

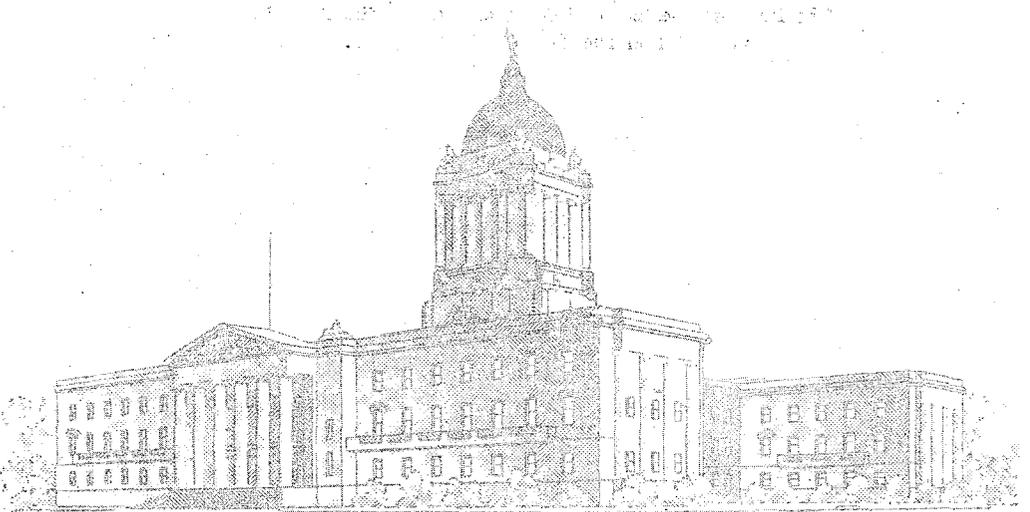


Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Friday, February 12th, 1960.

Opening prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions.

MR. F. GROVES (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Hugh Mailey and others praying for the passing of an Act to incorporate the Association of Dental Technicians in Manitoba.

MR. J. COWAN (Winnipeg Centre): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Abram Arthur Kroeker and others praying for the passing of an Act to incorporate the Abram Arthur Kroeker Foundation, and I beg to present the petition of Sobelco Foundation, praying for the passing of an Act to amend an Act to incorporate Sobelco Foundation.

MR. W. G. MARTIN (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Alfred Herbert Barnett and others praying for the passing of an Act to incorporate the Psychiatric Nurses Association of Manitoba.

MR. R. SEABORN (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Ernest Enns and others praying for the passing of an Act to incorporate the Mennonite Educational Society of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Reading and Receiving Petitions
Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees
Notice of Motion
Introduction of Bills

The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. J. A. CHRISTIANSON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, some problems having arisen concerning this Bill, I wonder if I could crave the indulgence of the House to permit the matter to stand for perhaps ten days.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

Mr. E. R. Schreyer (Brokenhead) introduced Bill No. 83, an Act to amend the Public Schools Act (1).

MR. SPEAKER: Committee of the Whole House.

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier)(Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the two proposed resolutions standing in my name.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Honourable Member for St. Matthews please take the Chair?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the proposed resolutions, recommends them to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolved that it is expedient to bring in a measure to establish The Corporation of Metropolitan Winnipeg, and to provide for the exercise by the corporation of certain powers and authority, and to provide further (a) for advances from the Consolidated Fund by way of loans, to pay the remuneration of the chairman of the first council of the corporation and other persons appointed for an interim period to carry on essential work of the corporation on its first establishment; and to pay for certain accommodation, equipment, and supplies during that interim period; and to make certain payments to The Metropolitan Planning Commission during 1960; (b) for advances from the Consolidated Fund by way of loans, to defray certain costs and expenses incurred in connection with the election of the first council; (c) for the guarantee by Her Majesty in right of the province of the repayment of moneys borrowed by the corporation on the security of its debentures in the years 1960 and 1961, or of the interest payable thereon, or of both principal and interest; (d) for the making of grants to the corporation from the Consolidated Fund; and (e) for the appointment of a committee or commissioners in 1965 to review the field of common municipal services, including those over which the corporation has jurisdiction; and to pay the costs of the committee or the commissioners.

MR. ROBLIN: The committee will recognize that this is the resolution precedent to the

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . first reading of the Bill to establish The Corporation of Metropolitan Winnipeg, and if the resolution is reported from the committee, I will then move first reading of the Bill. I would like to say, however, that the Bill will probably be printed and available for members to scrutinize about Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. Now it would not be my intention to proceed with second reading in the usual course after 48 hours notice has been given, because this is an extremely important Bill, and also quite a big one, and I think members would perhaps appreciate the opportunity of a little more time to look this Bill over. So it would be my suggestion, Sir, that we would proceed with second reading, not next week, but perhaps in the early part of the week following which would give members several days in which to study this important piece of legislation. I also hope that members of the general public, and particularly those who are interested in municipal government, will take notice of the fact that this Bill will be available for them to obtain at the same time--Wednesday of next week--and I would hope that a good many people would take advantage of that opportunity to get copies of the Bill so that when it does go to Law Amendments Committee eventually, that they may have the opportunity of informing themselves, well in advance, of the details and particulars that are contained in it. Naturally in drafting this piece of legislation, we have done our very best to make it satisfactory in its present condition as it stands at the moment. But we would have no hesitation in agreeing with other people who might think that this is a matter on which we might very well have suggestions for other matters or changes of matters that are now in the Bill, that might be to the general public's advantage. And we are very glad and anxious to make sure that those who have any thoughts about this matter should get a full opportunity to put them forward. So I make that announcement so that members will know that we will not be proceeding with it in the normal way, but waiting 'till the week after next, and also in the hope that municipal authorities and others, may also have a chance to be familiar with the Bill before it comes to the committee. And I propose that it should go to Law Amendments Committee, rather than to the Committee on Municipal Affairs.

Now in looking at the resolution, Sir, you will see that it is divided into five parts which really explain themselves. As members know, any matter that affects public finances has to be dealt with in this way. And I would just refer to the five items very briefly under the Bill. As it is presently formulated, the chairman of the council may be appointed any time after the Royal Assent is given to the legislation, and the actual inauguration of the new system will not take place until some time later. The Bill provides for it to take place at the time of the next general municipal elections in the Greater Winnipeg area, so in the interval between the time of the passage of the Bill and the time in which the new municipal body actually takes over, can perhaps be profitably filled by getting on with some of the initial work that's involved in it. The chairman--the first chairman is to be appointed, and he could be appointed during that particular period, and as a result, we will need to have authority to pay for his expenses. He will have authority to get on with certain mechanical arrangements that may be necessary prior to the establishment of the council which will settle on matters of policy, and we want to make sure that he has funds to do that. In addition, The Metropolitan Planning Commission will be in operation and while--as members heard in the Speech from the Throne--certain functions of that commission are being taken over by the Department of Industry and Commerce, other functions will remain with it respecting the Greater Winnipeg Metropolitan area, and provision has to be made to take care of their financial needs in that way.

Going on to Clause (b), it will be seen that advances can be made from the Consolidated Fund by way of loans, to defray the costs in connection with the first election of the council. Funds need to be provided for that purpose. In Clause (c), you will see that the Bill will provide for the province to have the power to guarantee the principal or interest, or both, on debentures issued by the corporation during its first two years of operation. It always takes a little time to get the financial status of any new branch of government recognized in fiscal circles, and it was deemed advisable that at the beginning, when this corporation will be an unknown quantity to the investors, that we should have this right to assist them in securing the best possible treatment in the money market during those initial years. After that, it is thought that the body will be able to operate on the strength of its own credit, without any assistance in that way.

The fourth item--(d)--is the making of grants to the corporation from the Consolidated

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . Fund. That is a permissive item only and nothing specific is specified in the Bill. It is unknown at this time as to whether grants will be made, and it is not expected that this will be an important item. And the last clause here--Section (e)--provides for the establishment of a committee of review, five years after the original corporation starts. It is thought that it would be perhaps wise to provide in the original legislation, that after this body has been working for a period of time, that regular arrangements should be made to have its work reviewed with a view to improving or expanding, or whatever might be desired at that time, in order that the matter may receive the attention that it deserves. Now of course there is a hundred and one other things in the Bill, which I don't think members will wish to discuss, on the financial side of the matter, but these are the financial aspects of the legislation which should be proceeded with in this committee.

MR. M. A. GRAY (Inkster): Mr. Chairman, are we to assume now that the resolution and the Bill to come has the full blessing of the government?

MR. ROBLIN: I'll take the question.

MR. D. L. CAMPBELL (Leader of the Opposition)(Lakeside): After all, we're not in the House and it doesn't close the debate--

MR. ROBLIN: No, that's quite right.

MR. CAMPBELL: If my honourable friend answers now--I think, Mr. Chairman, that the public as well as the members of the House will appreciate the fact that the First Minister has made the statement that considerable time will be given between the time that this Bill is available in printed form and the time that it will be proceeded with. Because certainly it is one that both the public and the House members are interested in and will be wanting to devote a lot of attention to. So I think that's a good proposal. I also think that the statement that the First Minister has made is quite complete, under the circumstances, and I think at this stage, that it's not necessary to ask for any greater detail. I would think that the general structure of the proposal is apparent from what is mentioned in the resolution, and I think that it's not proper that at this stage, we should try to extract all the details that will probably be asked when the Bill is formally before the House.

I would expect that the answer that the First Minister would give to the question of the Honourable Member for Inkster is that if the Bill did not have the support of the government, it wouldn't be here. I'd imagine that one would be quite easy to answer. But the question that I would like to ask--not bearing upon the Bill but upon public support--I would like to ask the First Minister if he's--I wouldn't expect him to be equally sure--but is he reasonably sure that it has the support of the municipalities concerned? I think that is a much more important question than the first one.

Now I recognize, as all members of the House do, that this isn't the time to debate the issue, and I don't intend to do so. The First Minister has mentioned the resolution that's before us because our rules of procedure require that those Bills that contemplate public expenditure must come in in the committee stage, by the committee route, and so I do not intend to ask for any detailed information. But I would just comment on the fact that I noticed that loans, guarantees and grants are all provided for. The First Minister has explained these to my satisfaction--loans to take care of the expenses incurred with the first election. It seems to me that a government that prides itself on its generosity as this one does, and that I consider to be as free with the taxpayers' money as this one has been up to date, might maybe have gone a little further than just making a loan under those circumstances. But that's a detail that we can discuss later on. Then the guarantee--I think the First Minister has made a good case for the reason that it would be necessary to have guarantees during the initial stages of the new type of government. And the Minister said quite properly that it's to assist them that this guarantee will be given. It just calls to mind the fact, Mr. Chairman, that here we are with the government itself already paying over six percent for its money--and a while ago we would have thought that that was a tremendous interest payment for any municipality, let alone for the government--and now to think that with its own commitments and with money costing us more than six percent, that it's going to be called upon to assist this new corporation. That will be something that the taxpayers will certainly be cognizant of. Then there are some grants provided for--and the First Minister quite properly has not given the details of these, but they'll no doubt be apparent in the Bill. So I'm quite prepared, Mr. Chairman, to await the introduction of the

(Mr. Campbell, cont'd.) . . Bill, and I do appreciate as one member, the fact that we're not going to be asked to rush this Bill, particularly at a time when the estimates are before us and we're giving a good bit of attention to them.

