



**Third Session — Thirty-First Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

28 Elizabeth II

*Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Harry E. Graham  
Speaker*



**VOL. XXVII No. 61A**

**2:30 P.M. Tuesday, May 15, 1979**

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, May 15, 1979

Time: 2:30 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER** by Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell):** Before we proceed, I should like to draw the honourable members' attention to the Speaker's gallery, where we have 15 people from the Soviet Union, who are on a Canadian Goodwill Mission.

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

We also have an abundance of school students here, and we have 42 students of Grade 5 standing from the Van Belleghem School, under the direction of Ms. Wicks. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Finance.

We also have 35 students of Grade 11 standing from the Princess Elizabeth School at Shilo. These students are under the direction of Mr. Balkwill. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Brandon East.

We have 44 students of Grade 11 standing from the Arborg Collegiate in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. George. These students are under the direction of Mr. Strulynski.

We also have 40 students of Grade 5 standing from Arthur Oliver School. This school is under the direction of Sylvia Robertson, and the school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. James.

On behalf of all of the honourable members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Radisson.

**MR. ABE KOVNATS:** Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directed me to report same, and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Emerson, that report of Committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

**HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside):** I'm pleased to announce, Mr. Speaker, that as of today at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon I'm rescinding the evacuation order for the area within the ring dyke of the community of Rosenort, and have so advised the citizens of Rosenort that they may be returning to their community as of 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. I have copies of it to circulate.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

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

**MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour and Manpower. In view of the release of the Statistics Canada figures this morning indicating a 1.1 percent increase in the level of unemployed in Manitoba, is the Minister of Labour and Manpower prepared to confirm that in fact that rate of increase in Manitoba of 1.1 percent of unemployed is the highest

increase percentage-wise of any province in Canada from Newfoundland to British Columbia?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson):** Well, there's several things that I can confirm, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm that from a September high of 7.2 percent to March it went down to 5.2 percent, which was a long-term trend that was acknowledged. And during the period of those months I said repeatedly in the House, to the press, to the public, that a one-month comparison was not a fair assessment of the state of the economy or the situation in a particular province, and that — I forget the exact words — but caution was certainly what I'd preached when we were referring to the decline over that period of time.

I can confirm that there are in fact 10,000 more jobs this year than there were last year. I can confirm that there was allegedly and we have tried without success in the last few hours to establish what allegedly has happened to the Transportation, Communications and Utilities section of our economy, which appears to have dropped in employment figures dramatically in the last month. For the information of all present, we have first, I should say, as the Minister responsible for Labour and Manpower, I know of no major layoffs or reductions in that particular sector of our economy and I'm the one that is usually made aware of that taking place.

I have contacted the railways and the trucking industry and the major utilities and we can't find any major reductions in any one of them. I do not say that major reductions have not taken place. I just simply say to you today, Sir, that I haven't been able to determine why the statistics indicate a major reduction in that particular segment of the society.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, further to the Minister's comments, that one ought not to examine the situation only on a month-to-month basis, would the Minister acknowledge that in fact given the situation as of today in Manitoba and over the past year, that the rate of unemployment in Manitoba is at a rate which is higher than the rate throughout 1975, 1976, and as well, Mr. Speaker, that Manitoba's position vis-a-vis the rest of Canada is increasingly at a disadvantage and is disproportionate to the ratios of unemployment declines or increases in the other parts of Canada?

**MR. MacMASTER:** Manitoba's position of being third lowest unemployment rate in the country is holding steady, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. SIDNEY GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that one of the foremost experts on hydro-electric power as designated that a Conservative party says that Manitoba Hydro is selling export power at bargain rates, is the Minister of Finance thinking of issuing any directives to Manitoba Hydro to cease this sale of power, of surplus power, thereby losing the revenue, and thereby increasing the rates for every other citizen in the Province of Manitoba.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel):** Mr. Speaker, this government has taken a lot of time and a lot of effort to improve the rates that we can sell power at. It's been one of our main dedications, and I'm sure that that's going to happen in due course, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Inkster is referring, I think, to Mr. Spafford's comments. I've read the text of his comments this morning in Calgary; I didn't notice fire sale in his text, but that was the headline that was on the article. He may well have said that in reply to a question, or in an offhand comment; I don't know. I don't think that's quite descriptive.

Let me put it this way, at the present time the Hydro is selling all the possible power they can through the limited channels that they have, which are two lines to the United States, on these opportunity sales; and are selling every bit of power that they possibly can, and the price, of course, is very low in comparison to the domestic rates here. We're optimistic that if we're successful at negotiating firm power sales which we've been working on, in the future we can improve the value of every kilowatt hour of sale that goes out of the province.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, acknowledging that everybody tries to get as much for their product as they possibly can, with the possible exception of the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation who likes to sell for as little as possible; but given the assumption that

everybody tries to get as much as they can for their product, will the Minister continue the policy of selling surplus power in order to increase Manitoba Hydro's revenue, and in order thereby to reduce the cost of that power to the citizens of Manitoba?

**MR. CRAIK:** Mr. Speaker, I think the answer to that question goes without saying; it's naturally yes. The challenge is to get more per kilowatt hour for the power that goes out, and that's the part that we're addressing ourself to.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster with a final supplementary.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I have another question, and I want to commend the Minister of Finance for continuing the policy of the previous administration. I want to ask a question to the Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Tantalum Mining Corporation, which the government permitted to be privateered last year for a price of \$6 million, showed a profit, after payment of taxes — mining taxes, income taxes, and all other taxes — of \$2,000,300 in the very year in which 50 percent of the shares were sold for roughly \$6 million; is the Minister thinking of taking back into public ownership what he had a right to make public last year, but let slip through his fingers at what the Chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation described as a very prudent purchase, and implied a very imprudent letting it get away?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Mines.

**HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney):** Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member is referring to a purchase of shares between two private corporations as privateering, then I believe that we have such fundamental differences in our approach to the operation of government in this province, that it's unnecessary to respond to that question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster with a fourth question.

**MR. GREEN:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister of Mines suggest that any private businessman would agree that when you have a right of refusal, or a right of first option to purchase shares, and you let them go to another private company, that this is a transaction that took place solely between two companies? Is he suggesting that that would be agreed to by any business consultant that he could name? Mind you, some of the business consultants for the Conservative Party may say that, but does he agree with that?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Mines.

**MR. RANSOM:** The fundamental difference, Mr. Speaker, between the members opposite and the members on this side is that we do not believe basically that government should be in business and controlling the means of production, as the honourable members on that side do, and if they find a particular situation that they can point out to, where there may have been a public profit to be made, then naturally they used that as an example, Mr. Speaker, of a principle which they consider has much broader application, which in fact does not.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster with a fifth question.

**MR. GREEN:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister of Mines then agree that the proper price for the public to pay, if they were repurchasing that asset, would be based on the formula that has been set by the Conservative administration?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. I believe the honourable member is promoting an argument, rather than asking a question. I rule it out of order.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, . . . question, will the government purchase back that mine on the same formula as they have sold public lands, namely, the cost of acquisition by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, plus interest to the date that the money is repaid? Will he buy back that mine on that basis?

**MR. RANSOM:** We are not in the business of buying mines, Mr. Speaker, neither are we in the business of threatening private corporations who wish to make investments in this province, as the

Honourable Member for Inkster is fond of doing. 30

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster with a sixth question.

**MR. GREEN:** Is the honourable member saying that it was good enough for his brother and your other friends as a purchase price, but not good enough for Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Corporation?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The question is out of order. Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

**MR. THOMAS BARROW:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. —(Interjection)—

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. BARROW:** My question is to that paragon of justice, the Attorney-General. It concerns a one Malone, he's the former publisher of the Free Press who has been accused on several charges of the most perverted bestial type and was certainly a menace to society. Why is this person permitted his freedom so easily?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**HON. GERALD W.J. MERCIER (Osborne):** Mr. Speaker, it was my department who caused the review of Mr. Malone's bail last week before the courts and the court made an order with respect to that matter.

**MR. BARROW:** Mr. Speaker, if the accused were a Metis person, a native, a miner, a labourer, a welfare recipient, wouldn't he have the same access to freedom as the accused, or does the law only apply to the affluent?

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

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary to the question posed by the Member for Flin Flon, can the Attorney-General advise whether or not his department will be appealing the decision by Provincial Judge Enns pertaining to the application to rescind the bail pertaining to one, R.S. Malone?

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, that matter was heard last week. I'll take the question as notice and respond later to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if by leave — I know the House is always concerned about having Orders for Return received at the earliest possible moment — if by leave I could provide the House with an Order for Return, No. 53, dated April 15th, 1978, on the motion of Mr. Wilson? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

**MR. BARROW:** Well, the man, I understand is obviously very ill and needs help in the worst way, would the Minister consider taking steps to confine the accused for his own good and society's good, if he persists in pursuing his activities, especially in the Flin Flon area? Because when he goes in that country, he's a prime target for assault.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I assume the question was to me although the member didn't indicate who he was asking the question of. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to reiterate that it was my department last week that caused a review of Mr. Malone's bail in the Provincial Judges Court in Winnipeg as a result of allegations or charges of an offense in the Flin Flon area the previous weekend, Mr. Speaker. I have indicated to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition I took his question as notice and am prepared to review with the department again the question of an appeal with respect to

the decision last week.

