



Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



Vol. VII No. 32 2:30 p.m. Friday, March 16, 1962.

5th Session, 26th Legislature

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Friday, March 16, 1962

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions.
Reading and Receiving Petitions.

MR. CLERK: The petition of Arthur Uniacke Chipman and Others praying for the passing of an Act to Incorporate St. John's College Endowment Foundation.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.
Notices of Motion.

Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Minister of Health.
HON. GEORGE JOHNSON (Minister of Health)(Gimli) introduced Bill No. 75, An Act respecting The Sanatorium Board of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

HON. STERLING R. LYON, Q. C. (Attorney-General)(Fort Garry) introduced Bill No. 79, An Act to amend The Court of Appeal Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. LYON introduced Bill No. 80, An Act to amend The Queen's Bench Act.

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

MR. FRED GROVES (St. Vital) introduced Bill No. 74, An Act to incorporate The Church Home for Girls.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. JAMES COWAN, Q. C. (Winnipeg Centre) introduced Bill No. 60, An Act to validate a Certain Devise in the Last Will and Testament of Esther Shnoor, Deceased.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. D. WATT (Arthur) introduced Bill No. 84, An Act to incorporate South Western Manitoba Lodge.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

MR. T. P. HILLHOUSE, Q. C. (Selkirk) introduced Bill No. 81, An Act to amend The West Kildonan Charter, and to amend An Act respecting Certain Orders of the Winnipeg Suburban Municipal Board.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

HON. JOHN A. CHRISTIANSON (Minister of Public Welfare)(Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition would be good enough to table the letter he read the other day, Wednesday last, I believe it was.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Leader of the Opposition)(Ste. Rose): . . . Mr. Speaker, the Minister asked me for it at the time and I was proceeding to make a copy of the letter so that I could have a copy for my own files. I'll be happy to produce that letter, although I must point out to the Minister, of course, that I'm under no obligation to do so because tabling of a letter must be asked and insisted upon at the moment, but I'll be happy to oblige.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: . . . at the moment, Mr. Speaker, and I was looking forward to seeing it.

MR. MOLGAT: . . . it was not picked up at the time. However, I'm quite happy to give it and I will.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. ELMAN GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Public Works. Does the government use salt on the highways, and if so, how is it used?

HON. WALTER WEIR (Acting Minister of Public Works)(Minnedosa): Well, Mr. Speaker, there is a limited use of salt on the highways and it's used in the same manner as I think any other group of people use it when they put it on the highways. I think it is sprinkled on. The only places that it's used under normal circumstances are on dangerous curves and hills, etc.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Is it used as a mixture with sand or is it used 100 percent?

MR. WEIR: I can't answer that question off-hand. I'll be glad to get you the information.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Well, is there no set policy on the use of salt on the highways?

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, it's quite possible that there is a set policy but I'm not aware of it at the moment. I've never been asked for a ruling on it since I've been

MR. GUTTORMSON: question, prompted it is, on No. 1 highway yesterday 100% rock salt was being used on the highway in the Austin area, and the man spraying it indicated that this wasn't generally known but it was being used, and examination of the contents revealed 100% rock salt and not a mixture, and I know the policy was supposed to be 5 to 7% mixture.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, this is quite possible but I'll check on it.

HON. STEWART McLEAN, Q.C. (Minister of Education)(Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I should like to lay on the table of the House a Return to an Order of the House No. 13 agreed to on March 7th, 1962, on the motion of the Honourable Member for Brokenhead. Also if I may, Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Clerk to have distributed to each member of the House a little brochure which sets forth the courses of study that will be offered at the Manitoba Institute of Technology. I would like to just make it clear that this is just a list of the courses set out in layman's language; it's not a technical document in any way.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Welfare. He indicated that the survey of The Social Allowances Act was under way and was not sure when the results would be forthcoming, but I wonder if he could tell the House if it appears that Manitoba pensioners will get back the \$10.00 pension increase which the government took away from them by reducing its Social Allowances payments by \$10.00.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member insists on playing with words with regard to this question. The supervisors from all the district offices meet once a month and at that time they review their experience that they have had in the preceding month in the light of the regulations as they exist, and they from time to time bring forth recommendations for changing the regulations. The regular monthly meeting will be held, I believe, this coming week and at that time they will again review the regulations, and paying particular attention to the new pension increases that have gone into effect. But until that time there won't be anything further.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, a supplementary question: Is it not correct that the House passed, or rather the Committee of the House passed the recommendation to the House that the whole matter should be reviewed, and the House accepted this, and the Minister indicated that he was proceeding with the review immediately?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think I've indicated on previous occasions that the matter has already been before the Welfare Advisory Committee and they agreed or approved certain amendments to the regulations which increased the social allowances payable in various categories. The members of the supervisory staff have been made aware of the actions of the House and of the thoughts of the members and, as I indicated, at their next meeting, which is coming up very soon, they will be reviewing them again and passing on any recommendations they have in this regard.

MR. MOLGAT: Could the Minister indicate how soon that committee will be meeting again?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: I believe it's this coming week.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the First Minister. Last night in the newspapers the report was that the Prime Minister of Canada had no comment when asked in the House of Commons about the attitude of the Provincial Government in the statements of my honourable friend with regard to fallout shelters. I wonder if my honourable friend the Leader has approached the Prime Minister for a clear declaration in this regard.

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier)(Wolseley): If there is any announcement to be made on this subject, Mr. Speaker, I'll be glad to give it to the House.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, a subsequent question. I believe the Leader of the House is going to Ottawa on Monday for discussions on the power grid. Will he have an opportunity at that time to discuss this matter of fallout shelters with the Prime Minister?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I think I'm going to be so busy selling the Nelson River project that that will occupy my full time.

MR. E. R. SCHREYER (Brokenhead): I'd like to address a question to the Minister of

(Mr. Schreyer, cont'd.) . . . Education. I'd like to ask him if the department has as yet appointed a principal or head administrator for the MIT?

MR. McLEAN: No.

MR. DAVID ORLIKOW (St. John's): I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Education. When is it anticipated that the Manitoba Institute of Technology will be opening?

MR. McLEAN: We hope that the construction of the building will be completed by April 1, 1963. I would hope that the Institute itself would open some time during the mid-summer of 1963. We have no specific date.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, following on my question to the First Minister with regard to fallout shelters. Has the Government of Manitoba approached the federal government for a clear statement of policy in this regard?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I think the whole matter was discussed at great length in Committee of Supply and the House at that time had full information on the subject.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I asked a specific question. Has the government of Manitoba approached the federal government for a statement of policy in this regard?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, the full statement of the government's position was given to the Committee of Supply and I have nothing to add to what was said at that time.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, obviously the provincial government has not approached the federal government in view of the reply of the Minister. Will he approach the federal government for a statement of policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, because of the interest of the members of this House in physical education I'd like to draw the members' of this House attention to the Canadian Track and Field Indoor Championships which are being held tomorrow night in the Winnipeg Arena at 8:00 o'clock. They will have at this meet the top athletes from all over the continent, as well as high school students from Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

In January some 8,500 people came to the meet and high school students came from LaRiviere, Marathon, Flin Flon, the Lakehead, Kenora, Beardmore and Hudson to this meet and tomorrow hundreds more are taking part in the preliminaries and the finals for these high school events will be held tomorrow night. This meet is made possible by the patrons, and the money that is made is used to help promote clinics, coaching clinics, and last summer this coaching clinic and three coaches visited seven different points in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, going from Flin Flon to the Lakehead, giving instructions and promoting interest in physical fitness and physical training, so that by patronizing this event you can help the coaching clinics. This project is also made possible by all the volunteer work of all the volunteers that will be taking part tomorrow night and that take part in preparing for this meet, and also who provide the accommodation for these athletes who come from all over this continent to Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. J. M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Honourable the Attorney-General, whether he has checked into the matter of break-ins, the numerous break-ins that have occurred in South Central Manitoba. I raised the matter on a previous occasion and I was wondering whether he could volunteer any information at this time.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Honourable gentleman that I haven't personally checked this matter but I am sure that the police are checking it hourly.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Address for Papers, the Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of The New Democratic Party)(Radisson): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Honourable Member for Inkster, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, that an Address be presented to his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying for all copies of correspondence between the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada, with respect to the Resolution agreed to March 17th, 1961, re Old Age and Blind pensioners.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: . . . the federal government in this?

MR. SPEAKER: I didn't hear what the Honourable Minister said.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: We would have to get the concurrence of the federal government to this, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand.

MR. PAULLEY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I accept the explanation of the Honourable the Minister. He's just referring to the fact that it will be necessary to have concurrence of Ottawa in order to produce this correspondence if they can find it.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you wish me to place the motion?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Orders for Return. The Honourable Member for Fisher.

MR. PETER WAGNER (Fisher): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Member for St. John's that an Order of the House do issue for a return showing: (1) The cost to the province for forest fighting in 1961. (2) The kind of major firefighting equipment purchased. (3) The cost of No. 2. (4) The cost of equipment rental in 1961. (5) The rental costs paid to out of province sources.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable The Leader of the New Democratic Party.

MR. PAULLEY: 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) Was a Coroner's Inquest held into the deaths of four miners as a result of a cave-in at the International Nickel Mine at Thompson? (2) If so, a copy of the report and conclusions of such an inquest. (3) Was an investigation into this disaster made by any department or departments of the government? (4) If so, copies of reports and any recommendations made by these departments.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, with respect to question No. 2 of the Honourable Leader's Order for Return, I think I could satisfy him in this respect by saying that I believe he wants a transcript of the actual evidence that was taken at the inquest. That evidence is not available ordinarily in response to Orders for Return. A copy of it does happen to be available, however, and if it would meet with my honourable friend's wishes, we can obtain a copy of it and lodge it in the library, rather than try to provide ten copies of it in the ordinary form for an Order for Return, realizing of course that the expense in connection with the obtaining of transcripts of evidence is quite heavy.

Now with respect to question (4), I would respectfully suggest that that is an internal communication between a member of the civil service and his Minister and that the Order should not be accepted with respect to question No. 4.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on the remarks of the Honourable the Attorney-General that I would agree with him, Sir, that under normal circumstances with normal coroner's inquests that he may have a point that it would be rather burdensome and costly if any member of this House at any time could ask for copies of evidence given at a coroner's inquest. I would agree with him with that, and I appreciate the fact that he is prepared to lay a copy of the evidence in respect of this particular tragedy in the library. I would point out to him, however, that as far as the cost is concerned -- he mentioned the fact that it would be rather costly, if I recall his words correctly, to have 10 copies made -- with the advance in science and the ease with which we can make duplications of transcripts of evidence and other documents, I dismiss entirely the fact that he says this will be costly, and I think that because this is a matter of grave importance to the whole mining industry and those who mine, that this could be made available as the result of the request of mine for an Order for Return.

