

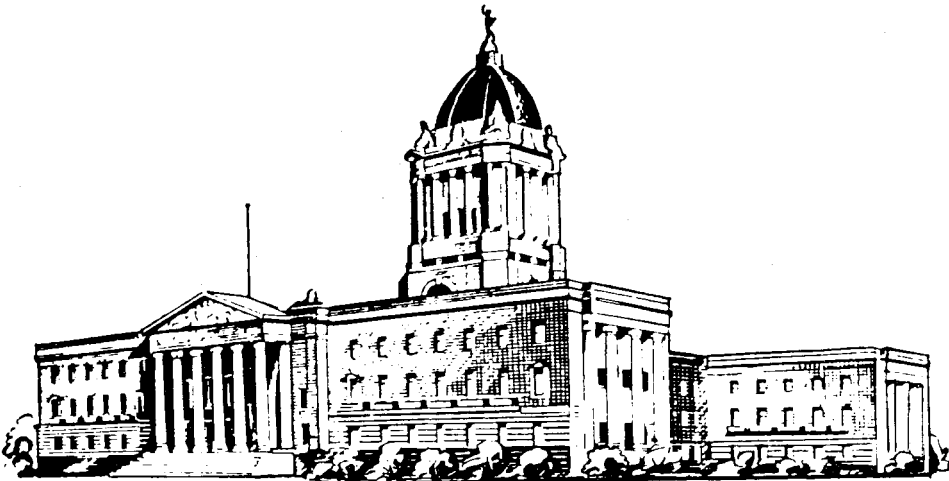


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXI No. 44 8:00 p.m., Thursday, March 7th, 1974. First Session, 30th Legislature.

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

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

8:00 o'clock, Thursday, March 7, 1974

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed this evening, I would like to draw the attention of the honourable members to the gallery on my left where we have 33 young boys, members of the 177th Cub Pack, Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 under the direction of Mr. Fred Manness and Mr. Doug Grimsley. These Wolf Cubs are from the constituency of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia. On behalf of all the members of the Assembly I bid you welcome.

SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 7(a). The Honourable Minister of Agriculture. The Honourable Minister has 20 minutes.

MR. USKIW: It's not my intention to use the 20 minutes, Mr. Chairman. I just have one more item that I did not deal with that was put to me some time ago, and that was the question of how much money was spent on the rapeseed poll. I want the honourable members opposite to know that we spent a total of \$2,066 in the promotion of the rapeseed poll or the idea of promoting the rapeseed to come under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board -- (Interjection) -- \$2,066, Mr. Chairman, I should like to make the observation that it was probably a little low since we are only about 5 percent short of the required votes to win that particular vote and we'll try to do a better job next time, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 7 was read and passed): Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,558,000 for Agriculture. (Passed)

(Resolution 8 was read and passed). Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$902,300 for Agriculture. (Passed)

(Resolution 9 was read and passed). Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,790,000 for Agriculture. (Passed)

(Resolution 10 was read and passed). Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,404,000 for Agriculture. (Passed)

Resolution 11(a) Livestock Production (1) -- The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, just a very brief comment at this particular part of the Estimates dealing with livestock production. Now, Mr. Chairman, it's not my intention to belabour the question that has been raised by different members of the Chamber from time to time and it has to do with livestock production and it's in a state right now in the Province of Manitoba. I want to indicate to the Honourable Minister that the concept of recognizing the importance of livestock production and the responsibility that government can and should play from time to time in encouraging that production in terms of diversifying our agricultural base, is not one that this government or this Minister has all of a sudden tumbled to.

I am sure the Honourable Minister himself, who is actively engaged in farming, will recall the very same efforts that were made by one George Hutton at the time that he occupied the position that the Minister now enjoys. There has always been a recognition, I think it's fair to say, on the part of most prairie Agricultural Ministers that it's important, it's worthwhile to devote efforts and moneys on the parts of Departments of Agriculture to attempt to diversify our base, to attempt to encourage livestock production of all description, to take us away from the straight grain economy. And so, while maybe there have been harsh things said about some of the management aspects of the diversification program from our side, let me take this moment to indicate to the Minister that it's not that we disagree in principle with what he is trying to do.

I do think, though, Sir, that you, Sir, would be as much concerned as anybody else, even though you, Sir, are not directly involved in agriculture, about the kind of situations that have been brought to our attention, that of obviously poorly managed loans given to people who obviously haven't had the capacity to handle the responsibility of these loans; and then, Sir, whether you're an agricultural person or just another human being who doesn't like to see cruelty to animals, would agree with me that there is an insult to injury added when, as a result of public money taken from taxpayers at large, to encourage somebody to go into the livestock business that obviously has no wherewithal to properly look after them and then have to have situations reported as have been drawn to the attention, I'm sure of the Minister and to the Department of Agriculture. I'm concerned primarily that the Minister recognizes and his department recognizes the responsibility that they have when they promote these programs,

SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE

(MR. ENNS cont'd) . . . the additional amount of supervision that has to go along with these programs.

I asked a question earlier on this afternoon, Mr. Chairman, of the Minister and I don't know whether he has had the answer although he has staff available to him, that in the particular instance that was brought to our attention just this past week, where some 40 to 45 animals died literally of starvation, or malnutrition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I'd like to caution the member that there is, I think pending court action which is sub judice and I just caution the member.

MR. ENNS: I accept the caution that you give me. What I am trying to say, and I will not refer to any particular case, is that there is a great deal of responsibility on the department, on the credit lending agency - in this case the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation - to be absolutely satisfied that its procedures, its inspections, its control to some extent, is such that abuse cannot--or at least everything possible is done that the kind of abuses that have been drawn to our attention can be minimized and can in fact, should in fact not take place. Really, Mr. Chairman, they should not take place. When you consider that the Minister has indicated his efforts and we have applauded his efforts to decentralize his department, when you consider that there is really no farmer in Manitoba that is more than perhaps 50 or 60 miles removed from an agricultural representative's office, staffed with Agriculture departmental people, you know, in our day and age of ready communication it should just not happen that this kind of a situation arises where, leave aside even the agricultural aspect, just take the cruelty to animals situation, that's inherent in the situation.

So, Mr. Chairman, while we're passing \$3,361,700 for the concern and production of livestock in this province, I take these few minutes of the Committee's time to bring to the Minister's attention that this is a concern that could obviously hamper the program, could really hamper and in fact put public pressure on the Minister and the department to pull back from this kind of a program, which I think is worthwhile, if these kinds of situations cover the front pages of our newspapers and in our media generally.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I really appreciate the comments of the Member for Lakeside because they are much more in the spirit in which I would want the members of the opposition to look at the major thrust of the Department of Agriculture. Certainly it has to be said that it is some contradiction of the comments made by the Member for Morris just the other day, where he alluded to the idea of these programs having no greater meaning than a camouflaged welfare system or program. So I appreciate the fact that the Member for Lakeside, having been a Minister, knowing the situation probably more fully than does the Member for Morris, is prepared to outline a more responsible criticism of the Department, and I thank him for that.

I now wish to, for the public record, Mr. Chairman, read a statement that I would want to be broadcast throughout the province and it follows on a number of other statements that have been issued by the department on the very point that my honourable friend raised, and that is the need for the public to protect its investment through the proper information and communication in light of the fact that we are having some problems with feed supplies and the quality of the feed, unbeknown, Mr. Chairman, to many of our farm people, and I think one has to take that into account. I wish to now read into the record, Mr. Chairman, the statement that I would want to be carried through the media and whatever other sources are available.

