



**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.	Virден	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

Wednesday, December 7, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

## PRAYERS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**Mr. Helmut Pankratz (La Verendrye):** I beg to present the Second Report of the Committee on Economic Development.

**Mr. Clerk, William Remnant:** Your Committee met on Tuesday, December 6, 1988, at 10 a.m., in Room 255 of the Legislative Building, to consider the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements of the A.E. McKenzie Co. Ltd.

Messrs. Dale Smeltz, Chairman of the Board; Ray West, General Manager; and Ken Robinson, Vice-President of Finance, provided such information as was requested by Members of the committee with respect to the financial statements and the business of A.E. McKenzie Co. Ltd.

Your committee examined the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements as at October 31, 1987 and 1986, together with the Auditor's Report for A.E. McKenzie Co. Ltd., and adopted the same as presented.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

**Mr. Pankratz:** I move, seconded by the Member for Swan River (Mr. Burrell), that the report of the committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

**Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as I promised last week, today I am tabling the Second Quarterly Financial Report for the Province of Manitoba, for six months, April to September 30, 1988.

**Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines):** I am pleased to table the Agreement for the Evaluation of Manitoba Silica Sand between the Manitoba Energy Authority and Dow Corning Corporation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### BILL NO. 53—THE MANITOBA OIL AND GAS CORPORATION CONTINUANCE ACT

**Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs)** introduced, by leave, Bill No. 53, The Manitoba Oil and Gas Corporation Continuation Act.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Speaker:** Prior to oral questions, may I direct Honourable Members' attention to the public gallery, where we have, from the Calvin Christian School, thirty Grade 9 students under the direction of Mr. Buikema. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation (Mrs. Mitchelson).

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

#### MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill):** I rise on a matter of privilege, based on the refusal yesterday of the Minister of Workplace Safety and Health (Mr. Connery) to allow myself and I understand other MLAs, as Members of this Legislature, and myself particularly, as a representative of the Churchill constituency, to travel with him on Government aircraft to Leaf Rapids today.

\* (1335)

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the ability of elected representatives to travel on Government Air is thought to be such an important right and privilege of Members of this Legislature that it is one of those specific items that is included in legislation.

The Legislative Assembly Act, Clause 63(3), entitled "Use of Government Air Service," states and I quote: "A Member may, on a non-charter and incidental basis, use the air service operated by the Government for transportation within the province if (a) the airplane is making a trip for some other purpose; and (b) there is accommodation in the airplane for the Member without displacing any other passenger which the trip was intended to serve." And I verbally underscore the words "intended to serve."

Mr. Speaker, this particular privilege of Members is one that has attracted the attention of the Legislature before. I recall personally a case with the Member for The Pas, Mr. Ron McBryde, when there was in this House discussion as to the policy involving the use of Government aircraft and in fact it was confirmed that it was a policy of the Government of that Day and the policy of the previous administration and the administration following it that Members would be allowed to travel on Government Air Service if there were seats available to them.

Yesterday, in the mid-afternoon, this notice was sent out to the media and I quote:

"News media, please note: Environment Workplace Safety and Health Minister Ed Connery will meet with miners and officials and take a first-hand look at Ruttan Mine near Leaf Rapids, Wednesday, December 7. Itinerary is as follows: 6 a.m. sharp—depart

Government hangar T5, 900 Ferry Road; 3 p.m.—depart Leaf Rapids for Winnipeg; 4:15 p.m.—arrive Winnipeg.

“Four seats are available, no charge, for media wishing to travel with the Minister. Bookings will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis this afternoon by contacting Charlene van Engel, telephone 945-2587. For those not wishing to travel, the Minister will be available at the airport upon return from Leaf Rapids.”

I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that earlier in the day the Minister and I had a discussion in the presence of media and other Members just outside of this House where the media asked him if he was anticipating travelling to Leaf Rapids. He said that his busy schedule at that time did not allow for that to happen. He would be pleased to. They asked if I would pair him. I at that time indicated not only would I pair him but I would be pleased to go with him because it is my constituency and it is a concern of my constituents and myself as a representative.

Shortly thereafter this notice appeared, and I then, as soon as I received this notice, immediately asked our Research Caucus Officer to call up Miss van Engel to ask her if there was space on the plane. He was told that there was not space on the plane available to myself and at that time I had hoped to be able to take along staff from caucus to travel with us.

I then called up Miss van Engel myself and asked her if there was space on the plane for me, immediately following that phone call. She said, no, there was not. I asked why not, and she said because the media had booked the flight already and they were full. I asked her if there was any way of getting on the plane and she said only if the media were to withdraw their intention to travel with the Minister. I asked her what the likelihood of that was. She said that it was unlikely. I then waited until that evening and had staff attempt to call her. Early in the evening they finally contacted her around ten o'clock in the evening or thereabouts to find out if any of the media had cancelled out and if there was space available and I was informed again at that time that space was not available.

Mr. Speaker, the rights of Members and the services provided to Members has in the past in this House been considered to be a matter of privilege. I quote to you from a Speaker's Ruling, Mr. Speaker Walding, from the 1982, 1983, 1984 Journals, pages 414 and 415: “On July 11, 1983, Mr. Doern raised the matter of privilege with respect to services that were offered to him regarding his caucus office.” In other words, he said that his ability to represent his constituents was being denied or curtailed because of a lack of ability to access services which should be available to him.

\* (1340)

Mr. Walding ruled as follows—and I am only quoting part of the ruling—but I think it is a succinct part of it. “In looking over the motion and listening to the Honourable Member for Elmwood, it would seem that he has indeed made a prima facie case and that his privileges as a Member of the Legislature have been reduced or restricted in some manner.”

I am suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that the refusal of the Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health (Mr. Connery) to follow the legislation which is in place curtailed my ability to serve my constituents, and for that reason is a matter of privilege, and this precedent I think substantiates that. The only way that it would not be a matter of privilege is if the intention of the trip was solely to serve the media.

The legislation is very clear. It says that accommodation is available for the Member if there is accommodation on the airplane without displacing any other passenger which the trip was intended to serve. So, in order to bump an MLA off that flight, the Minister has to indicate very clearly that the trip was not intended to serve him as the Minister to go up there and see first-hand what was happening, but was intended to serve him as a media event and that the flight was intended to serve the media and not serve representatives of this House.

Mr. Speaker, that is wrong when you have a serious matter such as this, when you have lives that are being affected in the way in which lives are being affected by that fire up north. You have an MLA who represents the area and other Members of the Legislature who represent critic areas wishing to travel on that plane and they cannot do so because the media are on the plane and cannot be bumped. For that purpose, I would suggest that there is something very wrong with the value systems of the Minister and the value systems of a Government that would allow him to do so.

So, with that in case, Mr. Speaker, let me be clear. I do not begrudge the right of the media to travel there. I am glad they did. I expect that more will because I think there is an important story to be told there and one that is important to the residents and the community as a whole, communities surrounding that area and to the province as a whole. I appreciate they have an opportunity to do that, but I also know that I have certain rights under legislation, other Members have certain rights under legislation, and those rights were curtailed or restricted.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski), that the refusal of the Minister of Workplace Safety and Health and Environment (Mr. Connery) to allow an MLA to travel on a Government air trip contrary to Section 67(3) of The Legislative Assembly Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

**Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley):** Mr. Speaker, if it is in order to also address a matter of privilege—I think the same matter of privilege I might say—the issue is, what is the capability of a Member to represent their riding, and what is the capability of a Member of the Official Opposition to play their critic role?

The Act is very interesting. I would suggest it is not common across the country, that there are specifications of this nature as it applies to other Houses. This one in Manitoba is a bit unique in that it is quite clear-cut. It speaks to the purpose of the trip. It says that a Member of this House can also request passage on that aircraft if it is going there for a common purpose or other purpose.

I met with the Honourable Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery) in the hall outside this Chamber in the presence of members of the press corps mid-afternoon yesterday and at that time, in the presence of those same members of the press corps, requested passage on that Government aircraft on the flight this morning up to Leaf Rapids, the purpose being to visit the site of the Ruttan Mine and the toxic fire in the dump adjacent to that mine. The Minister gave rather short shrift to the request.

I said I understand you have a seven-seat aircraft and two crew. There are only so many seats. I did make another suggestion—I made in fact two suggestions—I suggested that he immediately call the Air Radio Branch of the Highways and Transportation Department, the unit responsible for the maintenance and operating of the Government air fleet, and suggested one of two things—the addition of another aircraft to fly up in parallel if there was no other way to arrange the seats. I thought that was a reasonable suggestion and the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), myself, and potentially other critic Members involved in Labour, Workplace Health and Safety, Environment, etc., could then avail themselves of the trip on a matter of this importance. I do not believe the Minister ever made that call. At least I had no communications back and I requested that he communicate back to me on that suggestion.

\* (1345)

The second suggestion was the substitution of a larger aircraft capable of carrying all interested parties, including members of the press corps. I think there was no comeback on either of those eminently reasonable suggestions which indicates the real purpose of the trip. The real purpose of the trip potentially was more for press purposes.

Now we have offered to speak to that Minister and give him assistance on other subjects because he requested that of us. The issue was over PCBs and the number of incidents coming up late summer or early fall—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; order, please. I fail to recognize the relevancy of what the Honourable Member is saying as to the case put forward to me by the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan).

**Mr. Taylor:** I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, there is the same matter and the issue is how are MLAs in this House to carry out their duties and are there impediments put in their way? I would suggest that the offering of the seats to the press corps in lieu of Members of this Assembly is the point in question. If you are going to do that, then the Members of the Legislative Assembly should have the same ability to fly on that aircraft or an additional aircraft or a larger aircraft. That is the point in question.

I, as the critic for the Environment of the Official Opposition am tied, I am shackled and I am at a disadvantage to those in the press corps, doing the reporting, and ditto for the case of the Member representing the area for the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), and I think the case stands.

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor), under the guise of speaking on the question of privilege raised by the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), seems to embark on the question of privilege of his own, which in the context of this discussion has no place. The Honourable Member should perhaps be aware of that and I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to bear that in mind.

The question of privilege raised by the Honourable Member for Churchill revolves around a flight to Leaf Rapids being taken by the Honourable Minister for Environment and Workplace Safety and Health (Mr. Connery). I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to consider the fact that this type of arrangement is not without precedent in recent years. Without getting into specific cases, I would remind the House that this particular matter is not without precedent. The legislation referred to by the Honourable Member for Churchill, I suggest to you, Sir, is legislation which allows something to happen and is not something which is directory legislation but in the sense that it is being brought forward is indeed enabling legislation.

The Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health is unable today to defend himself against the charges being raised by the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) and, in his own inimitable way, by the Honourable Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor), and for reasons which I am not entitled to say, he is not able today to rise in his place and to speak to this particular matter. So before making any decisions on this matter, I would suggest that the Honourable Minister at the appropriate time be invited to speak on this matter.

\* (1350)

In any event, I would more than likely be asking you, Mr. Speaker, to take a matter like this under advisement in any event. I understand the matter of the trip, the legislation and the wording given to us by the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) talks about the purposes of trips being taken on Government aircraft and what purposes those trips serve. While the trip to Leaf Rapids could very well serve more than one purpose, one of them being that the Minister who is responsible for Environment matters, and Workplace Safety and Health matters, certainly should have a right to travel to this location, I suggest that members of the media should also be allowed travel in order to allow the people of Manitoba to become aware of the trip being taken and the purpose of the trip and to be aware of what happened on the visit. So there are purposes involved here.

So I ask you, Sir, to take all of these things into consideration to offer the Minister an opportunity to respond before making a decision.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to thank all Honourable Members for their advice and I will indeed take this matter under advisement.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### Canada Packers Inc. Poultry Plant Closure

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, today Canada Packers has announced more bad news for the Province of Manitoba. Ninety poultry processing employees will no longer have employment on February 15—not exactly good holiday news for the workers and their families—90 more to add to the list of hundreds of Canada Packers workers who have been put out of work in the province since 1984.

My question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) is when did the Government first learn of this closure and were there ever any discussions between the province and Canada Packers to upgrade this plant into a profit-making operation?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, I can say to the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) that I met with the president of Canada Packers, Mr. Stewart, about a week ago. I cannot give her the exact date. I could check my book for it. I believe at that time he may have informed the Leader of the Opposition as well. I am not sure. He certainly asked that this be kept on a confidential basis until, in fairness, the employees were notified, and I certainly respected that confidence and did not in any way betray that confidence until I was made aware that it was public information as of today that the employees were made known of the situation.

Yes, indeed, I spoke with Mr. Stewart and my first thought was about the feasibility of building an entirely new facility because I am familiar with the very, very old building and facility in which it is located. Members may be aware of it at the end of Westbrook Street in behind Portage and Main. It is indeed a building that I think is perhaps 60 or 70 years old and very understanding of why it is now no longer economically up to date and competitive and viable.

My very first option to Mr. Stewart was that he not carry through with these plans but rather investigate the feasibility of making a major new investment in Manitoba, given the fact that they had already cut down somewhere in the neighbourhood of 700 or 800 jobs in Manitoba in the overall meat packing industry.

Mr. Stewart's response was that in terms of economic viability they have only 15 percent of the market in Manitoba, there are many new modern facilities that already have a significant share of the market and that the investment in creating a new modern facility to compete with those already there just simply could not be justified under any circumstances. Regrettably, for the sake of the workers, we would certainly rather that it were otherwise, but Mr. Stewart was not interested in any discussions whatsoever about building a modern new facility.

## Future Closure Plans

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I respect the statements from the Premier and the fact that he had to keep this as a confidence. I think it is quite correct that the employees would be the first ones to learn of this. His questions about viability, with 60 or 70 years old, I wish he would also use that as a reference to Municipal Hospitals.

Is the Minister satisfied through his discussions with Canada Packers that the remaining operations which employ some 250 people are sufficiently modernized that they will not come under the block in the same kind of way as the poultry processing plant?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** I hope that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) is not suggesting that we close the Municipal Hospitals. We are seeking to build a modern new facility or renewed facility for the Municipal Hospitals. It is part of our five-year Capital Program.

With respect to the other areas of employment at Canada Packers in Manitoba, we have asked that question and Mr. Stewart indicates that this is a unit that is not aligned to any other units in the province and that the decision was a stand-alone decision based solely on the age and the condition of the facility that was being operated and that there was indeed no option on their part to build a new modern replacement facility given the fact that there are other modern facilities which have sufficient capacity to service the entire market in Manitoba at the present time.

\* (1355)

## Retraining Programs

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Many of those forced out of work years ago due to the closure of Canada Packers' other so-called obsolete operation are still without work. Can the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) tell us today what specific retraining programs will be put into place immediately for the employees at the poultry plant and for those other employees who are still out of work?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** There is in place a Labour Adjustment Committee to deal with the needs of the workers to ensure that they are provided with the opportunity for finding new employment, which is, of course, the first choice; and the understanding that we have is that other plants will have to expand capacity in order to fill the requirements for the additional 15 percent of the markets and that there may be some opportunities for them to continue to work in the same industry with different employers.

Secondly, the resources for retraining that are available in this province will be available to these people.

Thirdly, any other adjustment decisions that are made, based on the age and the potential numbers of years in the work force of the individuals involved, there would

be an opportunity on the part of the management and ownership with the company to enter into a settlement with them that might involve early retirement.

All of those are commitments that the company has made and I know that they want to do everything possible to ensure that whatever adjustments take place with the workers are done with a view to helping the workers.

### Retraining Programs Enrollment

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, with a new question.

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** The Canada Packers closure highlights the need for a constant re-evaluation and new directions in retraining programs. That is why we were alarmed today to read that the federal Government has announced that there will be no new money and no new programs to assist those affected by free trade. The federal Minister states existing programs are adequate to meet the needs of Canadians, but all we have to do is ask Manitobans who have been laid off—some of them laid off in the original Canada Packers plant closures—or ask welfare recipients in this province how they can end their cycle, and they will clearly tell you that retraining programs are woefully inadequate.

My question, therefore, to the Minister of Education, can the Minister tell this House how many individuals are retrained for new employment opportunities each year in Manitoba?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** Certainly, there are significant numbers of people being retrained on a continuous basis in this province, but in terms of the specific numbers, I will have to get back to the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) at a later time when I get those numbers.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** Thank you. We would await those numbers, because with or without free trade, unemployment figures are rising.

### Federal Funding

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Can the Minister tell this House what additional funding he has received from the federal Government, through the Department of Education, in the last seven months for retraining?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** There is no avenue whereby this Government has approached the federal Government for specific funds that should be allocated for specific retraining projects within the province. However, in a general sense, and on an annual basis, this province receives a considerable number of funds through the Canadian Jobs Training Strategy through retraining programs that are negotiated on an annual basis from the federal Government for retraining programs. Certainly, through the department, we have

initiated many retraining programs where people who had been employed in industries that have perhaps become obsolete, or perhaps have lost their jobs for one reason or another, have been able to be retrained in many of our institutions. If you take a look at the enrollments in our institutions, they indicate that we are doing as much as we possibly can in retraining individuals so that they can regain employment and become productive members of our society.

\* (1400)

**Mrs. Carstairs:** With a supplementary question to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach). At no time in our history has retraining been more essential and necessary. Will this Minister immediately contact his counterparts in the Departments of Education throughout the country, as well as the Ministers of Employment and Economic Security, in order to ensure that there be additional federal dollars made available immediately to Manitoba, and indeed to all provinces in this country, to undertake the most essential retraining factor which we have shown to be, under successive administrations, not sufficient to meet the need in this province?

**Mr. Derkach:** That is not an initiative that has been ignored to this point in time. That is the kind of process that goes on continuously so that we can ensure that Manitobans do get the proper kinds of employment opportunities that might be available in this province. Every province is doing that and we are not going to stop.

We are going to continue to do that in an active way to ensure that those people who require training programs can be retrained and can become productive citizens. There is nobody more interested in that kind of a situation than this Government to ensure that Manitobans can gain the best possible employment opportunities that we as Manitobans can offer them. This is not a process that we are going to all of a sudden embark on. It is a process that has been ongoing and we will continue to make that a priority within my department and within this Government.

### Free Trade Agreement Impact Food Processing Industry

**Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake):** My question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). It deals with the announcement today of the loss of 90 jobs at the Canada Packers poultry processing plant in Winnipeg in February of 1989.

We have seen the unemployment situation in this province rise from 6.8 percent to 7.5 percent in November, this year over last year, while the unemployment rate in Canada has gone down from 7.8 percent to 7.5 percent over the same period, Mr. Speaker—3,000 more workers unemployed.

The commercial firms in the past, in this province, have exerted pressure on the marketplace by channelling all their import quotas, that is quotas of product moving from the United States to Canada in the poultry areas, through single ports of entry.

With the import quotas increasing under the Free Trade Agreement from 6.3 percent to 7.5 percent, this will put the poultry sector in direct competition with large agricultural conglomerates in the United States which have succeeded in replacing smaller producers over there in the past 30 years. This provision involves further curtailment to the Canadian supply management industry in poultry and eggs in this—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Does the Honourable Member have a question?

