



Fifth Session — Thirty-First Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

30 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty - First Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

Name	Constituency	Party
ADAM, A. R. (Pete)	Ste. Rose	NDP
ANDERSON, Bob	Springfield	PC
BANMAN, Hon. Robert (Bob)	La Verendrye	PC
BARROW, Tom	Flin Flon	NDP
BLAKE, David	Minnedosa	PC
BOSTROM, Harvey	Rupertsland	NDP
BOYCE, J. R. (Bud)	Winnipeg Centre	Prog.
BROWN, Arnold	Rhineland	PC
CHERNIACK, Q.C., Saul	St. Johns	NDP
CORRIN, Brian	Wellington	NDP
COSENS, Hon. Keith A.	Gimli	PC
COWAN, Jay	Churchill	NDP
CRAIK, Hon. Donald W.	Riel	PC
DESJARDINS, Laurent L.	St. Boniface	NDP
DOERN, Russell	Elmwood	NDP
DOMINO, Len	St. Matthews	PC
DOWNEY, Hon. Jim	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert	Emerson	PC
EINARSON, Henry J.	Rock Lake	PC
ENNS, Hon. Harry J.	Lakeside	PC
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
FERGUSON, James R.	Gladstone	PC
FILMON, Hon. Gary	River Heights	PC
FOX, Peter	Kildonan	NDP
GALBRAITH, Jim	Dauphin	PC
GOURLAY, Hon. Doug	Swan River	PC
GRAHAM, Hon. Harry E.	Birtle-Russell	PC
GREEN, Q.C., Sidney	Inkster	Prog.
HANUSCHAK, Ben	Burrows	Prog.
HYDE, Lloyd G.	Portage la Prairie	PC
JENKINS, William	Logan	NDP
JOHNSTON, Hon. J. Frank	Sturgeon Creek	PC
JORGENSEN, Hon. Warner H.	Morris	PC
KOVNATS, Abe	Radisson	PC
LYON, Hon. Sterling R.	Charleswood	PC
MacMASTER, Hon. Ken	Thompson	PC
MALINOWSKI, Donald	Point Douglas	NDP
McBRYDE, Ronald	The Pas	NDP
McGILL, Hon. Edward	Brandon West	PC
McGREGOR, Morris	Virden	PC
McKENZIE, J. Wally	Roblin	PC
MERCIER, Q.C., Hon. Gerald W. J.	Osborne	PC
MILLER, Saul A.	Seven Oaks	NDP
MINAKER, Hon. George	St. James	PC
ORCHARD, Hon. Donald	Pembina	PC
PARASIUK, Wilson	Transcona	NDP
PAWLEY, Q.C., Howard	Selkirk	NDP
PRICE, Hon. Norma	Assiniboia	PC
RANSOM, Hon. Brian	Souris-Killarney	PC
SCHROEDER, Vic	Rossmere	NDP
SHERMAN, Hon. L. R. (Bud)	Fort Garry	PC
STEEN, Warren	Crescentwood	PC
URUSKI, Billie	St. George	NDP
USKIW, Samuel	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
WALDING, D. James	St. Vital	NDP
WESTBURY, June	Fort Rouge	Lib
WILSON, Robert G.	Wolseley	Ind

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Friday, 10 April, 1981

Time — 10:00 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I am handing to the Clerk for distribution to all members of the Legislature, copies of a Constitutional Brochure, entitled Constitutional Issues for the People of Manitoba.

This brochure is being delivered to every household in the province, in line with the practise that has been followed by many of the provinces in Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I have a statement on behalf of my colleague, the Minister of Mines and Energy. However, I'm expecting copies to be brought in for the Members of the House and wonder if I could, when they arrive, have leave to make the announcement. I haven't got the copies available, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreeable to set it aside? (Agreed)

Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At this time I would like to introduce to the honourable members, 33 students of Grade 7 standing from Kleefeld School, under the direction of Mrs. Webber. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport. On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this morning.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister, yesterday the First Minister accepted a question as notice, pertaining to whether or not the Deputy Premier had received not only a legal opinion that expressed the view that there ought to be an application to the court in order to quash Tritschler Commission proceedings, but also when an opinion of that was not satisfactory to the Minister, that the Order-in-Council be amended in respect to the Terms of Reference. The First Minister accepted that question as one of notice. Can the First Minister now respond?

MR. LYON: No, Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier is out of the province on government business, and in due course I daresay he'll respond.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, yesterday as well, I asked the First Minister and this does not require the First Minister to speak to the Deputy Premier that's now out of the province on business, whether or not, in view of his statement yesterday that he would like to see the report, the legal report from one Steward Martin, and that he would like to see fishing expenditures not undertaken; in view of these statements by the First Minister, would the First Minister now be prepared to announce a position on the part of his government, that solicitor-client confidentiality is waived, that he will obtain a copy of that report, written report, which I assert is there, and make it available.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, in due course, I'll be happy to speak to the Deputy Premier when he returns from other more pressing business and the honourable member may at that time have a response.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I didn't ask the First Minister to speak to the Deputy Premier because of the Deputy Premier's record the past three days and the First Minister's stonewalling yesterday. I'm looking to the First Minister to express a position on behalf of the government.

Is the intention on the part of this government, whether they are going to be open, above board and make information available, or whether they're going to continue to attempt to stonewall and to cover up this pertinent information that is of public interest?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, the course of the government will be to do what is in the public interest and not to aid and abet those who would pervert the public interest on their own fishing expeditions.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, further to the First Minister, if indeed that is the First Minister's position, then why can the First Minister not announce this morning, without reservation, without equivocation, that that written report which he indicated he would like to see yesterday, and spoke with some enthusiasm about his desire to see that report, why he would not unequivocally announce this morning that indeed he would ask for that report and make that written legal report available to the members of this House, so that we would know, so that we would know quite clearly, and without resort to a newspaper just what legal advice was tendered by former legal counsel, Steward Martin?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the First Minister whether it's appropriate

for the Federal Government to have used taxpayers money to purchase ads in the newspaper and to widely publicize its position, with respect to the constitutional changes which it is attempting to foist on the people of Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, that would depend on the objectivity of the ad.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, do I take it that the First Minister is suggesting that if he agrees with the advertisement, that it is correct to spend public money on it; if he disagrees with the advertisement, then it's not correct to spend public money on it?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I never suggested that my subjectivity should be created in the public interest, the objectivity of the people. If my honourable friend is meandering his way around to the point as to whether or not the brochure that has just been distributed to him is an objective one, I suggest that he look at the quotations from Liberals, Conservatives, New Democrats, and so on, and he can form his own judgment.

I think it's a very objective piece of information on the constitution. I am sure that others may disagree.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, after a cursory glance, may I say, Mr. Speaker, that I probably in large part agree with what is being said by the people who are saying it, and if I have a reservation, it's that I am not one of the people who is pictured as saying . . . that's not the problem, Mr. Speaker.

The question is, Mr. Speaker, whether it is appropriate on a purely political position and I say that even if I agreed 100 percent with it, and I underline, Mr. Speaker, if it was my position and I underline this as the position of the Progressives, that we will not use public funds to pursue our position through the newspaper. We will do it through our political party, and I asked the Premier, notwithstanding the fact that I probably agree with most of what is in here, is it appropriate, and it's been started by the Federal Government and now appears to be continued to the Provincial Government, to use public funds to advertise a blatantly political position, objective or subjective?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I can't of course accept the position of the Leader of the Progressive Party that this is a blatantly political document. This is meant to be an explanation of positions taken by the Government of Manitoba, with respect to one of the most serious problems that has faced this country in a constitutional sense since Confederation.

I do make the observation and concur in his comment that my honourable friend might well have been one of those who was quoted in this particular document and that is an oversight that anyone in the House could readily admit to. He says that he would never commit the Progressive Party to spending public funds on such a document. Mr. Speaker, he will never have the opportunity to commit his party to spend public funds on any document.

MR. GREEN: I arise, Mr. Speaker, on a question of the privileges of the House, and I may say, Mr.

Speaker, that the First Minister said the same thing about my opportunity to spend public funds when I was a New Democrat and he wrong then and he'll be wrong again. But I do rise, Mr. Speaker, on a question of the privileges of the House.

The House is now considering a resolution as to the constitutional position to be taken by the Government of the Province of Manitoba and, Mr. Speaker, I say that it is a question of the privileges of the House for the government to be announcing a government position, when they themselves have a resolution on the Order Paper which determines what position the Government of the Province of Manitoba is going to take.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister on the point of privilege.

MR. LYON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I merely rise to say what I'm sure is axiomatic to everyone else; there is no point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. A point of privilege when raised should be accompanied by a motion for the House to do something about it. At this time the honourable member has not . . . the honourable member on the point of privilege.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that you're right in what you are saying. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that what you are saying will also lead to a very dangerous precedent and will probably result in the House doing nothing but debating with the right to speak on motions of privilege.

I merely raised this question, Mr. Speaker, as one of the privileges of the House to be observed on a motion that is presently before the House; the government has published a resolution which presupposes the disposition of the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. HARVEY BOSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is to the Minister of Environment and it's related to the Shoal Lake Mining Development in Ontario. I wonder if the Minister can indicate to the House what response he has to the report that the City of Winnipeg Council has expressed concern about this development, and indeed has stated through the Mayor of the City of Winnipeg, that the ideal as far as the City of Winnipeg is concerned, would be for this development to be halted, and I assume what they want is for the project to be halted while a proper and full environmental impact study is done, something which we have been demanding in this House. I wonder if the Minister can respond to that.

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

HON. GARY FILMON (River Heights): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, having listened to some media reports and having read this morning's article in the newspaper, I do not find any call for an environmental impact study on that particular project.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ensure that the Mayor was fully apprized of everything

that the Government of Manitoba was doing, and intended to do with respect to this particular project, rather than — although the Mayor may have said that the ideal position would be to have no mine, the Mayor also said in the article and I quote, "it may be a somewhat unrealistic position," and, Mr. Speaker, what I have done this morning is to have a letter composed to the Mayor, in which I have indicated to him a variety of different things to do with the Shoal Lake water supply. One is to assure him that the objective that our department has, is to maintain the present water quality standards in the Shoal Lake reservoir, and in order to achieve that, Mr. Speaker, we will be pressing the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and perhaps the Federal Government with respect to the other proposal because we intend to make presentation before the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Board on the other proposal for a cottage lot development.

But more particularly, I have ensured the Mayor, that it is our position that no pollution shall be tolerated to the City of Winnipeg's water supply, and that to ensure that there is no lack of communication or misunderstanding, because we will have to be in a position of having the Ontario Ministry impose our standards on the project, since it occurs in the Province of Ontario, I invited the Mayor to accompany me to Toronto, for a meeting with the Ontario Minister of the Environment as soon as he is appointed. As the member probably knows, there is currently not a Minister of the Environment for the Province of Ontario, and as soon as one is appointed, I will be setting up a meeting and I've invited the Mayor to accompany me so that he will ensure that he will be representing and understanding the interests of the City of Winnipeg and making sure that they are communicated properly to the Ontario Minister, so that we can ensure that the Ontario Minister will impose the restrictions and the various requirements and guidelines on any project, whether it be the High Lake molybdenum mine or any other in that area, that may ultimately affect the City of Winnipeg's water supply.

Just in summary for the other question that the member asked yesterday, about the third point that was not in Hansard, of the seven point agreement that was achieved between our Ministry and the Ontario Ministry, it concerns the agreement of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, to respond in writing to Manitoba's initial environmental evaluation of the High Lake mine proposal by April 10th, and I would assume, today is April 10th, that the proposal is going to be here today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, just one supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, following from the Minister's reply. He is indicating that the position that Manitoba Government is taking, is that there should be no pollution of the Shoal Lake Water reservoir, which serves the City of Winnipeg, and I wonder if his departmental officials will be looking at the potential of this mine, with respect to the 90,000 gallons of water each day that they're taking out of the system, putting through the milling process and flushing back through the tailings pond, back into the water

system, and I wonder if they're going to take some action on that particular part of the project, before the project is implemented, and not after, as he was indicating in his answers the other day, they would be monitoring the situation afterwards, which to our way of thinking, Mr. Speaker, is not acceptable.

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

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that the member has given me an opportunity to correct the impression that he had. When I said that an agreement was achieved between our Ministry and their Ministry to monitor the water quality standards on High Lake during this forthcoming spring and summer, that was to establish without any doubt what the current water quality standards are, so that therefore, after evaluating another proposal, we could in future, have a base line to which we could compare the standards. Those monitoring exercises will be done well before the mine is ever established to ensure that we know what the present water quality standards are, so that we can ensure that in future those standards will not be worsened.