STATEMENT

Mr. Chairman, in recent weeks there have been a number of reports on the seriousness of the livestock feed situation in Manitoba. Evidence is accumulating that the combination of a long cold winter and poor quality fodder is causing problems of malnutrition that may result in the death of animals and that may pose even more serious problems in the calving season which is now approaching. Earlier in the winter there were reports of hay shortages in some areas of the province, notably the northern Interlake. These shortages were caused by heavy rainfall which prevented farmers from harvesting their forage crops. In response to these shortages, I announced on December 31, 1973, a Hay Transportation Assistance Program, whereby the Department of Agriculture assumes to pay ten cents per ton mile, that hay is moved in excess of 25 miles with a limit of \$18.00 per ton. To date, 134 applications for

STATEMENT

(MR. USKIW cont'd) . . . assistance have been dealt with; 9,433 tons of hay have been transported at a cost to the government of \$50,950.00

When reports were received that some farmers had difficulty obtaining credit to purchase hay, the facilities of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation were made available so that livestock producers might obtain \$2,500, or up to \$2,500 worth of credit on the strength of a promissory note to purchase hay and forage. With cold weather prevailing through January and February, it became apparent that the principal problem is not the short supply of hay but that much of the hay and roughage fed to livestock is of such poor quality that it will not sustain the animal through the winter in good health.

It must be feared, Mr. Chairman, that malnutrition of livestock is now widespread throughout the province. In the past few weeks, the Department of Agriculture has been conducting an extensive publicity campaign to alert farmers to the actual and potential dangers of malnutrition in their livestock herds. Farmers are being warned that low quality hay or straw will not sustain an animal through a prolonged cold spell, and that roughage must be supplemented with high energy pellets or grain to keep the animals in good health, and that a daily ration of grain is particularly important for cows that will be calving this spring.

It is understandable, Mr. Chairman, that farmers are reluctant to feed grain to livestock because grain prices are currently very high. Still, farmers should not risk to lose animals that may be worth four or five hundred dollars in order to save \$25.00 worth of feed grain. In order to assure that farmers who do not have grain of their own will not lack funds to purchase feed grains, I have asked the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation to extend credit to livestock producers for the purchase of feed grains. I am also asking farmers who are in doubt over the quality of their hay, to use the facilities of the Department's Feed Analysis Service and to follow the recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, the government on the Department of Agriculture is doing everything possible to make farmers aware of the seriousness of the situation. In the final analysis only the producers themselves can correct this problem of malnutrition, and in my opinion they will do that once they are fully aware of the danger. My reason for making this statement to this House, Mr. Chairman, is to lend emphasis to the efforts of my department to create the awareness among producers.

SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE Cont'd

Now, Mr. Chairman, I wish to add somewhat to those comments. It is indeed unfortunate that one or two or half a dozen individuals might be victims in the application of the Criminal Code of Canada with respect to malnutrition problems in the livestock industry, victims even though they were not fully aware of the seriousness of their own problem. And really, anyone that knows the livestock industry at all would appreciate the point I am making, in that while an animal may not appear to be in a dire state of starvation, it in fact could very well be in that situation, and one would not know, would not know unless one did a very thorough check through the use of our veterinary services or certainly when they faced the prospect of animals literally dying at the moment, or at that particular point in time when they are checking on them. So I think that while we do have one or two situations in the province that has already been drawn to the attention of the enforcement agencies, it probably is unfortunate that proceedings are under way under the Criminal Code, and it's my intention in that connection, Mr. Chairman, to introduce a new animal diseases act or animal husbandry procedures, which will probably pre-empt the need for action under the Criminal Code in the future, and that is the idea in that act, Mr. Chairman, would be to provide for the public to have the right to intercede in a situation where it's deemed necessary and to provide the necessary feeds in spite of the management of the individual in question, so that we can prevent a situation. In other words, the idea would be prevention rather than to penalize for lack of good management, and members opposite will be asked in a very short while to approve those measures so that we do not have to face the kind of prospects that we now face in the courts.

One cannot - and I say this advisedly - one should not prematurely judge the character or ability of those people whose names have been already publicized in this respect, and it's my hope that justice will be done and that because of the inadvertence rather than the wilful neglect, that people will not suffer the dire consequences that are possible under the Criminal Code section.

SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE

(MR. USKIW cont'd)

Mr. Chairman, I think the Member for Lakeside in particular would appreciate those points and I leave the balance of my estimates with the members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 11(a)--the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A. R. ADAM (Ste. Rose): Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask one question of the Minister. I know that he has gone on record of being in support of banning livestock imports from the United States because of possible residue of DES. I know the ministers, the four ministers are also in favour. I would like to ask the Minister if he could indicate when we are going to have some action on this. When can we expect to have some results insofar as banning livestock imports from the United States?

MR. USKIW: I believe the Member for Ste. Rose was probably not here when I replied to his comments of the other day, where I had indicated, Mr. Chairman, that the four Premiers of Western Canada agreed in principle to convey to Ottawa the message that they would not want livestock from the U. S. imported into this country, that is in particular those that may have been provided with DES services. On the other hand, Mr. Chairman, it may be necessary to recommend a complete ban on imports because it may be technically difficult to separate the DES users as opposed to the ones that have not been subjected to the drug.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 11(a)--The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. D. JAMES WALDING (St. Vital): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of my colleagues asked since when am I a farmer, and I can assure him I'm not and I really know very little about farming or agriculture and under normal circumstances, I suppose, I would not rise during the Minister's estimates to speak on this subject.

My constituency is one of the sort of inner suburbs of the city. There are no farms there and very few farmers, and during the last election campaign when I went around and spoke to most of the people, there were very few who had anything to say about agriculture or any of the agricultural programs that were before the electorate at that time. The few inquiries that I did get, a matter of three or four, had to do with the land-lease program that was being proposed at that time, and there was some doubt in people's minds as to just how it would work, but when it was explained to them they seemed to accept it and see the logic behind it.

But the real point of my rising to speak tonight, Mr. Chairman, was to add a little more fuel to the fire perhaps on the case of the great hornswoggle, and I refer to the remarks that have been made by the Member for Lakeside in particular, both on his behalf and on behalf of his party, when he claims that he had been duped and that his party and the caucus in this House had been duped by the Philadelphia lawyer, as he called it, who sits on our front bench, and I would like to just go back and look at some of the things that were said at the time of that debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I appreciate the honourable member that I have allowed a lot of latitude, but once we get off the Minister's salary we have to more or less stick to the item under discussion and the item under discussion right now is livestock, so I wish the honourable member would confine his remarks to livestock, not to land.

MR. WALDING: I thank the expert in the back row opposite, Mr. Chairman. If you're ruling out any further debate on the matter of the Minister Acreage Tax Act that was before us recently, then I've nothing further to add.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to stick to the item under discussion. (Resolution 11 was read and passed.) Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,361,700 for Agriculture. (Passed)

(Resolution 12 was read and passed.) Resolved that there granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,969,900 for Agriculture. (Passed.)

(Resolution 13 was read and passed.) Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$410,600 for Agriculture. (Passed)

Resolution 14, Technical Services. (a) (1)--passed. (2)--the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask the Minister if he could give us figures on how many grants were made available for the installation of water and sewer in rural Manitoba, for farms excluding the villages and towns.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, a grant on the farm water and sewage systems, I believe the member wanted to know the totality to date. As I see it there were 2,200 grants paid to

(MR. USKIW cont'd) . . . date. That's the aggregate total for a period of two or three years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 14 was read and passed.) Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,971,800 for Agriculture (Passed)

(Resolution 15 was read and passed.) Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,383,200 for Agriculture. (Passed)

(Resolution 16 was read and passed.) Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$557,000 for Agriculture. (Passed)

Resolution 17, Employment and Training. (a)(1)-- The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, I wish to ask the Minister a question on employment and training. I know that the farm people do have a difficult time in getting assistance and help and I see there's a substantial reduction, about a half a million dollar reduction in the Estimates on Resolution 17 in respect to employment and training. Can the Minister explain the reason why?

MR. USKIW: I'm advised, Mr. Chairman, that that's a decrease in the Interlake FRED Program which is on the downscale now entering its final phase. That program terminates in 1977 so that we're involved in residual spending at this point in time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 17 was read and passed.) Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,585,700 for Agriculture. (Passed)

(Resolution 18 was read and passed.) Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$493,700 for Agriculture. (Passed)

(Resolution 19 was read and passed.) Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$351,300 for Agriculture. (Passed.)

That completes the Department of Agriculture.

