



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

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)

37 Elizabeth II

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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fourth Legislature**

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIBERAL
ANGUS, John	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BURRELL, Parker	Swan River	PC
CARR, James	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIBERAL
CHARLES, Gwen	Selkirk	LIBERAL
CHEEMA, Gulzar	Kildonan	LIBERAL
CHORNOPYSKI, William	Burrows	LIBERAL
CONNERY, Edward Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
COWAN, Jay	Churchill	NDP
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNEY, James Hon.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Emerson	PC
DRIEDGER, Herold, L.	Niakwa	LIBERAL
DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	LIBERAL
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Laurie	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
EVANS, Leonard	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen Hon.	Virden	PC
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
GILLESHAMMER, Harold	Minnedosa	PC
GRAY, Avis	Ellice	LIBERAL
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HEMPHILL, Maureen	Logan	NDP
KOZAK, Richard, J.	Transcona	LIBERAL
LAMOUREUX, Kevin, M.	Inkster	LIBERAL
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MANDRAKE, Ed	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
MANNESSE, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
MCCRAE, James Hon.	Brandon West	PC
MINENKO, Mark	Seven Oaks	LIBERAL
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
OLESON, Charlotte Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald Hon.	Pembina	PC
PANKRATZ, Helmut	La Verendrye	PC
PATTERSON, Allan	Radisson	LIBERAL
PENNER, Jack, Hon.	Rhineland	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
PRAZNIK, Darren	Lac du Bonnet	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Turtle Mountain	PC
ROCH, Gilles	Springfield	LIBERAL
ROSE, Bob	St. Vital	LIBERAL
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
TAYLOR, Harold	Wolseley	LIBERAL
URUSKI, Bill	Interlake	NDP
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
YEO, Iva	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, November 17, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Clerk, William Remnant: It is my duty to inform the House that Mr. Speaker is unavoidably absent and therefore, in accordance with the statutes, I would ask the Deputy Speaker to take the Chair.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mark Minenko): Before we proceed, I would like to direct the attention of Honourable Members to the Speaker's gallery where we have with us today all the members of the Manitoba team and one member of the Canadian team that attended the 1988 World Culinary Olympics in Frankfurt this summer. It is to be noted that this team achieved world status by winning Gold at this year's competition. On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

I would also wish to draw the attention of all Honourable Members that, seated in the public gallery from the Lord Selkirk Regional School Youth Parliament, there are thirty Grade 10-12 students under the direction of Mr. Ken Pawluk. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles).

I would further like to draw the attention of all Honourable Members that seated in the public gallery also we have 14 visitors from Grenfell High School in Saskatchewan under the direction of Mr. Allan Bray.

* (1335)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Dewar Report Recommendations Appointments Procedures

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): My question is for the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). Mr. Deputy Speaker, public confidence in the administration of justice has indeed been shaken in the last year in this province. We, the Official Opposition, applaud the efforts of Mr. Justice Dewar in his report, which was released by the Attorney-General today, for doing such a comprehensive and thorough job with respect to the so-called ticketgate cases.

On June 9, when the Attorney-General announced the Dewar investigation into the so-called ticketgate affair, he also promised, and I quote, "a review of training and appointment procedures of magistrates and justices of the peace." Now this same action has been recommended by the report.

Since this Attorney-General has been in office, at least nine appointments of magistrates and justices of

the peace have been made, three of them since that press release. Could the Attorney-General tell the House what new training these appointments went through and what the new appointment procedures were?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Before we continue, I would just ask whether Hansard has in fact recorded that because it did not register on the earphones. We are having trouble with the mikes.

An Honourable Member: Can you repeat the same question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I would just ask the Honourable Member to place his question and say it just a little louder.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is for the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). Public confidence in the Attorney-General's Department and the administration of justice has been shaken seriously in this province in the last year. The Official Opposition is wishing to express its thanks and appreciation to Mr. Justice Dewar for his very thorough and complete examination of the so-called ticketgate affair and we were reminded and looked back to the June 9, 1988 announcement of this investigation by the Attorney-General—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Can the Honourable Member place his question please?

Mr. Edwards: The Attorney-General promised a review of appointment procedures for magistrates and justices of the peace; this same action is recommended by the report. My question is, since this Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) has been in office he has appointed nine justices of the peace and magistrates, three of whom have come since this press release. Could he tell the House what new training these appointees received and what the new appointment procedure for magistrates and justices of the peace in this province is?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): I appreciate very much the Honourable Member's preamble. Lengthy as it was, it was a good one.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McCrae: The Honourable Member refers to the work done by former Chief Justice Archibald Dewar. He does a service to the matter. Mr. Dewar is a very dedicated individual. Mr. Dewar is a former police officer, former Crown attorney, former defence counsel, distinguished former jurist. I think the people of Manitoba owe a profound debt of gratitude to the work that Mr. Dewar has done and because of Mr. Dewar's background, considerable credibility must be accorded to the report made.

The Honourable Member refers to the appointments of justices of the peace and magistrates. In my comments this morning at a news conference on releasing the report, I said that the new Deputy Attorney-General would be next week providing a comprehensive report on the steps necessary to comply with the recommendations in Mr. Dewar's report.

On June 10, I did announce some changes and some things that would be done, including a review of The Provincial Court Act by the Law Reform Commission and a review of the Summary Convictions Act by a committee in the Department of Attorney-General, including matters relating to training and procedures for magistrates and justices of the peace.

* (1340)

Justices of the Peace Training Programs

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Will these new training procedures for new justices of the peace and magistrates be made retroactive so that all magistrates and justices of the peace in this province can have the benefit of that additional training?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): I am not sure that I heard the first few words of the Honourable Member's question but indeed, even before the statement I made on June 10, preparations were being made to do a more effective job of training magistrates and justices of the peace in this province, and that work will not stop, those procedures will not stop. I will be advising the Honourable Member in due course of the exact nature of the steps that have been taken.

The Honourable Member, and all Honourable Members, should remember that since the commissioning of the Dewar Review, and certainly since I received that report on October 12, it has been very difficult for me to engage in very much conversation relating to the ticket matter with personnel in the department because of considerations that were being made in my own office. So the Honourable Member should remember that, and I will make available to him the steps that are being taken.

Dewar Report Recommendations Plea Bargaining

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for St. James, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Dewar Report recommends the establishment of a departmental policy within the Attorney-General's Department with respect to plea bargains. Does the Attorney-General have any immediate plans to increase the accountability of Crown Attorneys making plea bargains, increase the cautions that are taken before plea bargains are struck prior to developing this department-wide policy with respect to plea bargains?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): I think the Dewar Review will have a significant impact on the way

Crown Attorneys approach their duties. I would like to say, though, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would not want the Dewar Review to have the impact of making Crown Attorneys in this province afraid of their jobs. And so, for that reason, we will move very quickly to establish the guidelines for plea bargains, which the Honourable Member and others would acknowledge are a necessary part of our justice system; but I would not want the Crown prosecutors in this province to be afraid to proceed with the rightful discharge of their duties. We will move as quickly as we can to get those guidelines. When those guidelines are in place, I am sure Crown prosecutors in this province can move forward with confidence knowing that they are operating within the guidelines set down by people who know how to set guidelines in this regard.

Native Children Sexual Abuse

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for St. James, with a new question.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Deputy Speaker, a new question for the Attorney-General, a 1987 report entitled "A New Justice for Indian Children" prepared by the Children's Hospital Child Protection Centre revealed the shocking extent to which the abuse of Native children is a problem in this province. The report concluded that the means by which child sexual abuse is managed by these services in no way guarantees a proper resolution of the matter or the further protection of child victims.

My question to the Attorney-General is, given that four out of the nine recommendations in this report deal with deficiencies in the Attorney-General's Department, has his department reviewed this report and what, if anything, is being done to assess and, hopefully, implement any of these four recommendations?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

Child Abuse Police Officer Training

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Again, for the Attorney-General, specifically in this report, it is mentioned that additional training to the RCMP officers, Crown Attorneys and members of the judiciary be looked at by the Attorney-General's Department in the handling of child sexual abuse cases. Now these are recommendations 2 and 3 of this report. To his knowledge, has any of this training ever taken place and does he have any plans to implement that type of training for those people who are intricately involved in the handling of child sexual abuse cases?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe in the Honourable Member's first question he made a reference to Native children and we look forward, of course, to the recommendations that will also be made by the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry.

The report to which the Honourable Member refers, I have said I would take notice of his question.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Deputy Speaker, no one has asked me today how much the Dewar Review cost. I would like Honourable Members and everyone to know—I think they already know—the great service that has been done by this review. The total cost of that review was \$75,300, none of which Mr. Dewar himself accepted.

Rural/Northern Funding

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for St. James, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Deputy Speaker, and of course we look forward to the report of the inquiry into aboriginal justice issues, however, a particular concern which I do not think needs to wait for that report is that the resources available in Winnipeg for dealing with child sexual abuse cases have not been taken beyond the Perimeter Highway. Has the Attorney-General any intention of looking to this and simply expanding the services available in this city to the areas in dire need in this province in rural and northern Manitoba?

* (1345)

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, recent cases that have come to light of child abuse in this province have made it graphically clear not only to the Honourable Member but to the Government as well the need for attention to be paid for child abuse issues in this province. I can tell you that this Government has absolutely no intention of letting child abuse continue unchecked without taking steps.

The Honourable Member is right. There is no need to wait for the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry Report. I do not intend to do that. I told the Honourable Member I would take notice of the question in the first instance.

Dewar Report Recommendations Outside Counsel Criteria

Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake): As justice critic for our Party, I want to thank the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) for his releasing of the report and the recommendations to us before the press conference today. I would like the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) to take heed of the way the Attorney-General handled this matter. I want to applaud the Attorney-General for his move.

An Honourable Member: Just like we used to do, Billy, right?

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

An Honourable Member: Look at that, you cannot even compliment them.

Mr. Uruski: I guess Government Members' self-worth is very low that they cannot even accept a compliment from Honourable Members from this side of the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish the Government would also indicate to the public whether they have confidence in the former Attorney-General or they do not, and deal with this question. But I want to ask the Attorney-General, in the report—

An Honourable Member: You have no confidence in the former Attorney-General!

An Honourable Member: That is a given.

Mr. Uruski: In the Deputy Attorney-General.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the report that the Attorney-General released this morning contained a number of recommendations and I believe one of the key recommendations being that of the establishment of a special counsel in the prosecution of where internal interests of the Department of the Attorney-General conflict or appear to be in conflict.

That recommendation calls for the establishment of criteria. I ask the Attorney-General, when will he be tabling and releasing that criteria to the public so that future cases of this nature can in fact call for the establishment of outside counsel which I think all of us agree with that recommendation?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): First, I would like to thank the Honourable Member for his compliment. Whether it was forehanded or backhanded or whatever it was, we get precious few of those around here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so I am happy to accept that one.

I think the whole ticket matter brings to the fore the principle that some justice issues are not political issues when we are dealing with matters as serious as the kind we were dealing with in this matter. I hope the Honourable Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski) will have taken note that I have resisted the temptation to take shots at my predecessor, and my predecessor in this matter had his part to play. I was critical on one issue and one issue alone and that had to do with the timing of the stays of proceedings. As Mr. Dewar in his report points out, there was nothing wrong with the timing of Mr. Schroeder's stays of proceedings and I put that on the public record.

The issue raised by the Honourable Member regarding outside counsel, I think is a key recommendation in the Dewar Report. I must say, though, in defence of the Department of Attorney-General, that for many, many, many years the Crown has operated in a way in which its independence and candour have never been impaired, or never perceptually or otherwise been impaired, and the Department of Attorney-General is a department of which Manitobans can still be very proud and I think all Honourable Members should recognize that.

* (1350)

Plea Bargaining

Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am hoping that the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) will be able to complete his answer in my next questions. I am sure all Members and I, certainly, as a Member of the former Government, all Members of the former Government were shocked when we read about the question of plea bargaining in the media.

When will the Attorney-General release his policy statement dealing with the process of plea bargaining so that we do not get caught up in a situation that we were caught up in this matter?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): The Honourable Member asks about tabling of the criteria for when the idea of using outside counsel should kick in. He also asks about guidelines for plea bargaining. As I said in my answer to a question earlier by the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), I will be asking our new Deputy Attorney-General, Mr. Pilkey, to bring forward comprehensive plans for the department's responses to these recommendations.

I remind again Honourable Members that up until this point, this kind of information has not been easy for me to discuss with Crown personnel. It is now easy to discuss and will be discussed and the Deputy Attorney-General will be bringing forward to me responses to those issues as soon as possible.

Civil Service Commission Disciplinary Action

Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) whether he will be providing or maybe he has provided to both the Civil Service and the Law Society information surrounding this matter in the event that either of those two bodies are involved in any disciplinary actions of their members?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): My office staff and myself, we created a list of agencies and people who we felt should receive copies of the Dewar Report and those copies were delivered earlier today. I am not sure that we included the Civil Service Commission on the list, but I am wondering if I have the Honourable Member's question absolutely straight in my mind, too.

