in the practical sense if they've got 10, 20, 30, or 40 floors that are beyond the reach and the scope and the cope of the firefighting equipment that we have. So I dismiss that argument out of hand that high rise buildings are fireproof. They're only fireproof as far as the technical journals are concerned.

Mr. Speaker, we've heard some reference to the vortex effect of the high rise shell itself when a fire breaks out, and to the suction effect that that type of structure has, and I think that it's worth mentioning that the elevator mechanisms in high rises generally should be looked at from the perspective of the danger of fire. I know that in many buildings, many many buildings now when you approach the elevator bank and you go to press the button you don't actually have to touch the button to attract the elevator. It's actually the heat from your hand or from your finger that engages the button and the button mechanism and turns it on for you and starts the process in motion. That being the case it seems rather precarious to locate that kind of a mechanism in an environment that could be attacked by fire. When it's human heat and warmth that activates the mechanism on the wall one shudders to think of the activation resulting from an active combustion. The result of course, in many of these buildings is that if a fire does occur the elevator mechanisms themselves go crazy as it were and it's not possible to use the elevator or the elevator shafts either to reach an escape route on the lower levels or the upper levels. I think that this is a scientific aspect, that I'm sure those investigating the fire factor in modern buildings are fully conversant with, but I just wish to mention in passing that it certainly deserves the attention of anybody in this House looking into the subject or anybody on the task force proposed by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

Mr. Speaker, I endorse the remarks that have been made about the recommendations brought forward by Fire Chief Shewan and the proposals from him and his colleagues insofar as they have found their way into a proposition to be placed before the Minister of Labour in his capacity as the Minister responsible for safety in the field of fire in this province. I would hope that there will be an extensive and a concerted study of those proposals under the aegis of the Minister and an application of as many of them as is practical just as soon as is possible. I know that the Fire Chief has personally participated for many years in the study of the danger and the possible reduction of that danger, and I would hope that those proposals are not just subjects of discussion but are going to be tangible take-off points for action.

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd)

The Minister said during his remarks that there may be many old buildings that have not been upgraded and of course we know that to be the sad fact and demonstrably dangerous in such fires as the one that struck the Haslemere Apartments in such a tragic way. And it's true that there are many buildings of that type that have not been upgraded. On the other side of the coin I wonder, Sir, whether there haven't been some new buildings that have been upgraded too far to the exclusion of the kinds of safety features that I think society not only requires but has a right to demand through us, its legislators.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to propose that some practical mechanism for co-ordination be worked out between fire safety officials, fire fighters and designers and the design industry themselves. It seems to me to be illogical and impractical for architects and other members of the design profession to be working in one area that amounts to a vacuum on a subject while fire prevention officials, safety officials and fire fighters are working at the other end of the spectrum to try to maintain some degree of safety for the public, and the two fields seem to be operating mutually exclusive of each other despite the recommendations that come forward from fire prevention officials. I would hope that there can be some mechanism set up where there is a co-ordination between the design industries, the fire fighting forces and the fire prevention officials so that the package that goes into the construction of a building is a package that includes all the necessary features. The functionalism, the efficiency, the durability, the aesthetics and for heavens sake the safety, and until there is a co-ordination between those two elements it seems to me that that primary requirement, that primary ingredient, the safety feature is going to continually be overlooked and be subordinated to the aesthetics.

So I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that I endorse the sentiments and the thrust of the resolution proposed by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface but it seems to me to lack the punch in the teeth that I hope the Minister in his capacity as Chief Fire Prevention overseer in the province can bring to the recommendations that have come forward in recent weeks from Chief Shewan and to the arguments on behalf of fire prevention and safety that have been advanced in this House in recent weeks.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, in deference to my honourable friend, it's now 5:25, I'm wondering if you, Sir, might consider calling it 5:30 on a Wednesday. And if that is agreeable, Sir, I think members - and I'm not sure of this, I'm not sure whether the Speed-up resolution passed but I do believe we revert to the - 2:30 . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I'm at the pleasure of the House. Does the House wish to go now? (Agreed) The House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 tomorrow afternoon. (Thursday).