I would refer honourable members to the next department, being the Department of Labour. I would refer the honourable members to page 31.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I believe that the Department of Agriculture is followed by the Department of Co-operative Development which is the Minister's responsibility. Is he not intending to follow that procedure? It's been followed in the past.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, there may be some misunderstanding in this connection I think that the list that I gave to the honourable members had Agriculture, and I'm not suggesting that I myself might not have misunderstood but the Minister is not prepared to go ahead with the Department of Co-operative Development at the moment so even if there was a misunderstanding it just can't be called at the moment. So I'll have to call it at another time and proceed with the Department of Labour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: On the point of order. Is this not the first occasion in which the Department of Co-operative Development has not followed Agriculture?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I can't recall. I know that there have been occasions when the Department of Agriculture has not come up or when the Department of Agriculture has gone through completely, but I repeat to the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition that even though there may have been a misunderstanding in this connection, and the Minister of Agriculture doesn't appear to think that there was, he is not prepared to proceed at the moment with the next department and therefore I'm calling the Department of Labour. I will then try to schedule the Department of Co-operatives so that the honourable members will see to it that that department is also called.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I think it's worthwhile responding to the Leader of the Opposition. Last year the two were brought in together but not intentionally, Mr. Chairman. It just so happened that there was virtually no debate on the Co-operative Department and in fact I believe he didn't even have time to get the staff in for the debate and it was sort of just passed through without much discussion whatever, so I don't believe that that was a precedent on which we would want to agree to handle this year's program.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Chairman, are we to assume then from the Minister's comments that, because he anticipates a debate and wants to run away from it, they're not going to bring in the Department of Co-operative Development.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I anticipate that there is some problem and some misunderstanding but the Minister assures me that he will be prepared to deal with that department, he's just not prepared to deal with it right now, and misunderstood my own position. Now, I will now have it cleared up so that there is no misunderstanding about the next department.

First of all, I tell you that we will try to get the Department of Co-operatives brought back at an early date even before some of the ones that we have listed.

Secondly, that when we are dealing with the estimates of the Minister of Labour, I take it that he will also be prepared to deal with the Civil Service Commission so that there is no doubt about that. It will be the Department of Labour and then the Civil Service Commission, and I will see to it that the Department of Co-operative Development is brought back at an early time even if we have to insert it in front of one of the departments already called.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: What the House Leader's suggesting, although we've received a list with respect to the departments that it's possible the Department of Co-operative Development will be brought in before the list that we now have.

MR. GREEN: . . . which I will accommodate that request, because I see that there is a problem there and therefore I will even try to see to it that perhaps the Minister will follow the Minister of Labour. He's just not prepared to proceed tonight, that's all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: I wonder if the House Leader would give us the assurance that the Department of Co-operative Development will be brought in even if the 90 hours have elapsed.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I will try to see to it that the Department of Co-operative Development is brought back even before the items that I have already scheduled. If the 90 hours is spent on the Minister of Labour's Estimates, then we are not undertaking to call the Department of Co-operative Development.

MR. CHERNIACK: Or if he's not ready.

MR. JORGENSEN: That's the cue for the Minister of Labour to ensure that the 90 hours will elapse in his department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Is the committee prepared to proceed? I would then refer honourable members to page 31, Resolutions 74 to 82. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

SUPPLY - DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, if it is the desire of the opposition to pass the Estimates of the Department of Labour, I'm quite prepared to accommodate them because I do feel that in the whole ambit of governmental responsibility . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . a point of privilege. What is his point of privilege?

MR. WATT: Maybe the Minister of Labour would bring in the labour bosses who he is speaking for.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. That is no point of privilege. It's not privilege. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: You know, Mr. Speaker, I admire the remarks of my honourable friend from Arthur, that if I were to bring in my labour bosses I would fill this Chamber to overflowing because my bosses in the Department of Labour are the people of the Province of Manitoba. And you see further, Mr. Chairman, I would indicate that because of the involvement of the Department of Labour, in all aspects of the community from one end of Manitoba to the other, I have no precise bosses but it is our responsibility, indeed our obligation, to see that the labour laws of Manitoba are fair and equitable to all that are under the jurisdiction and under the legislation of the Department of Labour. So I want to assure my friend if he has anything in his mind that indicates that I have bosses precisely or an individual group, may I suggest to him at the offset such is not the case and really may be a figment in the imagination of my honourable friend the Member for Arthur.

Mr. Chairman, it is my privilege once again to be able to introduce the Estimates of the Department of Labour. I am grateful for the chance to take part in this time-honoured ritual. It gives me the opportunity to outline to honourable members what the department proposed in the way of new legislation, and to comment briefly on its over-all approach to our social and economic problems.

SUPPLY - LABOUR

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) .

This year the department has in mind some important changes in legislation. I believe that as I outline them there will be agreement that they are essential and what we have in mind will be greatly acceptable to honourable members of the House. There are certain important needs that must be met and we propose to meet them.

One major piece of legislation the department will be furthering has to do with Workmen's Compensation Act. We have in mind a fairly extensive revision of key provisions of this statute which deal with the amount of compensation which should be payable to workers injured in industrial accidents and for past accidents as well. We know that in certain respects our present Act is deficient and in some ways may even be unequitable. Some of these changes I intend to propose for the consideration of members are somewhat overdue, and I am sure that when they are revealed in due course to the members of the Assembly, that they will meet with general approval. I do not see them, Mr. Chairman, as proposals which will give rise to heated debate. I'm confident that this House will see, as we do, that the Manitoba Workmen's Compensation Act should not be lagging behind those of other jurisdictions. Instead, this province of ours should be in the forefront in its protection of injured and disabled workers and their dependants. I do not believe that there will be any disagreement on this fundamental point.

A somewhat different area will be covered by a new statute to be introduced, known as the Power Engineers Act. This legislation is intended to replace the present Operating Engineers and Firemen Act. The problem here is the familiar one of trying to keep abreast of technological change, of new and improved safety devices designed to give the public better protection through uniform standards applied in reciprocating jurisdictions.

The substance of this new Act, which I will be proposing in due course, has been exhaustively reviewed by the Department with experts in the field. They are the operating engineers themselves, the professional bodies, the trade unions, employers and contractors. It is agreed by all of these groups that I refer to, Mr. Chairman, that this new legislation is desirable, and with such expert unanimity behind it, I cannot see that there should be too much debate on the proposals which will be contained in this Act.

Mr. Chairman, for the same technological reasons, the Department is proposing repealing the Public Buildings Act and including coverage of the present act under a new act called A Building and Recreational Vehicles Act. This act will include coverage of public buildings, mobile homes and recreational vehicles. There has been a considerable increase in the number of mobile homes. There is also a considerable incidence of hazard involved in their use. Bringing these homes under the scope of such a statute should materially improve the safety factor involved. Again I suggest that in this area it doesn't appear as though it is a very controversial bill, but since the commencement of the Session, Mr. Chairman, I find that some non-controversial bills result in much verbiage and much debate, so maybe I'm treading on dangerous ground when I suggest a bill that will give greater protection insofar as safety, particularly to trailers and mobile homes, that it may be more controversial than I feel it will be at the present time.

This sums up basically what we are proposing in the way of major legislative change. It constitutes the hard core of what we believe essential at this time. None of it lends itself to rhetoric, none of it should cause dissension. In a way I regret this, Mr. Chairman. It might have been far more exciting to present something more exhilarating, something that would provide debate and cause the oratory to flow, and maybe as a procrastinator I'm in error at the present time. I see a smile on the face of my honourable -- there he goes again, you know. Thanks Harry, I see a smile on the face of my honourable friend from Assiniboia and I await in anticipation his comments in this very important field of human endeavour. But I suggest again, Mr. Chairman, that there could have been more suggested changes but they could conceivably happen in the near future.