The final clause--(e)--I notice, looks away ahead to 1965. I should warn my honourable friend that that's too far ahead for them to be looking. They won't likely be around by then. But there's no objection I suppose in the meantime to some legislation going on in dealing with matters like that. And then when the time comes along, we can give consideration to whether we would like to push the date still further along, or terminate it at that time.

MR. D. ORLIKOW (St. John's): Mr. Chairman, I realize that this is a very complicated matter, and I'm sure it will be a controversial matter. I have no real objection to the fact that the First Minister hasn't given us too much in the way of information, and possibly he won't want to answer the question which I'm going to propose to him at this time, but there was one speculative story possibly, in the Winnipeg Tribune some time ago, in which Peter Desbarats reports that in the Bill, the council which will be elected will consist of one representative from each of the municipalities. I take that to mean one including the City of Winnipeg. I wonder if the First Minister would care to, at this time, to tell us whether this is so or not.

MR. R. PAULLEY (Leader of the CCF)(Radisson): Mr. Chairman, I'm going to agree with the remarks of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. Only I'm going to follow through and say at the start, that I'm not going to debate the Bill at this particular stage. I appreciate the fact that we will be given ample opportunity to study it. I was interested in the remarks of the First Minister when he mentioned the fact that copies of the Bill would be available for distribution to councils and also to the general public. Am I to presume by that that anyone who presumes to be interested, or who is interested in this will be able to receive a copy of the Bill? Or is there going to be a number published? Because it seemed to me that the First Minister's remark could be construed as meaning anyone. I was wondering if there was a limitation. It seemed pretty general--his remark--that any interested person--has he in mind a limitation of those? Because I know that there are quite a number of private individuals that are interested in this, and it may amount to some considerable number. As far as the Bill itself is concerned, we await with interest the contents of the Bill. My honourable colleague from Inkster and also from St. John's has asked what may be pertinent questions at the present time in connection with it, although the answer may be contained, at least in respect to the Member from St. John's, in the Bill itself. The one of the Honourable Member for Inkster, I think, is pertinent even today.

MR. A. J. REID (Kildonan): Mr. Chairman, will this Bill be available in quantities to the members?

MR. M. N. HRYHORCZUK, Q. C. (Ethelbert Plains): Mr. Chairman, this could eventually turn into a pretty costly project. I would like to ask the Honourable the First Minister whether appropriations appear in this year's estimates for any of these costs. And if they do, under what department?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, if that is the total of the comments that the members would like me to respond to, I would be glad to do so and try and deal with them in the order in which they were given. To the Honourable Member for Inkster, I would say this is a government measure, and therefore has the approval of the administration. It is certainly that, and has our blessing in that respect. That's not to say that we think the Bill is perfect, nor is it to say that we're not going to give the most careful attention to any suggestions we receive about it; but fundamentally and basically, it is a government Bill.

With respect to the attitude of the municipalities--of course I'm not authorized to say what the municipalities think of the measure. They're going to, no doubt, advise us fully what they think of the measure before we get through with it. I fully expect they will. But the Bill has been drawn so as to attract what we think to be the support of people who give thoughtful consideration to all the aspects of this particular matter. But we'll have to wait and see what the municipalities think of it when they appear before the committee.

With respect to the guarantee of municipal bonds--of course we're doing that now, and have been for some time on other types of municipal expenditures, and we trust that this is of some advantage to the municipalities in that way.

As to our tenure of office, providence alone will be able to predict that at this particular

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . moment with any degree of accuracy, but I remember some of the predictions we used to get about the tenure of office that we would enjoy in the opposition when we were there. And some of those predictions were something less than accurate. So perhaps we may be in the same situation today.

Regarding the Honourable Member for St. John's' comment, that is a matter which should I think properly be discussed later, when the Bill is before us. It does not bear on these financial clauses and I ask to be excused from answering that, not because I'm anxious to withhold the information, but merely because I think it's the proper course in our procedure.

The Honourable Leader of the CCF Party asked if any member of the public could get a copy of the Bill. Well the way we envisaged it was this; the Bill of course will first be distributed to members of the House--be distributed to the members of the House and marked "Printed" on our Order Paper. When that is done then any member of the public at all who wants a copy can obtain one. Now there will be a slight small charge for it. We charge for all our Bills. And there'll be the usual charge to cover the cost of supplying the Bill. I don't expect it will be very large, though I don't know exactly what it will be. As far as members are concerned, I think we would supply them. In answer to the Honourable Member for East Kildonan, we would supply them with any reasonable number of copies, by which I mean, perhaps three or four. I don't think we should go beyond that in a Bill of this size, although I certainly won't presume to make any rule on that point.

The Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains asks if there are any appropriations in the estimates. No, there are not. And the reason is because these are by way of advances, not by actual payment of funds that are not recoverable, and I think the Bill provides, in the body of the Bill itself, the method by which those monies are paid out and returned to the Provincial Treasury. We are not contemplating at the present time any outright grants that are not repayable.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, would I be correct in presuming that insofar as the municipalities affected, that copies of the Bill will be automatically sent to them?

MR. ROBLIN: Well I think they should apply for them. I'm not sure who all is interested. I don't want to undertake to distribute the Bills in that way. I think the usual thing is to have them pick up the 'phone and ask for one and we'll send them one.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask--

HON. M. E. RIDLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs)(Pembina): Just in answer to that question of the Leader of the CCF Party, all municipalities have been informed that the Bills will be in my office, and if they can't come for them we have agreed to send them to them for every member of the council and the reeve or mayor.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Honourable the First Minister if, subsequent to the public hearings that were held between the government representatives and the municipal representatives, if any further meetings have been held.

MR. ROBLIN: I believe some have, but on relatively minor sections of this Bill. Now my colleague may be able to supply further information that I'm not aware of.

MR. RIDLEY: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the voting of this, municipalities that did not vote on the same day as the City of Winnipeg were called in. And at their own request, if they want to change their date to the same date of voting as the City of Winnipeg, in the Metropolitan area, they can so do. It was stated quite emphatically that everybody would vote in the Metropolitan area that day, and if they want to change their municipal elections it's at their own request. If they request it, we will have their charters changed. And those that have not got charters, will be changed in the Municipal Act.

MR. L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Chairman, the Honourable the First Minister should be commended for the apparent--anyway of the fair way he proposes--(interjection)--well, I want to make sure--the fair way he proposed to deal with this, and after listening to his remarks I feel that the government are entering into this with an open mind. They feel that there might be some change and they're ready to listen. Now this is my question: Is the mind open enough to feel that if an inter-municipal committee is preferable to a real Metro system, could that still be done? Or does that mean that we definitely will be going into this Metro council with just minor changes?

MR. ROBLIN: I think, Mr. Chairman, that we'd better discuss that point on the second

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) .. reading of the Bill.

MR. E. GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Chairman, is the First Minister prepared at this time to say who the chairman of this is going to be?

MR. ROBLIN: Now my honourable friend is derogatory of the rights of the legislature. After all, the legislature have to pass the Bill first before the government can do anything about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Further resolution--resolved that it is expedient to bring in a measure to amend the Legislative Assembly Act, by providing for increases in the indemnities and allowances for expenses of the members of the Legislative Assembly.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, this Bill embodies the matters that have already been discussed pretty thoroughly in Committee of Supply. I'll just rehearse them very briefly. Increasing the indemnity of members of the legislature from \$2,000 to \$2,667; and in the way of expenses from \$1,000 to \$1,333; per diem allowance of \$10 for 60 continuous days' sitting; the mileage rate set at ten cents per mile; and the two area representation allowance of \$900 a year for the two northern seats. This of course is necessary as these matters are statutory and have to be passed by way of a Bill in the House.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, if it is the unanimous opinion of the House that I should make my speech over again, I'm prepared to do it; otherwise I will simply say that I'm not voting in favour of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall the resolution be adopted? Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole House has adopted certain resolutions and have directed me to report the same and ask leave to sit again.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Vital, that the report of the Committee be received.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

Mr. Roblin introduced, Bill No. 62, an Act to establish The Corporation of Metropolitan Winnipeg and to provide for the exercise by the corporation of certain powers and authorities; Bill No. 81, an Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. RIDLEY: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I would like to draw your attention to the gallery on your left, of the Grade XI and XII students from the village of Manitou. They are accompanied this afternoon by their principal, Mr. Charlesworth, and by their Grade XI and XII French and English teacher, Mr. Sheldon. I would also like to draw to the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, that one of his relatives is in the gallery. His wife's relative is also a relative of my wife. Now I don't want to get the House misinformed that the Leader of the Opposition and I are any relation. The only relation we have is friendship, and I hope that will continue for some time. I'm sure we welcome these students and I hope they enjoy the afternoon.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my honourable friend the Minister of Municipal Affairs in the welcome to the Manitou students and teachers. I have frequently in this House attempted to bask in the reflected glory of my honourable friend the Minister of Municipal Affairs by mentioning that we have joint relatives, and I'm happy to say that they're a very fine group of people. The only complaint that I ever had with them was that when I was down in the territory there, not campaigning against my honourable friend, but campaigning for a candidate who was supporting a party more entitled to the support of the electorate, I found that my honourable friend had more influence with our joint relatives than I had. However, with that one slight lapse in their judgment, which doesn't occur very often, I must say that they're very fine people. I issue a special word of welcome to them and so far as the relationship of friendship with the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs, I'm sure that I only share it with all the members of this House for he is held in very high regard.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. N. SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I would like to draw to your attention, and indeed the attention of this Assembly, to the two galleries to your right. The class is so large that it requires both galleries to accommodate them. They represent the Grade XI social studies class of 38 pupils and their teacher, Miss Brown. If this class seems a little restless, it's probably by reason of the fact that my daughter happens to be in the group-- and I don't want you to think for a moment that the

(Mr. Shoemaker, cont'd.) teacher has no control over them. Miss Brown has asked me to convey to the Honourable the First Minister, on behalf of her class, their sincere thanks for his most friendly welcome prior to them coming into the Assembly this afternoon.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, we have before us now three submissions to the Freight Rates -- to the Transportation Commission. One by the Honourable the First Minister and one by the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder who made the third one? It doesn't say.