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

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, as a final supplementary, I'd ask the Minister if he is really confident that the assurances that he is receiving from the Ministry of Environment and the Government of Ontario, are really in fact taking place, and I bring this to his attention, because the information we have is that work on the mine in question is continuing at the present time, and there has been no abatement in the work on the site, in spite of the fact that the Minister seems to be getting the assurances from the Ontario Government, that there is a hold on this particular project until such time as all these studies between the two departments are completed?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I don't think I at any time indicated that there was a hold on any construction going on. They may construct the head frame, buildings or any numbers of different things, but what they cannot do is put any part of the mine into operation that would contribute pollution to the water supply, and what they are doing now is in anticipation of being able to build into the system, sufficient water pollution control mechanisms that the effluent will not be in any way pollutant to the City of Winnipeg's water supply.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, if I could now have leave of the House to make a statement for the Minister of Energy.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the Honourable Minister leave? Is it agreeable then to leave it till the end of the Question Period? (Agreed)

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. We note since the First Minister has

indicated that the printing of the pamphlet was done at considerable public expense and not courtesy of the Progressive Conservative Party in Manitoba, and since the pamphlet that he's distributed this morning has a huge blank, a huge blank about half of the pamphlet apparently not been used for any useful purpose, would the First Minister be prepared to accept a suggestion from me, probably in the interests of efficiency and restraint, that he ensure that the back is used to include Claude Ryan's most recent statement to the effect that Mr. Levesque and Mr. Lyon of Manitoba had many similar attitudes vis-a-vis the Constitution, since he's already quoted Mr. Ryan earlier in the pamphlet, and also I wonder if the Premier wouldn't consider adding the comments, of course if his public relations advisors would permit it, of Mr. Levesque, Mr. Lougheed, and Mr. Peckford and of course his Federal Leader, Mr. Joe Clark?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I can well understand the state of high consternation of the Leader of the Opposition because, Mr. Speaker, if I had the honour to lead a party and hadn't been able to bring that party to a position on the main constitutional issues in Canada, I would have long since resigned as leader of the party, which is probably what my honourable friend should be doing. But in any case, Mr. Speaker, we'll leave him to wallow in his own pools of indecision. I merely say, as has already been suggested that what appears on the back of this pamphlet, could have been space for the position of the NDP; that accurately reflects it in Manitoba right now.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, if the First Minister's offering us equal space, we'll be happy to accept it, since he's already sending it out on public funds and since I assume that to be offer on the part of the First Minister, we'll gladly provide him our position within minutes. If the First Minister is indicating an offer to us, we'll gladly accept in the interests of fair play in Manitoba.

I'd like to ask the First Minister if he would acquaint members of the House as to the total costs, Mr. Speaker, of preparation, the receipt of the layout and information from his PR advisors, and all other matters, including of course, what will be the cost of distributing it, I suspect, to every household in the Province of Manitoba, with all the postage that is involved therein. Could the First Minister advise whether or not the cost will reach a quarter of a million, or half a million dollars, or whether it will only be a hundred thousand? What would be the cost of the pamphlet?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, in what I can only assume was that sense of high camp that was just displayed by the Leader of the Opposition because, Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition doesn't have a sense of humour about his absence of a position on the constitution, the rest of us have to. He went before a press conference, Mr. Speaker, a matter of a few weeks ago, gave an alleged position and at the end of it when asked the question, "Is that the position of the party?", he said, "No, I'm expressing a personal position." So now is he going to stand up here and say, Mr. Speaker, that he's brought his . . . is he going to stand up?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition on a point of personal privilege.

MR. PAWLEY: The First Minister is untrue. I spoke as leader of my party at that press conference and was so indicated. Where the First Minister has dug up that bit of misinformation I know not.

MR. LYON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have to accept my honourable friend's word. I was only going on what the press gallery told me and they thought it was the biggest joke in years, but my honourable friend isn't the biggest joke in years, he's just the biggest one in months; that's fine.

All I can say to my honourable friend, Mr. Speaker, is that as and when he gets a position on the constitution, we'd be happy to hear it, a united position on behalf of his party, we'd be happy to hear it. But, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member asked a question which I knew he would be asking, and so I have estimates of the cost of the document.

The estimated cost of printing is \$14,230; the estimated cost of distribution is \$18,176.45 and the estimated cost that's given to me at this time is \$32,406. Those are estimated costs, Mr. Speaker, if there is any excess, I'll be happy to report it but that's what the staff tell me at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, with a final supplementary.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think in all the First Minister's verbosity, which wasn't very much to the point, he still has failed to respond to my question and if he's not prepared to, then let him say so, as to why he didn't add the comments and the observations by Mr. Claude Ryan in addition to those he's already included, which compared his own position, intransigence and rigidity to that of Mr. Rene Levesque in Quebec, and why since he and Mr. Rene Levesque are so close, shoulder to shoulder, why he would not have included Mr. Levesque's statement in the pamphlet? I notice he's included many other political figures. Why did he not include Mr. Levesque?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I can only suggest to my honourable friend that as and when his party has the guts to form a position, or the ability, instead of acting like a bunch of Mexican irregulars, which is what they do most of the time, then I say to my honourable friend, when he's had the opportunity to form a position and print his own brochure as to what that position is, if he can even define what it is, may I suggest that he show a picture of himself perhaps in that same posture as I think one of the national newspapers did, himself with the Prime Minister of Canada, only he like his National Leader, Mr. Broadbent, should be peeking out of the Prime Minister's rear pocket, because that's where he is all the time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster on a point of order.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. There has been some suggestion —(Interjection)—

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. The Honourable Member for Inkster on a point of order.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the point of order is, that it was suggested from this side by the Leader of the Opposition, that the Opposition should have had equal time on the pamphlet. I wish to make it clear that as a member of the Opposition, the pamphlet that I did on the constitution was published, not at public expense and distributed as part of my regular franking privileges, but it was not printed at public expense as was the pamphlet of the Progressive Conservative Party.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MS. JUNE WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable Minister of Health, and I wonder if the Minister has had reports from his department, on recent complaints from patients at Deer Lodge Hospital, to the effect that it is taking up to three months for them to receive their eye glasses after having the prescriptions ordered?

HON. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): No, Mr. Speaker, and I would remind the honourable member that Deer Lodge is a federal institution.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like the opportunity to respond to a question that was raised the other day by the Member for Transcona. On Tuesday of this week, the Member for Transcona asked whether firm regulations are in place concerning the disposal of unwanted drugs or medicines by hospitals, doctors' offices and the likes. The answer is, Mr. Speaker, that firm law is in place respecting narcotics and controlled drugs and the disposal of same. A federal law is in place and no disposal of such items can be carried out without the permission and sanction of the Federal Food and Drug Directorate and, in fact, some monitoring and observation of the disposal process. In terms of non-prescription drugs or those that are not on the controlled list, there is no specific legislation covering disposal of those items definitively unto themselves, Mr. Speaker, but the disposal of that kind of waste is covered under a regulation under The Public Health Act. It is also covered, presumably and expectantly, by the ethics of the medical profession itself and monitored very closely by the College of Physicians and Surgeons under the accepted ethic that no physician shall place any person at risk.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge with supplementary.

MS. WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Health for all Manitobans, including those patients who are patients in Deer Lodge Hospital, will the Minister have someone in his department then investigate the situation of this apparent hardship, which is not a complaint against the management of the hospital but is a complaint about the provision of eye glasses to these elderly patients, most of whom have distinguished themselves in the service of our country? Would he have this investigated and, if necessary, take it up with the Federal authority?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I don't need to be reminded personally, or otherwise, of Canadians who distinguished themselves in the service of their country and I daresay that can be said of every member of this Legislature.

The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge is dealing with a federal issue in a provincial context. I suggest that she get in touch with her colleague, the Minister of Veterans Affairs, on this point.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the First Minister in the absence of the Minister of Labour. Can the Minister indicate why it is that for the first time in my memory Manitoba's unemployment rate has risen to being the fourth lowest in the country. That is something that has not existed for at least 10 years. Can the Minister indicate why that has happened under the Conservative Government administration?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. J. FRANKLIN JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Labour, I would like to comment on the member's question.

In February, we were the second lowest in Canada. We have been traditionally third. We are fourth in Canada at the present time, but the Member for Transcona never takes the time, as all the members on the other side, to analyze figures or reasons, which we tried to explain in the announcement.

Mr. Speaker, there are 4,000 more jobs in Manitoba than there were last month. There were 8,000 more jobs in Manitoba in March over March of 1980; 11,000 more jobs in March over February of 1980.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons for the figures at the present time, as explained in the release, is because of our spring season. Many people who do not come into the employment force for employment until later on — usually it happens a little later on in the Province of Manitoba — but because of our early spring, this figure means there are more people coming into the labour force. We have created 4,000 more new jobs in one month and the indication, Mr. Speaker, is that the Province of Manitoba will take up the labour force as it comes on very quickly because our construction will start sooner. So everything, Mr. Speaker, really, when you analyze the figures, looks toward a very good position regarding employment in the Province of Manitoba in 1981.

MR. PARASIUK: My supplementary is directed to the First Minister, who can try and duck accountability for the unemployment rate in Manitoba all he wants, but the people will hold him accountable.

My question to this government is: Will they send out a document to every householder in Manitoba telling them why we have now the fourth lowest unemployment rate, our highest rate in a decade, and will they in that document apologize to the people of Manitoba for their incompetent economic policies?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, last month when we were second in Canada, one of our members had to ask the question. Mr. Speaker, if he wants it to be sent out this month, we want to send out last

month's and we want to send them out every month. Mr. Speaker, that man, the Member for Transcona, assumes doom and gloom every time he stands up in this House.

MR. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the First Minister, accountable for Manitoba's overall economic performance. I would like to ask him if he believes that an unemployment rate of 6.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, or an unemployment rate of 7.3 percent, which is an unemployment rate which puts us as the Newfoundland of Western Canada, whether he is proud of that particular position of the Manitoba economy and what is he going to propose to bring our unemployment rate down to the level of 3 percent, as it used to be when the New Democratic Party Government was in power?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, unlike my honourable friend, I try not to go into periods of exaltation when the employment rate is good for one month, or into period of deep depression or shall we say lack of reality, as the Member for Transcona dips into occasionally when the employment rate varies through an anomaly in another month.

What one has to do, Mr. Speaker, is look at the quarterly, the half-yearly and the yearly trend, which is what the Minister has said on many many occasions, what I say on many many occasions, and not come to the kind of rather radical and high-pitched voice responses or rhetoric that we hear so often from members on the opposite side, who are all too ready at all times to downgrade their province and downgrade its people, but have very little to suggest about uplifting it.

Now, I'll say to my honourable friend that if he will have a bit of patience and wait until the Budget statement is brought down next week, he will see in that Budget statement some general statements about the review of the economy, which I am sure will come as good edification to him, because he obviously needs some education in the affairs of his own province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Economic Development. In view of the fact that his colleague the Minister of Labour expressed the hope that once the business community recongizes that the labour force is willing and able we will see an even stronger expansion of employment oportunites. Would the Minister undertake to use some of the blank space on the back of this pamphlet and inform the business community that the labour force is willing and able to work, and would he inform the business community to cease downgrading and degrading the province by referring to the labour force as being unwilling and unable to work.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I don't know of any time that this side of the House or the Minster of

Labour in this province has ever stated that the people of Manitoba are unwilling to work. Mr. Speaker, I assure you that type of statement is not a good reflection on what the member is saying and I think he should probably analyze his statement a little more carefully.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to assist the Honourable Minister and refer him to the statement appearing on his desk, the last paragraph, quoting the Minister of Labour as saying, "I am hopeful that once the business community recognizes that the labour force is willing and able, we will see an even stronger expansion of employment opportunities." So my supplementary question is, does the Minister of Economic Development agree with the Minister of Labour that there is a lack of recognition on the part of the business community of the labour forces willingness and ability to work?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the statement of the Minister of Labour. I do not agree with the statement of the Member for Burrows who has completely twisted it around to suit himself in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. BRIAN CORRIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Autopac. I want to know whether the government before the election, Mr. Speaker, is going to extend the minimum coverage from the current \$50,000 in order to afford adequate compensation for seriously injured accident victims? I remind the Minister that yesterday there was a multi-million dollar judgment awarded to an injured motorcyclist in the Queen's Bench Court of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I shall have to check with the administration of Autopac to find out just where that matter stands at the present time.

MR. CORRIN: I would like to know whether the Minister believes that this minimum coverage compensation being at the same rate it was in 1972 and 1973 is adequate in terms of present liability coverage?

MR. JORGENSEN: What the Minister believes or does not believe, I am sure is not relevant at this point. The management of Autopac have this matter under consideration and I believe that the decision will be made shortly.

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

MR. CORRIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister, in view of his response, what advice he would have us give, or what advice he would give to a seriously injured accident victim who is struck by a motorist with minimum \$50,000 coverage and no personal resources? What sort of advice should that

accident victim be given this afternoon or this weekend? What should we tell them?

MR. JORGENSON: It is one of the reasons why the management of Autopac have this matter under consideration at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the First Minister in the absence of the Minister of Energy and ask him whether he can shed any light on the full cost of the Tritschler Commission which estimates have ranged from a low of \$1.5 million to \$3 million, and does this include a calculation of Manitoba Hydro's time and effort?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, my recollection is that there was an Order for Return on this matter some time ago which was filed. I presume it's one of the documents of the House which my honourable friend can look at and enlighten himself from.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for Question Period having expired, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture with a statement.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have copies for the members of the House and I apologize for not having them earlier. With leave I would like to make the statement to the members on behalf of the Minister of Energy and Mines, Mr. Speaker, who, as the Premier has indicated, was out of the province on government business today.