I do not propose at this stage, Mr. Chairman, to take up much more time, but if you will permit it I would like to make a few general observations about labour relations in Manitoba. As a matter, you know, that's dear to my heart is that of collective bargaining. I remain convinced that the process of free collective bargaining is the best means of resolving industrial disputes. I see nothing in the developments in Manitoba of the past year to change my mind about that. Our new Labour Relations Act has worked out in practice just about the way the

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . Department expected. It has resulted in a substantial increase in union organization and, if honourable members will recall, the preamble to the new Labour Relations Act we established as the objective of the Labour Relations Act precisely that: an opportunity for workers to band themselves together in agents for their betterment in the industrial field.

Over the past year there has been a marked increase in certifications of unions, Many more workers are engaged in collective bargaining now than ever before. It was expected, Mr. Chairman, on the introduction of our new Labour Relations Act that this might lead to more disputes and, in some cases, more strikes. This has happened, but those strikes with very few exceptions have been of short duration. They have been settled quickly and no one has been hurt, and I think in most cases strikes have helped the parties start off their mutual relationship on a realistic and enduring basis.

It is true, Sir, that in the past year we have had a few strikes which have proved to be stubborn. Some of them have gone on for a long time and are still going on. This of course is regrettable. However, it has not proved to be disastrous. The impact of those strikes has been limited. No one has been seriously hurt, not even the parties themselves. These strikes have gone on for so long simply because both sides have dug in, each convinced, indeed as they should be as a matter of principle, that it is their right. The department has done everything it could to bring these strikes to an end. So far this has not been possible in every case but still, Mr. Chairman, the services of the department are there for the asking and all that is needed is for the parties to indicate they are ready to call it a day. I am still firmly convinced that compulsion in industrial disputes is not the answer to our problems

Of course, there are ways, Mr. Chairman, of ending strikes. The most obvious is by compulsion. I suppose we could step in and possibly force settlement. We have not done that and we don't intend to where the parties are against it. The department feels strongly that in the long run it will be better for everyone if the resolution of these strikes and differences are resolved by the parties themselves. I have not changed my mind, Mr. Chairman, about strikes or the role they play in collective bargaining. I still believe, as I always have, that in order for collective bargaining to be meaningful there should always be the ultimate weapon of a strike held in reserve. This does not mean, Sir, that it should be used without discretion and used irresponsibly. It means that the strike should not be outlawed. It should be available legally to every worker where a situation leaves no other alternative.

But, while I think this is so, I recognize that there can be situations where the use of the strike should be avoided. There are times when the cost to the immediate parties is too high for what they can get out of it. There are industries which are essential in the sense that strikes in those industries can endanger the health and safety of the community. There are situations in which the effects of strikes can't be limited to immediate parties and the repercussions can, and often do, extend to causing hardship and suffering on innocent people. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that where this is likely to happen it is far better for the parties themselves to consider less costly methods of settling their dispute. For that matter, it seems to me that this should be in the minds of employers and unions at all times. I am not suggesting the banning of all or any strikes. The threat can remain. What I'm really suggesting, Mr. Chairman, is that unions and employers, knowing the strike threat is there, will turn their attention to ways of avoiding strikes. I am convinced and confident that this is not beyond the ingenuity of the parties to dispute.

There are all sorts of techniques that could be tried. Voluntary arbitration is one we hear about mostly. There are other approaches too. There may be ideas that unions and employers may come up with that are brand new. The Department and I are greatly concerned with this matter. We propose, Mr. Chairman, to do all that we can to encourage and promote the working out by the parties themselves in industrial disputes, of alternatives to the strike. This will be one of the prime objectives of the department in the coming year. I again want to emphasize, Mr. Chairman, that when the new changes were made, when the changes were made in the new Labour Relations Act, the whole thrust of the changes was to place the responsibility where, in our opinion, it should rest between the employer and employee to solve their differences themselves and not under the threat of compulsion which was contained within the previous Act. I'm convinced that the unions and management can by mutual consent and

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . co-operation, enter into a system whereby under a voluntary-- and I want to stress the voluntary aspect--that under voluntary binding arbitration the differences can be resolved.

I recall, Mr. Chairman, that when I introduced the amended new Labour Relations Act which did away with the compulsion of the report of a conciliation officer before a strike or a lockout could take place, there were great fears on the part of some members of this House that there would be no more conciliation proceedings. I want to suggest to my honourable friends in the Assembly, Mr. Chairman, the reverse is true. There has been more involvement with the conciliation officers of the Department of Labour than ever before. More potential strikes have been resolved as a result of the input of the members of the conciliation services within the Department of Labour

Mr. Chairman, I know all is not well. I know that there are areas where improvement can be made and that they will be made.

MR. ENNS: You're being too modest.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, I am a very modest individual and I doubt very much whether we could describe my honourable friend from Lakeside as being modest like the Minister of Labour. However, Mr. Chairman, I note that it's now just about the time for us to go into Private Members' Hour. I do appreciate, as I indicated at the offset of my remarks, it is indeed a pleasure for me to introduce these estimates once again. I do want to pay tribute to both management and labour for their co-operation to me as Minister. I'm in the very fortunate position that both management and labour from time to time indicate to me that the Department as a whole is co-operating in order to stabilize union management relations in the province of Manitoba, and it is my hope as Minister, that before I vacate this office there will be an expansion of union management relation committees, more collective agreements, so that each side in our industry knows precisely what the other side is doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour being 9 o'clock, the last hour of every day being Private Member's Hour, Committee rise and report.

MR. GREEN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry merely wants you to see him so that you will call him next time, that's all.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I simply wanted to ask if I might call it 9 o'clock, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nine o'clock - committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, has directed me to report same, and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

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

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Matthews, that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR - PUBLIC BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: First item, Private Members' Hour Thursday night, is adjourned debates on Public Bills. Bill No. 22. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry. The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Speaker, last night I moved an amendment that you had taken under advisement. I am hoping that I will be able to introduce an amendment which might help you by suggesting the following:

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. We are on Public Bills. When we get to Private Members' Resolutions, the honourable member can take that matter up then. Bill No. 22, the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: May we have the matter stand, Mr. Speaker. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 23. The Honourable Member . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder, the Honourable the Attorney-General has been under some, I don't know how to use the word, he's been called several times by the Law Society relative to their elections and they were hoping that this thing could move along so that they could hold their elections in accordance with the new bill. So I only want the honourable

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) . . . member to be aware that that is the case.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 23, the Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Stand.

RESOLUTION 17

MR. SPEAKER: Private Members' Hour. Resolution No. 17. The Honourable Minister of Mines has eight minutes left. The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Speaker, last night in speaking to the resolution by the Honourable Member for Roblin and the amendment by the Honourable Member for Wolseley . . . --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Portage state his point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

MR. G. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): My point of order is the fact that the resolution that the Honourable Member for Radisson wishes to amend in a different manner in which he did last evening is last on the order paper this evening, and if the member is allowed to proceed this means that other members should have the same privilege. It's last on the order paper, it was taken by you; I don't know whether it was taken under advisement or not, but my point is that if we depart from the order paper without some sort of understanding that others can have the same privilege then I think this is irregular.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, that's entirely satisfactory. I think what the Honourable Member for Radisson wanted to do is to have your ear before you dealt with the matter which you have under advisement so that if there was a way of clearing it up before you made a ruling he would like that to be done. However, if you're not going to be ruling on this resolution until it comes up again on the order paper then could we merely ask that you consider that the Member for Radisson wishes to make a position before you make your ruling which will clear up the difficulty.

MR. SPEAKER: Well I'm at the pleasure of the House but I did intend to take up the matter when the resolution next reached the order paper on top. So if it's agreed at that time I'll take that reservation into consideration. Now we are on Resolution 17 and the honourable Minister has about eight minutes left.