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Minister of Industry & Commerce)(Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I'll be very glad to answer that. The third one is on -- I think it's on the history of transportation as an instrument of national policy. That's by Professor Morton, the Chairman of the Department of History at the University. I might take advantage of being on my feet at the moment, Mr. Speaker, if I may, to say that there is a fourth submission, that by the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, which is now being printed and we hope to have it on the members' desks on Monday. I wonder if while on my feet, Mr. Speaker, if you would permit me to table the Annual Report of the Department of Industry and Commerce.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, may I table the return to the Order of the House, No.6, on the motion of the Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, on the tabling of the report of the Department of Industry and Commerce, will copies be made available to all members? And may I ask at this time, Mr. Speaker, I should have asked it the other day, will copies of the report of the Department of Agriculture likewise be made available to all members? We did receive mimeographed copies which are very very hard to read.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. I would ask him if the Federal Government has requested the permission of this government to table correspondence as regards the extent of snowed-in crops.

HON. GEORGE HUTTON (Minister of Agriculture)(Rockwood-Iberville): Mr. Speaker, as to the extent of -- oh, in connection. Yes, they have.

MR. SCHREYER: One question, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Honourable Minister if permission was granted?

MR. HUTTON: It will be.

MR. LEMUEL HARRIS (Logan): Before the Orders of the Day, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Was the Manitoba Federation of Labour consulted for nominees for the Fair Wage Board? What other organizations of the labour group were consulted with regard to nominations? Has the Minister received a letter of complaint from the Secretary-Treasurer of the Manitoba Federation of Labour?

MR. ROBLIN: Perhaps this might be accepted as an Order for Return if my honourable colleague is willing, rather than a question.

HON. J. B. CARROLL (Minister of Labour)(The Pas): Mr. Speaker, I have the information and would be pleased to give it to the member now. The answer to the first question is 'no'; the second question was, the Winnipeg Buildings Trades Council; and the answer to the third, we did get a letter from the Secretary, I don't know whether it was a complaint or not, but he did draw this matter to our attention though.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for St. George.

MR. E. GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the Attorney-General. Recently in the courts a woman was sentenced to four months in gaol for a savage assault on her husband with nitric acid. Is he going to appeal the sentence?

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Attorney-General)(Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, did I understand the honourable member to ask me whether the husband was going to appeal the sentence?

MR. GUTTORMSON: I said is the Attorney-General going to appeal the four months' sentence which was imposed?

MR. LYON: Oh, you mean me, not the husband? That matter is under consideration by the department at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day

(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd.) I would like to ask a question of the Honourable the Minister of Health and Public Welfare. In view of the fact that the Social Allowances Act was proclaimed and became operative on February 1st, 1960, and also in view of the fact that the Minister has not yet outlined the regulations, apparently many of the municipalities are at a loss of knowing exactly what to do. Should they continue to provide help for the needed one until they are notified to the contrary, and if so, will the government reimburse the money spent in that way? And if so, if they are to provide in the same normal way, to assist the way they were doing before this Act came into force, will the government reimburse the monies spent in this way?

HON. GEORGE JOHNSON (Minister of Health & Public Welfare)(Gimli): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the last part of the question is "yes." I would just like to inform the House that I hope to have the regulations distributed shortly; it's just getting the copies ready. As soon as these regulations appear in the Gazette they become public property. We have sent out application forms to all municipal offices; copies of the Act are available; we've also advertised through the newspapers in the various areas telling people where to apply, giving a box number or telling them in each particular area where they can apply direct. And certainly we will continue on the former formula with such municipal expenditures as will be paid out under the old formula. If there is anything further on this, I'd be only too pleased to take it as notice of motion and try and answer it more fully.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I don't think that is quite -- either I think that the Minister could probably -- Well the next question then would be this, should the municipalities then operate the same way as they have been doing, before February 1st, until they are notified to follow a different system?

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): The answer is "yes".

MR. GRAY: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Health and Public Welfare? Question No. 1 is, that it seems to me personally, from the enquiries I've received and telephone calls, that no one knows whether to apply to Box 1275 or to the Pension Office at 321 or 221 Osborne. I think this should be cleared. I didn't know myself of the Post Office box and I directed them to the Pension Office. I think this should be made more known. I saw the ad in the press and the ad is quite big, but then in very, very small type at the bottom, apply to Box Office so and so, which no one reads. I'm just calling this to your attention because most of the people -- the intellectuals don't need to apply for extra relief. But for those others who do apply, perhaps had not noticed it. That's question number one.

Question No. 2, I'd like to know the advisability of putting in in the application form Question No. 13 -- Religion and Church Affiliation. I'm not opposed to religion or to church; I've made that statement several times. There might be some who have no affiliation. What I would like to know is, what was the reason of putting in this question in the application form?

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli); That is a notice of question.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose. Orders for Return.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, I wish to ask, seconded by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye, that an Order of the House do issue for a return showing: (1) how many of the applications for loans under the Business Development Fund Act were made by (a) already established firms, (b) new firms which intended to get established, (c) firms with their head offices in Manitoba, (d) firms with their head offices outside of Manitoba; (2) How many of these loans were approved to (a) already established firms, (b) new firms which intended to get established, (c) firms with their head offices in Manitoba, (d) firms with their head offices outside of Manitoba; (3) How many of these loans have been paid out to (a) already established firms, (b) new firms which intended to get established, (c) firms with their head offices in Manitoba, (d) firms with their head offices outside of Manitoba; (4) What rate of interest was charged on loans made; (5) Were there any variations in the rate of interest charged and if so, what were they; (6) What portion of the legal fees are borne by the corporation?

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fisher.

MR. PETER WAGNER (Fisher): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Elmwood, that an Order of the House do issue for a return showing: (A) the net profit made from operations in Manitoba by the following companies in the years 1958 and '59: Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited, Canada Cement Company Limited, Sherritt-Gordon Mines Limited, San Antonio Gold Mines Limited, Gypsum Lime and Alabastine Company of Canada Limited, Manitoba Paper Company Limited; and (b) the amount paid to shareholders by the same corporations in the years 1958 and 1959 as a result of their operations in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid that the rules and the facts don't allow us to accept this question. The information is not available to us. It is not a matter that comes within the control of the Parliament or the Legislature of the Province or this House, and are matters of a private nature. We have not the information and cannot accept the question.

MR. SPEAKER: It appears the motion is out of order. The Honourable Member for Fisher.

MR. WAGNER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, that an Order of the House do issue for a return showing: 1. Amounts received in the fiscal year 1958 and '59 from the following corporations for (a) royalties, (b) rentals, licenses, permits and fees, (c) stumpage: (1) Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited, (2) Sherritt-Gordon Mines Limited, (3) San Antonio Gold Mines Limited, (4) Canada Cement Company Limited, (5) Gypsum Lime and Alabastine, Canada, Limited, (6) Manitoba Paper Company Limited. Question No. 2, also the amounts received in royalties, rentals, bonuses and producing areas, taxes from oil exploration and production in the same fiscal years.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. E. I. DOW (Turtle Mountain): Mr. Speaker, the proposed resolution by the Honourable Member from Gladstone ties in with concern of the farmers of Manitoba to the effect that it has been proven by the Acts of the government that there is a need for credit to be given to the farmers by way of loans through the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation. Due to the disaster storm last October, and I believe this to be the basis of need in a lot of cases, that they have applied for loans from, is the fact that cash crop of the farmers, particularly in the western part of the province, being approximately about 6 to 7% of the crop that they could immediately sell and receive money for — mostly flax, is not being able to be harvested or marketed to get sufficient monies to carry on with. And those people in that position that have applied for loans have been held back by the fact of a statement that appraisals and so on would be held up till the following spring. I think it is true to say that the corporation was developed to provide loans to farmers that were in need rather than those that were actually a good risk. The promotional scheme by the members of the government to the time that the bill was being proposed was to that effect, that the Canadian Farm Loans was more of a business operation and, therefore, this was going to take the place of that and make it somewhat easier. Now, I don't think there's any question in the minds of the members of the House that the Assessment Branch of the Province of Manitoba is possibly the highest within the Dominion of Canada. They have developed not only just a scheme of photographic aerial pictures of each farm within the area that they have assessed; they have developed a scheme of productivity of that farm and when they come up to the point of coming to a value — and it can be very easily reconciled if you go through the rolls of the municipality — that they have taken all that into consideration and their assessment of that particular farm does bear a very true relationship to the resale value or nominal worth of the farm. And whether the board wish to consider a 2 1/2% times the assessment is not to me too relevant to the case, but I believe that it could serve a very desired purpose if the board would give the appraisers the right to take the assessment value to expediate these loans, because I believe that there are a number of applications being held up due to the fact that they are not being able to be appraised. And I would support this resolution on that fact that the appraisers be given this authority because the assessors have made a genuine good job and it does bear a true relationship to the

(Mr. Dow, cont'd.)....value, and I don't think it will lessen the credit or the value of chattels and so on to the Government Corporation by accepting that as an appraisal to expedite the loans.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Speaker, I take it that I have the opportunity of closing the debate if the

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member's closing the debate.

MR. SHOEMAKER: It's such a long time since this resolution first appeared on the Order Paper that I always forget what has transpired in the meantime. But it does give me a great deal of pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to have the opportunity of speaking once again on this subject. Two or three members opposite have expressed their opposition to the resolution but that's all that they did do. I fully expected that two or three amendments might have been added to it but apparently they have not seen fit to do that. It seems that they're being on the defensive; their method is one of attack rather than an attempt to improve the situation that I refer to. Now I know and I have suggested on other occasions that I have been accused of putting certain members opposite to sleep when I get up to speak but I would think that in the event that they woke up at the end of my speech that they would probably take time to read what I said in Hansard before attempting to answer my statements or reply to them.

It seems to me very unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that both the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell and the Honourable Member for Roblin had to see fit to drag in the name of the Manager of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation. Because if you will check Hansard again you will find that I never did at any time mention his name. And I never at any time mentioned any of the staff of the Corporation or any of the civil servants. In fact I have a great deal of respect for the civil servants of this province and that includes all of them. And I think most of the members in the House expressed their attitude towards the civil servants the other day when we were discussing the Civil Service Commission, and I want to go on record as most of the other members did and suggest that we have a very fine staff of civil servants in this province. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell took a minute or two to explain that Mr. McLennan the manager of the Corporation was a Liberal with a capital "L", and I suggest to you and to this House that if he was he probably still is, because I spent an hour or two with him the other day and I suggest that he's far too intelligent to change his politics at this stage of the game. So that I feel that I do not owe an apology to Mr. McLennan or his staff because I was not the person that mentioned their name at any time.