Mr. Uruski: The former Chief Justice was critical of procedures and their allegations made both with respect to civil servants and with respect to members of the Bar. Those two organizations may be conducting investigations concerning members of either of those bodies.

I am asking the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) whether information from the investigations, not only from the report, would be made available to either of those two groups in the event that disciplinary action is deemed appropriate?

Mr. McCrae: My predecessor made references to the Manitoba Law Society in the case of some members

of the legal profession. I assume, out of the same recognition that I have, that the standards expected for members of the profession and members of the judiciary are different from standards set for the rest of people in society. I see no reason to interfere with that reference to the Law Society. The Law Society, no doubt, will be interested in what is contained in the Dewar Report and will make its decisions as it sees fit and as it is supposed to do.

With regard to civil servants, the matter is closed, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I do have a report on my desk as to the way the matter was handled with regard to civil servants, and as of today the matter is closed.

Ritalin Use Provincial Statistics

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): As this is Drug Awareness Week and with so many young people here from Selkirk, a town that is very active with this respect, the concern of many parents and teachers with regard to the misuse of the drug Methylphenidate, better known as Ritalin, once again surfaces. There are many who believe that the continuing use of Ritalin is contributing to drug addiction and even teenage suicide, a circumstance which is on the increase across our province and our country.

I ask the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), what are the statistics of the number of children in our schools who are now taking this drug?

* (1355)

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education): I am afraid that I am not able to give the exact numbers as to the numbers of children who are on Ritalin in our school system at the present time, but certainly I can get that information for the Member.

The issue of Ritalin use on school children has certainly been brought to my attention. Over the next course of weeks and months, we will certainly be addressing the issue on how we can better keep parents informed and the Department of Health, along with teachers, as to the use of Ritalin and to ensure that parents have the correct information when that product is being used. I will get back to the Member with the specifics to that question.

Adverse Effects

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): In March of this year, our Leader was assured that the then Minister of Education would provide the House with the numbers of children in our school divisions who are now taking this drug.

I ask the Minister of Education, has any discussion been made with a Special Needs expert, with respect to allegations that this drug actually may interfere with the social development of children who use it?

Hon. Leonard Derkach: As I indicated in my previous answer, there is certainly a considerable amount of

concern with regard to the use of Ritalin on children who are in the school system. Also there is certainly a lot of discussion about the negatives and the advantages of using Ritalin with some of those children who are taking the product at the present time.

The issue has been addressed in a discussion sense but certainly at this point in time, we have made no decisions except to ensure that parents will have better access to information about the use of the product. Certainly, as I indicated in a previous answer, we will be addressing this issue.

Ritalin Review for Abuse

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek, with a final supplementary question.

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), what data, what statistics are kept by Manitoba Pharmacare about the numbers of prescriptions for Ritalin issued by the physicians in the province, being that this drug is supposed to be reviewed for abuse?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): My honourable friend is correct that this is one of the drugs, the use of which is of concern to a number of people within both the health system and the education system, not to mention those parents whose children are prescribed the drug as a precondition to attendance at school. I can only indicate to my honourable friend that basis those concerns, we have within the Department of Health undertaken some investigative efforts to attempt to determine the numbers of children.

As I recall, the question posed to the previous Minister of Education last March, there was some difficulty in establishing exact numbers of students. That brings up, of course, not only the prescribed use of Ritalin but, as my honourable friend knows, there is a significant problem with unprescribed use of that drug as well.

Drought Assistance Provincial Contribution

Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry): It was just one week ago today, and not surprisingly just 10 days before the federal election, that the federal Government finally announced its Drought Assistance Program to grain producers.— (Applause)—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

Mr. Laurie Evans: It is surprising, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Government is so satisfied with so little so late. But what concerns me even more is the fact that when Mr. Mayer was making his announcement, his final statement was that they were still negotiating with the provinces to have the provinces participate in part of this compensation package.

My question is to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay). Is it the case that the federal Government is

expecting the provinces to contribute to the \$850 million package, or is it a case of a trade-off where the provinces are going to be expected to participate more in the Crop Insurance Program?

* (1400)

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Indeed the farmers of Manitoba, by and large, are very pleased that the announcement is now out, that they know the amount of money that will be available to them under a program for which some details are still being worked out. I can assure him that individuals in the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation have been involved in the process of developing those guidelines and will continue to be.

With regard to cost sharing, the position of the Province of Manitoba is that they are unable at this time to cost share in the payment of the \$194 million to the farmers of Manitoba, and that is the position of the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta also.

With regard to the long-term ability to make the Crop Insurance Program more attractive, we are involved in discussions, federal and provincial, to develop a more attractive program, and our position is that we, as a province, are prepared to have some degree of increased cost sharing in that program to the benefit of the producers of Manitoba. We want the federal contribution to stay where it is at and any increase in premium that users will face—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laurie Evans: I certainly am partially satisfied with the Minister's answer at least, but I would hope that the Minister will not let the federal Government off the hook too often in these things and assume too much of their responsibility.

Acreage Involved

Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry): A supplementary question, Mr. Deputy Speaker, relates to the situation with the Interlake producers who were not able to harvest in 1985 and were not able to plant in 1986. We have a situation—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laurie Evans: We are still speaking. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay). We have seen now where the federal Government has agreed to participate in this compensation. The provincial Government has agreed to participate, and we have the ridiculous situation where nobody seems to be able to find a list for the acreages involved. Can the Minister tell us what has happened in the last few weeks, and is he in consultation with the federal Government so something will be done quickly?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): I would like to remind the Member that he was wrong in his

preamble. The federal Government is not getting off the hook in any fashion with regard to the drought payment. They are going to pay the full amount in the Province of Manitoba, and their crop insurance contribution is going to remain where it is at in the future years.

With regard to the Interlake farmers, as I have told them in Estimates on other occasions that there does appear to be a technical problem in coming up with a list of producers and the acres associated with those producers. We have asked for that repeatedly, and we have been repeatedly told it exists but it does not surface. So there is a still problem there with being able to find out who should qualify for some degree of payment in that respect.

Herd Retention Program Compensation Process

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry): A final supplement to the same Minister and this relates to the Herd Retention Program, and the fact that those participating in the Herd Retention Program are being required to join the Feed Security Program in order to get the final installment on the Herd Retention Program. Is the Minister preparing to change that philosophy and provide the full payment to these farmers without forcing them into the Feed Security Program?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Producers that received the first two-thirds of the payment, there are no strings attached. It is only the last third where we require them to enroll in the program for '89. You do not have to pay any up-front premiums, and the reason we are requiring them not to do that is because there is no assurance that there will be adequate forage production in 1989. It is only recently we have had any amount of moisture in this part of the province that will be helpful in that respect for next year.

If the Member is wondering about the Crop Insurance Program, whether it be in terms of any retroactive component to the drought payment, that is still being negotiated, but as for now that requirement for entry for 1989 remains in place.

Winnipeg Enterprises Board Accountability

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the last pieces of legislation from the 1950 Liberal Government—1952—of course we saw their new legislation on water, but we will talk about that another day, just letting the Minister sell water to the United States. One of the last pieces of Liberal legislation left in this province is The Winnipeg Enterprises Corporation Act of this Legislature, an Act that has been featured on various public disclosures to have the giveaway of tickets to public officials in sporting events, a million dollar overrun in—I know the Member may be sensitive as a former Member of that board—

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): A point of privilege, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was never a member of Winnipeg Enterprises Board. I paid for my own Jets tickets.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member did not have -(Interjection)- order, please; order, please. The Honourable First Minister had a point of clarification but not a point of privilege.

Mr. Doer: —and the million-dollar overrun again came to the public attention yesterday.

Winnipeg Enterprises Act Debt Guarantees

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): My question is to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). In the Cherniack Report there was a strong recommendation to change the Act in the City of Winnipeg dealing with Winnipeg Enterprises and other boards. We also included it in our White Paper a year and a half ago and discussed it with City Council last year to change the outdated and unaccountable procedures in The Winnipeg Enterprises Act. Is the Minister going to proceed, consistent with the recommendations of the Cherniack Report, in terms of accountability of that enterprise and that corporation?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): As a person who sat on the Enterprises Board for three months, however a season ticket holder since the Jets started in Winnipeg, so I will not be accused of using the Enterprises' season tickets.

However, I did announce yesterday that under the guidelines of the amendments made that the auditor will be allowed to look into different events of people who do have funding through the City of Winnipeg. There is a lot of control now by the eight Members sitting on the board—those are the councillors. However, right now the auditor can come in; it is still in the Act that the auditor can come in at any time to review boards and commissions. So it is in The City of Winnipeg Act that the City of Winnipeg can have the auditor come in and go through and do a comparison and an audit on that existing board.

Amendments

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): The Act reads as an arm's length body from the—it is an Act of this provincial Legislature, it is an arm's length body in a private corporation yet the City of Winnipeg has to guarantee the debt. The Cherniack Report recommended, as well as the Auditor, the Cherniack Report recommended that the Act be amended and—it is the responsibility I believe of the Urban Affairs Minister—the Act be amended to provide for the debt guarantee that would go before the city council and be approved by city council because the ratepayers of Winnipeg hold the equity in those corporations and the debt.

Would the Minister today pledge himself to reforming that Enterprises Act which is somewhat out of date,

with the assets in the city, and demand the Act to provide for mandatory approval of any debt which would include the \$1 million override with an amendment of the Act in this Legislature?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Let us not get this totally confused in saying that City Hall does not have control of the board. When you have eight members sitting from City Hall and the Chief Commissioner, that makes a possible—that is 9 members out of a 16-member board. At no time during any discussions with the City of Winnipeg at EPC when the Enterprises came forward, that any information was refused. What I am saying is that right now they do have the power, it is nothing new in The City of Winnipeg Act. There is the power for them to bring in the city auditors to review the Enterprises on any stories that might be flying out there in regard to amounts. Remember it was a report recently in the TV in regard to that, they called a million-dollar overrun. I would suggest from the Member that he—I suggest that maybe he sits down with the Enterprises and ask them if that is the fact that it was a million-dollar overrun.

* (1410)

Mr. Doer: The facts are, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that members of City Hall did not know about it. The Mayor just throws up his hands and says, I am not responsible for it. Councils do not know about the \$1 million override, the public does not know about the \$1 million override, the public does not know about the one million dollar override which is debt. My question is, in light of all the scandals that are going on at that Enterprises, and in light of the role of the Minister of Urban Affairs, would he not take some action and some leadership in this area, rather than relying on the Gang of 18 or 19 that have totally neglected this area at City Hall on behalf of the citizens of Winnipeg, on behalf of an Act that we are responsible for in this House under the Winnipeg Enterprises Corporation?

Mr. Ducharme: Mr. Deputy Speaker, first of all, it was suggested it was an Act established since 1952. I would like to know where the previous Government was up until the time of now that this apparent overrun and I am only going by the apparent overrun. It was stated this morning that there was not an overrun, that all the accounts were accounted for. That was the statement made earlier today, early this morning by the Winnipeg Enterprises. So all I say to the Member again is in the Act, The City of Winnipeg Act, there is the capability of the City either walking in, the eight members sitting on City Council, to confirm and to be brought forward to EPC, to explain any actions of the Enterprises.

Native Policy Development Advancements

Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa): In a letter, which I am prepared to table incidentally, dated March 17, 1986, the then Leader of the Opposition, the present Premier (Mr. Filmon) wrote, and I quote "The Progressive Conservative Party, through its aboriginal caucus, would establish systems and structures that would to a great

extent allow policies and programs to be devised and managed by aboriginal people." My question for the Minister of Northern and Native Affairs is simply this, have these systems and structures referred to in the letter been established?

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): I have to say to the Honourable Member that we have had a series of meetings with the Native communities, a series of initiatives established by the Government particularly dealing with the review of the Native Affairs Secretariat which I said I would be providing more information on. The urban Native strategy which is being developed, ongoing discussions, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which in fact will lead to some positive developments in this regard.

Some Honourable Members: Hear! Hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for Niakwa, with a supplementary question.

Mr. Herold Driedger: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am perplexed. I mean the letter was dated March 17, 1986. That is two years; you had two years basically. Does this mean you had no policy, no idea of the system the structures referenced in this letter? Why was such system or structures then not established?

Mr. Downey: I would think that the Member would have been a little bit more fair-minded. He has not been in Opposition that long but I expect will be for quite some time and will appreciate the longer he is in there that he may write all the letters that he likes but you have to be in Government before you can effectively implement policies. We are now in that process. As well, we are doing it in consultation with the Native communities and I am sure that is the best way we can produce and develop plans and policies for those individuals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for Niakwa, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Herold Driedger: I accept the fact that you need to be in Government to be able to establish policies but I think you should be able to have in Opposition some ideas as to where you want to go. How much longer do the aboriginal people have to wait for some concrete actions by this Government which will address the needs identified by the Leader opposite back in 1986?