MR. GREEN: Yes, well, Mr. Speaker, just before I get to the resolution I do want you to note that the Member for Radisson wishes to try to clear up the matter before you make your ruling so that a ruling will not be necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: If the Member for Radisson wants to rise on a point of order to clear that particular matter up, there's no real objection to it as long as it isn't considered part of the debate, because I think it would be improper to embark on a debate on this particular matter since it's down at the bottom of the order paper. But rising on a point of order is perfectly proper procedure.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Speaker, that's just what I intended, to rise on a point of order to assist you in deliberating your decision to take the amendment moved by me under advisement. If I may suggest . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: . . . if I may suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the amendment made by me last night be corrected to read, "that the amendment by the Honourable Member for Wolseley be amended by deleting, to rescind the 12 percent sales tax on building materials and substituting the following: to adopt policies designed to lower the mortgage interest rates to six percent. To increase the funds made available to low income earners to CMHC. To assist the provinces and municipalities in assuring an adequate supply of service land at reasonable prices, and to insulate Canadians from the impact of international price increases in basic building materials." Mr. Speaker, that is moved by me, seconded by the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. SPEAKER: Well I would like to say that at this moment if anyone in the future

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(MR. SPEAKER cont'd) . . . has something of this nature to propose would they at least have the courtesy to have a spare copy for the rest of us so that we could follow it on all sides of the House, because otherwise debate will arise as to what takes place. Right now I'm not certain I want to accept this but I will and I'll consider it in my considerations.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: My apologies, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER: Resolution No. 17. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, in looking at this resolution I almost shudder to be brought back to the atmosphere which we were in the last time this matter was discussed before the House. I thought that there was, in quote and with due respect to the Honourable Member for Morris, "a nothing resolution before the House". --(Interjection)-- I knew that he would, except that he described it almost as such in his own opening remarks, that he really, he really wanted the House to discuss the committees that it has and to consider their purposes, etc., that the resolution was put in a way almost as I put it at the time to try to preclude any possible amendment because there was almost nothing that one could complain about with the resolution. I indicated to him that if the House passed the resolution it would be considering the advisability of changing the committees, but I also indicated that likely if this resolution were passed that it really means that we set up a committee of some kind and look at what the committees are doing to see whether they could be improved. I said I resisted the temptation of moving an amendment to the honourable member's resolution to prove that it could be done even though he thought that it couldn't, but I rather thought that we were in a lighthearted and constructive debate on all sides.

The Leader of the Liberal Party obviously took the matter much more heavily than I thought the occasion deserved and used the occasion to try to indicate that this party while in power had done terrible things, vis-a-vis committees, terrible things vis-a-vis private member's resolutions, that we were foreclosing avenues of debate, that we were making it impossible to obtain information. I believe that he used remarks relative to the Minister of Finance which were considered so incongruous by the newspapers that they attributed the insults to myself rather than to the person to whom they were directed, which is fair game, it really doesn't matter, and led to the occasion where I was shocked to find that I had offered my resignation to the House in the newspapers the next day.

What I had done, the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party had said that no private resolutions had been adopted during the past two or three years and I didn't offer my resignation. I made a wager. The wager was that if the Leader of the Liberal Party was correct I would resign my seat. If I was correct he should resign his seat. I wasn't making a gratuitous offer. Furthermore, I wasn't offering anything at all because I knew damn well that I was right and he was wrong. The only thing that made the debate equal was that I said that it was a dollars to doughnut bet because my political future was worth something whereas the Leader of the Liberal Party was in a very precarious position and it was like betting dollars to doughnuts. However, it wasn't looked upon in that way by the newspapers the following day which indicates that sometimes proceedings as they are viewed from different eyes take on different contexts which I suppose was best shown in a movie called R. . . . a Japanese movie which was a very simple story. There were four people who were involved in an event and each one told of the same event, and the stories were all diametrically opposed to one another, with each person telling the story of course magnifying all of the good qualities of his own involvement and his own importance and minimizing the good qualities and the involvement of the other three. And I suppose that we are all subject to that type of interpretation of our own actions so I gather that that is the way the debate was looked upon.

However just to protect my position, vis-a-v-s my political future, I just picked up a journal at random, 1973. --(Interjection)-- No, I got 1971, '72, '73 and I'm sure that I can find them in the others, but the '73 - Resolution, private members agreed to. Accounts of programs in which provincial government is involved, annual publication of, moved by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, No amendment referred to. Question put, agreed to. The resolution was agreed to. The next one, Accounts of Universities Crown Corporations. House to consider advisability of seeking annual publication. Put by the Leader of the Opposition. No amendments that I can see recorded. Question put, agreed to.

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(MR. GREEN cont'd)

So I have saved my position in any event. I rather - well mildly regret that the Leader of the Liberal Party wouldn't accept the bet but he has often made the kind of statement which he is not prepared to back up so it comes as no real surprise.

The Leader of the Liberal Party also said that somehow our committee system had been ruined by this government. Of course he wasn't around under previous administrations and one therefore has to make allowances. The fact is that regardless of party politics and not saying that it is a great plus, but perhaps because we have been involved in more changes and maybe controversial ones, the fact is that committees have met more often and have been subjected to greater scrutiny under the government in the past five years than have been the case in the past.

Now the Honourable the Member for Lakeside will say that the Hydro Committee on Public Utilities when the bill was being considered, that was bill 15 I believe it was, certainly was one in which there was great scrutiny and people making presentations. That is correct, I don't think that it could reach the intensity of the auto insurance debate and both those were on bills, but beyond bills, now, that is committee considerations other than bills I don't think we have a bad record, Mr. Speaker. We presented several reports from various Crown corporations, the one on mineral exploration, one on Moose Lake logging, both of those will again come before committee this year. Whatever one says about the Manitoba Development Corporation's position the fact is that the previous administration took the position that those were not matters to consider before the House let alone committee. That we have presented the report with the names of the firms that get money. We go before committee, the chairman appears there, he turns over to the members of the committee all of the financial statements of companies in which we have equity and answers questions on them. And will do so this year.

So the fact that the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party was not here before would perhaps, would "perhaps," and I guess I'm being charitable, excuse me for the kind of --(Interjection)-- the kind of - well you know and I'm not inclined to give it, but the fact is that in this case we will make that allowance that he perhaps --(Interjection)-- No, I'm not inclined particularly to be charitable to the Leader of the Liberal Party. As a matter of fact I tell you that if I was the returning officer - he is my member, something of which I am not that happy about but he is my member - but if I were the returning officer I would not have waited two days, I would have announced before the votes were counted that if these votes come out equal I'm voting for Murdoch McKay. Now the returning officer he took far more time about making his decision. But nevertheless one can excuse that type of comment, or one can let's better say ignore it, because it doesn't relate to real experience in the House. Anybody who's been experienced in the House knows that regardless what they say of the government we have not made the committees less a problem, and the very motion that is made by the Member for Morris indicates that because of the intensity of activity perhaps we have to relook at how committees are used. Many of the committees never met, the Member for Portage la Prairie knows that Agricultural Committee quite often never met and some of the other committees never met, and that's not serious. Now one can ignore that. . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister's time is up. I'm sorry.

MR. GREEN: I wonder if I can just make one sentence. That's not true. Just two minutes. What should not be ignored is the type of remark that was made this morning at committee. The honourable member said that committees are a mockery, that we don't scrutinize, that we don't look into detail. We were at the telephone committee meeting this morning, Public Utilities, the Leader of the Liberal Party was there. Mr. Speaker, his remarks will be transcribed but I'm going to try to repeat them as near as I can remember them. He said, 'Mr. Speaker, we don't have to go through this report, we don't have to scrutinize it. We have to think of questions of policy which will be debated in another place. I'm prepared to have the report passed, the salary of the chairman increased and the meeting disposed of'. Now, that was his attitude before committee today, as against saying that the committees are a farse, that they don't look into detail, they don't scrutinize. And that, Mr. Speaker, is something which cannot be forgiven.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this resolution, and in the 20 minutes that are allowed to me to deal with several matters that have been discussed in this House in the past by myself and to follow along the presentations that have been made by the other members. I must say I was absent during the time that the Leader of the Liberal Party made or gave his presentation. I've read it both in the newspaper and in Hansard, and I feel that what he has done is demonstrate again his basic frustration with the system that he does not understand. Having said that, and having in the main agreed with the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, the House Leader for the Government, the frustration that he has is a real frustration in opposition, and I think we must not ignore the reality, the reality, that the fact that he has not been able to acclimatize to the rules of the game that are played here does not necessarily mean that there isn't some legitimacy to the position that government being what it is today in its growth year by year and in its continued increased involvement in our lives requires different techniques for examination which warrant change.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, that if anything this resolution should be one in which we can address ourselves to the kind of changes that should occur, and it's not necessarily a reflection on the present government as much as a reflection on every government in the country, that change is very difficult for a government when in power because simply it requires innovation and energy to bring about the change. They have their other problems to deal with and everyone who then becomes a member of the government becomes part of that establishment who follow in a procedure which essentially says we follow past precedent, we are as open as everyone else, and maybe more so, if we can provide something a little bit here and there, but generally speaking, we do not want to be put in the position of having the opposition put us in any embarrassing position one way or the other on any particular issue.