I thought, Mr. Speaker, that I had given a reasonable explanation for the statement that I had made or the accusation that I made when I said that one farmer at Neepawa who had made an application for a loan refused to tell me the number of it. Now surely, Mr. Speaker, that is reason enough to wonder what's going on. Why wouldn't he tell me? I mean that is ..(Interjection). Could be. Now the Honourable Member for Roblin in his remarks said that it is not the intention of the Board to deal with the applications in sequence. And he went on to explain why that was so. And I agree with him that that is understandable -- that's quite understandable that it would be more convenient and more economical to deal with them in that manner. The answers given in the votes and proceedings No. 8 I think it was, in reply to the questions asked by the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain, suggests that they are not dealing with them in sequence so that we have it on record now that they do not intend to deal with them in sequence. But it does I suggest leave it wide open for the type of thing that I have suggested. Now I don't suppose that there is a member in this House -- that is a member in the rural areas -- who has not at some time or other since this Corporation was set-up had a farmer or farmers in to see him regarding these loans. I know I have had lots of them in to see me, and I don't suppose that there is a member here who has not wondered when his application is going to be dealt with. Just last Saturday and again a week ago last Monday I had farmers in to see me -- two different farmers -- wondering when or wondering what the possibilities were for obtaining a loan under the new Act. And I am compelled to tell them that if they are in a hurry to get their money that they better make an application elsewhere, because with a backlog of thousand applications on hand as presently exists and the rate at which they are now appraising them, it would appear to me that an application coming in today would not likely be dealt with or appraised until the spring of 1961 -- unless I could convince them that they should deal with that application when they were out dealing with No. eight hundred and something at Neepawa. Now if that were so

(Mr. Shoemaker, cont'd.) . . . they would then accuse me of putting pressure on the Manager of the Corporation to deal with that one ahead of a thousand other ones. But I suggest that it just isn't enough, Mr. Speaker, to put the legislation on the statute books making provision for credit of this kind unless it's made available to the farmers of the province in the greatest number. And certainly it is not doing that at present -- it just isn't doing it. One of the farmers that was in to see me within the last ten days has the opportunity now of buying about a section and a half of land, or acquiring it through an estate, and the terms of the estate are such that he has to pay off other members of the family. And if his application is not going to be dealt with for another year, he will probably lose the opportunity of getting that land. And that happens -- that's happening all the time, either that or he is forced to make application to the Canadian Farm Loan Board or the Farm Credit Act as it is now known.

The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell in his remarks suggested that the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation were actually and eventually going to do the Canadian Farm Loan Board or the Farm Credit Act right out of business, and he produced figures to show how their business had fallen off by over a half since they started up in business. But I suggest that, and my experience proves this to be so, that when an application -- when you presented an application for a loan under the Canadian Farm Loan Board you could generally get an appraisal in two or three weeks -- in fact I've had them in less time than that in the summer months. And it did have the advantage too and still has, I do believe, that they have a flat interest rate of 5% -- the Canadian Farm Loan -- and I think the Farm Credit Act still just have the one interest rate namely 5%. Whereas under the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Act there is the interest differential as you know. We have not seen or I don't think we have the new Bill or the amendment to the Act that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture intends to present to us dealing with the subject matter of the interest rates, but it was most unfair the way it presently is and in its present form, that is under the present form, the differential -- the interest differential was based on the age of the applicant when the loan was made. And that simply means that you could be 31 years old or under 31 -- 30 or 31 years old when you made the application but at the rate they are proceeding now you could be 32 or 33 by the time your loan was made. I'm not going to suggest you'd be an old man but you could be a year or two older and thus making you ineligible for the lower rate. But I expect that that will be corrected when we see the new amendments to that.

Now I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the applications that come in to the office for loans probably fall into three categories, and it's quite understandable that they should do so. I suggest that probably 50% of the applications that come in for loans for many, many reasons will not qualify for a loan -- therefore no loan will be made. And that's understandable; and that would be category No. 1. Category No. 2 would be applications where it's quite apparent that the assets greatly exceed the amount of the loan that they are applying for. And just to point out that I asked one of the members of this House the other day what his land was assessed at, and he has a section of pretty good land, and he told me \$12,000. Well I said using the factors that I suggested in the House the other day and the relationship of the assessed value to the real value, I asked him if it were not true that the real value of his land might be two and half times the twelve thousand which would be thirty thousand, and I think he agreed with me that I came pretty close. Now we'll assume that in addition to that he might have \$10,000 worth of machinery and \$10,000 worth of other assets, and in total could have \$50,000 of security. Now what in the world is wrong with loaning that man seven or eight thousand dollars against \$50,000 worth of assets? I can't see why a loan cannot be made to that category number two at any time of the year. The other category or the middle class of people are what you might refer to as the doubtful middle class that really needs to have an appraisal made. But having got rid of two categories you've reduced your number of applications probably down to about 20%, and I suggest that there could be a speeding up of the appraisals of the loans by some manner or other, and I suggest that the resolution tells you one way to do just that. The very fact that the members opposite have not made an amendment to the resolution means one of two things: it means that they're not interested in receiving application in any great numbers, or that they have no better idea to offer. And they're always criticizing us for not offering constructive criticism.

There are still one or two things about the Farm Credit Act that I am in doubt about and

(Mr. Shoemaker, cont'd.) have not received an answer to yet; probably one reason for that is I haven't asked it. But I understand under the new Farm Credit Act which replaces the Canadian Farm Loan Board that all of those loans will be termed "supervised loans" and there will be a minimum supervision fee charged to the farmer of \$25.00 per year as supervision fee. I don't know whether that is so under the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation set-up.

The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell suggested that there were many things -- many things that the appraiser must appraise when he goes out to the farm and he named such things as, we want to know how far he lives from town and how far he is from the school, the church, and whether he lives on a high road, and how he gets along with his neighbours and a few things like that. Well surely you can go out in the middle of the winter and find out how he is getting along with his neighbours or is it the fact that he gets along with them in the winter-time and he doesn't get along with them in the summertime because he's borrowing machinery or somethings -- I don't know. And surely too, Mr. Speaker, you can find out how far he lives from town and how far he lives from school in the wintertime, and many of these other things. And my resolution simply states that all of these things can be dealt with and assessed in the winter months as can his managerial ability and so on and so forth. So that I would, once again, Mr. Speaker, suggest to the members opposite that if they're not going to go along with this resolution of mine for Heaven's sakes come forward with some amendment or suggestion whereby we can speed up and reduce this backlog of applications that are presently on hand. And let us make the provision of the Act more readily available to the farmers in need in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion lost.

MR. CAMPBELL: The Ayes and Nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

The question before the House is the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Gladstone. Whereas there is a considerable backlog of applications for loans under the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation; and Whereas it would appear that part of the backlog is due to the short snow and frost-free period during which appraisals were made; and Whereas provincial assessors have assessed a large percentage of the land covered by the aforesaid applications; and Whereas there is a definite relationship between the assessed value and the market value of said lands; and whereas the loans are secured by way of land and chattel mortgages, and the managerial ability of the applicant is taken under consideration; and Whereas the managerial ability of the applicant and the value of the chattels can be appraised at any time of the year, Now, therefore, be it resolved that, in order to facilitate and speed up the acceptance and approval of the applications for loans under the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation, the appraisers be given authority to base their appraisals on the assessed value of the land, where provincial assessment has been made, the value of the chattels and the managerial ability of the applicant.

A standing vote was taken the result being as follows:

YEAS: Campbell, Desjardins, Dow, Froese, Gray, Guttormson, Harris, Hryhorczuk, Molgat, Orlikow, Paulley, Peters, Prefontaine, Reid, Roberts, Schreyer, Shoemaker, Wagner, Wright.

NAYS: Alexander, Baisley, Bjornson, Carroll, Christianson, Corbett, Cowan, Evans, Forbes, Groves, Hamilton, Hutton, Ingebrigtsen, Johnson (Assiniboia), Johnson (Gimli), Klym, Lissaman, Lyon, McKellar, McLean, Martin, Ridley, Roblin, Scarth, Seaborn, Shewman, Smellie, Stanes, Thompson, Watt, Weir.

MR. CLERK: Yeas - 19; Nays - 31.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion lost. Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain; and the proposed motion in amendment thereto by the Honourable the Leader of the CCF; and a proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Selkirk in further amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Carillon.

MR. EDMOND PREFONTAINE (Carillon): Mr. Speaker, on many occasions in this House I have risen to speak on this subject. I have always opposed the sliding scale that was invented by the government and not recommended by the Royal Commission on Education. I have stated and I repeat that I believe that this is weighted against the people who need assistance most -- in the country where centralization was recommended mostly and primarily by

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd.)....the Royal Commission. It is weighted against the cities, not only in one way, in two ways. The Royal Commission stated that it should be given to the cities only in as far as there are students or pupils added because of the divisions being formed and the legislation does not take care of its proviso. I state with my colleague the Honourable Member for Ethelbert - (beautiful) Plains, who stated before that this is not sound policy that it is not helping those who need it most. I will not repeat all the arguments -- it is unnecessary, but I would like to not quote from my own speeches but quote from a speech that has been made by a man who at that time was not new, he had already sat for one session in the House and that was his second Session -- now he's in his fourth session -- and I'm talking about my friend the Honourable Member for Brokenhead. We all found out the other day that he was feeling his oats and gaining experience and that he had quite a lot to say in wider fields with respect to the Leader of the Opposition and myself who were on the horns of a dilemma and impaling ourselves. Now he is a good boy and I like him and I hope that he doesn't take my remarks as an offence, I make them in a friendly way. But I would like to quote his remarks which he made in this House on March 20th, 1959 on this particular subject because it deals with the arguments -- I might say pro and against because he was in favour and he was against at the same time. He was on the horns of a dilemma and if you will bear with me for a minute you will realize that this, to me, Mr. Speaker, is a classical example of a man who is on the horns of a dilemma, and wiggles, impales himself and doesn't know where he's going to end. And in that speech the honourable member started by saying:- "Mr. Speaker, I would like to have this opportunity to say a few words regarding this resolution. I think that the two previous speakers have raised a very important matter and I would very much like to go along with them on it, but I cannot help but feel that because of one or two things left unsaid because there was one or two omissions, we might be making a mistake." He wanted to go along but he could not help but feel that if he did go along with us he might be making a mistake. He went on -- he was referring to the interim report and he stated that the interim report had recommended that in this day and age centralization should go ahead. But he said centralization should go ahead as much as possible, as much as possible, and I'm quoting directly now -- "and of course I would stress that last rider as much as possible." Not too much. Then he went on to say that in certain areas inducements were necessary but he goes on and I'm quoting--"but then again if you look at the map you will see -- you mustn't go too far -- and he quotes his constituency, the divisions of Agassiz, Lord Selkirk, Transcona, "you will see", he carries on, "that for geographic reasons it is almost impossible to construct large secondary schools in certain areas and so, because there is no provision made to work out this--I realize it is a difficult matter -- These people are being unfairly - shall I say unfairly dealt with"-- and he goes on -- "I wouldn't want to use the word discriminated against ...