Mr. Downey: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Government, the now Premier of the province, committed to do an urban Native strategy which is in very advanced stages of development as far as the Government is concerned. We have had 10 years of want by five Native communities dealing with the Northern Flood and the devastation of some of those communities, very much advanced development with those discussions. Earlier this week, an announcement was made by myself and my colleague, the Minister of Highways (Mr. Albert Driedger), as far as some of the infrastructure development in northern and Native

communities, a response from the Premier to that community when he was campaigning and, as well, shortly after elected, action put in place where we will be building a new bridge in the community of Norway House and some additional roadwork. There are developments, there are advancements and there are positive policies on behalf of the Native community in Manitoba.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) has time for one question.

* (1420)

Literacy Programs Funding

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): Can I put three in one? Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. The Conservative Government made literacy a top priority in their Throne Speech. They made a big production out of it on Literacy Day by proclaiming literacy day, but to date they have taken no action at all.

I am wondering, since the Conservative Government has given no increase to existing literacy programs is sitting on a half-a-million dollars that is sitting in Ottawa waiting to flow to Manitoba, because they have no proposals received from Manitoba to fund them, while this Minister has cancelled three meetings to deal with that with the federal Government, and while another project called Bookmates which is a preliteracy program, which has been helping hundreds of Inner City second language children learn how to read and write, can this Minister tell us why he is not meeting with Ottawa, why he has no proposal in to fund federal money to literacy programs, why he gave no increase to the provincial programs, and why Bookmates is starving for money and has been brought to a full halt while the proposal for funding sits on his desk waiting for approval?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) must be using a Liberal computer because it is full of errors in terms of her information. I would like to indicate to her that in fact discussions and planning are going on, on a continuous basis with regard to programs which are being developed for literacy. In the next week, we will be meeting with officials from the federal Government with regard to programs that we have developed since we took office, which we are going to be proposing to the federal Government for joint funding of these programs.

It would have been probably more convenient had we done things like the former Government, we would have probably tried to meet with the federal officials just prior to the federal election so then they could take some credit for it. That is not the way we operate. We will not make those proposals until they are concrete, until they have been researched properly, until those programs can be implemented in a rational and in a positive way. Over the next week and a half or so we will be meeting with federal officials and there will

be programs in place for the betterment of literacy in this province and for the people of this province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The time for Question Period has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Government House Leader): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings), that Mr. Deputy Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve into a Committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of Ways and Means for raising of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, with the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS

CAPITAL SUPPLY

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: Would the committee come to order, please.

RESOLVED towards making good certain sums of money for Capital purposes, the sum of \$121,100,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Agreed.

Mr. Chairman: The committee to adopt the resolution. (Agreed)

Is it the will of the committee that I report? Committee rise.

Call in the Deputy Speaker.

* (1430)

IN SESSION

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Harold Gilleshammer (Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Committee of Ways and Means has adopted a certain resolution, directs me to report the same, and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

BILL NO. 35 THE LOAN ACT, 1988

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance) introduced, by leave, Bill No. 35, The Loan Act, 1988.

Thursday, November 17, 1988

SECOND READING

BILL NO. 35 THE LOAN ACT, 1988

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance) presented, by leave, Bill No. 35, The Loan Act, 1988, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

Mr. Manness: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill No. 35 is intended to provide borrowing and expenditure authority, as well as guarantee authority in some cases, which is required for specific non-budgetary capital—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. As the Minister of Finance has the floor, I would ask that all Honourable Members extend the courtesy of allowing him to comment on this Bill. The Minister of Finance.

Mr. Manness: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, the Bill is intended to provide borrowing and expenditure authority which is required for specific non-budgetary capital programs for the new fiscal year which began on April 1. These requirements are included in the Capital Estimates for non-budgetary capital purposes which were tabled earlier in the Session.

As you are aware, The Loan Act provides incremental authority. In some cases, it is supplemental to already existing authority; in other cases, no authority for the same purpose remains.

It is not intended that all of the authority provided in The Loan Act, 1988, be exhausted by the end of this fiscal year. In some cases, the authority is provided at this time so that commitments may be made and contracts may be signed. Expenditures will take place in this and subsequent years.

When the Bill reaches the committee stage, my colleagues and I can provide any necessary explanations for the information of Members.

Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake): I wish to place a few remarks on the record dealing with Bill No. 35, The Loan Act, 1988. There are a number of ventures that the Government intends to undertake in this whole area of authority exceeding \$120 million.

The one area that interests, I am sure, most rural Members in this Assembly, or several areas that interest rural Members, is of course the Capital Authority dealing with the Telephone System and the future of the Federal-Provincial Water and Sewer Agreement.

This funding, I want to indicate to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), has long awaited Manitobans and many Manitoba communities going as far back as 1982 with the former Liberal Government, when they were in office, when the last federal-provincial agreement expired, which dealt with sewer and water needs of rural and semi-urban communities within our province—communities like Steinbach, Selkirk, Teulon, Morden and Winkler—especially those communities in

southern Manitoba where water sources are at a premium and are very difficult to obtain.

I know the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner), sitting in this Chamber today, participated in a signing of an agreement which carried water all the way from the Red River—I think Letellier is where the treatment plant is located—through several small communities and serving somewhere I believe in excess of 1,000 farm people—I do not know if it is farm residences—but 1,000 people who are situated along the pipeline, as well as the community of Altona, in southern Manitoba.

* (1440)

This was a major project that I believe is part and parcel of not only this Government's intention but of our Government's intention when we were in office of attempting to drought-proof rural Manitoba, and what better way to not only create a construction and construction jobs but having the lasting effects of an infrastructure that will be there for decades to come. Although I note that there is no agreement signed as yet, there have been discussions and I would like the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) to indicate to us when we are dealing with this Bill at what stage are those negotiations. Are the draft agreements there and are they just waiting to be signed, or is the federal election going to foreclose or stall for a number of months the potential of having an agreement?

If there is agreement now, then we should be proceeding with it because as he knows and I knew when I was in office there is more than \$60 million—it may be over \$70 million now—of requests at the Manitoba Water Services Board from communities, small and large, and from cooperatives which were funded, and I am sure from some Hutterite colonies which are now treated by Manitoba Water Services Board as if they were a small community. In fact they are for the purposes of establishing a needed infrastructure in terms of effluent control and water source supply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) to provide us with as much detail as he can when he speaks to this Bill in terms of where this agreement is, how far it is advanced, and be prepared to tell us which communities are involved in this whole area. I want to indicate that the communities we were prepared to include, or the larger communities we were prepared to include in the former agreement, were communities such as Selkirk, Steinbach, I believe Morden, were in the previous discussions. Even Winkler may have been part of those discussions, definitely Portage La Prairie and Brandon. I believe the community of Dauphin was also part of that.

I am not sure whether Neepawa was in that former agreement. Neepawa's water supply was concluded, or at least the major project in Neepawa, in about 1982 or 1983, because I recall being in that community with the former federal Minister of Agriculture, friendly Eugene, who really could not stop talking and you could not get a word in edgewise when you were sitting down to speak with dear Eugene, but certainly his heart and

his desires through his department were in the right direction to serve the needs of Canada. He did clearly support the farming community in any way that he could. Certainly the areas of orderly marketing and supply management found his fullest support when he was Minister. I was pleased to participate in that opening in Neepawa.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) in introducing this Bill really I think left out one area that is of prime importance. That is the area of the increasing unemployment that Manitoba is encountering over the last number of months. We do not seem to have a developing strategy of this Government to deal with the worsening unemployment situation. He basically is saying, well, this is our program in terms of capital expenditures and as well industrial development expenditures in the Industrial Opportunities Program, basically I guess arms of the former Jobs Fund, but they have really done away with the Jobs Fund.

This is a time that this Government should be announcing additional measures to deal with the worsening unemployment situation in our province. There is nothing in this loan Bill that deals with the Government's intention in this whole area and the required additional expenditures to assist people back into the workforce. These agreements that we are talking about are still potential. They are not onstream, and if anything, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) I believe, should have gone above and beyond what he announced in his budget, to recognize the worsening economic situation in Manitoba year over year, and been prepared and have been prepared to announce additional measures to deal with the unemployment situation.

We had the other day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, an announcement by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), his intention or his notice that he was going to join the National Tripartite Stabilization Plan in Red Meats. I indicated to him privately and I will put it on the record that the reason he did this was really to forestall any need of provincial funding in the short run to deal with the circumstances of the feedlot industry, that they criticized our Government for day in and day out when they were in the House. They indicated that the feedlot industry, the cattle industry was dying in this province and it required immediate action.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, all that he has done is said, I am giving you my notice. He could have given that notice in July at the Minister's meeting and I am sure he did. Now he has reannounced it. He just shook his finger at me, he said, okay and I know he did. So the question really begs to be asked, why would you reannounce this other than, of course, making the commitment in this House during Estimates, saying that we really have to do something before the end of the year, before the end of November, or by December we will have to go one way or the other. I venture to say he will not even have any kind of response from the other provinces in this whole area.

Capital Supply, additional funding should be provided for the feedlot industry because he knows as well as I do, that the likelihood of having national tripartite and

all the work that needs to be sorted out between primarily the Provinces of Quebec and Alberta, in the whole question of top loading and side loading and bottom loading, all those areas likely will not be done and accomplished before the end of the year. I venture to say that it may not occur, and we will not be in a plan. The feedlot industry will be no further ahead, notwithstanding the severe criticisms that the Conservatives levelled on the New Democratic Government, because in our last budget, we budgeted \$600,000 for a feedlot program pending, and we were prepared to go into national tripartite on beef.

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Oh, come on.

Mr. Uruski: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) says oh, come on. It was this former Government, under my direction, that asked the Manitoba Department of Agriculture to go out and hold meetings with cattle farmers around this province to explain the federal Tripartite Beef Stabilization Program. It really was not our job, but we wanted producers to know what that program was before we would go into and say we are moving into this whole area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Minister has not done it. He has not gone out and consulted with beef producers. I will tell you the beef producers of this province did reject the national Tripartite Stabilization Program. They indicated to us even the feedlot sector rejected the support under the national Stabilization Program as being inadequate, and is being inadequate because of the bottom loading and the difficulty that we were still encountering with the Province of Alberta, which joined the national program but continued on bottom loading and side loading and top loading the support to the industry.

Basically, we could not compete with the Alberta programs. This Minister knows it. He understands that situation. Let not his actions that he has put on the record about joining the national program be taken that in fact that program will be in place. I venture to say that -(Interjection)- well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will say to him, I will even give him 60 days. I will give him till the end of this year. I will publicly apologize to the Minister that if the agreement is signed and that Manitoba is in place, I will get up in this House and I will take my hat off to the Minister of Agriculture and say, a job well done. I say that on the record now. He will be able to then repeat it to me. But I venture to say, I predict that will not occur, that it will not happen. Not that I do not want it to happen but we went through those machinations for six years. The Minister of Agriculture knows how difficult those discussions and how emotional those discussions become around that table in terms of the protective nature that all of us, as Ministers or former Ministers of Agriculture, take to our own regions and about our own producers.

* (1450)

That is not to say anything negative about my colleague, the Conservative Minister in Alberta or the Minister in Quebec. They took the positions very hard.

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I did not agree with them. I want to tell you, I did not agree with their positions. They believed in what they were standing for and they were very hard and fast in their positions and their clout. Let us make it very clear, their clout is far greater than ours although we have played a very important role as being, what I would call, the heart of this country. The Province of Manitoba has played a very important role. I am sure this Minister has, in his meetings, attempted to continue that conciliatory role of trying to get all sides together to agree on a national scheme and, as he calls it, the level playing field. I do not criticize him for that; I applaud him for that and I have done so in the past.

This Bill here, again, does not deal with the worsening situation, both in unemployment in terms of Agriculture or even in terms of the area of job creation. We have some financing in the area of industrial opportunities, the Potash Corporation. I would like to hear where those negotiations are going, whether in fact that development will take place in western Manitoba. Are we on the verge of signing an agreement with our international partners to develop a potash mine in western Manitoba?

I believe that this Government is reneging on its pledge to Manitobans that they would continue the growth in the economy, that they would provide the kind of stability to Manitoba's employment sector, our work force. In fact, our employment has worsened. We have 7,000 more people out of work this time, this year than we had last year. They talk about creating a climate of business opportunity. We have to cut taxes. So they have cut taxes for Inco, given them millions of dollars in terms of the Health and Education levy while Inco gives away a billion dollars to its shareholders. They really need help. While at the same time, they increase deductibles for senior citizens, for Manitobans in the Pharmacare and other areas of service costs, but for the large corporations they continue their giveaways, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a real perverse sense of development for the people of this province. And I question their ability, as winter months come in, to be able to deal with the—and I am sure—the worsening economic situation that many Manitobans will find themselves into.

They changed the rules, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of the job creation for northern communities under the Community Places Programs. We all know that many of those communities do not have the financial base or the financial resources to come up with 50 percent of the funding. They should have continued the additional assistance to those communities so that many of those worthwhile projects which those communities require could be put into place.

