



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

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

37 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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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.	Virten	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
MANNES, 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

Friday, December 9, 1988.

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to oral questions, may I direct the attention of Honourable Members to the Speaker's gallery where we have with us today Mr. Maurice Strong, who has been active on the international environmental scene for many years and has served for many years as Under Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Seniors Directorate Policy

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). When this Government took office in May, we applauded the announcement of the creation of a Seniors Directorate. Seven months have gone by and yet we wait and we wait and we wait for some direction to be provided to this directorate. The critics had the opportunity yesterday to question the Minister as to whether there were any developments, anything in his portfolio, and were appalled to learn that he had nothing to report. My question to the First Minister, is the Seniors Directorate still a policy of this Government?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) for that question. Yes indeed, the Seniors Directorate is a policy of this Government. We do believe that there is a role for a Minister to coordinate the services provided to seniors by the various departments of this Government, to coordinate policy initiatives, to put in place a review of issues that may affect seniors and all of those things.

I have indicated to the Leader of the Opposition, I did so at some length during the debate on Estimates of my department earlier this week, that it is very, very difficult for Ministers to spend their personal time getting involved in the development of some of these policy initiatives, putting in place many of these issues. She asked about the appointment at that time of the Health Advisory Network, and of course we have since made that announcement yesterday.

Many of these initiatives will take place but, in the case of a Seniors Directorate, where we did not come to Government with any staff, where we had to put together some staff and try and coordinate staff coming perhaps from other departments, review what resources were available, that is something that requires the personal time of the Minister. The Minister is responsible

for Manitoba Hydro, the Manitoba Energy Authority, and he has been involved in some of the longest committee meetings on Manitoba Hydro over the past little while, and the Energy Authority. He still has not completed the hearings on the Energy Authority. He is also the Minister responsible for Energy and Mines, the Minister responsible for a number of initiatives.

* (1005)

I say to the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs), we continue to be committed to that and when our Ministers have the time for their personal involvement on an issue of this nature, which we believe is important, then we will have that announcement made. But as long as we are here sitting in the House day after day, week after week, month after month, Mr. Speaker, some of these things will just simply have to wait until Ministers can give their personal time and commitment to have the—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Staffing

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a supplementary question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), because it is dismaying to realize that in seven months they have no more commitment to the seniors of this province than the First Minister has just enunciated, can the Premier tell us today when they will hire the two staff year positions allocated in the budget for the Seniors Directorate, since they have not even yet done that?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): The Leader of the Opposition may be dismayed, but I remind her that previous administrations did not see the need for a Minister responsible for Seniors and a Seniors Directorate. We saw that need. We are going to be proceeding to fulfill the requirements to address that need and that will be done in due course.

Mrs. Carstairs: That is the 63rd time we have had that expression used in the Legislature since the House began, "in due course."

Staffing Bulletin

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Can the Minister assure us today, Mr. Speaker, that at least when they get around to hiring these two staff years that at least the two staff years will be bulletined because, as of yesterday, the Minister responsible for the Seniors Directorate (Mr. Neufeld) was not so sure whether they would be bulletined or not?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): We will follow all proper procedures in the hiring of staff for the Seniors Directorate.

Job Descriptions

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a new question, now we know they are going to be bulletined, so we hope there is going to be a job description. We could not get any information from the Seniors Minister (Mr. Neufeld) as to whether he had job descriptions for these particular positions. Can the First Minister tell us today that they will actually give us some job descriptions when they bother to bulletin these positions?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, all of those matters will be done as a part of the hiring process and, if the Leader of the Opposition is interested in the position, we will certainly make sure that she gets a copy of it.

Mrs. Carstairs: I may be classified as a senior by the time they get around to doing it.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Elderly Abuse White Paper

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we have been waiting seven months for the Minister to proceed with the White Paper on Elder Abuse. The First Minister (Mr. Filmon) himself spoke so eloquently about the need for this way back in 1985 and we waited through two administrations. Is it this Government's intention to proceed with this study, and when are they going to proceed with the study?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I might say that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) will be no better qualified for the position when she is a senior than she is now.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

* (10:10)

Mr. Filmon: We are indeed committed to deal with the issue of elder abuse, as I have indicated before in this House. Long before the Leader became a Member in this House, it was a subject of a Private Member's Resolution which I put forward. It will be dealt with and it will be dealt with properly. It is not something that is going to be dealt with because it makes good politics for the Leader of the Opposition to raise it in this House. It is going to be dealt with because we have a sincere commitment to dealing with it. When that White Paper is produced, it will be here so that the Leader of the Opposition can take exception to it, can make her criticisms of it, can disagree with it as she will, as she disagrees with everything we do in this House. We will give her that opportunity in due course.

Mrs. Carstairs: With a final supplementary to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Sincere commitments speaks

loudest in its actions. Can the First Minister tell us today who is he going to direct, because obviously the head of the Seniors Directorate is going to direct nobody, to prepare this White Paper on Elder Abuse for the Province of Manitoba?

Mr. Filmon: Those are all decisions that come within the purview of the Government. We have not shirked our responsibility with respect to any of the undertakings we have committed ourselves to and this will be no exception.

Premier's Holdings Blind Trust

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): During the Estimates, the Premier's Estimates were reviewed last Monday evening, the Premier stated that he held his personal holdings in a blind trust. Certainly, that is a standard in which we applauded at that time in terms of the Premier. He took as notice other Ministers of his Cabinet who also had their affairs in a blind trust or those who did not. Could the Premier please advise us on the status of that information we requested?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): To begin with, the nature of the question that the Member asked was whether or not those people who have active business interests all had their holdings in a blind trust. I clarified with him whether he considered farming to be an active business interest. He said, no. I said to my knowledge all of those who had active business interests had set up a blind trust, but I would look into that matter and ascertain the information and report to him. I will do that, Mr. Speaker. I have not had the time to do that since we spoke about it on Monday or Tuesday, whenever it was. I will certainly look into it. There are many things that I have to do. In due course, I will bring that information back to him.

Mr. Doer: I thank the Premier for that answer and the standard of his holdings in a blind trust.

Conflict of Interest Man. Energy Authority Minister

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, yesterday it was confirmed that the Minister responsible for Manitoba Energy Authority (Mr. Neufeld), which is a corporation that is being divested, has properly disclosed his holdings under The Conflict of Interest Act in the partnership of a company called Antler River Resources, which is also an oil company in the Manitoba area. I would ask the Premier, would he not, consistent with his principle of personal holdings being held in a blind trust he would not ask the Minister to also place his holdings in a blind trust in terms of the disclosure and he did so yesterday in a very forthright way, but the whole area of having private holdings in an area where the Minister is responsible as a Member of the Crown, would it not also be appropriate to have those holdings in a blind trust?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): To begin with, I do not believe that the Minister responsible for The Manitoba

Energy Authority has any holdings in the Antler River Oil and Gas Corporation.

ManOil Minister

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): The Parker Commission states clearly that a Minister of the Crown must divest themselves of certain private interests in dealing with a public office, or the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) should change the portfolios of the Minister. I would ask whether the First Minister is satisfied in the affair, in the divestiture of ManOil, whether there is a clear separation between personal holdings which are properly disclosed and the private holdings of the Minister responsible?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Doer: I would ask the First Minister, is he satisfied that in all discussions of the divestiture of the corporation, the Minister responsible has, in consistency with the Act, absented himself from any discussions of the divestiture consistent with conflict-of-interest guidelines and consistent with the guidelines presented and published in December of '87 by the Parker Commission?

Mr. Filmon: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

* (1015)

Lead Exposure Standards Guidelines

Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley): My question is for the Minister of Labour and the Environment (Mr. Connery). Aware, as we are, of the well-documented medical impacts of lead poisoning on humans, particularly of children, we in Manitoba are still awaiting positive action. This Minister admitted in Estimates when I questioned him that he was aware of the benefits of using low lead or no lead solders, as opposed to the 50 percent lead solders that we are still using in this province for copper plumbing.

A local architect had the foresight, Mr. Speaker, to specify a no lead solder in the construction of Pacific Junction School, in the riding of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst), but the usual highlight solder was employed instead and again our children's drinking water has been unnecessarily affected. The question, Mr. Speaker, is, when is this Minister going to take some concrete action on this issue instead of the waffling and dawdling that we have seen on other serious environmental matters?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): Mr. Speaker, our staff, our department is reviewing this serious situation. We recognize the concern that is there for the lead. I will be pleased to say that within this building they are doing some plumbing and they are using no lead. The recommendation is out to the people not to use it but, Mr. Speaker, we are drafting legislation that will prohibit the use of that high 50 percent lead in solder. That will be banned some time in the near future.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor), with a supplementary question.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a rather different answer than a week ago. A week ago it was, no, we are going to study it some more, we cannot just go ahead and do it and ban it like in Ontario. So, the question is: Can we get a date from the Minister as to what is going on, given in one week we have seen two rather different answers? I would ask for clarification, what does the Minister mean, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Connery: Mr. Speaker, as swiftly as we can and of course, as you know, all of these things have to be reviewed with the people involved. As quickly as our department can move to resolve this issue, we will do it.

Mr. Taylor: Last week when I queried the First Minister regarding the lead in school grounds in certain vulnerable Manitoba schools, the House received the usual non-answers we have come to expect on that type of issue. The Weston School parents and staff need reassurances, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister—

Schoolyard Testing

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. Will the Honourable Member for Wolseley kindly put his question now?

Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley): Thank you. Will this Minister, Mr. Speaker, give the reassurance, the Weston School parents and staff, the assurance they require regarding the potential for lead problems in their school grounds in that that school ground has not been tested since 1983?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): Mr. Speaker, the testing of water within schools is the responsibility of the school departments, and we have suggested to them - (Interjection)- The school grounds, and also the lead in air. I am sure the Member is suggesting Canada Bronze and at Canada Bronze—as I brought up, I was cut off shortly before suggesting to this House or telling this House that every spring of every year the soil is tested at Weston School every spring. The Premier (Mr. Filmon) of this Government who was the Environment Minister at that time ordered the clean-up of the soil around that school, and in other areas, Mr. Speaker, this Government is environmentally conscious, and is willing and prepared and has acted where there is a need.

Asbestos Products Disposal

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, the removal of asbestos is a very defined procedure with the requirements including a series of polyethylene enclosures, the need for a separate shower compartment, vacuum pumps, and finally having the removed asbestos doubled bagged and secured.