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, if I might on a point of order. I feel that the Honourable Member is using my words with a certain tonal inflection which is actually misrepresenting my thoughts. What I said then, I still feel now that I am completely -- I'm not afraid of saying this -- I am completely in favour of centralization except in those case where geography or population patterns would create hardship. That's the way I still feel, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Chairman, I'm not aware that there is a law that is against a man, a member using a different tone or a certain tone in his address. I've never heard that in this House for twenty-five years that I've been in it. And the Honourable Member carries on -- "now then I'm not quite sure in my own mind just how this could be worked out because it is, as I said, a complex matter. I feel that there should be an inducement toward construction of larger high schools. I don't think there is one member in this House who would deny that centralization of secondary education should be encouraged, but as I said before, again, when it is geographically impossible to build a larger school the people should not be penalized in these areas. So perhaps you will have to come to some kind of a flexible arrangement made but nevertheless an attempt should be made to accommodate this and I would like to say to the Honourable Minister that during the course of the campaign to sell secondary school areas I did my best and hope that you will not take my words today as being in opposition to that." If this is not being on both horns of a dilemma I don't know what it is. I don't know what he would have done. Would he have voted with us at that time or against us? Pretty difficult to say. I don't think this matter came to a vote. Of course he didn't want to antagonize the

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd.)....Minister. But as he says, there are good reasons, and it is a fact there are good reasons. Idealistically, maybe the sliding scale is correct but in practice it won't work. All members know irrespective of which side of the House they sit. They know that in practice it won't work and that's why we have brought this resolution -- we have brought it now for the third time and we will bring it again -- we will imitate the example of the Honourable Member for Inkster and bring it again. But I would like to ask -- and we propose it in good faith, irrespective of my language seems to be too critical, we propose this in good faith. We believe that it will help the sparsely settled district and that it might discourage the constructions of some community centres as the Honourable Minister has stated or auditoriums or frills; and coupled with a suggestion that I made that maybe the area space for a library could be lowered from 700 sq. feet to 500 or something like that, there might be a possibility of saving some money for both the government and the local taxpayers without doing damage to the education of our children of our boys and girls of the Province of Manitoba. So I sincerely ask the Honourable Minister to swallow his pride a little bit, to accept something from this side of the House -- something good, and now this resolution has been amended -- watered down. It's going to left to a Board of Reference and the Minister will have jurisdiction over the Board of Reference. We're not asking something unreasonable. One of the most important newspapers in this Province has come along and stated that maybe now this could be done and I would hope that the government would accept this time, this resolution. Thank you.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, in as briefly a time as possible I would like to enter into debate on this amendment to the amendment. The reason I do so is merely to clarify some apparent misconceptions and misunderstandings of the position of this group and more specifically the stand that I took on this matter when it was debated here during the session of March, 1959.

The stand that we took then is the same as the stand we take now. At the time the Honourable Member for Carillon is quoting, I said -- and what I meant to say, and what I in fact did say, was that we were standing four-square behind the Minister insofar as his attempts to help improve education and if this involved centralization then certainly we were for it. However, I went on to say and I fail to see how the Honourable Member can attempt to show even that I was on the horns of a dilemma because I merely qualified our support by saying that it was foolish to ignore the fact that in some parts of this province the situation of geography or population was such that it was not possible to have the grants working on the scale that they were, and we suggested then and we proposed an amendment that where the division board members were of the opinion, solidly of the opinion, that it was not possible to construct the large school, that the maximum grant be made available in the construction of a smaller school.

Now in this session my Leader proposed on the resolution and the Honourable Member for Selkirk who is quite consistent went and proposed an amendment to the amendment which clarifies the situation. Well we are certainly going to support it. My Leader indicated that we are going to support it because it shows us a very simple and very acceptable means of implementing the thoughts that we had on this particular subject. I do not see any inconsistency. Now the reason why we would not like to see the inducements done away with is because we are aware that in some areas, districts four or five miles apart might not be quite as willing to go ahead and accept the larger school construction if they knew that they could qualify for the maximum grant. I don't wish to mention names of districts but I know full well that there is that probably traditional rivalry between communities, and one community is going to insist on having its three-room school, the other one, the next one and so on, and we will not have, Mr. Speaker, we will not have the degree of centralization which many authorities on education feel would be desirable. So we want to stand behind the Minister on this. But at the same time -- my closing sentence, Mr. Speaker, --we would not like to see the remote areas or the areas of sparse population penalized because of factors beyond their control and if this is being on the horns of a dilemma then I'm afraid I'm a complete ignoramus when it comes to the study of logic.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words apropos to what the Honourable Member for Carillon has said. We in this group have supported consistently over the years the idea that if we are to have a proper educational system for those students attending secondary schools it is necessary, it is advisable to build larger schools because only

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd.) through the establishment of larger schools with a number of rooms is it possible to get teachers who are specialists and is it possible to give these students who attend these secondary schools a choice between various types of education. And so we have supported this for over the year and therefore it was not surprising if we supported the general recommendations in this respect of the Royal Commission and we supported in general the recommendations of the government as set forward in the Bill to establish the Divisional Board. Now if we are to achieve this, Mr. Speaker, and at the same time we are to suggest to the school districts that anybody can get 75% of construction costs, it seems to me that we defeat completely the objectives which we set out to do, because if the area which wants a one-room high school can get 75% of constructions costs at the same time as an area which is prepared to build a larger school, obviously you're not creating the inducement to build a larger school for the divisional board in secondary schools. Now, therefore, Mr. Speaker, obviously we could not have supported the resolution as originally suggested by the members in the Official Opposition, but we recognize the fact that for geographical reasons there are certain areas, fringe areas where the population is small where it is a physical impossibility to build a large school. We don't believe that the people in those areas should be discriminated against so we are prepared to, and we proposed in our amendment that provision be made that they not be discriminated against and that they be permitted to get the largest grant possible even though they are not in position to build a large school. The amendment which is proposed by the Honourable Member for Selkirk is a clarification of the amendment which we proposed but certainly not in contradiction to it. And we feel we can support it. But I, Mr. Speaker, can see no reason for suggesting that the Honourable Member for Brokenhead or any member in this group is on the horns of a dilemma. Our position is clear and has been all along. We believe in the principle of encouraging larger school buildings; we believe in encouraging centralization, but in the light of experience which we've had since the beginning, since this Bill was originally proposed, we think some modifications are in order, and we proposed those -- we will support that or any other which is a modification -- but certainly we are not now prepared or were we ever prepared to support any suggestion that school grants be made to all school areas regardless of the size of school which they propose to build.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you ready for the question?

MR. R. G. SMELLIE (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. James that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Inkster. The Honourable Member for Fisher.

MR. WAGNER: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to speak on this resolution whatsoever but when I went to Fisher Branch for the weekend I ran into two elderly people -- I ran into two others in Poplarfield and I just want to inform the Honourable Minister of Health and the government what has been taking place and I took it for granted that it is not actually the procedure because as far as our Social Allowance Act is concerned it's -- I don't want to rehash the whole old straw from October to February and so on -- and it's on the basis of needs test not the means test -- but I shall try to inform the Minister to the best of my ability as these old people informed me. I shall deal with one case which a man is 72 years of age. He has heart trouble. He also has a wife to support. He has a son attending high school and he is drawing \$55.00 a month. Naturally he required assistance over and above the \$55.00. The Department of Welfare sent out a worker, the workers examined his case, asked this particular party whether he has any cattle, any machinery, if so, what he did with it. Then he went down to his son on the farm, he asked the son how many cattle he's got and what machinery and whatever he's got; but only one thing the worker omitted to ask the son when the father signed over the property, how much or to what amount the debts were, and I understand there was \$1500 owing to the Bank and other small debts. And also I have here a statement from Manitoba Clinic this man has received, to pay \$74.00 for his electro-cardiograph and x-rays and so on, and he is expected to receive another one for \$40.00, and the social worker told the son that he should support his parents. Now there is one question, Mr. Speaker, whether it's a needs test or it's a means test.

Another case of a man of 80 years of age. Has a wife, an invalid wife for already eleven

(Mr. Wagner, continued). . . . years or twelve. She needs the care of a baby, and again the social workers scrutinized this old couple and if you will recall, Mr. Speaker, as I stated last session, screening the old people the Press and Hansard reported me, "screaming the old people." I still maintain that this is screening old people. They question the old couple which the man is over 80, draws \$55 - the wife disabled pension draws \$55 also, but in her condition they cannot live. They have a son on the farm. . . .

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli) May I ask the honourable member if these investigations were carried out before February 1st, or since February 1st?

MR. WAGNER: I wouldn't be able to say whether it's before or after. I'm not so sure, but I was down a week-end and that's the same week-end, but I will come back to that question, Mr. Speaker, I believe the Honourable Minister will agree with me when I finish. The workers went to the son as he is a farmer, has a family of his own and has been on the farm for at least 15 - 20 years and again he questioned about the cattle and the machinery, and again made a remark that the son should look after the old folks.

Now a third incident I had brought to my attention was that the sons are on the farm with the old folks, or the old folks are with the sons, that's vice-versa. The old folks felt that they should move out and make more room in the house for the sons and here again they went into town to live - a man of over 70, a wife 60. She is sick, the old man is old as usual. Again the social worker comes down to the sons and says you should support. Another case - a widow staying in an isolated area decided to go into town to spend her last days amongst the people, meet her same age group. Again the social workers stated that the son should look after her.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have said it before and I shall repeat it now - if nothing is done to improve the farmers' situation that social allowance will be mighty busy. And if it's going to do all what it meant to do, -- if I recollect the statement of the Honourable Minister of Health that it is not the "means test" it's a "needs test" -- I believe the Minister will have to look into it more carefully. Possibly he is not aware of it. But I also would like to quote the Member from Winnipeg Centre when he stated on page 224, February 2nd, and he said this - "in closing I ask the Members of this House to reject this resolution. I ask them to give support to the idea of helping those who need help and not to give support to the idea of taking away from many who need it to give it to many who do not need it. Let us instead continue to support the policy of this government of helping those elderly persons who need it most. Now Mr. Speaker, I'm sold on that, that nobody is going to be scrutinized, that the old folks are not going to be a burden to any of the next of kin and I look at it another way altogether. When our old folks came along to this great country of ours, they broke the trail, they blazed the trail and here today we are passing judgment on them. I'm not going to belabour you honourable members with my speech because as my colleagues have ably put it so well the other week, and I am sure that the government made up its mind that it's not going to support this resolution, so I don't need to try and throw my weight around to try and convince the honourable members because I feel that the government made its decision. But as the Honourable Minister of Health asked me whether this was done before February 1st, or before I couldn't answer that question because I didn't question the old folks so close. But I have here application for social allowance and this is -- asked this to everybody first and if I may, for clarification possibly he will give me good information, I just want information, Mr. Minister, but on Item 8, it reads: "Immediate relatives not living with applicant." For what reasons does the Minister want to know for the immediate relatives not living with the applicant. In other words it is a son or daughter or a family, possibly I'm jumping to conclusions say that you should support the parent.