I am sure the Member for Swan River, in his duties as MLA, has a number of remote or semi-remote communities in his constituency that now would be finding it very difficult to come up with their 50 percent of funding under the Community Assets Program, and that effectively starts cutting out those communities in which the employment situation is the highest, where many of those communities have unemployment percentages going 50 percent upward to 80 percent or 90 percent unemployment.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, some of this assistance that the province could have provided on some of the ongoing programming have been tightened up. And I urge the Minister of Finance and his colleagues, the Minister responsible for Lotteries, to rethink some of their programs that they have put into place. So I wish, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they would review their programs.

There is one other area, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I think requires mentioning and that is their policy change in the area of the Farm School Tax Rebate Program.

This Government has made the changes to the 25 percent rebate on school taxes a very unfair change, and I want to tell you I am now surveying a number of municipalities to find out how Manitoba farmers have fared under this program, and I will be coming back to this House in very short order—

An Honourable Member: Where did you learn that?

Mr. Uruski: —to show this Government that they have gone beyond the \$2 million figure that I have alleged just to those interests that are not farming, the lawyers and the doctors who have speculated in farm land, who now hold farm land.

The Minister of Finance talks about the hobby farmers getting \$500.00. I want to tell you and I want to share something with the Minister of Finance because I have looked at that program fairly carefully. I have to admit to him—(Interjection)—No, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that their change in the criteria now gives a greater break to the hobby farmers than our program, and I will tell the Minister of Finance why. He does not understand that; he did not check the program. I will tell him why. There are two anomalies.

The mid-size and the medium to large farmers lose, the extra large farmers gain and the hobby farmers gain under this program, and I will tell you why, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because in the criteria—and I am glad the Minister of Municipal Affairs is here—in their criteria—and they accused us of giving benefits to hobby farmers—in their criteria they have indicated that the \$325 initial rebate, the Property Tax Credit Rebate now applies pro rata on the entire tax bill. It is not related solely to school taxes, so that if your proportion of your \$325, or your school tax to municipal tax is 50-50, then only \$162.50 is applied against the school tax, whereas under the former rules the entire \$325 was applied against the school tax, so that there was less of the additional amount available against the \$500.00. The kind of whining and accusing that we were providing benefits to hobby farmers, they have allowed, they have increased.

* (1500)

Let us just take any example of any small hobby farmer that may own let us say one-quarter section or less. Let us say the total tax bill on that quarter section is \$1,000 just for argument sake, and it is split 50-50 into school taxes and municipal taxes.—(Interjection)—Is that fair? The Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) says that is fair. So now you take under the former program

the \$325.00. The \$325 was removed on school taxes alone so that the additional benefit was \$175 that individual could claim. Right? Under their change in rules, now if it is a 50-50 basis then the \$162 will be taken off as a benefit, \$338 as the benefit that is eligible for benefits under their School Tax Program. Mr. Deputy Speaker, they are almost equal I have to admit.

Even in my example that I gave where they are almost equal, I think the Tories have nothing to smile about because one of the major criticisms of our program was that hobby farmers were getting it. Under their program they will not get it. That is not true and they know it is not true. The active farmers of Manitoba are the big losers under the program. They know it. They do not want to admit it, but I venture to say once the municipalities start providing us with the calculations as to how much loss there is, because the active farmers will lose thousands of dollars under their change in formula, thousands of dollars per municipality. There will be thousands of dollars of less support to farmers during a period of time when all of us in this Legislature agree that the farming community continues to go through some very difficult times and exceptionally difficult as a result of this year's drought.

I believe the Minister of Finance should sit down with his officials, sit down with the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings) and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), and rethink their criteria, so instead of providing benefits to speculators and non-farming interests that they provide the benefits that we all agree should be provided to the active and full-time farmers of this province.

Mr. Richard Kozak (Transcona): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have stood several times in this House to express serious concerns about the Free Trade Agreement negotiated by the Mulroney Government with the United States. Indeed over the last several months many Opposition Members, both my colleagues in the Liberal Party and Members of the Second Opposition Party, have placed a large number of concerns about the agreement on the record of this House. The Opposition has attempted to debate the Free Trade Agreement in a responsible manner, largely in the context of Resolution 1, the Canada-United States Trade Agreement; Bill No. 13, The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act; and Bill No. 20, The Water Rights Amendment Act.

Debate is after all a constructive process which permits the Parties to develop their thinking, express their points of view and inform the electorate. However, the debate never happened, it never materialized, until a few days ago Conservative Members of this House seemed to plead no contest through their silence. This was neither a service to the House nor to those Manitobans who support the Free Trade Agreement and expected the Conservatives to represent their view.

During the Budget Debate, I criticized the Government for complacency. During debate on Bill No. 15, The Cooperative Promotion Trust Act, I pointed out the absence of any bold initiatives on the Order Paper of this House and asked what had happened to the thorough housecleaning promised by the Throne

Speech. I would like to point out to the throng of Conservative Members anxious to defend the Free Trade Agreement that they had ample opportunity to do so a month ago, or two months ago. Members opposite must understand that they have left the barn door wide open and the horse has fled. Perhaps they will now learn that we were all elected to make things happen, not to watch things happen.

Having stated that the opportunity for a meaningful debate on the Free Trade Agreement has passed, I will limit my remarks as we discuss Bill No. 35 to certain comments on the consequences for Manitoba of rejecting the agreement. Some Government Members have made the alarming assertion that the defeat of the Free Trade Agreement will lead to a substantial increase in the provincial debt and I feel it is important today at this earliest opportunity to refute this piece of fearmongering.

On October 31, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) said to this House, "I would like to report that the Canadian dollar has fallen from 83.13 cents American to 81.85 cents so far today. That represents a 1.25-cent fall. This is entirely as a result of the international financial markets being horribly concerned with respect to what ultimately may happen with respect to the Free Trade Agreement within this country, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Some are feeling that the Canadian dollar may drop as low as 70 cents. Today, the taxpayers of the Province of Manitoba to this point in time have lost in foreign exchange \$110 million."

(The Acting Speaker, Mr. Harold Gillieshammer, in the Chair.)

The entire responsibility for this loss rests with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and the Conservative Government in general. I remind the Minister that the Royal Bank of Canada recently forecast in its publication, Canada 1988 to 1990 Economic Issues and Outlook, and again I quote, "At its current level the Canadian dollar is above the level that would prevail if its value was determined by purchasing power parity considerations alone, that is, by Canada's inflation performance relative to other countries. Calculations based on purchasing power parity imply an equilibrium level for the dollar in the range of 75 cents to 80 cents, somewhat below its average this year."

* (1510)

It is not my intention to endorse any particular forecast for the Canadian dollar or to favour the purchasing power parity forecasting method over the trade balance equilibrium method. Rather it is my intention to emphasize that since the start of this Session I have repeatedly urged the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) to stop using the taxpayers' hard-earned money to guarantee speculative losses on foreign currency markets.

He has assured me that he is winding down this practice but, in debate on October 31 he admitted that he has made so little progress that the people of Manitoba stand to lose many more hundreds of millions of dollars. The province's exposure to foreign currency

losses could have been completely eliminated months ago by hedging on futures markets and by currency swaps. Attempts to blame this Government's speculative losses on the federal election campaign should stop. Instead, this Government should stop risking the taxpayers' money.

I hope the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) understands that the Liberal Opposition's sense of propriety is deeply offended by this Government's continued foreign currency speculation. I advise him that we will persist in expressing non-confidence in his Government's record of fiscal responsibility, specifically its practices of debt management until he eliminates this speculation entirely.

The high ethical standards of this Minister are not in question. His willingness to take expeditious action to eliminate high-risk financial ventures is in question. The Liberal Opposition asks the immediate assurance of the Minister of Finance that none of the monies to be raised by way of loan under the authority of Bill No. 35, The Loan Act, 1988, will be borrowed in currencies other than the Canadian dollar.

In conclusion, I understand Conservative Members embarrassment over missed opportunities to defend the Free Trade Agreement. I remind them of the words of a Conservative gentleman, the Honourable Sterling Lyon, when his Government went down to defeat in 1981. He said and I quote, "The people are always right." I urge all Members to await the people's verdict on Monday, rather than spring to their feet too late with ill-considered remarks. I urge the Government not to demean the concept of fiscal responsibility by using it as a political football. Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): It is interesting to listen to the Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak) on the Free Trade Agreement. We have probably got four days left in our debate, some limited amount of hours—maybe under 100 hours left perhaps, in terms of the Free Trade Agreement—and then the public of Canada will decide on the wisdom of that proposal, and the fact that the proposal does not even have as its fundamental tenet the exemption from U.S. protectionist law, which was the reason for entering into that debate.

I would start off my comments by looking at The Loan Act and reflecting that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) has presented this Bill to us on the assumptions that were made in his Budget that he presented in this House four months ago. I do not know whether the Minister of Finance has put his thinking in gear or in automatic pilot, or is looking at what is going on in the province since he has presented his Budget in this Chamber.

First of all, the Minister of Finance gets great joy out of looking at the Canadian dollar when it goes down one-quarter of a cent. I think for borrowing purposes we do not want to see our dollar going down, unless it is offset in a demonstrated way with increased exports.

I have not heard the Minister of Finance comment at all about that great American economy that they want us to tie our proverbial economic wagon to in its

relationship with the Pacific Rim, particularly Japan. Mr. Acting Speaker, the Japanese yen takes a hiccup and the Minister of Northern Affairs (Downey) is going to lose his whole department on March 31 with the way he has established his Budget.

The Member for Morris, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) likes to talk about the great American economy, but he has not yet told us how much it is going to cost the taxpayers of Manitoba and indeed this province for the outrageous proposals that all the money he has tied up in the Japanese yen market, in terms of its relationship with the American dollar. I know when I was Minister of the Telephone System I swapped all kinds of Japanese yen, but this Minister has done nothing or very little to swap the yen that Mr. Kostyra had started doing in this last year when the U.S. dollar was in great shape. The Canadian dollar was in good shape, the American dollar was in good shape, because there was some plot that a Democratic Party could get elected in the United States.

But, Mr. Acting Speaker, with George Bush and those dinosaurs and the Republican Party came back into office, the group that this Party admires with a great deal of esteem. Remember the fact that the former Premier—

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Hush, Gary, you will wake Harry up.

Mr. Doer: Well, Harry did not go to Detroit in 1981, but the former Leader of the Conservative Party, the former Premier, had great joy visiting that Inaugural Convention for Ronnie Reagan and his other Republicans. A person who will go down in history as the father of the most disastrous economic policies; a person who is going to go down in history if one is to read the latest financial publications dealing with the American and the Japanese situation. A President of the United States much admired by Members opposite, who will go down in history as a person who is responsible for the development of a situation where Japan in the next 10 years will own 60 percent of U.S. corporations and their assets.

Japan will own, unfortunately, the majority of the major holdings in the United States because of the outrageous military policy in the United States, where billions and billions of dollars have been foolishly squandered on behalf of the people of America and, Mr. Acting Speaker, whether I like it or not, that will affect us in Canada and indeed will affect us in Manitoba. It just goes to show that George Bush was correct when he was running against Ronald Reagan, when he called it "voodoo economics." It is too bad he got converted to the economic theory of the Republican Party and Ronald Reagan because it has, quite frankly, been a disaster.

That points out the disaster in terms of the total reliance on a country with a particular trade agreement that, as I say, has got four days left in its tentative existence before the people of Canada decide. Tying ourselves so closely in an economic constitution that, again, the hero of Members opposite stated a year ago, an economic constitution with the United States is, in

our opinion, a disaster and hooking ourselves to a falling star, a practice I would not recommend for the Government.

One of the major areas that capital should be used for is one component of public spending for purposes of creating assets for the province and also to use the levers of the provincial Government for creating jobs in the province. On that score, Mr. Acting Speaker, is another area that Members opposite have failed dismally from their predictions that they made in their Budget which they presented to this Legislature some four months ago.

They have been off every month; every month they have been off in their employment predictions for this province. Their unemployment rates have been a way above what they presented to this Legislature some four-and-a-half months ago. I said at that time we thought their numbers were wrong. We said that we hoped that we were wrong, in terms of that prediction, because quite frankly nobody wants the economy of Manitoba to go down. Nobody wants to be able to have the opportunity to ask negative questions in the economic situation on the backs of the unemployed. We would all prefer to see that we were wrong about the Conservative economic management, that not only had they met their targets in terms of their unemployment, but they had exceeded them as they talked in their "Pollyanna" speeches to the Chamber of Commerce and other of their friends in this community.

* (1520)

Mr. Acting Speaker, we wished we were wrong and they indeed were right, but that is not the case. There are 7,000 more people unemployed under Tory economic development. The trickle-down theory that did not work for Ronald Reagan except for military spending, did not work—

An Honourable Member: It has worked very well for Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Doer: Yes, it has worked very well and his grandchildren will be in debt to the people of Japan. That is true. I will bring a book in this House, Mr. Acting Speaker, that all Members should look at.