A corporate announcement, Mr. Speaker, is being made this morning which indicates there is intensified interest by the oil industry of Manitoba's oil potential. The young, but aggressive, Calgary based company, Clarion Petroleums Limited, is announcing simultaneously in Calgary and Winnipeg, it will conduct an extensive oil exploration in the Virden area in 1981 and 1982. The company is committed to spend \$5 million on this exploration program which will involve the drilling of at least 20 wildcat wells. Three of the wells will be drilled down to a depth of more than 6,000 feet to the Precambrian rock level. The other 17 wells will be drilled to the Mississippian geological strata to a depth of 2,500 feet. This is a major undertaking by a single company. For instance, in all of 1980 there were 27 new wells drilled in Manitoba which was the highest total for any year since 1969. Clarion Petroleums which is a majority Canadian owned company intends to drill its first exploratory well on May 1st and by November 1st will have drilled 10 wells. A further 10 wells will be drilled in the balance of the 1981-1982 year, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition I can say that

we welcome the information and the good news that there is continued exploration and some improvement in exploration in the oil industry in Manitoba. But, Mr. Speaker, we find it somewhat amusing that the government wants to take credit for what is an international phenomena and that is that the oil prices in the world are increasing and, Mr. Speaker, if anyone is to take credit for that, I suppose we should give credit to the Arabs, not to the Progressive Conservative party of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, when we pointed out to the Conservative government that if they want to take credit for this kind of announcement, they also have to accept on the other hand the blame for the fact that oil production in Manitoba has declined 20 percent under their government. They can't have it both ways, Mr. Speaker. If they want to take credit for the increased exploration, they also have to take some blame for the decrease in production, and on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, the other thing which this government never bothers to even indicate in their press releases — this information I am quoting comes right from the government's own reports. It's not pulled out of the air, Mr. Speaker. Look at your own reports. (Interjections)

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

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Speaker, I was just concluding my comments, but I note they are not going down very well on the other side because they obviously don't like to hear the other side of the story.

The other thing, Mr. Speaker, which this government never mentions, and it's not mentioned in this report — (Interjections)

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

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, well if I could be allowed to complete my comments, Mr. Speaker, the one thing which is of concern to us and something which this government never mentions in any of their releases when it comes to mining or oil development or any of the natural resource developments, is what are the revenues going to be to the people of Manitoba from these resources. What are the revenues going to be? And under this government, Mr. Speaker, in spite of the fact that there is increased interest in exploration, there is increased interest in exploration in many minerals because of the price of minerals, and people are coming here not because of the PC government, they are coming here because the oil and the minerals are here. But this government and the Progressive Conservative Party in this province, because of their philosophy will not give to the people of Manitoba a proper return from the resources and that's the bottom line, Mr. Speaker, and if you want to compare resource development . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I would ask the honourable member to be fairly brief in his reply to the statement.

The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, if we want to look at return from revenues, one should look right

across the boundary at the Province of Saskatchewan where there is more exploration going on and there is more return from those resources coming to the people of Saskatchewan, and, Mr. Speaker, it's no credit to the Progressive Conservative Party that they are not getting a proper return from our resources for the people of Manitoba.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GERALD W. J. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, would you call Second Reading of Bill No. 46, and then Adjourned Debates on Second Reading of Bill Nos. 10 through to 42?

SECOND READING GOVERNMENT BILLS BILL NO. 46 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE CORPORATIONS ACT

MR. FILMON presented Bill No. 46, An Act to amend The Corporations Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

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

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, since the enactment of the present Corporations Act on November 1st, 1976, there have been two amending acts which received assent on July 20th, 1978, and May 11th, 1979. In addition, a few minor amendments were made by The Statute Law Amendments Act, C75 of 1980, and assented to on July 29th, 1980.

As the honourable members are aware, corporate law is not static but must constantly change to meet the needs of the marketplace, particularly the increasing demand for faster service, mandated by the rapid pace at which commercial transactions are negotiated today. My predecessor in this office mentioned when introducing Bill No. 12, on February 28th, 1979, that the primary goal of a more efficient administration in the field of corporate law appears to have been achieved under this act. These amendments therefore are necessary to maintain that goal.

Bill No. 46 which is before you today consists of amendments to improve the processing of documents filed with the corporation's branch. These amendments do not change the existing law, but would permit a modification in the administrative procedure which would expedite the filing of documents from a turnaround time of 15 working days to only 2 working days. These amendments were considered by a Special Committee on Corporate Law, which were instrumental in preparing the present act and the previous amendments. The Chairman is Mr. Irwin Dorfman, with Martin Freedman as Vice-Chairman. More active members of this committee include Professor Arthur Brade, Mel Newman, Abe Anhang, Ray Taylor, Allan Cantor, David Sokoloff, Clive Tallin, Bob Heuckel, Ray Adams, and of course departmental representatives. This committee recommends the attached bill to the government and to the House.

I would also like to mention that Ontario has a similar procedure to that which is now sought to be and implemented by these amendments, and that similar amendments under The Canada Business Corporations Act are proposed. The bill would also fulfill the second of the two main objectives of The Corporations Act, namely the attainment of a more uniform corporate law for Canada.

Since 1976 there has been considerable progress towards uniformity. In addition to the Federal and Saskatchewan jurisdictions the provinces of Ontario, Alberta, New Brunswick and Newfoundland have also introduced a new Corporations Act into their Legislatures, while Quebec has a committee studying the acts of the uniform corporate law jurisdictions. Generally the amendments should benefit the public by expediting the processing of documents and at the same time maintain uniformity with other jurisdictions. Consequently, Mr. Speaker, I have no reservations in recommending this bill to members for their careful consideration and adoption.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS: I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kildonan that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES ON SECOND READING

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 10 — The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, all the bills that are standing in my name, I request that they stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 10, (Stand); Bill No. 11 (Stand); Bill No. 12 (Stand); Bill No. 29, (Stand); Bill No. 34 (Stand)

The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented.

MATTER OF GRIEVANCE

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

MR. WALDING: Mr. Speaker, this is the appropriate moment, I believe, when any member who might have a grievance is entitled to rise before the House and bring it to the attention of the members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I don't recall rising in this House before on a matter of grievance, but there is a matter that's come to my attention that I believe important enough to be dealt with at this time. I know it will be of considerable interest to members on both sides of the House.

You may recall, Mr. Speaker, that the Public Utilities Committee has had some four meetings now,

culminating yesterday in the Opposition members walking out of the Committee. That was followed during the afternoon by a Motion of Privilege placed before the House. You will recall also, Mr. Speaker, that much of the dispute seemed to have centered around a meeting of the Board of Hydro, at which time concern was expressed, it was reported to us, on the concerns of Manitoba Hydro's solicitor at that time. It was further told to us that there had been a legal opinion presented to the Board and that subsequent to the receiving of this legal opinion that the Chairman had gone to see his Minister, after which time there had been a threat made to the Board that if they carried through on the advice received, that the Board would be replaced.

There seemed to be some confusion about such an opinion having been given and whether or not that opinion was in writing. The Member for Rhineland, who was a member at that time and present at the Committee, was not able to say for sure whether there was, in fact, a written document giving that information and I believe that two or three of the other members of the Board who had been contacted were also unable to recall clearly whether a sort of formal document had been given to the members of the Board, but they do recall that the solicitor had given an opinion to the Board.

The Minister certainly says that he did not receive such an opinion in a formal manner. It is this written opinion, whether it is in document form or whether it was given from notes by their counsel to the Board, that seems to be the nub of this particular dispute. You may recall, Mr. Speaker, that during the debate on the Motion of Privilege yesterday, I did raise the distinct possibility that such a document was likely to come to light and that information and further documentation does tend to surface in cases such as this.

I don't want to repeat the argument yesterday, Mr. Speaker, of the Minister's handling of this particular problem. It could, in my opinion, have been dealt with quite simply in the first place by admission by the Minister, yes, he had received the opinion and he did not like it and the Board had decided not to go along with it. That would have been the end of it, Mr. Speaker. But we received evasive answers, denials that any such opinion had been given, denials by Hydro that such a document existed, and I believe that has resulted in most unfavourable publicity for the government until that time.

However, Mr. Speaker, I believe that I might be in a position now to shed some further light on the subject. The First Minister, who is not here, said yesterday that he would be most interested to be advised or to see such a legal opinion, and I am now in a position to read into the record a document which I think that members will find of considerable interest. It will shed, I believe, considerable light on why the Minister reacted in the way that he did, and why he was quoted as being most unenthusiastic about it. It may, depending on members' interpretation of it, shed light also on the leaving of Hydro's counsel shortly thereafter.

Mr. Speaker, this document reads as follows, and I quote: "Mr. Commissioner, by virtue of Order-in-Council 1328, issued under date of December 28th, 1977, your commission inter alia is charged with the responsibility under Part V of The Manitoba Evidence

Act to make an enquiry into whether Manitoba Hydro has carried out the intent, purpose, and objects of The Manitoba Hydro Act in all aspects of the development of the Churchill-Nelson River systems for the generation of hydro-electric power and any projects associated therewith.

"The intent, purpose, and object of The Manitoba Hydro Act is to provide for the continuation of a supply of power adequate for the needs of the province and to promote economy and efficiency in the generation, distribution, supply and use of power. More specifically the terms of reference granted to you required an enquiry into the following:

"(a) Whether the regulation of Lake Winnipeg prior to the diversion of the Churchill River promoted economy and efficiency in the generation, distribution and supply of power in the province;

"(b) Whether the timing of Lake Winnipeg Regulation and associated power development at Jenpeg promoted economy and efficiency in the generation, distribution and supply of power in the province;

"(c) Whether the decision to restrict the levels on Southern Indian Lake to elevation 850 feet and the resulting delays and modifications to the Churchill River Diversion and associated power developments at Notigi Rapids control structure and downstream on the Rat and Burntwood Rivers promoted economy and efficiency in the generation, distribution and supply of power in the province;

"(d) Whether the failure to follow the schedule of development of the Rat River, Burntwood River sites before the Lake Winnipeg Regulation and before the development of the Long Spruce, Limestone and Conawapa sites promoted economy and efficiency in the generation, distribution and supply of power in the province;

"(e) The extent, if any, to which the development sequence adopted for the utilization of the Nelson-Churchill River Systems contributed to past, present and prospective rate increases for consumers of electricity in Manitoba; and

"(f) Such further matters as the Commissioner may consider ancillary and incidental to the above mentioned matters.

"The inquiry by virtue of its public transcript has not addressed itself to the issues prescribed by virtue of the Order-in-Council facilitating its appointment. You have had approximately 25 days of hearings and at no point in time have any of the issues required to be inquired into been raised before this Commission. I raise these matters simply because I feel that public enquiry such as this would clearly and precisely adhere to the Terms of Reference prescribed.

"Instead of your Commission directing itself to the issues prescribed the Commission has been engaged principally, in my opinion, in an exercise of attempting to assassinate the qualifications, integrity and credentials of professional engineers in the employ of Manitoba Hydro.

"At this point in time the Commission decides to direct its concern to the issues prescribed by virtue of the reference, unfortunately Manitoba Hydro's position has been severely prejudiced by virtue of the preemptory termination of Mr. L. A. Bateman's services as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. I regret to note that the Honourable Donald Craik

requested Mr. Bateman's resignation on Thursday, December 14th, 1978, at a point in time when counsel for Manitoba Hydro had not re-examined Mr. Bateman on his evidence. I suggest to you Mr. Commissioner that conduct such as this compounded by the proclamation of an Order-in-Council facilitating Mr. Bateman's termination puts into disrepute the credibility of your Commission.

"One of the requirements of your appointment in this regard is to make recommendations from time to time as you think advisable to the Minister in charge concerning Manitoba Hydro. For the Minister in charge without even waiting for the full unfolding of Mr. Bateman's evidence, to have sought his resignation, at best has had a severe scaring effect on the integrity of your undertakings.

"At this juncture it should be noted for the public record that approximately a year ago Mr. Craik requested Mr. Bateman to step down as Manitoba Hydro Chairman so that he could better, to use the Minister's words, defend himself against the Inquiry. Mr. Bateman declined this opportunity.

"It was very clear to Mr. Bateman during the currency of last year that the Minister in charge of Manitoba Hydro, even though Manitoba Hydro represents by far the largest financial undertaking within the provincial government service, was not prepared to show any wholesome willingness to interface with the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro in order to become appraised with the affairs of this corporation.

"By virtue of this apparent personality conflict existing between Messrs. Craik and Bateman, Mr. Bateman had intended to resign as Chairman of Manitoba Hydro as soon as he had rendered to your Commission the full assistance necessary in order to enable you to complete your undertakings. By Mr. Bateman being discharged at this point in time, this severely impedes the ability that I have to obtain, on behalf of Manitoba Hydro, the necessary briefing required to protect Manitoba Hydro's interest before this Commission.

"I want to make one point quite clear, and that is Mr. Smellie and I have been retained by the Board of Manitoba Hydro to represent the interests of Manitoba Hydro and my remarks in no way should be construed as representing the personal interest of Mr. Bateman.

"However, without in any way denegrating the abilities of the personnel of Manitoba Hydro, Mr. Bateman is recognized internationally as one of the world's foremost authorities with reference to hydro-electric generation. The undertakings of Manitoba Hydro by virtue of the Churchill-Nelson Diversion Project have been unique in scope and concept. Mr. Bateman, by virtue of his full exposure to all facets of the matters associated with these projects and the attendant transmission of electricity from the Nelson River generating stations has a unique knowledge within the utility. Again, I do not wish my remarks to be construed as indicating that others within Manitoba Hydro, who have been associated with these projects have not got a high degree of competence. Despite the cruel lambasting that certain Hydro personnel have been exposed to through you Commission's counsel, these individuals are also recognized as Manitoba Hydro is recognized internationally as well as one of the most efficient

and effectively operated public utilities in the western world.