In respect to his last comment, Sir, on Item No. 4, I must say that I reject entirely the statement of my honourable friend that this is interdepartmental correspondence and is only dealing with a report of a member of the civil service to his Minister. I would point out to him and to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, that at Thompson in September of last year a tragedy took place in which four persons lost their lives. I suggest that this is not simply a matter for interdepartmental correspondence. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is a matter that is of vital concern to the people of the Province of Manitoba. Here we have an industry that we hope is just on the verge of great expansion. Here we have at Thompson an industry that has just recently started, and in that start, almost within a year or so since the industry

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) . . . started at this location, four people lost their lives, and I suggest Mr. Speaker, and plead with the government that this is a matter too important to be contained within interdepartmental reports. I am sure all of those who are at the present time in employment in mining and those who anticipate they may in the future, would like to know as the result of this unfortunate accident at Thompson, what steps the government has taken in order to prevent a recurrence. I appreciate the fact, Mr. Speaker, that it might be possible for me as a member of this Legislature to have made available to me information in connection with this. I am not positive even on that, but I do say, Mr. Speaker, that I consider this of such a vital importance to the mining industry, to those engaged in it, that we should know what the results of an investigation into this tragedy revealed and what recommendations, if any, have been made to prevent a recurrence of this tragedy, and I appeal, Mr. Speaker, that while I am reasonably satisfied, although not wholly so, with the remarks of the Honourable the Attorney-General in respect to the transcript of evidence, I appeal to the Ministry to take in the broader aspects of this matter and answer the questions publicly as requested in my Order for Return.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, with leave, I wonder if I might answer one or two points raised by my honourable friend?

MR. SPEAKER: . . . member have leave in the House?

MR. LYON: I think first of all, Mr. Speaker, and I am making this only as a supposition because I have not read the transcript of evidence from the inquest proceedings, but I think my honourable friend will find when that transcript is lodged in the library that the evidence is contained there of the investigator who actually investigated the matter on behalf of the Department of Mines and who was as is usual in all cases I would presume, called as a witness, examined and cross-examined under oath, and his evidence became a part of the transcript which is available to my honourable friend through the medium that I have suggested.

Now with respect to the second point, I would only draw this analogy for his consideration. Let us take this very unfortunate incident as an example. There would be the report by the Department of Mines inspector who is looking into the question of the safety precautions or recommendations that he might make with respect to it. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, the RCMP would do a report with respect to this fatal accident, and that report is in the possession of the Attorney-General's department, probably of the Crown Attorney at Flin Flon. I think my honourable friend would concede immediately that it would not be proper to ask for a copy of that report into the same matter. I am merely asking him to consider as to whether it is not proper for the same rule to apply with respect to internal reports. If the one is not available dealing with the one subject matter I suggest, with respect, that the other is not available on the same grounds. Now this is not done with any attempt on the part of the government whatsoever -- and let me stress this point -- to conceal anything that's in the report. It's merely to uphold the precedent that has been time-honoured in this House by this administration and by the administrations that preceded it, that matters of confidential report to the Ministers are not, in the ordinary course of events, made public through the mode of an Order for Return. I think that that is a fairly well-established procedure in all Houses of Parliament. By following this rule there is no suggestion that anything is being concealed at all, and I can appreciate my honourable friend's concern for this matter because I was with the Minister of Labour at this scene down in the mine within 24 hours of when the accident occurred, and I can assure you of the great concern of everybody in Thompson community as a result of this most unfortunate accident, but I do commend these matters to his consideration as sound reasons for the stand that I have suggested with respect to question No. 4, and I think that it is totally answered in effect by my honourable friend, considering that if the evidence is made available to him through the mode that I have suggested by placing it in the library, he will find, I believe, in reading it, that the evidence of the inspector, who is the man who investigated on behalf of the Department of Mines, will be contained in that report under oath and where parties had the opportunity to examine and to cross-examine him with respect to this particular investigation.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, may I have leave to speak again on this? --(Interjection) -- I think that will be necessary.

I would like to make one or two comments in connection with the last statements of the Honourable the Attorney-General. First of all, Mr. Speaker, may I draw to his attention I did not ask in my Order for Return for any report from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, so

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) . . . we can discount his reference to that. There was no intention at all. Insofar as his remarks about the fact that on reviewing the transcript of evidence which he has said he is prepared to place in the library, that it will contain in apparently -- and I think we must say, Mr. Speaker, that I am in a rather unfortunate position that I haven't seen the transcript of evidence, which apparently my friend has, because he makes reference to the fact that I would expect to find, or I would find, in the transcript of evidence, the answer to question No. 4, which deals with recommendations of the department. Now I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if the answer to my question No. 4 is going to be in the transcript of evidence that is going to be placed in the library, then there's all the more reason why it should be produced here before us in the House by Order of Return.

My honourable friend the Attorney-General raises the question of precedence. I suggest to him, Mr. Speaker, that there has already been a precedent established in this House on a matter of a similar nature. I requested an Order for Return a year or two ago in respect of a young man who unfortunately was killed by falling down an elevator shaft. The Order of Return was accepted by the Department of Labour and also the Order for Return contained the recommendations that were made by the department, that additional inspections should be made and other pertinent facts in order to prevent a recurrence of that particular accident, and so I say, Mr. Speaker, a precedent has been established. If the answer to the interdepartmental reports are contained in the statement of evidence which the Attorney-General apparently is prepared to place in the library, then I suggest that the government should make this information available here in this Legislature where we're all charged with the responsibility of looking into matters of such grave concern to our workers and to our industries here in the Province of Manitoba, and I again appeal to the Honourable the Attorney-General on reflection of this matter to accept the Order for Return in its entirety and place the material before us in this Legislature rather than place it in the library as the alternative.

MR. NELSON SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): May I have leave of the House to say a few words on this subject matter because one of the victims was from Neepawa?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has leave.

MR. SHOEMAKER: The mother of the Neepawa - -

MR. ROBLIN: Is my honourable friend speaking to the point of order which was raised by the Honourable the Attorney-General? I think that is the only thing upon which we are prepared to give leave, but to open up a general debate on the subject or to make reference to a particular matter in connection with it, we're not prepared to give leave.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . for a ruling. I believe an Order for Return is a debatable motion and if my honourable -- the only reason I ask for leave and I suggest the only reason my honourable friend the Attorney-General asks for leave is so that we might speak in regard of points raised by each other.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the NDP is perfectly correct in this. It's a debatable motion. The motion was made before the House and the question can be debated provided that you only speak on it once. I am speaking now on the point of order, not entering the debate, Mr. Speaker, and on that basis I think my honourable friend is quite entitled to speak on the subject.

MR. ROBLIN: . . . interpret it a little differently. I thought that after the honourable -- I am speaking to the point of order as well -- I thought that when the Honourable the Leader of the NDP Party had spoken he had closed the debate and therefore it was over, therefore that was the reason why my honourable friend asked for leave, and my interpretation was that the debate was over at that point and that anything that takes place from that point on was on a question of leave.

MR. PAULLEY: May I inform my honourable friend the reason that I asked for leave was so it wouldn't be construed as closing the debate, and may I say, Mr. Speaker, I got that leave.

MR. ROBLIN: That is quite true, Mr. Speaker, but I point out to my honourable friend that was the third time he had spoken.

MR. PAULLEY: It was still by leave, Mr. Speaker.

MR. D. L. CAMPBELL (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. I would like to point out that the mover of this motion does not have the right to close the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: In my opinion the Honourable Member for Gladstone has the right to speak.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Speaker, I don't care whether it's on a point of order or a point of privilege or by leave, as long as I can briefly say a few words about this Order for Return. It is a fact that one of the victims referred to in the Order for Return was from Neepawa. The mother and the grandparents of the victim are long-time residents of Neepawa and very respected people in the community, and they feel that this case has not been dealt with as it should have been. Now the circumstances are, as I recall it, that this young lad from Neepawa was only four days in the employ of the company when the accident occurred. They feel that he had absolutely no training whatever to fit him for the position that he had as miner, and they feel that -- well it is true, I should say this, that they did not receive the report that is now being asked for by the Leader of the NDP. They felt that they certainly should be entitled to it, and they did not receive any compensation of any kind, I understand, from the Workmen's Compensation Board, none whatever. They were put to a great deal of expense by flying up the day after, or the day of the disaster, and I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, if this report that the Leader of the NDP is asking for now, if it was tabled in the library, could they go and obtain it from the library, take it home and bring it back, or would they have to come in to the library and see it there?

MR. ORLIKOW: . . . raise one matter? Does the Minister suggest that this order can't be tabled because item four is a -- asks for copies of reports and recommendations; this is interdepartmental correspondence? I am not so concerned about the interdepartmental correspondence. I can see some merit in the idea that the reports of civil servants and their names should not be made public, and I wouldn't be concerned about it if I was certain that we would, at some point, if not today, have a report from the Minister as to what took place there and whether any recommendations were made for improvements so that this kind of thing won't happen again or may be avoided, or what action, if any, the Minister has taken, because lives are much more important than interdepartmental correspondence. I am not so concerned about the law reports, but I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that if we don't get the information in the Order for Return we will certainly spend considerable time when we get to the Minister's estimates in finding out precisely what is happening when this kind of accident takes place.

MR. ROBLIN: I think the honourable gentleman who has just spoken has the right slant on this. I quite agree that the administration is responsible for any action or lack of action that may be taken as a result of this incident and that we should be held to account and give our explanations in the proper way, and I would think that we would be very happy to undertake to do that when the estimates of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources is up. He would then answer any questions on his own responsibility because, as I think members appreciate, it's usually not considered good policy to expose reports of civil service to the administration to legislature, because if that went on, it would simply disrupt the whole of the proceedings and as the clearly established precedents of the Mother of Parliaments indicate this kind of report is not -- (Interjection) -- Well I'll read it to you if you like:"The Speaker ruled that confidential documents or documents of a private nature passing between officers of a department and the department cited in debate are not necessarily laid on the table of the House especially if the Minister declares they are of a confidential nature. Indeed, it is obvious that as the House only deals with public documents in its possession it would not thus incidentally require the production papers which it moved for separately, which would be refused as being beyond its jurisdiction."

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, would the Honourable the First Minister permit a question?