**Mr. Uruski:** Yes.

**Mr. Speaker:** Would the Honourable Member kindly put his question now?

**Mr. Uruski:** There are 90 jobs being lost directly as a result of the Free Trade Agreement. I ask the First Minister (Mr. Filmon)—

**An Honourable Member:** What?

**An Honourable Member:** It is predicted.

**Mr. Uruski:** It has been predicted by the Bank of Nova Scotia and by other economists.

I ask the First Minister, will we be seeing announcements on a monthly basis, and what other jobs will we see lost in the food processing sector as a result of the Free Trade Agreement that his Government approves of?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, that is so far from the truth that really it does not even bear a response. The Member—and he is a former Minister of Agriculture—I am ashamed that he does not even know what that plant looks like, the age of the building, the condition of the facilities or anything. He does not know of the modern facilities that have been built here to do similar processing of poultry in this province and he is a poultry producer. His alleging that this is to do with the Free Trade Agreement has nothing to do with the truth.

Getting back to his initial premise about the employment in Manitoba, today there are 4,000 more people employed in Manitoba than there were when he left Government. When he left Government, Manitoba had the third lowest unemployment rate in the country. It still has the third-lowest unemployment rate in the country. The fact of the matter is that in April of this year, when he left Government, unemployment was at 7.8 percent. It is at 7.9 percent today. It has essentially not changed.

This is the kind of thing that just does not bear a response because all they come up with is a diatribe. They try and get it to their own ideological hang-ups and they do a disservice to the employees who need to be cared about, who we need to be concerned about and who we need to have to look at some options and alternatives and start to work for instead of trying use it as a forum for his diatribe on free trade. That is nonsense, Mr. Speaker.

## Canada Packers Inc. Production Quotas

**Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake):** Mr. Speaker, what the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) has not told us is that Canada Packers has substantial quota in the production of poultry in this province and that they do produce poultry.

I ask him, in light of their production rights, will the province reassess the production quotas now held by Canada Packers in the Province of Manitoba? If the First Minister says that they really cannot process, they have substantial production rights in the Province of Manitoba.

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** The Member knows full well that allocation of quota is the responsibility of the Marketing Board and that quota will be allocated by the Marketing Board based on the changing circumstances. It has absolutely nothing to do with free trade, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Uruski:** Mr. Speaker, the First Minister knows that it is his Government who appoints the Manitoba Marketing Council which sets the overall policy dealing with quotas in this province.

## Free Trade Agreement Impact Food Processing Industry

**Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake):** I ask the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), will we continue to see additional job losses in the food processing industry, of the like that we see in the announcement made today, across the Province of Manitoba as a result of the Free Trade Agreement that his Government supports?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Again, it is embarrassing that a former Minister of Agriculture could be so ill-informed. The members of the board are elected by the producers. They are the ones who make these decisions.

I repeat, he will not get anybody to do with Canada Packers to suggest that this has anything to do with free trade. I might tell him that last year Granny's Poultry of Steinbach exported 1.5 million pounds of chicken to Japan in competition with U.S. processors, up from 100,000 pounds the previous year. That is the kind of expansion that takes place with trade opportunities, and with trade opportunities our producers will have greater opportunity and that is what we need, Mr. Speaker.

## Canada Packers Inc. Production Quotas

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Interlake, with a final supplementary question.

**Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake):** Mr. Speaker, the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) does not realize that it was not chicken that was shipped to Japan. It was turkey.

It is very clear that the First Minister is indicating that there are opportunities for expansion in trade. Then



why is Canada Packers closing its doors in the Province of Manitoba as a result of the Free Trade Agreement where they have thousands of kilograms of production rights in this province which could be processed for their own plant?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** It is an old archaic plant that is 60- or 70-years old and there is already sufficient processing capacity in the industry in Manitoba. I know that the former Minister of Agriculture is not a specialist in economics, but certainly he can go out and see the plant for himself. He did not take the trouble to do it in the years when he was Minister of Agriculture. Let him go out there now and see that old building and old facility and understand that it does not compete with the new modern technology and the new modern facilities that have been developed in the industry over the past 10 years.

\* (1410)

### **Depo-Provera Information Inaccuracies**

**Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice):** My question is for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). Yesterday in this House the Minister said that the drug Depo-Provera is only available for treatment of certain types of cancer and the gynecological disorder.

Mr. Speaker, contrary to the Minister's statement in this House, physicians are prescribing this drug to women for contraceptive uses and indications are that the practice is increasing. Can the Minister tell us today why he gave inaccurate information in this House yesterday?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** Mr. Speaker, possibly my honourable friend from Ellice might explain why she has given inaccurate information to the House just now. I indicated to the House yesterday—and if she cares to read Hansard, which I did before I walked in—that Depo-Provera is prescribable only under very narrow circumstances, and I named the two of them: for treatment of certain types of cancer and for certain very specific gynecological disorders. Other prescriptions of Depo-Provera are not condoned by the law.

I indicated to my honourable friend, contrary to her ill-informed statement to the House just now, that should complaints come forward from users who have been prescribed the pharmaceutical for birth control measures that the College of Physicians and Surgeons must investigate. I indicated nothing different and my honourable friend ought to get her facts straight before she comes to the House.

**Ms. Gray:** Contrary to what the Minister has just said, the indications from physicians and from the Manitoba Coalition on Depo-Provera are that this drug is being used for contraceptive uses.

### **Side Effects**

**Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice):** My question, a supplementary to the Minister, has the Minister acted by being a pro-active Minister and has he met with the Manitoba Coalition and the College of Physicians and Surgeons to jointly determine what steps can be undertaken to ensure that women in this province, and physicians, are well-informed of the harmful side effects of this particular drug?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** I have not met with the Coalition but I will make an assumption that members of my staff have done so. In the last day and a half, I have not met with the College of Physicians and Surgeons on this issue, but let me assure my honourable friend that the College of Physicians and Surgeons has the responsibility that if they receive a complaint about misuse of Depo-Provera, they must investigate that complaint. I, at no time, as my honourable friend would like to indicate, indicated that the drug was not being used for birth control measures. It is, by admission of some physicians, being used in that manner. It is also explained by those same physicians that they are doing exactly as my honourable friend indicates, informing them of the risk of side effects.

Mr. Speaker, the role of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the use of this pharmaceutical, where it is not being used for the narrow purposes of cancer treatment and a rare gynecological disease, they must react to complaints from those who are being prescribed its use for other than those purposes, including birth control.

### **Consumer Education**

**Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice):** Mr. Speaker, I am not assured by the comments from this Minister. Rather than the Minister spending time worrying about what his remarks were in the House, would he at least try to be a Minister of Health and take some pro-active steps and quit referring to what the role of the College of Physicians and Surgeons is and try to meet with the college and meet with the Manitoba Coalition and take some pro-active steps to perhaps design some type of a program to ensure that consumers in this province, particularly women, are well-informed about this serious situation?

By the comments on the other side of the House, the Government does not seem to be concerned, but women in Manitoba are concerned about this. I am asking what the Minister will do as a pro-active Minister to ensure that people in Manitoba are concerned and that the physicians are concerned as well.

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** Mr. Speaker, I consider my role as Minister of Health to be providing guidance and direction to the department, etc. I also consider it one of my responsibilities to assure that when Honourable Members of the Liberal Opposition present misleading information to the House that it is corrected. That is exactly what I did because my honourable friend did not have her facts straight in terms of my response yesterday to the House. She

wishes to try and paint the Liberal Party as the champion of women's rights and health issues. That is false, Mr. Speaker.

We are as concerned as anyone in this House about the misuse of Depo-Provera. It is narrowly to be used for two prescribed conditions. It is not the responsibility of the Minister of Health to dictate to the College of Physicians and Surgeons as to what action they must take. I have indicated now for the fifth time in two days that should the College of Physicians and Surgeons receive a complaint about use, other than prescribed, of Depo-Provera in the Province of Manitoba, I encourage them to investigate and to curtail any harmful misuse of the pharmaceutical. That is the position that I take as Minister of Health. That is the position I take on behalf of my Government and the caucus of this Government and on behalf of the women of Manitoba.

### St. Boniface Hospital Obstetrics Ward Transfers

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). More than once I brought to the attention of this House that St. Boniface Hospital has to close the obstetrical floor at least 18 times for the last seven months. It has had to transfer patients from one hospital to another causing undue distress to the families and to the patients. This is as a result of bed shortages. Given the fact that the Minister has known about this problem, my question is why has this Minister not included a capital expenditure to correct this situation at St. Boniface Hospital?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend has been bringing this issue forward on a number of occasions. We could have discussed his vision of the future in terms of the capital budget when we dealt with the Capital Estimates of the Department of Health, but my honourable friend was prepared to pass it in five minutes and I talked him into another 25 minutes of debate.

The 18 closures that my honourable friend refers to is the transfer of 18 individual patients over that period of time. That is certainly not an acceptable circumstance for those individual patients, but in all cases, contrary to any impression that might be left with the public, adequate patient care was assured. There was back-up anesthesiology at the Misericordia when transferred there and certainly high-risk patients were transferred to the Health Sciences Centre.

Again, in terms of the development of a plan for Winnipeg, does my honourable friend believe that we ought to add capacity at St. Boniface without investigating the potential use of existing capacity in the other hospitals?

**Mr. Cheema:** Mr. Speaker, we did spend 35 hours, and most of the time the Minister's answers were half an hour long and discussing also about an Australian friend.

### Obstetrics Caseload

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** The obstetrical floor was built to handle 3,000 deliveries. Now it is handling 4,000 deliveries. My question becomes, what operational plans are in place at St. Boniface Hospital to correct the situation? Also, has the Minister intervened himself and what plans does he have personally?

\* (1420)

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** Mr. Speaker, my personal plan is the plan of this Government to use, in the best possible way, limited capital dollars and limited expenditure dollars that we have at our disposal, given to us by the taxpayers of Manitoba, to provide the best possible health care for all Manitobans in as many locations and facilities as possible.

The circumstance that my honourable friend refers to is one that is in need of resolution but, as I stand here today, I cannot offer the solution that my honourable friend offers from Opposition; i.e., that we simply add more beds at the St. Boniface Hospital, because that does not resolve the problem of surplus and unused capacity in other hospitals throughout Winnipeg, such as Misericordia, such as Victoria, such as the Health Sciences Centre.

### Patient Transfer Costs

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** Mr. Speaker, St. Boniface Hospital has an intensive care nursery. Some of the patients were being transferred. Some of the babies are transferred back to the hospital again. This unaround is very expensive and very painful. Can the Minister tell us what the cost is of transferring these patients back to St. Boniface Hospital and how much of the taxpayers' money is being wasted by mismanagement by this Minister time after time?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** My honourable friend, I almost hesitate to use this as an answer, but the detailed information such as the cost of patient transfer is something that I confess I do not have at the tip of my fingers. However, there are people in the Manitoba Health Services Commission who were here for the grand total of one-half hour to answer questions on \$1.4 billion dollars of spending to give those kinds of detailed answers to my honourable friends, but they chose not to ask them because they did not care at that time.

### Health Care Community-Based Clinics

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** My question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). The First Minister, in his Speech from the Throne, presented in this Legislature, stated that new and innovative ideas on the provision of health care services would be a challenge for their Government that they would be prepared to meet.

One of the areas that had been approved by the previous Government in terms of health care reform was the architectural drawings for the community-based clinic program, a program that has been well-recognized as being cost effective, community based and very effective and innovative in terms of dealing with health care challenges in our community. The architectural drawings were approved and the capital construction was approved.

Can the First Minister please inform the people of Manitoba whether that project will go forward as originally planned?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, that is a detailed question that obviously deals with the plans of the Department of Health and I cannot understand why the Member would not have asked that question in the consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Health, why instead he comes here to the Legislature and asks it of the First Minister instead of the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) who would be in a position to know what the department's plans and considerations are for the forthcoming year and the year beyond. I do not know whether he is trying to play political games, I do not know whether he is trying to make a mockery of this Legislature, but clearly he knows that is a question that should be asked in the Estimates of the Department of Health, but of course they only spent—

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

**Mr. Doer:** I did ask questions of the Health Services Commission Estimates, and let the record show that because the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) talked on and on and on about no health issues, I am trying to hold the First Minister accountable, who is also the Chair of Treasury Board, for his promises in his Speech from the Throne. I think he should recognize his responsibility instead of bafflegabbing in this Chamber.

### Health Advisory Network Announcement

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** My question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). The document that was tabled by his Minister under the Health Services Commission clearly states that the Health Advisory Task Force would be the rationale for withholding any decision on the community-based project. This Health Advisory Task Force was promised by the Premier in the election. This Health Advisory Task Force was promised in the Speech from the Throne. Why is the whole health care system in suspended animation?

His Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has taken over seven months to announce the Health Advisory Commission. Many, many very valuable projects have been held in a state of chaos because of his Government's inaction in this very important area.

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** That is clearly the most ridiculous thing that has been said thus far in Question Period. There have been many ridiculous things said today.

The fact of the matter is that it is not in the state of suspended animation. Announcements have been made about a new psychiatric facility in the Health Sciences Centre; announcements have been made about expansions to hospitals throughout this province; announcements have been made about additional personal care beds; announcements have been made about a new mental health strategy for Manitoba.

That is so far off base. That is a ridiculous question, Mr. Speaker. I do not understand why the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) would even waste his time asking that question if he is not just trying to play political games.

**Mr. Doer:** I talked to the administrator of my own area. Perhaps the Conservative Members of this Legislature should start talking to the people back in the community who say his planning is in a state of chaos for the hospital because they do not know when the advisory task force is going to be established.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Does the Honourable Member have a question?

**Mr. Doer:** My question is to the First Minister.

**Mr. Speaker:** Kindly put your question now.

### Health Care Funding Delays

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** My question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Does he feel that it is a competent way to run the health care system in terms of having an advisory task force that has not been announced for seven to eight months since they have taken office? Projects such as the Clinic, projects such as Concordia Hospital, other community-based projects are being held without any idea of whether the projects should proceed from the architectural state to the construction state as was promised in the spring of 1988. Is that the kind of Government he is running?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** I think that it is far better to have a Government that is willing to plan and work with all of the elements of the health care community.

Mr. Speaker, you want to talk about hypocrisy. These people were in Government for six-and-a-half years and did not accomplish any of those things that they said. They were in Government and they secretly, as a Cabinet, froze all of the capital works of the health care field. As of November of last year, they put a freeze on without telling anybody. If there is a problem in health care in Manitoba, it is because of the covert actions that they took while standing up and telling people they were solving health care problems. They were secretly freezing all capital works in this province. That is the kind of thing that they were doing and they ought to be ashamed of it.

### Assiniboine Community College Instructor Layoff

**Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek):** My question is for the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach). A letter directed to the Minister from Mr. Timothy Cooper expressed concern for the rather abrupt termination of his employment as a carpentry and woodworking instructor at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon. His initial term position was to be from August 1987 to March 1988. On March 1 of this year, Mr. Cooper received written confirmation of an extension of his employment to March 21, 1989.

However, this was followed just over one month later, on April 25, 1988, the day before the provincial election, with a written layoff notice effective June 3, 1988. Can the Minister explain why an individual would hear the day before an election that he was laid off?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** I regret to say that I cannot answer that question for the Member because it was the former administration that is responsible for that action which was taken. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I will not bear any responsibility for the kinds of actions that were taken by the former Government.

**Mrs. Yeo:** Has the Minister had any involvement in Mr. Cooper's layoff and has he had any contact with the officials at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon with respect to his layoff and the reasons for it?

**Mr. Derkach:** No, I have not had any involvement in terms of the layoff and I have not had any contact with the individual that has been mentioned.

\* (1430)

### High School Review Release

**Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek):** We have been asking for months, on this side of the House, for the confirmation of the responses in the High School Review. We have heard that it is completed, translated, boxed and put on hold. I ask the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), why?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** The High School Review in fact is complete. The translation has been completed and copies have been run off for distribution. I will be receiving a final briefing on the entire report early next week and as soon as that process is through, we will be in a position to table the report and distribute it.

### Ruttan Mine - Leaf Rapids PCB Exposure

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill):** My question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Following the St. Basile le Grande fire, thousands of individuals who were potentially ore exposed to PCB contaminated smoke were given complete medical tests to determine if there were any

immediate effects as a result of their exposure to smoke that was contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls.

Yesterday, I asked the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) if he would commit to the conducting of such medical tests on individuals in the Leaf Rapids area, who may have been exposed to PCB-laden smoke. The Minister at that time did not answer the question directly.

I am asking the Premier if he is now prepared - (Interjection)- the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) has just asked from his seat if the smoke is PCB laden. I would inform him that as of twelve o'clock this afternoon, company officials were saying that, yes, PCBs were deposited in that dump and the smoke in fact could be PCB laden. They do not know, but I think there is enough suspicion to ask the question of the First Minister, and I would hope that he would ignore the advice of the Minister of Natural Resources who seems to have more concerns about the money those tests would cost than ensuring the individuals of their continued health.

Can the First Minister now commit to calling for those medical tests to be conducted on individuals who may have been exposed to PCB laden smoke in Leaf Rapids under the authority of The Workplace, Safety and Health Act or under the authority of The Environment Act so that those special medical tests can be undertaken immediately?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, let the record be clear that our first and foremost concern will be the health and the safety of the individuals who are employed at Leaf Rapids.

Let me say secondly that our Minister of Workplace Safety and Health (Mr. Connery) is there because of his concern for the safety of the workers at Leaf Rapids. He is there to gain all of the information necessary before any decisions are made. The Member, in his own preamble, says, "may have been exposed to PCB laden smoke." One of the facts that he will attempt to establish before making any decision is to find out whether or not there are PCBs that are in the area of the deposit where the fire is taking place, where the smoke is emanating, that has contaminated the mine shaft.

What we must do is find the facts out before we take any steps, and any steps that we do take will be in the interests of protecting the health and the safety of the workers at Leaf Rapids.

**Mr. Speaker:** The time for oral questions has expired.

### COMMITTEE CHANGES

**Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster):** I have a committee change. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Economic Development be amended as follows: the Honourable Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak) for the Honourable Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock); and the Honourable Member for Niakwa (Mr. Herold Driedger) for the Honourable Member for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry).

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call the second readings as listed, beginning at Page 3 of today's Order Paper, and then the remainder of the Bills in the order listed, beginning at Page 2 of the Order Paper.

**SECOND READINGS**

**BILL NO. 12—THE STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT (1988)**

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General)** presented Bill No. 12, The Statute Law Amendment Act (1988); Loi de 1988 modifiant diverses dispositions législatives, for second reading.

**MOTION presented.**

**Mr. McCrae:** Bill No. 12 is a routine piece of legislation that is presented every year by the Attorney-General. For the benefit of new Members of the Assembly, I will briefly explain the procedure that leads to the production of this Bill.