Now on the other page an article under the name . . . under the alphabetical D. It says this, "Have you transferred any property or other assets owned by you or your spouse during the last five years, if so state to whom transferred and on what terms." Mr. Speaker I would like to have this explained to me, why that five years is. Isn't it possible that it is the means test if the father or mother has a little farm, I'm speaking of the rural area, that they passed on to their son four years ago. Isn't this a chance there, that the Minister is going to say to the son or daughter, "You are supposed to help the old folks." Well, the Honourable Member

(Mr. Wagner, continued)... for Swan River says "Sure". Well Mr. Speaker it doesn't seem to add up to my calculation that when that side of the House stated that the needs test, not the means test, here the honourable member says "Sure that the means test, so I just don't know where I am and what is the truth." Now, Mr. Speaker, I will just draw you one more example and I'm not going to go anywhere else except I'm going to go and take the example of my mother. She is 71 years of age. My brother left home 25 years ago. I left home 22 years ago, my mother is 71 years of age, she is crippled on one hand, she is crippled on one foot, she carries herself slowly. She draws the old-age pension of \$55.00. She stays with my brother, at times she stays with me and goes back and forth, the way she possibly can be not in one place, not to depress anybody and to change places. Just the other day she said to us boys, "I would like to go to town, there is quite a few old people in town I would like to live, associate with them, the rest of my days, I've not far to go, possibly I would live in town. What do I do, I go to town and inquire if I can rent a house, yes it's available, \$20 a month for rent, I inquire what more or less amount of coal which she requires, between \$20 and \$25.00 a month but believing it may run even over than \$25.00. A minimum charge of Hydro, \$1.60 a month, heart trouble, blood pressure, \$6.00 a month drugs. Now, Mr. Speaker if you total that together that's \$52.60, where does she get her clothing, where does she get food? I leave it to the Honourable Minister of Health and to you the government whether you're not going to come out and tell Pete Wagner, "You'd better take care of your mother". Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question, those in favour.

MR. GRAY: I should like to speak (Interjection). All right, O.K.

MR. FROESE (Rhineland): I beg to move adjournment and the Honourable Member from Brokenhead.

MR. SPEAKER: I didn't hear what you said.

MR. FROESE: I beg to move adjournment, seconded by the Honourable Member from Brokenhead.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been moved by the Honourable Member for Rhineland, seconded by the Honourable Member for Brokenhead that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Fisher and the proposed motion in amendment thereto of the Honourable Member for Hamiota, the Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on this resolution and the amendment thereto I would first of all like to point out that the problem which faces agriculture, has faced it now for many years and is still the most dominant problem, all other things considered, and that is the problem of price. Farmers in this country, particularly farmers in Western Canada have, ever since 1952 been subjected to a constant cost price squeeze. I think that almost everyone in this chamber will agree that agriculture for the last six or seven years has been in a state of the doldrums. And we as legislators surely have some responsibility to do the utmost in our power to help people in agriculture to acquire a reasonable portion of the national income so that they might enjoy a standard of living comparable to the average. And that is actually what the gist of the resolution as sponsored by the Honourable Member for Fisher was. It is with some surprise, not too much surprise mind you, but with some that I watched and listened to the Honourable Member for Hamiota amend the resolution in the way that he did because the amendment thereto, waters the resolution down to the point where I feel that we would be better off not to send anything to Ottawa. Because it leaves nothing the way it stands here and I shall explain in due course why. All of us know that several months ago the Royal Commission on Price Spreads handed down its report and in that commission report was ample evidence of the conclusions of the commission as regards the role of agriculture in our economy and it was also obvious in the report that the commission certainly was of the opinion that agriculture was not responsible for any inflationary trends and as a matter of fact that agriculture was bearing the brunt of the inflationary economy which we have had for the last few years. Well this is elementary. But I say that so that I might come to this next point. Why do so many legislators shy away from any opportunities they might have to act with regards to deficiency payments or parity prices. They seem to be of the opinion, Mr. Speaker, that to implement legislation giving deficiency payments, guarantees or parity

(Mr. Scheyer, continued). . . price guarantees to agriculture is grossly impractical and I wonder why they should think so when after all the economics, the economy of a country can be adjusted in many ways, and adjustments can be made by a government to take care of any exigencies or contingencies. I want to quote the words of the president of one of our Canadian universities, Dr. Spinks by name, and he says this: Dr. Spinks told a group of farmers in Saskatoon recently that the trend to bigger farms with fewer people around can be reversed, providing one adjusts the economics. Well that's quite a statement, if we're willing to adjust the economics, then we can do many things. One of them being that we can take some bold and concrete and substantial action with regard to the dilemma, with regard to the grave problem which faces agriculture. Dr. Spinks said that it is possible to do some extremely foolish things like putting tailfins on cars, in spite of our economics, then surely sensible things can be done and our economy can support them. He was referring there, among other things, to agriculture. I want to digress for just a moment from this trend of thought to refer to Hansard. The Honourable Member for Hamiota was speaking on February 8th and he has this to say, Page 329 of Hansard, he said: "What about the Forty Million Dollar acreage payments? I would say "Well, what about them?" Certainly no one in agriculture asked for them, no one - I don't know of one agricultural organization that asked for the acreage payments the way they were given because what they amounted to was something very akin to charity, something very much unlike parity and I dare say that farmers of this country were greatly disappointed that the Prime Minister who uttered year after year the need for agriculture receiving a fair price and parity and so on that he should have seen fit not very long ago to issue out or to pay out to Western farmers charitable payments in the form of acreage payments.

Then the honourable member went on to list the payments made under P. F. A. A. under P. F. R. A., freight assistance and so on and so forth. All of this of course only services to cloud the issue, namely the present price of agricultural commodities. The honourable member goes on to suggest that it is a delusion for anyone to think that deficiency payments, acreage payments, cash advances or what have you, will make up the difference between cost and prices to the farmer and then he goes on to say "Anyone who could think that way would not be responsible, would not be a responsible leader, in my opinion." Well I would just refer him and other members who might think that way, I would refer them to the brief submitted by the Manitoba Farmer's Union not so very long ago. And the M. F. U. brief states, among other things, that the main problem in agriculture today is price and all other problems in agriculture are merely supplementary, or ancillary to the main price problem. And yet in the amendment the honourable member has among other things worded it so that price, the pricing of agricultural products is only one of the many important problems. This is rather subduing a very important principle in the resolution and as a matter of fact this amendment could have been in a sense ruled to be out of order. However, Mr. Speaker, I would not wish to cast any reflection on your judgment at that time. I would suggest to honourable members that they read the pages on Hansard, 329 and 330, the words of the member for Hamiota and see what they think of them. One of the main reasons why we in this group are opposed to the resolution as amended or rather opposed to the amendment to the resolution is because it calls for the government to take action in making cash payments or to take any other effective measures consistent with general public interest. This is too vague, it doesn't mean very much, it can be . . . it allows the government literally miles of latitude in which to continue its considerations and deliberations and goodness knows they've considered it now for over a year and this amendment would only serve to give the Federal Government an opportunity to consider it for another year perhaps. There is another reason why we oppose the amendment and that has to do with the need for putting things in our economy under formulas where everyone can see what is happening. I do not see how an economy of a nation can be run on a "catch as catch can" basis, on a basis of where payments will be made one year and not another; might be made the third year and not the fourth. Why not, -- and after all if we wish to be efficient, and everybody it telling the farmer to be efficient these days, -- if governments are to be efficient they should have things on a formula basis and not on the basis of making payments spasmodically. It allows the government to twitch every so often in acting upon the need and then to sit quiet for the next year or two. Just before the election, Mr. Speaker, it's very true, the government can hand out -- and that's what it's going to be, a handout -- Fifty Million Dollars with the hope -- and

(Mr. Schreyer, continued)... they're very good at publicity Mr. Speaker, they will publicize this as another gratuitous deed on the part of the Prime Minister and his colleagues -- and this will only serve to confuse this important problem in the minds of many people. If agriculture is to be supported by way of price then it should be done in a consistent manner, which means by way of formula, which means that the issue will not be dragged down into the mire of politics and high pressure publicity and those of us who care to look back at the publicity campaigns of the Conservative administration in years past know exactly what can be done by a smooth running, well oiled, high pressure, hidden persuader type of campaign. And I think that we should not allow the issue of agricultural prices to be dragged down into that kind of situation. (Interjection) Well yes I'm referring to the Federal Conservative party and the Provincial Conservatives aren't too bad at it either for that matter.

It is rather surprising that the Federal Government in its famous Agricultural Stabilization Bill No. 237 should have seen fit to put several commodities under a deficiency payment type of system and to no include in it Western wheat, oats and barley because, and I think that we are going to find this out more and more in the next year or so, deficiency payments can only work to the public interest where the commodities are sold or purchased, rather are purchased by a government agency. Let us take the issue of hogs, the present deficiency payment, the scheme as it applies to hogs and eggs. I am convinced that seeing that the hogs are being purchased by private packing house concerns, and seeing that these private packing houses are well aware that the Federal Government is going to make up the deficiency by payments that from now on the packing houses are going to offer prices at the rock bottom, just at the tolerable level because they know full well that the Federal Government will make up the deficiency. But here in Western wheat, oats and barley, the purchase is made by the Wheat Board, it is a government agency acting in the public interest and surely here would have been an ideal price to apply deficiency payments and the Federal Government would not do so. I would say to all those members in this assembly who are opposed to the idea of subsidization of agricultural commodities or prices that they perhaps are victims of a rather well organized anti-agriculture campaign on the part of, well I shan't name them but certain segments of our society. In the United States we have had years of examples of how farmers' interests could be protected but in the last four years especially under Republican administration, there has been an incessant campaign carried on using all the latest techniques of public communication to get the public to believe that the subsidization of American agriculture was doing great harm and I for one do not accept that premise because if the American farmer was not subsidized then he would be in a worse situation than he is in today. Why shouldn't agriculture be subsidized when ever since Confederation in this country industry has been protected and tariffs are merely another aspect of subsidization and if industry should have the benefits of protection why shouldn't agriculture.