MR. ROBLIN: Well, I will in a minute or two. This comes from May. Erskine May's 16th Volume, Page 461. But I want to get back to the main nub of this thing here, and that is, members on the other side want to know what happened and what the government did about it -- that's what they want to know. I don't think they really care what inspector made what particular report; they are not interested in that aspect of it but they are, I think, quite entitled to be interested in the general subject and what action the government took or did not take upon it. That's a proper subject for inquiry and I think that when we get to the estimates of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources that he should be prepared to deal with that subject. But I do

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . think that we ought to be excused from tabling reports which are interdepartmental in character and really are not subject to tabling in the normal course.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . permit the question now? Might I ask the Honourable the First Minister, does he think the nature of the question that I have asked is of confidential and private nature when it deals with the question of the death of four miners in a mine? Would he consider that this, as covered by May's, has to be a confidential report within a department?

MR. ROBLIN: No, Mr. Speaker, nobody would consider this to be a confidential I never said that and I don't say it now. What I said was that the advice that was given to us by our staff in connection with it may be of a private and confidential nature. -- (Interjection) -- The incident itself is a tragic incident; we have nothing but the most profound sympathy for those who were involved in it, and if there is any way in which by taking action through the department concerned we can improve matters or make that mine safer, that is naturally what we are going to do.

MR. PAULLEY: Let us know what you did.

MR. ROBLIN: And we'll be very glad to do that at the proper time, --(Interjection) -- but I would like to say it would be, I think, wrong for us to admit the question in this form at the present time. There are other ways of getting the information that the public is entitled to have, and we'll be glad to see that that is done.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . Mr. Speaker, if I may. We'll only get the government report. We want all of the report.

HON. J. B. CARROLL (Minister of Labour)(The Pas): Mr. Speaker, just so there'll be no misunderstanding with respect to the remarks of the member for Gladstone-Neepawa, I would like to say that I did write to the mother of the boy from Neepawa who was killed. I did give her some particulars of the accident as I knew them at that time and had got from my investigation of the incident, and I did, I believe, offer to give her any further particulars she might have wanted about the accident that I could make available to her. And I will say this, that she did get such compensation as was available to her through the Workmen's Compensation Act, which I believe in this case was limited to the burial expenses.

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

MR. ROBLIN: With the reservations expressed by the Minister, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PAULLEY: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker the vote was taken on the basis that the order indicated here. The Speaker did not call for reservations basis on which we voted.

MR. LYON: I think it will be clear that when I spoke, when I rose to speak on this matter, I said that we would accept the order subject to my reservation with respect to (2) and (4). It was not really a reservation as much with respect to (2) because we are providing the information but in another manner, and with (4) it could not be accepted because of the general rule of procedure which pertains in these matters, so there'll be no misunderstanding on our part. -- (Interjection) -- That's all we've undertaken.

MR. PAULLEY: Sir, I rejected the matter; you have now put the motion and declared it in the affirmative.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Carillon, That an Order of the House do issue for a return showing: (1) The total grants to each municipality in the Winnipeg Metropolitan area from the Manitoba Government for roads and bridges for each of the following years - 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961. (2) Any direct expenditures by the Manitoba Government for roads and bridges in the same municipalities in each of the same years, in addition to the grants in question (1) above. (3) The total grants to the Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg for roads and bridges in 1961.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Elmwood, an Order for Return standing in my name.

MR. SPEAKER: Moved by the Honourable Member for Brokenhead, seconded by the Honourable Member for Elmwood that an Order of the House do issue showing: The amount paid by the Winnipeg and Central Gas Company and/or Greater Winnipeg Gas Company to Stone and

(Mr. Speaker, cont'd.) . . . Webster for consulting services during each of the last four years up to December 31, 1961. Are you ready for the question?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to that Order except this, that the information will be provided insofar as it is a matter of record with the Public Utility Board or this government. We cannot be responsible, of course, for information that we do not have as a matter of record.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, I understand that.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Fisher that an Order of the House do issue for a return showing: Whether the Public Utility Board has made a ruling regarding expenses incurred by Greater Winnipeg Gas in retaining the services of Stone and Webster; The judgment of the Public Utility Board in that regard.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Elmwood that an Order of the House do issue for a return showing: The order or judgment of the Public Utility Board regarding the natural gas rate hearings of Inter City Gas held in May, 1961, (2) Showing a schedule of natural gas rates for domestic and commercial rates in effect re Inter City Gas, before the hearing and (b) after the hearings.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. LYON: That question is quite acceptable subject to the same reservation that I made with respect to the first question, or first order, put by my honourable friend, namely, that insofar as the information is available to the Public Utility Board.

MR. SCHREYER: I take that as given, Mr. Speaker. I don't assume there'll be any difficulty in getting this information, especially in (b), (a) and (b) No. 2.

MR. LYON: I really don't assume there will be either, Mr. Speaker, but there are rates and rates, as my honourable friend knows.

Mr. Speaker put the question, subject to the reservations raised by the Honourable the Attorney-General, and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Seven Oaks that an Order of the House do issue for a return showing the average cost per MCF of natural gas to the following firms, for 1960-1961: Greater Winnipeg Gas Company, Plains Western Electric Company, Inter City Gas Company.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. LYON: Same reservation, Mr. Speaker, insofar as we have the average cost.

Mr. Speaker presented the question, subject to the reservation, and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Brokenhead, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing: (1) The total amount of direct debt of the Province of Manitoba as at December 31, 1961. (2) The total amount Sinking Funds will provide to cover the indebtedness, in effect at December 31, 1961, when same become due for payment, and (3) The balance or amount that will have to be borrowed.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Member for Lakeside, that an Order of the House do issue for a return showing: (1) The names and addresses of all the advertising agencies, public relations firms and similar organizations used during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1961, by each of the departments of the Manitoba government and the Commissions, Boards, Funds and Committees set up by the Manitoba government. (2) The amount of business placed with, by or through each of the firms above for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1961.

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

(Mr. Speaker, cont'd.) . . . Inkster and the proposed amendment proposed by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye. This is the motion that we're holding.

Adjourned debate on proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface.
The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. S. PETERS (Elmwood): In the absence of the honourable member if anybody else wishes to speak I guess it will be OK, otherwise we'd ask the matter to stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Elmwood and the proposed motion and amendment thereto by the Honourable the Minister of Health. The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. PETERS: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to take up much time of the House. I spoke when I introduced this resolution. The Honourable Minister stated his views and he made an amendment and I don't disagree with it. I am in agreement with it; I know that the problem has many complex problems, but there is only one thing, I want to make sure that this thing isn't left to die, and therefore I propose to add another resolve to the amendment made by the Minister, just to make sure that this matter is dealt with, and therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Logan that the amendment be amended by adding the following after the word "plants" in the last line, "and be it further resolved that the Government of Manitoba report on this matter at the next session of this Legislature."

Mr. Speaker put the question.

MR. KEITH ALEXANDER (Roblin): Sir, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Arthur, 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 resolution of the Honourable Member for Selkirk. The Honourable Member for St. John's.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Speaker, I would like permission to let this matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Fisher and the proposed amendment by the Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I know that this matter was left in your hands to take under consideration. I am wondering whether or not before you -- of course I don't know what your ruling is going to be in respect of this amendment. I am wondering if prior to that a comment or two may be directed to you so that we would avoid any possibility of having to challenge your ruling once you've made it.

MR. SPEAKER: You're speaking in anticipation now.

MR. PAULLEY: Pardon?

MR. SPEAKER: You're speaking in anticipation now.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes. The only reason though, Mr. Speaker, I do this is because the only other alternative may be -- again it's a supposition -- to challenge Your Honour's ruling, which we don't like to do.

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared at the present time to give a ruling on the motion and if the House is agreeable for the Honourable Member to submit a point I suppose it would be all right, but I doubt if it -- I've never seen it done before in the Legislature.

MR. PAULLEY: Well, the only point that I wish to make, Mr. Speaker, and I would imagine if you have taken this under consideration --

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, before my honourable friend gets too deeply into it, just for the sake of the record may I say that of course the Speaker's ruling is not debatable but I for one am prepared to grant leave as far as I am able to do so to listen to what he has to say. But I wouldn't wish it to be regarded as a precedent.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't want to establish any more precedents in this Chamber, but as the First Minister has pointed out, that once your ruling has been made it is not debatable --

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that's right.

MR. PAULLEY: And the only alternative that we may have on Your Honour's ruling is to challenge it, and I am suggesting that as far as I am concerned I do not like, except in extreme cases to challenge Your Honour's ruling and that while we haven't had a discussion on this particular resolution as to whether it is or is not in order, again Sir, not knowing what

(Mr. Pauley, cont'd.) . . . your ruling will be and in anticipation I think it will agree with mine, but again, Sir, I don't know that.

MR. SPEAKER: I would be prepared to hear further submissions on the ruling that I expect to take.

MR. CAMPBELL: Just as a point of order. I understood the Honourable the Leader of the House to say that he wouldn't want this discussion to be taken as a precedent. I would like to say that I think it should be taken as a precedent because all the precedents that we would be establishing would be one that I think is a good one in the House and that is, that Mr. Speaker says, as he has said, "I am prepared to rule on this, but I am also prepared to hear any views regarding it before I make that ruling." I think that's a good precedent.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Leader of the CCF Party.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw to your attention that we have a rule in the House dealing with the question of anticipation and also with the question that no amendment or new motion can be proposed to the House which deals with a matter that is either before the House or is anticipated to be placed before the House. I have given considerable study to the amendment as proposed by the Honourable Member for Springfield, and in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, that in at least six, seven items listed in the amendment to the motion proposed by the Honourable Member for Fisher, that the amendment covered matters that have already been stated, that will be under the consideration of this House. And if Your Honour would like, I would like to just briefly go over them.

Clause No. 2 in the amendment as proposed by the Honourable Member for Springfield, that deals with the question of expanding markets and dealing with volume production and the spread of rising costs. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, in this matter a perusal of the Throne Speech. I will reveal that this matter has been indicated as a matter that will be before us for our consideration. Item No. 3 dealing with the question of credit is likewise contained within the Throne Speech. The matter on Clause 5 dealing with the expansion of crop insurance is contained within the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, where it states, "My Ministers inform me that the crop insurance program has proved to be of invaluable assistance . . . and you will be asked to provide additional funds and to amend The Crop Insurance Test Areas Act." In the matter dealing with Clause No. 9 in the amendment as proposed by the Honourable Member for Springfield, it is mentioned in his amendment to provide for an orderly development of our water resources. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this matter also is contained within the items for our consideration as announced by His Honour. The matter of Clause 11 in the amendment that deals with the provision of adequate research into economic and social problems of rural communities is likewise, Sir, contained in the Throne Speech where reference was made to an Agricultural Economic Research Council for Canada, and that we will be requested to provide funds for Manitoba's commitment for the operation of this organization. Clause No. 12 in the proposed amendment, Sir, deals with the need for continued research of all kinds to keep our farmers abreast of competition they face from other producers in all other countries of the world. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is contained within the general debate which takes place in respect of the European Common Market.