Of course, at second reading, we are not to make reference to the details of a Bill but instead are to discuss the principle of the Bill, and that is virtually impossible when discussing The Statute Law Amendment Bill because it is not intended to have any matter of principle included in it. It is a cleanup of the statutes and minor amendments.

Every year the office of Legislative Counsel, in its own review of legislation, as well as in its dealing with the departments, becomes aware of a series of minor mistakes that have been made in the statutes. Toward the end of the Session, Legislative Counsel forwards a draft of the Bill to the Attorney-General, together with explanatory notes. After the notes have been reviewed and the Bill is sent to print, the notes are provided to the Opposition justice critics. I forwarded these notes to the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) and the Honourable Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski) last week.

Most of the provisions arise from typographical or minor drafting errors. For example, in The Animal Husbandry Act, the sections referring to Schedules A and B were repealed in 1987, but by oversight the schedules themselves were not repealed.

Members will recall that there is a similar Statute Law Amendment Bill dealing with the re-enacted statutes which corrected most of the errors found in those statutes. However, those errors which came in too late to be included in those Bills are included in this Bill. There are 11 such changes included in the Bill.

I wish only to draw Honourable Members' attention particularly to the repeal of The Gift Tax Act and The Mineral Acreage Tax Act. As part of the re-enactment process, the Department of Finance was asked whether these statutes, both of which have not been in use for more than 10 years, still served a useful purpose. The

department advised that they could be repealed as all monies due under those Acts that were collectible have long since been received.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mark Minenko, in the Chair.)

As well, there are two items which might appear to have involved questions of principle but are included in The Statute Law Amendment Bill because these changes have been in this way in the past. I refer particularly to the inclusion of The Prairie Theatre Exchange in the Centennial Projects Tax Status Act. Tax exemptions for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the Ukrainian Cultural Centre were done in this way in the past.

Similarly, the lending authority under The Fisheries Act has been increased to \$10 million from \$6 million. The original Act provided authority for only \$2 million in loans and the increases in that authority since then have also been done by statute law amendment.

With these brief remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I recommend Bill 12, The Statute Law Amendment Act (1988), to the House.

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch), that debate be adjourned in my name on this Bill.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

\* (1440)

**BILL NO. 45—THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CONFLICT OF INTEREST AMENDMENT ACT**

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier)** presented Bill No. 45, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Conflict of Interest Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les conflits d'intérêts au sein de l'Assemblée législative et du Conseil exécutif, for second reading.

**MOTION presented.**

**Mr. Filmon:** It is with pride that I present to the House, for its consideration, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Conflict of Interest Amendment Act. This legislation, when adopted, will give Manitoba the strongest conflict-of-interest legislation in Canada. It represents a significant strengthening of existing provisions as well as important new initiatives to ensure that Manitobans can have confidence that their Government is being conducted honestly and with a view to the public interest, rather than any private interest.

This Bill merely builds upon existing conflict-of-interest legislation passed by the former administration and supported by all Parties in this House. It does address, however, the major weaknesses and omissions that have been identified since the passage of that legislation. There has been a growing appreciation in recent years that there is more than one way to profit from public service.

In particular, there has been a recognition that knowledge of the inside workings of Government is a commodity that can be sold. There has also been a recognition that it is not just the politicians who can benefit from insider knowledge but also senior public servants have access to that knowledge. With the amount of money available for the private sector from Government in the way of grants and contracts, those senior public servants are able to benefit from their insider knowledge when they leave Government.

Most Members of this House are certainly aware of the specific instances that led to serious criticism of the previous administration. My Party does not consider the action of Mr. Desjardins, in going from the Minister of Health to being the executive director of the Manitoba Health Organizations, to have been appropriate. One day he was reviewing budget requests made by the Manitoba Health Organizations, presumably with a view to protecting the interests of taxpayers and their money, and the next day he was coming back to Government and dealing with all the officials that he previously supervised to tell them why the financial request for the Manitoba Health Organizations should be granted.

It is as if one of the players left a football huddle after hearing the play called and then went to the other side and told them what play had been called and lined up with them on defence.

Also, when we were in Opposition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we criticized a consulting contract that was given to the former clerk of the Executive Council when he left public service. Was there a full and proper review of the need for that consultant's contract by Treasury Board? Did Cabinet consider it in an unbiased way? Were other consultants asked to bid on performing the services? We will probably never know the answers to these questions but the fact that these questions can be asked leaves a cloud over the transaction and causes a doubt that the Government was actually looking after the taxpayers' interests first.

The amendments proposed by this Bill will ensure that similar questions will not arise in future. Senior public servants are for the first time included in the Act. Prohibitions on using insider information for personal gain or the use of influence where the senior public servant has a pecuniary interest which has applied to Members and Ministers is now expanded to senior public servants. The prohibition on using insider information is one that applies for all time. The prohibition on using influence is made to apply to former Ministers and senior public servants for a period of one year. This cooling-off period should be long enough for the value of that insider information to have disappeared. It does not apply to Members because they simply do not have the influence that former Ministers and senior public servants have.

The heart of the changes is contained in a series of new sections added to the Act that apply to Ministers and to senior public servants. The restrictions are stringent. For one year following the date on which the Minister or senior public servant leaves office, he or she may not enter into a contract with the Government or a Crown agency.

We recognize that there can be exceptions, for example, in normal retirement situations where a

contract on severance would be appropriate. In these circumstances, Cabinet will have the right to approve. This will ensure that the matter will be public, because the Order-in-Council approving will be public. Therefore, the Cabinet can be held accountable by the public for explaining the reasons for the exception. There is an absolute prohibition for Ministers or senior public servants for one year acting in connection with any matter that he or she acted on in an official capacity. There is also a requirement that if the Minister or a senior public servant accepts employment, he must steer clear of any involvement with the Government for that same cooling-off period of one year.

Because the intention of this legislation is to ensure that a Member or senior public servant does not take advantage of his or her inside knowledge for the purpose of private gain, there is an exception allowing employment with the federal Government or the Government of another province or territory. We believe that no Government will pay a premium to hire someone because that person had experience with the Government of Manitoba on any matter.

It would quite obviously be a serious impediment to the public service careers of Manitoba civil servants where they were unable to seek employment with other senior Governments. It would also probably be impossible to attract such people to Manitoba from other Governments, although this is a normal practice by all senior Governments.

Finally, the legislation which is proposed to the House strengthens the current provisions regarding restitution. It introduces a serious penalty for breaching the Act. Mr. Deputy Speaker, when all of these provisions are taken together we believe that Manitoba will have provided leadership for the entire country in the matter of conflict of interest. With these new rules, we will be as assured as we can possibly be that there will be no reason to question the integrity of the civil servants.

This Bill will go far toward ensuring continued public confidence in the Government of Manitoba and the senior civil servants who work for the people of Manitoba. Public service is a trust, and certain restrictions upon all of us are necessary if we are to retain the confidence of the people. I would ask the Members to consider this Bill expeditiously and it is with pleasure that I commend it to the House.

**Mr. Alcock:** I move, seconded by the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux), that debate on this Bill be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

## **BILL NO. 47—THE LIQUOR CONTROL AMENDMENT ACT (2)**

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney General)** presented Bill No. 47, The Liquor Control Amendment Act (2); Loi No. 2 modifiant la Loi sur la réglementation des alcools, for second reading.

**MOTION presented.**

\* (1450)

**Mr. McCrae:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill essentially has two aspects. First, it corrects certain inadvertent omissions in the overhaul of the licensing provision. It was passed in 1987. In that legislation, 24 categories of licences were reduced to 10, and 92 sections governing those licences were reduced to 50.

Unfortunately, in the reorganization certain mistakes were made. Most importantly, the sections dealing with the rights of a licensee to demand proof of age, and giving the licensee a defence against a charge of serving a minor if the licensee had asked for and received identification which later turned out to be false, were dropped. As well, the prohibition on minors being in possession of or consuming liquor was dropped.

I believe all Honourable Members will agree that it is time for these provisions to be restored to the Act. There were some other minor mistakes made and I will be giving to Opposition critics a spread sheet that will indicate why various minor changes are being made. There are, however, in this Bill three matters of principle that I submit should be the focus of the debate here at second reading.

First the prohibition currently in the Act against broadcasting with respect to licensed premises for liquor between 7:00 in the morning and ten o'clock in the evening is to be repealed. We all know that it is possible to see on television advertisements for beer and wine in the evening but these ads are being carried on American stations and brought into Manitoba by cablevision. The result of that advertising revenue which could be earned by Manitoba corporations is instead going to American corporations.

It must be stressed that the commission will retain its control of advertising because it can continue to make regulations. The Government will be watching closely the regulations developed by the commission and we are confident that they will provide a reasonable guideline on the content, timing and the amount of advertising in keeping with the realities of modern day living.

Certainly, the issue of the prohibition on advertising has been a matter of debate for some time. In 1981 the report of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Liquor Control, commonly called the Mitchener Report, recommended that the ban on the advertising of beer and wine on radio and television between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. be rescinded. The committee came to that conclusion after reviewing the literature and the evidence that there was likely to be no discernible effect on the overall consumption of alcohol as a result of permitting the advertising in a situation where extensive advertising is available in the province in any event.

In particular, the Mitchener Committee was struck by the fact that British Columbia, which had a complete ban on alcohol advertising in 1981, still had the third highest per capita consumption of alcohol in Canada. Since 1981 the amount of alcohol advertising to be seen on television has increased and yet we are all aware that as a result of many factors, including higher

prices and changing lifestyles that take into account the potential harmful health affects of overconsumption, the per capita consumption of alcohol in the province has been falling. The Government has therefore concluded that no valid purpose is now served by the ban on advertising and that the matter should be governed solely by regulation of the commission.

Second, the legislation will permit the opening of a 24-hour lounge at the Winnipeg International Airport. This is done by permitting the holder of the transportation licence to sell liquor to its passengers at any time even if they are travelling within the province. The current rules allow serving liquor at any time when the passengers are travelling internationally or interprovincially but does not permit sale to passengers who are travelling within the province between 2 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The result of that is it is essentially unworkable to open a 24-hour lounge at the Winnipeg Airport. It would be necessary to exclude some passengers, for example those coming from outside the province who are waiting to make a connection to a destination within the province, by allowing those who are making a connection to a flight outside the province to have a drink. The verification of boarding passes and the general inconvenience would not be justified. I am advised by the commission officials that this change will allow the opening of the lounge in the secure area of the airport. That is the part of the airport to which the public cannot have access unless they have a boarding pass.

Finally, the legislation will permit Government to comply with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades. Honourable Members will recall the GATT ruling in the case of the Canadian wine industry that the provinces were violating the agreement because they did not provide equal treatment of domestic wine and imported wine in markups and distribution. The same reasoning could apply to beer and consequently the existing requirement that beer vendors sell only domestic beer is probably a violation of the GATT.

Again the Liquor Control Commission retains the full authority to regulate the sale of imported beer by beer vendors. Such sales will not begin until problems connected with the disposal of the containers to ensure that there will be no environmental concern have been resolved.

At present, imported beer is available from all liquor stores and the total of 175 other outlets. Domestic beer has had little difficulty coping with that competition and accounts for more than 98 percent of beer sales in the province. The probable result of this change is that there will be a decrease of sales of imported beer through the liquor stores and existing outlets and it will now be purchased more from beer vendors. There may of course also be some increase in the consumption of imported beer overall, but even that may be offset by the enhanced opportunity for advertising the domestic product that the changes proposed by this Bill will provide.

I recommend Bill 47 to the House.

**Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne):** I move, seconded by the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux), that debate on this Bill be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

### **BILL NO. 50—THE BRANDON CHARTER AMENDMENT ACT**

**Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Municipal Affairs)** presented Bill No. 50, The Brandon Charter Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Charte de Brandon, for second reading.

**MOTION presented.**

**Mr. Cummings:** The intent of this very brief amendment is to be certain that the City of Brandon does in fact have the full option as to which direction it would choose to go regarding future appointments of a Police Commission. Specifically, it allows them to make a decision subject to provisions in the amendment that we introduced earlier to The Municipal Act to give them the freedom to choose the Members of that commission and to fully have the option as to whether or not they wish to proceed with the appointment of a commission.

**Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East):** I wonder if I could ask the Honourable Minister a couple of questions for clarification.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member for Brandon East have leave to ask the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, if he so wishes, a question? (Agreed)

**Mr. Leonard Evans:** I would like to get clarification with regard to this particular Bill 50 which provides an amendment to the Brandon Charter with regard to the Police Commission.

I do not oppose what the Minister is attempting to do, but I do not understand why in Bill 34, I believe it is, there is some reference to a Police Commission there as well. I am just wondering to what extent do these overlap or interchange? That is one question.

The second question is why would he not also use this route, The Brandon Charter Amendment Act route, to allow the City of Brandon to provide grants to organizations such as the Brandon University rather than amending the entire Municipal Act?

It is The Municipal Act that we have before us and we had some questions about that. I understood that the reason we went to the Municipal Amendment Act route, Bill 34, was because the Brandon Charter was too antiquated and was giving us too many troubles in terms of amendments. I just do not follow the rationale here. I am not opposed to what the Minister is trying to achieve. It is just that it seems to me that there is some confusion, or at least I am confused about this.

(1500)

**Mr. Cummings:** I can appreciate the question from the Member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) because there is some concern on my part as well.

The intent of this amendment to the Brandon Charter is to remove any ambiguity that there may be as to the ability of Bill 34 to override the Charter.

The second question was whether or not this route would have been preferable regarding grants by the city to the university. The fact is that the amendment to The Municipal Act was felt a preferable manner in which to go. I realize that the Members opposite have questioned the broadness of the amendment. It does, however, if I could be permitted to speak for a moment to what the intent was there, it in fact does give the same authority to other municipal authorities as the City of Winnipeg presently has. The City of Brandon Charter—going back again to the charter that is in front of us—is probably going to have to have a major revision of large portions of it in companion with the recommendations of the City Council.

Originally, it was not my intent to amend the City Charter at all but we wanted to be positive, having received a second legal opinion that there was no ambiguity as to whether or not the city fathers would be able to in fact have the authority to discriminate as to whether or not they set it up and what the composition would be. The authority is returned to the local elected officials which is where I think it is reasonable to expect it should rest.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member for Brandon East have leave to ask a question? (Agreed)

**Mr. Leonard Evans:** I thank the Minister for that information, so this is a supplementary question to that.

As I understand it, this was to clarify the ambiguity with reference to the Police Commission as referred to in Bill 34, The Municipal Amendment Act, to make sure that it is effective. Does that mean that Bill 34 with regard to the Police Commission is not required now? Will that section of the Bill be deleted because of it? You have in the Bill before us and, secondly, if that is the case, will he not also consider deleting or dropping Bill 34 altogether, I suppose, and putting a reference to municipal grants in the Brandon Charter?

**Mr. Cummings:** That was not the intent.

**Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne):** I move, seconded by the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr), that debate on this Bill be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

### **REPORT STAGE**

### **BILL NO. 37—THE CROWN CORPORATIONS PUBLIC REVIEW AND ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS ACT**

**Mr. Speaker:** Bill No. 37, The Crown Corporations Public Review and Accountability and Consequential



Amendments Act; Loi sur l'examen public des activités des corporations de la Couronne, l'obligation redditionnelle de celles-ci et certaines modifications corrélatives, on the amendment of the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), the Honourable Member for Dauphin.

**Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin):** My intention is that the Bill would continue to stand in my name. If anyone else wanted to speak to it, they are welcome to do that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Stand.

### DEBATE ON THIRD READING

#### BILL NO. 35—THE LOAN ACT, 1988

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), Bill No. 35, The Loan Act, 1988; Loi d'emprunt de 1988, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie). (Stand)

### DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS

#### BILL NO. 8—THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH SMALL CLAIMS PRACTICES AMENDMENT ACT

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), Bill No. 8, The Court of Queen's Bench Small Claims Practices Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur le recouvrement des petites créances à la Cour du Banc de la Reine. (Stand)

#### BILL NO. 9—STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT (RE-ENACTED STATUTES) ACT

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), Bill No. 9, Statute Law Amendment (Re-enacted Statutes) Act; Loi modifiant diverses dispositions législatives (Lois réadoptées), standing in the name of the Honourable Member for The Pas.

**Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas):** I am pleased to stand and speak on Bill No. 9. As the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) said in his opening remarks on this Bill, it has come here because of the fact that there was so much legislation that was being interpreted that it has made it necessary for one large re-enacted statute to be brought forward to correct all of the Bills that were re-enacted in 1987. He brings it forward in one large Bill and that makes it much easier to deal with that way.

I would like to take the opportunity to speak on some parts of this Bill. The first one that comes to mind is The Agricultural Credit Corporations Act. I was pleased with some of the changes that were made under The Agricultural Credit Corporations Act which allowed the corporation to lend some funding to part-time farmers.

We recognize that the occupation of farming is very difficult to get into and it is necessary for people to either inherit the land or else to inherit a large sum of

money or else win a lottery in order for them to get into agriculture, so I think it is the only way we are going to be getting young people into agriculture, if we support them in their efforts to get established and we do that while they are carrying on another job.

I know that in the community of The Pas which has a lot of part-time farmers, people who are working on the railway and with Manfor, many of these people are becoming established and, as they become established, they move into full-time farming. That was not possible previously because Agricultural Credit Corporation was prohibited from lending money to people who were farming on a part-time basis.

In the description of the farming, it includes the growing of cereal crops. I think that is one of the areas that many of the members of our agricultural community have got themselves into difficulty, when they went into cereal crops totally. I think the people who have stayed in mixed farming are the farmers who are going to be surviving during these difficult times. I recognize that it is much more efficient for many operations to be only involved in strictly cereal crop farming or else strictly cattle, but I think that the people who have gone into mixed farming are the ones who are going to be surviving.

I guess the next description goes on, "the growing of vegetable or special crops other than cereal crops," and I guess that is where the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery) is a very successful farmer. He grows many of the vegetables that are marketed in Manitoba and meets a real need out there. They are fortunate to be living in the part of the province that it is extremely rich farm land, as well as they are very close to the market. So they are able to carry out that type of an operation. There is also the availability of labour. This type of an operation is very labour intensive so the Minister of Environment is fortunate to be having an operation of that sort. I guess many of the people in The Pas area would like to have that same type of an operation but unfortunately they are so far from the market that it would not be viable to be going into a vegetable producing operation.

There have been some tests carried out and it has shown the The Pas area was about 15 percent above other areas in production for several years running and the main reason for that is they seem to have a good supply of moisture even during these low moisture years. The Pas area was fairly blessed with getting sufficient moisture to carry on their operations and most of the crops were above normal, so if they were in an area that was closer to market for special crops, I know that for vegetable crops anyway, many farmers would be involved in that.

(The Acting Speaker, Mr. Parker Burrell, in the Chair.)