The Member for Pembina (Mr. Orchard), I know read a book last year and it had a great influence on some of his speeches presented in July of 1987, when he was foaming at the mouth on some of the legislation before the Chamber. It must bother him to be part of the church that he was presently a member of, in terms of some of the positions they took, in terms of the Free Trade Agreement and other human rights issues that the Member for Pembina feels so sensitively about.

The job creation situation and Job Development Program is an absolute and total disaster. We all make speeches in this Chamber, but there is a day of reckoning. Every four weeks on a Friday morning, there is a little sheet that comes down saying whether you people are succeeding or failing. For the four months after the Budget was presented, it has not C's that this

objective sheet comes down with, in terms of the performance of this Government. It has not been an average performance, it has not been giving this Government D's; they have been F's, month after month after month where they have been off, in terms of their predictions. You could understand a blip in one month of performance, in terms of economic development and job creation, you could understand one month because there are blips in the statistics that come out. But a legacy of four straight months of absolute failure is something that the Members of this Cabinet and the Treasury Benches should take special concern on.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I know that the sort of managed line to deal with this is the kind of high-priced \$75,000 Communication people have told the Members opposite to use the line, oh, it is the drought that is causing all these problems. We all know in this Chamber that there was a drought this summer. We all know that was to be included in the projections of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) because the Budget was presented in August. We also know that the drought situation will have its greatest affect in the '89 spring. I hope that it snows a lot, because there is going to be no help for Manitobans from this cavalier bunch of Ministers on the benches before us today. There may be some hope from God, but there is no hope from the Members opposite in terms of their trickle-down theory that is not working, in terms of the people of Manitoba.

Mr. Acting Speaker, the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) is a feisty, formidable opponent in Opposition, but he has become a managed, recorded announcement in Government. You listen to the Member for Arthur, he just stands up and says, we are consulting and we are doing a good job, and we are doing this. What a terrible situation! Who has given this person their videotape lessons, who has sanitized the Member for Arthur, who has made this antiseptic response in terms of this Chamber? I cannot believe that they have got them. They have stopped them from banging their desk, Mr. Acting Speaker, and now they have got them with these sanitized recording announcements.

Mr. Harry Enns (Lakeside): Is the Honourable Member talking about my friend, the Honourable Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey)?

Mr. Doer: Yes. Mr. Acting Speaker, I am glad that they have not taken the spirit out of the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns). The Interlake is well represented. He hits his desk like a good Tory will. He says what he feels. No recorded announcements come out of the Member for Lakeside. I do not always agree with him but he has not become an antiseptic Member like some of the Members opposite, fluff, tough and no substance at all in terms of this Chamber.

The Loan Bill is a reflection of the priority of this Government. It is a total disaster in terms of their economic management. It is a boiler plate presentation, a boiler plate from the Budget. Obviously this is a Government that cannot change with changing times whether it is week over week, month over month or unemployment rate over unemployment rate, it still just stays this course, this sort of Friedmanist course of economic development and it is not working. I would

ask, Mr. Acting Speaker, as a Government that was involved in six out of seven years of economic development which is above the national average, we certainly were not perfect. I know the Members opposite will agree. We were above the national average six out of seven years. Members opposite are below the national average every month they have been in office in terms of their economic stewardship of this province.

I would ask that the Members look at the first six months and look at the facts and change the course of their economic priorities, return to a course that says Manitoba cannot sit back and expect the world to come to it. It just does not work that way. The Ministers of the Crown have got to go out to provinces, companies and ideas and have to take a very, very proactive approach to create jobs and economic opportunity whether it is in the public sector or in the private sector. You cannot just sit back and count paper clips. It will not get the 7,000 people employed that are now unemployed with the activities of this Government.

In terms of the specifics of the Bill, I would like to make a couple of comments on the specifics in the schedule. I notice with the loan authority of The Manitoba Telephone Act, there is again the authority for \$45 billion which is consistent with the previous year's authority. I would ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), perhaps in follow-up on this Bill to identify to us the reason why the Bill provides the same amount of money when there was \$12 million in surplus anticipated for the '88 year—a year that we had the policies in place for the Telephone System, a year that had no rate increase—why the same amount of money is being required for the '88/89 fiscal year as was in the '87/88 fiscal year?

I understand the reasons for the Data Services capital expansion. There are other questions in terms of the proposals in this Act. I noticed that again the total job creation programs are way down under this Government, whether it is jobs for the future program and the operating Budget or other Capital projects. It is again consistent with the idea that unemployment does mean anything to this Government. It is just rhetoric and nothing to back up their speeches.

The Potash Corporation, Mr. Acting Speaker, I am interested to see the Loan Authority in that Act. I understand when reading the old Bill or the proposal or the untendered audit done by the Tory auditing firm, I notice in that Stevenson-Kellogg Report there were comments made about the Potash Corporation of Manitoba. I ironically noticed that the Government treated the Potash Corporation in a way that was deficient to the private sector. The private sector partner treated the assets and Loan Authority in one way, and the Government, in its headlong attempt to discredit the former Minister of Finance, wrote off all kinds of money, Mr. Acting Speaker. I wonder how the Minister of Finance squares the position of his Government that says that the private sector is one fair indicator of economic management, how they could be doing something in one way when the private sector that is a partner of the Government of the Day is operating in quite a bit of a different manner?

We look forward to the Environmental Impact Study of the Potash Corporation. We know that the new

Minister of Energy and Mines has a renewed interest in potash. I guess it was that very pertinent conference in Monte Carlo that probably turned his mind around. It would turn my mind around on potash development. The potash numbers in the short run are very, very negative. But in the long run, and that is why the private sector is involved, in the long run there is a great potential in the world market for potash.

* (1530)

I noticed that the Members opposite were very critical when we were Government in pursuing this program. They often quoted for their source of inspiration, Grant Devine, in terms of his \$180 million losses in potash. Now they are proceeding on a different track in terms of potash now that they are in Government. I do not know how they square the circle that they made for themselves but I guess that does not matter. We heard today in the Telephone Estimates they had about 17 different contradictions in 10 minutes. I guess it does not matter to them in terms of their consistency of policy. They is why, I guess, they are called a flip-flop Government. That is basically why the label has stuck with this bunch. So, Mr. Acting Speaker, I await the answer from the Minister of Finance on that question.

I notice that the Manitoba Mineral Resources Corporation has a \$16 million loan authority. We know last year, in spite of all the comments about Crown corporations, the Manitoba Mineral Resources Corporation made close to \$5 million in surplus. It created all kinds of new economic ventures in Manitoba. There is a new nickel operation in Thompson right now, the first one to be opened in Canada in 20 years. We worked on that project and we brought it to fruition and without giving them \$15 million as a tax giveaway that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) in his Christmas spirit—you must be made the Man of the Year from that group too. I know all the auditing companies cannot believe their great fortune in terms of the Minister of Finance in terms of all the work they get. I am sure he will be made Man of the Year by the auditing companies and Man of the Year by Inco and perhaps even, to add the third major insult to the Minister of Finance, the CPR, I am sure, will be holding a testimonial dinner to the Minister of Finance for that \$5 million that he gave away against the Tory philosophy as articulated by John Diefenbaker.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I mentioned the potash corporation and why this Minister is treating it differently than the private sector, the Holy Grail of standards that the Minister so consistently emulates and then speaks of. I would also ask the Minister about the Manitoba Mineral Resources. He wrote off the Ruttan Mine, I noticed, in his headlong approach to write off everything. No wonder he did not get any press on the thing. The Minister did not have any credibility. He had to have two press conferences and he still could not get this jalopy off the ground because he had no credibility. He had no credibility to write Manfor down to a dollar.

The Minister wrote the Ruttan Mine down. I think he wrote off \$10 million or \$5 million, and there is money in the trust account. Now what are you going to do? Put that trust account money back into the general

revenue and say, oh, look what good managers we are! Is that what you are going to do? -(Interjection)- Ah! That is what I thought, Mr. Acting Speaker. I think that is a little bit of a sleight of hand. Blame the former Government and write down \$10 million and the company has made \$5 million in the first six months, I believe, in spite of the fact that there was an industrial dispute. It has \$5 million in the bank and what are you going to do with that money? -(Interjection)- Oh, the Minister writes it off in one corporation and in a sleight of hand he is probably going to put it back in the Minister of Health's (Mr. Orchard) Estimates. God knows he needs the help.

Give the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) more money. He is just blowing everything on those little "Pacmen" he has created out there. A \$140 million increase in his expenditures and he has got nothing to show for it. He is still getting headlines saying Tories cut off disabled from home care. That is what he has got to show for his extra \$140 million. He is going to be held more accountable as his policies trickle down into the department, many of which of course he would not sign. He is too cute for that. He likes to work a little bit more by word of mouth so there are no traces.

I would ask the Minister to explain his Mineral Resources policy. Again the private sector firm has been jeopardized by the Minister of Finance's actions. He is so headlong intent on blaming the old Government with his silly first envelope theory that he makes fiscal mistakes at the expense of valuable enterprises.

We are pleased to say the Hazardous Waste Corporation has loan authority in it. We would like to see more leadership from the present Minister. I should not comment, the fact that he is not here. I am sorry, Mr. Acting Speaker. I know that is against the rules. I would like to know that we are putting \$2 million into a corporation that is going to proceed with a list of at least 100 items under the City of Winnipeg that he is responsible in enforcing some of his own Acts. I know that the Minister responsible for the Environment (Mr. Connery) signs blank cheques, but I do not like Members of this Legislature to sign blank cheques for the Minister responsible for the Environment, \$2 million of loan authority for a Minister that—

An Honourable Member: Do you know how much you had when you were defeated in '88?

Mr. Doer: Yes, I have the bill from before, thank you, and you will notice that most of it was in the Housing Corporation. If you subtract the Housing Corporation, we are pretty well the same.

An Honourable Member: We are talking about waste management.

Mr. Doer: The Hazardous Waste Management Corporation? It was its first year last year as the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) should recall. We had a Minister that was doing something on the environment. He had passed a new Environment Act. He had passed The Hazardous Waste Management Act. We have a Minister who stands up and says, oh, we are looking

at that; oh, we are really concerned about the environment; oh, we are consulting with the City of Winnipeg. But when it comes right down to it he is doing nothing, zero, zilch in terms of the Hazardous Waste Corporation and the activity of The Environment Act in terms of the Province of Manitoba.

So this is a boiler plate proposal that has come from a Minister of Finance that has a boiler plate Tory philosophy on economic development. It is absolutely devoid of any adjustment. It is absolutely devoid of the 7,000 more people that are unemployed under his policies over the Budget he presented in July. It is totally insensitive to the closing down of many operations in Winnipeg. It is totally insensitive to the closing down of operations in rural Manitoba. It is totally insensitive to the fact that the unemployment rate has gone up in Western Manitoba 2 percent or over a 1,000 people since these Members came into Government. It is totally insensitive to the Parklands Region being predicted to go over 9 percent and 10 percent for unemployment next year. It is totally insensitive to the high northern economic unemployment rate and the cutbacks that have taken place in the Conservative Government. It is a totally insensitive document to get Manitoba working again. And we will rely on other advice when we come before the committee in terms of our assessment of this boiler plate Government with its boiler plate Bill before this Session today. Thank you very much.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I sat patiently as close as I dared to the ranting and ravings of the Leader of the New Democratic Party. He reminded me a lot of a former New Democrat in this House. The only thing that was missing was the swipe across the corners of the mouth to wipe the white froth off the edges of the mouth and corners of the chin.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my honourable friend, the Leader of the New Democrats, you would almost think had never been elected until April 26 to this House, had never been part of the Pawley administration in this Government, had simply by magic conception appeared in this House. Oh, I appreciate my honourable friend is—my honourable friend is showing me the editorial page out of the Free Press. Now I want to tell you the history behind that because I sent that to him this afternoon. You will note that it is signed on the bottom, because just yesterday my honourable friend, the Leader of New Democratic Party was telling me how the editorial page of the Winnipeg Free Press is never right. And so I sent him over that editorial today entitled "Mr. Orchard's Blundering" and with a note on it "I did not realize how prophetically correct you were when you told me this yesterday."

* (1540)

And I want to thank the honourable Member for the New Democratic Party for that advice yesterday. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you would almost think that this Leader of the New Democratic Party has appeared in this Legislature by miraculous conception and has never been anywhere else in his life or never has done anything

else in his life, that he just appeared here, because he has certainly forgotten the kind of baggage he was part of as the New Democratic Government under Howard Pawley. My honourable friend made the comment and I could not believe it. He was talking about the Hazardous Waste Management Corporation just not five minutes ago. This is the Leader of a Party that was Government for seven years which was rated as number 10 out of 10 in environmental record in the Dominion of Canada, the 10th province for addressing environmental concerns out of 10 provinces. And this individual is standing up and saying we are not concerned as the Progressive Conservative Party about the environment?