**MR. BARROW:** For a government who advocates capital punishment for murder and then encourages a crime equal to or greater than murder, how do you explain that disparity?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The question is out of order.  
The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. RUSSELL DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister following the questions of the Leader of the Opposition about unemployment. Given that there are some 10,400 unemployed construction workers in the province, some 31 percent of the total number as of late April, are there any planned projects in Public Works that the government intends to announce immediately in regard to government requirements, public housing, or health facilities, to both meet social needs and also help alleviate unemployment in the construction industry?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. STERLING R. LYON (Charleswood):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that during the last two to three months of this Session, all of those items have been discussed in detail under the various departments responsible. If there are any particular items that my honourable friend wishes to suggest, any further expenditures that he would wish to advocate that the public of Manitoba undertake and thereby add to the deficit that we inherited from my honourable friends, we'll be quite happy to listen to him.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't have my list here, but I think that if the Honourable First Minister will look at some of the promises made by his government in regard to things like The Pas Correctional, etc., he will see that there is in fact a list of needed social requirements, and I ask him again whether he feels that there is no need to introduce any new projects or to undertake any public programs in an effort to help the construction industry, which is a significant part of the private sector, or will he just sit idly by while architects and engineers leave the province and companies go bankrupt?

**MR. LYON:** Mr. Speaker, we share concern along with all reasonable people for unemployment in its broad terms, and in particular terms as applied to the construction industry, and not for the maintenance of engineering and architectural expertise in the province of Manitoba. However, unlike our friends in the opposition we do not conceive it. —(Interjection)— If my honourable friends are getting a little less sensitive about being called socialists that's fine, particular in view of the guests that we have in the gallery today, they would perhaps understand. If my honourable socialist friends opposite are advocating, Mr. Speaker, that we should embark on the kind of program that they were apparently well into, namely the building of buildings merely for the sake of building them, then I can say quite frankly that no one that I know of in the construction industry, in the architectural profession or the engineering profession would in any way countenance their tax money being used for that purpose. We are already sitting with a \$3 million garage that my honourable friend the Member for Elmwood built for which there is no use in the public service. Is that the kind of building that he advocates the government of Manitoba should be engaged in?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Elmwood with a final supplementary.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I'll save my retort for the budget debate, but I always enjoy the speeches of the First Minister when he acts like W. A. C. Lyon imitating Whacky Bennett out in B. C. —(Interjection)— Well, you'll only be here for two more years.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Has the honourable member a question that he wishes to ask?

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask the Minister this, a general question. In terms of the Throne Speech — in the government's Throne Speech — there was a sentence, if I could quote it, and I ask the Minister whether he intends to live up to this requirement, because his Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs yesterday indicated that the government was not going to follow through on some promised legislation, namely, I quote from the Throne Speech: "In addition, you will be asked to consider legislation to protect citizens purchasing services from the travel industry." I simply asked the First Minister whether he feels there is a legal or a moral commitment to live up to that promise in the Throne Speech?

**MR. LYON:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs dealt with that matter in his Estimates last evening.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Mines.

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, some days ago, the Member for Churchill asked a question concerning an incident that occurred at The Pas last October, in which a boat belonging to my department and carrying three members of my department was fired upon by someone with a shotgun as it was travelling on the Saskatchewan River. I can assure the honourable member that the incident is being fully investigated by the RCMP that really no information is available; no motive has been described for the incident and any sort of sensationalism, in terms of the reporting of that incident, which was in turn implied by the Member for Churchill, has no basis in fact.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Churchill.

**MR. JAY COWAN:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to take offence at the Minister suggesting or inferring that we implied sensationalism. If he will read the record in Hansard, he will find out that we had quoted the article exactly, and asked him to confirm it, so as to allay any sensationalist tendencies that might have arisen from that actual article. The second part of that question arising from that article, Mr. Speaker, was are there any other incidents that have been quieted down, or hushed-up I think were the words used in the article, and I would ask the Minister if he can indicate if there have been any other incidents of that nature, of violent acts being perpetrated on civil servants in northern Manitoba that have not been reported fully?

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, the particular incident to which I refer was not hushed-up in the words of the honourable member, and there are no other instances to my knowledge, of circumstances involving violence and civil servants.

**MR. COWAN:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Well, to set the record straight, the term hushed-up was used in the article, and I've used them in that context as a quote during my original questioning and further questioning. I've a question to the Minister of Labour, the Minister has indicated that he has some question in regard to the drop in the labour force figures for the Transportation sector. Can the Minister then confirm that the transportation, labour force sector figures for April of 1979 are exactly the same as for a year ago April, April of 1978 and are at their historical level; and given that information, can the Minister indicate the grounds on which he is questioning that figure, which seems to be remarkably consistent?

**MR. MacMASTER:** It's certainly not consistent with the previous month's figures, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. COWAN:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, my suggestion to the Minister would be that they investigate the previous month's figures and not the historical figures; but given that, I would ask the Minister if by questioning the one particular sector, is he calling into question the total labour force figures and the total drop in the labour force of 5,000 workers?

**MR. MacMASTER:** I have spoken on this particular matter and said that we are having difficulty establishing the difference in figures between the two particular months, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Churchill with a final supplementary.

**MR. COWAN:** With a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate then, that he is not accepting the figures that are flowing from Statistics Canada in regard to the labour force growth or decline as it may be, and that he is questioning the figures as he has not done previous in this House?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Orders of the Day. The Honourable Government House Leader. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

**MR. COWAN:** Yes, perhaps the Minister can indicate if he is questioning the unemployment rate increase?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Transcona.

**MR. WILSON PARASIUK:** Yes, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Housing. Given the sharp increase in the unemployment rate, which is counter to the national trend and counter to the seasonal trend that we usually experience, can the Minister indicate if the Pensioners Home Repair Program under the Critical Home Assistance or the Critical Home Repair Program will in fact, have its rules relaxed, so that people who have received some assistance over the past five years, if their houses are in need of repair, can in fact, get some assistance from the government to repair their homes and also to promote employment in this province?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

**HON. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek):** Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, during my Estimates, we are looking very carefully at the possibility of somebody having work done twice on their home. The present regulation is that if you've had Critical Home Repair assistance from the government that you don't qualify for a second time. We're looking very carefully at the possibility of having people qualify for a second time, providing they hadn't received the full amount that they're able to get under the program.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Supplementary to the Minister, given the fact that this is May 15th and that it takes about six weeks lead time in order to get the applications in and processed, can the Minister indicate whether the government will make that decision by June 1st so that the forms can get out, and the applications in and processed in time to effect the construction and repair season this summer?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Speaker, I can't make that commitment to the member. I said we are looking at it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Transcona with a final supplementary.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Yes, since the Minister is looking into this, despite the fact that the problem is today, could the Minister also ensure that his department consider the feasibility of enabling pensioners to paint the exteriors of their homes and keep their homes in good repair over the summer, thereby creating valid, necessary employment somewhat different and better than Dickie Dee icecream operators through this summer, so that the houses can in fact, be painted this summer during the painting season this summer. Will the Minister consider that program?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** The Inside and Outside Painting Program, Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member knows, was brought in as a summer and winter works program. It was administrated by my department, but it was not the decision of my department to have it or to not have it. We would administrate it if it came in.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Transcona with a fourth question.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Yes, I direct my question to the First Minister. Can he please indicate who, in the government will be responsible for making that decision which is critically required now?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. WILLIAN JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to rise to make a correction in Hansard, if I may. On Page 4191, when I was speaking yesterday on the Right-to-Work Amendment, it's here — and I will point out the correction that should be made: "If you review the vote that we have taken on this issue, that the Minister of Highways has voted for every progressive move that has been made in this Chamber" — the words I used, Mr. Speaker, were regressive, not progressive.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Order please. I will check the tapes of that and maybe the member might have been misquoted. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, in view of an earlier question that I had posed, I believe I'd made reference to an appeal involving a Richard S. Malone. I gather that the reference should be to a Richard C. Malone, so that there need be no misunderstanding as to the party involved.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. In view of the information released this morning, information which indicates that the Manitoba economy is indeed suffering badly and that the unemployment rate in Manitoba is rising at a rate higher than anywhere else in Canada during the past one-month period, and in view of the fact that this government has failed to undertake any stimulating action during the past eighteen months, can the Minister assure us that his budget will be reviewed this afternoon prior to its introduction this evening in order to guarantee that these latest unemployment figures are taken into consideration?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**MR. CRAIK:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition will have plenty of opportunity over the next week to discuss all these matters.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I again question the Minister of Finance as to whether or not he will be reviewing his budget prior to 8 o'clock this evening, in view of these figures which have been. . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. Order please. The Leader of the Opposition knows full well that repetitive questions do not serve the House in the best interests of the time that we have available.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, then I ask, to the Minister of Economic Development if he can advise the House as to what particular government programs are presently under review in order to undertake some positive action pertaining to the unemployment in the Province of Manitoba?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Speaker, I repeat what my colleague repeated. We still have the third best record of unemployment in Canada and I do not accept that the economy of Manitoba is bad. We have upwards to 10,000 more people working this year so far over last and probably 4,000 in the manufacturing industry. If the honourable members would get out of this building and go and see what's going on in the world outside, they'd know that.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, then I pose a question to the Minister of Economic Development. Has he yet gotten out of this building in order to discover what the reason is for the transfer out of this province by Shaino's, by Willson Stationery, and a number of other companies during the past year to British Columbia and other points west?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Speaker, I will make the commitment to get the list that the honourable member brought up once before. In two of the names he mentioned in the list previously, those companies didn't have head offices in Manitoba and I'd be very glad to give him that list. Shaino's is not leaving. Mr. Balkan is moving the head office of his corporation which owns several companies to British Columbia because he personally prefers to I believe live there.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister has done some homework since this question was raised last week, then possibly the Minister can now advise us as to the amount of capital that is involved and the number of employees that are involved in view of the transfer of Mr. Balkan's operations to British Columbia?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** It's not the practice of this government to make people open their books or give their financial statements if they don't wish to.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Transcona.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Yes, my question is directed to the First Minister. In view of the fact that the Minister responsible for Housing says that he does not make the decisions regarding the Critical Home Repair Program and the Pensioners Exterior Home Painting Program, could the Minister indicate whether in fact he will enable that program to get operational this summer so that pensioners can have their homes painted and also create employment in the province seeing as how we have an unemployment rate of 6.1 percent? Is he the one to make that decision seeing as how the Minister for Housing is ducking the whole issue?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The question is repetitive. The Honourable Member for Transcona.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Speaker, I'm trying to get a response in terms of clarification as to who is responsible for the Employment Program.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. Order please. May I suggest to all honourable members that they have the right to ask questions. They would hope that they would get answers; there is no compulsion on the part of anyone to answer questions. Repetitive questioning does not serve any useful purpose in this Chamber.