Asbestos has been recognized as an extreme hazard to health, should fibres be inhaled.

My question is to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery). Given that asbestos removal procedures have appropriate but extreme removal regulations, can the Minister explain the ludicrous situation where removed asbestos is carefully taken to landfill sites and then bulldozed over, breaking the bags and allowing fibres to escape into the air, possibly endangering not only the site workers but communities in surrounding areas?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): Mr. Speaker, the allegations made by the Member, and I believe honestly so, as a concerned person of this Legislature, I will take that question as notice and get back to her.

* (1020)

Dangerous Substances Disposal Guidelines

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Again to the Environment Minister (Mr. Connery). Mr. Speaker, what procedures are in place to follow dangerous substances from their removal to their destruction, or are we allowing new dangers, such as found now in Ruttan, to build even as we sit?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): I would ask the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) to elaborate on that question. I am a little bit cloudy on what she is getting at.-(Interjection)- I would not talk, John.

Mrs. Charles: I was asking the Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Selkirk has the floor.

Mrs. Charles: Mr. Speaker, I was asking the Minister if he has procedures in place to follow dangerous substances from when they are removed from their situation to when they are destroyed, or are we allowing new dangerous situations, such as now found in Ruttan, where PCBs were removed and then not carefully destroyed, understanding that was before the big concern about PCBs were roused, but are we allowing that to continue even today where we have dangerous substances destroyed without our recognition?

Asbestos Products Disposal

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): But my third supplementary is actually to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings). Mr. Speaker, asbestos is being removed from a Government building—-(Interjection)- Municipal Affairs, I am sorry.

Since the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery) did not understand my second, I do not want to lose my last question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. My

question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Speaker, asbestos is being removed from a Government building, that being the East Selkirk Thermal Station and disposed of in a municipal landsite. Can the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings) tell the House who will have ultimate responsibility for landfill sites, should they prove dangerous either now or in the future?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): Mr. Speaker, I know it is Friday but, nevertheless, the Member's question is a very valid question. The responsibility of landfill sites falls under the Department of Environment. There are very strict regulations in place to regulate landfill sites, and I would advise the Member that our department is fully following those concerns and that legislation. If she has any indication of somewhere that something is not being done right, and I would suggest to all 57 Members of this Legislature, if something is not being done right in the environmental aspect, report it to—(Interjection)- oh yes, Paul Edwards is kind of—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. May I remind the Honourable Minister that answers to questions should be as brief as possible.

Contract Awarding Lowest Bid

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Government Services): I took a question as notice yesterday from the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr), the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, and in that question misinformation was put on the record that reflected on the integrity of myself and my staff in terms of how we tender projects. Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, that misinformation obviously, and the Member should blush, probably came from the Manitoba New Democratic media notice that was handed out which was totally misinformation.

* (1025)

It was put on the record that we had given the tender to the highest contract, and I want to table as well the facts of the contract that took place. If anybody had done a little bit of research on that, they would have found out that the correspondence was as far as two years back, the stuff that they were using, to try and embarrass myself. The tender for that project was let on October 6. The tenders were opened publicly on October 1, and the highest tender was security at \$3,857.00.

Mr. Speaker, I take exception to the fact that kind of attitude is being used. That is what reflects on the integrity of people in this House. Based on that, based on the fact that the misinformation that was put on the record reflected on myself and my staff and how we operate, I demand that the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) give an apology to myself, to my staff and to the Members of this House.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear.

Medical Review Committee Board Dismissal

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): The Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger) has made wholesale changes on all boards and commissions that he is responsible for in his departments. He has changed the Motor Transport Board, with the exception of the chairman, the Licence Suspension Appeal Board, the Highway Traffic Board, the Disaster Assistance Committee, and loaded them with political appointees.

This week, Mr. Speaker, he went too far. He fired a non-partisan board of professionals, the Medical Review Committee made up of dedicated professionals who have recently been appointed, who have altered their practices, their schedules, to cooperate and accommodate the needs of drivers who have to have their cases removed when they have lost their licences for medical reasons. On that board, one of the top neurologists in the city, an ophthalmologist, a cardiologist, a general practitioner, two nurses, all summarily dismissed by this Minister. Can this Minister tell this House why he chose to fire these non-partisan dedicated professionals, who were not appointed for political reasons or attachments, why he chose to fire the whole board at this time?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): First, I would like to correct the statement that I made before that the highest tender got it; the lowest tender got it. I have given that information to the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr). I am still expecting an apology.

In response to the question from the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman), Mr. Speaker, the people who were on the board were qualified and we have no argument with that. We think that the people who we have appointed are qualified as well. I think that is the prerogative to make some changes to reflect the things that we want to have reflected on there, and I make no apologies for the appointments.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Speaker, that is typical for this Minister and I think that he will regret making those kinds of statements to these professionals who he did not give any warning, did not have any discussion with, just summarily dismissed them.

Ophthalmologist

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): I want to ask this Minister why in his haste to replace these professionals did he not appoint a fully professional ophthalmologist. Since eye problems are one of the most prevalent, particularly among elderly drivers when their licences are suspended for medical reasons, why he instead replaced a professional ophthalmologist with an optometrist who does not have the same kinds of skills as an ophthalmologist?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Mr. Speaker, in the consultation I had in terms of appointing these people, we felt that we had qualified people including the optometrist on there.

Mr. Plohman: Another typically weak answer.

Hearing Backlog

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): When he made that blatant political decision, did this Minister consider the impact on those people who are waiting for hearings backlogged now, who should have had their hearings at the beginning of December, now will not have them heard until 1989 because of the complete dismissal of this board? Did he consider the impact on these drivers and on their families who will not have a licence this Christmas because of his actions?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Mr. Speaker, my department is working very diligently in terms of hearing all departments, all categories of appeals that are coming before the Manitoba Licence Appeal Board, before the Medical Review Committee. We are trying to accommodate any appeal that comes, and I am confident that they will be dealt with competently.

* (1030)

Affirmative Action Deputy Minister Appointments

Mr. Allan Patterson (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). In this House and in Estimates, the Government has repeatedly stated its commitment to affirmative action and its implementation within the Civil Service. Will the First Minister inform this House as to how many women have been appointed as Deputy Ministers since the Government took office? How many women have been appointed as Deputy Ministers or hired into Deputy Minister positions, promoted from within or hired from without? How many women have been appointed as Deputy Ministers?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I will give the same answer that I gave to that question when it was asked by the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) during the discussion of my Estimates. Mr. Speaker, the Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor) is so desperate for attention that he has to keep interrupting in the middle of Question Period because nobody listens to him anyway. He lost his credibility a long time ago when he went chasing around looking at manholes.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

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

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the legitimate question for the Member for Radisson (Mr. Patterson), I said earlier this week to the same question for the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) that it takes some time to develop the people within the Civil Service to raise them into senior positions. We have made a commitment to elevate women into positions of responsibility. We have made, through the area in which we have direct control in terms of appointments to

boards and commissions, more than 40 percent of our appointments in this first seven months of Government have been women.

We have undertaken a consultation with women throughout this province that has not been done before, led by the chairmanship of the Member for Kirkfield Park (Mrs. Hammond) going throughout the province, talking about the needs and the concerns of women. Mr. Speaker, we intend, through the process of hiring, to ensure that as much as possible that women are given opportunities to be elevated to positions of more senior responsibility in the Civil Service. That is something that is not done overnight. I might say that the previous administration had to take some time to identify suitable candidates and elevate them along the way. We believe that, given a little bit of time, we will show similar good faith and indeed commitment to raising women to senior responsibilities in the Civil Service.

Deputy Minister Education

Mr. Allan Patterson (Radisson): With a supplementary to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), in Estimates, the Minister has stated that affirmative action criteria would be a consideration in the appointment of the Deputy Minister of Education. Will the Minister inform this House as to why this was not so stated on the bulletin for the position, and particularly in view of the fact that it is virtually a standard inclusion in virtually all Civil Service bulletins, and why did the Minister change his mind?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education): Well, Mr. Speaker, certainly the advertisements that go out for the various positions within the Department of Education are not something that I scrutinize on a personal basis. But certainly, when you consider a position such as Deputy Minister for the department or for any Government department, we are certainly going to be looking for the best possible candidate. We are certainly not going to exclude anyone who may wish to apply for the position, because that position was made available through the advertisements and we are looking for the best possible candidate for an important position such as this.

Deputy Minister Education Applications

Mr. Allan Patterson (Radisson): With a second supplementary to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), we wonder why this was left out of this particular position, nevertheless. However, will the Minister inform the House as to how many qualified female candidates have applied for the position, and how many are now under active consideration?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education): Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information at my fingertips but certainly, when we have perused those applications, I will be in a better position to respond to that question and will bring that information back to the House.

AIDS Cases Clarification

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 1, in a preamble to a question posed to me by the Leader of the Second Opposition Party (Mr. Doer), he made the statement that there had been six youths in the last three weeks who have tested positive at Village Clinic. I checked the information through my Director of Communicable Diseases through whom all reporting of HIV positive individuals is to be reported, who checked with Cadham Lab and found that there have been no such six new reported cases of HIV in the last three weeks and, because of the seriousness of HIV, I wanted to make that correction to the House.

Hazardous Waste Site Private Sector Development

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): I ask a question of the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connerly). The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Corporation has gone through an elaborate process of consulting with the public. They have just gone through a very extensive consultation process throughout northern Manitoba and throughout all of Manitoba, and it is estimated that a hazardous waste site could be built in the vicinity of \$30 million.

Now there is a private firm, Sussex Environmental Services from Ontario, has put a proposal forward for Oak Bluff. An industrial park is an approved proposal provided certain conditions are met, and that is that no radioactive material would be disposed up there, no explosive, and protection from Winnipeg Fire Department. Given that the Hazardous Waste Corporation has the mandate to transfer, store, and dispose of hazardous waste in Manitoba, would the operation of a private facility jeopardize the very reason for the existence of the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Corporation?

Hon. Edward Connerly (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): The question posed by the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) is a very valid question. I have been aware of this proposal for a period of time. There has not been a positive application to our department to locate there. We are not totally disposed to private enterprise being involved in the destruction or the transportation or the relocation of hazardous waste but, when that proposal comes to our department, we will view it. If a Clean Environment Commission hearing is required, we will ask for that. We will view the application of any company to dispose of hazardous waste as being very important, and we will deal with it in the proper way.