"The simple point that has to be made is simply by virtue of the government actions at this point in time the ability of counsel for Manitoba Hydro to effectively present a case has been severely prejudiced.

"In addition to the objection that the Commission has not addressed itself to its Terms of Reference, I would also wish to record another objection. It has been my experience in handling and appearing before inquiry commissions for counsel for the agency being inquired into, to be afforded the opportunity of having some interface with the Commissioner. In the instant case, this has not occurred. At no point in time have you Mr. Commissioner spoken to me, nor have you been prepared to provide me with an opportunity of indicating how, in a fair and impartial manner, the affairs of the Commission could have been conducted. The procedure, which I suggest to you has been a massive denial of natural justice and has not been within the best traditions of common law, your counsel has asked leading questions which in number total well over 2,000. This has been done in what appears to be an attempt to harass, demean and vilify Hydro employees called as witnesses. Unfortunately, my status as counsel does not give me the right to object to the manner in which you conduct your proceedings.

"However, I wish to clearly indicate that in my opinion the conduct of this Commission at best has been reprehensible and, at worse, an example of the Star Court Chamber. Witnesses were interviewed by your counsel prior to the public hearing without these witnesses having the benefit of counsel and the reaction of one witness, who at an earlier stage of his life had been examined by a Gestapo agent indicated that the experience with the Nazis was more comfortable than he experienced by your counsel.

"The reaction of another witness was simply that the examination was an exercise in sadistic bullying by an arrogant snob. The interface of this Commission to Manitoba Hydro personnel has had a very demoralizing effect and our position as counsel has been one of frustration because we have not had the authority to attempt to facilitate the concepts of fair play. If the name of the game is to crusade for pious purity in terms of the conduct of all concerned with full disclosure being evidenced at all points in time, my mandate would require me to say, Mr. Commissioner, this Commission has already cost the citizens of Manitoba in excess of \$1.5 million and the citizens of Manitoba have not received one scintilla of evidence on the public record directed to the issues required by your appointment. Surely, the issue that the citizens of Manitoba are entitled to be informed upon are the simple and basic issues as to whether the expenditure of public funds for the facilitation of Lake Winnipeg Regulation and the Churchill River Diversion was a sound and prudent expenditure of funds in terms of the generating capacities of electrical energy available through the harnessing of the Nelson River.

"The simple issue is whether public funds have been misappropriated. The issue is not whether to use your own terminology, simply MLAs had been

misled, whether chapters of engineering studies had been subject to editorial scrutiny, whether internal memos had been changed, these in no way are the issues prescribed for you by your appointment.

"Mr. Commissioner, I make these comments with a heart filled with sadness. In light of your distinguished career, I regret the necessity of making this type of objection, however, in light of my responsibility as counsel for Manitoba Hydro, and in light of the enormous expenditure of public funds for an exercise that simply seems to be one whereby an action has been undertaken to attempt to crucify the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro, I would be, myself, less than honest, in terms of my public responsibility, if I did not so record my position.

"In light of the clear fact that the usefulness and credibility remaining to your commission is effectively undermined, as evidenced by the intervention of government on issues that you are charged with the responsibility to report on, this commission can no longer serve any useful purpose, and therefore I respectfully request that you terminate these proceedings.

"In the alternative that you do not agree with my submission in this regard, I hereby, pursuant to Section 97(1) of The Manitoba Evidence Act, request a reference to the Court of Appeal.

"Section 97(1) provides as follows: 'Where the validity of the commission issued under this part, or the jurisdiction of a commissioner appointed thereby, or the validity of any decision, order, direction or other part of the commission appointed under this part, is called into question by any person affected, the commissioner upon the request of that person shall state a case in writing to the Court of Appeal setting forth the material facts and the decision of a court thereon is final and binding'.

"I hereby request that such a reference as a person affected on the grounds that you have not adhered to the jurisdiction prescribed for your commission, under and pursuant of Order in Council 1328.

Mr. Speaker, the document is not signed, and I will table this copy of the document. I cannot . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The reading of an unsigned document in this Chamber is contrary to the Rules, and I would suggest that if the document is unsigned it does not have any standing as far as the records of this House are concerned.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Speaker, I am conversant with the practice of this House in requiring that a letter that a member wishes to quote from should be tabled if he is so asked to do. I am not aware that requirement that a document be signed is necessary in order for any document to be quoted. There have been two documents, or at least one document this morning, tabled in the House and read to members which does not bear a signature. There is a leaflet that also appears not to bear a signature. Whether the document has any validity, Mr. Speaker, is not for me to judge. I am prepared to make it public, to table it for the interest of the members involved. I did not say before commencing to read it, Mr. Speaker, that it was in fact a letter. I merely said that I had a document which I believe would shed some light on the dispute that has been before the House and the Committee for the last several days. I cannot

attest to the accuracy of this document, Mr. Speaker, I do not know who wrote it. However, members can draw their own conclusions from the words that I used.

If there should be any dispute, Mr. Speaker, and if the House wishes to delve into the matter any further, perhaps the House might wish to reconsider its decision of yesterday in referring the matter to Privileges and Elections; or it is not beyond the ability of the government to bring its own Resolution in to do such a thing.

But, Mr. Speaker, this document contains some powerful words, strong language, some rather emotional content; not the sort of sober, measured words that one would normally expect to receive from a legal counsel in making a recommendation to his client. It does however, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, have a certain ring of truth to it. It shows, I believe, strong feelings on the part of the writer. It would obviously have the sort of effect on the Minister that he has admitted to, of being unenthusiastic, it probably had an even deeper effect on him, Mr. Speaker, and that is perhaps the reason for the reported threat and intimidation of the Board.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that, in the main, this document speaks for itself, and I leave it to honourable members to draw their own conclusions.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. May I quote from Beauchesne, Citations 328 and 329. "A member may read from extracts from documents, however a speech should not consist of a single, long quotation". In 329, "A member cannot read a letter referring to anything that has taken place in debate in the House. (2) An unsigned letter should not be read in the House". I refer the honourable member to that. —(Interjections)

Is this the document that the honourable member has brought forward?

MR. WALDING: I believe so, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: This document has no date; it has no signature; it is not addressed to anyone. —(Interjections)

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

MR. WALDING: Yes, a point of order, Mr. Speaker. If you would care to review Hansard I think that you will find that I make no assertion when commencing to read the document, only that I had a document which I believed would provide information and shed light, and that I was intending to read from it. I did not allege that it was a letter; I made no reference to its origin at all. If it seems to be a problem for you or for the House, Mr. Speaker, we do have a means of getting to the bottom and ascertaining the truth in the matter, and I leave that for your consideration, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. It is not the responsibility of the Speaker to make the rules; it is the responsibility of the Speaker to enforce the rules. The rules were not made by this particular Assembly; the rules have been made and changed from time to time. We do have a Rules Committee that has adopted the rules. These rules have been adopted by this Assembly and have been used for many many years.

I would like to review the tapes of the member's introductory remarks. But if the member has not identified this I would have to say that it should not be a part of the record of the House at this time, but I would reserve the right to look at the tapes and review the information that the member gave to the House when he introduced it.

The Honourable Member for Rossmere.

MR. VIC SCHROEDER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. In light of the occurrences of the last several minutes, it would seem to me that it would be appropriate to take this entire subject matter and that document to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and I would so move, in order that the Committee on Privileges and Elections could call witnesses to determine the origin and accuracy of that particular document and the surrounding circumstances. I'm sure the members opposite want the truth to come out so I'm sure they will support that motion, and I'm sure the Speaker feels the same way about it. We want to find the origin; we want to find the date; we want to find out who wrote it and this would seem to be the appropriate method of achieving that end.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources on the point of order.

HON. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): On the same point of order. This fuzzy kind of example of totally ignoring your situation, Mr. Speaker, and your suggestion to the House just a few moments ago that this is a problem with respect to a particular Rule of the House. If it is the problem of how we can place documents or how we can table documents in this House, that's a clear question of the Rules Committee. The Privileges Committee has absolutely nothing to do with it, but it's the kind of fuzzy thinking that is displayed by honourable members opposite with respect to the operation of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: On the point of order, the Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, if you're going to take the matter under advisement, I just wish to remind you that earlier today I quoted from an unsigned, undated document when I made reference to the fact that one of the Cabinet Ministers said that the business community does not recognize that the labour force is willing and able to work and, at that time, Mr. Speaker, you will recall that I was allowed to make reference to an unsigned and undated document. So I am simply reminding you of that, Mr. Speaker, to assist you in arriving at your decision.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface on the point of order.

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order. I would also like to remind you that approximately three years ago I quoted a letter that was unsigned. It was somebody giving directions on how to handle the dental programs. That was allowed in this House. And then a few weeks after the President of the Dental Association admitted that he had written the

document. So, Mr. Speaker, this is not something new; it has been done quite a few times. I don't think that a letter that has not been signed, or a document that has not been signed, should have the same impact and people could question it but it certainly has been introduced in this House many many times, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture on the point of order.

MR. DOWNEY: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, the point that I would like to make is that the member who is referring to the document indicated in his comments that in fact the writer had strong feelings, and either he should provide the writer or the signer of the document that he was prepared to give to the House, or in fact, doing what you have suggested, Mr. Speaker, take it under advisement and review the actual situation dealing with the document.

MR. SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition on the point of order.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, it appears to me that in view of the remarks that have been made, in particular remarks just now made by the Minister of Agriculture, that the most appropriate remedy would be to refer this letter to the Committee on Privileges on Elections, or Rules, so that we can obtain the presence of witnesses and, Mr. Speaker, in that way we'll find out the truth. We don't need to guess in this Chamber; all we need do is do as we requested yesterday, that the Privileges and Elections Committee deal with this, alternatively the Committee on Rules; we can call witnesses. So we don't have to engage, as the Minister of Agriculture just did, in some sort of insinuations that the document was an imaginary document or a fake document. Let's get to the bottom of this; let's refer it to the Committee, either on Rules, Mr. Speaker, or Privileges and Elections. The opposition is quite willing and prepared to do that in respect to this document, and I would make that humble suggestion to you, Mr. Speaker, because I know the situation you are now finding yourself in, that would be the appropriate steps.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington on the point of order.

MR. CORRIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It may be useful, Mr. Speaker, to consider, by way of analogy, another document that was tabled in this House this morning.

MR. SPEAKER: We're dealing with a particular point of order. I thank all honourable members for their contributions. I will take the matter under advisement, review the tapes, and make a decision at that time.

Proceed with Orders of the Day.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair for the Department of Education; and the Honourable Member for Virden in the Chair for the Department of Natural Resources.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY - NATURAL RESOURCES

MR. CHAIRMAN, Morris McGregor (Virden): I call the committee to order. The Chairman is a little nervous when bringing committee to order without an Opposition because I remember one committee some years ago, it was considerable, the Deputy Speaker was acting as the Opposition.

The Member for Radisson.

MR. ABE KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I left my other committee just for a short time because I did have a couple of questions under Acquisition and Construction, which I believe is the item under discussion at this time.

I had forewarned the Minister somewhat but not completely, but I am interested in the waters that flow down the La Salle River that are diverted from the Assiniboine so that the farmers in that area can draw water out of the La Salle River to the point where they can irrigate their property. I know in the past that it has been allowed. I see one of my associates has arrived, so he can help me carry on.

But anyway, for the last three years to my knowledge, there has been water transferred from the Assiniboine into that La Salle on a temporary basis, and it's usually in the fall to pump the water directly so that the wells can be replenished and that there will be a supply of water. I know in the last three years this has been so. Sometimes it has been a little late in the season and not been able to do the job properly because of the weather conditions, where the heavy equipment could not get onto the land because it was wet and damp. But it is my understanding that there is some consideration of a permanent type of facility to pump the water from the Assiniboine into the La Salle, which has been considered.

Now, I don't think a final decision has been made but the cost of doing it on a temporary basis every year, it was wise to start that way but I think that we must consider a permanent type of operation for the people in that area so they can make their plans to grow vegetables each year and possibly even running water or sewage in some of the times in the area, if they had an adequate supply of water.

I believe that there has been some people who have made application to draw water out of the La Salle who have been rejected, or at least additional waters that they normally draw, and they have been rejected because of the amounts of water that are there and to take an additional amount of water out at this time I think, would hinder the whole of the operation.

I was wondering whether the Minister, through his department, has decided, has made any plans for a permanent supply of water into the La Salle at this time. I do have a couple of further questions but I think I would allow the Honourable Minister to reply to some of my statements and questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Chairman, the honourable member has obviously done his homework on this particular question because he states the situation on the La Salle pretty accurately.

Yes, we have had to reject applications from additional residents in that area who have applied through the Water Resources Branch for the right to take water out of the La Salle. We've had to do that, of course, in the interests of maintaining the supply of the existing users.