The Honourable Member for Transcona.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is then directed to the First Minister. Is it the policy of this government to develop employment programs which give employment grants to Dickie Dee Ice Cream, which they consider to be productive employment, while at the same time refusing to open up employment programs which would provide for the preservation of pensioners housing in Manitoba.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**MR. LYON:** Mr. Speaker, although it may well have escaped my honourable friend with his doctrinaire-bent —(Interjection)— well, doctrin good enough; we all know what that means when you're aire is sitting on that side of the House. Mr. Speaker, in view of my honourable friend's doctrinaire-bent, as I say, as it may well have escaped him because you know, his biblical handbooks are only Marx, Engels, and so on, the policy of this government is to support the private sector of this province in developing just as many jobs as we possibly can for the young and the old and everyone else in this province. Now, Mr. Speaker, that includes the programs that have their initiative with the government as well as programs in the private sector. I can assure my honourable friend if he will listen carefully tonight and if he will pull the veils of doctrinaire-positivism from his eyes long enough, and from his ears, to listen to what is being said, that there may even come into his mind — as a colleague of mine years ago used to say — by way of, if by no other means, by way of osmosis, some understanding of what the government is going to do.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, order, order please. Order please. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Speaker, I was away with an operation on my knee for the last two Tuesdays, that the Labour survey figures came into the House and I have been informed in the last few minutes that they have been tabled. If I could have leave, I am prepared to table them now or whatever.

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

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, a question to the First Minister. In view of the answer by the Minister of Economic Development that it was not the policy of his government to release information as to the amount of capital and employees leaving Manitoba as a result of a transfer of operations, can he advise when this policy developed in not answering such questions in view of the fact that it was only last Thursday that both he, as First Minister and the Minister of Economic Development, accepted that very question as notice and undertook to provide an answer to same?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**MR. LYON:** Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry that my attention was not engaged when my honourable friend was discussing these matters of serious import with the Minister of Economic Development. I'll attempt to read Hansard in the next few days and find out the fundamental question and see if we can have any information for him. I would remind my honourable friend however, that public companies, if they are publicly traded, their capitalization is well known; private companies, that is not so, although when they are registered to do business in Manitoba, their stated capitalization is given in the registration form.

If My honourable friend wishes to find out about any registered corporation in Manitoba, all he need do is go to the Companies Branch, pay two-bits, and get the search done.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster, and I warn him there's only 30 seconds left

for his question.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister of Economic Development indicated that the election of a New Democratic Party government would deter Manitoba businesses moving to British Columbia, are we now in danger of losing businesses to British Columbia because they didn't elect a New Democratic Party government?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** As usual, Mr. Speaker, the member is going around in circles.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**MR. JORGENSEN:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Highways, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

And, Mr. Speaker, there will only be one committee sitting this afternoon, and it will be in the Chamber.

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

### SUPPLY — LABOUR AND MANPOWER

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Abe Kovnats (Radisson):** This committee will come to order. I would direct the honourable members' attention to Page 60 of the Main Estimates, Department of Labour and Manpower, Resolution No. 78. We are on Item 2., Labour Division: Item (c), Fire Prevention: (1) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Minister.

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Chairman, I have gathered up some information for the Member for Logan; copies of a letter that was sent out to the companies that we weren't satisfied with the method, totally satisfied with the operation of their safety committee. The Member for Logan asked a question last night in relationship to a construction site on Logan Avenue that we have quickly had a look at this morning, and we can report that, in fact it wasn't barricaded off. That's the first initial finding that we had, and we're following up on that, but in fact it didn't even have the barricades, and the city has been made aware of that.

The name of the instrument used to detect sound is a sound level meter — that was the name that we were looking for last night. It's called a sound level meter. The noise standards that are accepted in Manitoba, .85 for an eight-hour day — I was asked if that's comparable anyplace else. The same level is used in Nova Scotia and Alberta. The federal government, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec have a higher level of .90; Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan have no published criteria; and OSHA in the States uses .90. So ours, coupled with Nova Scotia and Alberta, we're the best in that particular standard.

In addition to that, the member asked for a copy of the questionnaire that's given out by the Sanatorium Board, and I wonder if I can pass that across. I think, Mr. Chairman, that catches us up on the outstanding questions.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. JENKINS:** Yes, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for the copy of the letter, and also for the prompt action that his department has taken with regard to that building site that I drew to his attention. And, if I understand the Minister correctly, they are going to barricade it off.

And I believe the Minister said last night that this was a city project, was it? Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (1) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

**MR. PETER FOX:** Would the Honourable Minister give us a breakdown of the staff man years in this area?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Chairman, there were 23 last year permanent positions, with a 1.05 term, and that was in last year . . . I will explain it later. And there's 23 this year, the same number, 1.05 for the term. The term is used, Mr. Chairman, to hire short-term people when they're putting on schools and seminars, and such; they require additional help. So the one term position is not a term position for a full year, it's used by possibly 15 or 20 people during the course of the year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (1)—pass; (2) — the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

**MR. FOX:** Can the Honourable Minister give a breakdown of the increase over last year for this year?

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Chairman, it's a general salary increase, but there is a provision of \$15,000 added to cover for payment of overtime that possibly is worked by investigation and training staff.

**MR. FOX:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could give us some information in respect to the precautions that are being taken in the highrises now, and the fact that many of the elevators are automatic, and of course they create a problem. And specifically what kind of training or instructions are given to people who are living — quite a few of them — in senior citizens' highrises?

**MR. MacMASTER:** I've been advised, Mr. Chairman, that it is the responsibilities of the municipalities and in particular in the city of Winnipeg, it's their responsibility to give this type of advice and information to people living in highrises.

**MR. FOX:** Well, I can appreciate that the delivery has to be at the city level, but I was under the assumption that the Fire Commissioner's office was in charge of policy and regulation in respect to all of these areas, including the city. So I would like to know what the policy is and what the training program is so that the city or other areas can carry it out?

**MR. MacMASTER:** I've been advised, contrary to what the member appears to believe, that it is in fact left in the hands of the municipalities. They do the training and they establish the policy in relationship to how they make senior citizens and others aware, living in the highrises.

**MR. FOX:** In other words, there is no policy at the provincial level?

**MR. MacMASTER:** I apologize, I should have got it completely. Through the training facilities at our fire college, we do in fact train firefighters and instructors who go out into the province who will do the appropriate thing when they get out there, but that's the division line there. And further, we do not train people in that particular area from the city of Winnipeg.

**MR. FOX:** Are there any codes or restrictions in respect to building these highrises and the elevators that are within?

**MR. MacMASTER:** There is The Elevator Act under Mechanical and Engineering; and regardless of the fact, Mr. Chairman, that that question wasn't asked under that, I'll get the answer for the member. I'll get in touch with the director and get that particular information for him.

**MR. FOX:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Now I'd like to come to a subject in respect to this building, and I just wonder whether it's the practice in other public buildings for civil servants, and that is that a notice is put up that there will be a fire drill at a certain particular hour. What value is there to that, when everyone is notified that at such and such an hour we'll ring the bell for you?

**MR. MacMASTER:** That particular exercise is handled by the Department of Public Works. I can appreciate what the member has said, that there can really be no surprise to it if it's well notified and notice is given as to when the fire drill will be held.

**MR. FOX:** Well, let me put it another way. Is the Minister and the Fire Commissioner, from whom

he'll get his professional advice, satisfied with this kind of procedure by the Department of Public Works?

**MR. MacMASTER:** I understand that this is not a selective sort of procedure, that this procedure is carried out by the city of Winnipeg in many of their buildings. I understand that it's carried out by hospitals; I've been advised that our Commission is reasonably satisfied with that type of event.