Hazardous Waste Corporation Viability

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): A supplementary to the Minister of Environment, what impact would this private operation have on the viability of the Crown corporation?

Hon. Edward Connerly (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): That is a supposition

that—you know, how would we say that? We are not totally sure that the Hazardous Waste Corporation will build the disposal facilities and the transfer facilities. We are looking at the options of private enterprise being involved, we are looking at the option of the Government being involved. So, when we have viewed all of the options that are open to us as a Government, we will make those decisions.

Hazardous Waste Site Regulations

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): A supplementary to the same Minister, will the Minister assure us that any private sector development in the field of hazardous waste will be subjected to the same strenuous regulations that the Crown corporation went through when they were establishing the Crown corporation?

* (1040)

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): Well, it is unfortunate that the Member for The Pas did not listen to the answers that I gave initially. Absolutely everybody will be subjected to the same conditions. There will be no favouritism to a Government corporation or to a private corporation. They will all be subjected to the same conditions. They will go through the same scrutiny and they will have to apply to the letter of the law, whatever corporation or group wants to form a hazardous waste transfer organization. Whatever it is will go through the same regulations

Elderly Abuse Adult Protection Act

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): My question is for the Minister for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld). It is estimated that as many as one in ten elders in our society are the victim of some sort of abuse. As I think with child and spousal abuse, we are just learning in our society the extent of this problem. It has come up in the last 10 years, and it is incumbent upon us as legislators to act swiftly and respond intelligently to this problem. This Minister and his colleagues, including the Premier (Mr. Filmon), have talked long and hard about elder abuse. They have done absolutely nothing.

Is the Minister even aware of the existence in other provinces of enabling legislation such as Prince Edward Island's Adult Protection Act which allows for crisis intervention and abuse prevention, and which seniors in this province have called specifically for in their brief to him of September 1, 1988. If he knows about these Acts, has he read them? Has he talked to those provinces which have those Acts to find out what the potential improvements could be for this province?

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister responsible for Seniors): Mr. Speaker, we are well aware of the problems the seniors face today and we are also well aware that there was a paper started or perhaps finished in '82, another one in '84, another one in '86, and that brings out the real problems of bringing in a White

Paper or any kind of a paper on elder abuse. We will not complete a paper. We will not bring into this Legislature any legislation until we have examined the problems and all the problems, and until such a time—we are working on it. We have a sincere desire on this side of the House to help our seniors, and we will continue to work and develop a plan that will be for the seniors and only for the seniors.

Manitoba Hydro Rate Policy Proposal

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister responsible for The Manitoba Hydro Act): While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I was asked last week by the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) to bring information into the House with respect to hydro rates that may exceed the 6 percent that has been quoted in the media.

There were indeed over the years some special circumstance rates that Manitoba Hydro had developed and they are trying to phase those into bringing equality to all the consumers of Manitoba Hydro. On April 1, 1985, they started a program of equalizing all the rates for residential users. As the Member for Flin Flon must be aware, inasmuch as he was the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro, that phasing in will be finished and completed by 1990. There will indeed be some 11,000 householders who will pay \$3 more than the 6 percent or whatever the percentage rate increase is for next year.

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

MOTIONS OF CONDOLENCE

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I believe there is agreement on all sides of the House to proceed with condolence motions this morning.

I move, seconded by the Member for Swan River (Mr. Burrell),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late James Herbert Bilton, who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Jim Bilton was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature in the general election of 1962 as Member for the electoral division of Swan River. He was re-elected in the general elections of 1966, 1969 and 1973. On December 5, 1966, this Assembly elected him to the highest office which it can bestow upon one of its own, namely, that of Speaker, an office which he held until August 14, 1969.

Jim Bilton was born in Yorkshire, England, on April 10, 1908, and came to Canada in December 1929. From 1931 to 1953, he served with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, retiring with the rank of staff sergeant. Following his retirement he began a second career, that of becoming the publisher and editor of the Swan River Star and Times. Through his efforts, he was elected

president of the Manitoba Weekly Newspapers Association and was made an honorary life member of that organization.

After 15 years of public service, Jim and his wife, Mildred, moved to Ottawa in July of 1977 and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. I first met Jim in the early 1970s in visiting Swan River and was invited to a Rotary Club luncheon at which he was in attendance. I remained an acquaintance of his and, as I became actively involved in politics, Jim maintained his association and relationship with many of the people who he had served with in this Legislature. I knew him to be a very strong monarchist, a very staunch parliamentarian, who believed very strongly in this Assembly and indeed in the democratic process that it represents.

I know that he continued to follow very closely, even after leaving Manitoba and relocating to Ottawa, all of the affairs of the Legislature and of his many friends and acquaintances here. He often sent notes along on special occasions to other Members, to myself as an individual who he was acquainted with. He followed of course the leadership contest in which I was elected Leader and sent along a note at that time. He was an individual who felt very strongly about Parliament, about parliamentary democracy, and he certainly maintained a strong and active involvement and commitment with it throughout all of the days of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend, on behalf of all Members of the Assembly, to Mildred and their daughter Carol our deepest sympathy at this time of great sorrow and our thanks for a life of public service.

Mr. Parker Burrell (Swan River): James Herbert Bilton was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1908 and came to Canada in 1929. For 23 years he served as an RCMP officer, spending many years in northern Canada before retiring from the force as staff sergeant in 1953. During that time, he met and married Mildred Gunzar of Swan River. After his service in the RCMP, he began putting roots down in Swan River. In '58, he worked as the publisher and editor of the Swan River Star and Times.

His interest in community journalism extended to his service as president of the Manitoba Weekly Newspapers Association. His commitment to his community extended to provincial politics, being elected in 1962 as the Progressive Conservative candidate and serving under Premier Duff Roblin. He continued to serve the Swan River constituency, being re-elected every election, until he retired from provincial politics in 1977. From late 1966 to August '69, he served as Speaker of this Assembly.

Throughout his years in Swan River, he was active in the community as a member of many community groups, such as the Rotary, Legion, Chamber of Commerce, the Swan River Agricultural Society and the Swan River Curling and Golf Clubs. During the recent election, on April 26, 1988, I received a letter of support from Jim. I campaigned with him on many of his campaigns in the valley.

After retiring from politics in '77, he retired to Ottawa, leaving behind many devoted friends. I would like to extend our condolences to the family at this time.

* (1050)

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): I would like to join with the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and the Member for Swan River (Mr. Burrell) in extending to the family of the late James Herbert Bilton the sincere sympathy of this entire Assembly for his untimely passing.

When I asked some of my colleagues in caucus about Mr. Bilton, the phrase that was used was "this was the big man from Swan River." They felt that his contribution to his community will not be one that will be quickly forgotten within the valley because he touched the lives of so many people when he lived amongst them.

Of course, he made more than a normal contribution in this Assembly when he served as Speaker, a job which, I am sure, Mr. Speaker, yourself would indicate is not always the easiest. But perhaps his experience as a staff sergeant in the RCMP gave him a little bit of help in that particular experience. I did not know his record as the Speaker, but I would assume that some of the skills learned as a staff sergeant might indeed come in very handy when one serves as the Speaker of this House.

On behalf of the Liberal caucus, let me express the sincerest sympathy to the family, to his wife and children, and to all of those who knew him and who held him in such high regard.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern Affairs): I just want to make a brief comment and join with other Members in the condolence motion of Mr. Jim Bilton, and extend to the family our sincere sympathy from the Members and the constituency of Arthur.

Mr. Bilton was an extremely good friend. I looked to him as an individual who had a lot of good advice—I would say a straightforward statesman in his manner, someone who I am sure each and every Member of this Assembly respected very highly—and I just want to add my comments of condolence to the family.

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): On behalf of myself and the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer), I would like to join with others who have already spoken about the late James Bilton.

I met Mr. Bilton when I first became a Member in 1969. He had already served this House for some years as the MLA for Swan River and, of course, as the Speaker of the House. Although I did not serve here while he was Speaker, nevertheless, I understand he did an excellent job in that role.

James Bilton was a very kind person, a very friendly man. He was very well-spoken. I must say he was very articulate and it was a joy to listen to him. When he spoke, it was not that often but, when he did speak, we all sat back and listened carefully. It was a joy to listen to him. Of course, he was very concerned about the principles of parliamentary procedure, having been the Speaker for some time, but he appreciated Parliament as an institution. In private conversations with him, that came out very clearly that he was very concerned about the development of Parliament, the

development of this Legislature as a democratic institution.

One other thing that comes to mind about James Bilton is that he was very concerned about proper decorum. Mr. Speaker, you would appreciate that because from time to time the decorum is not what it should be, and this is no reflection on you, Sir, or anyone—I am not reflecting on anyone—but he was one who was very insistent on proper decorum. Although he was a Member of the Opposition when I was here, he was very often reminding us of the proper procedures and he was very, very strict also in terms of dress. He was very concerned if jackets were not put on when we were back into the Assembly, moving out of the Committee of the Whole or whatever. So I have some fond memories of this person as a very kind man.

He served his constituents well. He did his very best as a Member of the Legislature, and I would certainly join with the Premier (Mr. Filmon), the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) and others in associating our Party with the sentiments expressed, and certainly do extend our sincere condolences to the members of the Bilton family.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): I want to offer my condolences to the Bilton family on their loss. I did not have the opportunity to sit in this House with Mr. Bilton. I came in 1977 with his successor, Doug Gourlay, who represented Swan River after Mr. Bilton, but I know from colleagues who were in the Government caucus from 1977-81, who had sat with Jim Bilton, that he carried a great deal of respect from them because he was a man of good wit and infinite wisdom, and they indicated that he represented the tradition of this House in a most pre-eminent way. I know that the citizens of the Swan River Valley very much respected and gained by his very capable representation of them in this Legislature for many years.

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education): On July 4, many residents not only in Swan River but certainly of the Roblin-Russell constituency, in the western part of this province, were saddened to hear of the death of Mr. James Bilton, a friend of many people within the province. Mr. Bilton contributed not only to the political life and democracy of our province but also contributed richly to the community in which he lived. He contributed through such organizations, of course, as the Rotary Club, the Legion, the Chamber of Commerce, the Agricultural Society and the Golf and Country Club as well.

On many occasions, Mr. Bilton was accompanied to his home area by former Members from my constituency, Mr. Wally McKenzie and Mr. Harry Graham, and in that way many people within my constituency and my community came to know Mr. Bilton very well. His interest for and his concern about the well-being of people in general brought him many friends, and many people of this province will remember Mr. Bilton very fondly.