Now having said that, I now want to talk about reality insofar as this Legislature is concerned. I don't think that the committee system is working very effectively. I think that there are situations where information is available but I don't believe that the public interest is being protected in the way in which we are operating now. I think that changes are required and I have no doubt if the members opposite and the House Leader was on this side that he would be one of the first people or person, he would be one of the first of the group who would stand up and say, "We need change for a variety of reasons," and Mr. Speaker, we've reached the point where the change that is required to a large extent is required in the committee system itself, and in the information that is available to a committee, available to the Legislature, prior to the discussion by the committee of the matters before it.

Now I want to talk about one particular matter that does concern me and it was made reference to in some of the speeches and the House Leader made reference to it today. Mr. Speaker, the government has taken the position that they are not bound by resolutions passed in this House. They will consider the advisability . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. There are many resolutions that do not say "consider the advisability" and any one that is passed becomes a house resolution. When the resolution says that "we consider the advisability" we are bound by that. We are bound by every resolution that is passed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out and I don't want to debate this particular matter on and I think this is -- yes I now -- Mr. Speaker, the Honourable House Leader is debating the point and I want to now insist that there is no way in which the Opposition in this House can introduce a resolution which affects the treasury and the Consolidated Fund and requires additional cost, without suggesting that it be considered the advisability of, because that is the present - we cannot deal with any money bills. So therefore, the form provides that we must deal with it. Having passed that, Mr. Speaker --(Interjection)-- No, Mr. Speaker, up until the present government it was considered by the former government that if a resolution was passed on which the "consider the advisability" was passed, it was an obligation on the part of the government to in fact bring that into law and, Mr. Speaker, the government -- well, the government has changed that, and Mr. Speaker, the interesting thing about that is that means that the government is in the position, as the Minister is, to suggest that we pass in this House a resolution to consider the advisability of public accounts of

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd). . . universities and Crown corporations being brought forward by the government. That doesn't mean that it will happen and that doesn't mean that even if the will of the Legislature has been expressed in this way, which is the only way it can be expressed -- it can't be expressed in any other way; it cannot be said in any other way than that -- the Legislature -- but that's what the Legislature is there for as well. If the government does not want the Legislature to give it direction it can vote against it, but the government here in this particular case voted for the resolution and in supporting the resolution now says, "We are considering - We are not obligated to do it. We are considering." And, Mr. Speaker, that was not the position of the former government, and as a matter of fact many resolutions that were introduced by the members opposite when they were in opposition, were not approved because of the fact that if the government did approve it, it meant that they were obligating themselves because that was the Legislature's will to in fact carry out the will of the Legislature by way of that resolution.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to get involved in that, I think that's a minor part of what I'm going to say, but it goes to the question of the fact that there's an agreement already in this House that more information than is now provided is needed. And why is more information needed particularly around the Crown corporations? Because in effect, Mr. Speaker, we know very little of what is happening about a substantial sum of money which is handled by the government and its agencies which truly, Mr. Speaker, is not accountable to this Legislature or to the people.

Now notwithstanding all the protestations that the honourable members opposite may provide, notwithstanding all the statements of what they suggest, realistically, Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba in this Legislature, as the people in Canada through the House of Commons, know very little about the whole range of government spending that they should be accounting to the people for. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the honourable minister, with respect to the Crown corporations of the Manitoba Development Corporation, the Manitoba Agricultural Corporation, the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, we know very little. And with respect to the universities we have one item in our estimates that will show \$45 million for the University Grants Commission; we'll have another item that will show \$100 million for the Manitoba Health Services Commission; and we are asked to pass on that one item a particular matter and deal with a report that only gives us really superficial information and not detailed information of what is happening. And, Mr. Speaker, the time has come for the committee system to change and to be altered so that in effect, at the committee system, those people who are chairmen will be in a position to present to the committee, information supplied before and at least researched before by the opposition before that committee comes together, which will deal with sufficient complete public accounts, properly done line by line, properly done by comparison to previous years, so that in effect we can make the judgments that have to be made. And, Mr. Speaker, this is not for the opposition of 1974, this is for the opposition of 1977 and for the opposition of 1981. --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, there'll still be an opposition in 1984 - who knows what that opposition will be?

Well, Mr. Speaker, we need changes in the operation of government to be able to provide this. Now, Mr. Speaker, I believe that notwithstanding the resolution that was passed last year, that much of what I am saying will fall on deaf ears because the government has no intention of doing this. I believe that the government is quite prepared to say, "We are more open and we bring the chairman of Hydro and we bring the chairman of the Telephone System to the committee, and we bring the chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation to the committee, and we'll bring the chairman who is the Minister of Public Insurance Corporation to the committee, and in doing that we are in a position to say we have provided someone who can answer all the questions." And Mr. Speaker, let's go back to the Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources, and let's remember what took place when the chairman at that time spoke and when the vice-chairman had to stand up and say that it was not true, the statement that he was making, and then had to walk out of the committee because he was not allowed to speak, and then resigned.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that in all honesty the government can suggest at this time that the procedure that we're following really provides for the members of the opposition the opportunity to be able to examine in detail the affairs of many corporations which involve substantial sums of money of the public. I do not believe that they can suggest that this

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd). . . is really happening. We have a form but in effect there is no substance and this is the problem with the way the committee system is operating with respect to that whole range of area.

Mr. Speaker, there is too much money now being handled by government in a variety of different ways that are not properly accountable and it would seem to me that we must provide the ability for the House and the Legislature and the people to be able to review this. Mr. Speaker, this means that the Board of Directors and the General Manager as well as the head of the corporations must be present. It means that we need proper Public Accounts which will be detailed in a way that they can be compared year by year by all the corporations including Hydro, and including the Telephone Company, the Telephone Corporation, including the Public Insurance Corporation; because, Mr. Speaker, that is where we would be in a position to be able to make the judgments of what has happened. I suggest to you that we put into the system that only if some information comes into the hands of the opposition are they capable of bringing to the attention of the people some particular situation. Because, Mr. Speaker, the information is not available to the opposition; it's not available to the people of this province. It's available to the corporation's board of directors and to some of the top officials and to the minister and to the cabinet, and if it's serious it will never reach public scrutiny in most cases.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Liberal Party has suggested, and we have suggested last year, that you know, you cannot deal with the Crown Corporations involved in the Manitoba Development Corporation by simply saying we produce a book and then we sit down at a committee which will be held, and there may be two or three other committees held afterwards, and we now will produce the information to you. When Dr. Briant appeared before the committee, the information that he presented was contradicted by the detailed information in writing that he presented the week after dealing with the companies in which we had equity. The statements weren't even the same and yet he made that presentation before us, and Mr. Speaker, I suggest that we should not be put in this position. One of the things we suggested in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and one of the committees that I believe should be set up now, is a committee on public corporations which would deal with those public corporations that the government holds 100 percent and whose scrutiny would be completely different, I suggest completely different than the scrutiny of other particular government agencies. Those corporations in which we have 100 percent ownership, including Hydro, including Telephone and those corporations of the MDC of which 100 percent is owned, and the MDC itself but plus the corporations in which we have equity of 100 percent, should have the full range of managerialship present, so that questions can be asked because we have a right to know.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that it can be accepted that the managerial decisions are not really subject to the scrutiny of this House when in effect what we are talking about in the case of some of the corporations is almost an unlimited access to the public purse for the continuation of the program, and the only thing we have to stop that unlimited access is a decision of either the minister or the cabinet as to what will happen, and that is not good enough, particularly when those managerial decisions are not in any way subject to any kind of observation by the opposition or only will come about if there is a failure or if there is some serious kind of incident which brings it to public attention.