**MR. FOX:** Is there any policy to introduce smoke detectors and fire detectors in public buildings, has there been any research by the Fire Commissioner's office or the Fire Prevention Department to determine how much expenditure there should be in order to protect the lives of citizens in public buildings?

**MR. MacMASTER:** I understand in new construction that it's mandatory under the building code in Manitoba. I know there was just some changes in regulations and that was one of them, I didn't know whether it was all buildings, I knew it certainly was in some particular buildings, and I understand now that it is mandatory in new construction.

**MR. FOX:** Would the Minister indicate whether it's smoke detectors or fire detectors?

**MR. MacMASTER:** Smoke detectors.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. JENKINS:** Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. Dealing with the item on Fire Prevention Division on Page 70, in administering the Act the Division conducts investigation to determine causes and origins of fires where arson is expected, or where it is felt that investigation may lead to prevention of similar investigation may fires. on I notice Page 77 of the Annual Report, that there were 645 investigations. The number of adults, male and female, and juveniles, male and female, charged, and there were a certain number of convictions.

Does the department investigate all aspects of suspected arson in this province, including the City of Winnipeg, or does it just handle the cases outside the City of Winnipeg?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. MacMASTER:** All parts of Manitoba, Mr. Chairman, including the City of Winnipeg.

**MR. JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The City of Winnipeg Fire Department every year practically, I guess about this time of year, carry out — I know it's done on a voluntary basis — fire inspection of residential areas and homes. Is this type of a program carried out in other parts of Manitoba that some of the, where I realize that in many places they are volunteer fire brigades as such, but cities such as Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Thompson, Flin Flon, where I imagine they would have a permanent-type fire protection units; are there similar type programs carried out in other parts of Manitoba with regard to the annual fire inspection of your premises, and drawing to the attention of the householder where he may have hazards in storing combustible materials, and things like that.

I think it's a very excellent program, and it certainly draws to the attention of people that what they may think they're storing is safe, but when it is pointed out by people who are experts in that field, that I think it's a worthy program. And I just wonder if it is carried on anywhere else in the province outside of the City of Winnipeg. I'm not aware that it is, and if the Minister could inform us if such a program is being carried out, and whether his department would be considering advocating to other parts of the province that they carry out a similar type investigation, especially during the spring months, because after all, during the winter we store a lot of things in the house that maybe we shouldn't be, and they should be stored somewhere else.

**MR. MacMASTER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the program is expanding. Brandon is into it; Thompson is into it. Some of the volunteers, in fact, throughout the province, I understand, do it in their evenings and spare time. We encourage this, and have been encouraging it, and we do in fact supply literature to them in the form of pamphlets that they can give out to the homes and to the residents when they're doing their inspections.

**MR. JENKINS:** Well, that's very good to hear. I'm glad to hear that the department is pursuing

this, and let's hope that it will become province-wide, and I think it's a well-worth program.

And I see that we're still running the Central Fire College at Brandon, and I looked through the statistics and I . . . unless the Minister can point it out to me, how many people did we certify under the Firefighter and Fire Service Program last year? I might say, Mr. Chairman, I looked all through the statistics, and I don't seem to be able to find it here.

**MR. MacMASTER:** I'll get that number for the member, if he has another question, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. JENKINS:** Yes, it also states in the Annual Report that the department evaluates firefighting facilities, and advises municipal constables and fire chiefs on the purchase of equipment. For some of the smaller areas, I guess this is a fairly expensive proposition for it to get the right type of equipment that is required. Is there any provincial aid in this field for some of the smaller towns that may have a volunteer fire brigade, and may not even be in direct grants. But as far as bulk purchasing of equipment and supplies, is there anything in that field that helps smaller towns, villages — and I realize municipalities would probably not have fire prevention units, or firefighting units — but, for some of the pumper equipment, and stuff like that, the prices might be fairly high for some of these small towns. Is there any program that would be in place that would assist some of the smaller municipalities?

**MR. MacMASTER:** We supply compressors to mutual-aid districts, which are districts that form together in a mutual-aid program, but not specific fire trucks, or aerial trucks, or things like that. I do not have the number, and we're still looking for it, for the number of people that were certified, but I do have the number of participants, which might be of interest.

In the Fire Prevention Level I and II, there were 120; Fire Prevention III, there were 20; now, the Fire Services Instructors, Level I, there were 100; Fire and Arson Investigation — and this is for the police forces — there were 40; Fire and Arson Detection — this is for firefighters — there were 30; Firefighting Uniform Training Program, there were 2,200. And we're still digging to get the numbers of those that were specifically certified.

**MR. JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that information. I'll look forward to when he receives the other information.

Dealing with the question that the Member for Kildonan raised, and I guess it's one that, when you get into a major urban area with the highrises much of the equipment that's on the market today, in many cases, ladder equipment and what not, we don't seem to have anything of a nature that is, in many cases, high enough to get up to the areas that are involved. And I just wonder what the Fire Prevention Division's thinking is on some of the major highrises that we see going up. We can only look just over here to the southwest, we see Nassau Place, which is I don't know how many stories high, and I'm sure that if a major fire broke out somewhere in the lower environs of that building, it would be, as the Member for Winnipeg Centre said, a flaming inferno.

And this is one of the things that, as we switch more and more to an urbanized type of society, and especially — it's not as bad yet in the city of Winnipeg as it is in some of the other major cities of Canada — where we have these well, there are almost forests of highrises spread around covering the area and tremendous amounts of people live, spend their lives in these areas and it surely must be of concern to fire prevention officers, the possibility of a major catastrophe taking place in one of these highrises. And I just wondered since the Minister is also in the department, not in the fire prevention department but in drawing up a Manitoba Building Code which will be in conjunction with the National Building Code, if any thought has been given to the limiting of height of some of these buildings, especially when you are talking about dormitory type buildings where people live, of forty and fifty storeys high, and you know that's not too farfetched these days.

Just what research is being done? I see Toronto now has, for the downtown area and even parts of greater Toronto, has limited the height of buildings. Has the Minister and his department been giving any thought to that? Especially since, if we do have a conflagration it could be a major catastrophe if we don't have the type of equipment, and it's one I think that worries all of us. I'm sure the Minister included. So if the Minister has any thoughts on that, I wish he would share them with the committee.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. MacMASTER:** The Manitoba Building Code that was referred to certainly has the criteria and the standards set out in which buildings have to be built. In some particular instances, under certain

circumstances, specific type of sprinkler systems and other types of fire prevention, detection and repellants are ordered to be in place. I think you would find that the longest aerial ladders might reach the seventh storey. I think I've heard that somewhere, that that is the height which they normally reach. And for those that are over that there are special standards that you must build your fire escape stairwells; there has to be fire walls in place; there has to be separations in place for your particular fire exit, rundowns, walkdowns, whatever the case may be. And that's what's in place today. I understand, and I don't have all the details in front of me, that in Dauphin they're building one that's higher than seven, and it's for senior citizens and there's some pretty stringent rules apply to how the building is put together and the escape possibilities for the citizens who live in it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (1)—pass; (2)—pass — the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

**MR. FOX:** Would the Honourable Minister give us a breakdown of the other expenses?

**MR. MacMASTER:** Last year, Mr. Chairman, it was \$154,600.00. This year it's \$160,100 and it's straight allowance for price increases, nothing major new in there.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

**MR. FOX:** Can the Minister give us the amount that is used for education and the amount that is used for advertising?

**MR. MacMASTER:** Education is \$2,600; advertising — well, we'll call publications part of advertising, \$7,600; advertising and exhibits \$500; printing and stationery \$30,000.00. I think that relates to what you're asking.

**MR. FOX:** Can the Honourable Minister indicate what amount is spent on research?

**MR. MacMASTER:** There is no specific amount in Other for research, Mr. Chairman. In this particular department there is a fair amount of seminar attendances that take place with our key people within the department during the course of the year and I would guess that that's where they pick up a lot and exchange ideas on some of the latest information that's being exchanged by the delegates to those particular seminars and conferences.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (2)—pass; (c)—pass. (d) Employment Standards (1) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Employment Standards Division its functions are stated in here and one is the administration enforcement that covers such matters as the minimum wage, hours of work, equal pay and overtime. And looking in the charts in the tables here, on page 49, prosecutions under the legislation administered by the Employment Standards Division from November 1st, 1977 until October 31st, 1978, and I find this kind of hard to believe, but under the Employment Standards Act itself, there was no employers prosecuted, no charges laid, no number of convictions or charges, number of charges stayed, number of charges dismissed, number of charges pending. It's blank all the way across. It's the same thing for The Minimum Wage, the same thing for The Industry Wages Act, Vacations With Pay. It's only when we come down to The Payment of Wages Act that we find one prosecution of an employer, three charges laid, and the number of charges pending were three. Under The Department of Labour Act we find one prosecution, one charge laid and one conviction. It seems that in a work force of the size that we have in Manitoba that there seemed to be no problems at all in the enforcement of The Employment Standards Act and the other Acts, no prosecutions laid; what kind of investigations were carried out under the Minimum Wage Act? Did the department receive no complaints whatsoever? Payment of wages, Vacations with Pay Act, I'm sure that while this looks like a very enviable record, it certainly doesn't seem to be the norm that we find in this, and I would just like the Minister to give us a brief run down on what the activities of the department has been because from what it appears here, we've had actually only four charges laid under seven different Acts. The only charges that were laid were under The Payment of Wages and The Department of Labour Act, and I just find that the statistics that are listed here are just kind of hard to believe.