There are some people who are involved in the growing of potatoes and I know that there has been a lot of controversy over one particular operation that was started up a few years ago. He ran into some difficulties when he was harvesting his crops and there has been quite a bit of controversy surrounding this because of the Northern Development Agreement had put some funding into it, and I have taken a lot of

criticism for it in the community of The Pas, but I think if the people took the time to check into the loan that was made, that there was no involvement of the provincial Government whatsoever.

Under this particular part of the Northern Development Agreement it is strictly a federal portion of it and although I admire them for taking the initiative to start up an operation, it is something that is needed because there has been a concept that has been brought forward over many years in northern Manitoba, about the North feeding the North. I think the potato farm fits right in with that concept and although they have run into some difficult times in the last two years, I am sure that they will still turn around and they will have a very successful operation in The Pas.

\* (1510)

Some of the other special crops that people are going into is the growing of canary seed in The Pas area. There are some people who feel that it is not really appropriate to be growing a crop that is not meant for human consumption, but I guess when you are involved in the whole field of agriculture, you have to take whatever opportunity is there. The canary seed is a very profitable crop and many people have been very successful in growing this particular crop in The Pas area. So I am sure that they will continue to do so.

Another special crop that there has been a lot of success with is the growing of timothy. This past year there was such a run in the growing of timothy seed that the seed was not available. I guess that just gives an indication of the number of people who are going into the growing of this special crop. As a matter of fact, in the farm that I own in Cowan I have put that field into timothy as well. There was a good crop on it last year and one of the requirements of growing timothy is the need for heavy fertilization.

I hope that the person who is now renting that parcel of land will pay heed to the material which has been sent to him which showed that there is a need for heavy fertilization in the growing of timothy and he will follow the direction of some of the specialists who are involved in that operation and carry out the instructions that have been given to him.

I guess the stock raising and stock keeping is one area that the people who have been involved in this particular operation are the ones who have been successful in the last few years. Although people in southern Manitoba are troubled with the lack of moisture and therefore their pastures were depleted over the last year, I think that they will be quite successful if they continue to stay in. I guess that is one of the problems with growing or raising of stock. People are getting in and out of it. They are the ones who do not make money.

But I think that if a person gets into either raising of cattle or raising of hogs, that they stay in through thick and thin, they are the ones who will survive. So I am sure that stock raising is one that I particularly enjoy because I guess I am fond of livestock and I think it is extremely relaxing to go out there in the spring of the year when the calves are coming, and again in

the fall of the year when summer's work is done and the calves are mature. I think it is really an enjoyable time for a farmer to be able to get out there and enjoy that part of the operation.

I guess this reminds me of the Bill that was brought forward, Bill 29. I think that it is really not necessary for that Bill to be brought forward at this time because of Bill 28 that covers that eventuality that if people who were involved in cattle raising wanted to start up an association, they have the ability to do so once Bill 28 is in place. So I do not think it is necessary for us to give a special status to one particular commodity group when there are others who are involved who really require the same type of support. So I would hope the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) would have second thoughts on bringing forward Bill 29 and he would withdraw it and let it follow the same route that other commodity groups would have to follow in order to start up an association.

The next area covered in The Agricultural Credit Corporation Act is the area of dairies. I guess that is an area that is an industry that has declined over the last 20 years. If you were to drive along any part of Manitoba, you will find that there are empty barns on many, many farms that are dairy farms that are just laying there vacant because of the fact that dairying has become a very competitive operation now and people who were previously involved in it are now not able to compete at the level they are at.

One of the areas that has been raised today has been the whole area of poultry raising. I guess the fact that the packers are closing down is going to be affecting some of the poultry operations. I think that one of the examples that is being used is the fact that this is the beginning of the effect that free trade will have on the agricultural industry. I know there are those who feel that free trade will be a benefit to the agricultural industry, but I felt all along that the small producers are going to be hurt by free trade. I think that this effect that free trade will have on the poultry operations is one example of this being shut down now, and it will be affecting many, many jobs.

The next one is apiculture. I guess I had an opportunity to be involved in this particular area. I had an opportunity to learn the trade of an apiarist when I was working as a railroader in The Pas. There was a friend of mine who for many years wanted to get into the raising of bees and I also had that interest as well, so I took the opportunity to buy some equipment and between the two of us we ordered a couple of hives of bees and we took the opportunity to learn how to operate an apiary. We bought whatever equipment was necessary and within a couple of years we grew to about 25 hives and we were having a pretty successful operation. But unfortunately he was transferred out of the community and I was going into the field of politics which really did not give me the time to be looking after my beehives, so I also sold my equipment and hives and got out of that industry.

But the result of that small operation that we had is that the son of one of the partners had become very interested in it and he has now really become an expert in this field. He last year raised queen bees, not only

for his own operation, but for many, many producers who are in the Swan Valley who are having difficulty getting bees because of the restriction at the border of importing bees from the States. He was able to raise many queen bees in his operation and he, at this time, has built his operation up to over 400 hives. He winters all his bees and raises all his own queens. So because of the fact that a friend of mine and I got involved in it, his son also developed an interest in this particular field and he is now coming to a point where he is thinking of quitting his job as a railroader and going into the bee operation on a full-time basis.

One of the other areas that is in need—it was much bigger in previous years—is the whole area of fur ranching. I know in the community of Sherridon, there is a mink ranching operation there that provided quite a profitable livelihood for a couple of operators and, unfortunately, because of some glitch in the market, he had to shut it down. There have been many studies carried out since then to try to revive it. Because of the scare in Britain over buying of furs, I think that it is not quite as lucrative as it was at one time.

\* (1520)

I think it will be particularly interesting for people who are involved in fishing, if they could set up an operation where they could use some of their fish that cannot be marketed at this time, if they could use them for feeding of the mink and the wolves, I think that the two operations could be combined.

I know there are some people in Winnipegosis who are looking at this opportunity and I think that it is probably something that is worth pursuing. I am sure you are probably having some calls over this as well to give them some support with their lobbying for their support that is necessary to set an operation of this sort up. So I am sure that you are familiar with it as well. One other area that you would be very familiar with because of your past experience, is the area of aquaculture. I know that there are many people in Manitoba who are interested in becoming involved in the raising and breeding of stock and fingerlings. I know there are several operators in southern Manitoba who now are involved in raising the fingerlings for people who are involved in fish farming.

I, at one time, had an opportunity to stock a creek on my place, or a dugout, and we stocked it with over 1,000 fingerlings but unfortunately that year there was an abundance of water and the water came through the dugout and it ran into the creek and raised it to the point where it went right through the dugout and all of the fingerlings unfortunately left with the water. So we never had an opportunity to restock it. I had an opportunity to check it last year and now that dugout is once again full of a lot of feed so I am thinking of maybe this year going and trying to put in a couple of thousand fingerlings to see how successful it will be.

There is an operation in Wawboden where they are raising trout within their cages and I know that this has been very successful. I am sure that there will be other people who will be getting into that as well. While I am talking on the subject of aquaculture, I would be

remiss if I did not raise a concern that exists in my constituency and that is in connection with the whole area of commercial fishing.

The Saskatchewan River fishermen have had the value of their industry dropped to a great degree. It was a very profitable industry in the last 20 years, but approximately, beginning in 1980-81 with the Campbell Dam going in place and the Grand Rapids Dam operating, that industry has lost the spawning areas for many of the areas that the pickerel spawn in.

One of the lakes, the Kelsey Lake, was one of the main places where pickerel used to spawn, has now dried up because of the fact that the water is controlled in such a way that it is not natural. In the spring of the year when the high water levels would flow is when the spawning period for the pickerel were in, the pickerel could swim into these lakes. Now the way the water is controlled by Saskatchewan Hydro, by Manitoba Hydro, the water levels are lower in the springtime when the spawning is going on, so they are not able to get into these areas where they normally would be spawning in.

So I think there is a responsibility on the part of both Manitoba Hydro and Saskatchewan Power Corporation to accommodate the fishermen and come forward with some compensation. I do not mean compensation in the dollar terms, but they should be replenishing the stocks in some way by utilizing the hatcheries that exist presently in Manitoba. One of those hatcheries is located in the Grand Rapids area in my constituency. That hatchery is under-utilized at this time. The trout could be stocked there and raised for all of the trout farmers who are uninterested in purchasing fingerlings in Manitoba. I think that we could also, to a much greater degree, raise pickerel fingerlings as well. Because of the fact that the spawning areas have been lost, I think there is an obligation or a responsibility on the part of Manitoba Hydro to participate in this area to a much greater degree than they have been participating to this point.

I would urge the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) to approach the Manitoba Hydro and act as aggressively as he can as an advocate for the fishermen in Manitoba who—(Interjection)—I am sure glad to hear that. I know I have the support of the Minister for Natural Resources because he is an individual who understands the importance of the fishing industry to Manitoba. So I know that he will do all in his power to make sure that hatchery is utilized to the fullest extent possible. I look forward to whatever assistance he can lend to get Hydro to accept the responsibility to carry out, to accept some of the operating costs that are there and make that place as viable as it can be. One of the other areas that has been affected is the Saskatchewan River fishing industry on its own.

I know that there were 16 fishermen in The Pas area who were very successful in the early Eighties, but that has continued to decline on an annual basis, whereas now there are only, I believe, 9 of the 16 fisherman involved in that industry because of the fact they cannot be involved in an industry where it costs them more to operate than what they are getting as a value. Even for the fish catch, even though the prices are probably

higher right now than they have been for many years, the people who are fishing in an area where they can get their catch quite readily are making a very successful living.

There are about eight or seven of the fishermen who have chosen at this time not to participate in that industry. I think that we have to have a serious look at either shutting down the industry totally for about a four-or-five-year period, the way they did in Lake Winnipegosis, otherwise that industry could be lost to us for a long time.

I think there has to be cooperation as well from the sport fishermen because it would not make much sense to shut the industry down for commercial fishermen and continue to operate for sports fishermen. So there is going to have to be some cooperation in that area and I think that the Minister is going to have to go down to The Pas and have a meeting with all of the people who are involved. That would include the Moose Lake people, the Cormorant people, Easterville and The Pas who are all affected by the Saskatchewan River fishing waterway. So I look forward to the Minister coming in and meeting with these people.

One of the other areas that has received a lot of attention in this Bill 9, The Statute Law Amendment Act, is The Condominium Act. One of the Bills we talked on yesterday, the cooling off period. The Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) brought forward a Private Member's Bill dealing with a cooling off period for door-to-door salesmen and I think that this is an area as well where it mentions that where a prospective purchaser signs an agreement to purchase a unit, the purchaser may cancel the agreement at any time within 48 hours thereafter.

To me, that seems like a good idea, because many people are sometimes pressured into purchasing a condominium or a unit of any sort and then they find out that after a sober second thought, they cannot afford it or something has come up in the meantime, then they should have an opportunity to cancel out of it. I think that gives them an opportunity through here. The way he can cancel out of this agreement is by personally giving the vendor a written notice of the cancellation within the 48 hours, or by mailing to the vendor a notice of cancellation within 48 hours, by registered or certified mail. With the two options, I think there is no excuse for anyone who has come to a decision not to proceed with it, there is plenty of opportunity for him to cancel out on that.

There is also some information there on the information that is to be received by the purchaser when he is going to purchase a new condominium. It says that no agreement to purchase a unit is enforceable against the purchaser unless the purchaser has received, before or at the time of executing the agreement, the most recent financial statement of the corporation and the budget statement for the current financial year, which would give the information to the purchaser of the common expenses which are involved in the condominium and also the amount of each expense. I think that a person would not want to get into a condominium until he knew of all these expenses because I guess there are some examples where there

are very high common expenses, and if a person of common means was to get into that, then I think it is likely that he would be losing his down payment that he had put into this investment.

\* (1530)

They also have a monthly common expenses contribution of each unit or type of unit and the portion of the common expense is to be paid into a reserve fund and the amount in all reserve funds at the start of the current financial year. All of the services that are common to a person are mentioned in there and I think it is extremely important that a person have all that information before he moves in. I think it is good that it is clarified in this Act and I certainly support the initiative the Minister has taken in bringing forward this Act. It improves it to a great degree.

There is also a statement specifying any parts of the common elements that the owner of the unit is not entitled to use. I think it is good that there is an understanding of what is available to him, if there is underground parking, if there is a yard, a common yard, or what areas of that condominium is that person entitled to once he becomes a shareholder in that condominium? I think it is good that this is all spelled out prior to the person taking his occupancy of the unit, and a statement specifying the number and type of parking stalls that are included in the purchase price, whether there is to be any additional monthly charge in the use of that stall.

Some people go into the condominium and they figure they are entitled to parking automatically, but it shows that there is a statement that shows when a person is going to be entitled to a parking spot. If there are some additional charges for that parking, then I think it is good that it would be spelled out in the regulations.

One of the areas it clarifies as well is the 48 hours for a person to cancel out, a cooling-off period, from what period of time do you start counting the 48 hours? In this Act, it clearly spells out at what time the 48 hours starts "ticking," I guess, is a good word for it. The 48 hours to which the reference is made is in Subsection (1), shall be computed exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

One other area that there is clarification on is the area of return of deposit, where an agreement to purchase a unit is cancelled under Subsection (1), the vendor or agent of the vendor, who received the deposit from the prospective purchaser or agent of the prospective purchaser, shall return the deposit to the prospective purchaser or agent of the prospective purchaser, as the case may require.

I think that is only common sense. If we have an opportunity for that 48 hour cooling-off period, if the person should change their mind in the purchasing of that unit, that they should be getting back their deposit. This spells it out very clearly.

It also spells out the ownership of the common elements in the condominium. The owners are tenants of the common elements in the undivided interests in each unit. Subject to the declaration of this Act and

the by-laws, each owner may make reasonable use of the common elements and it spells it out quite clearly here so there is no argument between the tenants as to who is entitled to use the common elements and who is not to. I think spells it out very clearly, so I am sure that this will clarify a lot of the misunderstandings that may have existed previous to now.

The Employment Standards Act is also one that is very important and our critic for Labour, the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), has brought in some Private Members' legislation dealing with employment standards. We, as a Government, were going to be bringing in some legislation to help improve the employment standards in Manitoba but, unfortunately, as all Members of this House know, we were defeated. I know quite often we hear the argument, sure, you were just about to do it, that is the story of your life, but in actual fact, Members should recall that we were defeated just into the second year of our mandate, so there were many pieces of legislation that were on the books at that time. If we had our four-year normal term, I am sure that many of the pieces of legislation that we referred to—and we often get laughed at, sure, you were going to do it—we would have done it, we would have brought them forward.

Another area that is of interest to many, I am sure most of the people in this Legislature, is The Family Maintenance Act. I know that one of the unfortunate things in our society is the large number of break-ups in our society and quite often the father of the family leaves and does not provide the support that is required by his spouse or his family. I think there were some changes made in that Maintenance Act which helps follow the people wherever they may leave, and I think it makes it much easier for the maintenance to be paid, which I think is only fair. If there are children who require that support, it is only fair that the breadwinner in the family should be providing that support.

Another area, The Fisheries Act, is amended by striking out the terms of "producer," and it clears up the whole area of who is a fisherman. I spoke earlier of the Manitoba Agricultural Corporation and I think that is one area that is not mentioned in the description of the farming operation. I think the fishermen should have been included in that Act, in the first portion of the Act, as well. I know they fall under that same Act where they can get funding through MACC, but I think that there should be a separate board to deal with fishermen, because the MACC Board is made up of mainly people from the agricultural field and quite often there is a lack of understanding, some of the special difficulty of producers who are involved in the commercial fishing industry.

I think that if we had a special board, even if the same chairperson who was in charge of this separate board, but if they had a two-member committee dealing with applications from the fishing industry, I think they would be much more understanding. They would get a better understanding when the applications are made, because I think that the fishing industry is operating under some very difficult times and they do need the support. I think this would give them an opportunity to get out and do some of that—I am not sure if "public

relations" is the right word for it—but explaining of how the Act is conducted.

So I think that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) will surely take that suggestion and take it to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) and have a special board set up for the people who are involved in the fishing industry.

Mr. Acting Speaker, how much time do I have left?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Burrell):** Seven minutes.

**Mr. Harapiak:** Seven minutes.- (Interjection)- The Member for La Verendrye (Mr. Pankratz) says that I remind him of his daughter, just because of the fact that there is a curfew does not mean they have to stay, say, to the end of the curfew. What he is trying to tell me is I do not have to speak 40 minutes just because there is a 40-minute time limit, but I think that there are so many items that I would like to talk about.

\* (1540)

The critic for Agriculture wants to hear a little more about timothy and the canary seed. I know that he is a very learned man and has been involved in the University of Manitoba and I am sure that he could stand up and give us much more pertinent information on timothy and canary seed. Maybe I could sit down with him afterward and he could give me more information. I am sure I could learn from him because of his years of experience in the university that he can teach us a lot about the whole area of agriculture.

I look forward to learning from the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Laurie Evans). I know that there are people who have a very high deal of respect for the Member for Fort Garry because of the work he has carried out in the University of Manitoba. I know that there are people who look to him as an expert. I would hope that he would be a little more understanding if somebody gets up and speaks who has not had the experience that has to be an authority on some of the subjects that we get up here and speak on. I hope that he would forgive me.

One of the areas that I want to say a few words on is the whole area of the Highways and Transportation. I think that this is a reasonable amendment here where it deals with the standards that are set out on highways. I think quite often there is a need for roads to resources where the stringent requirements that are put out by the Department of Highways are not required because there is not a heavy amount of traffic that is going on. So I think that it is more important that we get access to some of those areas rather than having the standards that are put in for main highways. I think that the standards are not always necessary. I think that this amendment here gives the Department of Highways the authority to build roads to less than what the standard that have been put forward in place. It is important. Quite often there are farmers who need access to some of the meadows that they get the hay from. I think that with a little bit of upgrading, they can get into there. It is not necessary to build a highways standard road to get into there. I think it is extremely important—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Burrell):** Order, please. Order. The Honourable Member for The Pas has the floor. I am having great difficulty in hearing him.

**Mr. Harapiak:** Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker. I know that people all like to jest and have fun in legislation. It is good that we can. I think if we were only here in a very serious mood at all times then I think the time would seem longer than it does to many Members of this Legislature.

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** Are you getting tired of the . . . .

**Mr. Harapiak:** No, not at all. The Minister of Education asked me if I am getting tired? I said, no, not at all. I rather enjoy them. I am becoming used to the place. I am not getting tired at all, although I would like to have the Christmas holidays off because of the fact that my family is coming down and visiting. It would be nice to have a few days off, at least between Christmas and the New Year. I am not asking for much. If we could have seven days off in that period, the Minister of Education would be—

One of the other areas that I think is extremely important is The Mental Health Act. I have a particular interest in this area because of the fact that I have a son who is handicapped. He was born autistic. I know that these people have great difficulty in fitting into society. I think that society has become much more accommodating and accepting in accepting these people into the community. I am pleased with the changes that have come about. The way any community has been given the opportunity to welcome these people into the community, they have had some fantastic results.