We have, as the member has also indicated, been involved in pumping operations in the past. These operations are not without cost and it is of concern to the department and to me that I believe again this year, with the possibility of short water supplies, an item in the amount of, I believe \$80,000 is contained in the Estimates to again make it possible to pump water from the Assiniboine to the La Salle. This appropriation is not in my Estimates but is covered under my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture's Estimates in his Drought Program. It would seem, to apply common sense to the problem, the resolution would be to consider the digging, the building of a permanent channel that would make the transfer of water more economical and be there at such times when it is needed.

The department is very much aware of the situation. The department is under considerable pressure from existing users and potential users for additional water supplies from this source. There is a technical concern that the mere digging of a channel may cause some problems, principally one of concern is salinity. You have to know what kind of terrain and land you are digging through and disturbing when you are moving water about in this way. My Director of Water Resources indicates and I certainly asked him to accelerate the field investigations that are required before such an undertaking can take place. Moneys are set aside for this investigation as well.

Some of it comes under the general drought-proofing program — while the member wasn't here, I referred to earlier under the Canada-Manitoba Agreement — which enables us to do the kind of technical on-the-field research to get us more information as to the availability of ground water supplies, the possibility of designating where additional dams or storage reservoirs ought to be built. We have to have a concern before we facilitate additional water coming out of the Assiniboine River, that the Assiniboine River flows are there to take it from. There are heavy irrigation demands on the Assiniboine River, particularly in the Portage area and east. So the problem has to be one of ensuring supply from the Assiniboine before we build a structure to take it out of the Assiniboine and put it into the La Salle.

Mr. Chairman, I can only indicate to the honourable member, and I thank him for the question, that it's a concern that a number of people have brought to my attention and to the attention of the department, and it would be my hope that we can resolve the technical problems.

The project in itself is not a particularly large one in terms of dollars and cents and certainly if we can clear away some of the technical problems, then I would certainly want to proceed. I know that the Minister of Agriculture is encouraging me to do so, as is the Member for Radisson.

MR. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you Mr. Minister.

You brought up one point concerning the area around Portage la Prairie and it's certainly not my

intention to push for a particular project that would hinder or hurt another area, that was not the intention. I appreciate the remarks of the Honourable Minister when he does advise that in the survey, or in the complete plans, that everything has to be considered, and the area around Portage la Prairie should be considered and I wouldn't want anything to happen at this point that would cause it any damage. I know that the development around Portage, the vegetable growing area, has developed very very well and I have that same sort of a future sight of the area around the La Salle that does service and I would love to see, not as a competitor but in addition to Portage la Prairie, the area along the La Salle that would be a great vegetable growing area, and it is coming along very nicely now.

I would hope that the amounts of moneys being spent, the figure of \$80,000, it almost comes to a point that over the last few years these studies have been taking place and I wouldn't want to see an \$80,000 waste — it's not going to be a complete waste — but if we could take that money and put it into the actual structure, I think the structure would be somewhere in the area of a quarter of a million dollars altogether. I am kind of guessing because I don't have complete background figures, but that \$80,000 that has been allocated by the Department of Agriculture this year towards the supply of water into the La Salle, I think would go a long way to paying for that permanent structure.

I have a couple of other things and I really am not looking for comments. I have presented the case and I hope that the Minister and his department are going to act on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. ENNS: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the honourable member would permit a question. Is he planning on running in the Morris constituency in the coming election?

MR. KOVNATS: I'll be happy to answer that in a minute also. Actually, that makes the third area that I might be planning on running in. But I will be running and I haven't really announced as to which area, to the Honourable Minister.

But the area around that area is the township of McDonald, I believe, and they're celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. To the Honourable Minister, I think that would be a beautiful project for the government to be involved in, at least to make the announcement that it's going to happen, as part of their 100th anniversary celebrations in the township of McDonald.

Now, I'll move to one other thing. Unless somebody else wants to ask any more questions on this particular subject, I've got one other thing that I would like to talk about, which might bring some speculation as to my running down in the southeast corner of the Province of Manitoba. I understand that there is some waste disposals being planned in the northern parts of the United States that border the Canadian border, particularly around where my farm is in Piney and Menisino area. Through the Department of Natural Resources, have we got any contingency plans to counteract any possibility of contamination coming up from the United States through underground waterways, coming and

contaminating the areas in Canada, because I understand from the article that I read in the paper, that the underground waters do flow north from United States into the area where I do have a concern. It's the Honourable Member for Emerson's area but I do have many friends and a farm in that area, that I am aware of, and I would hope that we do have some contingency plans to counteract any possibility of contaminated water coming from the United States into Canada.

Has the Honourable Minister or his department made any contingency plans if and when, and it looks like it's going to happen — it's not just a hypothetical question. Maybe at this time it might be hypothetical and I hope the Minister won't just pass it off as saying it's hypothetical, but it looks like it's not too far away from being a reality. Would the Honourable Minister care to reply?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, the staff advises me that they too have been alerted to the possibility of some site being developed in that general area. They are aware of some hearings or meetings that have been held in the state of Minnesota in this regard.

I would have to firstly direct the honourable member that this is of course principally a concern of the Environment Branch of the department of my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs and Environmental matters. Dr. Bowen, Director of the Environment Division, is apprised of the situation. I know that with the support of his colleague, the Member for Rupertsland, who has an ongoing concern about pollution of our environment wherever it occurs in the Province of Manitoba, that the two of you will act as watchdogs, if you like, of the role of this government in this matter.

We have a serious concern in that area, because I need not remind the Member for Radisson or the Member for Emerson, that that area is subject and prone to flooding. The whole Roseau River watershed area contributes to the floods that all too frequently occur in the Red River Valley and we would want to, and we will make it our business to have our concerns adequately represented in any such a decision should we be able to ascertain that's actually been contemplated.

My Director of Water Resources, who was contacted this morning by some representatives of the news media on the same subject matter, informed them that we have not been able to pinpoint the stage at which the proposed development is. However, we've been alerted to it and I'm sure that both from Water Resources, who have a concern with the respect to the water problems in that area, and more specifically the department directly involved with the environmental matters, will be keeping a watch and brief on this.

MR. KOVNATS: I'm just about completed now and I thank the honourable Minister for making his remarks. My question doesn't really come under Acquisition and Construction but I don't have the opportunity to ask these questions under any other department as I must get back to my own committee that I'm in.

I would just like to make one passing remark concerning — I guess, conservation officers come under Natural Resources — just one remark. I

happen to know the Conservation Officer in Piney who was transferred to another area. Your staff is excellent; the manner in which your department is run in this regard leaves no criticism at all. I was a little bit critical when I had heard of the transfer but I understand that this is a normal procedure and the people directly involved are not unhappy about it and I thought the Honourable Minister and his department would like to know about it. You've got a good staff. I've always found them to be most co-operative and I would hope that they would keep up the good service that they have always provided the community, particularly in the Piney-Menisino area.

Now, just before I leave, last year at this time, I believe it was the Department of Natural Resources that supplied us with, I guess they were white spruce trees. Each member was given one through the Department of Natural Resources. I am a tree planter. I plant trees in numbers which I get at Haddashville and from Indian Head but the trees that were supplied last year, if they are forthcoming again this year, because we must make plans in advance to where we are going to be planting them and negotiating with some of the members for their trees, where they don't have a chance to put them anywhere else, and I hope we're trying to push the department into something that they hadn't planned on but if they had such plans, I would hope that they would announce it very soon so that we can make our plans to plant our trees.

I see the Honourable Member for Emerson, who is my friend and my representative out there, he's here listening to all my remarks and I don't mean to take away his thunder in speaking about his constituency, but I happen to be a member and living in that constituency — we have a residence out there — so I'm really protecting my own interests and I'm not trying to take any thunder away from you. I see one of my other associates has just joined me and I'm going to pass on to these other members.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, just before the honourable member leaves, I do want to on behalf of staff, thank him for those expressions of confidence with respect to departmental activities. I make a particular note of it that when, from time to time, departmental staff have to be transferred, that often is accompanied with some difficulty. People are people. The staff members get accustomed to working in a particular area but there are times and reasons why, in the running of the department, a transfer has to take place.

I want to assure all honourable members that these are not done lightly. They involve a great deal of thought and discussion with the individual involved by the personnel branch, by the immediate directors involved in the decision-making process. So I take this moment or two to place on the record that I am particularly appreciative of the member in suggesting and indicating to us from first-hand or practical experience that we have, at least in this particular instance, been able to do that in a satisfactory manner.

MR. KOVNATS: I don't think we have any more questions. If you would care to pass these items, we can finish the department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rock Lake. We'll clean up the whole thing.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have found the comments from the Member for Radisson very interesting and I want to concur with him when he talks about the young spruce trees that are delivered to us in the House once a year, an annual thing, and I want to concur with him and say that it is very appreciated as far as I am concerned, because I am able to get home on the weekend following the receiving of that small spruce tree, that we do find a place on the farm for those trees. I think it's an excellent program. I hope the Minister and his staff, and I want to compliment them as well, that they will continue to follow that practice.

Now, Mr. Chairman, to get to the problems that concern me. I want to speak for a few moments on Rock Lake, which I think is an area of the Province of Manitoba that is well known; it has had a great deal of publicity. As you know, Mr. Chairman, in Rock Lake we have both a private park that is operated by private individuals. We also have a park that is operated there by the Government of Manitoba and that has been going on for many many years.

It is an area of great activity, both in the way of interest to people who want to go fishing for a weekend, or any time that they have a holiday. Also, it's an area where people can enjoy outdoor camping. Also, there are facilities there for them, cabins and what have you, if they want to spend a weekend or even a week or two weeks of holidays.

The Rock Lake area, as far as the hotel is concerned, is popularly known as Avery's Hotel, has now been taken over by another syndicate of church people and I think, Mr. Chairman, are going to do a tremendous job in continuing and even promoting further the activities of Rock Lake.

I am hoping, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister will see his way clear — and I don't think I need to remind him that he had good intentions and I think my memory goes back about 12 years — that we would be able to do something to improve Rock Lake.

In this case, it requires probably the raising of the level of the lake, the purchase of maybe some lands in order to do that. Also, the dam that has been there for many, many years, is one that has created problems for both myself, to the Minister, to the department officials, and I need not tell them, they're fully aware of the problems that we've had over the years but I think, Mr. Chairman, that something can be done to improve the situation which will lessen the difficulties that both the staff of the Minister and myself, would have in future years.

Also, I notice in the Interlake region here, there's a lake they call Swan Lake in it, but I don't think that that Swan Lake is the Swan Lake that is my area, but I do have a matter in regard to Swan Lake, which is east of Rock Lake, where it doesn't take very much, but a small dam would certainly improve the fishing facilities and what have you for the people in that particular community. So, Mr. Chairman, I just want to place on the record the concerns the people have, because we sell fishing licences to many American tourists that come to Manitoba and find it very interesting to drop in around Rock Lake to do a considerable amount of fishing. I have entertained and taken people from other parts of the world to

that part of Manitoba and they found it a very, very interesting community area which they enjoy very much to visit and have indicated to me that they've travelled many parts of the country and said they haven't seen anything more beautiful than our community that surrounds Rock Lake. It also is of interest to people not living in that particular area of Manitoba but to people of other parts of Manitoba and other parts of Canada who come in to visit and enjoy the facilities that we have there. So I would maybe ask the Minister if he wanted to make some comments as to what the future of that particular area is in the near future.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, to the Honourable Member for Rock Lake, the situation at Rock Lake has presented its difficulties over the years. I want to indicate to the honourable member that there are a number of things that the department will be doing in the general area. Firstly, from the Director of Parks, who should indicate to the honourable member that we have in the Estimates this year for a general cleaning up and sprucing up of the picnic facilities there, improvement to such things as the washrooms, etc., which I'm sure the people who use the facilities will appreciate, in seeing that the area is receiving that attention. Very often, as the member will appreciate, it's some of the smaller things, in terms of dollars and cents, that help to leave the kind of impression that we'd like to leave, as Manitobans, particularly for our visitors but also for our own people that use the facility.

I'm further advised from Water Resources that studies have been taken with respect to soil information that would perhaps give us the accurate data to consider reconstruction or the construction of a new dam. The question of water levels is a perennial one at Rock Lake. I have made a commitment to meet with interested parties and people in and around Rock Lake. I have been given to understand that there is, as always, a conflict of interest as to the levels that the lake should be maintained or held at, at play here as well as they are anywhere else when we talk about lake levels but that there is a fairly high degree of unanimity in what is the desirable level. It will be my intention of discussing these with the interested people in and around Rock Lake.

We will, of course, continue again this year the Algae Control Program which, while it doesn't solve the problem, it certainly helps maintain the problem to a manageable level.

These, Mr. Chairman, are the comments that I can make at this time to the Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I was appreciative of the fact that the Minister did make the announcement about the treatment of Rock Lake and I want to inform him and his staff that that was very much appreciated; it was something that did make a tremendous improvement in the quality of the water, also the fishing last winter was very good. We have no complaints on that but there are times, sometimes, when the conditions aren't so good but as far as the treatment of that lake was concerned, it was much appreciated and I say, Mr. Chairman, that this solved an awful lot of problems.