So I say, Sir, that as you are aware, that on any amendment that any part of any amendment that is irregular renders the whole amendment out of order. I raise these points as I stated at the offset, Sir, not knowing what your ruling will be. If your ruling is not in accordance with these items that I have raised for your consideration, may I respectfully suggest to you that you reserve your judgment at this time and reconsider your ruling if it is contrary to these points that I have raised for your consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: I might say that I am quite willing to take a further look at this matter. I would also point out to the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party that we have another motion on the Order Paper whereby the Honourable Member for Inkster asks for an increase from \$65.00 to \$75.00 per month on old age pension, and that is quite clearly set out in the Throne Speech that the government intends to -- and possibly that should be also taken as a Notice of Motion.

MR. PAULLEY: In respect of that resolution, and this has been agreed upon, that because there may be some conflict with one only of the resolution that Your Honour suggested that this should be held in abeyance until the other resolution is disposed of. But may I

(Mr. Pauley, con'td.) . . . suggest to you, Sir, that in your consideration of this amendment, that it is not dealing with one other proposition before the House, or likely to come before the House, but as I have listed, seven or eight.

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to take a further look at it.

Adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Honourable Member for Inkster and the proposed motion of amendment to by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye. I am holding this motion. And the proposed resolution submitted by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface; the Honourable Member for Inkster. The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. ROBLIN: May I direct your attention, Sir, to the bottom of Page 7. I think that is the next order to be called.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Fisher and the proposed motion in amendment thereto by the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. This motion is also held open and I feel that the motion is in order and we may proceed with it, if some member wishes to either adjourn the debate or speak at this time.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, if it's in order, I would move, seconded by the Member for Kildonan, 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 resolution, the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. R. G. SMELLIE (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have requested certain information from the University of Manitoba which has not yet been received, and I am not prepared therefore to speak on this matter today. If any other member would care to speak?

MR. SPEAKER: Any other member wish to speak? Order stand. Adjourned debate on proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. G. W. JOHNSON (Assiniboia): I am not prepared to proceed with this at the present time and ask the indulgence of the House to let it stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Logan. The Honourable the Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker may I ask leave of the House to allow this matter to stand?

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Proposed resolution proposed by the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks and a motion in amendment thereto by the Honourable Member for Cypress. The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I've known the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks a number of years. During that time we have been quite close to each other and I am satisfied that the honourable member would not introduce any resolution into this House for the purpose of embarrassing anybody. I am quite sure that the honourable member when he introduced his resolution did so sincerely and his only motive in so doing was to assist the people in whom he has always shown a great interest. I have heard the Honourable Member for Cypress speak on this resolution. I have read her amendment. As to what the Honourable Member for Cypress has said, I can take no exception, but I do take exception to the amendment which she moved. I am not blaming the Honourable Member for Cypress personally for the type of amendment, because I am quite satisfied that this resolution was caucused and that the amendment that she has moved has been an amendment that was suggested by her own group. The thing that amazes me about this amendment is this, Mr. Speaker. This House unanimously approved the principles of the Social Allowances Act. I don't think there is any member in this House who has changed his ideas regarding that Act. I think each and every one of us feel that it is a good Act. We feel that there's a need for it in Manitoba, and the thing that amazes me about this amendment is the fact that the government requires to be reassured on whether or no that legislation is good. To me that's the action of a child who has done something and wishes to receive the approbation of his parents for having done it, and we as the elder statesmen in this House are quite prepared to give the government full credit for the legislation that it introduced. I also feel too that this amendment asking us to reaffirm the principles of the Social Allowances Act shows a lack of maturity and shows a lack of assurance on the part of the government. I don't think that the government has to be reassured from time to time regarding the legislation that it introduces here, particularly when that legislation receives the unanimous approval of this House, but

(Mr. Hillhouse, cont'd.) we're quite prepared to give that approval, notwithstanding the objections I have to asking us for that approval.

The point that I wish to make is this, Mr. Speaker. The Social Allowances Act, or the benefits out of the Social Allowances Act, are available to the very people mentioned in the resolution of the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks. It's true that they have to make application to come under the terms of that Act, but my point is that the application which they make for old age assistance or for the blind persons' allowances disability, or under the disability--the Disabled Persons Allowances Act--is an application which contains all the information as to that person's financial status and assets, and I feel that inasmuch as that person who applies to come under the terms of any of these Acts is entitled to the benefits payable to that person under the Social Allowances Act, provided they meet the test, the means test, I feel this, Mr. Speaker, that the logical thing for the government to do would be to embody in the application for assistance, under The Old Age Assistance Act or under The Blind Persons Allowances Act or under The Disabled Persons Allowances Act, an application for assistance under The Social Allowances Act. If you take a look at the application for assistance or allowance under The Old Age Assistance Act and under the other Allowances Acts you will find that that application contains questions which fully deal with the assets of the individual applicant. Take for instance now, the individual has to show whether he is married or single; he also has to show whether or no his wife is in receipt of Old Age Assistance, Blind Allowance or Disability Allowance. He also has to show whether his wife has made application for assistance under The Old Age Security Act of Canada. He also has to show whether he or she has ever made a previous application for assistance either under any of the provincial acts or under the federal acts.

Then it goes on to deal with the income. First of all it asks the question whether you carry any life insurance. To whom that life insurance is payable; what the policy number is; what the company number is, and so on and so forth. Then there's a question dealing with incomes specifically, and the question is, "the income of myself and of my husband or wife during the twelve months preceding this date was as follows:" Then you have to give itemized particulars of all income received regardless of the source, either by yourself or by your wife. Then there's another question, "Are you working now, and if so, for what rate of pay?" Then you have to give particulars of all real estate owned by you or by your wife, giving the assessed value of it, the encumbrances and the market value. Then there's another question dealing with property transferred by your or by your wife within five years of the date of the application. You must show the name and address of the person to whom it was transferred; the terms of sale; the date of transfer; the amount still due. In addition to that you have to give full complete particulars of personal property, such as money in the bank or a credit union or a post office, or in any other institution. You also have to give full and complete information regarding all personal property which you own--cash on hand; money lent to or in the hands of any person in trust; livestock, sheep, cattle, horses, poultry, bees, etcetera; shares, debentures, bonds or other securities, giving the particulars; notes, agreements or mortgages, interest in business, stock and trade or ventures of any kind; furniture--even your furniture you got to disclose--farm equipment, and any other property not already specified.

Now my submission is, Mr. Speaker, that on the basis of the information which is contained in this application, I don't think it should be necessary for any further information to be given, unless of course they want information as to health, etcetera. If you look at this application too, you'll see that this application form is used not only for Social Allowance, it's also used for Blind Allowance and is used for Disabled Persons. Now wouldn't it make sense, Mr. Speaker, and wouldn't it cut down the office work and red tape connected with these matters if there was not a form of an application in that application form in which that person could then make application to be registered under the Social Allowances Act, and wouldn't it also make sense too, Mr. Speaker, if there wasn't a form in there under which that person could not make an application for exemption of payment of premiums under the Manitoba Hospital Services Plan? Right at the top of the application form you have to show: "My Manitoba Hospital registration number is" so and so. Now, Mr. Speaker, these applications are processed by the department. They don't accept the answers given by the applicant at their face value. They make an investigation. Now wouldn't it make just ordinary common sense and cut down a lot of the red tape and routine if they made their whole application at one time? It may be that the Minister's objection

(Mr. Hillhouse, cont'd.) to this might be that an application for social allowances or an application for exemption of hospital premiums has to be processed through a different department, or he may make the technical objection that you're not entitled to additional benefits until you become in receipt of that allowance under The Old Age Assistance Act or under The Blind Persons Allowances Act or under The Disabled Persons Allowances Act. Well, if he makes that objection my answer to that is this. They could hold that application for the registration under the Social Allowances Act. They could hold the application for exemption of hospital premiums until the main application was processed, and then when the main application was processed they could forward it on to the proper department.

I am amazed, Mr. Speaker, that a government which does publicize its actions as much as this government does should not publicize to all applicants for assistance, whether it be old age assistance, disability assistance or blind assistance, why they should not disclose to these applicants that there are available to them other benefits. I think that's the point that the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks was trying to make. I don't think he was trying to embarrass the government. I don't think that he introduced that resolution for any improper motive. I think he introduced this resolution because the Honourable Member believes just the same as I do, that 99% of the old people who apply for assistance, under the Social Assistance Act or any other Act of this province or the government of Canada, are decent, honest people and should be treated as such. I therefore feel, Mr. Speaker, that I must move an amendment to the amendment of the Honourable Member for Cypress. I therefore wish to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. George, that the proposed resolution as amended be further amended by adding thereto the following additional paragraph, namely: And in order that the availability of such benefits be brought to the attention of applicants for such assistance and allowances, there be attached to such applications the necessary and proper forms required under The Social Allowances Act, including an application for premium exemption under the Manitoba Hospital Services Plan.

MR. SPEAKER: I'll have to look at this. It looks to be all right, but I want to be sure so I'll take it under advisement.

Adjourned debate, proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks. The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, it's not my intention to speak at any length on this resolution for two reasons. First I feel that it was given such a clear and distinct explanation upon introduction by the Member for Seven Oaks, and secondly, I can't speak at any length because I don't really know that much about it, to be quite honest about it. However, there are certain points which I do feel that I am familiar with and would like to bring to the attention of members of this House.

I think almost everyone is aware of the growing need in this world, in this world that is getting smaller and smaller in a figurative sense, the need for greater understanding of each other, and the language of Esperanto is advocated by some people, with some justification I feel, as being a language that can help to bring about this closer understanding. It used to be, hundreds of years ago, in the medieval period, that there was at least in the western world a common international language, namely Latin, but then with the growth of new nationalism this international language slowly fell into disuse until in the last 100 years, 200 years, we cannot say that we have anything that is or purports to be an international language. The closest thing to that is English. So that is one point which I feel members should take notice of, the need for some language that transcends the sovereignty of nations and of linguistic barriers.