One particular one that I am aware of is a person who was in Portage homes for 20 years and that he is now in the City of Winnipeg. He comes to a day care centre on a daily basis where he tells the people that he is living with that he is going to a job. He comes and he speaks to the children who are in that day care centre. I think he is accommodating. He is supplying a service that is quite often missing in today's society, and that is the role of a grandparent. The children in that home look to this individual as a grandparent and it is amazing to think that this person had been behind closed doors for 20 years. He was not able to leave the Portage Home and now because of the fact that there has been a change in society's attitude toward the handicapped he is providing a very useful role in society. I look forward to many others participating at that level as well.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I see the light is flashing. Does that mean my time has expired?

**An Honourable Member:** One minute.

**Mr. Harapiak:** There are many other areas that I would like to speak on. It is not because I know that there is a 40-minute period, but I think these are extremely important amendments. Many of them are very important and I congratulate the Attorney-General (Mr.

McCrae) for bringing it forward in one Act and I think that it accommodates the time of the Legislature to a much better way by bringing it in all in one Act rather than all different Acts. Thank you.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Burrell):** Is the House ready for the question? The question before the House is second reading of Bill No. 9.

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** I move, seconded by the Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski), that debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

### **BILL NO. 11—THE CHILD CUSTODY ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENT ACT**

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Burrell):** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), Bill No. 11, The Child Custody Enforcement Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'exécution des ordonnances de garde, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer). (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 21—THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT**

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Burrell):** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger), Bill No. 21, The Highway Traffic Amendment Act; Loi modifiant le Code de la route, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan).

**Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin):** Mr. Acting Speaker, I would like to speak to this but leave it standing in the Member for Churchill's name, if that is agreeable.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Burrell):** Is there leave to leave Bill No. 21 standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Churchill? (Agreed)

**Mr. Plohman:** I am very pleased to speak on this very important Bill, Bill No. 21, amendments to The Highway Traffic Act. These amendments deal with an issue that I had a great deal of opportunity to participate in the development of over a number of years. I believe that they are a very positive step toward improving highway safety in this province. There are, of course, a number of things that I would disagree with in the development over the years and I can comment on some of those. But overall with the federal Government taking the direction that it has on deregulation these were very much required amendments to ensure that the National Safety Code was developed and is implemented in this province by the target date of 1990.

There are a number of facets to the National Safety Code that have to be implemented. Most of them require legislation and therefore we have a rather cumbersome piece of legislation with many different amendments for only a small number of aspects of the National Safety Code implementation. Those to be implemented

in 1989 and not the whole thing at all because clearly the implementation requires a number of additional Bills and amendments to fully implement over the next year or so, in order that it can be fully implemented by 1990.

\* (1550)

I want to say first of all that I felt that the National Safety Code was absolutely required if we were going to move to deregulation of highway transport in this country. We, as a Government, had many reservations insofar as the implementation of deregulation. I think as a result of our reservations we were able to slow the process down significantly over the last number of years.

There was a tremendous pressure and movement across the country from many provincial Governments and the federal Government, both from the Liberal administration up to 1984, and subsequent to that the Conservative administration, to implement deregulation. It was a buzzword that they liked, that sounded good, they thought, to the public, that would be attractive politically, that had taken place in the United States previously and they felt if it was done there, Canada should also implement deregulation.

It was started to a great extent in Canada by Lloyd Axworthy. I could give numerous quotes where he, as the Minister of Transport, was pushing headlong into deregulation not only in trucking but in airline deregulation. We see the tremendous confusion and chaos that is occurring at some of the airports right now because there are lower fares and more people are using air traffic. They are all conglomerating in centres, the hub and the spoke type of transport, which means that there is a great deal of congestion in a number of airports which were not planned for this kind of system. There is going to be a lot of problems. I suggest to this Legislature today that perhaps there is going to have to be some reregulation in that area to relieve those problems after.

There was a headlong attempt by the Liberal Government of the Day to move into deregulation of air, trucking and rail. That is clearly on record. When Don Mazankowski, under the Mulroney Government, came into power again as Minister of Transport, he continued that effort along with John Crosbie following him. There was no stopping that move. We were one Government out of 10 provinces and two territorial Governments who felt that we should move slowly. Only one voice, there was maybe a couple of others who had some reservations, but largely, the bureaucrats who had been studying these issues for years pushed the process relentlessly forward, all the time knowing that they had the general concurrence of their political masters in most of those jurisdictions.

So they did not have to worry about a great deal of in-depth questioning about what they were doing. They just went ahead and put forward proposals, not necessarily knowing the implications of those proposals. The Ministers sat around the tables at one ministerial meeting after another and approved them despite the fact that we constantly pointed out areas where there

would be pitfalls and areas that should be further studied before we moved forward with deregulation. So we tried to slow the process down and I believe we were successful in slowing that process down.

We required a five-year phase-in period, for example, which the federal Government did not want at all. We pushed for the National Safety Code, if they were going to go ahead with deregulation because we knew that there would be shortcuts that carriers had to take to compete. With new entrance coming in without an entrance test, public need and convenience, public convenience and necessity test, it meant that any carrier could say, I would like to get into this business and he would not have to prove anything except that he had the financial backing to be able to supply the trucks to operate. But he would not. He could get insurance. That is all he would need; performance requirements as opposed to any necessity for the service.

That meant that existing carriers, who are doing quite well, thank you, under some protection, were now suddenly going to be exposed to a tremendous amount of cut-throat competition by new entrants who wanted to take away the business from these established carriers. That meant that they would have to cut corners. That is the kind of thing we are starting to see when you see some of these companies going out of business. Those who are cutting corners are going to have to perhaps cut corners on safety. Perhaps they will not inspect their trucks as often and their trailers. They will not repair them as much as they should. They will change their tires less often and wait until they are absolutely worn out; those kinds of things so that they would in fact jeopardize safety.

In order to prevent that, the Highways Ministers from across the country realized that in fact we would have to reregulate a great deal at the same time when we thought we were deregulating. That is the irony of it all because while we are deregulating entrance tests, we are regulating with massive amounts of legislation and regulations on safety. So, in fact, had we really accomplished a great deal? I kind of doubt it. It was a nice buzz word to talk about deregulation but in fact we end up so many regulations dealing with safety that we put a tremendous amount of pressure on the drivers and on the carriers. Therein, we get to the point that was raised by the Liberal critic when he said that he was very concerned about some sections of this Bill.

He said that he felt that perhaps there was—I understood from his remarks—too much pressure being placed on the drivers, that in fact they were going to have to pay for the violations of the carriers because of pressures perhaps that they had to drive many hours just to meet minimal obligations, and to keep the overall cost down so that the carrier could compete, they might be forced to commit illegal acts by the carriers. If that is the case, it means that the carriers should be paying the penalty, not the drivers. In fact, there is a provision to allow and to ensure that carriers comply. The National Safety Code is put in place with specific requirement that carriers had to comply and in order for carriers to comply, they have to have the cooperation of their employees and that is why the drivers have to report.

So some of the sections that the Member pointed out, the critic for the Liberal Party, 318.1 to 318.5 or

.6, and I am not supposed to refer to these particular sections but it was referred to during second reading by the Liberal critic, so that means the two of us would have to resign if we follow the Member for Churchill's (Mr. Cowan) recommendations on this.

The fact is that there are sections dealing with the drivers' compliance but there are also sections dealing with the carriers' compliance. Those are very far-reaching and broad. There is an extensive section dealing with carrier compliance so in fact I believe the carriers are held responsible, as they should be, to comply with highway safety through the National Safety Code and we are also assured that the drivers will comply and be part of that responsibility for ensuring safety. Their licences have to be kept up. They have to provide information to the carriers on their drivers licence, where they have a valid drivers licence, on infractions that they incur during the period of time that they are driving and so on, so that the carrier can call upon him as is required in the Act to report on his driving record. At the same time, the Registrar at the Motor Vehicles has to keep a profile of each carrier to determine whether in fact they are complying with all of the requirements of the National Safety Code.

There are some 21 different sections of the Safety Code dealing with various aspects of safety, be it mechanical or driver's training, dangerous goods, or whatever it might be, many sections. This Act ensures that the registrar keeps a profile of each carrier and if he finds in fact that some carriers are not complying or they are violating too often, he can actually develop a specific profile on that one carrier and a program to ensure that the carrier itself will take a remedial action program to ensure that carrier improves its operation.

I think it is a good Act that has come a long way, very complicated because it involves all of the provinces of the country. It is all of the provinces speaking in one voice, working towards one goal, very difficult to achieve and therefore quite an accomplishment, but certainly very cumbersome and was required because of deregulation and that is the irony of it.

Now one of the areas that we were successful in, in addition to slowing down the deregulation process through a five-year period for entry, which was the provision for a reverse onus or shared onus where the potential carrier who wants to apply for a licence has to demonstrate that it is needed but at the same time those intervening to try to stop that carrier from getting in have to prove that it is not in the public interest, so there is a shared onus rather than before the onus was all on the potential new carrier to prove that it was in the public interest for him to offer that service.

\* (1600)

Now there will be a shared onus and I think that is a good thing, and that will continue for five years and at that time it can be extended, if needed. In Manitoba, I am informed by the Transport Board that they are making that a meaningful test. They are continuing to regulate in this province. Some other provinces are not. They are deregulating completely at this time. Alberta and Ontario are too, where they in fact are

getting to the point where they are simply issuing certificates when a new operator wants to get into the business.

I think that is going too far, but it shows that the range of opinions around the table when the Ministers were talking was extensive. No one Minister or one jurisdiction knew exactly where the other jurisdiction was at, and whether in fact they were talking about the same thing when they talked about the buzzword "deregulation." We in Manitoba, in any of the agreements that we made with the other provinces, always anticipated that we were moving to "re-regulation," less regulation but not necessarily deregulation, a more meaningful regulation that reflected the needs of the 1980s and 1990s, rather than the 1930s as was in place over the last 50 years, with very few changes over the last 50 years.

But one of the areas that I was going to say that we succeeded in the province, and I feel very good about it, is in the fact that we established that the federal Government has to cost share this initiative, because in fact the federal Government was pushing for deregulation. Therefore, it was a federal initiative and we felt that they should have an obligation to pay for the costs of deregulation. So we sought funding, shared funding for the implementation of the National Safety Code because the Safety Code's implementation costs money. It takes staff time, it takes computer time, development of programs, and then inspections, inspectors. There is a lot of money involved. We asked the federal Government to share in the costs, and in fact they did that after a great deal of negotiations.

I have to tell you that there were many provinces, basically Conservative provinces, Conservative Governments, who were trying to play "nicey-nicey" with the federal Government, who did not want to upset them at all, and so they would not say a thing at a ministerial meeting in demanding John Crosbie or John Mazankowski come forward with some funding.

It happened to be John Crosbie when this was finalized, and they would sit around there and make the Manitoba Government look like the bad guy, and they have all heard the Conservative Government at this time and the Ministers say that we did not want to cooperate and we were always confrontationist in our approach. The fact is that if we had not raised these issues very strongly at those ministerial meetings we would not have gotten cost sharing. The federal Government did not want to pay for this. They just wanted it to happen but they did not want to pay for it, and the other provinces were so quiet about it, it was difficult to get any support from them vocally at a meeting.

It was very frustrating, but we did get over a five-year period of time a maximum \$750,000 for the development and operation of the Safety Code for the first five years. I was trying to get 10 years and some \$20 million overall in Canada, so that we could at least have it for a 10-year period, the federal sharing, because once you pick this up, this obligation up, the first five years go by very quickly and then after that the province is on its own, and the federal Government is no longer in charge of anything insofar as the obligations.



Yet highway transport is really a federal responsibility under the constitution that they have delegated to the provinces. So, in fact, they have a responsibility and they should justifiably pay a significant amount toward any new initiatives such as this, but they would not do it. Finally, we did get some for a five-year period and I thought that was a major victory, although it was not everything we wanted. I have to say that we did not get a lot of support from any of those Conservative provinces who did not want to upset the federal Government, and probably they were doing this for a reason because they had some sweetheart deals cooked up in some of those provinces for various shared programs and the Province of Manitoba did not have that, so naturally they were going to play a very nice game with the federal Government so they would not rock the boat. I found that very frustrating, I will tell you, from my experiences there, but I can say then that we did receive some funding, some shared funding.

Now there is another section, another part of this Act, Bill 21, and that deals with the weights and dimensions implementation of the Weights and Dimension Study that was done over a five-year period, I believe, by the Roads and Transportation Association of Canada, ARTAC. Over that period of time all provinces put in money to develop a common position for weights and dimensions for the trucking industry because you had one jurisdiction that allowed a truck trailer, a total rig to be a certain length, and you had another one that had a different length.

We cannot have that kind of a thing in Canada if we are going to operate efficiently moving from province to province right across this country, where a carrier can go to the border and then has to go and change his load, change his configuration in order to comply with the new regulations or else risk being ticketed. So there was a hodgepodge of regulations. It was all over the place. You had Ontario with 140 pounds gross vehicle weight, and Manitoba with, I believe, 124 or so, and Saskatchewan with 118. The United States only has 80. So they were way lower than we are, and they recognize the damage to our roads when you increase weights, but Canada keeps moving forward with greater and greater weights and I, as a Minister, was very much against increasing the weights because I felt that we were damaging our highways. But this group of officials, industry and Government officials, working together came up with a position that would lead to a common set of regulations for weights and dimensions across the country for trucking. In the interest of cooperation, we felt that there was really no alternative but to support it.

But we wanted to have some recognition again by the federal Government that there were going to be increased costs in our bridges, increased costs in our roads and our pavement as we increased the weights, and that the federal Government, therefore, because this was a national initiative again to have conformity across the country—it is in the national interest—the federal Government has an obligation to pay some of those costs.

We sat around the table and tried to get that, and we were not able to get any additional input from the

federal Government on these issues. They did not recognize that they had a responsibility as a result of increasing weights and dimensions in this country, that they had a cost factor that the federal Government was responsible for. They did not recognize the responsibility there. As a matter of fact, again the same thing happened. You had Alberta sitting at the table supporting the federal Government. Well, there is no reason why they should have to pay.

Well, Alberta Highways budget is about four time, five time higher than Manitoba's. They had a wealth from oil and the Heritage Fund that they could put into such things, a greater base from which to finance their highway systems. They had built them to higher standards. Therefore, they were hardly in a position to worry about funding. Yet they would be the first ones backing up the federal Conservative Minister, and others, if they did not take that side as well, remained silent around the table while their officials said let us not rock the boat because we want this thing to go through. We have to get this thing through.

The fact is some of those Ministers were more worried about a big carrier who wanted to purchase a bunch of tractor trailers, renew his fleet, and he was waiting to find out what the final weights and dimensions were. They said, we cannot go on with this because this operator wants to renew his fleet, some three hundred tractor trailers, and he is waiting on us. We have to make decisions.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

I recognize that is an important concern and criteria. We want the private sector to know what is going on and to understand what the rules are but, at the same time, let us not do it at the expense of the provinces having to put up additional funding when, in fact, the federal Government has a responsibility. We were not successful up to the point in time that I was Minister. I left that portfolio in getting federal funding for this initiative. Subsequently it was signed, I believe, by my colleague who succeeded me in the Highways and Transportation Department. I do not believe we got any recognition for federal funding.

We did make some progress with the idea of a national highways policy. Now I see that the present Minister is promoting that, pushing it forward, a national highways network that exists in almost every other country where the federal Government pays towards the highways a basic network, that interprovincial and international network. So I think that is a step in the right direction. It is not as extensive in this province as the network that the new weights and dimensions apply to. That is unfortunate, because there are costs on those other highways that we are going to have to pick up ourselves. but at least it is a recognition that the federal Government has an obligation. It has paid almost nothing in western Canada towards highways over the last 20 years—a few ad hoc programs. But basically the funding, if any, has gone to Quebec and to the Atlantic provinces. We in western Canada have received very little towards our highway system. So a national highways policy can definitely lead in the right direction and would be supported by us in our Party, in Opposition, because it is something that we pushed for while in Government.

\* (1610)

I regret a great deal, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there was no consideration for federal funding when implementing the Weights and Dimensions Report that was drafted over a number of years at a cost of some \$3 million by all jurisdictions in this country. So we did not get the kind of success there, but I want to tell all Members here that they should recognize that contained in this Act are some provisions that are going to mean higher costs of highway construction in this province because roads are going to be wearing out faster because there are increased weights being allowed, and bridges having to be replaced to meet these increased weights.

We should all be aware of that, at least in this House, and be cognizant of that as we consider Highways Estimates in the future, because it is the Manitoba taxpayers who are going to have to pick up those additional costs because federal Governments were not responsible with regard to their obligations when they increased these weights and dimensions.

Now, the other section that is included in these amendments is The Off-Road Vehicles Act to make The Highway Traffic Act consistent with The Off-Road Vehicles Act that was passed two years ago. That Act, I think, was long overdue. It has caused some controversy amongst owners and operators of three- and four-wheel all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles in this province and other off-road vehicles but it is, I think, a very important Act that was introduced during the time we were in Government to improve the safety, to eliminate the number of injuries and deaths that were occurring by the inappropriate use of these vehicles, by children particularly and by people generally. There had to be some safety steps taken and I think that Act will ensure that indeed the number of injuries and accidents is reduced.

Now, The Highway Traffic Act was not consistent in wording and definition with The Off-Road Vehicles Act, so the Minister now is simply bringing in amendments to clean up The Highway Traffic Act to make it consistent with The Off-Road Vehicles Act. So they are basically housekeeping amendments, and I do not believe will be of any particular significance insofar as controversy.

I would, in summing up my statements, say that I generally support the initiatives here, the amendments that this Minister is bringing forward. They are basically the same as the ones that we would have brought forward and on the same timetable that we had established for the implementation of the National Safety Code and the weights and dimensions studies.

I did have reservations and still do on the weights and dimensions issues. I still have reservations with regard to the National Safety Code in terms of federal funding for these initiatives, and I think that we have to watch closely how this is all going to work because deregulation of our transport industry in this country has profound effects on Manitoba.

We have nine out of 15 of Canada's largest trucking firms headquartered in Manitoba. We have a higher proportion of people employed in the transportation

sector in this province than in other provinces, so we have a lot at stake. That is what we kept saying to these ministerial meetings to the other provinces. Look, this is not something we should just rush into or take lightly. It is very serious and it has potentially profound implications for Manitoba.

Now that we are into it, we should deal with the issues of the drivers and the owner-operators and, if the Liberal critic were raising the issue of operators and owner-operators, I think that we should be looking at amendments that would protect those owner-operators so that they could not be treated the same way they were with Route Canada or the former Route Canada when it was shut down unmercifully by the new owners who, I believe, had no intentions of operating a trucking firm, who simply got into the business to make a buck on the land, some \$30 million, and throw away the operation along with the livelihoods of all the drivers and the owner-operators who were not protected.