There's been a test that was done on Rock Lake at the west end by, I believe — I don't know if it's the PFRA or some institution that picked that lake — they were doing tests, I believe, to determine the bottom of the level of the lake as it was maybe years ago and compare it in the last two years. I wonder if the Minister or his staff would have any information as to what the results of those findings were.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, my director informs me that he's not specifically aware of that. There is the possibility, as I indicated in my few remarks earlier, that we were — there had been tests taken at the east end of the lake, that is, siting for a possible new site for a future dam. That activity — the member shakes his head that that's not in the general area that we're discussing. It's possible, I suppose, that PFRA or somebody might have been doing some work in there, although one would think that the branch would be aware of it, but we will make a note of the member's request and check it out.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, there was some testing done at the west end of the lake and I agree with the Minister that, whoever was doing it, and I'm not positive — I'm sorry, I should have had that information — I'm not sure if it was PFRA, whether it was Ducks Unlimited, but it was not your department, Mr. Minister. It was somebody else, but I would have thought that they would have had some consultation with the officials of your department as to what they were doing and after they've completed their tests, give you some knowledge as to the results of their tests.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, just one final comment on Rock Lake, what with the heightened oil activity in the province, it might have been Chevron or Shell that was doing the testing, but we would want to be very concerned about the continuing environment of Rock Lake, should that be the case.

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, just one final comment. Should that be the case that close to home, I'd be personally interested too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 13.(a) — pass — the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A.R. (Pete) ADAM: I wonder if the Minister has any of the information that he undertook to provide for me in the last couple of days on any of the questions that I asked that he took as notice.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I did provide at the close yesterday or I believe in the afternoon session, some additional information to questions. I wonder if the member could help me with the particular information that he believes I have not yet provided him with.

MR. ADAM: Yes, I asked for a list of cottage lots that were available for sale and I asked for a list of — but we could wait until Monday; I assume that we'll not be able to complete by 12:30 anyway — a list of the contracts on surveying. Also, I wanted to ask — I'm not sure whether there was another item as well — but anyway I wanted to ask the Minister — there were problems that keep coming up every

year on an annual basis in regard to the operation of the town of Grandview dam, I think, for water. The operation of that dam keeps flooding out a number of farmers and this is an annual thing that keeps coming back to us. It's in the constituency of Roblin, I think, at the present time. It's been an ongoing problem. Has the problem been resolved? Is the Highways Department involved as well?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the situation at Grandview, there have been some difficulties, I suppose you could describe them as such, over the years. They have a dam there that has to be drawn down prior to spring run-off every year and there is always some indecision there on whether or not the draw-down occurred. We have checked that out and to our satisfaction, the draw-down was sufficient this last year to accommodate the capacity at the reservoir to fill up again in the springtime. This situation is being corrected, though, by a community dugout facility that will be constructed, from which Grandview will then be able to maintain a year round stable water supply source. This has been delayed somewhat because of the positioning of No. 5 Highway there. The Member is correct. My information, as supplied to me by staff, is that highway construction will be completed September of this year and the construction of the dugout can then proceed very likely in the fall of the year. Just to conclude, that then envisages that the existing dam will be removed, can be removed, or it will be removed.

MR. ADAM: Well, that's nice information to hear because I've been here for a number of years and I think that problem comes back to our attention every year. Apparently the operation of the dam was not being operated according to the licensing and there has been a recurring problem of having to remove dirt or earth from the top of the dam, the existing dam, for the spring run-off and most of the time, as I understand it, it was never removed and what happened was that the water came along and took it all down the river which could also cause some environmental problems. So, to have this problem resolved, I know that the Highways was involved and also having concern with a good water supply and potable water supply for the Town of Grandview had to be taken into consideration. But the problem of almost annual flooding on approximately 8 or 10 farm involved in the area was also an ongoing concern that we were trying to address ourselves to and I'm happy to hear that once and for all we can close the files on that thing if in fact this is going to proceed as planned and completed this fall.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I don't take issue at all with the honourable member that there haven't been repeated problems in that community with respect to their water supply and the flooding problems occasioned by the dam. I think that has all brought the wheels of government to turn, as they inevitably do, and we have the firm intentions of rectifying the situation in the coming year. The member will appreciate that several departments were involved. Principally, you know, the location, siting of the major provincial Trunk Highway was a principal obstacle, if you like, in the last little while, to get that

straightened away before we could proceed from Water Resources' point of view to resolve the water issue there. But the honourable member has the assurance, that he knows he takes as gospel when it comes from me, that that will be looked after this year.

MR. ADAM: I take it then that the gospel is that the dam will be removed next fall, completely removed from the river and there will be no, at least hopefully, there won't be any more flooding, not as a result of the dam, to the farmlands in that area and that the community of Grandview will be assured of their water supply, providing we don't have ongoing droughts of course.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 13.(a) — pass. 13.(b). The Honourable Member for St. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Does the Minister have any involvement, or does this department have any involvement in regard to a project proposed by the Parkland Regional Development in regard to development of recreational facilities on Lake Manitoba, with a proposal to go over from Lake Manitoba to Lake Winnipegosis?

MR. ENNS: I believe the honourable member is probably referring to a report that the department has just recently received. I don't have the appropriate name for the report; it's quite a thick document. The department has received that report and it is now going through the review by the various disciplines within the department and certainly, while it would be premature to suggest any action to be taken flowing from that report and I wouldn't want to leave the impression that there is any allocation of funds in this set of Estimates for any projected work as a result of that report, but, I think the Member will appreciate that report has only just arrived in the department, and I think I'm correct if I say within the last four to six weeks or in that area, and that it will now be looked at. In time, if we can see merit in some of the proposals, it will follow the normal course of finding a way in the priority-setting process of the department and certainly we would want, in due course, to hold further discussions with the group that was involved in the compiling of the report and to see whether or not what additional services, from a recreational point of view, we can provide as a result of that.

I must say to the honourable member that certainly a major initiative of the department, under the direction of Mr. Derek Doyle, has been to really look at the natural resource corridors that we have in Manitoba, to look for ways and means of maximizing their potential use for Manitobans firstly, and of course the many visitors that come to our province. I think the member was here during the earlier part of the consideration of these Estimates when I discussed briefly the kind of plans that we have for the linear development — a corridor-type park with recreational facilities, involving both private and government facilities along the Assiniboine. It's our hope that we can take that concept in time to other water stretches, other areas of the province that are serviced by road, interconnected by water, to some of our fine recreational facilities that we have in the province.

MR. ADAM: I'm not sure what report the Minister refers to. I know there was a draft proposal by the Parkland Regional Development last year, perhaps even in 1979, but certainly in the early part of the Eighties. The proposal was that they would have maps — what's the term for it, oceanography, or whatever it is, the maps for water — the proposal was that we'd have a number of stop-over places, recreational facilities along Lake Manitoba on the west side, I believe the proposal was, which would tie in very well with the Assiniboine Diversion, the Portage —(Interjection)— yes, it probably would tie in very well with that. There would be a number of stop-overs, recreational facilities, camping facilities along the west shore of Lake Manitoba. It would end up in the northwest corner of Lake Manitoba, and there was a proposal there. There used to be a railway across the Meadow Portage at one time; there was a portage there and they used to portage from one lake to the other over a railway of some kind — there were tracks anyway — I don't know whether there was an engine there moving cars over a track or whether they were drawn by horses, I'm not sure.

The long-term proposal was perhaps a grandiose proposal, to have a canal across that narrow stretch of land to tie in with Lake Winnipegosis. Of course, that's a long-term and a big project that would have to receive in-depth study on the environmental impact it would have on the lakes and what have you. Nevertheless, the proposal was that there could have been even overland transportation for boats that came up to the landing on the west side of Lake Manitoba and would be portaged over to the Lake Winnipegosis area and then they could continue on as far as they want up north. There was no end to the possibilities of the scheme and it was a very well thought out and a well planned endeavour by the Parkland group.

Now the Minister talks about a report. I would sure like to see the report, what he is really referring to. I'm referring to the proposal as presented I believe to government, to myself and to other interested members in the area. I am sure the Member for Roblin and the Member for Dauphin were all involved in getting copies of this proposal from the Parkland Regional Development Corporation.

If the Minister has another report that has not been tabled, if it's available to members of the Legislature, I would sure appreciate having a copy.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, no doubt there have been a number of different proposals put before government from time-to-time in the general area that the honourable member is speaking about. The report that I am referring to is possibly one other report, although I must say it is a fairly extensive one. I should indicate that it is not a report that initiated and comes from the Department of Natural Resources. I am trying to remember the name — it's the Water Route Association that ties in the whole concept of Lake Manitoba to Lake Winnipegosis and probably in my judgment I have only had a chance to skim through the report — but in my judgment, it encompasses very much what the honourable member is speaking about. I will make it a point, if the honourable member reminds me, to borrow the report that I have. I only have one copy and I think there is only one copy that was sent to the

department, that the department is reviewing, but I'd be pleased next week sometime, to give the honourable member that report as information.

Again, without being specific about it, there's no question that this concept is the kind that fits in with the policy direction that we would like to develop in our overall recreational strategy for Manitoba within the department over the next number of years. It will to some extent, move ahead with the kind of demand that we can develop. We look to our announced intentions on the Assiniboine River as being, if you like, a first effort in this kind of a concept for a recreational facility.

I think more and more in the future we would want to develop those kind of opportunities, vacation opportunities, for Manitobans and visitors to travel from point A to B, to C, to D. There has been I suppose in the past that they have served and will continue to serve a very important and useful function in the recreational scheme of things in Manitoba, the kind of set pieces, if you likely, namely, whether it's the Whiteshell complex or the others.

There is — and I note with encouragement — this concept developing within the department that people like to take that kind of leisurely travelling. They have a vacation experience this way which includes surface road transportation in some instances, the possibility to take to water in different stretches, to enjoy picnic grounds, camping facilities en route, and I think this is the kind of recreation that will become increasingly popular in our province and the direction that I seek the honourable member's support in helping to achieve.

MR. ADAM: I am not sure whether we are speaking of the same report. I don't have the proposal by the Parkland Development before me but I do have a copy somewhere. I felt that it had tremendous potential as a recreational development and also to have the private individuals involved to accommodate any traffic, or boat traffic that would come along, stop-overs and even cottages.

I know there was a proposal by the Ebb and Flow Band. They were quite interested in developing part of the reserve as a stop-over place to tie in with this proposal. There's also other areas like we see here, the Bruce up at Silver Ridge or Kinosota area, Margaret Bruce wayside I think. Is that along the lake? Here is another opportunity to expand that particular area, if there was going to be really a program put into place, maybe on an ongoing basis, maybe not necessarily all in one year, but I mean we could start and carry on from there.

I see the Minister wants to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour of 12:30 having arrived, I move Committee rise for Private Members' Hour.
Committee rise.

SUPPLY — EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, Abe Kovnats (Radisson): This committee will come to order. I would direct the honourable members' attention to page 49 of the Main Estimates, Department of Education, Resolution No. 53, Clause 4, Program Development and Support Services, Item (m) Student Aid, (1) Salaries — pass.

The Honourable Member for Rossmere.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, there was a bit of noise, I didn't realize you had recognized me.

This is of course an area which has become of greater and greater concern with the years. When we are dealing with this particular government we have to start back to 1977 when they took office; we have to look at what the tuition fees were then. I would like the Minister to give us a calculation as to what the increase in fees was since then and of course when we are dealing with Student Aid we are talking about assisting people to go to universities, to go to the vocational schools. What is the percentage increase in fees at Red River? What is the percentage increase in fees at the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg?

It is under this government that rental increases have been allowed once again to substantially lead inflation in this province, and so that is another one of the costs of a student that has gone up dramatically, not 8 percent or 9 percent, but more than that a year; that is one of the legacies that this government is giving to the students in this province. Under this government there has been a very minimal increase in the minimum wage and of course university students and vocational students, when they are working part-time or when they are working in the summer time, generally are those who are among the lowest paid, and of course that means that they haven't been getting the kind of assistance from their wages that they did in the past compared to the costs that they had in school.

Just one example of that is to look west of us to Saskatchewan where the minimum wage just a little while ago was 50 cents an hour more than in Manitoba, although it was the same as in Manitoba in 1977. So when we look at access to the Universities and you look at 40-hour weeks, that's \$20 a week, that's \$80 or more a month that it is costing students in Manitoba to be Manitobans because of a Tory government. Those are the costs, some of the cost increases that students have had since 1977. Their inflation rate has been more than the ordinary inflation rate for rental, for student fees, for books. They have to pay the regular going inflated rate for food and clothing, and the government has done little in this three-and-a-half year period to provide for greater amounts of grants or loans to students.

I would like the Minister to compare what has happened to increases in grants since 1977-1981 with what happened from 1969 to 1977 for instance, comparing from 1969 to 1977 the increase in the minimum wage; comparing from 1969 to 1977 any increases, percentage yearly increases, in tuition fees, and I'm sure he will agree they were minimal compared to what his government is doing to students. I know he will say, oh we are low in Canada, we are low. Yes, and we were low in 1977, and under the former government we kept it low. Under the former government we said from 1969-77 there will be minimal increases, if any, in fees for people to go to vocational schools and to the universities and we kept our word.

I didn't hear that government, that party, in 1977 going up and down the streets saying, hey, elect us, we'll hit the students for greater student fees; we are

not going to do anything to improve bursaries; we are not going to do anything to improve loans; and compared to the rate of inflation, I would suggest that little has been done to increase in real dollars the amounts of loans available, the amounts of bursaries available. Any little increase that they have given, even in real dollar terms, and there may be in some specific areas, in some specific areas they may be able to point to something and say, hey, in actual 1977 dollar terms this particular student or that particular student, or one or three groups are better off today than in 1977.