On behalf of my constituents who knew him very well, our condolences are extended to his wife and his family.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable First Minister (Mr. Filmon), seconded by the Honourable Member for Swan River (Mr. Burrell),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late James Herbert Bilton, who served as a Member of Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty and a useful life of active community and public service; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? (Agreed)

Would the Honourable Members please rise and remain standing to indicate their support for this motion?

(A moment of silence was observed)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): M. le Président, je propose, appuyé par Le Membre de La Verendrye (Mr. Pankratz) que l'Assemblée transmette à la famille de feu Joseph Edmond Brodeur, qui a été membre de l'Assemblée législative du Manitoba, ses sincères condoléances et sa gratitude pour le dévouement dont M. Brodeur a su faire dans son travail au service de sa collectivité et de la population du Manitoba et que l'Orateur fasse parvenir une copie de la présente motion à la famille du défunt.

(Translation)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye (Mr. Pankratz),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Joseph Edmond Brodeur, who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Mr. Edmond Brodeur was elected to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly in the by-election of January 21, 1952, for the electoral division of La Verendrye and was subsequently re-elected in 1953. Mr. Brodeur devoted the better part of his life in serving others. For 42 years, he was the secretary-treasurer of the Municipality of Ritchot. In 1933, Mr. Brodeur established the Brodeur Freres Garage in St. Adolphe and, from 1928 to 1977, was an insurance agent. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree of the Provencher Council.

I wish to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and to the many friends of Mr. Edmond Brodeur who mourn his loss, and the thanks of all Manitobans for his life of public service in our province.

* (1100)

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): I rise to pay tribute today to Edmond Brodeur, the

Member for La Verendrye. Il été un homme très spécial particulièrement parce que sont très en les pauvres. His knowledge of the poor, particularly of the Third World, was something which touched many people, and it is noticed in his own obituary that he wanted funds instead of flowers to go to those very poor in the Third World.

I suppose it is particularly appropriate today that we should be paying tribute to a man of this magnitude because Mr. Brodeur would have been terribly devastated by the loss in Armenia of the lives of maybe 100,000 people. His concern would be to see that monies and goods and clothing were shipped immediately to those people to ensure that they would have a sense of feeling that the world cared about them, as he cared about them.

He is known, of course, throughout the Municipality of Ritchot for his 42 years of service to that particular municipality. I think that must be some kind of record, even in the province, to one particular municipality in the province. Of course, he made a contribution here to the Legislative Assembly through his representation of the constituency of La Verendrye.

On behalf of the Liberal Party, of which Mr. Brodeur had been a Member, we pay particular sympathy to his children, his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren in the full knowledge that the reputation and the giving of this man will continue in their minds and hearts for all time.

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): I would like to join with the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) in extending condolences to the Brodeur family and say that while we did not know Mr. Brodeur personally, either in this House or in that community in which he lived for so many years, nevertheless, from reading the history of his life, it is obvious that he was a man who dedicated himself to the public, as the Leader of the Opposition has indicated, 42 years serving in the municipalities, indeed a long time to serve. It shows that the person did a capable job, obviously, because he would not have lasted that long, and certainly playing a role of secretary-treasurer in a small municipality is a pivotal role. It is a role that is very important and makes sure that the R.M. carries on properly under the laws of the province, particularly The Municipal Act.

He did serve as an MLA for six years, which is quite a length of time as well, and I am sure he represented his constituents well with dedication, as he did in serving them at the municipal level.

I would join with others and extend to the members of the Brodeur family our deepest sympathy at this time.

Mr. Helmut Pankratz (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I am also sure all the Members will join me in extending condolences and sincere sympathy to the family of Edmond Brodeur. Edmond Brodeur, deceased, 89 years, in St. Boniface Hospital at the age of 89, pardon me. Mr. Brodeur was a St. Adolphe resident which was part of the La Verendrye constituency at the time. Being

their present Member for La Verendrye, I am sure that all people in the present La Verendrye constituency, also the ones who he has been serving during those six years in municipal politics, will want to join me in condolences to the family and the friends.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I too would like to extend sympathies to the Brodeur family at this point in time. I did not know Mr. Brodeur, although I certainly know Members of his family. I am very much aware of the contribution that he made to his rural municipality, indeed to all the electorate of the La Verendrye riding. I guess I am most aware of his ideals that have been installed in members of his family who continue to serve the community within St. Adolphe and indeed all of the municipality of the Ritchot area.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Brodeur's legacy and the legacy of his work to his community will live on.

M. le Président: C'était proposé par l'Honorable Premier Ministre, appuyé par le député de La Verendrye, que l'Assemblée transmette à la famille de feu Joseph Edmond Brodeur, qui a été membre de l'Assemblée législative du Manitoba ses sincères condoléances et sa gratitude pour le dévouement dont M. Brodeur su à se faire preuve dans son travail au service de sa collectivité de la population du Manitoba et que L'orateur fasse parvenir une copie de cette présente motion à la famille du défunt.

(Translation)

Mr. Speaker: It is proposed by the Honourable First Minister, seconded by the Member from La Verendrye,

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Joseph Edmond Brodeur, who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? (Agreed)

Would all Members rise and remain standing to indicate their support for this motion?

(A moment of silence was observed)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Alexander Turk, who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement, and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Alec Turk was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1953 as the representative for the electoral division of Winnipeg North. Born in 1905 in Larné, Northern

Ireland, Mr. Turk came to Canada at the age of five and settled in Elmwood. Mr. Turk was probably best known for his involvement in the sporting community of our province.

As a youngster growing up in North Winnipeg, I recall his name being associated with many, many different sporting events and he was particularly known as the manager of the Norwood Baseball Team, as well as becoming Winnipeg's first professional boxing and wrestling promoter for a number of years. Besides his five years as the MLA for Winnipeg North, he also served as an alderman in the City of Winnipeg in 1963 and 1964. He was involved, of course, in many charitable and public service activities within his community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend to his wife Ann, daughter Marian, and the remaining members of the family, my deepest sympathies and the gratitude of this Legislature for his public service in our province.

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): I rise on behalf of my colleagues in the House to pay tribute to Alex Turk, who sat in this House as a Liberal Member, a Progressive Member, actually, from 1953-1958.

Alex Turk and I first met at a ceremony to pay tribute to him, which was an event within the boxing milieu with which he was quite familiar. Larry Desjardins and I went to make presentations to Mr. Turk. I remember at the time, I think, that he still had some difficulty in accepting the fact that females were politicians and found it difficult that I would be there as the Leader of the Liberal Party making such a presentation to him.

He certainly was a well-known sports figure in the Province of Manitoba, particularly in his work as both a boxing and wrestling promoter, and he enjoyed particularly a reputation in the Elmwood area as somewhat of a "character," and some fondness for Alex will go on for many, many years in that community.

He was well-known even by young children in that particular area because of the nature of his style of living. So I extend to his daughter, his granddaughters, grandsons and his great-grandchildren the sympathy of all of those in the Assembly who remember Alex and that twinkle in his eye and the beloved character that he was known to throughout the community.

* (1110)

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade, and Tourism): As the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) has said, Winnipeg has a history of "characters," and certainly Alex Turk qualified as one of those cum-folk heroes that have come from all backgrounds in Winnipeg and from all parts of the community.

Mr. Turk, I met for the first time about 1962 or '63 through my father and some of his business associates who had some dealings with Alex Turk over a period of time. Of course, his business career was varied. He operated the Alex Turk Fuel Yard in Elmwood, not half a block from where my wife was born and raised, and whose family also knew Mr. Turk very well. He started

delivering coal with a horse and sleigh and operated that fuel facility for some considerable time. He also owned, on a couple of occasions, the Grange Hotel, which is now since gone but was located at the time where the Richardson Building now stands and was somewhat of a famous landmark in downtown Winnipeg, and many decisions, business and otherwise, were made within the confines of a certain portion of the establishment there, Mr. Speaker.

He was, of course, Winnipeg's first pro boxing and wrestling promoter and from the Grange Hotel, where many of the arrangements were made for the first wrestling bouts to be held in Winnipeg, he was the first man to bring Vern Gagne, for instance, to Winnipeg from his association with the wrestling promoters in Minneapolis, and I think that was a very fond time of his life.

As the Premier (Mr. Filmon) has indicated, he was a Member of the Manitoba Legislature for the period of 1953-1958, a period of five years, sitting as a Liberal Progressive Member, and was alderman in Ward 3 in the City of Winnipeg for two years as well in the mid-Sixties.

I guess, Mr. Speaker, the main love of his life was sport, particularly baseball. He was one of the founding members of the Elmwood Giants baseball system in Elmwood. He was one of the founders of the Mandak League which I, as a young boy, remember hearing of the teams playing in the Mandak League and the fact that that was the principal baseball focus in Manitoba during those formative years.

He also was quite a catcher himself. He played for the Elks Baseball Team and was a relatively good athlete himself. He also was a fair boxer in his own right, as I understand it, but that occurred some time before I was born, so I was not able of course to be privy to seeing that occur. He was also very active in the Shrine. He had great dedication to that organization and, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to point out to Members of the House that his involvement with the Shrine was long-standing.

Alex Turk was a caring man, ready to help just about anyone who needed it, who wanted it, or he thought needed it or wanted it, whether they asked him or not. That was at some considerable personal cost over time to him. He, in his later years, was not a wealthy man. He had some financial problems that he had to deal with, but that did not prevent him from wanting to help people. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and to say that Manitoba, I think, is a better place for having had Alex Turk. Thank you.

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself and my caucus to pay tribute to the memory of Alex Turk, my predecessor of some years ago in the constituency of Elmwood. I knew Alex for a short period of his very long life. I met him in 1984 and in fact have rented—my constituency office is located in the building that he owned, and a building that his widow still owns.

But I think it would be very easy for one to write a book on the life of Alex Turk, as has been mentioned

by previous speakers. He was involved in so many different areas, even more so than the areas that were mentioned. He was involved in the real estate field, he was involved in the travel field. As the Member for Charleswood (Mr. Ernst) mentioned, he owned a fuel yard. He owned the Grange Hotel at some point. He had a long history of involvement in the sports area, the boxing and wrestling promotion area.