I did write to the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger) on that issue, but I do not think that they would necessarily be contained in these particular amendments insofar as the enforcement sections. I think that there should be amendments to The Highway Traffic Act. As a matter of fact, I wrote to the Minister. He wrote back and said, really, they are not asking for that. They have the right to be organized if they want, they can organize under the Labour Code. Then he said these are basically national changes under the labour legislation that should be made not in The Highway Traffic Act. I think there is room for some compromise and consideration there.

Certainly the provincial Government is responsible for inter and intraprovincial trucking by delegation. Intero provincial trucking has been delegated to the provinces from the federal Government so we could, through that delegated authority, pass legislation dealing with protection for owner-operators in this province, I believe. I believe that we could certainly do it for intraprovincial trucking. I believe we could also do it for interprovincial trucking as a result of a delegated authority, and I think there could be requirements for the basic treatment of owner-operators, whether it be standardized contract that would require insurance by the carrier to be provided that would require the protection of the driver. If the trucking firm goes out of business, he would be the first one paid, for example, or he would pay in advance rather than in back payments to the driver so that in fact the driver would not be owed such tremendous amounts of money that they were in the instance of Route Canada—S&S Transport as well. There are going to be more of those. There are going to be more trucking firms going out of business because of the regulation, as I mentioned earlier.

The fact is there is cut-throat competition going to take place. There are going to be more and more entrants into the business in many jurisdictions. Manitoba is holding that off a bit, because I believe we have a responsible Motor Transport Board.

I give the Minister credit for retaining the chairman of the board, who I think has displayed leadership

across this country in taking a responsible position toward deregulation. He in fact wants to make this interim period work. He wants it to be a regulated period, not a deregulated period so that there is a phase-in. The industry wants that. As a matter of fact, we had I think unprecedented support from all sectors in this province for the stand we were taking on the whole deregulation issue over the last couple of years. The industry wanted a slow process that they could adjust to. Labour wanted a process that would protect them and that they could adjust to, and Government wanted it. Of course, the small communities want it, because they want to ensure that their service is there. The City of Winnipeg and the major centres want it because they do not want us losing our major trucking firms to other parts of the country or to the United States.

\* (1620)

So, we have taken a responsible position over the last number of years, and I think we had good cooperation among all sectors, and the Transport Board chairman was an essential part of that. He took a leadership role in representing the Province of Manitoba and the other officials who were involved in influencing them to stop for a moment and consider the implications of what they are proposing to their Ministers. I think that was very necessary considering the climate that we were dealing with, this headlong rush to get into deregulation because it happened to sound good.

I give the Minister credit for retaining the Motor Transport Board chair. He has changed a number of members but, hopefully, they will still attempt to regulate within the new regime in a sensible fashion. At the same time, I think he should have a good discussion with the Transport Board and other officials about the possibility of some protection for this. I think there are pros and cons on both sides. It is not just a black and white issue.

I discussed that at length with officials when I was Minister and with the Transport Board chairman. I know their feelings. I know that they think that there could be something done but maybe it would make our trucking firms uncompetitive. They feel that if we place certain requirements on our trucking firms that are not placed on other trucking firms across the country, we are going to have certain firms in this province going under or moving out of the province, or we are going to have other firms that would have moved in, will not come in, because they think it is not attractive to them if they have certain obligations toward their owner/operators.

That may be, but let us look at the families and the situation that developed at these two trucking firms where these drivers, their owner-operators, dependent contractors, not independent contractors, because in fact their future is tied completely to that carrier when they sign a contract to drive for them even with their own truck. They are not independent, they are dependent. In fact, they suffered a great deal when these closures took place because there was no protection.

With that environment, I would urge the Minister to carefully consider whether there are some steps that

he could take where he could show some leadership, not only in Manitoba but across the country, in discussing with other jurisdictions the need for some protection for owner-operators in light of the incidents that we have seen, the situations that we have seen, here in Manitoba and across the country with closures and shutdowns of businesses as a result of the adjustments that are taking place in this new climate of regulation or deregulation for the trucking industry across the country. I believe there could be some pressure put on the federal Government if enough jurisdictions entered into this issue and recognized the importance of it; pressure put on the federal Government, just as the Minister is doing in following up on the rail line abandonment issue for a new program, a new process that would hopefully ensure some fairness before rail lines are abandoned in this province. He is working with the western provinces as we work to try to get a consensus, so that there is a united voice going forward to the federal Government, working with other provinces. If he could do that in this issue, I think he would have accomplished a great deal.

I think it is worth trying, and I think he could show some leadership in the province by perhaps applying it to intraprovincial trucking initially, if it were a problem with the interprovincial issue in terms of jurisdiction or in terms of the competitive side of it for these carriers who say, well, we will not be competitive. I think he should try his best to get into that issue further and I do not accept the letter that he gave me as a final answer on this issue. I think there is more to it, and I would like to see him work on that for the next Session. I would be pleased to offer my cooperation and involvement in that process to ensure that we can send a message out, both real and symbolic, that we as a Government in this province will not tolerate without trying to alleviate the impacts, will not tolerate a wholesale throwing out of work of employees who have spent many years of their life working in a dedicated fashion for employers and then finding themselves out in the cold because of the new regulation policies that are put in place.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I offer those comments and can indicate to other Members, to the Government, and to the Opposition in this House that some of my colleagues will still want to speak to this Bill to add some additional thoughts, but that we will generally be supportive as soon as possible in moving this Bill along to committee. We will want to discuss the various meanings and implications of the clauses as we go clause by clause in the committee once it has been passed forward.

I would at that time be very interested in what the Liberal Party has been raising as concerns here as to whether they are really talking about something completely different that is not contained in this Bill, which is the issue of owner-operators and how they are treated when the closures take place, as we have just witnessed in this province and in this country with Route Cañada, or in fact whether they are talking about something in this Act that should be changed. I have a feeling that the Liberals have mixed up apples and oranges a bit and they are dealing with some different issues completely that they are raising as a concern

as opposed to the issues that are being dealt with in this Act here at the present time.

I thank you for that opportunity, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and look forward to further discussion on this Bill.

**Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake):** I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), that debate on this Bill be adjourned.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I believe that this Bill is presently standing, or leave has been granted to allow the Bill to stand in the name of the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan).

**Mr. Uruski:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, my apologies. I withdraw that motion.

### **BILL NO. 28—THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS' ORGANIZATION FUNDING ACT**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), Bill No. 28, The Agricultural Producers' Organization Funding Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie). (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 29—THE CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION AMENDMENT ACT**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, (Mr. Findlay), Bill No. 29, The Cattle Producers Association Amendment Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski). (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 30—THE STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT (TAXATION) ACT, 1988**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), Bill No. 30, The Statute Law Amendment Act (Taxation) Act, 1988, standing in the name of the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak). (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 34—THE MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings), Bill No. 34, The Municipal Amendment Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus), the Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

**Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert):** I was standing this Bill so that my colleague from Selkirk may be able to address it. By leave, I will allow her to make representation and allow the Bill to stand in my name after she has concluded.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member have leave to allow the Bill to remain standing in his name? (Agreed)

**Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank the House for giving me leave to speak to this amendment Act.

This Bill that has been introduced has seemed to be introduced in much confusion. In speaking with the City of Brandon, to whom this amendment to the Act was directed, they agree that the Honourable Minister spoke very well to their needs. However, the Act does not always comply to what their needs are requiring. So we do, as the Official Opposition, have some problems with this amendment that is being put forward.

The City of Brandon was wanting two procedures to come into place, one, which is meant to be addressed in this amendment to the Act, whereby the city would like to be able to grant to the University of Brandon funds on an annual basis. Certainly we in the Liberal Party support a city which wishes to support an honourable institution such as a university, and I would make note of the fact that I believe that it is the only city in the province that does so on such a regular basis.

\* (1630)

I think it is very important that communities support all industries in their towns, including schools, colleges and universities, because they do employ many, many people. The offshoots of universities are very numerous and the economics of having students, professors and all the staff that goes with such a large institution, I am sure, is of benefit to any community. So I would imagine that the city in its wisdom, when it yearly talks about and does give money in various ways to the university, that it is considering the ways and means that the university gives back to the town itself.

However, in the amendment to this Act, the manner in which it is proposed allows for any municipality to get into the war, if you wish, of competing in the granting system. This can be advantageous, I suppose, for larger municipalities such as Brandon, but unfortunately in many of the smaller municipalities they can overextend themselves very easily. I do not think anyone in this House wishes to have a municipality, in all good intentions, put itself in a position where they are not being viable in their intentions of giving grants just to attract industries which may or may not give balancing amounts back into their community. So we have some very great problems with an amendment to an Act that allows for such things to take place when in fact, from the research we have looked into, it seems unnecessary, that there perhaps are other places within the Act that municipalities can take into consideration the granting of some considerations to businesses that may wish to come into their town.

So we do wonder why this amendment has been put forward, and we wonder about the management that brought such an amendment forward into this House which (1) was not necessary, and (2) perhaps will be of some problems to municipalities which were not even asking for the amendment. So we do hope that in committee we will be able to really discuss what this Bill is all about, why it was brought forward, is it the proper Bill, will it actually do what it was expected to

do. We have some feelings that it will not be seen as such and, therefore, in committee I think we will be working with both the Government and the other Opposition Party in order to come up with some amendments to the Bill or possibly looking at the Bill as to whether it is really necessary or not.

We fully support Brandon in its request to the Government and we support the Government in wanting to comply to the request. I have had good help with the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings) and I expect, in all goodness, he wanted to put forth a Bill that was beneficial to the City of Brandon. However, we do not want to pass anything in this House, even if it is beneficial to one may not be beneficial to all, when other circumstances can be changed in the Bill, and to put forward a Bill that will be beneficial to the City of Brandon.

Municipalities have various ways of attracting businesses and we have to make sure, as the governing body over municipalities, that they are making grants and tax allotments on a basis that will not put further municipal councils into problems.

We hope that a body such as the Department of Municipal Affairs that oversees the municipalities, they will take the responsibility in making sure that this Bill, if it is not doing what is necessary, will maybe look at it again and will have some open discussions with this. It is quite interesting to note that a legal counsel for the Government and spokespeople in the department seem to have conflicting attitudes of what this Bill does. So I think there are many questions on this Bill and, though we do support the intent of what originally it was set out to do, we have problems with what actually is stated.

I think, on behalf of our Party, and I know others will speak to this Bill, we support the intent of it but have problems with the actual wording and perhaps what was actually put forward. We wish Brandon well and we want to pass as quickly as possible what is necessary for the City of Brandon to make grants to the University of Brandon and to change their Police Commission.

I think to that end, Bill 50, I believe it is, in amending The Charter of Brandon Act, does that for their Police Commission, but this Bill needs some amendments and it needs to be looked at again. We look forward to taking it to committee as quickly as possible and entertaining whatever is necessary to amend The Municipal Act in the proper way, not in a hasty way, so that the City of Brandon will have what is necessary but other municipalities will not be held hostage by a Bill that allows things to happen which may not be beneficial for their own community.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** This Bill shall remain standing in the name of the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus), as leave was granted earlier.

### **BILL NO. 38—THE MENTAL HEALTH AMENDMENT ACT**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), Bill No. 38, The Mental Health Amendment Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles). (Stand)

### **BILL NO. 40—THE CITY OF WINNIPEG AMENDMENT ACT (2)**

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), Bill No. 40, The City of Winnipeg Amendment Act (2), standing in the name of the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus).

**Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to address the Bill that has been introduced to the House by my honourable colleague, the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). If I may be permitted to make some general comments about the methodology and the process, then I would like to address some of the specifics of the Bill.

I am concerned with a piecemeal, politically motivated method of producing legislation. I think that there are a number of things that can be corrected within the City of Winnipeg. I think there are a number of things that need to be improved and a number of things that need to be addressed. I believe that when a number of these amendments are made in a heavy-handed, autocratic fashion with a limited amount, if any, discussion that it is not conducive to good business nor is it conducive to good legislation.

When legislation is introduced in this Chamber and a limited amount of time is given to address the cause and effect of the legislation, when pressures are brought to bear on a membership that has already stretched its limits of participation, when Members find it extremely difficult even to pay attention, let alone to take the time to find out and discern the incredible impacts that legislation can have, when we get into a traditional self-serving, hurry-up mode that says let us get the job done at all costs, what we have then is bad legislation that has negative impact.

I speak in relation to this particular Bill that affects the City of Winnipeg. My words are addressed to all of the Members of the governing body who have at their fingertips, their ability to bring forward legislation with accurate background information, with an accurate opportunity to persuade the Members of the Opposition, to persuade the general public, to take the information to the street and say, this is what we want to do. Fundamentally, we can agree to disagree if we understand the impact or the cause and the effect. When we see legislation being entered into and being discussed in ramrod fashion, in the 19th hour, at the last minute. When the majority of Members have not had an opportunity to appropriately discuss or decipher or interpret or to measure the cause and effect of legislation, it is a poor process.

So while I appreciate to a certain extent the Honourable Member of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) being kind enough to provide myself and my honourable colleagues in the third Party his introductory speaker's notes, and I found that a very progressive step, it still unfortunately only came to us in a matter of 10 days or so ago. Now I find myself in a vacuum, not having sufficient information, not having had an opportunity to measure the impact or get a response from the City of Winnipeg as to their feelings on it.

\* (1640)

I see legislation on the table that says that we are going to go to 23 members of City Council before a commission that has been set up to publicly hear what the public has to say about the cause and effect. For the life of me, I do not understand the process. What on earth happens if this commission comes back in and says we should have 42 councillors? What do we do then? We have legislation here that the Minister has already said he wants 23. Not only is he directing the outcome of this commission, which I am not sure if it is parliamentary or not, but it certainly can be construed as a little bit of interference. If a man who commissions them says, these are the results I want you to come up with, they are cutting the cloth to fit the pattern instead of looking at the overall system and saying this is what we think would be the best to serve the City of Winnipeg. Whether I ultimately agree with the number of 23 or not is not the question. The question is the process. The process, quite frankly, is wrong. There is something drastically wrong with the process.

Just while I am on 23, as I mentioned to you earlier, I am going to address the specifics of the Bill in a few minutes. Generally, I want to try and understand the process of what I would hope collectively we would address as good legislation or we would try to bring out good legislation. I agree and I applaud the democratic process where the Honourable Member of the third Party and the Honourable Government Members can disagree with the Official Opposition as to how we would accomplish things for the betterment of the city.

When I see self-fulfilling politically motivated, ramrod, autocratic type of legislation being foisted upon this Legislature in the last minutes of a Session, I think to myself there is something wrong with the process. So, if there is a message to be delivered, it is that this legislation nor any legislation should be dealt with in a speedy fashion unless there is an absolute necessity. When legislation is dealt with in a speedy fashion and it is identified as being necessary, then we should have all of the facts. We should have the Members of the Official Opposition and those other interested Members of the Legislature brought into a particular situation and briefed on the reasons and the necessity. If there is agreement and if there is common sense to legislation that is required, we are not ogres, we are not monsters, we are not thorns in the side of the democratic process. We are willing participants in trying to do what we think is right. But to have it done in this fashion, I think is not right and I think that the whole process is desperately in need of review in order to be able to give the citizens of Manitoba what they sincerely want, and that is effective legislation and effective Government.

Let me move into the specifics of the Bill. I broke it into three sections. The three sections have to do with the number of city councillors that the Minister has indicated that he is setting out. That is one section. The second section has to do with the 15 percent business tax across the board ceiling, the level that has been established. The third section is the auditor's powers.

Let me begin with the auditor's powers first, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It might rightfully be referred to as the Shapiro Amendment, or the Red River Exhibition or Rainbow Stage Amendment.<sup>1</sup> In principle, agree that if the city finds itself contributing money—or the Winnipeg Enterprises, as my honourable friend from Concordia (Mr. Doer) says, the Winnipeg Enterprises. I think that beyond having the Chief Commissioner of the City of Winnipeg or his designate—which in a lot of cases was Jim Gilmore, the City Treasurer, and a very honourable man—sit at the Board of Governors of the Winnipeg Enterprises Corporation is not enough. Yes, the auditor should be able to go in and take a look at how that money is being invested and make sure that the citizens of Winnipeg are having their tax dollars invested in an appropriate and legitimate fashion.

So while I agree with that, it has not gone far enough. It has not gone far enough and this one action by the Government, while it is commendable, underlines the difficulty that I as a Member have of taking something out of isolation and passing it as something that is necessary. There are a number of things that the auditor of the City of Winnipeg should be allowed to do. Operational audit is a fairly common buzzword. What it means is, do we get good value for the monies that we invest? The auditor who is in there looking at numbers in particular operations within the City of Winnipeg has no authority to come back and tell the decision makers, his superiors, the councillors, or the decision makers that there is something wrong, that we are not getting the return on our investment dollars, whether it is computer services, whether it is garbage pickup, whether it is anything. He does not have the authority to do that, and I think that he should have the authority to do that.

But I am wondering now what would be the effect of introducing legislation broadening his power if in fact this particular amendment is passed. Will it conflict with future amendments? Will we have to work around the amendments? I believe that to take this one thing out of isolation and put it on the table as saying something should be going ahead is the wrong way to go about doing business in the City of Winnipeg.

I think that the Government, through the official delegation or through the process, should sit down with the City of Winnipeg official delegation and say, give us a list. I think City Council functions very well, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They will set an ad hoc committee and they will look. They will meet with the auditor, and Members of the Opposition are invited to sit in with the chairman of the committee and the people who are on the ad hoc committee and together they look at what the auditor wants. They look at what other legislation vehicles are available from other Governments, in other municipalities, in other jurisdictions, and they come to some common ground that is going to give the auditor more powers in a total package, and then that goes through a public process.

But in this particular arena, everything is different. It comes in and it says, here is something we are going to put in and you should take it or leave it, accept it or do not accept it. I am put in a very uncomfortable

position of having to defend why I do not want to pass a particular piece of legislation right now that may in fact not be good legislation in the overall scheme of things. On its surface, it sounds like a good legislation and I think that I am very supportive of that, but I am supportive of it going further. So I find myself in a political conundrum.

The conundrum is, if I vote against this particular increase in the auditor's power, then I am really going to look like I do not support giving him more powers, but in fact I support giving him more powers. I am not exactly sure how to do it. I can stand up here and I can say to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), why do you not sit down with me, I have a whole file on changes in the auditor's rules and regulations. I have stood up in the House and asked you questions on it. I do not see any of them in there. When are you going bring them in? What effect will this particular legislation have on the total changes that you might be making next month or next year and why have you separated them? Why do you not put it together in one package? A number of these questions I find difficult to answer.