So if the Minister could enlighten us on the seeming industrial Utopia that we have, it just doesn't seem that these figures or the lack of these figures in five of the seven Acts that are administered

by the Employment Standards Branch, just doesn't seem to be, as I say, what is the norm that seems to be in this field. And if the Minister has any explanations for this seeming lack of activity of the department, surely people must be making some complaints, but from what we can understand here the dearth of it just seems to be kind of astounding.

**MR. MacMASTER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can understand the bewilderment and questions in the member's mind. The division has found that it is much more expedient for them to file what they call "board orders" or "division orders" as judgments in the County Court. The reason they do this is to expedite the matter, to expedite the cases, and they have found that they can quickly get garnisheeing orders and rectify the situation rather rapidly, and this is the route that they've gone. The question then is, "How many?" And they run from October to October, so ending October 31, 1978, and that would take you back to October '77, there were 107 filed.

**MR. JENKINS:** Yes, I thank the Minister for that information. Now I know I may be rehashing old decisions, but I just want to see if I can elicit a bit of information out of the Minister. I know the Minister has made changes to The Minimum Wage Act here in Manitoba, and the Minister was forced to make this decision because the Minimum Wage Board, as such, was not able to come up with any recommendations, and I'm not going to rehash that item about what the Minister has set out as the rates that will be enforced in Manitoba in June and January of next year.

But I want to ask the Minister if he is seriously considering doing away with the Minimum Wage Board? Is he seriously considering, or is his department and members of the Treasury Bench seriously considering another method of — I'm not saying the formula that I introduced as a resolution, which was based on a recommendation that was made at one time by the Minimum Wage Board — but I do feel that we have to have a better method of determining minimum wages than what we've had in the past. And I will say that we have been equally guilty as the present government because we didn't institute that formula or some other type of formula that would take the whole thing out of the realm of politics, because I believe that if these people in this area in the main would be people who are not the recipients of the benefit of a collective agreement, because they are working in places where a collective agreement is not in force.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. I need some direction here.

We're talking about Minimum Wage, and I would just ask if it does come under Employment Standards? I don't have the book that you have, to the honourable member.

**MR. MacMASTER:** Could I give you an explanation, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Under this department, I will allow the honourable member to continue.

**MR. MacMASTER:** Under this particular division there is a Minimum Wage Board, which we said we'd talk about boards, and there's the three, construction, industry, wages board, which is your heavy construction, your rural building, and your greater Winnipeg and major buildings. So those boards are under this particular section, and I think we've agreed, just as gentlemen, that we would leave that open to discussion during the course of the particular division.

**MR. JENKINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to get into the argument about whether I agree with what the Minister has set up as the minimum wage. That argument we'll have again on another day, I can assure him of that. What I'm wanting now is just to try and see if I can pick the mind of the Honourable Minister, and he may or may not want to answer, and that's his prerogative. But I just want to see if the Minister and I are on the same wavelength, that I think the system that has been used — and as I say, we were equally guilty because we didn't, at the time when we had the opportunity, take it out of the realm of politics. Of course, that is the unfortunate thing and it is here with us today, and it's going to be a problem that the Minister is going to have to have every year, practically, because there will be the rise in the cost of living, I think we're in an inflationary trend whether we like it or not, and it's not of a provincial nature, it's not even of a national nature, it's an international thing, it's happening worldwide that we are in this inflationary trend.

So all I want to know from the Minister is, if he and his department are considering some other method of pegging the Minimum Wage to — it doesn't have to be the average industrial composite — it could be pegged to maybe a cost of living, maybe a COLA clause in the minimum wage that if the cost of living goes up so many percentage points then the minimum wage, in reality, should go up so many cents in relation to that cost of living, because, as I said, these people in the main are, I would say, 99.9 percent or even 100 percent are not organized. If they were organized, they

would be able to get increases, which would be better than what they are receiving at the present time. All I wanted the Minister to assure me is that he's not going to just make this one shot and then wait another two or three years before something else happens, because that would be tragic and unfortunate for those people. The only representation that they have, as far as getting their wages increased, is through members of this Assembly, and if we all take the point of view that what they are receiving is adequate for what they're doing, then these people will never ever get raises. So that is the point that I want the Minister to elucidate on.

And I would also, when the Minister is replying, ask him to tell us how many meetings the Minimum Wage Board held last year, and how many they've held this year? If he could bring us up to date on the the membership of the present board. Who is the chairman? Is it still Mr. Atwell? Who comprises the employer and employee representatives on that board at the present time?

**MR. MacMASTER:** In relationship to the life of the Minimum Wage Board, I suppose there was some concern on my part that the board had been meeting over a period of time, during the previous administration, then during our administration, and recommendations were being brought forward, and in fact — I don't know what the term is, for the sake of you and I understanding it, I'll call it a non-recommendation — I wondered really where we were at with this particular board, and I did say, was quoted I think in the House, certainly I commented to people that it must be an extremely frustrating sort of a board to have to meet, knock heads and try to come to some conclusions, and you get compromises and conclusions, make recommendations, and they're not adopted. Then you have other situations where they go at it for a period of time and nothing happens. I know they had one major meeting last year and didn't progress very well, and then I know the chairman, like an arbitrator, went to both trying to get some give and take. How many of those took place, I don't know, but I certainly talked to one of the union representatives on that particular board, who told me that there had been a fair amount of effort made by that chairman to try and get some compromises.

So it was through that that I felt the board must be having some frustrations, and I haven't made that determination and I wouldn't make it without first calling the board in and saying, "Now look it, after going through the experiences you've had, where do you feel you're at, and just how difficult is it? Do you feel that there is a real purpose and meaning to your board, and what advice might you have for me for future methods of assessing the need?" I really think that's going to take some conversations.

The members of the board are — yes, Mr. John Atwell is the chairman; Gordon Gage; Ray . . . ; Rose Collins; Bernie Christophe; Bill Haiko; and Vivian Little.

**MR. JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are basically the same people who have been on this Minimum Wage Board for some length of time, and I know it was one of the recommendations of the board on a previous occasion that they do go out of existence, if we, as a government of that time, had accepted the recommendation of a formula base, and that their recommendation was basically that they would stay in existence for maybe a period of two or three years to monitor to see how well it worked, and then for the board to go out of existence.

And I realize that if both sides become adamant that there is no recommendation or non-recommendation to the Minister, and that again throws the ball into the Minister's court, and he is then forced to make what is referred to as a political decision. And he in turn talks to people, I guess from the business community, from the employee community, and makes the decision. And it sometimes makes it possible for the Minister to come to some conclusion.

I think it's a very unsatisfactory method that we have and I would recommend to the Minister that he refer the matter back again to the Board to consider some recommendations of a better way of determining, and I'm not saying that they're going to come back with that same recommendation that they made three or four years ago. But perhaps they could come up with some other type of recommendation that I think in the long run, members on both sides of the House would welcome that the matter not remain in the political field where we are trying to score brownie points on one another on a situation. And I can assure the Minister that that was not my intention. It was a sincere desire to see these people who are at the lower end of the economic scale get a better share of what the economic pie can give them, than what they have been receiving.

And I think that if the Minister was listening to the radio the other day, I think they came out for the poverty line level in Canada as a national average, was \$10,600 for a family of four. And we do have people who are heads of families, heads of households, that unfortunately, because of their lack of job skills, and whatnot, are forced to work at the minimum wage. And even the increases that we had in the minimum wage are only going to be a little in excess of \$6,000.00. So these people are going to be at least \$4,000 below what is considered the poverty line in Canada

today, which I think the figure was \$10,600, which is the poverty line for a family of four.

So I think that we should be looking at bringing these people up somewhere closer to that level, not only in this province, but all across Canada, because I think if the Minister could come up with some type of formula that would set a precedent, perhaps it would be followed by other jurisdictions in this country. Because when we look at the time limits between changes of some of the increases in the minimum wage, it's certainly of a long duration. These people are working not on a one or two year contract; in some cases they're working on four, and five, and six year contracts before they get an increase in their minimum wage.

I would say sincerely to the Minister that he should get that Minimum Wage Board meeting, and I know the Minister has issued the changes which will come about, and that needn't necessarily be what this Board is meeting about now, but what this Board should be meeting about now is to come up with some type of recommendation to the Minister that will take this whole issue out of the political realm and political whim, whoever may be in political power as a political party in this province.

And I think that we owe it to those people who are at that level. They are constituents just as much as those who are more affluent in our society, and it behooves us as members of this House to remember that perhaps we are the only advocate that they have for an increase in their wages.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (1)—pass — the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

**MR. FOX:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Would the Minister give us the staff man years, whether they're the same or not? And also, while he's finding that, would he give a description as to what the policy is in respect to inspections of the various parts of The Employment Standards Act? Do the inspectors go in on a regular basis? I know they'll have some call-backs. Do they notify the people that they are going in, or do they do spot checks?