I went with him several times to a happening in Elmwood. I am not certain that it is still going on, but it started a few years ago. It was a thing called the "Every Second Tuesday Breakfast Club." It was a meeting place primarily for men. They were mainly sports activists over the years, who came in from all over the City of Winnipeg every second Tuesday into Elmwood, perhaps numbering as high as 100, 120 people, to have breakfast together and talk about things that had happened in the past week. Alex used to provide the prizes for draws that they would have there or tickets to the theatre and so on.

He, of course, as has been mentioned, had great wit and he carried that with him to the day he died. I saw him in the hospital just a few days before he died last January 1 and, even in those last two or three days, he still had that sparkle and he still had that drive that the Member for Charleswood (Mr. Ernst) alluded to. As has been mentioned, he was a city councillor for a little while. He was the treasurer of the Elmwood NDP in his last couple of years. I did want to read a couple of lines from Lloyd Stinson's book, "Political Warriors," in which Alex Turk was mentioned. The passage that I would like to read is as follows:

"In 1954, Turk broke ranks and voted on a CCF resolution calling for comprehensive health insurance. In 1955, Turk again voted with the Opposition in favour of a CCF resolution calling for prison and correctional reform." To quote another passage from pages 275 and 276 of the same book and I quote, "Alex Turk, a former Liberal MLA, was the happy warrior type, always ready with a quip. Alex was a wrestling promoter with the instincts of a showman, earthy, generous and forthright. He had great sympathy for working people, old age pensioners and the handicapped. As he had once done in the Legislature for humanitarian reasons, he voted many times on City Council with our group," in reference to the CCF group.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend these sympathies to the Turk family.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable First Minister (Mr. Filmon), seconded by the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Alexander Turk, who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?
(Agreed)

Would Honourable Members please rise and remain standing to indicate their support for the motion?

(A moment of silence was observed)

* (1120)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I move, seconded by the Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Fred Theodore Klym who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Fred Klym was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature in 1959 for the electoral division of Springfield and was re-elected in 1962 and 1966. Born in Brokenhead, Manitoba, Mr. Klym received his early education in Ladywood, Manitoba and later attended the University of Manitoba. Completing his further teaching training at the Manitou Normal School in 1930, for the next 26 years, he taught in the districts of Mountain Road, Melrose, Libau and Green Oak. He maintained an avid interest in curling and a lifelong interest in farming. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to the family and to the many friends of Fred Klym and our gratitude for his years of public service.

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): I would like to place on the record the sympathies also of the Liberal Party assembled here in this House and this Chamber, to the family of the late Fred Theodore Klym and his brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews. Interestingly enough, Mr. Klym did not have children himself, but he made his contribution to the children of this province through a very long and active teaching career, and there are, I am sure, many adults in our society today who remember the ministrations that they received from Mr. Klym in the classroom. Of course, we recognize him as being a Member of this Legislature and, therefore, we express our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): I will join with the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) in expressing our condolences to the family of the late Fred Theodore Klym. Mr. Klym was elected as an MLA, I note, in the general election of May, 1959. I would gather that was part and parcel of the Roblin era. I imagine it was a rather exciting time because there were a lot of new changes brought into the province at that time. I would give credit where credit is due. A lot of important developments occurred. So he was an MLA during a very formative period for 10 years, and I am sure he made a significant contribution as a Member of the House at that time.

I did not know Mr. Klym personally but that name is very well-known in eastern Manitoba, he and his family. I know he served the people in that area to the best of his ability.

I also note that he, like many of us, had some teaching experience before coming here. It seems that many teachers end up as MLAs, for whatever reason. They

are well trained to speak and express themselves, I suppose, and make points. At any rate, he certainly served his community as a teacher as well as a Member of this Assembly. I would join with others in extending the sympathy of our Party to the family of the late Fred Theodore Klym.

Mr. Darren Praznik (Lac du Bonnet): As the MLA for Lac du Bonnet constituency, which now includes a portion of the constituency which Mr. Klym represented during his tenure in this House, I would like to join with the Leaders of my Party and the Liberal Party and the Member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) in extending condolences today to the family of the late Fred Klym.

As the Premier (Mr. Filmon) has indicated, Mr. Klym was born in the Brokenhead municipality in 1907 and was raised in the Ladywood district. He was one of the first of his generation of Manitoba pioneers who was able to leave the farm and go and receive an education, attending the University of Manitoba, going on to the Manitoba Normal School to become an educator. One has to appreciate in the context of that particular time and that particular part of the province, it was indeed a very great achievement. Many of his brothers and sisters, many of his neighbours were not able to further their education due to financial demands of being there to support their parents and their families and remain on the farm. In the context of his day, he certainly was someone who was a great achiever in his community.

In his education career, in his early days, Fred Klym taught in various parts of the province, taught in the Mountain Road District, Melrose, Libau, and Green Oak, north of Beausejour. What I found when I attended his funeral earlier this month was the number of people who attended, who came to pay their respects to Fred Klym who had been his students. They had very fond recollections of their days in his classroom, of him being a very fair individual, a very interesting teacher, a very inspirational person in the classroom. Many of them could recount stories of their days in his classroom and the effect that Fred had on their lives. In fact, one Member of our House today, the present Member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer), was one of Fred's students at the Libau school, as were many of his brothers and sisters and neighbours.

Fred was an individual who was very active and interested in his community. On a personal note, I had the opportunity of first meeting Fred Klym four years ago, as a candidate for nomination going to his home to meet him in Beausejour and spending an hour or so chatting with him. It was one of the more memorable parts of that particular time of my life, listening to him recount his interest in politics and in the community, his questions about what was going on in the community, in the province, on various issues. He was a man who maintained a very sharp mind. He was a man who maintained a very keen interest in his community and his province. Fred was also a very active farmer and, during his years as a teacher, he continued to farm in the Brokenhead municipality, to take a keen interest in agriculture. It was really one of the loves of his life. He also was active in curling, an avid curler, spent much time on the curling rink with friends and

being part of the curling organization and the founding of the curling organization in the Beausejour District.

Fred, because of that involvement, decided in the late Fifties to become involved in politics. At that particular time, I understand he was quite inspired by Duff Roblin and the initiatives that Duff Roblin wanted to take in Manitoba. In 1959, he decided to seek the Progressive Conservative nomination in the constituency of Springfield and was successful in securing that nomination. He was elected in that general election to this Legislature. He was subsequently re-elected in the general elections of 1962 and 1966.

I would add as well with respect to that nomination and those elections, as Fred recollected for me on one of my visits at his home in Beausejour, about the difficulty for someone of his background in those particular days to secure a nomination. I know from others in the community that it was indeed quite an achievement, and one that I think the Ukrainian and Polish communities in the Beausejour and Springfield areas are quite proud of his ability to secure a nomination and to be elected to the Legislature and to serve in this Assembly.

Fred was quite proud of two of the major accomplishments of the Roblin Government. In speaking with him, he recollected some of the political problems of bringing about the Floodway and the consolidation of Manitoba schools. On both of those issues, he felt very strongly, particularly on the consolidation of our schools and the creation of a public school system with fewer school divisions and larger districts, about the importance in bringing that type of system that could upgrade the standards of education in the province. Fred understood all too well the need for larger school divisions in the province, after having taught in small schools where most of his students were not able to go on to high school because it was not available. It was an achievement of that particular era that Fred was quite proud of throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the Members of this Assembly in expressing the condolences of the people of the Lac du Bonnet constituency to the Klym family. It will certainly be a loss that will be felt in his family and in the community.

* (1130)

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): I would also like to extend my condolences to the family of the late Fred Klym.

I did spend one year in his class when he was my school teacher in Libau and did get to know and respect Mr. Klym. Fred was also a very good friend of my parents and my family and spent a great deal of time at our house in Libau. I can recall the many political discussions that Fred and my dad had at that time. Fred was a very devout educator and dedicated school teacher and a very hard worker and dedicated MLA for Springfield. I join with my colleagues to extend my condolences to the Fred Klym family.

Mr. Speaker: I would sincerely hope that is not a newspaper that the Honourable Minister of Labour (Mr.

Connery) is reading, which would contravene our Rule 44.2?

It has been moved by the Honourable First Minister (Mr. Filmon), seconded by the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Fred Theodore Klym, who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of the resolution to the family.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? (Agreed)

Mr. Speaker: Would Honourable Members please rise and remain standing to indicate their support for the motion?

(A moment of silence was observed)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I move, seconded by the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Joseph Ernest Jeannotte, who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Joe Jeannotte was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature in the general election of 1958, representing the electoral division of Rupertsland. He was subsequently re-elected in 1959, 1963 and 1966.

He had a very active life outside the world of politics as a pilot, rancher, fur trader and storekeeper. He was a great spokesman, an advocate and supporter of the North.

Joe was an honorary life Member of our Party. I know of Joe more through his daughter, Irene Oliphant, who I have known for some time. Joe remained active in public life, remained active within the Party for many years after retiring as a Member of this Legislature. He was well liked and well remembered by his former colleagues and indeed by many Members, certainly of our Party. I would from time to time hear from him in the years since I have been Leader of the Party. I have received Christmas cards on a regular basis from Joe.

To his wife, Annette, and his three daughters, Janet, Delores and Irene, and the remaining members of the family, I extend my deepest sympathies at this time of sorrow and the gratitude indeed of all Manitobans for his many years of public service.

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): The passing of Joseph Jeannotte, of course, represents, I think to all of us, somewhat the passing of what appears to be a bit of a lifestyle. The people of Mr. Jeannotte's era who combine so many talents that were typical of those Northerners of that era where they flew

their own planes and often those planes were not very safe vehicles, Mr. Speaker. They were ranchers and they were fur traders and they were storekeepers. Unfortunately, for many, that is a passing era so, when we indeed spend a few moments contemplating the life of Joseph Ernest Jeannotte, we also must contemplate the passing of an era in Manitoba. So I extend on behalf of my caucus my sincerest sympathy to the wife and daughters of Mr. Jeannotte and our tribute for the life that he led and the avant-garde nature of that life, and the hope that he is fondly remembered by many throughout the province for his contribution.

Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupertsland): I rise to pay tribute to Joseph Ernest Jeannotte who represented Rupertsland for 11 years. It takes a lot of energy and time to represent this constituency and certainly he was qualified to represent the area, as he was a pilot, and a fur trader and mingled and talked with the aboriginal people in my constituency.