The second point has to do with the fact that Esperanto and the learning of it is not a waste of time, because, as was pointed out, it is really a skillful language in the sense that it is a stem language, and anyone who has mastered it is well on the way to mastering additional languages with much less effort, so it's not a waste of time in that regard. I was slightly worried I must confess that the resolution--I thought at first the resolution seemed to contain an implication that we here should be telling the university what to do, and that of course should worry anyone here because the whole purpose of the university would be undermined if any legislative body were to begin telling it or setting out for it the curriculum that it should be following. Universities are independent bodies and they must remain so, but if you'll notice, the resolution doesn't really pretend to tell the university anything. All it does is ask this government to consider

(Mr. Schreyer, cont'd.) asking the university authorities to provide a lectureship chair for the teaching of Esperanto. So there's no reason on that score to oppose this resolution, and in view of the fact that it is being more closely looked at in more and more countries on the face of this earth, I think it's about time that we here in our own jurisdiction give some thought to the possibility of extending the teaching of Esperanto here at home. We are not advocating that this be adopted by the provincial Department of Education and that it be integrated into the curriculum of our public school system. This would be asking for too much and besides, we don't have the means with which to do it, but to provide one chair at the university, to provide one position at the university to initiate the teaching of Esperanto is not an unreasonable request, and I would ask members to be very sure to think about it before they would vote in the negative, so that the reasons for voting in the affirmative I think have been outlined by the Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. RICHARD SEABORN (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, 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 resolution, proposed by the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks. The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.--(interjection)--Oh yes. Proposed resolution proposed by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I would like this particular resolution to stand. I'll speak on the next one.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Proposed resolution standing in the name of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. Do you wish this one to stand too?

MR. MOLGAT: No, I'll speak on this one, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the member for Carillon, the following motion: Whereas there exists in Manitoba no adequate means of redress against complaints of maladministration by government officials; and whereas experience in Scandinavia has shown that the institution known as the "ombudsman" can provide a means of investigating such complaints and suggesting redress; therefore be it resolved that, in the opinion of this House, the government should give consideration to the advisability of: (i) A permanent body to be known as the Office of the Public Protector be established, to receive and investigate complaints of maladministration against government departments. (ii) The Public Protector should have access to departmental files when conducting his investigations. (iii) The Public Protector's investigations should be conducted as informally as possible to cause the minimum interference with the ordinary work of the department. (iv) The Public Protector should immediately upon completion of an investigation submit a public report on the case. (v) The Public Protector should submit an Annual Report to the Legislature on all cases which he has investigated. (vi) The reports of the Public Protector be confined to the department and should not mention civil servants by name. (vii) The Public Protector should be appointed by the Legislature, be responsible only to the Legislature and be removable from office only by a two-thirds majority of votes in the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, the first point I want to make in speaking on this resolution is with reference to some statements made by the First Minister the other evening on another matter in this House, and he suggested that this possibly had been filched from elsewhere. I want to assure him that such is not the case, and I think possibly at this time I should refer to one of the working papers that was discussed at our Leadership Convention, that is the Leadership Convention of the Liberal Party, in April of 1961. I'd strongly recommend by the way, Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister, a number of the policy papers passed at that convention. I think that he will find a great deal of useful material in these resolutions.

In this particular resolution, and I won't read all of it, Mr. Speaker, but I think I should at least read the introduction and the part that specifically refers to this resolution, because the two give the background to the resolution and the reason why the Liberal Party is proposing exactly this measure at this time. The working paper reads as follows: "Man today requires and demands security, yet he also craves liberty. Indeed, without liberty, democracy cannot exist. Liberals believe that man can have both liberty and security. Security requires the great modern state with its vast administrative machine; liberty requires that the individual is superior

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) to the state, which in practical terms means that the state is fully answerable to the individual. The modern state largely governs through the means of delegated legislation, administrative boards, and tribunals and administrators. The machinery for supervising delegated legislation is imperfect. The means of insuring a fair, impartial and reasoned hearing before an administrator are, in most instances, either not adequate or non-existent, but means to make the state fully answerable to the individual must be found or man will merely have freed himself from uncertainty, poverty and disease to become the captive of the state. Liberals believe that solution can be found, partly in new concepts and partly in new machinery." And then we go on: "The Liberal Party proposes a number of remedies."

Now included in those remedies, Mr. Speaker, is the following specific statement. "As part of the machinery of the tribunal, an officer, similar to the Danish ombudsman, an official appointed by the Legislature but not easily removable, who can hear complaints from anyone and who has power to investigate grievances arising out of the workings of any government department, agency, corporation or administrator and who may bring the matter before the tribunal or report to the public." That, Mr. Speaker, was the statement which our Party made in April of last year. I submit that there were statements made in this House during this session about this subject, but certainly the Liberal Party can claim, or can lay first claim to this particular idea.

Now we didn't create it. Obviously it comes from other areas. I think that in this light, Mr. Speaker, it might be wise to look at what has been done in other jurisdictions on this very subject. This matter of the ombudsman is not new, as I've stated. It existed in Sweden for some 150 years. In other Scandinavian countries, for example Denmark, it's more recent. Theirs was set up in 1954. In Norway it is equally a more recent development, but the activities and the work of the ombudsman in Sweden has been observed by a number of other jurisdictions, including Great Britain, and a very complete report was made on this very subject by one of the branches of the Jurists Association. The report was made and it was entitled, "The Citizen and the Administration--The redress of grievances." This was published in 1961. I believe likely my friend the Attorney-General has seen this and studied it himself. And here in this report, the Jurists in Great Britain recommend actually that in the United Kingdom this procedure be followed.

At the present moment New Zealand is proceeding with a bill of this type. It was introduced in the House there in August, 1961. By sheer coincidence last week one of the jurists from New Zealand was here speaking, giving lectures in our own law school here in Manitoba, and speaking on this very subject. This bill in New Zealand is now in process, as I say, and is expected to be passed within the next year. It might be interesting, Mr. Speaker, to look at some of the specific items in the New Zealand bill. Obviously not all of their recommendations would apply directly to our own situation here in Manitoba. We are a province; they are a sovereign state; and certainly some changes would have to be made. But the basic background is the same here. The idea of the protection of the individual is behind both their legislation and the recommendations of this department, of this booklet by Justice in England, and the activities in Scandinavia.

Now what the New Zealand bill proposes, and I will read only some very limited sections, Mr. Speaker, are the following things. For example, in that case they called him, by the way, a Parliamentary Commissioner for Investigations and proposed that he be appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the House of Representatives. It stated that he will not, except under specific provisions of the Act, divulge any information needed by him, or found by him, under this Act. It further stated that on a complaint made to him and, even more important probably, of his own motion and decision, he may investigate any matter, any department, any Minister of the Crown. So he can do it either on complaint by an individual or, if he finds that something is out of order, from his own motion. Another specific item is the mode of complaint. It must be in writing. Here's another feature, and this may be of interest to the Minister of Health. We are just recently discussing here in the House his own estimates and also some amendments to the Metro Health Act. This may also be of interest to the Attorney-General, this specific provision. Notwithstanding any provisions in any enactment, where any letter written by any person in custody, or on a charge, or after conviction of any offence, or by an inmate of any institution within the meaning of The Mental Health Act, is addressed to the

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) commissioner, it shall be issued, forwarded unopened to the commissioner by the person for the time being in charge of the place or institution where the person is an inmate. This again is specific protection so far as people in custody, either for legal reasons or for mental reasons. Now these, Mr. Speaker, are just some of the provisions given in the bill proposed in New Zealand now.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that in the light of the work that has been done in the Scandinavian countries by this individual, whom we suggest here should be called the Public Protector, that Manitoba should give consideration to this particular recommendation at this time. I realize that some of the objections that will be raised to it is that we are only a small province, less than a million people, that we don't require this at the moment. Mr. Chairman, when we look at the expansion of government year by year, at the establishment of new boards and committees, new regulations, new acts, I think it's high time that we take steps to protect the individual. It's all well and fine to say that our legislation is designed for the protection of the individual, but as we go along, as our state grows more complex, as the state itself takes over more responsibilities, I believe that there is a serious danger that the individual will be lost in all of this; that the methods of redress that now exist become too cumbersome; that some cases, possibly he could take some of these things to the courts but the costs of so doing, the time taken in doing so means that effectively he cannot do it. Possibly the rich man can but the ordinary individual, the salaried individual, the small businessman, the man who works on a wage, under certain circumstances may not be able to get the redress and get the fair treatment that I'm sure every member of this House wants him to get.

This is the reason, Mr. Chairman, for proposing this particular resolution. As we go along and as we propose new legislation and as our economy changes and our whole social structure changes, I think we must be prepared to change our mechanics of government, our whole concepts. We cannot continue with the same basic structure that we had before in the light of the changing circumstances. We must be prepared to bring up our legal and social structures up to the times as they now exist. Now this particular resolution, Mr. Chairman, is specific in a number of instances, and I suggest that the particular instances where it is should be followed by the government if it accepts this particular resolution.

I would like to comment here on at least one or two of them. One that will probably be of some controversy is the question of publicity. You'll note, Mr. Speaker, that the resolution states that the Public Protector should immediately upon completion of investigation submit a public report on the case and, furthermore, that he should submit an annual report to the legislature on all cases which he has investigated. I think when considering these particular two clauses that it would be wise to look at what's been done in Sweden where this idea originated in the first place. And here I'd like to quote, Mr. Speaker, directly from the report made by Justice in this regard, and this is referring directly to the operations of the Swedish Ombudsman: "Although the ultimate sanction of the Ombudsman is the power to institute proceedings against civil servants, this power is now rarely used, as is shown by the fact that in 1959 there were only five prosecutions out of 1,003 cases. Just five prosecutions in a little over 1,000 cases. In practice, the real sanction is the publicity which is given to the Ombudsman's criticisms of the administration in its annual reports to Parliament, but more especially in the daily press. Every day at 11:00 a.m. a representative of the Swedish Press Bureau calls at the Ombudsman's office to examine the complaints and the decisions of the previous day. The files are laid out on a table ready for the pressman's inspection and contain all the inward and outward correspondence and any reports relating to the particular complaint or decision. The pressman selects those cases which are of general interest and circulates the information to the national newspapers. If a case is of merely local interest, he sends the information only to the provincial newspapers circulating in the locality concerned. Almost every day the pressman has something to report. On some occasions the press report contains criticisms of the Ombudsman's handling of the case; if there appears to have been unnecessary delay in his office. The wide and continuous publicity resulting from this system of daily visits by representatives of the press bureau, in many ways provides a more effective weapon than prosecution, and is much feared and respected by the civil servants."

