

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Monday, March 10, 1969

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Minister of Finance)(Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, may I have the honour to present Harry Graham, Esq., a member for the electoral division of Birtle-Russell. He has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the honourable member take his seat.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present Warner H. Jorgenson, Esq. member for the constituency of Morris. He has signed the roll and taken the oath and now claims the right to take his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the honourable member take his seat.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present Leonard H. Claydon, Esq., member elect for the electoral division of Wolseley. He has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the honourable member take his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions

Reading and receiving Petitions

MR. CLERK: The petition of the Society of Mary, Province of St. Louis, St. Boniface, Manitoba Praying for the passing of an Act to amend an Act to incorporate the Society of Mary, Province of St. Louis, St. Boniface, Manitoba. The petition of la Congregation des Filles de la Croix praying for the passing of an Act to amend an Act to incorporate la Congregation des filles de la Croix.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting reports by Standing and Special Committees. Adjourned debates.

MR. M. E. McKELLAR (Souris-Lansdowne): Can I have leave of the House to let this matter stand?

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the honourable the Attorney-General. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I didn't expect to be called on this soon but, I do want to go on with what I have to say on the report that is before us. I think the committee on statutory orders and regulations has done a lot of work at their meetings. They have considered the various matters that were referred to them. Probably not in like manner because we spent more time on the Expropriation Act, the matter of the Ombudsman and one or two other items.

My remarks this afternoon will be made mainly on the Expropriation Act and the matter of the Ombudsman. The consumer protection bill was considered also and numerous amendments were proposed and I don't want to go into those this afternoon. I think when the bill comes in it will be time to speak on them and bring out the points that I feel should be raised. However, one general observation, and that is that I am rather concerned that we might be trying to over protect the public by bringing in the measures of this kind, that we might go over board, and this could cause just as much hardship as the other way round, especially if people should be denied a source of credit as a result, because of bringing in too much protection. I certainly intend to speak on the matter further when it does come in to this chamber when it's being reintroduced.

On the matter of the Expropriation Bill which was introduced last year and I think the year previous and has been considered by committees in the past, a number of amendments were proposed and I think in the main they were good ones. I thought they were good and I think the committee as such agreed to that. However, two previous speakers have already gone over some of the points that were considered in committee. The Honourable Member for St. John's and also the Honourable Member for Lakeside have mentioned certain points that they either took objection to or other items that should probably have received further consideration.

One of the main items I feel that I would like to dwell on is this matter of setting up a body that would deal with expropriations which is under the Bill referred to to the courts. Some of the members in the past have felt that this should be a board rather, a tribunal, which would deal with these matters. I am of the opinion though that we are doing the proper thing as the Act outlines and that these matters should be referred to the courts and I have reasons for doing so and I would like to bring some of these forward. Surely enough when we refer

(MR. FROESE cont'd.): ~~and in matters~~ of this kind to the courts, we know that we are dealing with competent and qualified people otherwise they would not have been appointed to their particular jobs and their particular position. I feel this is a very important point to remember, that we have to have qualified people to deal in these matters because they're touching on individual and property rights and we should have people that have knowledge and are also concerned in the matter.

Then, too, we would not be depending on one particular committee or one particular board to handle all the expropriation matters. We would have these matters referred to probably different people, to different judges and different courts to consider it, and that it would not be up to only one board to deal with all the different applications. I think this would auger well in the future. Then, too, I feel that this would avoid conformity, because so often we find that when boards are set up to do a certain thing, immediately they'll lay down policy and in the matter of no time it will just be one conforming to another and that applications would more or less be dealt with on that basis. I feel that this is not a good thing in the long run, that the courts I think would be able to do a better job and you would not have the same people dealing with these matters all the time.

The point that a tribunal or a board might be more considerate to certain applications -- this might have merit. I don't want to debate that too strongly because we know that certain matters can come before a board and they might be lenient having had experiences along that line so that they might be lenient or even more lenient; but at the same time I think our courts are there to protect the people and that they should also have the best interests of our citizens in mind when dealing with matters of expropriations.

Certainly there are other matters pertaining to the Expropriation Act or bill that will receive more consideration when the bill is reintroduced. Matters that I would like to dwell on at that time would certainly have to do with abandonment and interest rates and also one other thing that has been mentioned in the preliminary hearings. The matter of interest rate, Mr. Speaker, I think is important and compensation no doubt is very important. But then, too, we find on a number of occasions in the present bill that you refer to when these are to take effect and I feel that we should make it very definite in the Act, that when we refer to interest and compensation that this start from the time that the plans are filed, from the date that expropriation is actually made - when you have shift in ownership. This should be the date and the time from which compensation and interest should take effect, in my opinion.

There are matters that are not covered in the Bill. I would like to refer to easements. Manitoba Hydro in the past years, especially in recent years where they are constructing more and more of a transmission lines, go out and obtain easements and we find that they're using more property than the farmers think that should be used in setting up these lines. They will not go quite to the half mile line, along certain edges of property, but rather take a wider swath of the property for the purpose of these transmission lines. This has created difficulty back home and I know in other areas and I think this is a matter that we should look into and probably avoid as much as possible so that the crown corporations refrain from using needless acres of land for purposes of this kind. So, Mr. Speaker, those are the points that I intend to raise under the Expropriation Act.

We also heard a submission under the Personal Properties Securities Bill and I think this was a very worthwhile submission brought forward by one of the members of the committee, of the Law Society, and I think this brief should be circulated more widely, especially amongst financial institutions, credit unions probably - people who will be affected later on by the change. I thought the brief was very worthwhile and I feel that this should receive wider circulation. We know that this will probably take another year or two as has been mentioned by the Chairman of the Committee, but even though I think it's time that these people got acquainted with the provisions and with the contemplated changes that are intended.

And coming to the matter of the Ombudsman, here I want to congratulate the government by coming forward and we do hope that a bill will be brought in this session so that this can become law. I think a need has definitely been established in debating this matter over the past years. We are getting more and more crown corporations set up under both the provincial and federal governments and I think this is an area where an Ombudsman could be of great use and is needed more and more. Then, too, grievances have been brought to members of the House, I think all parties, that we cannot properly serve, we cannot properly deal with these matters, and that these should be referred to someone who would have access to

(MR. FROESE cont'd.): information that is not available to members of this legislature.

Then, too, I feel that too often we have arbitrary decisions by departmental staff and so on, which cause hardship and where people feel they're aggrieved. In my opinion, the appointment of an Ombudsman would be there to protect the individual rights of the people and also property rights, because we find that there is more and more encroachment taking place all the time.

The matter of the selection and appointment of an Ombudsman, I feel, should be left to the Assembly as such and that we not give as large powers to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council as is proposed under the Bill. I feel this eventually could lead to - well maybe I shouldn't say disrespect of the office - but members might feel that there could be a certain amount of collusion as a result. I feel that the office should be completely independent and that members of this House should have a greater say in the selection and appointment.

There is a mention made in the outline of the Ombudsman's duties, and one of them is that he make an annual report, a report to this House. Here again, I feel that a Standing Committee should be appointed or one of the Standing Committees that are presently in use by the Legislature should be made available to consider the Ombudsman's report. This would then give the members a right and a privilege to confer with the Ombudsman directly. It would also give direct contact between the assembly and the Ombudsman and I think it will be essential that this privilege is there for members in the future. Then too, we might want to question policy that the Ombudsman will establish in his work and duties. This should be open to question and we should certainly have a right to know of his reasons for taking certain steps and establishing certain policies; otherwise, we will just have a one-way line of communication and I think this is not good this is not proper. We will be getting the report, we will be saying our piece in the Legislature no doubt, but there will be no exchange and we will have no opportunity to question the Ombudsman in respect to these various matters; and I think this should be the right of the Assembly.

Then, too, I find that the Ombudsman in making his report he also has the right and the privilege to confer with departmental staff and give advice to them on various matters, and the way I read the outline or the guideline, this would not necessarily be reported to the members of this House, and here I would like to be very definite, that whatever action and whatever advice is given even along that line that it should be disclosed to members of this House. Here I think the matter of appointment by cabinet could certainly influence and have influence on what takes place.

The other point, Mr. Speaker, is the restriction that is being placed on the appointment by age, there is a limitation on the age. I feel that we need experience in an office like this and that we should do away with the restriction as is proposed. Certainly we have people even in our Assembly here that could fill the post very ably. I would like to refer to the Honourable Member for Lakeside who certainly has the knowledge, the background, he could do a wonderful job, but he wouldn't be eligible because of the age limitation. So I think we should take off the restriction in that regard and not tie our hands in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, these are some of the points that I had to raise in connection with the report. I will be dealing with other matters when these Bills are reintroduced to this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion

Introduction of Bills

The Honourable the Attorney-General.

HON. STERLING R. LYON, Q. C. (Attorney-General)(Fort Garry) introduced Bill No. 12 an Act to Amend the County Courts Act.

HON. STEWART E. McLEAN, Q. C. (Minister of Transportation)(Dauphin) introduced Bill No. 11 an Act to amend The Garage Keepers Act; and Bill No. 16 an Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.

HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources)(Rockwood-Iberville) introduced Bill No. 15 an Act respecting the Diversion of the Churchill River at Southern Indian Lake.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask a question of the Minister. Will this bill proceed in the normal way after second reading?

(MR. JOHNSTON cont'd.) ... Will it be going to the Utilities Committee?

MR. LYON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that debate of any sort is contemplated at first reading of a bill.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Leader of the Opposition)(Ste. Rose): ... a question is always in order.

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of the New Democratic Party)(Radisson): notwithstanding the fact that it has not been the practice in this House.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I was not starting a debate. I was asking permission to ask a question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage may ask his question.

MR. JOHNSTON: My question is to the Honourable Minister who introduced the bill. Will the bill be proceeding in the normal manner after second reading, will it be going to the Utilities Committee so that the public may have a chance at this bill?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, subject to the House Leader I would assume that the bill would proceed in the normal manner.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can direct the question to the House Leader then?

MR. SPEAKER: put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): introduced Bill No. 14 an Act to provide for the Making of Grants by The town of The Pas and The Local Government District of Consol to The Sisters of Charity of Saint Anthony's General Hospital at The Pas.