I wish to recognize and acknowledge the work that he has done to bring up the standard of life and the well-being of the individuals in the constituency of Rupertsland.

I wish to extend on behalf of my constituents and myself our condolences and sympathy to his wife, Annette, his children and his grandchildren.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I would like to add a couple of words in memory of Joseph Jeannotte. I did not know him personally, but he represented what is now a small portion of the Ste. Rose riding and had a lot of friends in and around Ste. Rose. Those to whom I have spoken remember him as a kind and gentle man, a man who was truly dedicated to the service of the people around him, fondly remembered by all of those who knew him personally, and I want to extend my sincere sympathy to the family on their loss.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a few comments and join in the condolence motion of Mr. Joe Jeannotte. In reading the obituary, one has to fully appreciate the very active life of Mr. Joe Jeannotte. I had the opportunity as Minister of Agriculture to have him visit my office and have a very interesting visit and I have a lot of respect for the individual.

As I indicated, when one looks at his obituary, the fact that he was a rancher, fur trader, storekeeper, one would automatically say that he was a prime candidate to become a Member of the Legislature. It seems that those people who are so exceptionally busy in their communities find time to do that extra little bit for their community and it is a tremendous sacrifice, as each and every one of us knows who does take the time and the effort to represent their constituents to the best of their ability. It is because of the outgoing mannerism and the fact that he was a major part of that community in that constituency that I am sure he had the kind of support and shows that record of support in the number of re-elections that he has, Mr. Speaker.

So I am very pleased today to rise to give my sympathies and extend them to the family and, as well, the former Member for the constituency which I represent. I am sure their family had a very close relationship with them as well.

Mr. Speaker: It is moved by the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), seconded by the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings),

THAT this House convey to family of the late Joseph Ernest Jeannotte, who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

Would Honourable Members please rise and remain standing to indicate their support for the motion?

(A moment of silence was observed)

* (1140)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Philip Markus Petursson, who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Mr. Speaker, Philip Markus Petursson was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in June 1966 for the electoral division of Wellington, and was subsequently re-elected in the general elections of 1969 and 1973. On July 17, 1969, he was sworn in as Minister of Cultural Affairs.

Doctor Petursson was born in Pine Creek, Minnesota, and received his Bachelor of Philosophy degree from the Medville Theological School in Chicago in 1929. In 1932, he received his Bachelor of Divinity degree and an Honourable Doctorate of Divinity degree in 1970. Doctor Petursson was Minister of the All Souls Unitarian Church in 1929 and from there he served the Unitarian Church on Banning Street until his retirement in 1964. He was Minister Emeritus of the Unitarian Church in Winnipeg at the time of his death. Doctor Petursson was very active in the Icelandic community, serving as past President of the Icelandic National League of North America. He was a Member of the Order of the Falcon, a prestigious honour conferred to him by the Government of Iceland.

Besides his 11 years as MLA, he also served seven years as a trustee with the Winnipeg School Division, and six years as a Member of the Municipal Hospitals Commission. As Cultural Affairs Minister, he was responsible for Manitoba's Centennial celebrations which marked the 100th Anniversary of our province.

Mr. Speaker, to his wife, Kathleen, and to all his family and many friends, I wish to extend, on behalf of all

Members of the Assembly, our sympathy at his loss and our appreciation for his many years of public service.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): It is indeed a privilege to second the motion forwarded by the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), and I thank him for that honour.

As the First Minister has pointed out, Philip Petursson served in this House from 1966 until 1977. He was a colleague of two colleagues of mine who I am sure will be adding their words to this condolence this morning.

The Member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) and the Member from Interlake (Mr. Uruski) served in the caucus with Philip Petursson. But many of us, the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) and others in the community in the Inner City, the cultural areas and the Icelandic community, know Philip Petursson, not only in his political work but in his tremendous work in the Unitarian Church in his community and his tremendous integrity and sense of purpose in terms of not only Manitobans but the situation that we find ourselves in, in this world. He had a very, very interesting wit about him, Mr. Speaker, that I always respected. He had a very strong social gospel outlet that was a heritage of many of our forefathers and foremothers in our political movement and our political party. He was certainly a person who was well respected across all partisan lines and across all faiths in terms of his tremendous sincerity and dedication.

He is a person who I had great personal respect for and had the privilege of attending his funeral, which was attended by so many people just last summer. He has married even many of our Members, Mr. Speaker. He married our former Premier, Mr. Pawley, and his wife, Adele, in terms of his effect on this Legislature. Mr. Speaker, as the First Minister has pointed out, he has had a very diversified career, tremendous dedication to his church, his family, his community and this province and the cultural components of our province.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to read one of his last speeches, in the Speech from the Throne, 1976, where he, in a very prophetic way, was talking about the legacy we have left our grandchildren and he has left his grandchildren. Mr. Petursson was quite rightly pointing out the heritage that we have left our generations in terms of the earth and our mankind. He is, in Hansard, quoted that the resources that have lain in the earth for millions of years have almost reached depletion in a single century and he moves on with very eloquent words from a poem that he wrote on this great challenge. As we collectively face that challenge, perhaps we can remember his words and his challenge to us to reverse what has gone on in this century as our legacy in this Manitoba Legislature for our future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I too pass on the condolences to the family of Mr. Petursson, and thank you for the opportunity to speak on this subject today.

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): On behalf of the Liberal caucus, I wish to express to

the family, particularly the wife, son and grandchildren of Dr. Petursson, the sincerest sympathies of my caucus.

When asking my Members about Dr. Petursson, the question that came up among most of them was the sense of dedication to principle of this particular individual. They all remembered that, those who had contact with him.

Also, when the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) talked about his social conscience, it was a social conscience that he expressed not only as a politician but as a minister in the church of his choice. Like many Manitobans who have had positions of prominence, he came to us from the United States where he had taken his theological training. He came and made his life amongst us and gave 24 years to public service as a school trustee, as a member of the Municipal Hospitals Commission and as a Member of this Legislative Assembly, but that does not touch the years of service that he gave as a churchperson, because he touched all who he spoke with and left all members of his congregation with his sense of dedication to the betterment of mankind and womankind within the Manitoba dynamic and the Manitoba society.

He also was very interested in multiculturalism because he himself was of Icelandic background. He made that contribution as well in recognizing that we were, unlike our neighbours to the south and unlike his own heritage, a society which encouraged the diversity of our peoples, believing that it created a much more interesting, a dynamic—certainly the whole nature of Canadian society, I think, now reflects the dynamics that Dr. Petursson himself understood so well.

I join with my colleagues on both sides of the House in expressing the deepest sympathy for the passing of a man who will in fact live on, because his ideas and his expression of those ideas have touched many, many within the society of those of us who still remain.

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): I would join with others in extending our sympathy to the family of the late Phil Petursson.

Phil Petursson was a great friend of ours. He was a colleague, of course, but I knew him long before I became a Member of this Legislature or indeed ever thought of becoming a Member of the Legislature. I, as a youngster, remember him being a member of the school board and the contribution he made to the community as a school trustee. I remember him as a Unitarian Church minister and the contribution that he made from the pulpit in his church. I remember him as one who had been active in the community, playing a very important role in so many ways.

He was a very philosophical man. He was one with a lot of wit but one with a great deal of concern about his fellowman/woman, a very great concern for social issues; a great concern for the environment. As has been pointed out, he played a significant role in the Government of Manitoba as Minister of Cultural Affairs in an important time in our history, the Centennial Year of 1970.

He has many friends in the Government, in the Legislature, and has had over the years. I know a friend

of his is our present Lieutenant-Governor who has a common interest with the late Philip Petursson in promoting the interests of the Icelandic community in Manitoba.

I just want to mention something that people might not be aware of. Philip Petursson as a minister, as a clergyman, was very concerned about the prayer that was used in this Legislature day in and day out. He felt that it should be broadened to appeal to people of different faiths and different backgrounds so that it would be as broad as possible, as universal as possible and, if anything, he did make a significant contribution in heading up a small committee, along with the Speaker at that time, in revising the prayer. The prayer that you read today, Mr. Speaker, is the prayer that was, in large measure, penned, devised and written by the late Philip Petursson.

There is a lot to be said about Phil Petursson. I have listened to many of his sermons. He always spoke well. Above all else, he was a man of reason. He spoke with reason as well as compassion. I have a great deal of sadness and so does my family in knowing that he has left us but indeed, having left us, he has left behind a legacy. He has made an important contribution to this community. Thank you.

* (1150)

Mr. Bill Uruski (Interlake): I too would like to participate with all colleagues in this Assembly in this condolence motion on the passing of a good friend and colleague, Philip Petursson.

In fact, I should inform Members that Philip lost his son, who also carried his name, Philip, just a week ago as a result of a bout with cancer. To his family, Helen, and the children of the son, of Philip, I also would like to extend, on behalf of all of us, our sincerest condolences.

I have known Philip Petursson—I did not know him before my time in public office, but many of my friends in Arborg, in Geysir, in Arnes, in Hnausa, in the Interlake, where Philip came and preached at the Ardal-Geysir Unitarian Church in the community of Arborg, he was well-known in the Interlake region and well-respected within the Icelandic community, very much a poet, a writer. In fact, I think there is a characteristic of many of the Icelandic people, and Philip clearly characterized that, is their devotion to writings and poetry. There are a number of writers in the Interlake, and Philip, although he did not live there, associated with many of my constituents from that area.

Philip became Minister of Cultural Affairs on the election of the first Social Democratic Government in this province, under the leadership of Ed Schreyer, and was very much what one would consider the heart and soul of the New Democratic Party and of our caucus at the time. He had such a depth of feeling for mankind and he used it from the pulpit. I guess I would characterize one song that I do here at church now and then, and it is entitled, "Whatever we do to the least of our brothers, so we do to us all."

He used the social gospel and he preached it in a way that the instruments of Government could be used

to bring about a greater social equality amongst all our citizens. That is the essence of the social democratic movement and socialism in North America and around the world and Philip Petursson certainly, as a clergyman, clearly, with reason, espoused that philosophy.

I guess what one best could characterize Philip for is the saying of our Party from J.S. Woodsworth, "What we desire for ourselves, we wish for others." That would be and has been Philip's lifelong motivation, to assist citizens of whatever nationality, through cooperative means, through peaceful means, to be able to gain a better share of society as well. I know Philip, although he was a very serious individual, he did have a very dry humour, one that sometimes if you were not paying particular close attention to what he was saying, kind of snuck up on you and it took you a couple of minutes before you really caught the significance and the humour of what he was saying.