It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, then that these two particular clauses which insist on the publicity of cases, based on the experience elsewhere, are essential to the resolution. It should

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) be pointed out that in all of this there's no desire or persecution of any civil servants. In fact, the resolution particularly states that they should not be mentioned by name. Now this is a practice followed--and I'll be discussing this on the other resolution on the Auditor-General--this practice is followed at the present time in Ottawa by the Auditor-General in his reports. It's followed in the United Kingdom by the Auditor-General there; is an accepted practice. So there's no desire of any kind here to go after public servants as such. The whole intention is the protection of the public and this matter of publicity, of course, is directly connected with them.

I want to comment specifically, Mr. Speaker, on only one further item here in the resolution and that's the matter that the Public Protector should be responsible to the Legislature, be appointed by us and being responsible or being removable only by the Legislature. This, of course, as my honourable friends on the far side know, is not a new idea by any means. It exists now in Manitoba. It exists for the gentleman who's sitting here at the desk in his capacity as the Chief Electoral Officer; it exists in the capacity of the Comptroller-General, who appears before us every year in Public Accounts; it exists in the capacity of the Civil Service Commissioner. So the whole proposition of a two-thirds vote here in the Legislature as the controlling factor is not new. This is the protection insofar as the individual is concerned, that he not be subject to the whims of the government.

The length of tenure I have not particularly recommended in the resolution. I think it is something that could be left to discussion. This varies in various jurisdictions. In some cases it's five years; in others it can be, under good behaviour, for a longer term. That, as far as I'm concerned, is not the important aspect. So, Mr. Speaker, I would strongly recommend to the House this resolution. Obviously when the Legislation would be enacted, there would have to be some adjustments made from the legislation which exists elsewhere to make it fit our particular case in Manitoba. But I submit that the principle is sound. In view of the statements made in the House so far by the First Minister himself, by the Member from Brokenhead, I would assume, Mr. Speaker, that we will have unanimous support for this resolution. I suggest as well to my honourable friend the First Minister that he chided us sometime earlier in the session; he wanted some positive suggestions. I think we have supplied him with a number of them so far. We will have many more to come. This is merely one more of them.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

.....Continued on next page.

MR. SCHREYER: There's an old saying, I think, that is contributed to Confucius, that there is no limit to the amount of good that men can do as long as they don't care who gets the credit. And I think it's particularly appropriate in the case of this resolution, because I don't much care who will get the ultimate credit if and when this resolution is implemented into law in this province. I think that we should start on the assumption that it recommends itself to the two groups on this side, and we can only hope that those on the other side will think seriously before they act in the negative in this regard.

Now it is no secret to members here that I mentioned this particular aspect, protecting human civil liberty several weeks ago and the First Minister was kind enough and enlightened enough, which is not strange, to give it some attention and some consideration. The only thing that is disturbing is that he saw fit at that time to raise doubts as to the need for this kind of office in the Province of Manitoba, and he left it somewhat in the negative here in this Chamber. Now what was the main argument that the First Minister used to try to counter the idea of having an office of public protector. It seemed to me that he felt that the population of this province was too small and as thus didn't warrant this kind of office. Well in fact the population of Manitoba is about one million, just a little less, and it is sheer wishful thinking for him to say, or anyone else to say, that if they were in the office of the Premier that all citizens of the Province could have access to him in order to air grievance. It is simply impossible; it is even impossible for members of this assembly to gain access to his office in order to try to air or raise grievance, because there is simply too much work to do. Members of the assembly can, in many ways, try to help citizens of their area in combatting what they feel are acts of maladministration; but even there a member of the assembly can only go so far, because after a point enters the matter of partisanship and politics in its most seamy sense, you really can't go too far along the line that the First Minister suggested was in fact open to people.

Now Sweden is a country of about seven million; seven times larger than Manitoba population-wise. Well, they have this office and they have it staffed with, I believe it is, seven officers, head ombudsman and staff, and it would seem that the ratio would work out to the extent that we could implement this particular resolution and provide protection for the public against maladministration, protect civil rights, with a one-man office. Why not try it? Let us see whether it will work. Let us see whether it is worth it. In its history of operation in the Scandinavian countries it has worked and it has commended itself to the people of those countries. Let us try to be advanced enough in our thinking to implement this here in Manitoba.

Now the 20th century has seen the growth of legislation providing more and more economic security for the people, and this has brought with it, almost inevitably the growth of administrative power and perhaps a parallel increase in violations of civil liberties and civil rights. And it seems that there is as yet no efficient means of redress of grievance. The courts are the bulwark of our individual rights, but the common law seems to have lost its flexibility, and it seems to be too slow -- our judicial system seems to be too slow for righting the wrongs of modern administrative action. There seems to be no formal rights of appeal against administrative decisions. So what are we to do? A grievance can be aired in this Chamber by members of the Opposition, but I don't think that anyone will try to suggest that this is the most efficient way of protecting citizens against grievances or acts of maladministration. Not many people are well informed enough of the workings of bureaucracy to be able to battle it themselves. Not many people have neither the patience, the information nor the money to protect themselves against red tape. In short then, our existing devices for protecting the average individual against administrative powers are inadequate.

So what have they done in Scandinavia? The Leader of the Opposition has told you. The only thing I would like to clear up -- he left the impression that in Sweden the office of ombudsman is 150 years old. In fact, it is only, insofar as military ombudsman are concerned, but for civil purposes the ombudsman there is about 20 years old and no more. And what is the function? He has outlined it to you. It is the duty of the ombudsman there to receive complaints, to investigate, and to explain to confused citizens the why and the wherefore for their having been refused a particular request of a government department. There are many cases, I venture to say, in this province and in this country, many cases of unlawful administrative action that come to light not at all. I think that each of us here must have experienced within our own lifetime cases where there was incarceration of individuals into mental institutions where it was

(Mr. Schreyer, cont'd.) just on the borderline as to whether or not individual rights had been in fact, violated. I know I have. I have seen this happen on two or three occasions. That individual had no recourse and none was open to him. Now, I know that there will be some who would be afraid of opening offices of government to investigation and inspection by a public protector type of person, but I think that if we will just think back a few years the theft of public monies at Camp Petawawa; the scandal in British Columbia where a Cabinet Minister was convicted of bribery; all these things would have come to light much, much more quickly if we had had an office such as they do in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. It seems that the practice in Scandinavia bears this result. In Sweden on the average out of the host of complaints that the office of ombudsman receives, out of all that, there appears to be 30 cases, on the average -- I am just giving you average estimates now -- 30 cases a year are, in fact, uncovered and brought to light by the ombudsman where individuals had, in fact, been deprived to some degree or another of their rights as citizens. Thirty cases a year on the average. And even if in Manitoba the office of public protector were to find only four or five cases a year on the average where violations had occurred of fundamental human rights and civil liberty, it would be worth it. If we pride ourselves in suggesting that here in this country liberty is held high, let us back it up with something that is of substance and fact. Let us back it up by implementing this resolution which would have the effect of establishing an office of public protector.

There are so many fields of human activity where more authority and investigation is needed. Industrial injuries, in the field of industrial injuries, there's a lot of work there that could be done by such an officer. I don't think that even if we were to implement this resolution that we should concern ourselves too much for the first year or two laying down rules of procedure for this office because we might put it in a straight-jacket. I think the rules of reference, or terms of reference that would be necessary are, in fact, included in this resolution, and I would commend the Leader of the Opposition for this effort on his part. Many complaints that will be lodged into such an officer will be redundant or having no substance to them; but experience is found in Sweden that on the average of 800 to 1,000 complaints lodged with the office of ombudsman every year, about one-third are considered worthy of investigation. It would seem by simple arithmetic ratio that we would have somewhere in the neighbourhood of 200 to 300 complaints a year that could be investigated by such an officer, and we would find, I dare say, more than a dozen cases where some violation had occurred. So I don't think the First Minister should suggest that we are a small province -- one million people -- everyone knows where his office door is and everything is just fine. That is not the case. Administrative law is growing, of necessity, but let us counterbalance this threat to human rights by the implementation in this province of the office of public protector.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Education, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Proposed resolution standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I would want the indulgence to have this matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Proposed resolution standing in the name of the Honourable the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

MR. PAULLEY: I would like this matter to stand, Mr. Speaker. Also the next resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Proposed resolution standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Inkster. -- (Interjection) -- Stand. Second reading of Bill No. 19. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. MOLGAT: could you go on with some of the others?

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed. Second reading of Bill No. 27. The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. ROBLIN: Perhaps you had better hold that item, Mr. Speaker, and proceed through this list until we find the Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 26. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface) presented Bill No. 36, An Act incorporating the St.

(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd.) Boniface College Scholarship Fund, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. DESJARDINS: This bill asks for the corporation of an unincorporated society existing in St. Boniface since a number of years, a society known as St. Boniface. This society has been receiving contribution from mostly French speaking persons of the province for providing scholarships to needy and worthy students attending St. Boniface College.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 14. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. J. E. INGEBRIGTSON (Churchill) presented Bill No. 14, An Act to repeal An Act respecting the Town of Gimli for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. INGEBRIGTSON: Mr. Speaker, the Town of Gimli, by special bill approved by this House in 1948, requested that municipal elections be held in August instead of October. The reasons at the time were that campers who were property owners could vote while on holidays, and the second reason, the fishermen were at home during August and usually away out fishing in the autumn. The Town Council now requests by a unanimous resolution that elections be held during the resolute time according to The Municipal Act. The reasons for the change is that due to modern fishing techniques the fishermen are home during autumn and roads now make Gimli accessible for campers to drive in to vote, and the Councillors defeated in August must remain on the Council until January 1st and they feel that this is far too long a time to sit on the Council after they have been defeated.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 32. The Honourable the Member for La Verendrye.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Can you pass this one. The member will be in the House in a moment.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Moved by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. STAN ROBERTS (La Verendrye) presented An Act respecting the Ste. Agathe Bridge over the Red River in Manitoba, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, in 1958, in the first session 1958, a bill was passed through the House, No. 88, making this bridge at Ste. Agathe possible, and making it possible for the rural municipality of Richot to form a bridge district and to levy rates over this bridge district covering principal and interest of the debentures which they were to issue. Later on in the 1959 session another bill was brought in, found necessary, because of the increasing cost of money to increase the interest rate allowable on the debentures. This bill replaces both those bills and makes provision for the municipality to levy over the whole of the municipality, the taxpayers of the municipality, the amount required to pay the debentures, the principal and interest on the money borrowed for the bridge. The money incidentally is \$100,000 which is one-quarter of the cost of the Ste. Agathe Bridge.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 33. The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. GROVES presented Bill No. 33, An Act to provide a Charter for the City of St. Vital, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. GROVES: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party as my seconder on this bill. It's just and right that he should share with me the privilege of presenting this bill to the House because in fact he represents the rural municipality, soon I hope to become the City of St. Vital, as much as I do. In people I think that I have the edge because I represent the built-up part of the municipality; but in area he represents a much larger area than I do because he takes in the rural portion.