I say to the Minister, big deal, because we expect improvements, we expect that our education system will become a system with the years which will be one which more people can have access to rather than less people. I suggest that since 1977 the thrust has been toward less people. From 1969 to 1977 the thrust was toward more people, more rights, more equality of opportunity in education in this province.

This Minister and this government has been going in the opposite direction and I find that it is sad that I have to stand here and say that. I want to point out to the Minister we haven't been saying that with respect to special needs where we agree that the government has continued on with improvements for students. In many areas the Minister of Education, the government, has continued on with improvements to education, but somehow it seems that when you get past Grade 12 the buck stops here; that at that point they say well from here on let's just do it on whoever can afford it. If you happen to qualify for a loan then we will send out our inspectors; we will audit you from top to bottom; we will check your grocery bills; we will check all your accounts and we will check your bank balances. We will tell you to pay to the bank, you go to the bank and you pay them \$8 for photo-copying this; you got to the credit union and check records; you go to your former employer years back and ask for wage records. That's not something this government does to the small businessman when they give the man in Treherne a free freezer to sell meat. They give him \$30,000 and say nice fellow there, away you go. They don't ask him what his annual income was the year before; they don't ask him to show a statement of income and expenses, or assets and liabilities, or anything like that. Oh, no, they just pat him on the back and say here's your freezer, hope you sell lots of turkeys and away you go.

Do they do that to students? Oh, no, oh no. I saw one, Mr. Chairman, I saw one audit where a notice was given to a student of a decrease in the amount payable to that student and they'd come to their calculations, possibly the mathematical equations were correct, but at the bottom of the page the notice said that there can be no appeal of this decision within six weeks of the end of the term and you know, Mr. Chairman, the appeal for that notice was received within six weeks of the end of the term. So, there was no right of appeal even. There is no right to go to any group and say, hey, there is a problem here, we disagree with this number. The Auditor could say; ah, but there is no right of appeal anymore. There is a right of appeal but not within six weeks of the end of the term. So, that's your old "Catch-22". You have a right of appeal but you don't have a right of appeal; that's a neat trick and I'm

sure some Tory bureaucrat stayed up nights to dream up that one.

In fact when I saw that I was shocked and it seems to me that is something that the Minister would want to look at to make sure that it will never ever occur again. It would be very simple to change that by giving a student a minimum of one month or two months or something like that to appeal. The Minister may stand up and say well the regulation was passed under the old government; it may well be. Under the old government I would suggest that the auditing system was efficient enough so that these notices weren't going out at the end of the term, they were going out at the beginning of the term when they were supposed to go out so that students would know where they stand for their school year. If they are given a loan of \$1,200 or \$1,500 they should know that they are getting it. If they are getting a bursary of that amount they should know that they are getting it and they should have the money in order that they can budget their affairs because that's the other trick, that's the other exploding cigar that the department seems to have come up with. They say at the end of the year; you've survived, you made it okay you're still alive, what did you need the money for? You don't need the money. We did an audit on you; you are a statistic; you are one of the statistics that we had to audit and you are a living statistic. You're in great shape, there's no problem.

So, in general, in this area of student aid I rise to say that I am shocked at the regression of this government, I am shocked at the fact that this government continues in increasing fees knowing that the cost of living for students is going up substantially more than it is for average people. I am shocked that the government is not moving toward greater equality of opportunity in our education system but rather is moving away from it. I really really do hope that the Minister will be able to stand up one year and say, yes indeed, we are making the system more equitable, more accessible to all Manitobans and not just to a select few.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, Warren Steen, (Crescentwood): The Minister of Education.

HON. KEITH A. COSENS (Gimli): Mr. Chairman, me thinks the member doth protest too much and, in fact, the statistics and the information and the actual situation does not support what the Member for Rossmere is saying. Certainly there have been increases in tuition fees in our universities and our community colleges as there have been all across this country, and as there will be as long as costs are increasing. I don't the honourable member for one minute pretends that this isn't going to happen. It's a fact of life in this country; it's something that is associated with escalating costs and a reality that we have to face. Certainly the level of university funding that we have provided this year, in particular, is evidence that this government is concerned that our universities are able to function and function well and have the operating wherewithal to carry on as very viable institutions in our society.

But, Mr. Chairman, the argument that increases in tuition fees are causing great hardship as they are linked to student aid does not stand up. That is taken into consideration in the allowances that are

allowed to students when they apply for student aid. Any increase in cost of total education are taken into consideration. In fact, increases in costs of books, of equipment, living allowances, these are all indexed, Mr. Chairman, and do increase along with the CPI each particular year. No doubt this accounts for the fact that the average award to post-secondary students is increasing each year. It reflects that increase in costs. The average award last year was some \$2,580.00. If we looked at the average award the year before it was probably \$100 or so less than the year before \$100 or so less again, and, we would expect that the average award in the coming year will increase again, relative to the increase in costs that students are experiencing. In other words, the awards go up relative to costs increasing, we take that into consideration and again a reality that's there.

Now, the honourable member, Mr. Chairman, wanted to harken back to the good old days — he apparently thinks they were the good old days — prior to 1977 when so much was being done for students. This is his thesis, this is the point that he's trying to put across or would like us to believe. The facts don't support that, Mr. Chairman. In 1977, the government of the day was providing less than \$4 million, \$4 million to student assistance. If he looks at the Estimates for this particular year and looks under the heading of assistance he will see that the assistance that is being provided by the government '81-'82 will be some \$6 million. A rather dramatic increase from 1977, Mr. Chairman, but he neglects to look at that. He would like us to believe that somehow it's less than was being provided in those days. Well, Mr. Chairman, it has gone up along with increasing costs and along with our realization that there are increasing needs for students. And, of course, he said the government has done nothing at all for student aid; nothing for students; no changes; no realization; there can be improvements made.

Well, Mr. Chairman, in 1978-79 we increased the bursary level from \$1,400, that's what it had been under the previous government, to \$1,800, a \$400 increase, in the maximum. Now, he said, but they haven't done a thing with the Canada Student Loans. He is quite right, Mr. Chairman, because we do not decide what the levels will be for the Canada Student Loans; they are determined by the federal government. But, certainly in the area of bursary where we do have jurisdiction and do have the responsibility, Mr. Chairman, we did increase that particular level in 1978.

Then the member moves to a great condemnation of how we administrate the provincial bursaries. He seems critical that we do demand a certain level of accountability and I don't know whether he's advocating, Mr. Chairman, that we should hand out some \$6 million of the taxpayers money and not require any accountability at all; it should be just a matter of saying, you think you need it; here it is. Surely, that kind of an irresponsible attitude, Mr. Chairman, is not one that rests well, I would say, with any taxpayer in this province. \$6 million is being handed out as a gift and granted, Mr. Chairman, we feel that it is money well spent and we feel that it should go to those who are deserving; those who do have need. There's no problem there at all; that is its purpose. But, there is certainly, I think, a very small

argument, indeed a shallow argument, that suggests there should be no accountability. Certainly if one attempts to borrow money from any other institution in our society, Mr. Chairman, he or she soon finds that accountability is required. We are handling taxpayers money, Mr. Chairman; we have a responsibility to make sure that some accountability is observed.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the member then turned to the auditing receipt. He then turned to it and said, ah, but the auditing procedure, that's another, bad, bad aspect. He cited a case where he felt that the whole procedure had been unjust, although he didn't go into any detail. I have to say, Mr. Chairman, that there is a right of appeal in every case on the particular awards the students receive. I also have to mention to the honourable member that I would be concerned if, within my department, we were following procedures that could be called harassment or could be called highly unreasonable or that were causing intense personal discomforts for no reason at all. But I have to remind the honourable member that some seven cases were taken to the Ombudsman within the student aid area and in each of these cases he found that there was nothing irregular or unusual; that the Student Aid Branch had followed reasonable procedures and he certainly did not recommend that there should be any changes take place. I would suggest if there had been any irregularities; if there had been real concerns on the part of the Ombudsman that he would have made that known and we would have then had reason to take some particular action.

But, Mr. Chairman, I also would like to point out to the Honourable Member for Rossmore if we like to go back to 1977-78 that only 70 percent of the students who applied in that year received assistance; only 70 percent. In 1981-82 it will be some 76 percent. More of those applying now are receiving assistance than ever before, and that seems to me to say something about the procedures and about the amount of money that's available and about the reasonableness of the particular procedures that are followed. Eight out of ten students who apply for Student Aid receive some form of assistance, Mr. Chairman. One out of five students attending Manitoba universities received some form of assistance in 1980-81.

I mentioned the awards, the average awards. I can tell him that university students received an average award of some \$2,605 last year, the 1980-81 year, and I mentioned earlier of course that one out of five students attending university receive some form of assistance. Community college students, who have a longer school term, received an average award of some \$2,577.00. To me these figures more or less belie what the honourable member is saying, Mr. Chairman. I think that he is operating from a base of some misinformation and perhaps does not understand completely what has been happening in this particular instance.

Now if the honourable member, Mr. Chairman, had said, but what are you doing for those students who find themselves above the maximum level in bursary and loan, which is some \$3,600.00? What are you doing for that student because there are some in that category, Mr. Chairman? Well, then he would have a valid point because the number of people in

that group have been increasing. Many of them are single parents; many of them are married people with families and we have been concerned about that particular category, Mr. Chairman, and this year we have devised what we feel is a solution to that problem and we will be providing further assistance above the maximum of \$3,600 in bursary and loan for those students who find themselves in that Special Needs category above the \$3,600 maximum. That's the first time that will have happened in this province, Mr. Chairman, and I think a significant move on the part of this government. Of course, the loan limit itself, Mr. Chairman, is being increased this year to some \$56.25 per week rather than the old \$1,800 per academic year and we will increase our bursary to match that new Canada Student Loan maximum so that students who receive the maximum \$1,800 in loan and bursary will in fact in 1981-82, if they qualify, receive some \$1,860 in loan and \$1,860 in bursary for a total of some \$3,720.00. Students in the community colleges and technical schools will see their maximum increase, not just from 3,600, Mr. Chairman, but it will go up to \$4,740 because of their longer school term.

As well, I have mentioned the fact that we will be increasing the maximums for those students who fall into the High Needs category. They are not a large number, Mr. Chairman, but certainly a number who experience some considerable financial difficulty because of their marital situation, because of their age, the fact that they may be married with families, return to university and are completing degree requirements.

So changes have been made, Mr. Chairman. I see our changes that we're bringing into place this year as highly positive. I'm sure they will be well received by the student community. They will be received as a government that cares and is providing support where we see that it is necessary.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to make a few remarks on Student Aid to the Minister largely in the form of reading into the record a letter which I think somewhat belies what the Minister just said concerning a student at the University of Manitoba named Margaret Watts, who wrote to the Free Press about March 27 or 28 of 1981. The heading of that letter was "1984 Closer?" and I think it's a pretty devastating account of her experiences. She says in the opening paragraph: "Do the people of Manitoba know that the Provincial Government has the right to search through your personal financial records; to choose transactions at random from as long ago as five years past and demand to know what you bought and why you bought it; the right to tell you where to live, where to send your children for day care and the right to consider you guilty until proven innocent?" And then she goes on and says, "If you are guilty of being a student in need of financial aid you give up every right to freedom of choice and to privacy, not only for the period you go to university but for the years preceding. The next time you go to the drug store, the grocery store or write a cheque remember, if you ever want to go to university that purchase may be held against you.

"Education Minister, Keith Cosens says more audits should be done on students applying for aid.

He also says the only reason audits take so long is that students fail to provide the proper information". Then she asks these questions: "When was the last time Mr. Cosens kept his Safeway bill? If you asked him what he bought at the drug store on July 5, 1978, would he know? That is exactly the kind of information students are asked to provide. This information must also be paid for by the student; \$30.00 for each bank search for example and if you only make \$140.00 per month and they ask you for three or four searches, how do you eat? How do you support yourself and a child on \$3,600 per year plus your summer savings?"

She concludes as follows, Mr. Chairman: "No one is disputing the fact that any agency has the right to information on who should be whom they give money to. The government has the right to determine that a person is a student in good standing whether they have dependents and that their income is too small to allow them to attend university. It should not have the right to tell you and me how to live. 1984 seems closer than ever. Signed, Margaret Watts".

So, Mr. Chairman, I simply say to the Minister that I recognize that to have no fail-safe procedures, to have no checks, no audits, etc., may be bending too far in one direction and could be too lax and too wasteful of taxpayers funds. Although I note that one of the members on this side mentioned that huge grants are given to people in the agricultural sector with very little checks and then after a short period of time the debt is wiped out and there is no further discussion or investigation concerning that matter — that happened with the beef producers — but with the students it seems that the heavy hand of government must be applied.

Mr. Chairman, I simply say to the Minister that for one who represents the so-called party of freedom and a party that incidentally is prepared to spend thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars of taxpayers funds to advertise their programs, put television commercials on, the Minister of Finance sends letters all over the place defending government actions. Then today the final insult, the pamphlet that we get in this House which I assume is going to be delivered door to door to every household, which I find a shocking abuse of a government's position taking an incredible advantage of the fact that they happen to be the government and a privilege which they instantly deny to members on this side of the House. Would they allow us to respond to this pamphlet or to select an issue and mail it out at taxpayers' expense? No way. It would be considered to be an affront to all the principles and sensibilities and practices of government.