This is the same Member that shortly into this Session of the House stood up to ask our Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery) about some material that was being brought in from the United States to be processed at Flin Flon. Now the material brought in passed the environmental standards, etc., etc., but let me tell you the facts behind the NDP and their administration. They brought in a rail car of waste material from United States that, when processed, made the workers at the smelter ill. And he has the nerve to stand up as if he was lily white in Government, had never done anything wrong when his U.S. sludge brought in under his Government made workers ill. I mean, there is a time to make political points on issues and there is a time to make political points on issues and there is a time to beat and to hit and to score points. There has to be some foundation of integrity behind that.

One has no credibility criticizing a new Government for allowing wastes in that have not made any workers sick, when they allowed wastes in that made workers sick, and bring the issue up in an attempt to make it look like it is just something that has happened since the change of Government because Progressive Conservatives do not care about the environment. There is no credibility when you do that and the editorial page in the Free Press in that case was correct.

An Honourable Member: You are on slippery ground, Donny.

Mr. Orchard: Yes, I know, I am on slippery ground. You are right.

I want to offer my honourable friend (Interjection) Yes, I know. I am only going to take a couple of—

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my honourable friend, the Leader of the New Democrats (Mr. Doer) is worried about how much time I am going to take. I am not going to take much more time on it.

I want to point out to my honourable friend, the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), the Leader of the New Democratic Party who was chastising eight years of Reagan administration in the United States, one of his biggest arguments against President Reagan and his administration, if I heard his comments correctly, was the size of the deficit under the Reagan administration and how much it had grown. I think that is what he was saying. He did not indicate that America

has gone through, and as a result Canada, has gone through one of the greatest eras of growth in post-war history of the Western World, but that does not matter to the Member for Concordia, but I am really intrigued when he tries to lecture the House about another jurisdiction's record on deficit creation because—I have mentioned this before and I try to mention it as often as I can on the public platform because it makes people think all of a sudden as to where this province went under Howard Pawley, that same Howard Pawley who is trying to get elected to the federal Parliament in Ottawa.

My honourable friends in the Liberal Party indicate that Pawley is running third. He should be running fifth. He should be running sixth if there were six candidates because that is what the man deserves after his record in Government. As I have said, as often as I get a chance in public to as many people as I can point out, I want to just lay these numbers on the record once again.

In 1981 when we left Government under the Lyon administration, the annual interest cost paid by the Province of Manitoba on 111 years of Government debt, accumulated Government debt of Governments of all political Parties, including some New Democrat Government at that point in time, the interest on the entire 110 years of debt of the Province of Manitoba was slightly over \$90 million per year, a sizable figure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but slightly over \$90 million after 110 years Government.

I ask my honourable friends to go to this year's Estimates book, look at the statutory debt requirement and, in Government Services, the amount of money that we are paying to lease back the buildings that the NDP sold on the people of Manitoba, to now rent back. Do you know what that figure has grown to seven years later?

An Honourable Member: Six.

Mr. Orchard: No, seven, seven full years, seven years. That figure has grown from \$90 million a year to \$545 million per year. That is an increase of \$455 million per year paid out in interest as a result of six Budgets by the NDP.

This Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) stands up and tries to hide the fact that in six years, six Budgets of Howard Pawley and the NDP in which he was part of it, they drove the interest costs of the Province of Manitoba up by \$455 million per year.

What does that mean? That is one-third of the entire spending of the Department of Health. I want to tell you, if I had that money I could have my little—what did he describe them, going around eating up budget? Little "Pacmen" out in the country eating up the budget of the Department of Health. If I had the \$455 million of interest that this man squandered, as Government under Howard Pawley, you bet, we could build roads, we could build hospitals, schools, day care centres, personal care homes for the seniors, provide \$450 million more services, but where is the money going? He says that we are the friends of the Japanese? -

(Interjection)- Yes. Oh, my honourable friend, the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), the Leader of the New Democratic Party with a big laugh and a grin on his face says your Government now; in other words, we inherited it, and that is right, we did.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to point out my honourable friend's total contribution to the deficit of our province because he personally added \$100 million a year, he personally, and not as an elected MLA or Cabinet Minister, but as president of the MGEA, because this is the guy who got the contract renegotiated with his friends in the New Democratic Party he—

* (1550)

Mr. Doer: On a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for Concordia on a point of order.

Mr. Doer: The Member impugns motives clearly without the facts because the average settlement under the Lyon weak-kneed years were much higher than the Pawley years, if he looks at the average settlement, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we used to call him the candy store. Let the record show that.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that really does sort of change the tone about large-hearted, money-pinching, miserly years under the Conservative Government, does it not—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please; order. The Minister of Health to the point of order.

Mr. Orchard: No, I was just disturbing that speech. He did not have a point of order anyway.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I just wish to advise on the Honourable Member for Concordia's point of order, that a dispute over the facts is not a point of order.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Speaker, now the Lyon administration has gone from acute protracted restraint to a candy store. Of course what my honourable friend, the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) objects to is that I described him as a friend of the New Democratic Party. He is the Leader of it. Surely to God he is a friend to the New Democratic Party. Where is this man coming from? He is indeed confused.

But as -(Interjection)- well, I know, he was going to run for the Progressive Conservatives in River Heights at one time, we know that, he was a chameleon in those days, too.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this man as president of the MGEA went to his friends in the New Democratic Party and no one was dealing on behalf of the taxpayers of Manitoba, because what they renegotiated was a 30-month wage agreement, they reopened the old package, 27 months, a 30-month agreement -(Interjection)- yes,

30-month agreement, 27 percent increase which added a \$100 million to the deficit annually. That is what this man is personally responsible for, for the people of Manitoba.

He sits there and shakes his head, but he has got a big grin on his face because when you are dealing with your friends as president of the MGEA and dealing with your friends in the New Democratic Party Government Cabinet, you know very well nobody is protecting the taxpayers; and unfortunately that was the sixth year record of Howard Pawley and the New Democratic Party.

Nobody protected the taxpayer and as a result today, those taxpayers are paying \$450 million per year more interest to Zurich, Tokyo, New York, London, wherever they could fly and borrow money and live like kings and princes. That is the record of Howard Pawley and the New Democratic Party and I could not tolerate, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my honourable friend's remarks about Ronald Reagan, environment and other things, because they are the spendthrifts that have mortgaged the future of Manitoba children yet unborn. They are the ones who have left us a legacy of debt that we will have a difficult time even in the next 20 years we are going to be Government, of getting this province out of.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to put my remarks on Bill No. 35. This administration is asking for more money but yet has failed to live up to its expectations and failed miserably in one of the areas of health care. I want to point it out to the Minister of Health very clearly, let us just review the record of this Minister's approach to the Mental Health Centre at Selkirk.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, two weeks ago we started with six psychiatrists at Selkirk and this Minister's formula was to get two from Selkirk to Brandon and we said the patients come first, patients should be served, and patients are the most important things to look after, but without consultation this administration made a decision and those two people were notified after the decision was made. You know what happened? Two weeks later they had a meeting with the Deputy Minister, and the Deputy Minister notified them, you are going, and they asked why? They answered, we need your services at Brandon.

So therefore there was a major question who is going to look after Selkirk Mental Centre? Oh, do not worry, you know, we are going to do well. You know what happened, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) is saying, do not get trapped. I think you know your Minister has got trapped into this mess and he has dragged himself really badly and he has failed. He has failed miserably to solve the problem.

An Honourable Member: It is a leghole trap.

Mr. Cheema: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) is saying I am speaking for doctors. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am speaking for patients and to

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serve the patients, you need doctors, and to create the environment for the doctor you have to have a Minister who understand the issues. The Minister did not understand the issue, his approach—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Kildonan has the floor. I am having some difficulty in hearing him, I would ask all Honourable Members to allow the Member for Kildonan the opportunity to put his comments on the record. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was referring to the comment made by the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey). With due respect, but your Minister is wrong, he was wrong in making decisions and that has been proven and it is going to get worse and worse. On Tuesday afternoon, this Minister got up and he said, you know what he said, read the Hansard. He said that, Selkirk does not have a problem, and Selkirk will not have a problem tomorrow, Selkirk will not have a problem in four weeks time.

I tell you Selkirk has more problems to date than six months ago and it is going to get worse under this administration until the decision and the approach is taken in a more right way. We are not denying it, we are saying the patients should be looked after. That is the prime objective and that is what we said the other day. Unfortunately, the circumstances went that the Minister made himself, well, I am not going to talk to anyone. I am going to make a decision and just with this order, he has terminated 27 years of relationship of a doctor and a patient.

Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs, you know what is happening? The patients and their families—300 patients, and each patient must have at least two or three family members and multiply them by 3 is 900 people—people of Selkirk, 10,000 people are going to suffer by just a wrong approach, a wrong step. I think the Minister should admit that, we have requested him many, many times. Let us go through a rational approach, let us have some solid ideas how to avoid the issue, and that has not been the case.—(Interjection)—The Minister of Northern Affairs is again saying, you know, we have not brought anything.

If you read Hansard, we are the ones who have spent more time on mental health care than this side of the House, or this side of the House.—(Interjection)— Well, that may be the case but what I was saying when the time came—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance on a point of order.

Mr. Manness: I do not really wish to deny the Member opposite his opportunity to debate because usually Loan Act does tend to be wide-ranging in debate but there is some incumbency to direct something, some comments specific to The Loan Act, and not to in any way try to prejudice what it is that the Member opposite may be saying. To this point in time he has not had given any attempt to address any issue under The Loan Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert, on the same point of order.

* (1600)

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): On the same point of order, it becomes the responsibility of the Opposition, when we see the Government coming forward to ask for the expenditures of money, with the total mismanagement of investments, the autocratic decisions of the Minister of Finance and the autocratic decisions of the Minister of Health, they have not made any representation or any good case for requirement of the money. I think that this Member's questioning, his discussion and his representation is perfectly in line in representing the unprofessional mismanagement of the taxpayers' money.

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs, directly to the point of order raised by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness).

Mr. Ducharme: Yes, could I ask the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) what page he is on?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Minister does not have a point of order.

The Honourable Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey), to the point of order raised by the Minister of Finance.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): The point of order is one of relevancy, and if you go to page 5 of the Act it may help the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) and the Member who was speaking, bring him back to the actual request of what the money is for. It is scheduled here on page 5 of the Bill. It is mostly for capital items, the main one being the Manitoba Telephone System, so I am just trying to be helpful to the Members opposite.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Concordia, on the same point of order.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the same point of order. The Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) should know and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) certainly does know that the expenditure for the Manitoba Data Services does include an information system for the Health Department, and therefore the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) is perfectly correct in his comments. I am surprised the Minister of Finance would chastise the Member for Kildonan for clearly addressing the health information system that is contained within the Appendix that the Member for Arthur referred to in a limp way.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I would like to thank all Honourable Members for their advice on this

matter. We understand that the Bill, indeed, perhaps lends itself to a relatively wider-ranging debate than perhaps many of the Bills placed before the House. But I would like to remind all Honourable Members that on second reading it is the principle of the Bill under consideration which is debatable.

Mr. Cheema: We welcome the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) back to the House because I think - (Interjection)- Okay, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I withdraw that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Withdraw.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I withdraw those remarks.

I was saying that the so-called formula, the Brandon and Selkirk formula, has failed. It has failed miserably and is going to cause more problems because three things have suffered. First, is the patient care, the most important thing; second, the atmosphere you have created in the environment; third, is what are you going to do to attract people now.

The problem has gone even worse. The message has gone very clear that this administration does not want to cooperate with professionals. The first priority has to be patient care and that has failed. Tuesday afternoon, the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) said we do not have a crisis in Selkirk, we do not have a crisis in Selkirk now and it will not be there. That is not true. We had a crisis two days ago; we have a crisis today and it is going to get worse because of the action taken by this administration.

Psychiatric care is not the only issue that this administration has failed. It has failed in a variety of ways. It has failed in a miserable way to deal with obstetric patients. The pregnant patients have been transferred from one hospital to another, have been transferred sometimes during their labour even. That shows clearly the mismanagement, in terms of not providing enough money to create more beds at St. Boniface Hospital, not providing more money to provide the obstetrical floor.

The Honourable Minister is saving money. Of course money is important, money is one of the issues and how you are going to solve the problem if you do not create some kind of background information? If you do not create more beds, you do not create more space and you have closed two hospitals—Seven Oaks and Concordia were closed for obstetrics—without creating an extra bed, without creating even a single bed on the obstetrical floor. The deliveries are still going to be there. It is not going to decrease because this administration has gone; someone else will come. It is not going to decrease. But the point I am trying to make is that you have failed miserably to deal with that issue. It has been six months and that has not been solved. We are still asking questions about that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the other area where this management has failed miserably again, is dealing with speech and language pathology. There has been some improvement for the last few weeks. We have seen four

new positions have been created, but still some of the population are since still suffering, and will continue to suffer under this administration. The Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) is laughing and giggling. It may not be important for him, but for us it is one of the very important issues, I think, that has to be addressed. I do not think it is fair for a child who is six months old to wait for a speech therapy assessment for 14 months. I do not think it is fair that you have to wait for treatment for 20 weeks, 20 months or so. I think it is unfair to wait that long so that we are not even talking about a child. We are talking about the total development of that child, to have his fully intellectual capability to reach, you have to have that child given full attention. This thing has not been solved.