MR. R. O. LISSAMAN (Brandon): introduced Bill No. 9 an Act to incorporate The Brandon University Students' Union.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders for Return. The Honourable Member for Kildonan -- (Interjection) -- Yes, it looks as though I am a little ahead of myself. I'm sorry. Orders of the Day. I beg your pardon again. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that a formal motion will come later on in the session but I rise to inform the House of the passing away of my colleague, our colleague in fact, the previous member for Birtle-Russell, Mr. Rod Clement, who passed away yesterday. I'm informing the House at this time the funeral will be the day after tomorrow, Wednesday. I recognize a formal motion will come later; I merely give this as notice to the House.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I recognize as well that the formal motion will come later but I would feel that the members on this side of the House certainly would want us to express, through the Leader of the Opposition, to the family of our late and good friend, the deepest sympathy of all members of the government on this early passing of a man who was a friend to all of us.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I join in that and I trust and hope that myself or a representative of our group will be able to attend the last rites at Russell. While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, may I address ...

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, before the honourable member proceeds with further questions, I would also like to associate myself with what has been said by the Leader of the Opposition and the House Leader in extending sympathies to the family of the bereaved.

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

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address three questions to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce concerning a very important development which might take place in Manitoba. I may say, Mr. Speaker, I have given him copies of my questions. It's not my purpose in reply to your suggestion that we do not debate questions but merely ask them Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister is aware of a possible loss of contracts in the Department of Defense production affecting the firm known as CAE Western Division in Winnipeg and the possible loss of jobs for 150 people, some of whom have already received notice of lay-off. My question to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, is has the Minister taken any action in regard to this matter? 2. Is he aware of the fact that the date of awarding a contract for this type of work is on March 17th and unless Winnipeg is successful we lose these jobs? and 3. Due to the fact that there is a delegation going to Ottawa next Monday in respect of the retention of some facility at Rivers in order to continue employment there, will the Minister consider asking the responsible authorities at Ottawa to delay the awarding of the contract until such time as a delegation arrives in Ottawa and it has an opportunity of discussing this important matter

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd.): with the Ministers concerned?

HON. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C., (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my thanks to the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party for informing me of the questions that were to be asked. The answer to question No. 1 - yes we have taken action in regard to this matter. 2. I am not aware of the date that the award is to be made. I do know that it will be made in the next few days. 3. Approximately at 4 o'clock Eastern Standard time, the Premier of Manitoba was to meet with the Honourable James Richardson and the Honourable Donald Jamieson, the Minister of Defense Production to discuss this matter. It is his intention to propose that CAE be invited to make a presentation to the Department indicating their reason why they believe the contract which is to be awarded, at least the tender that is to be awarded, should be awarded to them on the basis of some basic discrepancies in evaluation the actual contract. It would be my proposal, Mr. Speaker, to suggest that this matter be held in abeyance as to whether the group who will be attending on the Minister of Regional Development and the Minister of Defense, on Monday the 17th, should in turn meet with other appropriate people in connection with this contract. It will be dependent entirely upon the results of the meeting with the Premier that is now taking place in Ottawa.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Health. Can the Minister indicate to the House now how many doctors have indicated that they will opt out of the Medicare system?

HON. GEORGE JOHNSON (Minister of Health and Social Services) (Gimli): No, Mr. Speaker. The corporation chairman advises me he only has about 12 letters to date.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, a subsequent question. Is it correct that all the doctors in Steinbach have opted out?

MR. JOHNSON: I have no knowledge of this, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MOLGAT: A subsequent question, Mr. Speaker. Is it correct that all of the doctors in Hamiota have opted out?

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, they may all opt out.

MR. MOLGAT: But, Mr. Speaker, the Minister is not answering my question. Is the Minister aware that this is so?

MR. JOHNSON: No, I am not, Mr. Speaker, quite frankly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): . . . direct a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Since there may be a great deal of movement in terms of doctors opting in and out of the plan, is there any minimum period of time within which such an action can be taken? For example, can one opt in within three months or have to wait 90 days before making a movement, or is there no minimum time?

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, it is spelled out in the Act.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, just for clarification is the Minister saying that there is no minimum period, or

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, to help the honourable member. It is in the Act that as of the first, unless the corporation hears to the contrary doctors are in the plan, opted in as it's called, or they elect to receive their monies direct from the corporation. They can, I get the 60 and 90 mixed up, but I think if they're out at the beginning I think it takes them three months to opt in; they can opt out again on sixty days notice, but this is spelled out in the provisions in the legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. LEMUEL HARRIS (Logan): Before the Orders of the Day I would like to address my question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce and the Minister of Labour. Are you aware of the report in the paper of 75 packer men facing lay-off in Brandon through the takeover of Burns buying the plant on April 1st? And did the former owners receive a loan from the Manitoba Development Fund?

MR. SPIVAK: I am assuming that the Honourable Member from Logan is referring to Pool Packers - that is the sale by Pool Packers to the Burns Company. I'm aware of the newspaper article and members of the department have been in contact with the two parties involved and I believe members of the Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration. I'm not aware of the number of employees that may in fact be laid off. This is of course something that

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.) the company would so decide. In so far as the question of the Manitoba Development Fund, to the best of my ability, there is not a Development Fund loan but this is something that I'll take as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Can the Honourable Minister indicate any progress or any further development since we last met in respect to the Pembina River Development and the Pembilier Dam? I think he indicated at that time that further meetings were slated. Are there any recent developments?

MR. ENNS: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, I wasn't paying attention.

MR. FROESE: I can repeat the question. My question was whether there had been any further progress or any development since this House last met, because at that time it was reported that meetings were slated between this government and the Federal Government. I would like to know whether there have been any developments in connection with the Pembina River Development and the Pembilier Dam.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I can report to the Honourable Member for Rhineland that a meeting has been set up for March 14th of this month to undertake further negotiations with the Federal Minister, Mr. Sharp. Beyond that I think the subject matter is probably one that we can deal with more fully during the course of my estimates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. Does he have a psychiatrist on staff assigned to the Juvenile Court? Is there a psychiatrist assigned to the Juvenile Court to attend to cases brought before it?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I believe there is, as far as I know. There's been a change. As you know, Dr. Little who was there for some time, retired, but has agreed to come back part time and I believe we have another psychiatrist in attendance.

MR. HANUSCHAK: A subsequent question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister saying, then, that what has transpired by reason of the retirement of the former psychiatrist, has in no way prejudiced the operations of that department of the court? In other words, the psychiatric services are available on the same basis as they always were and nothing has in any way hindered such?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, when I last spoke to the Provincial Director of Mental Health Services in that branch, he advised me that he had psychiatric services covered.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Last week I asked him about action being taken, particularly in the possible flood areas to move grain, and he made a report then. I pointed out to him that one of the specific problems that was pointed out to me was a technical one of the shortage of grain doors which was preventing the loading. He promised to investigate the matter. Has he a further report?

HON. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Minister of Agriculture) (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I was going to answer the honourable member's question today. First I'd like to answer a question by the Honourable Member for Rhineland when he inquired about farmers in the area that might be taking advantage of ARDA programs. There is no special status or no restrictions in so far as farmers under the ARDA program, insofar as the Credit Corporation is concerned.

In the matter of the car doors, the question was asked if there had been serious disruption of the movement of grain because of shortage of car doors. I've checked this out with the railways and the Canadian Wheat Board, and no serious situation has occurred. There was some mention a month ago that there was a very slight holdup but the Wheat Board indicate to me that nothing outside of the normal - actually that there was no serious disruption.

And I mention while I'm on this, and on the condition in the southeastern area in as far as flooding is concerned, a meeting was held in my office this morning. I didn't have too much time to spend there but about 35 rural municipal councils met to discuss with the Department of Agriculture representatives and with the Water Conservation people, and a full discussion took place there this morning that I will be reporting on later.

I was asked to table a report on the Tough Grain situation that came from the Canadian Wheat Board the other day. I have discussed this with the Canadian Wheat Board and they

(MR. WATT cont'd.): have no objection to tabling this report, nor have I.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Commissioner of Northern Affairs. Has he received yet a copy of the Report from the Royal Commission on Northern Transportation?

HON. OBIE BAIZLEY (Commissioner of Northern Affairs)(Osborne): No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, then I'd like to address the same question to the Minister in charge of transport. Has he received a copy?

MR. McLEAN: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplemental question dealing with this matter. I have heard, and I understand that the Commissioner of Northern Transportation may be leaving Winnipeg for climes down East very shortly. Can we be assured of the fact that that Commission report will be tabled prior to his departure?

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I'd better answer that because the Department of Transportation has responsibility with regard to this report. I'm sure we can assure the Honourable the Leader of the New Democratic Party that all necessary steps will be taken and completed before anyone leaves for the East.

MR. PAULLEY: A supplemental question, Mr. Speaker. Then may I take it that the informant who told me of the departure of our friend, may I take it that he is correct - my informant, that is?

MR. McLEAN: If I knew the name of your informant, I might be able to answer you.

MR. MOLGAT: I have a subsequent question on the original one I started, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister then indicate when we might get the report of the Royal Commission on Transportation?

MR. McLEAN: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question on the same subject. Was the report not required by legislation to have been brought in some four or five months ago?

MR. McLEAN: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, in the March 7th issue of Hansard there appears a reply from the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation to a question that he states was put by me to him. I'm sure if he will check back in Hansard, Mr. Speaker -- it was a question dealing with fire protection at Grand Beach. The question was put, not by me, but by the Honourable Member from Elmwood.

MR. SPEAKER: It was probably my mistake in calling the wrong person, or the wrong name. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. Could he inform us whether any changes are contemplated either in the legislation or regulations in connection with the shipment of milk outside the Greater Winnipeg area? I understand that Winnipeg milk producers can ship milk to areas outside the Greater Winnipeg area, whereas the outside areas cannot ship into Winnipeg. This is rather unfair competition. Is there any changes contemplated in this matter?

MR. WATT: Well, I'm aware of the problem the honourable member mentions. At the moment there's no legislation being drafted, or regulations at the moment to change.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Hamiota.

MR. EARL DAWSON (Hamiota): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. Can the Minister tell me whether there is any truth in the rumour that the Provincial Government through its Manitoba Development Fund will be giving grants to new industry locating in Manitoba, particularly the rural areas?

MR. SPEAKER: That question is entirely in order, is it? I understood the honourable member to say it was based on rumour?

MR. DAWSON: Well, a rumour that is being discussed throughout the province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may care to answer but I question very much as to whether it is entirely in order.

The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, may I take the opportunity to table a Return to an Order of the House No. 40, March 3rd, on the motion of Mr. Nelson Shoemaker. It's a nil return.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Minister of

HON. J. B. CARROLL (Minister of Consumer Affairs)(The Pas): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I'd like to lay on the table of the House the Annual Report for the Public Utilities Board, dated December 31, 1968.