Let me move to the 15 percent business tax. Again, the Minister in his briefing notes, he says, "Is this not great, we are going to make it easy and streamline the business tax portion." If I may regress to the statements of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) in the beginning of the term when he introduced the Budget and indeed the Throne Speech, the Government waxed eloquent about the benefits to small business that they were going to be giving, and they took a great deal of pride in suggesting that they were going to be reducing the payroll tax and that they were going to be helping thousands and thousands of small businessmen. Well, I applaud that. I think that is a very good and worthy goal, and I would like to help in that process, I would like to see that happen, I would like to help make that happen. But here I see that they are reducing business tax from a number of different variables to allow the city to charge tax at whatever they want, but what they have put on there is that they can not go over 15 percent.

• (1650)

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

So I said to myself, well what is it now? So I dug out The City of Winnipeg Act, and I find that all of the large insurance companies, the oil companies and big companies of that nature are currently paying up around 20 percent. So I think to myself, well, is not that great? All my Tory buddies are giving all the big businesses in town a break. So I went a little bit further, Mr. Speaker. I happened to look at the rolls for the Great West Building right across the street, 100 Osborne Street North. And I said, how much business tax does the Great West Life, from that building, pay to the City of Winnipeg? Well, they pay close to half a million dollars, Mr. Speaker. Bringing it down to 15 percent is going to give them a \$25,000 break. That does not sound like an awful lot of money, does it? That is one company.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is, who is going to pay that \$25,000.00? Is that \$25,000 going to be jacked

around to every small business in the City of Winnipeg? Is it just going to be wiped right out? I mean, are you going to forget about it? Is the city going to put it on the property taxpayers? I see the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) nodding his head, and I am sure that he would like to be able to participate in this debate and perhaps even clear up for me where this money is going to come from, how the city is going to manage it, and really what it means, Mr. Speaker, because I will tell you that I am prepared to support legislation of this nature. I am prepared to support legislation if the Government can show me that it is necessary, that it is needed, if they can show me the cause and effect, if they can tell me who in fact is going to be picking up the slack, because it turns out to be just a bit of a shell game.

When they say on one hand, we want to help small businesses, we are going to reduce the payroll tax, we are going to give them a break so they can develop businesses. Then they turn around and the very first tax break they give are to the people that are big, that are humongous corporations and companies. If it is an unfair tax, Mr. Speaker, it is an unfair tax, and it should be righted. The wrong should be righted and maybe there is a better system, but I will be darned if I can—and I am sorry if that is unparliamentary, Mr. Speaker. The facts are that I will be snookered if I can find in this legislation any explanation of the cause and effect of what it means.

I have not heard anything from the City of Winnipeg. I asked the chairman of Finance if he knew anything about it. He knew squat about it at that time, but he was going to look into it. He had a big staff. I asked colleagues on the street if they know what it means. They do not know what it means. I asked chartered accountants and the Big Blue Machines, do they know what it means. No, they do not know what it means. And here I am expected to stand here and vote on it. Now I ask you, what is going on? What is going on? What does it mean to the businesses of this community? Is it a good thing or is it not a good thing? So, how do I put my name to this piece of legislation when it is really difficult to understand the cause and effect.

My honourable friends in the third Party may have an awful lot more information at their fingertips because they were there before. I came from the City of Winnipeg. I know the structure, I know that there might need to be some amendments made but, if I was making the changes in this, I would leave those big guys paying what they are paying right now. I would not change it for them. I would cap what they are paying, Mr. Speaker, and I would change it all down the road for the little guys. I would let the City Council make the adjustments below that. But do not rob Peter in terms of Great West Life to make all of the little Pauls in the country pay. It just does not make sense. It is not going to work.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me move more specifically to the size of City Council and these proposed amendments. Again, I find myself in an extremely difficult situation for a couple of reasons, and I have really tried not to stand up and participate in a public debate on the size of City Council because I believe

in the public hearing process. A public hearing process says that we have appointed some honourable people to look at the size of City Council, the boundary sizes, the ward sizes, the numbers of people out there, and they are hearing people from the public coming in. To have a Minister introduce legislation that pre-empts what the commissioners are doing, what the public hearing process is doing, seems to me to be meddling.

Again, I do not know, I am a victim of the process, Mr. Speaker. Maybe that is how Governments work. Maybe Governments stand up and say this is what we want and now we will send it out to the public and we will get the public to tell us what they want but, before the public responds, we will introduce a Bill to tell them that this is what we are going to do. Is that the way it works? It does not sound like it is a reasonable system.

I notice that the Minister, in his opening remarks, suggested that they were going to allow City Council's position. He was going to allow City Council to make their position known on this. Well, City Council, at least through the media, has said, no, they do not want it. They stood up and they said, no, we do not want to do it. Do you know why they said—they did not say that 23 was the wrong number. They pointed out that Cherniack, after months of hearings, after listening to hundreds and hundreds of representations and different people, of having people like the former commissioner of the City of Winnipeg, D.I. MacDonald, and other credible citizens, knowledgeable citizens, after months and months, they came in and they said we think there should be 24, but we think that you should sit down and look at the package, look at the responsibilities of the council and look at the responsibilities of the community committee, look at the responsibilities of the Mayor, get those things into line and then get the council numbers amended.

The Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) suggests that this is a Mickey Mouse Bill, and it may or may not be a Mickey Mouse Bill. I respect the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) for his belief in his representation and for his straightforwardness. For him to bring in this piecemeal piece of legislation leaves me wondering whether or not he is working in isolation. I wonder who he is getting his marching orders from. I wonder who he is getting his instructions from.

While it may appear to be politically expedient to make a maneuver of this nature, and while the general population in the mind of the Minister from Riel (Mr. Ducharme) might be that the public is going to think that I am doing something wonderful by reducing City Council, above and beyond the numbers of city councillors, the public wants to see good, positive, well-thought-out legislation that is going to have a constructive and positive impact on the way they function in their day-to-day operations and in the way they carry out their business in the City of Winnipeg. To have a knee-jerk reaction for the purpose of politicking, to introduce legislation before the public hearing process is concluded, is not only wrong but it is misguided.

Mr. Speaker, it is a new portfolio and being in Government is new to the Minister of Urban Affairs

(Mr. Ducharme), being at least in the Government in the sense of being in power, and I suspect he was anxious to please as we all are anxious to see things happen in Government and anxious to please, but I do not believe that this is the way to go. There does not appear to be any logical explanation. At least, it does not appear that the Minister has researched the logic of having it.

He has said that other jurisdictions, like I suppose Calgary or Edmonton or Vancouver or Toronto, have fewer councillors. That is a pretty good argument, but we are not Edmonton or Toronto or Calgary or San Francisco, or any of those cities. We are Winnipeg. Winnipeg has grown looking forward to having a reasonable elected council that is going to maintain taxes at a tolerable limit and provide the type of city that they want to live in. So do not base it on what Toronto has got. Look at the needs of representation by population.

Do not try to tell me that we should have exactly the same number of problems and complaints and concerns from the Inner City that we do from St. Norbert. Quite frankly, I could look after twice as many constituents in my area when I was a city councillor than the Member for Burrows (Mr. Chornopyski) could in his area in downtown when he was at City Council, not because of any ability but simply because the problems have different impact. They take different responsibilities and they take different directions. There is a different need for the type of response that has to be paid attention to with the core area types of problems. They can be working just as hard with 10,000 people or 12,000 people in the centre of the city as you can with 25,000 people in the outskirts, as a simple example, Mr. Speaker. For the Minister to suggest in his opening remarks that he is going to save \$130,000 of taxpayers' dollars by reducing City Council by six or seven people is—(Interjection)—The Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) insists on trying to write my speech. Now I am frightened, Mr. Speaker.

\* (1700)

The facts are that it is really quite ridiculous to make the suggestion that he is going to do it to save money, because that kind of convoluted logic carried to its extreme means that we eliminate the elected City Council in the City of Winnipeg. We save hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars on a regular basis and he can run the City of Winnipeg from his department. That just simply does not make sense. It does not make sense at all.

Quite frankly, if you make the logical assumption that there is exactly the same amount of work with half the number of councillors or two-thirds the number of councillors, that means that (a) they are probably going to demand more money because they are going to be overworked, they are going to be suggesting they are overworked. But if they do not demand more money, they are going to be demanding that they have research students or research assistants or secretaries or staff to help do all of this work.

I was there when they reduced council from 50 to 29. I went through those arguments, I remember those



arguments. There was no legitimate dollar-and-cents saving to the citizens of Winnipeg. That Member should have known; he should be aware of that. That is not a logical argument that is going to wash very far with me.

So again I say explain the Bill to me. Sit down with me in a logical fashion and say this is what we want to do and this is why we want to do it and this is how we are going to go about doing it. Let me, in a legitimate fashion, as a critic for Urban Affairs, as a former Deputy Mayor, as a 12-year member of City Council, say I think that I have got some positive input into how we can both make the City of Winnipeg a better place to live. If you are prepared to listen, if you are prepared to work with me, I am prepared to try and help you. I am sorry that my time is up. I feel like I am just getting on a roll but—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Angus:** —I would be more than pleased—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. When this matter is again before the House, the Honourable Member will have 14 minutes remaining.

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

**Mr. Speaker:** The hour being 5 p.m., time for Private Members' Business.

#### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

#### RES. NO. 11—WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak), Resolution No. 11, Waste Management, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), who has three minutes remaining.

**Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk):** With three minutes left, I would just like to again reiterate that I do not believe that recycling should only be considered for the cities of Winnipeg and Brandon, that other municipalities within the province would very wholeheartedly jump behind a recycling program.

As many of those in rural communities know that in the past, on farms, it was very easy to recycle. We always did it. We always separated our garbage, as I recall on the farm, between tins and glass that went to the dump, between the slop pail that went to the pigs, and that which went to the trash barrel to be burned. So I think it is very natural for rural people to separate their recyclables and keep it going into the community as in recyclable materials.

I would also commend the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery) for putting in the aluminum can recycling program in the House, as I suggested in my maiden speech. I suppose, if there is any reward in being in Opposition, it is to see something that you have suggested come into being. I think the tone of cooperation is what we should see in this House, and

I appreciate the Minister in picking up that suggestion. I would only add to that suggestion that I think there should be smaller barrels for aluminum recycling in some of the offices as the boxes that now are available are very large and take up a large space if they are in private offices.

So I would recommend that this resolution be supported and the general tone of it, recycling as a necessity, in the new century we will be coming into, we cannot afford to devastate our land just to use it. We have to learn how to manage it, how to use everything we can to the utmost before we just throw it away. Let us hope that our children will not be a member of the throw-away generation but they will be a member of the recycling generation. I support this resolution in its intent and hope that the whole Legislature will do so as well.

#### COMMITTEE CHANGE

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Second Opposition House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might have leave to make committee changes.

I move, seconded by the Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Economic Development be amended as follows: Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper).

#### RES. NO. 11—WASTE MANAGEMENT (Cont'd)

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** I am pleased to be able to rise to speak to this resolution. It is rather fortuitous that we are discussing a resolution dealing with the importance of waste management today, given the events of the last several days which has seen, I guess, the most dire predictions of people who initiated the environmental concern and who were spokespeople for the rest of us when it came to the whole issue of the appropriate disposal of waste in our society.

We currently have in Leaf Rapids a situation where previous generations of people, previous employers and employees did not foresee the kinds of dangers which would be evident and facing people of today when they were storing their waste and developing landfill sites and trying to operate their businesses in an efficient way without due regard for the consequences of their actions. The fact of the matter is that the situation in Leaf Rapids, I think, is instructional. We have a circumstance where people of a generation ago, a decade ago did not always understand the consequences of their particular style of waste management.

The fact of the matter is that in Ruttan Mine the then owner, Sherritt Gordon, along with hundreds and hundreds of other companies of that period, operating in that period, did not take seriously the jeopardy that they were placing both the environment and individual health in when they disposed of waste. I do not think that anyone in their right mind would claim that their actions, the actions at that time were intentionally environmentally destructive, nor were they intentionally negligent.

The fact of the matter is that there was a period in our history, and unfortunately it is too recent a period, when none of us really understood the implications of dealing with waste in our society. I should emphasize that we are not simply talking about industrial waste, we are not simply talking about PCBs in the oil in our transformers or in our machinery, we are talking about waste of all kinds, whether we are talking about waste in households, paper waste, glass waste, plastic waste or toxic waste, chemicals that we use on a routine, a daily basis in individual households across the province and across the country.

We have pollutants and waste which are hazardous in our schools. The Manitoba Teachers' Society recently prepared a report to the Department of Education outlining the extent to which hazardous materials are being used in our schools, in our science labs, in our art classes, in our shops, in our industrial arts programs, dozens and dozens and dozens of hazardous materials, materials that require some care before disposal or during disposal.

We have hazards in our waste that are being disposed from offices, not industrial offices but common routinely used materials in our offices, whether they come from the copying machine, the copying fluids, the electronic equipment that is being used. It is well known, well understood that many of the materials that go into the composition of products being used in our offices are hazardous. They produce tonnes and tonnes on an annual basis of waste which needs to be disposed of in a responsible manner. Clearly, our workplaces, the industrial, the light industrial workplaces, are also filled with chemicals that require care when we are about to dispose of them. So we have got a serious problem that this generation has to confront if we are going to fulfill our commitment to leave the next generation of Manitobans, the next generation of Canadians, the next generation of citizens of this world, with a planet which is inhabitable. If we are not going to be part of the problem, we are going to be part of the solution.

\* (1710)

This resolution, I think, is necessary because it focuses for all of us the desire and the need for collective action when it comes to waste management. I think, as a Government previously, we can be criticized for not doing enough to support the development of a comprehensive waste management system in the province. I think we did take some productive first steps. The development, the legislation which produced the Hazardous Waste Management Corporation, I think, is a positive step. Certainly, the Hazardous Waste Management Corporation is going to help the province in time deal with those few hundred or perhaps few thousand elements in our society which are most dangerous and most difficult to preserve or dispose of in our society.

But clearly, there are all kinds of ways that individual businesses and individuals can get involved in waste management in the province. Our Government and the previous Minister responsible for the Environment were also instrumental in the development of the voluntary association of soft drink manufacturers and bottlers

who are involved in the recycling program that we saw announced for this Legislature. The fact is that there is a voluntary program that is operating in a number of communities but, I think quite clearly, not in every community and not in all parts of the province. So we have some way to go, but a start was made.

Mr. Speaker, we saw the introduction of something called the Hazardous Waste Days in which Winnipeggers were encouraged to take their hazardous waste from their households and have it disposed in an environmentally safe way, in a way that would not jeopardize the health or safety of family members or our environment.

Mr. Speaker, we are perhaps all guilty of not doing enough as individuals to promote appropriate waste management. There are too many in our society who are reluctant to get involved on a voluntary basis or any structured way with recycling program for products like paper and glass and plastic. There are too many of us who do not take enough care when disposing of materials from our households, from our garages. We have to take some individual responsibility.

But I think the Government in the final analysis has to provide the leadership for the vast majority of Manitobans. Certainly, it has to provide the leadership for industry in this province. I think that one of the flaws that we have seen in the current regime of environmental protection legislation, waste management protection legislation, is the reluctance of Governments to be more directive. The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery) currently has said he is not prepared to implement legislation requiring the recycling of soft drink cans, aluminum cans, non-returnable glass bottles, other glass material. Some other jurisdictions have taken on that responsibility.

I think we all recognize that it cannot be done easily. While there is a political up side in being seen to respond to the needs of the environment, the down side is that the consumer ultimately is going to pay more for goods, for products which need to be or can be or should be recycled. But I think we need to have some leadership there. I think the majority of Manitobans are extremely close to the point where that kind of legislation will be positively received, where introducing that kind of legislation will be a positive mark on the Government's record and not something that they will have to defend.

So, I hope the Minister of the Environment will, over time, change his mind about the necessity for that kind of legislation, because I think it will be in our best interests if that kind of legislation were to proceed.

Mr. Speaker, we know that, apart from the dangers that many types of waste have for our environment, there is also the other side of it which is the need to preserve scarce resources. We are wasting our forests, we are wasting our water, we are wasting our mineral resources. We are wasting them. Waste management means more than managing those hazardous chemicals which pollute our environment, those hazardous chemicals which are causing our environment to deteriorate. We also have a responsibility to preserve our resources and waste management, particularly the recycling programs but not solely the recycling

programs, should allow us to have a heritage to pass on to our children when it comes to our resources.

Our supplies of oil and gas, supplies of lumber and wood products are not inexhaustible. I do not think anybody believes that and, to the extent that we institute a recycling program and make it mandatory for oil products, for example, I think we are doing a service to the next generation of Manitobans and Canadians.

So we have the benefit of protecting our environment from carcinogens and other physically dangerous substances. We have the benefit of protecting the environment from degradation. We have the benefit of allowing us to preserve, to minimize the utilization of our scarce resources, our natural resources, and finally we have an aesthetic benefit, if you will, of having an environment and living in an environment which is fundamentally clean, which is not strewn with junk and debris, the bits and pieces of our daily lives that we cast aside. It is also a part of the general quality of life that we all want to enjoy.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that there are at least four good reasons to promote the idea that waste management is fundamental to our well-being, and I hope that this Legislature will see fit to pass this resolution. I hope that other Members of the Chamber will do, and I include myself in this, more than we have done in the past.

Clearly, there are individuals in this Chamber who are models for other people, who we serve as exemplars I guess of society in some sense. I think we can do more in the future to live with a greater resolve to do things that are environmentally worthwhile and protect the environment. So it is going to be a challenge to each of us to support not only the resolution in principal, not only the resolution by word of mouth but to support this resolution by individual action.

I certainly believe that one of the things that I could do is stop using styrofoam cups. In fact, I actually have. Unfortunately, we ran out of the paper product but, Mr. Speaker, this is probably my previous cup. So I am trying to refrain from using styrofoam cups because I think they are, in the scope of things, more environmentally costly than paper cups. However, I make the point that using paper cups is probably not as good an option as using ceramic mugs in this Chamber, and I am not sure whether the rules allow us to bring coffee mugs in here. But clearly, if we actually believe in what we are saying, we should be bringing coffee mugs in or not drinking anything in the Chamber, but either one of these products costs the environment, one because we are losing our forests and the other because we are adding to the environmental pollution, to the degradation of our environment, perhaps even the ozone layer.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important resolution. I look forward to some of the comments of other Members of the Legislature. I hope that they are supportive. I know my colleague would like to see unanimous support for this resolution, as it moves through this Legislature. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources):** Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is interesting that the

comments made from the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) as he referred to somebody recycling himself. Keystone Agricultural Producers, by the way, is a farm organization that he referred to and is an organization that has, I guess, been very, very concerned about environmental issues as well as waste products and how they affect the very environment that our rural people live in today, and have voiced their concerns on numerous different occasions.

\* (1720)

I think it is important to note that most people, be they either urbanites or rural people, be they people who occasion out in the countryside to look at our many, many interesting resources that we have; whether it is in northern Manitoba, western Manitoba or eastern Manitoba; whether it be on fishing trips or on just nature ventures, would find it somewhat abhorring sometimes, to witness the very kind of environment that we leave behind as human beings sometimes. It is certainly not the kind of situation that I would like to encourage my family or my family's family to have to live with or a legacy that I would want to leave behind.