**MR. MacMASTER:** There are no planned, long-term planned inspections, that are certainly public. I repeat what I said last night. I'm sure the member isn't inferring that, but it was suggested very strongly last night that some inspectors, or somebody, I take back the word inspectors — somebody, somewhere, appears to be notifying companies of dates of inspection so they can clean it up.

Again, I have talked to my directors, as a matter of fact this morning, and at noon, about that kind of thing, and it just does not, to the best of our knowledge, take place. Notification to companies is not given when inspections are about to take place.

In 1978 last year, there were 31 positions, 29 were funded; this year there are 29 positions, and 29 are funded. We are not carrying any unfunded positions this year.

**MR. FOX:** Is the increase attributed to normal increases and incremental raises? I've looked through the Report, Mr. Chairman' but I haven't been able to find out whether there were any violations of The Remembrance Day Act and The Retail Store Closing Act. Could the Minister inform us of the status of that?

**MR. MacMASTER:** The Attorney-General's office enforces both these particular Acts on complaints.

**MR. FOX:** Since the Attorney-General's Department is gone, I wonder if the Minister could supply us with how many referrals there were to his department?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (1)—pass; (2)—pass; (d)—pass. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

**MR. FOX:** Before we pass (d), would the Honourable Minister indicate whether there are any changes in the expenditures, even though there's only a slight increase?

**MR. MacMASTER:** No major changes, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (2)—pass; (d)—pass. (e) Manitoba Labour Board: (1) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. JENKINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, could we get a breakdown of the staff complement in this section; what it was last year, and what it is this year?

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Chairman, last year there were eight positions, seven were funded; this

year there are seven positions, and seven are funded.

**MR. JENKINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I just want to find the section here. I have something marked here I wish to ask the Minister. Yes, could the Minister give us the amount of meetings that the Labour Board were involved in last year?

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Chairman, I do not have the specific number of meetings, but they do meet the minimum of three days a week, morning and afternoons, and usually it would average out over the course of the year between three and four days, so it's somewhere in there that they meet every week of the year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (1)—pass — the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

**MR. FOX:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if any of the advisory committees in respect to the Manitoba Labour Board have met, whether they've had any recommendations?

**MR. MacMASTER:** They do not have any advisory boards, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (1)—pass; (2)—pass; (e)—pass. (f) Conciliation Services: (1) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. JENKINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, could we again here get the breakdown of the staff complement?

**MR. MacMASTER:** Last year, 77 funded; this year, 77 funded.

**MR. JENKINS:** Of this staff, how many are conciliation officers, and do we have a director? What is in charge of this section?

**MR. MacMASTER:** We have a director, Mr. Chairman, and four conciliation officers, and two clerk typists.

**MR. JENKINS:** And how many conciliations were the conciliation officers involved in last year?

**MR. MacMASTER:** 138, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. JENKINS:** Of the 138 that they were involved in, how many of these were they able to get the two parties to get together and come to an agreement?

**MR. MacMASTER:** 93 without work stoppages.

**MR. JENKINS:** How many more would be after work stoppages. Of the 93 out of 138, how many were they able, after work stoppage, within a relatively short length of time, able to get the parties back to the bargaining table and come to a successful conclusion? I gather that they were not too successful in the construction industry because that went on for some time. But I would imagine that even at that, even though it took a four-month period, that the services that were rendered by the conciliation officers were of immeasurable help to both sides in order to enable them in the long run to come to a conclusion.

But if the Minister has any figures on the difference between the 138 and the 93, how many of those were they able to bring to successful conclusion, and are some of those disputes, those work stoppages still in force today, where they were not successful in being able to get the two sides to resolve their differences?

**MR. MacMASTER:** I should spell out a few more figures. This report is similar to some of the others, to the Member for Logan, the report ends October 31st; it's another one of those that runs the previous year. There was 138 assignments that were in fact assigned to a particular conciliation officer; 122 of them were finalized one way or another in that particular year as of October 31st. So that means there are 16 that were carried through that we're working on now, or have finalized. 93 of the 122 that were finalized in that particular calendar year were settled without work stoppages, and 22 were settled following work stoppages. It is a percent of 77 percent success which I think is an interesting figure.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (1)—pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. JENKINS:** Yes, well, that is a very interesting figure, Mr. Chairman, and I commend the Conciliation Branch. I think that they do an excellent job but I do want to point out and I think the Minister will agree with me that there were many other wage settlements in the Province of Manitoba that were settled without the benefit of the use of conciliation services and I think, as I said in my opening remarks the other day, that unfortunately that type of good news doesn't seem to make the headlines or even to get the mention in the media that it should. I think that when we look at the successful wage settlements or collective bargaining that is taking place in Manitoba, it's a fairly good record and I think it's one that we are fairly proud of. As the Minister stated he felt that the record last year was not as good and the figures surely prove it out but I guess when we look at some of the other jurisdictions, our record here in Manitoba is still fairly good and it's my hope that at the end of the next calendar year our record will come back to what its norm has been, which is less than 1 percent of the national average in work stoppages. But I do want to give the people who work in the field of conciliation a pat on the back because I think that they do an excellent job and it's not the easiest thing in the world trying to make peace between two people who sometimes are adamantly opposed and I think that the job that the Conciliation Services have done, a success rate in excess of 77 percent, is very good and it's very commendable and my only wish would be that they would be 100 percent, but I guess that is wishing for a utopia that will never appear. But nevertheless, I still think that the conciliation officers and the conciliation services of the department have and will continue to give us good service in the future as they have in the past.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would give us the other figure. He's given us conciliations, successful conciliations without work stoppage; I believe it's 92. Following work stoppage another 20 settlements made after a withdrawal of services. But there is a figure of people who have normally concluded collective agreement without conciliation services which the Minister I would presume has, so that we can see just what percentage of the population is involved in disputes where they cannot get together with their employer and as a result, there is a termination of services or a lock-out of employees in order to improve the bargaining position. Now what is the other figure?

**MR. MacMASTER:** Just so I get the question perfectly clear, did the member want the number that were settled without any assistance?

**MR. GREEN:** Without conciliation services.

**MR. MacMASTER:** No conciliation. 345, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. GREEN:** All right then, Mr. Chairman, we have 435 collective agreements arrived at in Manitoba without there being a stoppage of work caused either by the employer or the employee.

**MR. MacMASTER:** 467.

**MR. GREEN:** 467; 370—some odd without conciliation; 90 with conciliation; 20 additional settled after strikes and about 13 not settled. If those are not exact, they are approximate. Now, there would be one other relevant figure and I guess I want to have this, Mr. Chairman, because there are some people running around Manitoba notably in the Chamber of Commerce, who think that the workers have got nothing better to do but leave their jobs and go march on the streets with signs, and that they are just dying to do this at strike pay rather than working. Now we have 467 collective agreements arrived at as against approximately 13, excuse me, as against 20, where there were work stoppages involved and many of those work stoppages of the 20 could be relatively small. Can we have an idea as to how many employees voluntarily without work stoppage arrive at mutually satisfactory collective agreements with their employers? In other words, we are talking about 467 agreements; how many employees does that mean?

**MR. MacMASTER:** I do not have that specific figure but I'll work it out, you know, dig out the files and see the number of people that were involved in the contracts that were settled. I think the reason that — if I can be so loose as to say the reason that figure isn't too evident, and I've

certainly spoken to many people about the fact that it should be evident — is the fact that they are quietly, sensibly, constructively settled, and that isn't the ones that catch the headlines.

**MR. GREEN:** Without a great deal of criticism, it's obvious that we overlooked those because the figures should be readily available, however, I don't say that harshly. I want the figure, Mr. Chairman, because I think it will show that freedom works; that you don't have to have laws requiring people to work.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. The hour being 4:30, Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.  
*The Chairman reported upon the Committee's deliberations to Mr. Speaker and requested leave to sit again.*

### IN SESSION

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Radisson.

**MR. KOVNATS:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, that Report of Committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

**MR. SPEAKER:** We are now under Private Members' Hour; the first item of business Tuesday is Private Bills.

On the proposal of the Honourable Member for St. James, Bill No. 33, An Act to amend An Act to Incorporate Bel Acres Golf and Country Club. (Stands)

On the proposal of the Honourable Member for Minnedosa, Bill No. 41, An Act to amend An Act to Incorporate United Health Services Corporation. (Stands)

Second reading of Private Bills: Bill No. 40, An Act to Grant Additional Powers to Rossmere Golf and Country Club, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Crescentwood. (Stands)

Adjourned debates on second reading of Public Bills: On the proposal of the Honourable Member for Inkster, Bill No. 29, An Act to amend The Clean Environment Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Rhineland. (Stands)

On the proposal of the Honourable Member for Wellington, Bill No. 34, An Act to amend The Fatality Inquiries Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Rhineland. (Stands)

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. James, Bill No. 37, An Act to amend The Museum of Man and Nature Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Kildonan. (Stands)

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Wellington, Bill No. 43, An Act to amend The Legal Aid Services Society of Manitoba Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Gladstone. (Stands)

Second reading of Public Bills: Bill No. 44, An Act to amend The Brandon Charter, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Brandon East. (Stands)

Proposed Resolutions: Resolution No. 9, the resolution of the Honourable Member for Elmwood, Support for Canadian Publishing Industry.