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

MR. ELMAN GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Health. Has he an answer to the question I directed last week?

MR. JOHNSON: Last week the Member for St. George asked about the tendering for the trailers which were purchased and placed in Thompson, Manitoba. I find that the Chairman of the Housing Corporation and members of the corporation who receive the tenders at the time of opening did not realize that persons who submitted tenders were to be present and these tenders were not therefore opened in public. This is a clear error in action which was a misunderstanding and will not be repeated. I'm advised that letters giving the detailed results of the tenders were mailed on December 27th to all persons who had submitted tenders. The lowest tender was accepted and these tenders are still on file. I can just report this to the House, with the explanation that this was a clear misunderstanding on behalf of the chairman and members of the corporation on this occasion.

While I'm on my feet, I would also like to mention that the Leader of the NDP the other day wondered about the possibility of readily available phone services for people wishing to make inquiries re Medicare, and batteries of telephones I'm advised have gone into operation this morning at the Corporation and people phoning in can receive the information from that source. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, I believe they intend to advertise that.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I'd like to address a question to the Honourable the House Leader on a matter of legality of describing the Ministers of the Crown. If I may preface this, Mr. Speaker, by way of explanation: there was a news release some time back last fall of a re-shuffling of the Cabinet and reorganization of Cabinet, whereby there were established a number of new ministers. I note from time to time in the House members of the front bench are referred to, for instance, as the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, etc. To my knowledge, to my knowledge, it is non-existent. I'm not suggesting the Minister is non-existent, because I can tell by his beard he is here. But, I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, whether we are being proper and correct in referring to the honourable gentlemen by some different name based on news reports.

MR. LYON: Some of the changes made to the appellations of members of the Executive Council can be done and were done by Order-in-Council. Others require statutory approval. The statute will be before the House before too long, I would imagine; and in the meantime my honourable friend is free, I would suggest, to call the honourable members on this side anything that he wishes -- which has been his custom in the past in any case.

MR. PAULLEY: A supplemental question, or in answer to my honourable friend, I'd like to call him other things than I can under the rules of debate. Then I take it from my honourable friend that there is no such a thing as a Minister of Consumer Affairs. Is that correct?

MR. LYON: I'm sitting beside him.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party for bringing that matter forward. I think we can struggle on though

The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. PHILIP PETURSSON (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, may I submit a question to the Minister of Health? It has to do with the City Municipal hospitals. Some five or six years ago plans were beginning to get under way to construct an additional hospital in that complex about the time the Grace Hospital, Victoria Hospital were also being proposed. The city has contributed its allotment, 20 percent of the cost of construction, as the price was at that time. I would wish to ask the Minister just what is the standing of that project at the present time? The Grace Hospital has been completed; the Victoria Hospital is under construction. Is anything being done with the other hospital in connection with Municipal Hospitals?

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, this matter is, I believe, before the Commission and I'll be able to report on it more fully during the course of the session.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

MR. PETER FOX (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Burrows, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing: 1. The breakdown by Industry or contributory grouping of the various participants to the Workmens Compensation Board. 2. The rate of premium paid by each group and itemized for each year from 1963 to 1968 inclusive. 3. The number of claims to the Board for each group. 4. The number of claims allowed in whole or in part for each group. 5. What was the capital reserve fund in each of the years 1963 to 1968, inclusive.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Wellington, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing: 1. What was the total amount of damage caused by the recent fire at the Manitoba Institute of Applied Arts? 2. Was any equipment illegally removed during or after the fire that is still missing? 3. What percentage of numbers 1 and/or 2 was recovered by insurance?

Mr. Speaker, I might point out that I believe the word "recovered" should be "covered" by insurance.

MR. SPEAKER: Was recovered or covered?

MR. DOERN: Covered.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Wellington that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing: 1. To what extent has there been a loss of materials and equipment by theft from the following institutions during 1968: (a) University of Manitoba; (b) University of Winnipeg; (c) Manitoba Institute of Technology; (d) Manitoba Institute of Applied Art? And No. 2. What actions have been taken to recover the above?

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion. The Honourable the Minister of Education.

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Minister of Youth and Education)(St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I believe this is in order with the exception of (a) and (b) and I would ask the honourable member here that he might in turn make his request direct to the respective universities for this information.

MR. SPEAKER: Is that acceptable to the Honourable Member for Elmwood?

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'm not clear of the procedure. It seems to me that the Minister of Education is in charge of these Institutes and he should be able to provide the information. -- (Interjection) -- Am I to understand that the Minister has no responsibility for the universities of this province?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, we have certain responsibilities that the House is well aware of, but as far as the internal operations of the universities are concerned, these would fall under that category.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate (Seventh day of debate) the Proposed Motion of the Honourable Member for Rock Lake and the Proposed Motion of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: (Brokenhead): Mr. Speaker, on Friday I was trying to illustrate to the members of this House the shameful way in which this government has proceeded with their medicare legislation, or social legislation. I was trying to illustrate the difference in incomes of the citizens of Manitoba and I began by stating that I was sure that the Premier of the province wouldn't have any difficulty paying \$204.00 to cover his hospitalization and medicare premium in any given year. And I was also quite sure, as I have expressed, that probably the Attorney-General won't have any difficulty either. I'm sure that the Minister of Health is not going to have any difficulty in raising \$204.00 out of his indemnity to finance his hospitalization and medicare premiums. But what floors me, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the Minister of Health - if there's any one on that side of the House, the Minister of Health should be the one to know that there are many people in this province who cannot afford those kind of premiums. And why I say the Minister should know is because he represents an area, Mr. Speaker, that has a lot of low income people in his constituency. There are many people there that don't earn more than a thousand or fifteen hundred a year, Mr. Speaker, and I expected a little more out of the Honourable Member for Gimli, in recognition of the fact that he has a problem with his own people in his own constituency, insofar as incomes are concerned.

(MR. USKIW cont'd.): . . . And I'm not trying to knock his constituency, Mr. Speaker; I'm only trying to present the facts to the House, because his constituency, Mr. Speaker, is the centre of our Interlake ARDA program which is trying to upgrade these people, which is trying to improve the standard of living for that area. It has been classified as a depressed area by the government, and that because it was such, they undertook a ten year program to try and improve their lot in the constituency of Gimli and Fisher and Selkirk and St. George - I suppose all the constituencies in the Interlake. — (Interjection) — Rockwood, Iberville - that's right. How a Minister, with the knowledge of the facts as they are in the Interlake, would have the nerve to introduce into legislation a program to finance medicare without regard for one's ability to pay, is beyond me, Mr. Speaker, and I take issue with the Honourable Member for Gimli, because I did expect a great deal more out of my friend the Minister of Health. I sincerely expected a great deal more. To expect that people of varying degrees of income should pay a flat premium rate regardless of their income position is just unrealistic if we at all are going to approach social measures on the basis of ability-to-pay, on the basis of an equitable system of financing. I take issue, as I say, Mr. Speaker, with the Honourable Member for Gimli because he, if anyone, has the knowledge, he knows the situation in the country side, he has in fact, served the people of that constituency and I'm sure in his profession he has served them well, on many occasions perhaps without getting paid for his services, because of the fact that there are a great number of lower income people in the area. He should be the one that should have fought bitterly with his own cabinet, with his own colleagues, to make sure that the ability-to-pay principle be adopted in any measures in the financing of medicare and hospitalization.

Mr. Speaker, it's an imposition and it's an onerous burden on many people in Manitoba, and I know too well that before a year is out that many municipalities are going to be in a position of having to pick up the tab for a lot of people, which they do not have to do today. And I know that because of that it's going to involve greater expenditures on the part of the municipal taxpayers, to some degree, to finance the indigent program. I don't think that this is the ideal approach to social measures, Mr. Speaker, and I would hope that the Minister of Health would have the gumption to take a broader look and to convince his colleagues that there are serious discrepancies in the way we are approaching the financing of medicare and hospital insurance in Manitoba.

The Premier has a great deal of nerve, Mr. Speaker, to talk about fiscal restraint and balancing the budget; a great deal of nerve, Mr. Speaker, when he has been extremely negligent in the last two years on the whole question of medical care insurance. Manitoba has lost something like \$18 million in grants alone, in grants coming from Ottawa to finance our medicare program, provided we went into the program on time. That is July 1st last. But if you go back another year, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that there were two delays in the program. That the provinces put up a great deal of fuss in opposition to the medicare program, forced Ottawa to originally delay the starting date; and secondly, when the starting date was established the Province of Manitoba did not participate until this year - April 1st next. We have lost \$18 million in grants because we didn't enter the program on time. We've probably lost another 20 or 30 million dollars, Mr. Speaker - and I don't know what the figure is - because of the fact that by not going into it two years ago, we allowed the medical profession to substantially increase their fee schedule. We allowed them to jump from 75 percent of the schedule to 85 percent of the schedule. We allowed them to extra bill the other 15 percent, Mr. Speaker. The Province of Manitoba has stood still while the people of Manitoba have been . . . Mr. Speaker, and I think it's going to take a great deal of explaining on the part of this government to tell the people why it was reasonable that Manitoba should lose \$30 or \$40 million, just because the Premier of this province wasn't prepared to approach the question of medicare in a reasonable way.