Personal care homes are without a single speech therapist. The Minister admitted that. He said we do not have a single person who has taken care of that. Why do we have to wait for another year to have an assessment study done? Why can we not start something right now and look at the problems so that we will not be facing the similar situation we are facing with that case?

Newspapers are full with emergency ward problems, patients sleeping on floors, patients being transferred from one hospital to another because of lack of space, lack of planning, lack of funds. The Minister is saying, money again. Why not? You have to provide some kind of funds, but you have to have some plans. You cannot wait for another six months. We have been waiting for the last six months, but there was not even a single announcement to adjust any of the needs for the emergency patients. We are still having a problem. Sometimes patients are even being kept for days and days. One day may come where we may have a big disaster and then the Minister may react. He should pro-react to the problem, we should not be waiting for something to happen.

Under this administration, delay in the surgeries have not changed at all. Waiting periods still remain the same. People still have to wait for six months to one year. In certain specialties it is still six months. For cataract surgery, they still have to wait. Who is going to be responsible? Where are those so-called new ideas? You do not need major duties for these things, these are simple measures. You just have to have a political will to make things work.

We had this Advisory Network. We discussed that network at length. It is already six-and-a-half months and we have not heard a single announcement from this Minister, from this administration, when we are going to have that task force in place. What are we going to achieve from that? How are we going to benefit from that? During Estimates, we asked almost in each and every section, where are the evaluation studies? Your administration is spending that much money, where is the accountability? Who is evaluating the programs? Most of the programs do not have any follow-ups and that is true. There is a developmental program going on for three-year-old kids without follow-up. We do not know where those children are being followed up. Who is taking care of them? That kind of study, which is crucial, which is important, which could provide a

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significant number of diseases has not been followed up. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the problem does not stop there.

During the election campaign there was a promise by this administration there will not be any bed cuts. Then there was a bit of confusion for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and our Premier (Mr. Filmon); they had different views of how to approach the problem. There were 26 beds cut, those beds are again in place, but we do not know the exact numbers yet, but we will be finding them during our Health Services Commission Estimates.

* (1610)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the seniors, personal care homes, we have not heard a single thing coming out of this administration, not a single plan so far. How are we going to deal with the growing population? How are we going to place them in nursing homes? Why do we have to have a waiting period of 9 months, 10 months or 1 year? Why do we have to? Why do we have to keep our seniors in the hospital when they could be put in communities? That planning has to be done now. We cannot wait for another five years, but nothing has come from this administration and that is a failure.

Some of the hospitals have large numbers of patients who are waiting for nursing home placement and it costs at least three to four times more money. It does cost more than that; and more than the cost, it causes a lot of distress for the families. At the same time, we are not improving their quality of life. We are not making them feel better. They have contributed to the society of Manitoba for years and years. I think they deserve better than what we are giving them in the hospital system.

The problem does not stop there because a lot of the areas we could discuss for days and days, but the basic principle with this administration has failed to have a proper planning for today and planning for years to come in all the areas starting from early childhood to adult age and then to the seniors, all areas of health, preventative medicine, the environmental health. Environmental health has been totally ignored, absolutely ignored. Northern Health, \$48,000 just to have a few programs in place. The problem does not stop there. It is not going to stop until some kind of planning is done by this administration and they have failed miserably. Thank you.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wonder if my honourable friend would permit a question.

An Honourable Member: I am sure he would.

An Honourable Member: No. No, he does not want to answer questions.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not think my honourable friend from Kildonan understood. I just simply want to ask him a question.- (Interjection)- Oh, the answer is that the Honourable Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) does not want to reply to answer a

question. That is what he is saying. You have all the answers in your speech, but you do not want to permit a question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): I rise today to speak on Bill No. 35. This Government, which has been in power for over six months, in order to pass and accept this Bill for the purpose of authorizing the raising of money by way . . . - (inaudible)- Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is difficult for Members on this side of the House to imagine this Government properly managing financial affairs, particularly those financial affairs of this province. The six-month management record of this Government is actually quite dismal. This Government should have a new and better approach to management and to Government and, to date, Manitobans have yet to see any sign, any reason, any policy which might spark some hope for Manitobans that this Government knew what it was doing.

We hear daily from this Government, in fact twice this afternoon, the chirping from the Government side about the Liberal computer. Perhaps the Government should put their own house in order before they start making comments about the Liberal computers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the first Estimates process in this House was that of Community Services. The first document tabled in Community Services Estimates was a comparative statement of actual of '87-88 and '88-89. We found out the next day in two pages of documentation there were nine glaring errors in that statement. Nine glaring errors in a financial statement.

Now I know that the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) certainly takes responsibility for her Department of Community Services and I hope she is prepared to correct those nine errors as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker. When we talk about this Government and their management and their ability to account financial affairs and their ability to plan ahead, I think of many examples within the Department of Economic Security and within the Department of Community Services, examples which I will save for another debate since I would like to speak about the management record within the Department of Health.

I must comment on one example, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of the Unemployment Help Centre. We again see a Government in Manitoba who had no understanding at all of what planned use of dollars in the present can do to save dollars in the future and to provide service to Manitobans.

We see a Government who thinks the Unemployment Insurance Commission can hire two or three staffpeople. They are going to deal with the problems of these people. They, within their own bureaucracy are going to act as objective advocates, and I say this sarcastically, and are going to act as objective advocates for people who are having difficulties with the Unemployment Insurance Commission. That is farcical and I am not surprised unfortunately that this Government fails to recognize how putting some dollars into prevention and quality programming can save dollars in the future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have been spending time in the last few weeks in the Health Estimates. I must note for the record how the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) accused myself, the Member for Ellice, of delaying Estimates the other day. The record will show that the questions were to the point and forthright, but it was the answers which were long and meandering and rambling. In fact the information which we were able to garner from this Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) in over 25 hours of Estimates, the amount of information that we have been able to garner we could put in a teaspoon.

Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry): You are being generous.

Ms. Gray: The Member for Fort Garry says I am being generous. The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has little appreciation or understanding of this department.

We talk about one of the serious crisis in this province, that crisis in relation to mental health services, and we hear pages and pages of speeches from the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) who talks about this wonderful new system he is going to be developing for Mental Health Services, and he mentions . . . (Inaudible)- will have the opportunity before Estimates are completed to see the completion of this particular plan. The Minister talks about how streamlined and how efficient this service is going to be. I note with interest his comments on Tuesday, November 15, when he talked about bringing those services under one stream of authority, one line of authority.

I thought that comment very interesting when this same Minister, as a Member of the Opposition in 1986, made very many speeches and very many comments in this House about destruction of the Regional Services, destruction of single unit delivery system, and the destruction of the multidisciplinary team system. If the Minister—he may have chosen his words improperly on Tuesday—is actually saying that his new system for mental health services will be a vertical system of program authority, then the Minister has certainly changed his mind in a few years as to how services in regional operations should be delivered in the Province of Manitoba. We will certainly await with interest to the forthcoming plan on mental health services that this Minister has told me will be sharing with us at some point.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Government, in terms of its management and its ability to plan and to forecast into the future, they again are taking a traditional line, as the previous NDP administration did, and they are afraid to deal with programs in the community that talk about prevention because the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) himself has indicated in this House. How do we really evaluate what prevention programs are when there are ways to evaluate prevention programs, Mr. Deputy Speaker? This Government again is going down the path, putting all the dollars into rehabilitation, treatment and crisis management, and they are not prepared to start putting the dollars into the prevention area of a number of programs in the community, whether that is mental health services or whether it is community-based home care services.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, they talk about a 23 percent increase in mental health services. Where are those

dollars going to be going? Yes, we need a psychiatric facility and some of those dollars are going there. What dollars are going to be going to the community so that services and programs will be developed in the communities, so that the mentally ill can remain in the community or be moved back into the community from institutions and can live a quality life, as you and I lead a quality life. Are there dollars that are going to be put into those services, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

* (1620)

Within this Government—and I could go on to talk about this Government—how can this Government talk about borrowing money and being managers, which involves first of all an understanding of what management is, a knowledge of how to communicate, which they have difficulty doing amongst themselves? We have enough examples of how the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) does not know what the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) is doing; the Minister responsible for Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) says things about what is happening with Community Services and Health; and again the Minister of Health does not seem to be aware that is going on, so we have a basic communication problem.

When this Government presents a Bill in this House asking for support, we question the ability of this Government to actually manage the affairs of the province when their record to date has been very poor. In fact, we have been very disappointed. We were willing to give this Government an opportunity, and this Government likes to say to us, we never hear positive suggestions from you. We never hear comments.

There are lots of suggestions and lots of comments on the record about how we might do things, but this Government does not know how to take those suggestions. They do not understand that, that concept of giving suggestions. They do not know what to do with it. That is very disappointing, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I would complete my comments by saying, as we move and continue to move through the Estimates, particularly in the Department of Health and the other Estimates, we still perhaps have a ray of hope or a spark of hope that some of the answers that we may get from these Ministers may enlighten us, that they may show that they have just some small grasp on how to manage the Government and some small grasp on what the departments do and how they can move ahead to provide better services for the people of Manitoba.

Mr. Laurie Evans: It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to say a few words on this particular Bill. While the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) and others have brought to our attention the need for relevancy, I think the relevance that one has to address in this particular case is the whole area of management. I think that whenever you are talking about capital expenditures obviously one has to consider, as they are being demonstrated, a level of management that justifies providing that type of support in terms of authorization of capital expenditures.

* (1620)

There are several areas that are identified here as the areas where additional capital expenditures are being requested and, of course, one of the major ones is the Manitoba Telephone System. I have had the fortune or misfortune, whatever it might be, to have lived in rural Manitoba for a decade. It is a privilege to live in the rural areas, but if you have to contend with the Manitoba Telephone System that is available in those rural areas, then I think one would certainly have some doubts as to the suitability of it.

The rural Manitoba Telephone System is probably the most archaic thing that you can find anywhere in western Canada at the present time. I have had the misfortune of having had to use a party line system in this province, and the only thing you can be sure of when you pick up the receiver is either that it will already be busy or it will be out of order.

The rural telephone system is atrocious and it seems unreal that when I lived out of town and I was only 17 miles from the city, I could phone people in neighbouring towns, Anola, Lorette, Oakbank and so on, where there was rarely any need to call, but 17 miles away in the city where most people do their business, it was impossible to make those calls without having a horrendous long distance bill.

It was not uncommon, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to have a monthly long distance bill somewhere in the range of \$100 to \$200 a month. You open up that bill and say, what in the world were all those calls made for, and you find that 90 percent or more of those calls were made to businesses where you had to do business in the city, or in situations where a mother wanted to call her children in the city or vice versa. Every time you made those calls you had a long distance bill that was horrendous.

In addition to that, we are now in a situation in rural Manitoba where technology has outpaced the telephone system. We have situations where you have computerized facilities, such as the Grassroots and others, that are tremendously valuable to the farming population but, because of the archaic status of our Telephone System, those farmers who should be able to make use of it cannot, because they do not have the telephone system that can accommodate them.

I think it is critical, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this whole business of the Manitoba Telephone System be looked at very, very critically. I think it is time that the Manitoba Telephone System, as it applies to rural Manitoba, is brought out of the dark ages so that we have an equity as far as the rural and the urban centres are concerned. I have no hesitation, provided that the Manitoba Telephone System is moving forward in a logical, well-managed system so that the money that is being requested will be effectively used in upgrading the Manitoba Telephone System particularly in rural Manitoba where the deficiencies are obvious and glaring to anyone who has to suffer through the utilization of the telephone system in rural Manitoba. It is atrocious.

Moving on a little further, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it is the question of water and sewer facilities. Here again, the water and sewer facilities are archaic in rural Manitoba. I am not going to say that there are not

problems within the urban centres. If you can believe it, we still have many farms in Manitoba that do not have any indoor plumbing facilities. This is because of the fact that we are just to the point where finances have not been available or else there has not been given adequate priority to rural Manitoba to put the things into effect that could be done. Rural Manitoba is seriously suffering from this.

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Now, now, now.

Mr. Laurie Evans: The Minister of Highways says now, now, now. I am not being critical of the current Government in that respect because I do not think you can anticipate doing everything in six months. But I am concerned that we have heard the argument used many times in this House that we have only been in here six months. In a Party that has been in Opposition for six-and-a-half years, surely there has been some thinking done in those six-and-a-half years so that when you come into power, you are at the starting line and that you are ready to go. Now you may be able to use the argument that it has only been eight months but, once it gets to something approaching a year, that argument that you are too new to expect anything is getting to the point where one would have to suggest that perhaps if you are that slow getting off the mark, probably someone else could do a much better job.