I would like, at this time, to say a word of admonishment, if that's a word in the dictionary, or to admonish those who cast jibes at the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party when he gets up in this House to discuss farm problems. Because I wish to state that, in fact, the Honourable Leader does represent many good farmers, market gardeners and dairymen

(Mr. Groves, cont'd.) that are resident in the rural part of the Municipality of St. Vital. If, Mr. Speaker, there was such a thing as a thirder on a bill such as this, I would have to call on the Honourable Member from Springfield, because his constituency also includes a small portion at the far south end of the Rural Municipality of St. Vital.

Getting to the bill, Mr. Speaker, this bill contains a number of legal technicalities and land descriptions and reference to other statutes which the lawyers in the House will be far more familiar with than I. The solicitor for the municipality will be present at the committee that considers this bill to answer any questions dealing with these aspects of the bill.

In principle the bill proposes that the present rural municipality of St. Vital now become the seventh city in the Greater Winnipeg area, and it is customary, I think, Mr. Speaker, for someone introducing a bill of this type to refer briefly to the history of the area concerned, and I will try in doing this to be very brief.

St. Vital had its early beginnings as a Convent named in honour of the Reverend Father Vital Julienne G. , a co-agitator of the Bishop of St. Boniface. This convent was built in St. Vital about six miles south of the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers. The sparsity of population in most of the districts of the province at this time rendered local self-government impractical and the provincial government of the day accordingly assumed responsibility for most of the public services. In 1880 the government divided the province into 31 municipalities, with municipal boundaries generally coinciding with the then parish boundaries. Each municipality was charged with the responsibility of looking after, and the administration of, public works, relief of the poor, preservation of public health, collection of school taxes, etcetera, and the provincial government at that time accordingly became relieved of a heavy and detailed administrative burden. To finance its cost each municipality was empowered to levy taxes on local property. As I was looking at some of this background material, Mr. Speaker -- and I have to thank the Greater Winnipeg Investigating Commission for much of it -- it seemed rather odd when I came to this portion that we seem to be leaning now very heavily the other way. Instead of the province giving up its powers to the municipalities and trying to relieve itself of burdens as this information that I have states, we find the municipalities giving up their responsibilities to the province; in the Greater Winnipeg area we find the area municipalities giving up their responsibilities to Metro; and I think that without expressing any opinion at this time on this trend that we should recognize this as a potentially dangerous one. That we mustn't sacrifice efficiency for democracy, and in dealing with matters of this type we must remember that in this province, and perhaps in the other provinces of Canada as well, that our municipalities, despite their problems, remain the bulwark of democracy in this country.

Present day St. Vital coincides approximately with the original municipality of St. Norbert. At this time the municipalities of Greater Winnipeg were separated by the Red and the Assiniboine rivers. Assiniboia was comprised of land on both sides of the Assiniboine; while Kildonan and St. Vital and St. Paul straddled the Red River. In 1912 the west side of St. Vital separated out to become the independent municipality of Fort Garry. At that time a new municipal hall was built in the part of this old municipality that is now St. Vital and this building was only recently demolished to become what is now Christ the King Parochial School. The municipal hall which served the municipality at the time it extended on both sides of the Red River still stands and is a private residence on River Road. As things developed in the Greater Winnipeg area the suburban municipalities experienced severe financial strain, particularly during the inter-war years, and shortly after the First World War it became evident that the pre-war boom would not be renewed and municipalities which had borrowed heavily to finance ambitious public works programs in anticipation of large population increases, found themselves saddled with heavy interest charges, heavy debts and inadequate revenues. St. Vital, at the time, was a striking example of this type of thing. It defaulted on its indebtedness, principal and interest, and along with other municipalities in the province came under the financial control of the then Municipal and Public Utility Board. Even today we have in St. Vital a long strip of paved road south of the Perimeter Road that was built in anticipation of a huge expansion in population that never took place.

During the 20th century however, co-operative action became necessary within this municipal group in Greater Winnipeg and projects of community-wide benefits were entered into by the municipalities jointly. St. Vital played an important role on these intermunicipal boards,

(Mr. Groves, cont'd.) commissions and committees which gave to this area a sewage system, a water supply system, the beginnings of town planning and many other benefits that perhaps we might never have had without this intermunicipal co-operation. This system however had its limitations and eight years ago agitation began for a change. This change as we all know resulted in the Metro legislation which we passed in this House two years ago. I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that I was on the Municipal Council when, after many years of tight financial control and inability of the part of the municipalities to borrow money for capital improvements, we were able, along with East Kildonan, St. James and West Kildonan, to break once again into the bond market. Our credit was restored and the program, particularly of road improvement, which we see on the residential streets of the municipalities of Greater Winnipeg today, most have been financed by bond issues or financial deals which were made by these councils, by co-operating with each other at that time. Since then, of course, we have had improvements in sewer, water supply and other municipal works.

It's not many years ago, Mr. Speaker, that only a small portion of present-day St. Vital had sewer and water services. It's not so many years ago that the municipality of St. Vital consisted of many thousands or hundreds of acres of vacant land. After the Second World War improvements were extended south and young families began to move into this area and the new "jet age" of St. Vital began. New schools were built and at the present time St. Vital has one of the finest school divisions in the province. From humble and poor beginnings St. Vital has grown to a beautiful residential suburb of some 27,000 people. Its assessment last year it was \$31,312,845.00. The total municipal budget is \$2,068,000.00. It is mostly a dormitory suburb, its people living in the municipality but working by and large in other areas of Greater Winnipeg. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, one of the blessings of the planning concept of Metro is that if we find a way to share the industrial and business taxes equitably amongst the areas of Greater Winnipeg, we may not have to spoil a residential district such as this by bringing in industry in order to equalize the tax base and relieve the burden of realty taxes from the home owner.

I have been asked, Mr. Speaker, on many occasions, and I have asked this question myself of many people in the past few months, and that is, why must St. Vital become a city? Four answers stand out to these questions, the first of which, and these aren't necessarily in order of importance, the first answer which comes to the surface is the fact that perhaps we're playing a game of follow the leader. In recent years, St. James, East Kildonan, Transcona, and West Kildonan have become cities, and some people say that St. Vital should become a city because the others did. There is also the matter of prestige that enters into the answers to these questions. Many people feel that to call oneself a city is much more becoming, or much more important than to be called a rural municipality, particularly in a built-up area such as Greater Winnipeg. And, Mr. Speaker, I must admit that this is so. City sounds much better and appears to be much more important and gets more attention than the word, "rural municipality". I can cite an example of a solicitor for one of these municipalities that has recently become a city when in Ottawa some time ago dealing with matters affecting this city, the official that he was discussing these problems with said something to the effect that he was representing the rural municipality of whatever it was. At that time he pointed out -- in fact it was Transcona -- and the official said the Town of Transcona, and my information is that when the official at Ottawa was told that this was not a town that it was a city, that his attitude and his outlook considerably brightened -- so that prestige does have a place to play in these matters. It's also stated that the word "city" might, if we were trying to attract industry, would sound better to those who would be prospective industrials than the word "rural municipality" -- and, Mr. Speaker there may be some truth to this.

Another interesting answer that has been made to these questions or this question as to "why must St. Vital become a city" is that becoming a city surely must be a bulwark against amalgamation, and I must say, Mr. Speaker, that amongst municipal men, and amongst former municipal men in this area that this certainly ranks as a main consideration. Whatever reason, Mr. Speaker, we choose to adopt as to why St. Vital and some of the other metropolitan municipalities are becoming cities, it leaves in our mind the impression that there is uncertainty, confusion and even fear of the future in the minds of many thousands of people in the metropolitan area as to their place in the future municipal scheme of things; and it would be our job, I hope, Mr. Speaker, at this session when dealing with whatever amendments we have to deal with

(Mr. Groves, cont'd.) to the Metropolitan Corporation of Winnipeg Act, to remove some of this uncertainty and confusion that does underline the reasons for presenting bills such as this. Apart from these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call this bill a promotion; an elevation in status for this area as a reward for services rendered by its people and its elected representatives over the years, for their contribution to the province as a whole, and to the Greater Winnipeg area in particular; and I am proud as its representative in this House and as a citizen of this community and as a former municipal councillor to have the privilege of presenting this bill to you for your approval and to have associated with me in this respect the Honourable Leader of the Democratic Party and to a smaller extent the Honourable Member from Springfield.

I might point out, too, that I intend in the committee to propose an amendment to this bill. The last section of the bill states that the bill will become law on Royal Assent. The amendment will propose that this Act come into force on a day fixed by proclamation. This has been requested by the council of the municipality in order that they might time their festivities for the same day that their municipality becomes legally a city. And I might, at this time, mention some of the plans -- although I must say they're not finalized yet -- for the celebration of this occasion. It is proposed, but not definitely decided, that the date be May 21st, and that if this is not the usual holiday that falls in that month that it be proposed as a holiday for the people of this municipality. A committee working with the council of the municipality is planning an all-day celebration in conjunction with the YMCA, the community clubs and other voluntary groups; the proceeds from which would go to these volunteer groups. They are intending to barbeque an ox, or a steer, and I would like at this time, Mr. Speaker, in closing my remarks, to invite you and all of the honourable members of this Chamber to our celebrations on that date. I thank you.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join with my honourable friend the Member for St. Vital, in recommending to this Legislature the passing of this bill to make the Rural Municipality of St. Vital into a city. I am very proud of the fact that part of the great constituency of Radisson is contained within the Municipality of St. Vital. As my honourable friend mentioned most of the area that I represent is rural in character. I also want to point out, Sir, that in company with the rest of the suburban municipalities of the Greater Winnipeg area ever expanding developments are taking place, and it may not be too long before the rural area that I now represent is a fully developed residential area. The honourable member pointed out, quite correctly, that the base of assessment in the Municipality of St. Vital is almost entirely residential. Here is one of the last areas in the Greater Winnipeg area where you won't find belching smoke and many industrial hazards. I think it is desirable that there should be assessment basis to permit this lovely municipality to retain this characteristic.