The government introduced a sales tax a few years ago, out of which we derive about 50 or 55 million dollars a year, Mr. Speaker. I wonder how close to that figure, how close, how much money did we lose in the last two years because of our lack of fortitude and initiative in this whole medicare business? Did we lose almost the entire amount of money that we are collecting in sales tax in one year, Mr. Speaker? If we didn't lose the entire amount, I'm convinced it's very close to that amount; and this is not what I call looking after the interests of the citizens of Manitoba. We're talking about holding the line, we're talking about holding down taxes, and we blow \$40 million in two years, Mr. Speaker. This is not responsible

(MR. USKIW cont'd.): government, Mr. Speaker. The government is guilty of gross mismanagement of the affairs of the people of Manitoba; and I challenge the Premier to defend his position on this particular point.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask you whether this is social democracy? I suggest that it's not. I don't believe, Mr. Speaker, that this government has acted in the best interests of the people of Manitoba. I believe that they have allowed things to stand to enable certain groups to improve their relative bargaining positions. And for this, Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation in condemning the government, because it was at the expense of the masses - the people of Manitoba. They did not take into account what it meant in dollars and cents to every individual, whether they be rural, urban or otherwise.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the other points in the Throne Speech that is mentioned is agriculture. I want to quote what the Throne Speech says about agriculture, because I don't think it says anything, but I'm going to quote it. It says, Mr. Speaker, and I quote "My ministers are gravely concerned about the severe problem created by a large quantity of damp grain on Manitoba farms. They are also disturbed by the serious effect upon farmers and all the people of Manitoba, of the failure to sell grain produced in our province. I'm informed by my Ministers, however, that in spite of these difficult conditions, the volume of agricultural production in Manitoba in 1968 compared very favourably with that of the previous year." Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the volume of production has to do with the relative position of the farmer if they can't sell their production; and if they can't dry their grain, Mr. Speaker, just to simply illustrate that the farmers have done a good job is meaningless to me in the sense of having it included in the Throne Speech, unless you're prepared to compensate those producers for having done such a tremendous job. This is something that I don't see in the Throne Speech. Not a thing. The Premier was busy about the overall grain situation by sending his Minister of Agriculture to Vancouver to worry about demurrage charges -- and I don't say that it's not important, Mr. Speaker. But really he was missing the whole point because he was trying to save a penny when he was losing dollars, when Manitoba farmers were caught in a desperate situation, and there was no action coming from either the Provincial Government or the Federal government. This is the area and the lack of responsibility that I charge this government with, Mr. Speaker. Complete negligence. The problem in agriculture last year should have been recognized as a national problem, as a national crisis in agriculture, and it should have been approached in that manner. The Premier should have consulted with the two other prairie provinces and should have approached Ottawa in a united effort to try and do something for the prairie grain producers, knowing the straits that they were in last fall. Instead, Mr. Speaker, they chose to brag about the fact, if you like, to brag about the fact, that they are trying to balance the budget, they are not going to spend any money, they may be cutting back on services. Mr. Speaker, this isn't the answer that the farmers required last year. The farmers may have required an injection of capital to help them overcome their burden of last fall, and since last fall, Mr. Speaker. I suggest to you that there are many fertilizer dealers, fuel dealers, implement companies, lending institutions, that have not been receiving their payments since last year, because the farmers are in a position of not being able to meet them due the crisis that we have before us. And this government has a nerve to talk about balancing the budget when they should be injecting some money into people's pockets to make the economy move.

Mr. Speaker, if we have one more year like this one, we're going to have rural bankruptcy in no time at all; we're going to have our shops laying off people in Manitoba. Because we recognize, Mr. Speaker, we must recognize that the whole economy of Manitoba is largely based on agriculture. We either have people working in the services to agriculture, or in the processing of agricultural products, and this is the prime industry in Manitoba. There is nothing wrong, Mr. Speaker, even if we didn't have a balanced budget, to provide some cash input into the industry so that the farmers would not be the beggars on the street, cap in hand, hoping that someone will throw them a nickel so that they might survive another day. And this is the situation that we have today, Mr. Speaker.

The government should have gone to Ottawa and they should have knocked on their door there and hollered loud and clear, to make sure that Ottawa recognized the problem in Manitoba. This, they failed to do; they went on a tour of B. C. and Vancouver Island. -- (Interjection) -- I think they did take the wrong plane, Mr. Speaker. I'm told they took the wrong plane and this may be the answer to the story.

(MR. USKIW cont'd.)

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to you that, Manitoba, the government of Manitoba has failed its people. It has not introduced a progressive program. It has not looked at the question of property assessment in any meaningful way. We have people in the areas around Winnipeg that are still faced with municipal assessments, that mean that they must pay 30 or 40 dollars an acre on farm land, Mr. Speaker, in taxes. And I'm sure you're aware of what this means. It means that they can't stay there very long if they're going to continue to be assessed on that basis. The government has not proposed anything to deal with this problem and this is one of the crucial problems around the urban centres, Mr. Speaker.

I want to make reference to what is contained in the amendment, Mr. Speaker, because I think the points that were made are valid. I don't think that I can disagree with them. I'm sure that we on this side of the House, all will agree, that the government has failed to recognize the urgent need for complete tax reform in Manitoba. I'm sure that we recognize, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House, that the government has failed to alleviate sky-rocketing property taxes. I'm sure we are all going to be in agreement that the government has failed to broaden Manitoba's tax base by increasing economic development in proportion to rising government expenditures. I'm sure we're going to agree, Mr. Speaker, that the government has failed to recognize and cope with the problems of regional disparities within the province. We're going to recognize the government has failed to institute a medicare plan which takes the ability-to-pay in account. Mr. Speaker, we have some definite views on those points. It has failed to alleviate the cost price squeeze in agriculture; it has failed to deal adequately with the problems of urban centres; it has neglected northern Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, and it has failed to take adequate measures to eliminate waste and extravagance in its operations. And, Mr. Speaker, on that last point, waste and extravagance, it is as true as I am standing here, because we've wasted some 40 odd million dollars by not going into medicare when we should have, Mr. Speaker.

So, I for one, I'm sure all of us on this side of the House, are going to support the amendment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. WATT: Would the honourable member permit a question?

MR. USKIW: Yes.

MR. WATT: Did I hear the honourable member say clearly that the farmers of the Province of Manitoba are a bunch of beggars?

MR. USKIW: You did not hear correctly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WATT: I'll read it in Hansard.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Hamiota.

MR. DAWSON: Mr. Speaker, I want to preface my few short remarks by congratulating you again on your position. I hope that I can say to you that you will be back here next year and so will I. I want to congratulate the three new members who took their seats today. I look forward to working with them; also those who have made a contribution to the Throne Speech so far.

Mr. Speaker, I spent some time in the by-election and much of the government's program was based on the fact that they were prepared to decentralize. I have been sitting here, this is my third session, each session we mention the fact that they are only paying lip service to this idea and I am convinced more firmly that this is true. They are not prepared to decentralize anything because they are certainly in the best position of anyone to do some decentralization. I said before that it is only lip service they are paying to regional development and it's not enough - action is what is needed. If this government was sincere why wouldn't it take into consideration moving the Department of Agriculture to Brandon? Why not Mines and Natural Resources in Flin Flon? Why not the Department of Transport in Dauphin? Probably the Department of Industry and Commerce in Portage la Prairie, and many of the other departments could be moved too. Now you may think it would be difficult to run a government if all the departments are spread throughout Manitoba, but in this day and age where we have good telecommunications, etc., it would create no problem and it would certainly be showing some leadership and believing in their own principle of decentralization.

Another thing that has annoyed me -- it's a small incident, but it is very important to the people that reside in the village of Oakburn. Once again, this government is in the position to show some leadership. They say that if we are to retain our small towns we must make sure

(MR. DAWSON cont'd.): . . . that every business in that small town stays there. I certainly believe this is true. But there is one thing that the government can do for every small town in Manitoba, and this is to provide them with a liquor vendor's outlet. This village for three years has presented petitions to the Attorney-General, to the Liquor Board Control Chairman, requesting that they be granted an outlet in the village of Oakburn for a liquor vendor. This is one of the things that costs the government nothing, and if they were sincere in their proposals they would certainly go along with getting an outlet in there. One of the things that is happening to these people is that if anyone wishes to make a purchase, they naturally have to go to a town along the way, which could be 15, 25 miles away. They don't only purchase the liquor, they purchase groceries, clothing, other things, and this deprives the people who are in business in the village of Oakburn from the sales which are rightly theirs. Now this problem doesn't only exist in Oakburn, which is in my constituency, I have received two letters from some people in Miniota which is in the constituency of the Member for Virden, I believe. They are making the same request. Their arguments are based in the same manner. Surely the Attorney-General could instruct the Liquor Board Chairman and his committee to give more consideration to these problems, and in fact, insist that this is one way the government can help by providing a service in a town and it costs them nothing.

Something else which has proven to be of great annoyance to the people of Shoal Lake was the promise made by the Minister of Agriculture last year. These people, on the promises that he made to them, went out and went to work for a seed cleaning plant. They obtained the necessary 200 members, were promised a grant in many forms - one idea suggested was a forgiveness grant - and this never came about, of course, because finally the Minister announced one day that there will be no seed cleaning plant in Shoal Lake because we haven't got the money. But he led them right down the garden path because it was a year from the time they started, obtained their membership, etc., before he finally told them there would be no grant. But this was an election promise that those on the other side made in 1966 that they would see seed cleaning plants scattered throughout Manitoba and be given government assistance. Well there is only one seed cleaning plant in the whole Province of Manitoba built with government assistance, and, of course, at the time they envisioned as many as 25 scattered throughout Manitoba. Well they are not prepared to fulfill any of their promises and as a matter of fact, as I said, they lead people down the garden path and get them all excited about obtaining such a thing as a seed cleaning plant and then just drop it, and of course the membership money was all refunded and the idea is dead, but I am sure the memory will linger there for a long time.

I would like to make a suggestion at this time to the Minister in charge of Tourism and Recreation. It has been my feeling for a number of years that the Department really needs a shaking up. We are not putting the money in the right spot. By providing \$500 or \$600 in the form of a grant to a municipality or a town if it forms a recreation committee is not helping the situation at all. What has been happening is that one of the people from the Tourism Department visits the town and says, let's form a recreation committee. A quick meeting is called, we have a recreation committee in that town, they qualify for a grant of \$500, which the Minister's office has been very generous and provided for him, but this money is being wasted in most instances. It is distributed between the various recreation groups in the town and they may end up with maybe \$25, \$35 apiece by the time it is all parcelled out. I think that this money should be given not for running a recreation committee but it should be given for building buildings, - this is what Manitoba needs. Manitoba needs more rinks, more swimming pools, more facilities like this - things like artificial ice rinks, scattered throughout the province. Now it strikes me as very funny, and odd, that if we are going to build a library the provincial government has a grant for it and the basis of their idea on this because this is education. And I don't quarrel with that. It's a good idea; it's building the mind. But why not a grant for a building for a nice hockey rink or a closed in swimming pool? This is building the entire body. Is there any difference?

I wanted to say in conclusion that the Minister has stated that the TED report was not released by his office, and I am sure that when the Minister makes this statement it is a true statement. But some of the things that are reported in the paper - I wondered how the report could be so glowing. I had the occasion to attend at least three of these meetings and at each one of these meetings, the government's program for industry, etc., was severely criticised; so I wondered how the report can be so glowing? I wish the Minister was in his chair because

(MR. DAWSON cont'd.): I would like to ask him if it was true. Did the Manager of the Manitoba Development Corporation prepare this report or did he do it in conjunction with all the 400 people that supposedly were involved in this? I would doubt very much if the 400 people were involved, because like I said, I attended a meeting where there must have been 300 people on three different occasions and there was certainly a lot of criticism. One was that this is just another report gathering dust, action is what is needed. And this is what I think is needed. We set up five development corporations throughout Manitoba. They are not being given the opportunity to do any development. All they are doing is gathering more information and trying to work very hard towards obtaining industry but they are not getting the financial assistance they need. This is something that I would like to talk about a little later. But I think one of the reasons why they are not getting the help that they need is because the Minister distrusts people who are in the rural areas — and I say this because of a statement that he made to a group of people, at a young Progressive Conservative Convention that was held last fall. The Minister said, "Municipal Government plays an even greater part in the lives and to a large extent has been run by incompetent people". And then he went on to say, "These people don't know where they are going or what their objectives are," Mr. Spivak said.