I would draw the attention of members here to an article which appeared on the Free Press editorial page, "Wheat in Japan", was the title, the heading of that particular article. I think members are aware that in the last year or so there has been rather strained relations between Japan and Canada as regards trade. It hasn't erupted of course but that's only because the Japanese government has exercised restraint. And I give more credit to the Japanese government in this case than I do to our own. Here we are living in this country, our Federal Government is determined to put tariffs at the highest possible level to protect our textile industry. What repercussions might this have on our trade in grain, specifically wheat? We are not doing, or the Federal government is not doing a service to the farmer here, that's obvious. If it's so determined to protect the textile industry it must not forget that there are some people living West of Ontario whose main and perhaps only source of livelihood is farming and in some case only from the sale of grain. I still wish to cling to the idea of subsidization, is it right or wrong? And I think that governments are masters or should be the masters of fiscal and monetary policy. Why don't they use the many techniques that are at their disposal, the many stabilizers and so on. The old bogey of course is that we must not tamper with the natural market. But I ask you Mr. Speaker how natural is our economy today when we have drug prices at an exorbitant height, when almost every segment of industry, manufacturing industry is selling commodities at an administered price, and then we turn around and expect farmers to sell their commodities at a natural level. I am not so much opposed to

(Mr. Schreyer, cont'd.) . . the idea of administered price so long as the price is administered for all segments of the economy--that one segment is brought in a fair cost price relationship to the others. But we cannot and certainly farmers should not be willing to take sitting down, any further tampering with tariffs and administration of prices on behalf of a part of industry, and to see themselves accept prices at a natural depressed level.

And if some of you are interested in the moral approach, I would like to read just one paragraph written by a Jesuit priest, who is the professor of social science, and he is dealing here with farm subsidies. I'm sure that he's approaching this from the moral point of view and this is what he has to say: "Those who oppose subsidies to farmers--those who denounce this, must obviously not consider the huge subsidies to the mail order catalogue people; the magazine with their special mailing privileges; the metals and mining industries; the aircraft and airline companies; the oil industry with its 27% depletion allowance; the electric power companies with their enormous tax write-offs; etcetera, etcetera. These things will add up to quite a few million dollars more than the government would spend in taking care of surplus food and in guaranteeing a fair price to the agricultural segment of our economy. Why is it so immoral and reprehensible to subsidize farmers and so virtuous and praiseworthy to subsidize other segments of our national economy?" And this is particularly the paragraph I wish to quote, Mr. Speaker. Father had this to say, and mark you that he is a professor of social science, "These are questions that need to be faced and answered everytime that someone wants to solve the farm problem by abolishing subsidies and abandon the farmers to the free market when nearly everything he buys comes from an administered market. Anyone who is eager for a free market ought to, for a start, try to restore one to the steel automobile and drug industries. When he has accomplished that, then he can turn to the question of a free market for agriculture". Well if some of you are interested in the moral approach, there certainly was a very good example of how one might take a moral approach at this problem. He was writing as an American Jesuit, but the situation applies in this country. We do have administered prices, but not for agriculture. And as a result of that, we have this imbalance. And surely this government as well as the Federal Government, has some responsibility to the farm population. So how can we help if we all agree if this is our responsibility too? How can we help? Well, of course, we can bring in pieces of legislation to deal with agricultural credit, crop insurance and so on. And this government does deserve considerable amount of commendation, but I would suggest to them that they have dealt with peripheral matters. And of course they couldn't really deal with the basic problem which is price. But here is an opportunity for them to do something, and that is to impress upon the Federal Government the need for prices that will at least give the farmer his cost of production costs. I noticed that in Ottawa, some of the Progressive Conservative members there have a little more intestinal fortitude, because I noticed that they're starting to break out in a rash of so-called revolt against the ministry. It probably will start here too, but--(interjection)--Well, I noticed that they're beginning not to follow John, and perhaps this is significant. In any case, if anyone is interested, they only need consult the Free Press of several days ago and they will find there some information as to what some of the MPs--Conservative MPs think of the present Federal Government policies as regards agricultural prices. So obviously there is something wrong--everybody agrees that it is wrong. But then here is what happens. Farm organization come up with a solution--we in the opposition come up with a resolution; members of the government water it down; and if they're going to send to Ottawa a resolution that reads considerably different from what the farm organizations has asked for, then they are only succeeding in confusing the matter. And then the poor Federal Cabinet will surely not know what to do. They've deliberated a year now. They can't make up their mind. If we send this resolution in as amended, then they will be even more confused--they'll be even more confused because the mass delegation, Mr. Speaker, asked for deficiency payments. The Federal Government has promised to announce something in 30 days, and possibly they are coming to the head on this and are going to make their decision. Let's just give them a last little bit of guidance and send them a resolution which is in keeping with the request of the organized farm bodies.

Before I sit down, I would just like to take issue with some of the statements that were made in this Chamber at the last session with regards to this same resolution. There were those who said that if we have a system of deficiency payments, that the big farmers--farmers

(Mr. Schreyer, cont'd.) . . on big farms are going to benefit out of proportion to all others. And I would like to refer them to the Western Producer of January 21st, in which it's put in statistical form to the effect that there are only approximately two percent--only two percent of our farmers--the farmers in western Canada--only two percent have what you could classify as "big farms". I think that the Honourable Member for Roblin, when he thinks of a "big farm", he probably thinks of it in the Ed Sullivan sense--I don't know. But the fact remains that we should not stop--we should not allow ourselves to stop taking some kind of concrete action, merely because two percent of the population--agricultural population might benefit out of proportion. What about the other 98%? And I dare say that no matter how hard you look, you will never find any other solution that will be more equitable. I'm sure that there's no other solution that will bring equity to the 100% of the farmers. And surely we should credit the farm spokesman with a little bit--with a considerable amount in my opinion of common sense and time. And I do not see why this amendment should be supported.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to enumerate four reasons why farmers of western Canada should expect and are expecting deficiency payment legislation from the Federal Government. First of all--and I'm in complete accord with this--grain producers still, I think, pin their hopes on Prime Minister Diefenbaker making good his promise he made every year, ever since 1941. Secondly, government farm policy up to now has skirted around the main problem that is that of price. Thirdly, it is common knowledge that the Federal Government is trying to take credit for those segments of the economy where there is a relative boom. It follows then, that if the government is going to take credit for those segments of the economy where there is a boom, that they must also take responsibility for action in those segments of the economy where there is a very depressed situation. And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I think that farmers are getting rather sick and fed up with being treated as citizens not of the first class. I will not say what rank they seem to be treated, but it is obvious that now for eight years, they have had to submit to prices which are grossly unfair, in view of the administering of prices in other segments. And I think that the government has a responsibility, and I think that this government can do a very substantial bit of good by impressing on the Federal Government just what to do. And that is to ask for deficiency payments.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Speaker, prior to 1957 when the hurricane hit Canada--when Mr. Diefenbaker came into power, the Conservative Party promised the farmer "Utopia". There wasn't anything that they couldn't do for the farmer. The Provincial Government maintained--the provincial opposition and the Conservative Party always condemned the Liberal Government of the day, because they didn't do enough for agriculture. And when arguments were put forth that the problem was a federal one, they always maintained that the Provincial Government certainly had a large responsibility, and they should act. That was the friend of the farmer in pre-election days. Following the elections, the Conservative Party suddenly became the foe of the western farmer. To illustrate this I recall a telegram sent to Mr. Diefenbaker by the Conservative caucus in the first week of March 1959. It read--this is in connection with the march to Ottawa by the western farmers who were seeking deficiency payments which had been promised them by Mr. Diefenbaker, and supported by the Provincial Conservatives--the wire read: "Manitoba Provincial Conservative caucus much appreciates your reception of mass farm delegation on Tuesday, March 10th. We are glad to remember your special interest and special knowledge in this connection. Although deficiency payments are only part of the whole picture, we feel confident that meetings between yourself and farm leaders will be helpful in reaching fuller understanding of plausible solutions".

Mr. Speaker, that was one of the most wishy-washy telegrams in respect to agriculture that this province has ever seen. Now we have--it's a year later--the member for Fisher has proposed a resolution on which he has made an honest effort to try and help the farmers of western Canada. And what has happened? The Provincial Conservatives have deliberately scuttled any efforts on his behalf to help the western farmers. The amendment suggests that the government support deficiency payments and instead they--the amendment says, instead of supporting the deficiency payments, it should impress upon the Government of Canada the urgent need for action to improve this situation, either by an immediate payment of cash assistance, or other effective measures consistent with the general public interest.

In 1957, the present Premier, while in opposition said, "Cannot we go as far as to say

(Mr. Guttormson, cont'd.) . . . that in our opinion that some kind of price support--some kind of deficiency payment scheme that will at least enable the efficient farmer to remain in business, is a good thing?" Now we have an amendment to the very thing that he advocated when he was in opposition--and they are opposing it.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I must correct the statement. My reference to deficiency payments there was not in connection with deficiency payments on wheat, oats and barley. That was a new idea that was introduced subsequent to the making of that statement. The deficiency payment system of which I had reference was in connection with other agricultural products.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Well, it was in regard to deficiency payments, and you made the remark. Was he going to say something?

MR. SPEAKER: No, I was just going to inform you, you must accept the explanation.

MR. GUTTORMSON: I'm quoting something that I read, Mr. Speaker, and he said it. I'm not taking it out of context. In pre-election days, the Conservatives of this province advocated a number of programs, and one of them was crop insurance. Yet, when they get into power, they don't contribute ten cents to a premium which is going to aid the farmers in their crop insurance scheme. This is the government, or the party, that's going to do so much for the farmers of western Canada. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that if this government is sincere in any way in helping the farmers of western Canada, instead of watering down this resolution in a wishy-washy manner, they would have supported it instead of betraying the farmers and scuttling the attempt by the member for Fisher to help the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. W. H. HAMLTON (Dufferin): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Springfield, that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for LaVerendrye. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. K. ALEXANDER (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that this be allowed to stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. ROBLIN: the resolution, Sir, of the Honourable Member for LaVerendrye at the top of the page, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: That's the one I called. I missed the one The proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain. The Honourable Member for Hamiota.

MR. ALEXANDER: In the absence of the Honourable Member for Hamiota, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that this be allowed to stand.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Speaker, may I ask for the privilege of speaking on this motion since I am ready to speak on this motion now?