### RESOLUTION NO. 9 — SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways has nineteen minutes.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, I had the temerity to rise to speak to this resolution knowing I would have at least the weekend to avail myself of the resources that I have at my command as a Minister, reasonably capable Executive Assistant, and of course the full powers and intellectual capacity of the Department of Highways, who are not that completely engaged at the moment in the construction of roads for the coming season, that I would be able to avail myself of that research capacity as I indeed promised I would, Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, to bring some particular words of wisdom to bear on this resolution.

Well, Mr. Speaker, in the final analysis I had to rely on the Honourable, the Member for Morris, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs for my advice and guidance on this matter, being so as to speak, my intellectual godfather in matters that involved the literary world, and I am now

prepared, Sir, to make my observations on this subject matter. Having disdained, the Reader's Digest and such other notable areas of literature from American sources that, of course, this resolution is particularly aimed at. I want to assure the Honourable Member for Elmwood that I have taken the resolution seriously, and that I have wrestled with it, you might say within my own conscience as to how I should support, or not to support this motion.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me say to the outset that, you know, I have on other occasions expressed some concern about another public institution, namely Red Radio, or the peoples' CBC Broadcasting Corporation, and I have often wondered — and I will tie this together in a little minute — because on the one hand, in terms of furthering and supporting my position, indeed the kind of bias that the Conservative Party suffers under from Peoples' Corporation peoples' corporation, we would want to support a similar kind of a move that is being suggested by the Honourable Member for Elmwood. Namely, the recent CTCRC's rulings that all popular programs should be removed from the CBC television screen, whether it's All in the Family, or M.A.S.H. or you know, what other popular programs there are to be replaced with 90-minute documentary dissertations on the sex life of the Canadian male bumble bee, etc., and etc., that I should encourage that. And I speak as I always speak, very earnestly and seriously, because that would, of course, bring the already reduced listenership and viewership of the CBC down to about 3 percent of the Canadian public, the viewing public and therefore, they could no longer hurt my political beliefs and my political party. It wouldn't really matter if my political national leader took time to be interviewed by them or not, or whatever morning commentaries they have on their favourite morning program, which I listen to by the way, every morning as I drive into the ranch.

For instance, it took a particular form of research and distortion to attribute, as the CBC attributed throughout this flood, the building of the Winnipeg Floodway to one, Mr. D.L. Campbell. It took a greater degree of research — just yesterday morning as a matter of fact, on the same morning CBC radio program — in an effort to, of course, to find out how the floodway was working, to find and reach a Liberal bureaucrat in Regina operating the PFRA station there, to ask him in Regina how the floodway was working. Well, of course, the bureaucrat involved couldn't really say. The question was, well, is there any scouring problems — it's a long way, 450 miles to Winnipeg, you know — what capacity is the floodway operating? Well again, the person in Regina, of course, couldn't say. But it did indicate to me and, of course, it underlines and underlines, it makes it understandable that somewhat paranoia that's evident in all Conservatives when we speak about the Peoples' Corporation. . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm coming right to this resolution.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Would the Honourable Minister want me to read the resolution to him?

**MR. ENNS:** No, Mr. Speaker, because I will I assure you, the argument will be so germane and so . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. GREEN:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I gather the member will permit a question, right on the point, Mr. Speaker, that if the CBC were limited in the way which the honourable member suggests and had its viewership reduced to 3 percent, would that also have the benefit of not exposing the people of Canada to Joe Clark in a T.V. debate?

**MR. ENNS:** Precisely, Mr. Speaker, that's my point. We are quite prepared to take our lumps with the private — does that ring a favourite bell, Mr. Speaker, coming from this side? — with the private sector in the news and media collection services.

But, Mr. Speaker, as I was saying before that question was posed that, you know, having the concern of course, for the CBC radio was that any favourable commentator, even to the point of questioning; whether it is the Senior Director of Water Services, who was there in 1966, is still here, now about the operations of the floodway, could perhaps in some way be interpreted as favourable to the present government. And, of course, that couldn't happen. So, even the suggestion that in fact, the distortion that a previous Liberal administration, Mr. Campbell, built the floodway. I acknowledge that he set up a commission of inquiry, but the reason why Mr. Duff Roblin won the province in 1958-59, because he promised to do it and in fact, did it.

Well now, Mr. Speaker, to the resolution and how it applies — you see I was prepared to support

the resolution, Mr. Speaker, and I'm still prepared to support the resolution if, Mr. Speaker, we were to establish government-owned book shops. Of course, that was tried too, in this country. I think it was called Information Canada, and in those book shelves of those centres that dotted the countryside of Canada some years ago, there sprung up an amazing array of totally Canadian content books; espousing, of course, the virtues of one particular Liberal federal government and their respective ministries, etc., etc., etc., and I suppose in that kind of a setting if you had a government-controlled, a monopolistic, you know — well, not a monopolistic, that's not right, but a public supported, tax supported institution, such as we have with the CBC and for which we say quite correctly from time to time, as we assess the bill of fare that is being offered, that a body such as CTRC should make a ruling that should say that we should be encouraging Canadian productions; we should be encouraging Canadian drama or arts in the same way, if we had government book stores, and then the resolution before us could be considered seriously in saying, that on those shelves from time to time, 20 percent, 40 percent, 50 or 60 percent could be designated for allocation to books of Canadian authorship.

Well, Mr. Speaker, of course, we don't have those book stores in place, and Mr. Speaker, at least for the next number of years, here in Manitoba there is little likelihood of the government setting up those kind of book stores and so, that makes what I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, to you now is the very appropriate comparisons that I was making, and that you were having some difficulty in accepting as to whether or not they were dealing with the resolution before us, that makes it impossible to proceed along the lines that the honourable members' resolution would want us to proceed. Because we would have a similar CTRC organization or commission that would from time to time evaluate the content of books on our book shelves. Now, you can do it in the broadcasting industry, because we have a public broadcasting corporation, but we can't do it and should not do it, I suspect in the general area of book sales wherever and however they are sold.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there is one other reason, of course, that I have to voice my objection to the resolution and have to vote against it, as I'm sure most of my colleagues and I'm happy to see, Mr. Speaker, a number of colleagues opposite will likely show their displeasure with this resolution, and that is, of course, because the — and it hasn't escaped me, but the particular discrimination that the resolution entails, discrimination against anything American and he has broadened it out. As a rule, my Socialist friends opposite leave it with that, but I suppose, with the advent of Margaret Thatcher and now, a Conservative administration in Great Britain, that now, the discrimination of my honourable friends opposite, which they are so prone to express at any given opportunity, now extends to the British Isles, and so the discrimination is against American and British publishers.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what is the unasked question? Does that mean that we invite unlimited flow from Russia, from Cambodia, from Korea, from Albania, from Peking, from Belgrade, from Chile. Oh, no, perhaps not from Chile these days, Mr. Speaker. I think, Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact we'll have another occasion to discuss that issue. I see your resolution that just caught my fancy. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, let me give you a secret and in fact, if I can, in a multi sotto voce indicate to honourable members of the House, and it's also caught the First Minister's fancy, and there's just a possibility that he may wish to enter into that debate on that particular occasion. Because it has a way of stirring the soles of those who fight for freedom, in a way that only a resolution such as that can do. But, Mr. Speaker, I do suggest that contained in this resolution, to discriminate and to name them, American and British — what makes American and British publishers so particularly distasteful to Canadians? What is it that the Americans and British have done that singles them out for this kind of special attention? Now, Mr. Speaker, I find that part of the resolution in the "Whereases" particularly distasteful, as I find most of the resolution unacceptable. And I have to indicate through you, Sir, to the Honourable Member for Elmwood that as a freedom fighter, I just could not support this kind of a resolution. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Elmwood will be closing debate. The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I always enjoy listening to the Minister of Highways, but unfortunately, I can't take too seriously any of his remarks and I will only deal with one comment that he made, Mr. Speaker, because it has been made by other members. It's too bad that the Minister of Highways didn't hear my original opening statement, or if he did, didn't understand it. Because there was also an editorial that appeared in the Free Press on May 10th, called "20 Percent Canadian" and it, of course, was attacking the notion that there would be in effect, a quota to attempt to help Canadian writers and publishers achieve that level. You know, Mr. Speaker, that was the Free Press headline, but if I was writing an article for the editorial pages of the daily press, I would entitle it 96 percent American, because that is the fact of the matter.

We've heard speeches on both sides of the House of people who claim that they're concerned about discrimination against American writers and publishers, and now, British writers and publishers and so on — well, I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker, about discrimination against Canadian writers and Canadian publishers. Because when one goes to these outlets, which handle paperbacks and magazines spread throughout the province of Manitoba, and throughout the nation, one finds that there are only a couple of books in any given store, cigar store, milk store or drug store, etc., etc., only a handful, if that, of Canadian materials. And I tell you that if you want to talk discrimination and you want to talk quotas, address yourself to that problem. That is the problem that I have raised, Mr. Speaker. Who is being discriminated against? There are all kinds of books that have been written recently that are best-sellers, and when you go to a local store — let's say you're just in a drugstore, and you happen to be passing the paperback section and so on, you know, I have looked at many stores before and after this resolution was introduced here, and looked for some of the current Canadian best-sellers, and in many instances, Mr. Speaker, they're not there.