Now if that's the opinion of a Minister for people who are in municipal politics in rural areas, I guess it answers the question to me as to why we are not getting industry in rural areas — he thinks we are a bunch of incompetent people.

MR. CARROLL: Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering if the member would permit a question? He mentioned a number of communities that were getting \$500 program grants that were wasting these funds; I'm just wondering whether he would like to be more specific about the communities involved so that we might have a look as to whether the grants should be continued to those communities?

MR. DAWSON: Certainly, Mr. Speaker. I would like to correct the Minister. I did not say that they are wasting these funds, I said that we are wasting these funds as Legislators. I feel that to give \$500 to one community is not very much assistance when it must be spread between up to 10 sports or recreation things that are going on, you can have lawn bowling, hockey, tennis, etc. etc., and by the time it is divided up it doesn't help any one organization very much. And many of the committees are just a smokescreen to obtain that \$500 because they are not really active.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. HARRIS: Mr. Speaker, as have all before me, may I extend my most heartfelt greetings to you on becoming Speaker. Now, Sir, your sense of humour holds you in great stead and your fairness is to be commended. Under your guidance it is a pleasure to be a member of this House. My congratulations to the mover and seconder in the reply to the Speech from the Throne. The Honourable Member from Rock Lake did a very good job and also the Member from Roblin. Congratulations to the three new members who won the by-elections; as they were sworn in today I guess this comes in good time.

MR. DOERN: How about the fourth one?

MR. HARRIS: Oh, I'll mention him don't worry. They are not of my party but we can't have it all our own way, but I hope to see our member from Churchill sit with our group shortly as I think he will liven up the House and be a good representative for the north. This is what they want out there. The last one that was here from Churchill — he was a big fellow but he couldn't take the gaff any more. The people on the other side there they gave him a merry run around. For awhile I thought that he was going to become a minister for the north but it didn't seem to go that way. Now this fellow who's coming in, he has made quite a name for himself, he is coming in this House and is just like a burr underneath the saddle on a horse, and I wonder if a lot of people aren't wondering what is going to happen — whether he is going to turn this place over in a few days and maybe make a new government? That we have got to see.

Mr. Speaker, mention is made of the remarkable growth of mining in the pre-cambrian range. To me this is the Eldorado of Manitoba, and if we plan wisely, we should have 10 million people there in a matter of years to come. Think of the amount of work it would open up to the building trades such as housing, roads and railroads, to each area as it is developed. Now is the time to develop as things change so rapidly — what is right this year could be different next. I have seen an area 5 miles wide by 20 miles long and in the beginning in that area there was 900 people, but in a matter of a few years there was 200,000. Now, Sir, what

(MR. HARRIS cont'd) . . . can be done in other places can be done for Manitoba, and I think that up in the north there we have a tremendous opportunity to carry on and build this Manitoba of ours, providing we don't let these big companies take our mineral wealth away and give us a mere pittance for what we should have. We are talking about taxation and I think myself that if we get down to cases and put this money that is taken out of Manitoba and retain it in Manitoba properly. I say that everyone has to have his fair share but don't give him three-quarters of the share and take a miserable part yourself, because we have to contend with running this province, and as we know, we are spending more money every year. And who do we go to get this money? To our poor people, the people that have very little to give; but we say, well it's not my pocket they are dipping in; they are dipping into the other man's pocket. I don't care. I can go around and throw all this wealth any time I feel I want to, on any project I want, whether it's right or wrong. Now Sir, I say we have to look at things in the proper light and I say that we have a government and if this government is not doing that, well there is a time when our people are going to go to the polls and this is the time that they are going to say; "we have had enough of this government and we want a new government in there."

Now, Sir, to get people to stay in the north you have to entice them people in there with wages, with housing, with everything else that goes. The isolation that is in the north I wouldn't like that myself. Here is a town of Thompson. Here is a town that has been built out of nothing. What have we there? People living 3 and 4 families in a house and we are talking about housing. Here is a chance to show. Here is a chance to go in and build. If we don't do that, well what is the use of people going up there? There are no schools for the amount of children that are in there, there is not the facilities that there should be. So now I say, Mr. Speaker, if we are to develop these places we have to put the things in that these people would like to have. I know myself that the mining force in that area is tremendous, but as the last member for Churchill was here in the House, he said: "I would say Thompson is developed like a co-op." Well, if it is developed like a co-op, so share the profits like a co-op.

Now, Mr. Speaker, last January 1, with the rest of some of you people across the way, were invited to a conference for housing, right at the bottom of my constituency there on Main Street. I went there and here was the people. And what they told me was something out of this world. They brought bed bugs along; they brought mice along; they brought broken wiring along. They had pictures in the walls of the lavatories and toilets in the houses. Now, I'm not going to go any further on that, but there was quite an uproar in that place and it seemed to me at that particular time, that each group was saying, "Oh, this doesn't belong to me, this doesn't belong to me." I would say it belongs to all of us, and I said at that meeting, "it belongs to all of us." We are all Manitobans and we should do for these people . . . There are hundreds of people coming in from the reserves, from all over. And where are they coming? They are coming in to Winnipeg. They can't get no housing; they can't get any job because of the colour of their skin. If they do get a job it is of such a low wage that they can't exist. How can they pay money on even \$1.25? I wonder how would we like to live on \$1.25?

Now, Sir, mention is made in the Speech from the Throne: "I am informed that while several hundred collective agreements between the employers and employees were concluded in Manitoba during that past year, only in four cases within our jurisdiction did strikes take place in connection with agreement negotiations. My government will place before you measures designed to improve and update our legislation to protect the workers and their families." That is very good. But to me I would go a little stronger than my friend behind me here. They're not only gilding the lily, but it's a lot of hogwash. In this year the Manitoba Federation of Labour, CLC, this was presented to the Cabinet. Now here is one: Electoral Divisions Boundary. Attorney-General's Department. Court witnesses. All these things here as you read them out. Coroners' juries. Detention Home Facilities. Consumer Affairs. Youth and Education. Finance and Taxation. Government Services. Health and Social Services. Each and every one of these has been well prepared and put through, put through to this other side. I wonder how much they listen to that? I wonder how much they listen to that. And when I hear them say, when I hear them say, "Oh, Labour is satisfied in Manitoba." Labour is simmering, labour is simmering! We have to hold them, we have to hold them and say, Look you have to do these things according to Hoyle. These things have to be done and when the time is right, then you go. But how long are you going to hold these people. With all these things in here; Pollution, Ambulance Service, the Labour Department. Each and every one of these, Sir, has been brought up to this government and pointed out to them. But do they make any move

(MR. HARRIS cont'd) . . . anyway at all? -- (Interjection) -- Not a thing is right. Sir, I am very disappointed. I don't blame an individual. I blame this government. I blame this government and the time is coming, the time is coming, the time is coming soon, that this government will have to face the people again. I thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Minister of Labour.

HON. CHARLES H. WITNEY (Minister of Labour) (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, I must confess, Mr. Speaker, that I hesitate to enter into the Throne Speech debate because you have heard quite a bit lately and it simply adds to those great books that we have now coming down, which are the records of Hansard which each year get thicker and thicker and thicker.

But the last speaker encouraged me to speak because he spoke about the north country. I'm sure that all that he speaks about with labour, we will simply be going over that once more when we are dealing with the debates on my estimates, but I would like to comment for awhile about the north.

And before I did that, Mr. Speaker, I think I would like to join all of those, instead of thinking it, I know I would like to join with those who extend to you their very best wishes for your reign as Speaker, to congratulate you on being the Speaker, and also, Mr. Speaker, to extend to you some commiseration, because I don't know of any one person in this Legislature that has to sit there so patiently and who can't simply slip out into the coffee shop at all when the going gets rough or when the going gets boring. You have to stay there, Mr. Speaker and dutifully watch over us, dutifully take care of us and dutifully and patiently tell us what we are supposed to do and what we are not supposed to do. Sometimes I think perhaps we should give you a form of a "danger pay," Mr. Speaker, for the job that you have to do.

But I would like to just comment about the north country for awhile, and I should, first of all, before I do that, congratulate the mover and the seconder on the Speech from the Throne. It is a big event for those people and I'm sure that they prepared for it with a great deal of trepidation. They need not really have worried because when they delivered the reply and they seconded the Speech from the Throne, a remarkable speech from the Throne, that they did very well indeed.

Now, speaking about the north country. I see the Honourable Member for Logan is interested in the north country and I couldn't have anyone else that I would find more acceptable to being interested in the north country than my honourable friend, the Member for Logan. He's a man for whom I have respect and he's a man that I like. And he's a man I think also who understands matters in the north country too, because he comes from an area where they've had to extract resources from the ground; he knows what the problems are; he knows of the hardness of doing so and he knows of the difficulties of people that are engaged in that type of an occupation and I'm sure that when he speaks of the north country that he does with a great deal of sincerity.

Now I noted that he is going to support the Liberal motion, and in that Liberal motion they are speaking there about the government not having done this for the north country and the government not having made plans for the north country; and because my friend is interested, I think perhaps I should rehearse for him a little bit of what has been done before, because if he ever hopes to become part of the government of Manitoba I think he should have this background in order to carry through with the ideas that he has. Mind you, I'm not too sure that he ever will be a member of the Government of this province because I am not at all convinced that my honourable friends across there ever will become the Government of Manitoba. It is very interesting to note that these fellows here, and these fellows here, still have to get together to try to defeat the government, and they can't do it even then, Mr. Speaker -- (Interjection) -- No.