Mr. Speaker, and then when it is brought to public attention because of the way in which we operate within this structure, what happens is that we then deal with the matter and we may deal improperly with it because we don't have the information, and because we don't have the information we are penalized in dealing with what really has got to be considered our responsibility because we are talking about substantial sums of money and the answers that should be given are not given. And I don't believe that a government who is going to be prepared, and if we were government we would be prepared, to involve yourself as the government has with respect to private corporations, the ownership of which is 100 percent by the government, to account fully.

We have suggested, Mr. Speaker, that if we were successful as government there would be no involvement in equity unless it was brought in by way of private bill. We suggested, Mr. Speaker, and we are quite prepared if we are government to provide that where the government does become involved in either 100 percent or joint venture, then legislation will be brought forward. And further, that the records and the managerial responsibility would be brought before a committee, yearly, to be able to account, not in the manner that's been suggested by

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(MR. SPIVAK con't). . . the Honourable Minister, but in far more detail, and we don't think we have anything to fear. If it is not successful, and it cannot be successful, then judgments have to be made, and those judgments have to be based on some intelligence and not on the basis of a government trying to basically be more concerned about its efficiency in management and about the political consequences, because what we are talking about are again a whole range of programs which involve substantial money.

We don't believe, Mr. Speaker, that the government's whole range of programs are even subject to the scrutiny of this House properly. And they would include PEP, and they would include STEP, and they would include all the range of programs administered by the government whose detail is not in fact given to this House, and there is no way in which we can do the kind of things that we should be doing, to be able to question programs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable House Leader would suggest, yes, we have procedures, we can ask for an Order for Return. Well, Mr. Speaker, we can ask for an Order for Return, that doesn't mean even if it's approved that we will ever see it. In most cases we won't. If we ask for an Address for Papers, the chances are almost 90 to 1 that we'll see it, even if it's approved. So, Mr. Speaker, when they say that there are procedures what they are talking about is essentially a fiction about what takes place in this Legislature and the time has come for the committee system to be so devised that in fact will have the power and the ability to be able to deal with the whole range. We suggest public account. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. SPIVAK: We suggest public accounts of all the universities. We suggest public accounts of the Manitoba Health Services Commission. We suggest public accounts of the Manitoba Agricultural Corporation, the Manitoba Development Corporation, the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. And, Mr. Speaker, we believe that the time will come when this will take place. It's obviously not going to be by that government but it will be by a government that will replace them.

Now, having said this, Mr. Speaker, I would like to deal for just a few moments remaining to me about the way in which we operate on the committee system with respect to other matters.

The Standing Committee on Economic Development. Last year the committee with the vote of the chairman, voted to basically become involved in hearings on the cost of living. We passed it, so what happened? Nothing. It's in control of the government; no such additional meeting was ever called. Now it's true we had an election but there was plenty --(Interjection) -- no, no there was plenty of time. No, no, that happened to be a situation in which the chairman, even though he's minister now, I think surprised everyone, including the premier, by voting at that time in favour of the proposal. But, Mr. Speaker, the fact is that the committee never met. The fact is that the government really basically controls the committee and that's part of the frustration that's been expressed by the Liberal Leader, and it's true. The government basically controls them. All one has to do is sit at the committee hearings and realize that one of the main members of the treasury bench will be present there and will be directing really what's going to happen. Now that's not unusual I guess when you say that committees will always have majorities of government people on them, but the problem is because we have not defined clearly the objectives and purposes of the committee, because we have not set out in our rules the functions of the committee, and because we have not given the committee, or recognized that the committee should have the added responsibilities that it should have to be able to basically call witnesses and be in a position to deal with those issues that are current and are before it either by way of legislation or are in the public domain or the public arena, because we have not set that up, we have a situation where the committees realistically are at the will of the government of the day and if we deal with an area which is embarrassing, we know what the result will be. And you know, you can say that's democracy because the government has the majority; but I'm suggesting that democracy will function better if the committee system is allowed to provide for the opportunities for things to happen more than what are happening now, for our ability to be able in fact to extend the committee as an outreach to be able to reach the community, so that we are in a position to hear the complaints and are in a position to deal with the matters that are affecting people, because otherwise we go through a form which gives some the impression that in the course of doing it, we are dealing with matters.

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

MR. WALLY JOHANNSON (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, I'm entering this debate partly because of the admonition of the Honourable Member for Morris that the government back-benchers should involve themselves more in private members' resolutions debate and also because of debate that has already gone on.

The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources has indicated that our caucus intends to support the resolution as it's worded. We have no intention of amending the resolution. We feel that changes are possible in the committee system and I think the resolution could have fruitful results, an examination into the committee system could bring about improvements and we're not adverse to doing this. So we have no intention of opposing the resolution or amending it.

I would like to take this opportunity, seeing I didn't get the chance in the Throne Speech debate, to pay tribute to several people who have played a part in committee activities over the past years. I would like to pay tribute to the former Member for La Verendrye, Len Barkman.

A MEMBER: Hear. Hear.

MR. JOHANNSON: Len Barkman sat on a number of committees with myself, with the members of our caucus, and I think all of us are fully agreed that you wouldn't find many finer gentleman than Len Barkman. --(Interjection)-- Yes he was a terrific poker player. Len played a very productive part on a number of committees. He was a man who wasn't terribly partisan. He did a lot of positive things in committee work. Those sort of things don't get newspaper headlines but they do result in good works.

I'd like to pay tribute to the work of Frenchy MacDonald, the former Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. I was on the Municipal Affairs Committee for a number of years, Chairman for several. Frenchy MacDonald provided us with a good deal of advice and I'm sure that all of us who were on the committee learned a great deal from Frenchy. He always made himself available to all members on committee and he certainly did invaluable work.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition seems to approach this resolution from a rather different angle than the Member for Morris. The Member for Morris is interested in looking in a positive way at the committee system and trying to devise something better. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition is primarily disconcerted with the fact that he's not in government. He refuses to accept the fact, he refuses --(Interjection)-- Yes, that is quite understandable. We understand the fact that he's frustrated as Leader of the Opposition, that he would like to be Premier, but unfortunately the people of Manitoba chose otherwise. --(Interjection)-- Yes, I should say fortunately. Very fortunately. --(Interjection)-- No. I can tell the Honourable Member for Lakeside that although the role of a government back-bencher can be frustrating I still like being a member of the government, and I intend to continue being a member of the government for as long as possible.

The Leader of the Opposition berates the fact that the government basically controls the committees. Now that's a problem, because in the parliamentary system the government, unless there's a minority government, the government does control the committees. And you have to live with that fact. And much as you may dislike that you're going to have to live with it. I was saying that you're going to have to live with the fact that the government controls the committees.

And the member complains about the fact that a committee doesn't have sufficient power to call witnesses. Well I believe a committee right now does have the power to call witnesses. But the majority of the committee decide, and in fact a committee deals with nothing that is not referred to it by the House. So if there's a majority government in this House the committees deal with what is referred to it by the majority in the House.

The Leader of the Opposition complains about the fact that our committee system lacks openness and accountability, and granted he will never get all of the information that he wants because the Leader of the Opposition is a very partisan person and his basic purpose in this House is to embarrass the government, to embarrass it often enough, consistently enough to discredit us so that eventually the people of Manitoba will decide that he would make a better Premier.

MR. ENNS: Would the member submit to a question at this point?