I think that you have to assume that you are not going to have an unrestricted period of time. You are not going to be able to use the past administration as the whipping boy indefinitely. We all agree, the Official Opposition and the Government agree that there was not much of a job done by the previous administration, but you cannot continue to utilize that as the argument while you are not getting anything done yourselves.

So certainly I support the concept of additional funding being made available for water and sewer. But once again, it has to be done with a clear evidence of management. We have not seen much managerial ability coming from the so-called managers on the other side. They seem to have the attitude that just because you are a Conservative, you are automatically a good manager. Well that is automatically not the case. It is becoming abundantly clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that just because you are born a Conservative does not mean that you are born with any managerial ability. The opposite is obviously starting to show through.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Laurie Evans: Now when it comes to general rural services, there are quite a few other things in rural Manitoba that have not been addressed by the previous regime, but they do not appear as though they are being addressed very rapidly by the current one. You will all recall, a day or two ago, when the question was asked of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst), about the Rural Economic Development Committee, that particular Minister had difficulty identifying the membership. One can only assume, if you do not know who the members of your committee are, that either the committee is far too big or you

have not met very often. My suspicion is that committee has not met very often and probably has not got a great deal to show for the times that it has met.

So what is happening in terms of the Economic Rural Development Committee? Is it just something that is on the books to make this particular Party look good, or is it something that is going to get off and do something effective in the near future? We are waiting, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Finally, sometimes the things that are not in the list are the ones that indicate where one's priorities are. I have to get back to the whole question of education in this country. I have tried to make it abundantly clear once before that while the Education Minister assured us that post-secondary education in universities in this province were still equal to those anywhere else in the country, that is utter nonsense. We are now reaching the point where, unless there are major capital expenditures made at the universities in the near future, you will have to have classes taught outside because it will not be safe to stay inside the buildings because they are going to be dropping around our ears. So there has to be some inputs made, major capital inputs made into our universities, in addition to major increases in operating grants, or we are going down the slippery slope to mediocrity in post-secondary education. We are very close to the cliff where, once you go over, getting back will never occur again.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no problems with such things as the funding for the Manitoba Telephone System, the water and sewers, the other areas of rural services. All I am asking is do it properly, show the management and, for goodness sakes, let us get at it quickly rather than saying we are too new to get anything done. Thank you.

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): I move, seconded by the Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis), that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): Shall we call it five o'clock?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it five o'clock? (Agreed) The time being 5 p.m., it is now time for Private Members' Hour.

* (1630)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe if you were to canvass Honourable Members, you would find that there would be leave to forego discussion of public Bills by private Members, private Bills, and to move directly to resolutions, and also to move directly to Resolution No. 33, standing in the name of the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there leave of the House to proceed as indicated by the Government House Leader? (Agreed)

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS RES. NO. 33—CRIME VICTIMS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Gary Doer (Concordia): I would like to thank all Members, I will speak in a minute, but just move the Resolution No. 33:

WHEREAS Manitoba has recognized the contributions of community crime prevention volunteers through a declaration of November as "Crime Prevention Month"; and

WHEREAS the Crime Victims Advocacy Organization has launched a campaign for education and awareness during the month of November; and

WHEREAS all Manitobans are concerned that the treatment of the victims of crime be a key priority of our criminal justice system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba go on record as applauding the work of community volunteers involved in crime prevention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislature recommend to the Government that the last week of November be recognized as "Crime Victims Awareness Week"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon passage, the Clerk of this Legislature forward a copy of this Resolution to crime prevention groups and Manitoba community publications.

I would move that, seconded by the Member for Elmwood (Maloway).

MOTION presented.

Mr. Doer: I, first of all, would like to thank the Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae). I did not know I was supposed to have an arrangement on the seconding with anybody, so I thank the Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae) and I thank the Liberal House Leader (Mr. Alcock) and the cooperation of all Members of this Legislature in giving leave to present this resolution on behalf of the volunteers today in this Chamber.

I believe it is a resolution we can all support. I believe we are all working in our own communities and constituencies on crime prevention. All of us share the absolute priority of working with citizens together on crime prevention, and in all of our communities as they present different challenges for us in each of our communities across the province.

Manitoba has been a leader in the area of crime prevention and community-based crime prevention. It is an area, I think, we are to be proud of. Many Members of this Chamber were present at the Crime Prevention Breakfast a few weeks ago, in recognition of crime prevention. It is the absolute goal of everyone from every political Party to look at the root causes of crime and deal with those social and economic factors that

create crime, and also look at the more immediate crime prevention that is available for us working in our communities.

I have been involved personally with a number of volunteers in crime prevention, particularly before I was elected, when one has a bit more time than one has after one is elected. It is rather ironic, because probably one should continue their involvement as much as possible after their elected life but all our responsibilities do not always permit it. I know that the group of crime people and volunteers in this province represents also political Parties, represents all religious beliefs, represents all ethnic groups, represents the business community, the labour community, the church community, the voluntary sector, the professional sector, the police, the judiciary and even lawyers that are challenging the police on various cases in the Human Rights way, when violations are alleged. So it is a wide spectrum of support for this area.- (Interjection)-

Well, five major church groups, Mr. Deputy Speaker, do not support Free Trade but I do not want to lose the spirit of this resolution because this is not an issue tied to that issue that will be determined soon.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Manitoba has the third highest numbers of police officers per capita in Canada, and we always get in partisan debates about the number of police officers, and closing down this detachment, and closing down that detachment, and I respect that as part of the partisan exercise. But we have a lot of police officers employed through the taxpayers of this province, the third best ratio, as I say, in Canada. I believe we are at the 519 mark. I am just going by memory, but the Attorney-General may correct me, one police officer per 519 citizens in Manitoba, which is above any other western province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and indeed above a number of other provinces.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we cannot have the solution to crime problems in just hiring more police officers. We have to get an activity at the voluntary and community level and crime prevention, and that is why I support this resolution that has been presented. And I know it has widespread support across this Legislative Chamber.

Crime victims, too, are a very important issue. It is often one of the most important parts of our criminal justice system and one of the more neglected areas of our criminal justice system. And I am pleased that crime victims are now being considered and included by a number of community-based groups as a component, and a very important component of Crime Prevention Month in Manitoba.

This resolution asks us to provide some recognition to the community groups working on crime victims awareness and it asks us to just publicize that in our various publications, and also go on record as applauding the volunteers in our community.

I believe that all three RESOLVEDs are issues that are beyond any partisan position. I believe it is areas that we are all working on in a very sincere way in our own communities and our own constituencies. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this being Crime Prevention Month,

I would urge not only that we debate this resolution today, but also pass this resolution so we can show in a very immediate way our sincere appreciation for the men, women and groups working in our province on behalf of crime prevention and victims of crime.

I thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I again thank Members of this House for providing leave to debate this resolution today. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I applaud the New Democratic Party for bringing in this resolution today. It certainly is a resolution that will be looked upon favourably in this House I am sure, because there is not one Manitoban that would not be aware of the crime rate in their province, in their home, and perhaps even on their own street block.

We certainly in this party are aware that crime has its victims in more ways than perhaps we are even aware of in our everyday lives. For instance, even this week as we are speaking of this resolution, it is declared as National Drug Awareness Week, and if there is any crime that we are all a victim of, it is the crime of the drug abuse in our society, especially with our youth. So it is very appropriate that this resolution comes in within the week of Drug Awareness Week.

We also have to look at the victims of crime that are made before they even have an opportunity to speak for themselves and of course there are our abused children. Crime can happen, not just as an innocent bystander, but because of the situation that you may live in. Certainly in households there is so much abuse taking place and in certain aspects of our society it becomes even worse.

When you speak of every woman in this province, out of four or five women, one of them will have been abused in their lifetime and, as statistics show, it takes up to 26 beatings before a woman will tell anyone of their abuse. We cannot even take into account the amount of beatings that a child will take before someone becomes aware of it. So when we speak of victims of crime, let us not only think of those who are mugged on the streets or those stores that are broken into, and the cost that comes out of our pocketbooks.

We should not think of our houses that are broken into and just the TVs and the stereo sets being taken. Indeed, that is a crime. But let us think of the crime that goes on daily in our society that we as legislators have to deal with and what can be done to prevent it. I think the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) was speaking of that, that we have to put as much into prevention as we have to into treatment. And I certainly, on behalf of our party, support recognizing all the volunteers that are involved in crime prevention.

* (1640)

In my own town of Selkirk we have a very active program going on and that is only representative of

the many, many communities where we have members from all parts of society taking place in recognizing what can be done for prevention. But unless that becomes part of our everyday life as legislators, as well as members of society, prevention is only going to be tokenism. If there is anywhere where we should be put our money it is into prevention of crime, and I think we all are aware of the various aspects that lead to crime.

And if crime does take place, if some young person has no other alternative but to turn to crime, then we have lost not only that youth and that person's future, but always the belief that things can be better for those who are victimized. We must become aware of how crime is so pervasive in our society, that every day as we wake up someone is not having the joy of the moment as we are, that through physical abuse, physical crime against them on the streets, that we have people suffering from brain damage or physical damage, that they have been victims of crime on the streets.

Then there is the abuse victims that their crime, their abuse and their scars will probably never be seen for perhaps many, many years from them and perhaps they will go on to be the victims as well as the criminals themselves in creating more and more crime as it goes on. So it is a very intricate web out there of all this crime going on, and trying to decide where to jump in is perhaps the most difficult part we have. And this is certainly one way we can do it, by taking a week and setting it aside, and saying, yes, let us be aware of those that have been victims of crime. Let us be aware of those in our community as volunteers who are working toward awareness of the crime situation, an awareness of means that can be preventative measures.

I think it is only fitting that in this Drug Awareness Week we set aside another week to say that crime is pervasive, that crime can be dealt with and that we in this House support all measures and all those who take their time to put into the prevention of crime and that we recognize one full week in this month, which is hardly enough, but is a beginning to say that crime can be cured, it can be lessened and it can be prevented.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are very supportive of this Resolution and hope that it will have speedy passage today so that we can go on and next week begin a week in saying we recognize and we support all efforts to prevent crime in Manitoba.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Deputy Speaker, it gives me and my colleagues great pleasure to join with the other parties in the House in endorsing this resolution which calls on the Government to recognize the last week of November as Crime Victims Awareness Week. I am particularly pleased that the resolution recognizes that the Legislative Assembly should also applaud the work of community volunteers involved in crime prevention. The more effective our crime prevention efforts are, the less victims of crime there will be. It is therefore appropriate that the resolution deals with the two at the same time.

In recent years there has been, I believe, a growing public awareness that crime prevention is too important

a matter to be left to the police alone, although obviously the police are society's ultimate line of defence against criminal elements. As the Deputy Attorney General, I have become very aware of the many groups involved in crime prevention. It would be remiss not to mention the activities of the Manitoba Society of Criminology which has done so much to foster public awareness of crime and to promote various ways to have citizens participate in the fight against crime. It was in 1981 that the Manitoba Society of Criminology launched Project Prevention. This has been a vital catalyst in raising the profile of crime prevention and was essential to the launching of such effective programs as Block Parents and Neighbourhood Watch. Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are so many volunteers involved in crime prevention that I hesitate to begin to list all the organizations for fear that I will miss some. I wish simply to conclude my remarks on volunteers and crime prevention by stating this Government's commitment to working with the people of Manitoba to reduce crime. We all know that, notwithstanding the finest efforts of the police and the participation of citizens, there will always be some elements in society who will commit crimes.

For a very long time, being a victim of crime was considered to be bad luck and society took no responsibility for helping these victims to put their lives back together, often after traumatic experiences. This changed slowly. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act was passed by this Legislature in July, 1970, but there were of course limitations on what could be done by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Money is simply not sufficient by itself to allow a person to get back on his or her feet. Members can well imagine, for example, the fear that elderly Manitobans must feel if they have been the victim of a mugging as they were peacefully going about their businesses.

Many of these unfortunate people find themselves virtually prisoners in their own homes. A start has been made in developing programs that will be of benefit to people who have been victimized by crime. I think we all recognize that this is a high priority, but that in these times of financial constraints Government cannot be expected to do all the work. In this area, as in crime prevention, we must seek to sow seeds out in the community so that volunteers can create programs that will provide the counselling and other assistance that victims of crime need.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to join in this resolution to recognize the last week in November as Crime Victims Awareness Week. I hope this will help to increase society's recognition of their needs and that, in the future, awareness of the needs of crime victims will be as prevalent as is the awareness today of the need for crime prevention. Thank you very much.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it 6 p.m.?

Mr. McCrae: In the spirit demonstrated this afternoon of passing an important and meaningful resolution with

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some dispatch and without a lot of delay, I think Honourable Members might, in a sometimes traditional custom, celebrate that passage by calling it six o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it 6 p.m.?

Mr. Reg Alcock (Opposition House Leader): Was the Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae) offering to host that celebration?

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. There is leave to call it 6 p.m.? (Agreed)

This House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning (Friday).