They talk about things that have not been done for the north country and they talk about people wanting to stay there and they talk about extracting the minerals out of the north country. I had occasion the other day, about three weeks ago, to fly myself up to Thompson. I flew from The Pas and I flew across to Thompson, and I flew across roads, and I flew across power lines and I flew across development which had not been there in the 1950's, when I had been in a bush plane at that time, when I had been on bombardiers, travelling from one place to another, recording greetings at Christmas time, and I was positively overwhelmed with pleasure at what I had seen take place. And it made me think that perhaps the north country itself hasn't realized what has taken place to it in the past decade. It made me think that perhaps the north country has got to be reminded itself as to what has been done. I took a look the other day at an item

(MR. WITNEY cont'd) which came in the Flin Flon newspaper, and that item spoke about the fact "here at last" or something similar to that. Here at last. A simple matter such as television. And I wonder who has done more to try to bring live television into the north country than this government and the Federal Member for the Churchill Constituency, Robert Simpson. And it would have been not possible if it hadn't been for planning and development that took place that had been initiated by the government, because it wouldn't have been at all possible if it hadn't been for that big project up at Gillam and the development of the Nelson River. When that took place they had to have communication. In order to get that new communication they had to increase the facilities, and when those facilities were increased, it was possible for them to go to the CBC and to meet the criteria that they had in order to meet their costs and to provide for the people of the north country live television and color television. And when you speak — (Interjections) — I'll deal with you later.

And when you speak about the question of people staying up there, this was one of the simple amenities that these people needed to have in order to encourage them to stay there, because whether or not you can argue that television was good or bad, it has a tremendous impact upon a community but they want it, and they're determined to have it. And if it hadn't been for planning, if it hadn't been for development that this government had initiated, it wouldn't be there. When I stop to think about what has taken place in the 10 years, just a simple matter of exploration. All of the pre-Cambrian areas of this province have been aeromagnetically surveyed since this government came to office. And maps are available now that had never been made available before, not only to industry but to the prospectors, maps that are to a scale of one inch, where before they had been to a scale of four inches. Now that was done in co-operation with the Federal Government and that's acknowledged. But it has been done and it was accomplished in 1964 and ever since that time you have seen a gradual and a growing development of mines in the north country. There has been mines such as Osborne, Chisil, Stall, Soeb, Ospwagan, and there are other developments. Just southwest of Lynn Lake there is Fox Mine. That type of work that was done and initiated by this government in the development of resources and endeavouring to find out more about them has taken the north country further ahead than it had been for decades before that time. And it's interesting, incidentally, Mr. Speaker, to go back up to the north country and to suddenly realize that there has never been a single loss of enthusiasm, of encouragement and of optimism now with that development than there had when I first went there in 1950. In those days they used to talk about "you haven't seen anything yet; there'll be a big town up on Mystery Lake; there'll be a big town up on the west and east Lynn Lake; there will be more development over in the Snow Lake country." All of that came true. And that was done basically by the optimism, by the determination and the confidence that the people who live in the north country have of the north country. And of course it was aided and abetted by the Progressive-Conservative Government when it came into power in 1959, and up to this date.

I think of simple matters on the question of development of resources and the planning and what has been done in that country with the Churchill Forest Products. When I think, Mr. Speaker, of a forest that was up there for years, a forest that was growing older, a forest that was becoming more susceptible to disease or more susceptible to fire, and when I consider the work that this government has done in developing the resources of the north country, when I consider that the development is taking place now and those trees are going to be harvested and the people of this province, not only the northern people, but the people of Manitoba, are going to benefit from that resource, I say that the north country's optimism was justified, but it has had to have the support of the government in order to get it done.

When I look at roads, over this past decade this government that was not supposed to have done anything in the north country, this government that was not supposed to have had any plans in the north country, when I think that I now can drive from Flin Flon down to Winnipeg in 10 hours. And perhaps I shouldn't rehash it and rehash it, but I think it is important, because now there is bus service, express service, truck services we had never even contemplated before, are taking place in Flin Flon, in The Pas, in Snow Lake, and in Thompson; and in time, as long as this government is in office, it will be in Lynn Lake as well. Roads that now go off to the east over toward Thompson; roads that are now coming from Thompson and stretch off into the trees down toward Norway House and that general area at the top end of Lake Winnipeg to join with No. 6. And again, when I think of this matter of power development and I think of the things that the north country had wanted; when it said for years, at Chambers

(MR. WITNEY cont'd) of Commerce level, at Labour levels, at the Town Council level, that we ought to develop the power resources of those rivers, and those rivers, the power resources are being developed now. And you see the power lines stretching from Mafeking up through to The Pas from Grand Rapids up to The Pas; you see the power lines that are coming down from Gillam down to the south; you see the power lines that are working their way through all parts of the country. Planning. Work that has been done.

And when I consider also the question of what has been done for people, I go through a simple exercise of looking at Cranberry Portage and the Frontier School Division. And if you're talking about planning and you're talking about things not being done, I can recall that New Year's Eve when the Federal Government closed the radar site and people came rushing to the Provincial Government on New Year's Eve and said "What are you going to do about it?" And with inside of two weeks the Provincial Government was in taking a look and trying to determine what those buildings could be used for; and with inside of about two months or perhaps three months, the Frontier School Division was in operation, and there's been an upgrading of the educational standards for Indian and Metis and the white people that are in the area that would never have been available to them if it hadn't been for the development of the Frontier School Division. And there are youngsters there, you can see them, walking in Cranberry Portage, who have got an outlook, who have got some hope, who are going to be able to join and benefit from the economy of this province, a situation that would never have been there before if it hadn't been for the action, the action of the government, the development of the government and the planning of the government. Remember in that one phrase, in the motion of the Liberals there's just one short phrase that talks about the north, and it's talking about two-thirds of the province of Manitoba. When I consider the schools, if I take a look Sherridon, and at Sherridon there was an inadequate teacherage, at Sherridon there was an inadequate school, at Sherridon there were biffies, for want of another term, hanging over a cliff or a hillside - now there is a modern facility, a modern teacherage, a modern school - these youngsters are being brought closer to the modern way of life and that's expanding towards the whole of the northern area.

I can remember being up in the dining room in Flin Flon when there were only about six people it seemed that were members of the Progressive-Conservative Party, and at that time we passed a resolution - and I can never forget it - because we labelled it "Power for Pukatawagan". It came down to a Manitoba meeting of the Progressive Conservative and it was adopted by the Party here in Manitoba - Power for Pukatawagan". And today there is power for Pukatawagan, Nelson House, Brochet, South Indian Lake, Wabowden, Cormorant, Thicket Portage - areas that never had it before. The modernization is coming into the country and giving the people a better chance, as a result of the government, as a result of what it has done and as a result of the planning.

I take a look at some of the simple things which took place in dealing with people and I think of the question of alcoholism. In the north country we have had in the mining towns and in the reservations - and the Metis areas too - the problem of alcoholism. I have a great respect for Alcoholics Anonymous and for what they have been able to do in many areas, not only in the north country but of the province as well, and there certainly wasn't any more incidence of it up there than there was in any other section of the province but there was less ability for the remedy to get to that part of the country. The AA were the people who took it in person, but then they came to the government and they asked for an Indian and Metis councillor to do work with the Indian and Metis people. We did so; we added a man in the north country from The Pas; we had one working through the Interlake country; and the accomplishment in that field alone has been very substantial, and the planning that has taken place there in working and spreading out these services are beginning to have their effects on the people of the province.

When I take a look at the matter of recreation, if you look in the north country right now, parts of Paint Lake, parts of Clearwater Lake, provincial recreational areas all through the province along the roads, the modern facilities at Bakers Narrows, modern facilities being developed along the other major parks dragging tourists up the road, dragging them into these areas where they can enjoy themselves and enjoy the northern resources; and in the meantime, of course, as they move through the province they contribute to the province's economy. That's in planning. It's been things that have been done. You can drive to them; you can see them. They are not promises; they are there and they have been extremely effective. I can't think of any time since I have been in the north country that the tourist traffic through the north country

(MR. WITNEY cont'd) has been greater, and it is coming in a new field, not only from the automobile but it is now coming from the light aircraft, and on any day in the summer at The Pas or at Flin Flon or at Thompson, the number of light aircraft that are bringing people from near and far into the resources of Manitoba is simply astounding. It's a new type of business that I don't think has been fully developed as yet but which promises a great future if we are able to accommodate it to a greater extent.

I think also, Mr. Speaker, in the matter of dealing with the Indian and the Metis people, I think of the health services that were developed and started by the now Minister of Health; health services that were expanded during the period of time that I was Minister of Health; health services that have improved the lot of people on the Bay line, improved the lot of the people in Snow Lake and in Thompson and in Lynn Lake, where health units were established no less than about two or three years ago, services that were never there before. In Churchill, where admittedly we have had difficulty in keeping staff because of the isolation, the services that have been provided to the people in some of those areas such as the flats, which at least were services that they didn't have before. And when I consider what the north country has done and what it has tried to do for Churchill, the plan that it tried to provoke in Churchill, and had it been successful Churchill today would not be where it is, it may be about three miles down the road, but it would have had its new hospital; it would have had its new school; it would have had its areas for the Indian and the Metis - housing areas; it would have had an amenable area for people to live. We weren't successful because the local people turned it down at the time, but even despite that, when the federal government moved out and left a hospital high and dry it was the provincial government that moved in, took the hospital, established a board, and has been struggling with it ever since, but it's there and it's still providing service.

So I couldn't help but at some time during this debate on the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, to make a few comments about what had taken place in the north country and to comment on this one small item in the resolution which spoke about northern Manitoba. I think I should read it if I can find it - "has neglected northern Manitoba and has failed to produce an adequate program for northern development" - has neglected northern Manitoba. I have illustrated to you some of the things that have been accomplished. I look at the school at The Pas; the technical school. I can recall when the labour, when management, when the town came down in 1955 or so to recommend that there be a vocational high school, there be a vocational high school with residence facilities. They never got it then but they have got it now, and you know that the -- (Interjection) -- you were there at the opening and have seen the school. It's beginning to have its effect now and there are more people from the north country who are being employed as a result of it than there would have been without.

MR. PAULLEY: I would like to see them at work ...

MR. WITNEY: We see such matters too right at the present time - and I suppose it's a simple thing really - a bridge crossing the Saskatchewan River at The Pas. For years we have had nothing but a railway bridge. There is one going in there now. I was there at the opening; I helped with the pile driver at the time. At any rate, I'd like to say to my honourable friend from Logan that I hope he will continue to have his interest in northern Manitoba, and if at any time I can accommodate him by learning more about northern Manitoba I would be only too pleased to do so because I think he is sincere in his interests. I'll take him fishing into those lakes; I'll take him just through the bush itself where he can enjoy the peace and the serenity that he can't enjoy here and that he can't get in the huge Metropolitan area and -- (Interjection) -- Oh no - no, I'm not trying to get rid of my honourable friend, though I have no sympathy at all with this part of this resolution, and I suppose, Mr. Speaker, it is no secret to you or to the other members that I intend to vote against it.