MR. JOHANNSON: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd)

Mr. Speaker, the government has never presented to the Standing Committee on Economic Development any kind of economic development plan. We have each year a different kind of procedure by the Minister who comes in and one year will show us with this particular statistic. He will bring in a report of the Department of the Economic Advisory Board which is a group that for all intents and purposes should be scrapped, it doesn't accomplish anything, the information supplied by it to the government is never followed by the government. But nevertheless the Minister will bring that in. Or he'll bring in another particular item to take up the couple of hours of the committee and the government then can say, well the standing committee of Economic Development met this year. But who are we kidding? Now come on, who are we really kidding? Nothing very much is really happening and nothing very much will happen. And you know, it is just hollow to suggest that we really have open government in this respect or that we are following through with the purpose.

So, Mr. Speaker, I suggest this. The Honourable Member from Morris has introduced a resolution which I have no doubt will be passed, and I think that's what the House Leader said himself. I have no doubt it'll be passed. But having said that it will be passed, and having recognized that there is going to be changes to be made, let us hope that instead of using the rhetoric of openness, instead of suggesting that there is real full accountability when there is not, that there be an attempt on the part of the government to work out changes that will provide for openness and accountability, recognizing that the day will come when they will be in opposition and if there is an advantage . . .

A MEMBER: Ha Ha, you won't be . . .

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, well you won't be around I should say to the Deputy House Leader. And I want to suggest, Mr. Speaker, if there is an advantage to the opposition, and I don't believe that there is, then they will have that advantage. But I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the time has come for this to take place and this is the interest of the people of Manitoba and it's the interest of a government accounting to its people.

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MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Speaker, agreeing with the honourable member that the governments control the committee and the committees have the authority and the power to call witnesses, would he not also agree, or at least recognize the frustration of the opposition from time to time that the government also controls as to which witnesses will be called?

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

MR. JOHANNSON: I agree fully that you are frustrated in a situation like that. The opposition repeatedly want to question civil servants down the line from the deputy or the chairman and hopefully they are going to find someone who disagrees with what the chairman or the deputy is preaching. Now you're always - in any department of government there's a constant conflict going on over policy decisions. There's usually a fight before a policy is finally decided upon. --(Interjection)-- The Honourable Member for Lakeside is fully aware of how the system works. There's conflict within the system. When a policy is finally decided upon then the Minister accepts responsibility, the government accepts responsibility for that policy. But it can't accept responsibility for the conflict that develops prior to that.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned the fact that the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation should be called before, I believe Public Accounts or one of the committees of the Legislature, for a full accounting. I really can't understand what he hopes to get out of that because at present, just to use this as an example, at present the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation's current expenditures are contained within the Estimates of the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Minister responsible for housing. The opposition has every opportunity during the estimates to examine the current expenditures of the Housing Corporation. The capital estimates come before the House, they're brought before the House by the Minister of Finance in Capital Supply. Now if the opposition can't find the information that they want through those two processes then all I can assume is that the opposition is incompetent. They've gotta be incompetent, if they can't get the information they need in the Housing Corporation through the Minister's Estimates and through Capital Supply, because all of the information that is available can be available through those two processes. And one can only conclude, I can only conclude that the honourable members don't know what they're doing.

I want to deal briefly with the speech made by the Leader of the Liberal Party and I regret the fact that he's not here. He referred to the private members' hours as being a very important part of our parliamentary process. He referred to private members' hours being a very important part of our parliamentary process and he shows his regard for the private members' hour.

I want to examine a number of things that he said in his contributions to the debate on this topic. The member on another resolution accused me of being a liar and mentioned the fact that I indulged in . . .

A MEMBER: Who did?

MR. JOHANNSON: The Leader of the Liberal Party. That I indulged in irresponsible babble. Now I happen to regard the position of a politician as being an admirable thing. I think that political life is the highest role that one can play in our society, I happen to think it's a noble role. I happen to think that men can perform very valuable service - a man can perform a very valuable service to society in this role. And I happen to have a high regard for the institution of parliament.

Now let's look at what the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said on this debate, on this resolution. He said, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Finance and his party wouldn't understand that. The regimented - and I'd like the members of our group to listen to this because this should be interesting. "The regimented discipline, the doctrine and doctrinaire approach of the NDP couldn't conceive that we could have a private members' debate in which some of us may differ." Now the members of our caucus who spent the last four years in this House will recall that we had the Member for Thompson in our group, the Member for Rupertsland, the former member, the Member for Crescentwood, --(Interjection)-- If anyone calls our caucus a disciplined and regimented group he's never lived in it. He referred to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources as Yahoos. A very responsible statement, Mr. Speaker, showing great respect for the members of this House.

He also stated, "I want to put on record that I condemn and I express supreme distaste and contempt as a person who believes in freedom and democracy for the present committee

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(MR. JOHANNSON cont'd). . . system of this House." That doesn't sound terribly parliamentary. He referred to the Minister of Finance as having become the great arrogant, the great dictator, the great restrainer of all types of freedom in this House. And he says the issue is very simple, that the committee system in the House is thwarted, is made a mockery because the government decides through its "stooges", and I use the word stooges, what the committee will do. He used this term about four times, stooges. "Because the chairman of the committee is the stooge of the government and the majority of the committee is the stooge of the government."

Mr. Speaker, I happened to check into Beachesne and I find that reflections upon the conduct of the chairman of a standing committee is considered as a matter of privilege of this House. I'm not raising it now as a matter of privilege of this House, because if one were to raise a privilege of this House every time something objectionable was said by the Liberal Leader one would be popping up every half hour. And also it mentions imputations against members serving on private bills committees as being a matter of the privilege of this House. And the Honourable Member the Leader of the Liberal Party did reflect upon them also.

A MEMBER: Why don't you bang him one. . .

MR. JOHANNSON: Yes, that would be an admirable suggestion. The Member throughout his contribution to this debate repeatedly violated the privileges of this House, and, Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to ask for any withdrawals because I expect this sort of thing from the Leader of the Liberal Party, I'm just sorry . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes.

MR. JOHANNSON: . . . I'm just sorry he's not here. Mr. Speaker, while the committee system of this House will never be satisfactory to the members of the opposition, and while it may have some imperfections and can stand improvement, I think that this government has done a great deal to improve upon the workings of the committee system in this House. The Mines Minister made reference to some ways in which committees are doing more work within and during sessions than they did formerly. And I'd like to bring to the attention of the House the work that the committees have done between sessions. Since we were elected in 1969 I happened to check the Journals of the House. The standing committees of the House and the select committees met, held meetings, on at least 170 occasions over the four-year period. I think if one were to examine the previous four years of the Conservative administration you might find - how many meetings? Ten or fifteen between sessions. We held 170 over a four-year period, and most of those were public meetings, meetings at which the public could be present and was present. I think a lot of those committees did good work, good non-partisan work and I'm saying that a lot of the members of the opposition made a real contribution to those committees.

The Leader of the Liberal Party said that the chairmen of the committees were stooges of the government and that the members of the committee were stooges. Well that doesn't really, that doesn't really hurt my feelings because I've developed a thick hide over the last few years. But the members who sat on the committee, the Statutory Regulations and Orders Committee that examined the Landlord and Tenant Act will recall the work done by the members on the committee; the recommendations that were made on the Landlord and Tenant Act were formulated by members of the committee and by the chairman, and the Minister, the Attorney-General to whom these recommendations were forwarded accepted the major recommendations of the committee and these were implemented, put into legislation.

The Municipal Affairs Committee examined the Municipal Act and examined the Local Government Districts throughout the province, and again the Minister, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, largely accepted the recommendations of the members of his committee. These committees did very good work in that they had a great deal of contact with the people of the province. As I said, most of the committees held public meetings. The committee on Local Government Districts, for example, held hearings or meetings, public meetings, throughout all the LGDs in the province and the contact that was achieved by the MLAs with the local people I think was very fruitful for both. It provided a great deal of education for the members. I know certainly that I benefited a great deal and I think most members who were on the Local Government District meetings would probably admit that they learned a great deal about the variety of problems in the province and about the feelings and the needs of the various parts of the province.

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(MR. JOHANNSON cont'd)

So, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would say that we are prepared to support the resolution and to look at a number of ways that the committee system could be improved.

MR. SPEAKER: The hour of 10 o'clock having arrived, the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 10 a. m. tomorrow morning. (Friday)