So on one hand they're willing to put their position across and spend thousands of dollars, maybe hundreds of thousands when the bills all come in. I don't believe the First Minister's Estimates concerning this pamphlet, Mr. Chairman, I know that can't be right. But on one hand they don't give a damn about how much money they spend when it comes to using the taxpayers' funds to justify their own actions. The sky is the limit. But when students are applying for loans, then we have to have all sorts of checks and double checks and confirmation from the bank and inspectors, monitoring and the whole bit.

So I say to the Minister that his government is acting in a contradictory fashion and I think from

what I hear from students and from what I read about examples, they are coming down too hard and being too heavy-handed in regard to this particular program of Student Aid which is supposed to assist students in furthering their education.

So I simply say to the Minister in conclusion, that as the man who heads the educational system in Manitoba he should tell his people who are bringing in this program, monitoring the program and checking on the program that they shouldn't treat students like dirt or like criminals.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, the Member for Elmwood I'm sure didn't hear some of the remarks that I made in response to the Member for Rossmere and I will reiterate; that if there was anything irregular in the audit procedure I'm sure the Ombudsman would have pointed this out to us after looking at I believe some seven particular cases that were referred to him. It was his determination after a careful examination of those cases referred to him that there were no irregularities nor was the particular procedure that was being followed or the procedures that were being followed were they irregular or unnecessarily harsh.

It is never an enjoyable experience, Mr. Chairman, to be audited under any circumstances. There is no citizen including myself who enjoys that particular experience. It means finding a great number of records and gathering these together and we are not all great record keepers. But nonetheless, Mr. Chairman, it's an essential procedure that has been in place I might remind the honourable member, since 1975. It was started by a government that he belonged to and we have not changed the procedure to any extent at all in the audit process.

But, Mr. Chairman, I must tell the honourable member that it is quite possible that someone will write to the newspaper bemoaning having gone through the audit process. We don't see that many letters from students who urge me in personal conversation when I meet them at universities, to be doing more of it because they say they feel there are people who have made unjust use of our Student Aid Program and this is coming from students.

I noticed in a letter, I believe it was in the Brandon Student Newspaper, where a student who had been audited said yes, I went through the process and it was a bit of a pain. I wasn't that happy in having to go through it. It didn't take very long. I just wish that they had audited a few other people that I know because I'm rather suspicious of their qualifications. The honourable member doesn't refer to that type of letter.

Mr. Chairman, if the audit process was showing that it was unnecessary, that in fact there weren't people who were neglecting to provide information or if it showed that there were people who we were asking for unnecessary information, if it showed that in fact there weren't over-awards based on incorrect information, then certainly I would sympathize with the member and say it's an unnecessary exercise.

But in fact, Mr. Chairman, over the last number of years the figures of money that has been over-awarded to students, do point out that it is a necessary exercise, it is only carried on with some 5 percent of the applicants of those who receive awards. It's not a large percentage. There are some who would suggest, and I am somewhat sympathetic

that perhaps we should be extending it beyond 5 percent, Mr. Chairman, but at the present time we feel that it is sufficient to follow that 5 percent figure.

Certainly the greatest percentage, the vast majority of students who apply are providing the necessary accurate information. There is no problem at all and we are pleased to see that they are availing themselves of the opportunity to receive this necessary financial assistance; that is no problem at all, Mr. Chairman. But we do feel that we have as great a responsibility for those students and to others who are deserving as we have to the taxpayer whose money is being handed out.

Mr. Chairman, I can only tell the honourable member that as far as I am concerned we will consider that person, continue the procedure as we have at this time. We will look very closely at the procedure to make sure that we are not being unduly harsh, although there's no real indication or evidence that is being provided to me that would substantiate that to this point. I again reiterate that the Ombudsman in looking at, I believe it was seven cases, found no evidence that disturbed him in any particular way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MS. WESTBURY: Mr. Chairperson, I want to start off by expressing appreciation to the Minister for the increases which were announced on the 2nd of April, particularly for the increased aid to the community college and nursing students who received an increase of I think nearly 32 percent. However, I'm concerned about the minimal increase, the minimal maximum increase to university students which according to the figures in the press release amounted to only 3-1/3 percent.

In view of the fact that the tuition fee increases are 10 percent, the terrible increases in the cost of books and the same cost of living increases that we're all suffering under, I request, I beseech the Minister to have another look at this and to provide a 10 percent increase anyway in aid to the university students. That much is needed so that the students can just stay where they were last year and not be faced with even a greater incentive to drop out of university before completing their education than they have now.

Now, Mr. Chairperson, we of the Liberal party don't object to an audit process, we object to the dignity and the human rights of the individuals not being on it. Now surely students shouldn't be respected less than other members of our society and I suggest that under the audit process they are shown less respect than the business people with whom the government has financial dealings and who are required to present audited statements, the welfare recipients whom we audit for their income. The students are at the bottom of the pit as far as respect for their dignity is concerned and I suggest that this is wrong.

I'm not labelling the Minister particularly with this but I suggest that maybe some people in his party seem to feel that we're still in the 1960s, the revolt of the young people, the flower children who were then labelled unfairly because it didn't apply to every young person in the 1960s either, they were labelled with being irresponsible and in rebellion against society and that sort of thing.

For one thing as I have pointed out, Mr. Chairperson, that didn't apply to everyone then. It applies even less today because I'm suggesting to you that young people have a very strong feeling of responsibility. They have a strong feeling of the sacrifices that they are called upon to make in order that society can survive the terrible threats that there are to society, nationally, internationally, through energy and pollution and all of the things that we're being faced with today.

I'm the mother of three people in their twenties, all of whom are full or part-time students, none of whom are receiving student aid, none of whom are on student loan. They and their friends have my utmost respect for the responsible attitude — and I'm not saying responsible because they're not receiving student loans or student aid, they happen to be members of a family which resides close to the university in two instances and which is able and willing to help them financially and those two words, "able" and "willing" are both worthy of notes — but they, their friends and their fellow students are deserving I suggest of the utmost respect as contributing members of society, Mr. Chairperson.

We don't have to treat them as the Member for Elmwood has said as if they are criminals, as if they are out to do the system in, because they're not. They're not. Most young people today are just as responsible as the people around this Chamber, in fact I'm ashamed to say, in many cases more so. I'm ashamed to say it as a person sitting in this Chamber.

I want to suggest that the process of accountability is no excuse for unreasonable delay in the processing of their applications or for harassments. The letter to the editor which the Member for Elmwood read was evidence of some harassment. I will present some other evidence of harassments.

The Minister presented statistics to show how many students receive awards but they don't show details of the students who decide not to attend university because they are from perhaps rural areas or from poorer families, from families who work but just can't afford those extra dollars to pay for tuition or for the books and so on, or are unwilling to help the students. There are, I regret to say, families that could but will not. It wasn't the parents in the Province of Manitoba who decided that children should become adults at the age of 18, it was government and Canada as well. It was government; government decided that they are adults at 18, they are no longer subjected to the rules of the family or to a responsibility in the family but the government still expects the family to support them. You can't have it both ways, I suggest. Government took the lead in one way and they are not following up on their responsibility as a result of that. The statistics that the Minister mentioned also don't reflect the number of children who drop out of university because they can't keep up the financial pressures and the payments.

Mr. Chairperson, I want to read from a letter — I've been given permission to use it — from a constituent of mine signed, dated, address given. As a matter of fact the letter was addressed to the Honourable Minister and I happen to have a copy. The student does not live in an expensive apartment; she lives in a modest apartment in my constituency.

She is from a rural area of Manitoba and she wrote to the Minister in January.

She said, "In the summer of 1980 I applied for student aid. In September I was notified that I had been selected randomly for an audit. I submitted the required information before the specified date. I received a student loan in September and was informed that I would receive a bursary in the second university term.

"On January 8, 1981, several months later, I received a letter informing me that my audit was completed and that I would receive an awards notification in the mail. As of yet I have not received this; this was January 28. Meanwhile, many of my fellow students have been receiving their bursaries since the beginning of January. Today I phoned Student Aid to find out the cause of this delay and was told that my awards notification letter was mailed on the 21st of January and if I were lucky I would be able to pick up my cheque at the University of Winnipeg Awards Office in mid-February. This award theoretically is to assist me while I am attending my second-term classes. By the time I get my award, over six weeks of second term will have elapsed. This includes two apartment rental paydays.

"If I were wealthy enough to support myself without student aid for this period of time, I would not have satisfied the audit. I realize that some of the delay may be due to my having been audited. However, I am not responsible for being randomly selected and I do not see why I should be penalized. The principle behind Student Aid is to assist needy students in obtaining post-secondary education.

"I respectfully submit that this aim is not being met when I am desperately worried about how to pay the rent, cannot afford to buy groceries and can barely afford bus fare."

The young woman concerned told me that in order to get through those weeks of second term she was borrowing from friends and I suggest this is not a fair way to expect our students to have to survive. I am in favour, Mr. Chairperson, of requiring certain standards of excellence from students who are receiving aid. I am in favour of expecting them to pass and of expecting them to achieve a certain standard. In fact, as far as I'm concerned the taxpayer is supporting the universities and all students should be required to meet a certain standard, and I understand they are.

Another young person — I don't have a letter but I had an interview — a student from East Kildonan attending the University of Winnipeg also. She applied in September for a student loan. In the first week in February she was advised that her application was refused. Her loan was refused in her opinion, the impression she received, because Student Aid feels her parents should give her \$2,772.00. This student has been living on her own for two-and-a-half years and in that time her parents have not given her one cent towards her keep. She is classed as a dependent apparently because she has not (a) worked for two years; (b) gone to school full time for four years; (3) she has not been married, had a baby or lived common-law. This student said to me the whole thing makes no sense. She appealed to the Student Aid Appeal Board; she felt that she was treated rudely and flatly rejected.

Now why should students such as these two, whose experience I have documented, why should

they respect a system that treats them in this contemptuous fashion? They have respected the system; they have been working through the system or trying to and the system treats them with contempt. I am expressing my concern at this kind of treatment; at the unnecessary delay in replying to the students whether accepting or rejecting their applications. I feel these students, instead of going to the Ombudsman should go to the Human Rights Commission because I feel that their human rights are being violated in this contemptuous treatment that they are receiving. They may or may not receive satisfaction from the Human Rights Commission but at least I feel that applications to the Human Rights Commission, even if not successful, sometimes do result in some changes of attitude in governments of various levels and various jurisdictions.

So on behalf of these students and others, I am expressing concern at the unreasonable delay, at the attitudes towards the students. They are entitled to respect and dignity as every other person in Manitoba is entitled to respect and dignity. They are not receiving those at the present time under the present system.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the honourable member's remarks about young people where she states that in general they are very responsible citizens in our society and I couldn't concur more with her on that particular point and I appreciate her remarks and her recognition of the fact that we have taken some very positive initiatives in improving the Student Aid Program.

I do have some problem though when she attempts to label through a couple of people's opinions stated in letters as she attempts to label the branch as insensitive, or uncaring, or not respectful of human dignity; I think those are rather strong statements to make. We are dealing with an opinion of an individual, perhaps an opinion that might change from day to day, an opinion that may be coloured by a number of other factors that have no relation to the particular situation. It's a branch, Mr. Chairman, that shows so little respect and concern that it goes out and helps students fill in these forms in many cases; that sits down and counsels students and helps them wherever possible; it enables them in every way that it can to get through the process as smoothly as can possibly be achieved and then to brand the procedures or the people who administer these procedures as being unfeeling and so on, I think is highly unfair, Mr. Chairman. Now, any instances that are brought to my attention by letter I certainly do look into and require some explanation of what has happened. What I usually find, Mr. Chairman, in these instances is that some information has not been provided which is necessary to the audit, it does hold up the procedure, that is unfortunate. But you know one has to accept some responsibility as well if you're involved in these procedures, to provide the necessary information. If we forget to provide it; if we refuse to provide it; if we take a great deal of time in providing it, yes, certainly there will be inconvenience caused as a result of this, but that is something over which the branch has little control, Mr. Chairman. It does depend on the applicant in this case.

I have to mention, Mr. Chairman that 75 to 80 percent of our students have assessed needs less

than the present maximum of some \$3,600, 75 to 80 percent have needs less than that; and of course our new increases will cover the CPI increases, fees, books, etc.; and for that slightly over 20 percent of students who have needs that exceed the present \$3,600, we are presently putting in place a program that will assist them, that will help them meet those needs that exceed the \$3,600.00.

To me that is positive and it's a sign of policies within a branch that is anxious to help students, that is concerned about them and that will take every possible step to make sure that financial assistance is there to meet the actual needs that they have. A step, Mr. Chairman, that I might say has not been taken until this point; it's a step that has not, perhaps been considered by other governments. We have addressed it; we have put in place measures to ameliorate that problem that students have who have needs over the \$3,600 maximum and I would suggest it's one of the most positive moves that has been made in student aid in many years, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hour is 12:30, time for Private Member's Hour. Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Crescentwood, report of Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Kildonan that this House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 2 o'clock Monday.