I was very happy to hear my friend mention that the Act will be changed, or an amendment to bring the municipality into a city by proclamation, and I think that May the 21st would be a very fitting day, because that is the anniversary of the day of my marriage, and I don't think that anything could be better launched than the union betwixt myself and my wife, as this venture of the changing of the rural municipality into a city. It's an indication, Mr. Speaker, of progress.

In St. Vital we find many different segments in our community. You will find, and particularly in my area of St. Vital, references by names of streets and names of people to associations of the foundations of the Greater Winnipeg area. You will find some of our streets named after Louis Riel. Indeed, you will find many of his descendents. You will find many people of Metis extraction. You will find streets named after the Todd's who have been pioneers for generations in this area of Greater Winnipeg. The Municipality of St. Vital forms a link between the old and the new. I've had the honour, Sir, of introducing two bills into this House to have two municipalities made into cities. Firstly, the Rural Municipality of East Kildonan to the City of East Kildonan; secondly, the Town of Transcona into the City of Transcona; and now it is a pleasure to join in seconding this motion to make St. Vital into a city.

I would suggest to the Honourable the Premier of the Province of Manitoba that if he wants to make a present on the occasion of the inauguration of the City of St. Vital that he should use this as an opportunity, as he did on the day of the proclamation of the City of Transcona, to announce that the Province of Manitoba will provide a bridge connecting St. Vital with

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) the Fort Rouge area as an out-and-out donation -- approaches included -- on this very memorable occasion. I'm happy to join the Member for St. Vital in extending an invitation to you all to mark this great event of progress in the Municipality of St. Vital and the larger area of Greater Winnipeg.

MR. A. H. CORBETT (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, after listening to all these rather laudatory explanations of the reasons for the introduction of this bill, I just wish to rise and say what a pity it is that we couldn't juggle our monthly calendar around a little bit, mark down the calendar, that we could have introduced this second reading of this most magnificent bill on the 17th of March, St. Patrick's Day.

MR. HILLHOUSE: I'm afraid if we don't hurry up with this second reading of this bill we may have total amalgamation before it becomes a city. Mr. Speaker, we have in this bill, of course, the birth of a city -- do we have a doctor in the House?

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

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 34. The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HAWRYLUK presented Bill No. 34, An Act to amend The Election Act (2) for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. HAWRYLUK: Mr. Speaker, I thought possibly after the talk about the fair City of St. Vital, that I would have very little to say, but I intend to have very little to say, because it was my pleasure to introduce a similar resolution about four years ago regarding a similar bill of this type in which I, at that time, felt that some consideration should be given to reduce the voting age of our young people in the Province of Manitoba to 18.

In the lapse of the four years there's been a great change of heart because at that time we had quite an interesting discussion, pros and cons on both sides of the House, the Liberals and Conservatives, but it seems that in the past few years at the various conventions that are being held across Canada there has been a definite indication that they want a change made as far as the lowering of the age for voting. In this particular province at the last Liberal Convention the Liberals have it on their more-or-less program that they would like to see the age reduced, and also the Liberals in Quebec wish to do the same thing, and I believe that some of the Conservatives were very, very definite in their policy in various parts of Canada. Particularly, there was quite a discussion in the federal House as of March the 3rd in which a multitude of reasons was advanced in the Commons, Friday, on why Canadians 18 years and older should be allowed to vote in the elections. So I feel that -- and also the fact is that our western provinces, and I don't know whether members are aware, that for many, many years the Province of Saskatchewan has allowed its members to vote at the age of 18 and the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia the voting age has been reduced to 19, and several states across the line, Kentucky and Georgia have reduced the voting age to 18 as well. So I leave my case with that. I could possibly say a lot more, but I think that it's about time that the members considered this bill and give the young people a chance to exercise their franchise, because we are fully aware of what happened in the Metro vote on Wednesday when our supposed adults who should go out to vote, we had barely 16% of them go out and vote for a candidate. Let's give the young people under 21 a chance to exercise a franchise and take a definite interest in politics. And I leave it with the members to support this bill for law amendments committee.

MR. O. F. BJORNSON (Lac du Bonnet): I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Vital, that the debate be now adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 39. The Honourable the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

MR. PAULLEY presented Bill No. 35, An Act respecting The School District of Transcona, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the question.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, by way of explanation this just gives to the School District of Transcona the same privilege that is now enjoyed by a number of school districts -- I believe Norwood, St. James, I'm not sure of East Kildonan -- the right to pay to their school trustees an indemnity higher than that provided for in The Schools Act if they so move by resolution in the School Board itself.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 43, An Act respecting the closing off and filling in of the channel of the Assiniboine River within the City of Brandon known as The Snye. The Honourable Member for Brandon.

MR. R. O. LISSAMAN (Brandon) presented Bill No. 43, An Act respecting the closing off and filling in of the channel of the Assiniboine River within the City of Brandon known as The Snye, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the question.

MR. LISSAMAN: Mr. Chairman, "The Snye" at one time was a small stream or creek which passed through that part of Brandon which is known as the flats, close to the Assiniboine River, and for many years now the bed, the valley of this small creek, has been filled in completely with the permission of provincial authorities, but the old flowing curve of the valley itself is still marked by broken street lines and lots and lane lines, and so forth. I have a large map of the area which I propose to bring to committee so that members will be able to see exactly how the situation lies. This bill asks that that land which is now completely filled and levelled, and has been for several years, be given to the city. Then I understand the city itself will in turn in straightening out the street and lanes in the grid pattern which exists there, will very likely give to the owners of lots who now -- as the stream curves through the area, cuts some of the lots much smaller than they should be according to the grid pattern -- will likely give to those citizens the land sufficient to square the general plan out. This briefly, Mr. Speaker, is a description of the purpose for which the Act is requested.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask the honourable member. What is the origin of this word "The Snye"?

MR. LISSAMAN: Well, I remember as a boy it being called The Snye for years and years but I never did, probably being mentally lazy, never even took the trouble to find out the origin of the word.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 28. The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. COWAN presented Bill No. 28, An Act to amend The Medical Act, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the question.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, one of the main purposes of this bill is to permit the suspension of a doctor pending an inquiry. It is felt that it is in the public interest that the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons be permitted to act effectively and quickly in removing any member from practicing medicine whose conduct may endanger the life and safety of the public, provided always reasonable safeguards are given to the individual member of the college. It is possible if this power isn't given that a doctor who wasn't able might get an inquiry postponed and postponed, an appeal and so on, and be able to practice for quite a long time without a decision having been arrived at. The bill will also permit the constitution and members of the discipline committee to be altered; it will permit the council to make an inquiry on its own motion; and it will not require the council to follow strictly judicial standards on proceedings before the discipline committee; and it will make the appeal to the Court to be by way of originating notice of motion instead of summons to show cause.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 37, An Act to amend The Flin Flon Charter. The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. W. B. SCARTH, Q. C. (River Heights) presented Bill No. 37, An Act to amend The Flin Flon Charter for second reading.

Mr. Speaker put the question.

MR. SCARTH: Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the Leader of the NDP I would like to point out that this is not an Act to incorporate a loan company. The situation -- (Interjection) -- The situation, Sir, is this. The Flin Flon Charter was enacted in 1954 and it provided that councillors should receive a maximum \$1,000 a year -- I'm sorry, \$1,000 for the mayor and \$500 for each councillor. That, at the time, was in keeping with the provisions of The Municipal Act. In 1961 the Municipal Act was amended whereby it provided that in any town with a

(Mr. Scarth, cont'd.) population of 10,000 or over and with an equalized assessment of over \$5 million, could pay its mayor and councillors as follows: for the mayor up to, but not exceeding, \$3,600; and for each councillor not exceeding \$1,800.00. Flin Flon is now a town of ten thousand, nine hundred some odd population; it has an equalized assessment practically to \$10 million, and it is submitted, Sir, that there is no reason why the Flin Flon Charter should not be brought in line with other municipalities of the same type as provided for in The Municipal Act as it now stands.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 19. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. SHOEMAKER presented Bill No. 19, An Act to amend An Act respecting The Insurance Institute of Winnipeg, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the question.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Speaker, the bill before us simply requests that we change the name of the institute from "The Insurance Institute of Winnipeg" to "The Insurance Institute of Manitoba". Since the Institute's association with The Insurance Institute of Canada -- an organization founded in 1952 to provide and maintain a central organization for the promotion of efficiency, progress and general knowledge amongst persons employed in the general insurance industry -- the scope of the local institute has become broader, embracing all areas of Manitoba. The Institute is supported by companies, agents and adjusting firms throughout Manitoba. Students of the Institute are drawn from companies, agencies and adjusting firms throughout Manitoba. The change in name will be more representative of the province-wide scope of the Institute's activities.

A secondary factor in the desirability of the change in name is that other local institutes in Canada have the provincial designation, for example, the Insurance Institute of British Columbia, the Insurance Institute of Ontario, the Insurance Institute of the Province of Quebec, the Insurance Institute of New Brunswick, the Insurance Institute of Newfoundland and the Insurance Institute of Nova Scotia.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 27. The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. D. M. STANES (St. James) presented Bill No. 27, An Act to incorporate Assiniboine Golf Club, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the question.

MR. STANES: Mr. Speaker, due to the movement of personnel of members of the Golf Club over the years, the shares of the club have become lost and I understand on good legal advice that this is the way the matter is solved.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate.

MR. ROBLIN: It's close now to our usual time for rising and I suppose that members would agree that we should not proceed with the next order of business on the paper in view of that fact. I think I should also report to the House, Sir, that certain knowledgeable members of the various parties in the Legislature who carry the unofficial description of "Whip" have been talking to one another recently, and they have concluded that in spite of the fact that our progress in the Committee of Supply so far has been miserably slow, they have concluded that in spite of that situation, that it's quite likely that the Committee of Supply will finish its business within about the same general run of time as has been taken on previous occasions. I must say that I think that opinion can be fairly described as optimistic. However, I find it difficult to argue with three Whips because they do have a unique opportunity of expressing the views of their colleagues in the various parts of the House, so far be it from me to say they are wrong. However, I'll watch with some interest to see whether they were right.

However, the understanding was, Sir, in view of their optimistic view of our proceedings in the Committee of Supply -- which I don't share -- that we needn't meet tonight, even though it is government business and we will normally be expected to go into Supply again this evening. So if that is the general feeling in the House, I would then be prepared to move the adjournment.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the House adjourned until 2:30 Monday afternoon.