What you find is the latest rage from the U.S., that you've never heard of before, given twelve spaces or a special rack and so on, heavily promoted, etc. On rare occasion you will find a book by Pierre Burton, and I cite the current best-seller that he wrote which was *The Dionne Years*, about the Dionne quintuplets, which had tremendous sales and so on. But you'll rarely find it in a local store.

Right now we're in a federal election. There's a book by Dave Humphries on Joe Clark. There's a book on Pierre Trudeau by George Radwanski, pretty hard to find, Mr. Speaker. Pretty hard to find. —(Interjection)— Well, you're not going to find that in any of your local stores. You may or may not find it in a bookstore. And I'm not arguing that Canadian junk can't be as bad as American junk. I'm not saying that some Canadian television programs, as my honourable friend said, I think the King of Kensington has proved beyond doubt that our programs can be as bad as American television. But I also believe that the best Canadian writing is equal to the best American writing and that there are many novelists and that there are many writers of popular history like James Gray and Pierre Burton and so on. They can write about topics which have wide appeal to our fellow citizens and so on, yet they cannot even crack their own national and regional markets. That is a question that I was trying to put to the members of the Assembly.

You know, I taught history in the Manitoba school system, and it's only now I understand that somebody has finally decided to take and put together a play on Billy Bishop who was a World War I air ace. And if you go to an average Canadian student, I suppose, and ask them to name aces, assuming they still are familiar with airplanes and with the First and Second World Wars, etc., you ask them to name aces and so on — I suppose the one name that most could probably recall or would even know about would be The Red Baron, Von Richthofen, who has had some publicity. Eddie Rickenbacker was the great American ace. He shot down 26 airplanes. Von Richthofen had 80 something. Eddie Rickenbacker had 26. He was a great American war ace. But Billy Bishop, I think, had 77 or 78 kills. Three times what Eddie Rickenbacker had, but does the average Canadian know about him? Well, maybe. Maybe. —(Interjection)— Well, who's the teacher there? I don't know.

I'm saying, Mr. Speaker, that in our own country our own history, many of us who should be foremost in terms of information and knowledge, many of us are not familiar with certain aspects of our history, and certainly the students in most cases, all they have to do is walk around, they are hit with the fantastic barrage of material in the local drug stores, magazines; every Canadian home has a pile of American magazines; every Canadian home has a deluge of American television and radio programs. And so on and so on. We are fighting to maintain a Canadian identity. This is surely, culturally, surely as important as trying to maintain a level of control of our own industry. Those of us who are worried about foreign control of industry or foreign control of our ideas, etc., anyone who's a Canadian who feels that there is something important about living in this land, must surely feel a concern that there is an industry here, in this case publishing, which seems to be struggling against mammoth odds.

I just want to address a few remarks to some of the debaters, Mr. Speaker, and also to mention that the CRTC — I'm not going to argue about their current dictums. I don't care to deal with that, I don't think it's that related here. But they did in fact impose on the radio broadcasters of this nation a requirement whereby 30 percent of the records played on the air must have Canadian content. I say that the average person has not been harmed by that. I don't believe the average person is aware of it. The average person is listening to the radio, he hears various records and he thinks some are good and some are bad and so on and so on. But nevertheless it has helped tremendously the Canadian record industry, the Canadian writers and composers and artists, etc., etc. I don't see any detrimental problem there, although if you ask someone from a radio station, as I have, of problems, they'll tell you, "Yes, they have to keep the records of records played. They

have to do some paper work." But essentially there are enough artists, there's enough music, there's a growing industry, it's obviously a tariff.

My friends from the Conservative Party are the great men of the wall of tariff. They are surely the ones who all their lives as true blue Tories have been concerned about protecting the Canadian identity. They are the ones who have always put the Liberal Party down for being too much under the American influence. They have tried to protect Canadian manufacturers, they have tried to protect Canadian jobs, they have tried to argue about the place of Canada and the need for some national coherent identity and so on. But all of a sudden on this resolution they fall apart. They fall apart. They just disintegrate, Mr. Speaker, right before your very eyes.

Mr. Speaker, my friend from Pembina, I think made a fairly good comment for a change, but he could not understand that impulse buying is important, and I think in most cases, dealing with this resolution, we are dealing with impulse buying. He says when he wants to buy a book he remembers the title, he goes to a bookstore, he walks in, he asks for the book, buys the book and leaves. Mr. Speaker, most people, they go into a bookstore or a drug store, they tend to browse. Sometimes they have no intention whatsoever of buying a book. But when they go in there, they start looking around and all of a sudden they might come away with two or three books that they didn't intend to buy. I recall the last time I went into a bookstore. I went to the University of Manitoba to buy a book by Dr. Allan Klass with the horrendous title, a great book with a horrendous title called "There's Gold in Them There Pills". It was an intelligent analysis of the drug industry with a weird title.

And when I went there, Mr. Speaker, I picked up another couple of books. I didn't intend to buy them. I happened to be walking around, I happened to buy a couple of books. One of them was called, very simply, "Philby", and it was the interesting story of Kim Philby who rose to the rank of the No. 2 man in the British intelligence, M16 or whatever it was called, and turned out to be a Russian agent. This was one of the most incredible stories in history, namely that a man who was as British as you could be turned out to be a double agent and almost became the head of British Intelligence during the Second World War. I've heard the story. Most of us know of it, and it's a very interesting story.

So I'm saying that impulse buying is important. I think people often pass books and magazines, browse, find out that they're buying some and this is what I am talking about. The Member for Pembina did suggest that there could be more money funnelled into promoting and advertising some Canadian books, etc., etc., and I concur that that is a possibility. The Member for St. James, he said he's all for Made in Canada, but not in this instance. He believes in Canada First and Made in Canada, buy Canadian, but he doesn't want this particular type of a problem.

Well, the Minister of Mines says he wants it by choice, but that's my point, Mr. Speaker. You don't have a choice. When you go into a bookstore — I'm talking about an average drug store, it's all American. If you wanted to buy some Canadian material you couldn't find it. It isn't there. And I will explain that in a moment.

Mr. Speaker, the market is controlled by American-owned companies. My information, which is from various public sources is that all the distributors are American owned. And they tend to simply take the overruns and the overproduction from the United States of America, they run a million books, they have 100,000 left over, they shoot them up to Canada, and if they can sell them they sell them, and if not they throw them away. And Mr. Speaker, it's partly because it's a question of economies of scale. If they can produce a book for 8 cents or 10 cents and try it in the Canadian market, it's not much of a venture. But the Canadian publisher has a smaller market to begin with and he has a higher price to contend with. A Canadian bestseller in hard cover is 5,000 copies. In the United States it's probably 100,000 copies. And then I also mention that the geographic wholesalers tend to be controlled by these distributors and so on.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Cultural Affairs is here. I was hoping that she would participate in the debate, but unfortunately she didn't. I was interested in what she would say about supporting the industry or supporting writers or encouraging Manitoba publishers who tend to work out of their cars and out of their basements and out of their suitcases and tend to subsidize their industries in a very difficult market indeed.

Mr. Speaker, I favour the moves that were taken by the federal government under which Time magazine eventually disappeared and Macleans magazine eventually appeared. I think that was good. I'm not saying Macleans is flawless, but we had an American magazine with a couple of pages, so-called Canadian content, and this qualified for all sorts of tax write-offs, etc. Mr. Speaker, in the remaining two or three minutes I simply say that this resolution would be at little or no cost to the public purse. It would probably require an amendment or a bill that would require distributors to allocate some space to Canadian books. They're allocating now 2, 3 or 4 percent of space, and I think the enforcement could be either by someone from the government making an occasional check and this would not in any way cost any money.

Mr. Speaker, my intention in raising this resolution was to acquaint members with the problem, to inform them of some of the difficulties of people in the industry. My resolution grew out of conversations with various writers and small publishers in Manitoba, and they said if we had this type of legislation it would greatly help us and it would probably be followed in other provinces. And I did so on that particular account. So I say that if you look at various aspects of Canadian culture, if you look at, for example, the record industry, if you look at the Canada Council's grants to the theatre, if you look at certain requirements on television, if you look at the film industry where they're giving 100 percent write-offs — that's a very interesting area where 100 percent of investment in Canadian films is written off and I believe that had the support of the various political parties in Ottawa.

I also believe, although I could be corrected on this, that newspapers must be Canadian owned. I'm not entirely sure, but I think there's some limitations on the ownership of the Canadian press. And the reason is, ultimately, Mr. Speaker, to try to advance Canadian culture. To try to give people an opportunity of learning about their own history, not American history, not British history, their own history; to sample the Canadian consciousness in regard to creative materials, etc.

So, Mr. Speaker, for those reasons, the Resolution was introduced. I only heard, up to now, the support of the Member for Brandon East, and my colleague from Logan. And it would have been a simple matter to have had a broader resolution, to ask for general support for the publishing industry; that would have had greater support. But this was an attempt to focus in on one problem area in the whole industry — the problem of distribution. And unless something is done about distribution, then, Mr. Speaker, all those Canadian materials and so on will still be blocked from reaching the general public.

So I thank members of the House for participating in the debate, and I hope that they will consider the problem, maybe come up with some other solutions, and perhaps we can continue the debate in the future.

**QUESTION put, MOTION defeated.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Is there an inclination on the part of the Chamber to call it 5:30? The hour being 5:30, I am leaving the Chair to return at 8:00 p.m.