And I just make one final observation. I think one reason why in these by-elections that we won three of those seats - we won three of them - the reason we won three of them is because you people, and you people, simply didn't recognize what was there. You didn't recognize it and you haven't recognized what has been done in the province and the people gave you the back of their hand, and I'm -- and I think I'll sit down while I'm winning, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. NELSON SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Speaker, I guess that all of the things that my honourable friend the Minister of Labour has just told us that this government has done for the North has been done since the last session, because certainly this is not what Gordon Beard told us for about eight years, and it was because of this government's failure to do things in the North that Gordon Beard isn't with us today. Well, that's what he says --

A MEMBER: He should know.

MR. SHOEMAKER: He should know why he's not here and he should also know, or be able to make some kind of explanation, as to why he nominated two people in the North -- (Interjection) -- just to make sure. Well he made sure; he made sure there wouldn't be a Tory back sitting in his seat from the North. There is a Tory sitting in his seat, but I'm referring to the Member for Churchill.

Now Mr. Speaker, before I get into too many arguments, because I generally do, as you know. I want to pay my compliments to you, Sir, upon attaining the highest office within the gift of this Assembly and wish you well, and I'm confident that you are able to manage her characters. You have demonstrated that in the past.

I want to congratulate my honourable friend the Minister of Agriculture who incidentally, I think, is making a fairly good job and has demonstrated his ability in the House to answer all questions put to him -- probably not the answers we want in many cases, but he has the ability to defend himself and defend his department. I got to know my honourable friend quite well because of the fact that he and I spent a couple of years on the Manitoba Hog Marketing Commission, and incidentally, I think that's the only thing that this government ever implemented that was recommended to them by a Select Committee of the House. I don't know of any other -- the denturists; someone said the Dental Services Committee -- we were on that. I don't recall whether my honourable friend was on that one or not, but they didn't even table that report in the House like so many that just gather dust, but on the Hog Marketing Commission I, along with my honourable friend I am sure, we like to take some credit for having made some recommendations that were accepted by the House. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, we went hog wild.

I want to congratulate, too, the three members who took their seat today and wish them well. I am looking forward to meeting Mr. Borowski -- I take it it will be him -- a week from today, is it not, that he takes his seat? So I look forward to hearing him speak for the people of the North and seeing whether or not it coincides with everything my honourable friend the Minister of Labour has just said; whether he endorses everything, whether he endorses everything that my honourable friend the Minister of Labour has told us today.

Now I must congratulate, too, when I'm passing out bouquets, my honourable friend the Member for Rock Lake who moved the address in reply. I thought he made a very worthwhile contribution, and indeed my honourable friend the Member for Roblin, who seconded it. But I was rather disappointed to hear my honourable friend the Member for Roblin condemn the government, as he did near the end of his speech, for not effectively dealing with the bears up in his constituency. Well that's what he says, Mr. Speaker. He says, "May I submit, Mr. Speaker, that a more strict form of predator control must be implemented or legislated for the honey producers adjoining the Duck Mountains National Mountain Park of this province. I can cite, as I stand here before you this morning, one honey producer who in 1967 extracted 170,000 pounds of honey from 900 hives and found that his 1968 production was reduced by 100,000 pounds." Now Mr. Speaker, that's a lot of honey and a lot of money; there's no question about that; and I regret that the government's policy to effectively deal with bears was not successful.

Now, for the benefit of some of the new members, I think you should know about it because it was introduced into this Legislature in 1966 -- that's three years ago. My honourable friend the Member for Roblin looks amazed. I think he never heard that they had one. Do you know who introduced it in the House? The Minister of Industry and Commerce I think, wasn't it? Because it was -- at that time, yes. It not only was a predator control but it was a brand new industry that we had in Manitoba, and they were going to start exporting the bears simply because they were a problem to the farmers, like my honourable friend has cited here. They were going to export them. And so we have from the Department of Propaganda, dated August 26, 1966, a news release and I can't recall that any newspaper carried the story, but it's headed "Manitoba Bears to Control the Wild Boars" -- this is your propaganda and not mine. And it says, and I think my honourable friend the Member for Roblin should give a copy of

(MR. SHOEMAKER cont'd) this to that farmer and ask him whether it was effective. "Black bears and wild boars don't get along well together and this has given Manitoba a new product to export to the United States. A brand new industry. 'It all started,' said Mines and Natural Resources Minister Gurney Evans, 'when foresters from Manitoba and Arkansas at a conference were discussing mutual problems. The Arkansas foresters are bothered by an over-population of wild boars rooting among their newly planted trees and causing considerable damage. Manitoba field officers' problem was an over-population of black bears', " -- just as my honourable friend has said here, " 'which caused damage to farmers' crops and animals and occasionally are a nuisance in the campgrounds'."

Now, what happened to this big industry? I asked last year, Mr. Speaker, how many wild bears did we in fact ship down there and what did we take in trade, and I never did get an answer. It was a nil report like the one I got today from our honourable friend the Minister of Soil and Water Conservation. Is that his title? -- (Interjection) -- Well, I see. Well, now, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry the First Minister is not in his seat because I was really looking forward to an item in the Throne Speech that would advise not only the House, but the people of this province, that the sales tax was going to come to an end; that is, we were going to do away with it completely. You know why I say that? Because of all the contenders at the Tory leadership convention a year or so ago, it was the present Premier who said, in effect, "What are you worrying about? The sales tax will be" and I'm quoting. I guess I better state what I'm quoting from, Mr. Speaker. The Neepawa Press, no less.

MR. SPEAKER: Maybe it was the Star and Times.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Well, I could quote from that. But you may recall, Mr. Speaker -- I don't know whether you were at this meeting or not but it's headed Dinsdale Addresses Tory Meeting, and a lot of the big Tory guns were out there -- as well as some of the backbenchers. My honourable friend the Member for Virden was there and the Member for Souris-Lansdowne. And what do you think the people gathered were most concerned about? The sales tax. That's what the people were mostly concerned about. "The sales tax came under scrutiny at the meeting and Mr. Weir explained that tax adjustments must be made because provincial and municipal services are increasing more rapidly than federal service, and the new tax sources must be found. He suggested that a provincial sales tax could result in decreases in municipal taxes. Questioned further, he replied that a sales tax would be dropped as soon as the provincial debt is paid off, just the same as it has been done in all the other provinces." Well, it was the First Minister that made that statement, that all we have to do now is wait for the provincial debt to be paid off and then the sales tax will be dropped. Well, it shouldn't be long now should it, Mr. Speaker, before the provincial debt is paid off? I guess that most of the people that's sitting here today will still be present when that occurs and then we can look forward to the end of the sales tax. -- (Interjection) -- Well, that's what my honourable friend the First Minister said at Neepawa.

MR. EVANS: Oh, that's what you said.

MR. SHOEMAKER: My honourable friend questions that he said that?

MR. EVANS: No, no. You said it was going to be paid off soon.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Well, I'll send this over if my honourable friend . . .

MR. EVANS: No, no. No, no.

MR. SHOEMAKER: You don't want to see it. Well, the truth does kind of get under a fellow's hide now and again. Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to . . .

MR. EVANS: to get out of that one.

MR. SHOEMAKER: I want to say something that does concern everybody in Neepawa and everybody in the Gladstone constituency and a lot of people in Manitoba, and that is the shock that we received in Neepawa and district last fall one day when we heard that the Neepawa salt plant was closing for good -- and but good. This will take place, I understand, about June 1st. Now, many delegations from the town, the mayor and the Neepawa Area Development Corporation, the town council and other interested parties, have already been in touch with the Minister of Industry and Commerce and others in the government to see what we can do to attract an industry that will replace the Neepawa salt plant, because you simply cannot put 60 people out of work with a payroll of a third of a million dollars without the whole town and area being affected -- gravely affected -- and this is what we are faced with at Neepawa.

An article that I have from the Tribune, dated Friday, June 21, says that "the surprise is reaction of government officials. Industry Minister Sidney Spivak said Thursday: 'We

(MR. SHOEMAKER cont'd)... were not aware the company was leaving Manitoba until today and this has come as a shock and a surprise.' He expressed hopes the company would hand over plant facilities to the town so another industry could be established." Well, the town has made a sincere effort to buy the equipment but the problem is - and understandable too -- that the one thing that a buyer of the plant cannot do is manufacture salt. They can do anything else they like with it, but they can't manufacture salt, and that's the stipulation. So what good is the plant to any other industry? Now the mayor and the council of the Town of Neepawa seemed very disappointed with the help that they have received from the department to date. I hope that something of a more concrete nature will be forthcoming. On this very same subject matter - and I see my honourable friend taking some notes over there because I suppose he will...

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the honourable member would permit a question?

MR. SHOEMAKER: Certainly, any time at all.

MR. SPIVAK: Are you speaking for the mayor and the council?

MR. SHOEMAKER: Am I which?

MR. SPIVAK: Are you speaking for the mayor and for the council?

MR. SHOEMAKER: I was speaking to the mayor today, by telephone.

MR. SPIVAK: Are you speaking for the mayor?

MR. SHOEMAKER: I'm going to tell you what the mayor said to me. Now, whether you call that speaking for him, or whether I have the authority to speak for him, or what, I don't know. But I'll tell you what he told me and has told me on several occasions, and what I learned today by telephone. -- Interjection -- He was, the mayor, alone, was in to see the department, I do believe, on Thursday of last week, not primarily concerned with a new industry to replace the salt plant, but it was to see what could be done to acquire some new capital for an industry at Neepawa that has just come to our town in the last year or so, I guess. He said that they desperately needed new capital. This new industry has a contract, a signed contract I believe, with the government, Department of Public Works or the Highways Department, for \$79,000 worth of their product and they couldn't get a nickel of new capital from the fund in, and they have this government contract. Now, it seems very odd to me. It seems odd to me that a bank wouldn't loan them money under those circumstances if they got an assignment. Well, this is exactly what the mayor told me today. Now, the government spent, as my honourable friend knows full well -- well I suppose it was that this survey was undertaken before his time in the Legislature. And I'm referring to the present...

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the honourable member would answer the question. He made the statement that the mayor and the council were disappointed with the Department of Industry and Commerce in connection with the matter that he referred to. And he has not as yet answered that question.