That is the Philip Petursson that I want to remember and I am sure many Members want to remember, and we want to pass on to his family and friends our sincerest condolences on the passing of a great Manitoban.

Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolesey): Mr. Speaker, I arise to offer my condolences to the family of Philip Petursson. He was actually one of the very first politicians that I met when I first came to Winnipeg in the mid-Seventies, and he had a very influential rapport with people of the Inner City. It was one of the things that I picked up in my neighbourhood as part of the West End is the sort of work that he did as a politician, but also what he did as a community activist and as a minister for years at the Unitarian Church on Sargent Avenue.

He was, yes, a trustee, and he was an MLA, but he was known as being a very warm-hearted individual, somebody who people could go to who had a strength who could deal with very serious personal problems, and I heard his name mentioned time and time again when I was first in the city.

One of the pleasures I had was when he visited my home in the fall of 1977, and the referenced sense of humour that the Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski) just mentioned was certainly there, subtle, dry, and highly effective, and often caught you off guard.

I wish to put on the record that I felt that Dr. Petursson went well beyond being a partisan politician. He had a certain charm and he had a certain influence that was well known in this city and in this province. I think we are all going to feel that loss, and I would like to pass on my best wishes and condolences to the family and say that we have suffered a loss in the House and in the province.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable First Minister (Mr. Filmon), seconded by the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Philip Markus Petursson, who served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of

his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Would Honourable Members please rise and remain standing to indicate their support for the motion?

(A moment of silence was observed)

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery), on a point of order.

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health): On a point of order, do I have permission for a non-political statement Mr. Speaker? Before that leave is given, it has to do with the test results of the snow at Ruttan Mine and that is what I would like to make public if I have that permission.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please.

Mr. Connery: It is not a political statement.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Acting Government House Leader.

Mr. Connery: So you do not want to know, okay.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

* (1200)

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I take it that it is not in order for the Minister to ask for that leave. Is that what you are ruling?

Mr. Speaker: Exactly, I asked if the Honourable Member had leave and I heard a couple dissenting "no's."

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I would propose that we call Bills 8, 9, and 11 and, after that, Bill 37, and then I will call them individually after that.

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, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer).

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I will like to speak on this Bill, Mr. Speaker, just briefly, and we will allow it to pass as the House Leaders have determined.

The \$3,000 limit that has been added is a positive step forward. Many of our Members have commented on other changes that we would like to see in the courts in terms of its ability to be consistent and creative with people in this province. Many of those comments, Mr. Speaker, we would like the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) to consider in his future deliberations on the—in his department in reforming the court system in this province, and we will allow this Bill to pass the second reading stage. Thank you.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

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 Flin Flon (Mr. Storie).

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): I have had a chance to review the amendments being proposed and have read some of the comments that have been made, particularly the comments made by my colleague, the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak). I believe we are prepared to let this Bill move on to committee.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

BILL NO. 11—THE CHILD CUSTODY ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENT ACT

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

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I will speak briefly on this Bill to allow it to get to the public hearing stage, which we think is very critical. Mr. Speaker, we have spoken on some of the merits of this Bill. Many of our Members have spoken at length about many of the sections in this Bill. Mr. Speaker, we are also aware that members of the community have some concerns about this Bill. There are community groups that have some very serious concerns about this Bill, and I would ask the Government in the stage between the second reading and on to committee next week—and we have just become aware of some concerns ourselves—that the Government be aware that there are some issues that the community is concerned about in this Bill.

I would ask the Government House Leader, the Acting Government House Leader (Mr. Manness), to have the Minister contact the Status of Women's Committee in Manitoba and some other groups that may have some advice on this Bill. We certainly know that they will be presenting briefs at the committee stage when it goes to committee stage. We certainly will listen to their advice, but I think the Government could be—we are just letting them know that may happen. We just became recently aware of it ourselves, so that would allow the Minister to know what the issues are ahead of time and would allow the Minister to be prepared on potential issues that may be developed in the public hearing stage. So I would put that on the record, Mr. Speaker, and our party will allow this in terms of our stand on this to go to committee, and we will look forward to the public presentations at that stage.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), he certainly will be prepared to listen to those representations made at that time and, if there is action forthcoming as a result of that, we will deal with that at that time.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence, before you call Bill 37, I am wondering if I could indicate to the House that the three Bills that we have just passed, namely, Bills No. 8, 9 and 11, will be referred to the Committee of Statutory Regulations and Orders to be made public at a hearing next Wednesday night.

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, the amendment from the Honourable Member of Finance (Mr. Manness), standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman). (Stand)

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I would propose that you call the Bills, starting at No. 12, in the order that they are printed.

DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS

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

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), Bill No. 12, The Statute Law Amendment Act (1988); Loi de 1988 modifiant diverses dispositions législatives, standing in

the name of the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards).

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): On behalf of the Opposition, we would like to pass this Bill on to the committee stage, and look forward to some of the representations which will no doubt be made at that stage by Members of our caucus as well as other Opposition Members.

This Bill is largely housekeeping. However, we do have some concerns. We do not want to hold it up at this stage for those concerns and we will be making them known to the Government at the committee stage. Thank you.

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): I move, seconded by the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 21—THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: 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). (Stand)

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

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), Bill No. 28, The Agricultural Producers' Organization Funding Act; Loi sur le financement d'organismes de producteurs agricoles, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie). (Stand)

BILL NO. 29—THE CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), Bill No. 29, The Cattle Producers Association Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Association des éleveurs de bétail, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski). (Stand)

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

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), Bill No. 30, The Statute Law Amendment (Taxation) Act, 1988; Loi de 1988 modifiant diverses dispositions législatives en matière de fiscalité, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak). (Stand)

BILL NO. 34—THE MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings), Bill No. 34, The Municipal Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les municipalités, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus).

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

BILL NO. 38—THE MENTAL HEALTH AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), Bill No. 38, The Mental Health Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la santé mentale, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles).

* (1210)

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): As the Session is drawing to a close and we all understand that, I would like to pass this Bill on to committee with the realization that we would like to discuss many parts of it in committee, but let us, in lieu of time, take it to where we can discuss it rather than just put our motions on the floor. So I hope all the public who read Hansard will understand that we are not passing it in total recognition of the Bill, but that we will pass it on for the sake of expediency. Where it should be discussed in a session of committee, that report can be given for and against it and we can have it all out on the table and understand what it is all about. We will pass it on to committee. Thank you.

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, as I understand, we are on Bill 34.

Mr. Speaker: 38.

Mr. Leonard Evans: On a point of order, is 34 still standing?

Mr. Speaker: Bill No. 34 has been passed on to committee.

Is the House ready for the question?

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): No, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman), that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

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

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), Bill No. 40, The City of Winnipeg Amendment Act (2); Loi no 2 modifiant la Loi sur la Ville de Winnipeg,

standing in the name of the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus), who has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): As I feel compelled to carry on and invest my 14 minutes wisely, now that I have the undivided attention of the House finally in relation to the process and the hearings, and while I recognize that there is an anxiousness to get on with the business on behalf of the citizens of the Province of Manitoba, I think I will take this opportunity to suggest to the Government that this piecemeal approach to bringing in legislation in the final minutes of a Session brings about bad legislation in my mind. It does not give us an opportunity to adequately look at the pros and cons.

In this particular case, Mr. Speaker, the Bill, while it is in second reading, we are still waiting for the report of a public hearing process on the cause and effect of the proposed motion to reduce the number of councillors, notwithstanding the indications of potential interference in the public hearing process by having a Minister direct the public hearing inquiry to come back with a report on a specific number of councillors before it has been enacted in the law. Notwithstanding that process, Mr. Speaker, I wonder how on earth the committee is going to be able to deal with this if we do not, in fact, have the report from the Hewak Commission that is reviewing the boundaries in the City of Winnipeg.

As is the custom of Governments, they have lumped together a number of things in a Bill. Some of them are worthwhile and some of them are required. So I am interested in pulling out those things that are for the betterment of the City of Winnipeg, as all Honourable Members will be, and I am interested in querying those things that are not, in my opinion, to the benefit of the people of the City of Winnipeg.

If I can say in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, it behooves the Government to provide a rationale with proposed legislative amendments. It is simply not good enough to propose amendments without indicating to all Members the cause and effect or the reason for the changes as required. Otherwise, we are forced into a position of trying to drag out information which most of us, given a reasonable sense of intelligence, would be able to understand and either accept or agree to disagree in a philosophical fashion. So I would encourage the Government to begin attaching to their Bills and their proposed legislative amendments rationales as to why they want to bring in the particular changes that they do.

I would like it to go on to the committee, Mr. Speaker, and I would hope that we would be able to quickly identify when the committee is going to meet, because I am sure that there is going to be interested public participation in the process of what is happening in the City of Winnipeg. Thank you very much.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I would like to start my remarks on this Bill dealing with the City of Winnipeg Act and the proposed amendments to it. Many of my comments will be similar to the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) on the area

of size of City Council and the total lack of any other component part and plan of how the Government perceives that they will operate the City of Winnipeg. The Cherniack Report, which did deal with the size of City Council, the Taraska Report and the Cherniack Report, one in the early Seventies, all dealt with the relationship between the elected representatives, the Executive Branch of the City Council and the relationship between the elected representatives and the power of the Mayor and the Executive Policy Committee.

This is a blind proposal in the sense that we are groping in the dark to know what the other parts of the proposal will be. We had tabled a White Paper previously as to whether people agreed or did not agree with it. At least there was a semblance of a plan of how the relationship between councillors and the Executive Policy Committee and the Mayor would operate.

The biggest concern of the public of the Cherniack Committee was the whole issue of who is in charge at City Hall. You hear that today. Who is running the show? Is it the councillors? Is it the Executive Policy Committee? Is it the Mayor? Is it all of them? Is it none of them? That was the largest issue that was raised at the public hearings by the people of the city. Where does the buck stop? Who do we hold accountable? Who is responsible? Presentation after presentation dealt with this whole area, and the relationship of who is responsible obviously affects the issue of the size of the elected representatives contained within the Bill.

So, Mr. Speaker, so do not know what 90 percent of the vision is of this Government, which contains a lot of former experts or elected representatives of City Hall. We do not know what the other part of their proposal is going to be so we are dealing with the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. We are not dealing with the whole part.