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Speaker, this to me is quite an important resolution, and some members might be surprised to be on my feet to take part in this debate, because I am known to be one of those penny-pinchers--old timers in this House who was very careful with public funds. When my colleague suggested to me that he wanted to bring this resolution and he told me the reasons why he wanted to bring this resolution--I agreed with him. He mentioned the City of Brandon at that time. But before I go into the full argument, I would like to direct my attention to a statement made in this House by the Honourable the Minister of Education on this motion. And to my mind, the Minister of Education was much weaker when he made his little speech on this motion than at any time that I have seen him in this House. I will quote from his words: "I can think of no better way to cause increased expenditures by local taxpayers for school purposes than by adopting the resolution; because the inevitable result of course, of raising the limit upon which the basis on which grants are paid towards school construction, would automatically increase the cost of all school buildings to all school districts and to all divisions." This is a remarkable statement for a man who has confidence in the school trustees of the Province of Manitoba, and a man who is in charge of the Department of Education, where it is clearly stated that all grants, in each case, will have to be approved by the Minister. And he goes on to destroy his argument totally and absolutely in the next sentence. In one breath, he says, "This will immediately cause the expenditures to sky-rocket". In another breath, he

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd.) . . said, "The present limit is good enough. It's not even reached by the people of Manitoba". And he goes on to quote many instances where the limit has not been reached; in Assiniboia north school division, \$13,000 not \$15,000; in Ridgeville, \$12,500 not \$15,000; in Teulon consolidated, \$13,000; Transcona-Tyndall, \$15,000; but Mapleton new school, \$12,500; St. James school division, \$13,333; Hamiota consolidated school district, \$12,416 per classroom. Now are the administrators of our schools--our trustees--so irresponsible that if the city is increased, they will automatically jump up the cost to the limit? It's ridiculous. It hasn't been done. In the words of the Minister himself it says it hasn't been done. And why should they become absolutely irresponsible the minute we changed this limit? And there's reason why the suggestion has been made--and I will come to that a little later on. But the Minister goes much further. He says this: "You could have indeed a cost limit of \$50,000 per classroom, and I am certain that architects and others engaged in that business would be well able to spend that amount of money". Is that a responsible statement, Mr. Speaker, when all the time he is responsible himself for the government's share as printed in the Act? I don't think it is the responsibility--the architect might, if the school trustees ask the architect to prepare a plan whereby the cost will be \$50,000; but our responsible school trustees will never do that. And the Minister knows it. Why this--I might call it a wisecrack? I don't know what it was. It certainly was not a responsible statement, and I was surprised that the Minister made it.

My honourable friend the Leader of the CCF Party was off-base in his debate on this issue to quite an extent.--(interjection)--not very often. I don't know if I agree with the Leader--he's generally not too much off-base, but he was in this case. He was amazed and surprised that we would present this motion,--amazed and surprised. He was not as dogmatic as the Minister of Education. The Minister of Education says, "This will immediately raise the cost automatically". The Honourable Leader of the CCF is a little more prudent and careful.--(interjection)--Oh, definitely, because I suspect greatly that this leads in some cases or may lead,--let me qualify that--and I'm quoting from him--"of establishing a goal or figure at which estimates are made in respect of construction costs". He thinks that the school trustees will go haywire immediately this is done. Well, that's the insinuation that appears to me.--(interjection)--I might be wrong. But where he is totally off-base is when he compares the overall suggestion of an increase in the ceiling for these grants to the situation that appeared in St. Vital when the Honourable the Attorney-General made some statement to a council. And he compares the two. In that incidence, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Minister was speaking of a specific project--removal of dirt--and mentioning the cost of a specific project. In the case before us, we are mentioning a limit applying all over Manitoba. The situation is not at all comparable, and I'm surprised that the Honourable the Leader of the CCF Party would try and lead us to believe that we were not consistent--because we certainly are. The situation is not--and he knows it--because these schools have to be built according to recommendations of the architects, and they're different all over the province; whereas the statement made by the Honourable the Attorney-General was for a specific project at a certain place, based on figures prepared by the engineers. And I say there's no comparison at all.--(interjection--Thank you. But seriously, I'm--and the rest was serious also--but--and I'm right--and I was right--and I say that for once, Mr. Speaker, I want fair play with respect to these grants. I say that the cities are not getting justice with respect to this grant because the cost in the city is much greater. The land values are so much higher, that the \$15,000 in the city is not \$15,000. Because the grant considers the land values--building values and equipment--and when the cities have purchased their property, well, the grant might be to them just \$12,000 that they have to work on to construct a school. And I saw some information this morning. And I found startling things. In recent years they have built schools on city land, land owned by the City of Winnipeg, and this land was sold at nominal values--assessment values--much lower values, and the average value would range from \$1,000 per classroom, or \$2,000. But the question is that the City of Winnipeg hasn't got any more vacant land that they can pass over to the School Board. The situation is that they will have to purchase land. And I have a message here from Mr. Benningen, and he authorized me to use it, that they are considering building the Gladstone School. The cost for the land will be \$250,000, approximately, to build a 12-room school, plus general purpose room which amounts to 15 rooms for grant purposes. Where will the city be with \$15,000 maximum if it has to buy that land to purchase the school? They'll be no place at

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd.) . . . at. It won't buy even the land. And the above details that I'm quoting according to this information, the above details were reported to the School Board on January 26th, 1960 by the Superintendent of Schools. This is a serious matter, --a matter to be considered. I don't generally hold a brief for the City of Winnipeg. I want no discrimination. And there is discrimination in favour of the City of Winnipeg with your grant system. Seventy-five percent, irrespective of number of number of classroom; irrespective of whether it provides new pupils--it closes small classrooms. The Royal recommendation said that in the city it should apply only with respect to additions. But the Minister goes farther. He gives the grants to the cities without any restrictions, whether there are additions of pupils or not. And I say that's discrimination in favour of the city, and that shouldn't take place. And I said yesterday that the \$10,000 establishment grant was discrimination in favour of the city. All they had to do was to change their name from school district to school division and up comes the Minister of Education--\$10,000. I say that was discrimination. They did not establish a new level of government. And I was against discrimination of that type and I say that with respect of construction, there is discrimination against the city because their land values are so much higher. And this might apply in Dauphin; it might apply in Brandon--land values being higher. And I think that should be taken into consideration, and it is not according to the present formula. And that's why, when my honourable friend the member for Turtle Mountain suggested to me, although I'm not one to spend public money unnecessarily--I'm one who wants no discrimination, and I thought there was some argument for approving this resolution. The Honourable the Leader of the CCF Party was on more solid ground when he mentioned there might not be no ceiling and that we might leave it to the discretion of the Honourable the Minister, as stated in the Act. Because after all, he has to approve all those grants. But I went along, and I go along, sincerely and seriously with the recommendation and with the resolution that is before this House. Now one statement made by the Minister is a good statement. I agree with him 100%. "I think," Mr. Speaker, and I'm quoting page 332, "I think that our obligation in this matter is quite clear cut, that is to, within the Department of Education, to continue a very careful examination of school plans, materials used, methods of construction, and to do whatever we can and wherever we can, to keep those costs as low as possible". I agree with that. It's 100%. I don't want wasteful expenditure of public money, and that obligation, of course, is one that we have, and one that school districts and school divisions have as well. And they're fulfilling their obligations as proven by the Minister himself. "The school districts and the school divisions--and I would hope that they would share our views"--now he was meaning us on this side--the Liberals--the opposition. He wished that we "would share our views". And that instead of extending an open invitation to everyone to increase the cost, that we would, by some joint effort, and by co-operation, reduce the cost wherever we can. We're not inviting an increase in cost by moving this resolution. We are not in any way, shape or form, because we have confidence in the administrators of our school system in this Province of Manitoba. And we have confidence, after all, in the Minister of Education; that he will clamp down on unnecessary frills; and he would not spend any--and he has a right--it's in the Act. We have confidence in him. So there is nothing wrong. I don't know why the Leader of the Opposition should turn up into ridicule as he has done. I think he was off-base--the Leader of the CCF Party, pardon me, --My tongue can slip too, --the Leader of the CCF Party--and I don't see why the governments try to turn us into ridicule, when we are asking only for no discrimination against the city.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. G. MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, this matter is standing at the moment in the name of the Honourable Member of Hamiota. Is it not? I don't think it can come to a vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the wish of the House to leave the order stand?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, if it meets the convenience of the House that would be satisfactory.

Mr. Speaker adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for LaVerendrye.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin. Stand. The proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Emerson; resolved that the government consider the advisability of raising the basic teacher grants in the Province of Manitoba to a level comparable to the assistance within division.

MR. MOLGAT: The honourable member had to be away this afternoon at a school opening in his constituency, and was unable to be here. Could this be allowed to stand?

MR. SPEAKER: Stand.

MR. ROBLIN: I'd be happy to do that. I would just like to suggest to the House, Sir, if I may, that it may be that nobody wishes to begin the introduction of a new resolution at this time of the afternoon, as private members' day will close at 5:30. So I make the suggestion, if it has unanimous consent, that we go on with the second reading of the two Bills that stand on the Order Paper, and then we would perhaps call it 5:30. I wonder if that's agreeable.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed. The Honourable Member for River Heights.

Mr. W. B. Scarth, Q. C. (River Heights) presented Bill No. 9, The Greater Winnipeg Water District Act, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. SCARTH: Mr. Speaker, the object of this Bill is comparatively simple. The Greater Winnipeg Water District wish to bring their administration in line with the City of Winnipeg and of the Greater Winnipeg Sanitary District in the issue and the formalities regarding debentures. At the present time, the Act provides that the chairman of the board may sign the debenture, and that they may be counter-signed by the treasurer, or someone else named by by-law. It is considered advisable that since the treasurer is responsible for the delivery of those debentures, that he or his deputy should, and must, sign each debenture and the coupon, and it is for that reason, Sir, that the amendment is sought.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 52, the Honourable Member for Souris-Lansdowne.

Mr. M. E. McKellar (Souris-Lansdowne) presented Bill No. 52, an Act respecting the Glenboro Medical Nursing Unit, district No. 16B, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker put the question.

MR. MCKELLAR: Mr. Speaker, this Bill has been brought in by the Glenboro Hospital Unit, No. 16B. The purpose of this Bill is to take care of their share of the capital costs. The total cost for this five-bed additional, amounts to \$57,000. The district unit has to contribute \$14,000 over and above the amount they've already contributed, which was \$7,500. At the time they started construction, they thought they had sufficient capital to pay their share. Now it is necessary that they borrow the amount of \$14,000, and in order that they will be allowed to do so, it is necessary that this Bill be passed. The Hospital Advisory Board has given their consent to this Bill; also the town of Glenboro and the municipalities of South Cypress and Argyle. If there are any questions, may I suggest to this House that they be asked in committee?

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Would it be the wish to move into the Committee before 5:00?

MR. ROBLIN: I suggest we call it 5:30, Mr. Speaker, and we can deal with the committee motion at 8:00 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: I call it 5:30 and I leave the Chair until 8:00 o'clock this evening.

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