It is also very interesting to note that farmers, agricultural people, have throughout history, I guess, been known to be leaders in the areas of waste management, and it is not very many years ago—I guess I was just a small youngster—when machinery was starting to be used on the farm and horses were sort of phased out of the operations. But many farmers at that time when I grew up still used horses to a large degree to work their land and to bring in the crops, to harvest their crops, those kind of things.

It is interesting now to note that during those times of years there was no trouble with waste management because the management of our waste materials was done right on the place of business, in other words, the farm. You harvested a crop or you put a crop in the ground and the waste that occurred such as the exhaust emissions, if you will, were dropped right in the field and incorporated into the land and became part of the fertilizing process that farmers were dependent on to raise their next year's crop.

During the winter months, of course, we disposed of our waste and the exhaust emissions of the horsepower that we had at that time and stacked them outside, piled it outside in large piles, and in spring we loaded it all back up on to little vehicles and transferred the waste or the exhaust emissions out to the field and incorporated it into the land and used it as fertilizer. It was, I guess, one of the most efficient and best-managed waste cycling systems that I have yet to observe.

However, now we are into a different era and we have different problems. I guess advancement and technology and all those kinds of things bring on adverse kinds of problems, because now we talk about emissions in another way and we blow our emissions into the skies, which leads toward the deterioration of our ozone layer which we are, I guess, experiencing to some degree now. It leads people to predict that we

are into a different cycle, into the greenhouse, and we are experiencing now, I suppose, somewhat the greenhouse effect.

It is an effect, really, of actions that we as human beings have brought upon ourselves, and you wonder sometimes how those kinds of actions will affect our future and how we do business in the future, whether it is necessary to spend large amounts of money through public funds, through granting organizations or corporations, monies to put in place management techniques or maybe even recycling facilities, such as the request for the resolution is, and how Government should be involved in the decision-making process as to how to stem the flow of pollution that I believe we, as human beings, have brought upon ourselves. I think it is interesting to note that probably one of the most efficient ways to dispose of some of the products that are by-products of our daily lives has been the invention of a furnace that I first saw put in use some seven or eight years ago while I was still in business. We in our business found that there was a manufacturer of a heating furnace that used discarded oil.

In the automobile business, you of course would realize that you collect large amounts of discarded oil, and it becomes a problem to dispose of these products from time to time. But we happened to have a large cistern that had been built under the building as a storage place for water that was used to either wash cars or implements or whatever it may be and, when the business was connected up to the town water system, this area of course became an area that could be used for something else. So we started dumping our oil into this large reservoir. It was a 10,000 gallon cistern, and we in fact filled this place up during the course of the year with used oil. We bought a furnace and installed it in the garage, and we used the oil that we collected throughout the year to heat the place in winter.

I guess it is that process, and I indicate that because that process was a process that was not invented by Government or the invention of which was not even supported by Government, but was invented by some entrepreneur who thought he could find a way of using the by-products of his business to go the other step, to heat the very business that he ran. The business that we were in became an almost self-supporting sort of a business while we were disposing of an extremely unmanageable by-product of our industry to dispose of. We disposed of it in a rather unique way and, in fact, harvested the benefits to the business and being able to run a much more efficient operation.

I believe there are many other areas where we could use similar kinds of techniques to recycle or get rid of the very waste or the by-products that we use on a daily basis. I believe there was some discussion not too many years ago in the City of Winnipeg about the possibility of installing a large incinerator and using the heat that would be generated from the incinerator to at least heat part of some of our public buildings, again a very innovative type of a way to dispose of products that we set aside or sometimes even throw on the wayside and cause our environment to deteriorate, not only to deteriorate but it distracts from the beauty of our landscape.

It is also, I guess, somewhat interesting to me when I look upon the whole waste management area and how we go about progressing at this stage of the game. When we look at our renewable resources that take large amounts of technology to maintain, whether it is through fisheries or forestry or agriculture, we have large numbers of problems from time to time. I refer to situations that have periodically arisen that have affected the City of Winnipeg somewhat.

In fall of the year, when farmers have finished harvesting their crops, they have at times real difficulty to dispose of some of the residues that are left behind in machinery. Sometimes, the only way to dispose of these residues is to put a match to the residues and burn them off the fields so that the farmers can in fact keep on farming and use the land next year to produce another crop.

\* (1730)

However, again there has been another technique employed in using those residues some other way and an industry has been established. I refer to the flax straw industry. There are, especially this year, some fairly severe shortages of good quality flax straw. I know some of the people in my part of the province have established an industry that crush the flax straw and take the linen fibre out of the flax straw and export to the United States mostly and some of it to Europe to make either linen or very fine paper. These flax straws can, in fact, be baled and stored for many years out in an open field. Maybe we should encourage farmers and others, through an educational process, to use the very industries that have been created and maybe even become involved in expanding the industries that are dependent on those residues that sometimes become somewhat irritant to us when they are disposed of in another way. I suppose one could go on and discuss many other areas of disposable or waste management areas, especially in rural Manitoba.

I think it is urban Manitoba that probably has a much larger problem with getting rid of their waste than do some of the rural areas. When we drive by some of the landfill sites that we have to drive by at times, whether it is the City of Winnipeg or the City of Brandon or towns like Portage or Altona even, these landfill sites become somewhat unsightly at times. Those of us who have been given the responsibility of ensuring that the future of our province and the environment that we live in will be maintained and enhanced over a long period of time need to pay attention to those very issues and the eyesores that have been created by the use of products, such as the Honourable Member opposite was referring to a little while ago. The styrofoam cup, I suppose, is one of the products that maybe we can do away with and do without.

I believe that there are a number of other products that are the by-product of advancement and advanced technology that maybe need to be revisited, and maybe other products can be invented to replace some of the products that we have such as styrofoam that we have become so dependent on from time to time.

I see the light is on in my little podium here. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether that means I should end my

remarks and, if it does, I would just like to wind up by saying that I have appreciated very much the time that has been allotted to me to express my views on waste management and the disposal of waste and maybe how to generate some interest and some other methods of disposing of the by-products of our modern world.

**Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake):** I am very pleased to participate in the debate this afternoon on a motion of my colleague, the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak), dealing with a matter that, as noted by the speeches here this afternoon, concerns all Members of this Assembly and, I am sure, all members of society in one way or another. Whether it is the housekeeper in a home, whether it is the employee in a grocery store, whether it is an attendant at a service station, all people in whatever environment or whatever occupation they may be in do face and do from time to time recognize, I guess, our wastefulness as a society.

Clearly, this issue takes on so many forms and it almost befuddles most of us to say, where do we begin in dealing with the question of waste management and how do we conserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) certainly touched on a number of very practical ways in which the farm community and others in society have used some of the wastes that are produced, whether it be in the form of used oil or whether it be in the form of flax straw for paper production and linen production. All those kinds of examples are, I guess, a little bit of a step in the right direction.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

There is one area that we, I believe, in this country will have to come to grips with very seriously, and that is the kind of project that was begun by the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery) here in this building of sorting out what is commonly known as trash and trying to make use of recycling of paper, whether it be paper, whether it be metal in the form of cans, whether it be glass. We are very wasteful as a society and the evidence is all around us, whether it is the several parks within the City of Winnipeg, whether it is the quarter section of land in the northeast corner—what is the name of the street?—just near Lagimodiere and Birds Hill, near Springfield Road, the Springfield landfill site, which is now becoming a golf course and a park, whether it is the Brady landfill site here in the south of Winnipeg. We are using up massive amounts of productive agricultural land to do what, Mr. Deputy Speaker? To bury our garbage.

I mean, talk about long-term waste of productive environment around us and the difficulty that we have as a society in dealing with this, and it has multiplied. In speaking with my colleague here, the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Laurie Evans), it has multiplied over and over again throughout rural Manitoba by every landfill site that is there. We do not know whether some of the commodities—and I call them commodities—or wastes that we put into those areas are being adequately dealt with so that there is protection against leakage into the environment. Perhaps we have to as a society—not only perhaps, we have to as a society

take some very stringent steps in dealing with some of the common wastes that are generated.

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner), in his speech about the invention of a furnace to utilize the used oil from our automobiles, clearly we may have to have a requirement that—and I am not certain that it is practised widely in rural Manitoba, but I am sure there are many service station operators who are using it but I believe there may be others who would not be disposing of their waste oil in a prudent manner. We really have to begin to take stock of this and bring in policies and regulations to start zeroing in on these matters on, I guess, an issue-by-issue basis, and slowly begin to clean up the pollution that we are all guilty of because we are all certainly part of the problem and we have to be all part of that solution, whether it be in the minor program of beginning of the collection of paper, tin cans and glass here in this building and having it recycled. We should attempt to carry that on into our homes.

\* (1740)

I know in our own case on the farm, and here is the difficulty, we do separate the garbage that we collect in our own farm. The paper, we are able to burn that in a wood furnace. The decomposable garbage is put out on the field and the tin cans and glass are stored. Ultimately, because of the lack of recycling facilities, we end up carrying them to the dump and adding them to the pile. The farm community as well in terms of the herbicide containers, many of which are of plastic—and we know that the burning of plastics causes serious defects to our environment. So, the collection and the buildup continues.

I believe there should be, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for example in herbicides, a way of having five or six collection areas even per municipality. I am sure there would be farmers who would be prepared to use an old storage building or something for the collection of those plastic containers to in fact be reused, but it is a matter for the industry to start coming to grips with this whole area.

Most provinces where there is, for example, a large agricultural base, the reformulation procedures and the factories for filling those containers are in fact virtually within 100 to 200 miles away from most communities. This certainly should be and could be an area for increased investigation and in fact the setting up of a process of collection because those containers, although they are recommended not to be reused for other commodities, certainly could be stored rather easily and be recycled into the industry, whether it is by the present means that are being employed in the plastics industry of shredding and then reconstituting them through the extrusion process or whether in fact those containers might, if stored properly, be reused in their present form.

The whole thrust behind this move eventually to help clean our environment is in fact to protect the one commodity that is so precious, and that is our drinking water. It does not take very much of a pollutant to cause a community of several thousands to basically

be held to ransom, if I might put it in those terms, by the lack of water, if it is polluted either by chemical waste or effluent waste in terms of the maintenance of life for that community.

I want to indicate to the Minister and the Government that some of the steps that they are in fact embarking on, I want to indicate that they have our support and my support as a Member of this Assembly. That deals with the whole question of water management and the strategy. I had one of their press releases on that issue from the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner), and I am pleased that they are continuing in that direction. I was going to look at the press release that I have probably filed. No, Member from—I wanted to pick up the press release which I read about because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we had spent several days with key planning staff from the Departments of Natural Resources, Municipal Affairs, Agriculture, Environment in taking the first steps of producing a provincial water management policy for this province. I, for one, want to give the present Government credit for continuing on in that direction, because I think every step that we take in this area will produce a better and healthier environment for our children and for those who come when we are gone. Clearly, any steps that we can take in this direction will be positive moves.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our greatest challenge is around our urban centres—that is not to lessen the other areas, but around the urban centres where we are effectively just producing such an enormous amount of waste that, within the next decade, the problems that this will create for all those involved in municipal, provincial and federal Governments, we will require the cooperation of all levels of administration and some very stringent regulations on both commercial and non-commercial enterprises that recycling, the reusing of waste, be of utmost importance to the survival of not only our economy but in fact the preservation of life in the Western Hemisphere.

**Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa):** I am pleased to be able to rise to speak to this resolution as well. I think it is rather fortuitous that this resolution on waste management comes, as it does, so quickly on the heels of the resolution yesterday on the depletion of the ozone layer, to which I wished to make some comments and make some points on the record but was not able to do so for lack of time. The topics that we are here now discussing have a great deal of commonality.

It is also interesting that the particular comments made by the Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski) just before I am speaking now, who referred to the necessity for the working at of waste management for the sake of the survival of the species, it is very interesting that he put those points on the record since it is probably that very aspect of survival which I think I want to focus on.

If we take a look at any of the past societies that we study through anthropology, through archeological records, we find that we get most of our information about their life, about their lifestyle, about how they used or abused their particular environment through what is euphemistically called in the literature "kitchen

middens," which we would today call garbage dumps. That is essentially what we now use to trace the lifestyle of the people who went before us.

\* (1750)

If I may just speculate a little bit and move into the future, if we do not change our ways, we may find that some 500, 600, 700 years from now, when some interplanetary visitor may decide to come and see what this ball of dirt that we call planet Earth is made up of, and may find very little left to analyze except perhaps one of the most colossal, one of the most gigantic kitchen middens of galactic space, because it is this very end product towards which we are rushing pell-mell. We here in this country are living in a very, very, if I remember my lessons that I taught to one of my classes a few years ago, correctly we call ourselves members of the First World, an industrial society which is living very, very well, consuming energy at a furious rate and producing waste at a furious rate. We now are able to begin to see some of these damages that we are creating to the environment, and we may suddenly start seeing that perhaps we are doing damage to the environment and we would rather stop.

We do not know how to stop, so we start pointing fingers at areas where we may see some, what I would call, gratuitous waste being created. Generally, what we tend to do is we point our fingers at the Third World, which is developing nations who are attempting to acquire the same standard of living that we have and their efforts at raising their standard of living. We point fingers and say, you are doing something that is not correct for the environment. You should be modifying your use of the environment, you should be taking better care, you should be taking better care with what you do. We hope that, by having them change their way, our way will tend to be able to survive just a little bit longer.

That, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is wrong-headed, that is a wrong attitude. That is an attitude that puts us on the path to destruction. What we need to do is we need to teach by example, and we need to take ourselves firmly by the scruff of the neck and give ourselves a severe shaking.

The environment is not to be used. The environment is there, which allows us to live in harmony with it, but what it does is it tolerates our presence. What we tend to do in this relationship with the environment is we tend to abuse it. First, the planet is a closed system. There are a finite number of resources; there is a finite amount of oxygen; there is a finite amount of water; there is a finite amount of fuel. But the only thing that is not finite perhaps is the numbers of people who are living on it right now, although the ultimate number that can be supported by this planet is also finite. It is a closed system.

A closed system, for those Members here who are not familiar with the term, means that no more energy, no more material can be added to it and none of the energy that is actually put into it eventually will be destroyed, except insofar that whatever is not utilized and it is not trapped within the atmosphere is given

off as long-wave radiation, which means that the earth actually eventually will cool down and become simply a cold planet. But that is very, very, very far in the future, and we do not have to worry about that because probably the waste that we have been pumping out into the atmosphere, the waste that we are putting into our oceans, the waste that we are putting onto the land is the waste that eventually will put the end to life on the planet as we know it, and we cannot afford to this.

We cannot discuss the issue of waste management in isolation. We have to talk about everything at the same time. We cannot talk about styrofoam cups, we cannot talk about PCBs. We cannot talk about dumping effluent into waters, or even treated sewage into rivers or into the oceans. We cannot talk about dumping particulate matter into the air, as we do in our smelters. We cannot talk about dumping gaseous material into the atmosphere and hope that this can continue indefinitely, ad infinitum.

If we may just take one small example of what some of the potentials will be here, let us examine the petrochemical smog that exists over Los Angeles and exists over Mexico City. Unfortunately, these two cities exist geographically in a basin, which means that the air that they pump out, that the air over the city tends to be trapped in an inversion. Now these inversions create a rather interesting phenomena to occur, particularly when because of the products of industrialization we push into the air above these two cities petrochemical wastes.

Now these are long molecules. We are talking about carbohydrate molecules, almost protein molecules. But they are not quite protein molecules yet, because they have not essentially reached that particular chain of independent development which happens only when certain kind of radiations are applied to them.

It is interesting to note that, in some of the articles that I have read, scientists are beginning to see some of these soups that they consider part of the primordial—how do you pronounce that? I can spell it but I cannot pronounce the term—primordial soup, that essence of life which had to be energized by radiation early on to create life as we know it. Some of these essences are now existing independently over Los Angeles and some of them are existing independently over Mexico City. As I was going to speak yesterday, as the ozone layer is depleted and more and more short-wave radiation from the sun can actually impact upon the earth, we actually may find that we are going to create life, not in the test tube where we can control it but in the atmosphere where it may take over. We have here simply one instance of where waste may end up leading to our eventual destruction.

Another aspect that I would just like to mention and put on to the record is that also, in some of the industrial processes that we are engaging in, putting more and more gases whose relationship we cannot actually predict and how they will affect the upper atmosphere, means that the genetic mutation, the increased risks of skin cancers, which are caused as the ozone layer is depleted, may be increased largely because we do not know what we are doing to this very, very unstable

layer in the higher atmosphere whose sole function for us at this moment is to filter out the very, very shortest of the radiations, the most harmful of the radiations which are being constantly outputted by our sun.

Other aspects of potential harm to us are simply in the fact that as we live, as we ingest, we also put out wastes. The effluences that we produce, not only through the actions of organic digestion but also through the process of industrialization, of simply creating the parts of life that we enjoy, the TV sets, the toasters, the cars, the tires, the styrofoam cups, the hamburgers and so on—as my colleague, the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Laurie Evans) says, disposable diapers as well, which are all pushed out simply to be somehow tolerated by the environment.

If I may just simply speculate a little bit about the theory—and I have forgotten the name of the philosopher, but he actually has a theory of stable states which he applies to the planet Earth, which he calls the Gial Principle, which right now is a very heretical view. In the past, we used to burn heretics but now we tend to ignore them. He eventually may tend to be proved right because he says that essentially the planet Earth, as an entity, may actually have several stable states where it will survive.

One of the first stable states happened to be the soupy atmosphere in which the dinosaurs had no problem in surviving, but something happened to cause them to disappear that should not have happened. They are such a powerful group of evolved species, yet something occurred. What was it? Could it have been a change in the Earth's temperature? Could it have been a fact that the earth's temperature actually increased for some reason, for whatever that might have been? Some scientists speculate that celestial bodies striking the earth could have created either a cooling effect or a warming effect, depending upon which heretical theory you tend to follow.

But one of his particular points is that the next stable state, in his theory, is that the earth's atmosphere will jump to a stable temperature of about 700 degrees, which of course may be good for some insects and cockroaches and life forms of that nature or perhaps life forms that exist in that primordial soup that may be created over the atmosphere or over the Cities of Los Angeles and Mexico City but here, for us as humans, it will probably spell the death of us.

\* (1800)

We have to take a look at this whole concept which is being taught in the schools, the Spaceship Earth philosophy where we have to think of what we create. We have to be able to maintain, we have to be able to handle, we have to be able to make certain that it—(Interjection)—My light is not yet flashing. However, I understand that my time has expired.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. When next this matter is before the House, the Honourable Member will have two minutes remaining. The hour being 6 p.m., this House is adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon (Thursday).