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

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the Government could not come in with the full legislative package—and I know they have a small staff available to them, a very professional but small staff—I would respect the fact that they could not come in with a full legislative package. Perhaps though a White Paper or a plan or a proposal would let us know where it is coming in the second stage and the third stage in terms of City Hall and then we can agree to disagree or agree to agree but, right now, we do not know what to agree to because we do not know the other 90 percent. We do not know whether the Mayor is going to get more authority. We do not know whether the Mayor is going to get less authority, if that is possible. We do not know whether the Executive Policy Committee is going to continue to be elected the way it is now by loose coalitions at City Hall, or whether the Mayor is going to nominate the people. I am not being critical, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We just cannot deal with one-tenth of a package.

I would remind the Member opposite that the former critic, the now Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology and Tourism (Mr. Ernst), voted for the 29 in the summer of 1987. The former deputy critic, now

the Minister, voted for 29 in 1987. The former Leader of the Opposition, the now Premier, voted for 29 in July of 1987. In fact they are on Hansard as saying: "We do not see any changes now at the City Hall, the size of City Hall. We do not see lowering it and raising it." They are on record, check Hansard.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we do not know what happened overnight, this conversion on the Road to Damascus in terms of the size of City Hall. In fact, it was less than 12 months between the statement we saw from the Minister in June of 1987 and the passage of the Bill in July of 1987 and the size of City Hall. This is a very important issue because it deals with the fundamental relationship between the citizens and their elected representatives.

You know, the Minister talks about saving money. Well if you wanted to save money, you just cut one commissioner out. Is one commissioner worth six city councillors, that is the other side. Wages and benefits though, the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose), when you get the wages and benefits and pensions, I would suggest what we are talking about is increasing the number of commissioners from four to five and decreasing, in the proposal, the power and weight of the elected representatives, and it will affect people in their representation. There is no question about that.

• (1220)

Now, if you ask most citizens, do you support reducing the size of City Council in a sort of simplistic question, they will say, yes. Most of them will. If you ask the second question, do you believe a councillor can represent 22,000 people or do you believe a councillor can represent 30,000, they would say, well, I would rather have my councillor represent only 22,000 people, a figure that is 4,000 or 3,500 over what is being proposed in the Boundary Commission Report that is anticipated before this Chamber before the end of the year. So a councillor under this Bill will be asked to represent some 30,000 people and I, quite frankly, have never been a city councillor, but my conversations with them indicate to me that they have considerable day-to-day constituency responsibilities, which I respect.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are questions of street cleaning, garbage disposal, maintenance of boulevards, rowdiness in parks and the whole issue of crime on the streets, which is a very important issue for the citizens of this city and all of Manitoba. Those are very important day-to-day issues, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Even though I know it is popular and the Cherniack Commission has shown me the popularity of reducing the size of City Hall—and the New Democrats are not known for having an overwhelming number of the members who are affected in city hall, that is because we run not as independents, we run honestly as New Democrats. If people do not like partisan politics at City Hall (Interjection)-

The Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) talks about City Council. He opposed the differential mill rate. We remember his position where citizens would have got dinged another hundred bucks in the City of Winnipeg because of his position on property reassessment, but

I do not think he knows anything about what he is talking about so I will get on The City of Winnipeg Act.—(Interjection)- That is right. Well, they run honestly as members of a political Party. They do not run as independents right up to the city date, then they scurry into little caucuses the day after.

I believe that we should look at this issue away from partisan politics and the ability of a councillor to represent a certain number of citizens. If we look at that factor, I have to admit that popularity of an issue, sort of a linear popularity of an issue, should be looked at in the context of what it means to the citizens. I think we are making a mistake. I think we made the right decision in July of '87 when the Members opposite voted, did not move one amendment at the committee stage and both the former critic and the deputy critic, now the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), was at the committee. They did not move one amendment to the Bill when it was at the second reading stage. They did not vote against it at first reading, second reading, and third reading, they did not move an amendment.

Why now this sort of change of heart? Why, with the growing population in the City of Winnipeg, how are we going to give people decreased representations? Why can we not take a leadership role and say, yes, councillors have a tough job? It is a tough job. It is a tough job getting calls at all times of the morning, noon and night dealing with constituency, as you said, and it is going to get tougher.

If you look at the City of Winnipeg's own planning document, the issues that are going to be facing the citizens of Winnipeg in the future that will require, I believe, effective democratic leadership, not just technocratic administrative leadership, the issues are health care and environment. Those are the issues that will be the tremendous growth areas in terms of the public. The issue that will continue to be very important to the people will be the whole issue of police protection and protection in crime in the streets of the City of Winnipeg—very important issues, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I believe should have proper elected representation to deal with it.

We should not just proceed with a little bit of a simplistic change that will, quite frankly, be in a short term, popular, but in the medium term, it will disenfranchise the rights of the citizens of Winnipeg, and at the same time we are increasing the administrative and executive branch of the City of Winnipeg which by nature controls the information that goes to the elected representatives. By definition, we know that kind of information can influence decisions, and we should be aware of that balance between the executive branch of the city and the elected branch of the city. I think this is a step backwards in terms of the democratic rights of the citizens of Winnipeg, and I think we should not support it for that reason.

As I have stated before, this Bill should contain the other parts of the plan. I have mentioned that to the Minister and I know he has been put in—after an election, I know there are time constraints put in terms of his portfolio and getting legislation forward. So I respect that fact. I respect the time considerations on

this Minister and I respect his knowledge on the City of Winnipeg and his experience on the Executive Policy Committee. I respect his knowledge on the Core Area Agreement and many of the areas that he is responsible for as Minister of Urban Affairs.

I know that he has an idea of where he is going in the City of Winnipeg, and I respect that. We may agree with it, we may not agree with it in the future but, as our responsibility, we should know what it is so we know where we are going in terms of the relationship. I, therefore, would agree with the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) on that issue.

The powers of the auditor, they are greater than they are now. They are less than perhaps we would want them to be. It is a step in the right direction. I think we should talk about giving the powers of the auditor that have been proposed by the Minister. I think we can always work for perfection, but this is better than what it is and maybe next year we can do something that is better than what we may want to pass this year.

I would not want us to do as some city councillors did in Montreal. They wanted to give seniors a free ride on the transit system in Montreal and, when the proposal came back from Drapeau to half the rate of transit, the people who were proposing to get rid of all the transit fares voted against the half-price reduction for seniors which was perceived as being anti-senior. I do not want us to be anti-increased powers of the auditor. So I think the improvements are positive. I look forward to the advice of other Members in this Chamber in this area. But I think we should go with a step forward in that area. I think it is a good idea and we should proceed with it, but I look forward to the advice of other Members on that issue.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

The whole area of the business tax, I was somewhat confused on, Mr. Speaker. The business tax is an area that was forwarded by all members of City Council in 1985. It was proposed that we go to a much simpler system and a much more updated system in The City of Winnipeg Act in terms of the business tax proposal. I think we should discuss this because it is something that the city wanted. It was perceived by the business community and the City Council to be a positive step forward. I helped draft that Bill, so I cannot be too hypocritical about it.

We did discuss it with City Council. We did discuss it with the Chamber of Commerce. We did discuss it with the Downtown Business Association. We did discuss it with consumer groups. It was perceived to be a much simpler system. The example used by the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) will not necessarily flow in terms of a tax decrease if the city, which has the right to increase the rate, proceeds with that rate, which will in fact decrease the load off the residential component which we are all concerned about.

I am willing to discuss this Bill with the Members in terms of the proposal because I know the thing was unanimous at City Hall. I know it is unanimous at the business community. I know it is unanimous with consumer groups and I think we should discuss it. I

believe that the business community is being hit harder by the differential mill rate and I think that is appropriate. I do believe the business property assessment in terms of this very narrow issue which is not the mill rate dealing with the education tax or the property tax is not a major problem, but I do not want this Chamber to be giving out a message that we want to give certain businesses a break and other businesses a tougher hit.

* (1230)

Mr. Speaker, I am certainly willing to listen to the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus). Our caucus has an open mind on this. We have an open mind with the Minister. I think we should agree on this issue about why we are going on it, and I am offering our caucus critic and myself and the other Members an opportunity perhaps to meet on this issue so we can decide on what we should do ahead of time so that everybody is working from the same assumptions. I am assuming this is long overdue and this was proposed by, as I say, all members of City Council before. It is a simpler system. I think the existing system has livery stables and ice trucks and all kinds of other things.

I hate us to take something that will move us into the Nineties which is consistent with The Municipal Act and have this outdated system for the City of Winnipeg that requires more staff and administration, requires more implementation. I think that we should look at this in terms of its effect on business.

Certainly the city has the right to go to a cap of 15 percent. I believe the rate is now in the 7 percent or 8 percent range so, if they were to add 1 percent on that tax, there would be no example that the Member quite rightly raised in terms of the real estate issue - (Interjection)- Yes, I think there is a whole hodgepodge of—because it has been so ad hoc before, there are going to be reductions and increases. I think it is a simpler, more straightforward system, and I would like to see a real hit on those corporations and, if I can use that vernacular, be on the differential mill rate where the property value of a building like Great-West Life is much higher than the property value of my house in humble Elmwood. Mr. Speaker, I will have some time left on this Bill at the more appropriate time.

Mr. Speaker: When this matter is again before the House, the Honourable Member will have 26 minutes remaining.

Mr. Jim Carr (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, may I make a brief statement to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge have leave to make a very brief statement? (Agreed)

Mr. Carr: Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Question Period, I asked a question of the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Albert Driedger), based on information that was delivered to me the form of a press release from the Manitoba Government Employees' Association.

An Honourable Member: On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs on a point of order.

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I believe that the Member previously had asked whether he would be granted leave to make a statement. Now we have another individual later on is now asking for leave.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member does not have a point of order. That leave was denied. This leave was granted.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Speaker, I asked a question in the House yesterday to the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Albert Driedger), based on information contained within a news release from the Manitoba Government

Employees' Association. I took that information at face value and asked a question in good faith. The Minister today in response to that question delivered over to this side of the House information which contradicted the material in the press release of yesterday. I have subsequently had conversations with employees of the Manitoba Government Employees' Association which does nothing to lead me to believe that the Minister's figures are not the correct ones. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the Minister and any members of his staff who may have been inconvenienced by this inadvertent mistake. I will do my best to make sure that it does not happen again.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr). The hour being 12:30 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Monday.