MR. SHOEMAKER: You are asking me whether I'm speaking for the mayor.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, in saying that the Department of Industry and Commerce -- that he is not satisfied with the work of the Department of Industry and Commerce in connection with the matter that you were referring to.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Well, the matter that I'm presently referring to is the one in respect to the money that they were unable to get and they didn't get it.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, you were talking about the Canadian Salt Plant at Neepawa, and you made the statement that the mayor and the council were disappointed with the Department of Industry and Commerce. Now, I asked before whether you were speaking for the mayor in this regard, because I'm not aware of any particular disappointment from the mayor and the council.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Well, my guess is that my honourable friend has not been in touch with the mayor recently in respect to a lot of these matters. I spent a day with the mayor last week; I spoke to him on the phone today; and if he thinks that he has done a perfect job in respect to industry in Neepawa, I suggest that he phone the mayor today and see what the reaction is. It is true that we have received a couple of new industries in Manitoba in the last year, but I'm satisfied that not one bit of credit is due to this department. I attended the opening of a brand new industry in Neepawa the other day. There was no one there from the government to officially -- to put in an appearance for the government. I was there and the government can't take any credit for that. I'm referring to the Edson Trailer Plant that's established itself at the Neepawa Airport. I'm satisfied there was no provincial money gone

(MR. SHOEMAKER cont'd)... into that. And the other one, the timber treatment plant, or the garment industry that we presently have there. But what I was going to say, Mr. Speaker, before I got interrupted, and I take it that in consideration of all these interruptions my 40 minutes will be extended to -- (Interjection) -- Sure. Yes, well, it should be.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. So that there will be no misunderstanding, I recall that the honourable member gave the Minister permission to ask the question so he's forfeited the time.

MR. SPIVAK: He still hasn't answered the question.

MR. SHOEMAKER: I haven't answered the question. Well, I know that it's pretty difficult for my honourable friends to comprehend the import of a statement of that kind, but I tell you what you should do. Each and every one of you should phone the mayor and council tonight and ask them if they're perfectly happy and satisfied with everything that has taken place.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in consideration of the fact that you're not going to extend my limit of time, I wonder if my honourable friends would just refrain from asking me any questions until I'm finished speaking, and then by that, I will be able to work in some extra time. Mr. Speaker, I have just had handed to me - as a matter of fact everyone received them in the mail today - a whole sheaf of propaganda sheets, the blue ones - and this one is headed "Businesses throughout Manitoba aided by fund," and it gives the names of a lot of towns there that received assistance. Neepawa is not mentioned there. So, I take it - I wonder why somebody asked, and you know I'm glad they asked that question, because I'm completely satisfied that this government does consider representation in the House when they're making certain decisions, and they've continued to do it for a long time.

Now, I was going to say and started out to say, that some two or three years ago the province spent a lot of money making these trading surveys, and my guess is - I made the bet last year - that I'd bet anybody anything they didn't have the ten surveys in their desk, and I'll bet \$10.00 my honourable friend the Minister of Industry and Commerce hasn't got one of them in his desk right now. But they spent a lot of money on them and they were going to examine all of the trading areas in Manitoba - the rural ones -- in depth, a real study in depth - 12 Manitoba towns under microscope. And they were going to learn why the towns were not growing and to set about immediately to do something about it, to increase the volume of business within those areas. Well, what have they done? -- (Interjection) -- How long ago was that? Well, this is back in 1965, so it's four years ago. It's four years ago. It's four years ago since these surveys were taken. What use have they made of these surveys, if any? Before my honourable friend -- I would take it by the number of notes that he's taking over there that I have now persuaded him to speak on the Throne Speech, in the Minister of Industry and Commerce, and when he does speak I would like to know whether or not his government endorses this new second Trans Canada Highway that is referred to in the Financial Post of March 1 last. "The Yellowhead route will avoid congestions on Trans Canada. Three provinces improve network of roads that could become western Canada portion of a second Trans Canada Highway system," and apparently they're going to officially open it, but Manitoba has not yet decided on what route it will take. Now, if they're going to officially open it this spring, surely my honourable friend will be able to tell the House now what the routing will be in Manitoba. I look forward to an answer to that question.

Another thing that I must express real regret about, Mr. Speaker, concerns the nil report that I received today, and my honourable friend the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources seemed to be so tickled to have delivered the Order for Return so promptly -- where is my honourable friend, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources? Oh, he's gone down to occupy the seat of the First Minister. Well, I feel like challenging some of the information that is contained in the Order for Return, Mr. Speaker, and I guess I can do that; and I don't know whether you recall the first question was what year the Riding Mountain-Whitemud River Watershed Authority was established. Answer: "The Riding Mountain-Whitemud Watershed Authority has not been established." That's the answer.

Well, long before my honourable friend's time in this House, and quite a while before a lot of the members occupied their seats here we had a very honourable gentleman, now deceased, that was Minister of Agriculture and Immigration, and I refer to the late Errick F. Willis, and I guess I'll have to read this letter to my honourable friend since he has lost the letter, and there's nothing wrong with reading it to prove my point, Mr. Speaker. This letter

(MR. SHOEMAKER cont'd)... is signed by Errick F. Willis, Minister of Agriculture and Immigration, and addressed to the Honourable Joseph F. Rogers, Chairman, Riding Mountain-Whitemud Watershed Committee, Plumias, Manitoba, dated December 19, 1958 - that's 11 years ago, but my honourable friends had just assumed office.

"Dear Mr. Rogers" (and Mr. Rogers is, incidentally, now deceased too) "In accordance with my undertaking in the Legislature and also my subsequent conversation with Reeve McRae of Gladstone, I am pleased to advise you that in accordance with the terms of the Watershed and Soil Conservation Authorities Act, we will be pleased to have the Riding Mountain River Watershed Committee established as a Watershed and Soil Conservation District and you will therefore become an Authority, having the duty of promoting conservation of the soil and water resources within your district, and the other necessary steps as described in the Act will now be taken by this department. I anticipate that during the coming year important steps will be taken by our government which will be helpful to your committee in carrying on its important and beneficial work. I thought it fitting that your committee should be formally accepted as an Authority on the occasion of the annual meeting and I have come to Gladstone today for that purpose." Signed, as I said before, by Errick F. Willis, Minister of Agriculture and Immigration.

I was at that meeting, Mr. Speaker; the Honourable Member for Lakeside was at that meeting; and I can remember as plain as day Mr. Willis getting up and reading this letter because he was at the head table. I have the minutes of that meeting here and my honourable friend says they have never been established as an Authority. What does this letter say? They certainly have been. They were established in 1958. But nothing's happened -- that's the point. And the rest of the report is nil, nil, nil, nil, nil, nil, nil, all the way down.

Now the chairman of the committee became so frustrated last year - I'm talking about the last committee, because gee whiz, since 1956 there's been several committees, every one looking forward to a complete new program of work being done within the area, but they are now without a chairman, simply because they've got so frustrated with the lack of cooperation from the government, or the lack of initiative that it needs to put over a program of this kind.

In the Throne Speech there is mention, I'm sure, of some kind of program again, is there not? There should be. Where's the Throne... here we are. What does the Throne Speech say? My honourable friend the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources I think has forgotten - yes, on the bottom of Page 2 - not a long story but it says, "My ministers inform me that renewed efforts must be made to prevent loss of productivity in their agricultural base as a result of soil and water erosion. You will be asked to consider legislation which will enable municipalities to deal more effectively with this matter."

"My Ministers inform me that renewed efforts must be made." Well, they'll sure have to have some renewed efforts. They'll have to have efforts, period. We haven't had anything done.

Now I could read the Chairman's letter of resignation but I don't see any point in it -- simply pointing out that it's been so frustrating sometimes - I'll read part of it - "Sometimes it has been most frustrating trying to get action. Mr. Nebbs and myself met with the Minister Mr. Enns this past summer but could get no firm promise from him. It now has been more than 10 years since the first plans were prepared and I suggest that, unless the Manitoba Government takes immediate action, the project will once again become dormant. Your committee has gone as far as they can go and now must leave the next step up to the Provincial Government. The Watershed organization at the municipal level is in the "go" position and only needs the cooperation of the provincial authorities." Well, he's become disgusted and quit and you can't blame him.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I asked a question in the House the other day as to when we could expect the government to table the Annual Report of the Watershed Conservation Districts Act as required by law. I didn't get a reply to that yet but my guess is it will be another nil report, because we've had nothing but nil reports for 11 years since that Act was put on the books. So where do we go from here? More discouraging? When I asked the question, "(b) the amount of money the provincial government has spent on the project since its creation", of course they don't admit it was created. Well, it might as well not have been. "Nil." The next question: "The expenditures planned by the various departments on the said watershed in the fiscal year 1969-'70." "Nil". They don't intend to do anything. "The date the Water Control and Conservation Branch expects to inform those participating municipalities of the proposed plans for the ensuing year and the cost-sharing proposals." "Nil" No plans at all. None

(MR. SHOEMAKER cont'd)... whatever. And so, my honourable friend asks whether I'm speaking for the mayor or whether I'm speaking for myself or speaking through my hat. Well, here is the proof of the pudding in a report that we got today.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I did want to say another couple of things before my 40 minutes rolls around and I guess I'm going to have to sort out some of this stuff and just touch on some of the most important aspects. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, when we were discussing the damp grain situation the other day and the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture didn't seem to be very concerned about it, he seemed to think he had everything under control, and do you know that at the very time that he was speaking to us - in fact before he was speaking to us - there had already been mailed out from his propaganda department - and incidentally I don't think his department is quite so bad for propaganda as some of the others - but this one is dated the 7th of March, 1969, headed: "Damp Grain about to Spoil". "Millions of bushels of Manitoba grain will spoil in the next few weeks unless farmers take precautions, say agricultural engineers with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture." The whole story here. This is what we said. I wish I'd had this on Friday. I got it in the mail today. But here is the Minister admitting to what we said the other day. Millions of bushels, he says are going to spoil unless they start doing something right now. Have you read it? (Interjection) My honourable friend got it in the mail.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I'd like to remind the honourable gentlemen he has four minutes.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Four minutes? Good. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am going to have to leave some of this matter but I want to get this one point across and I don't know whether I'm speaking for the mayor on this one or the chairman of the Hospital Board or myself or the Member for Lakeside, or whom I'm speaking for, but we know that the Neepawa Hospital last year operated with a deficit of something like \$35,175.32, and it seems difficult to get approvals of hospital budgets from the government within two or three or four years. I don't think the '66 has been approved yet. I'm sure the '67 hasn't been approved. I know the '68 hasn't been approved. I know the '69 has not been approved. Now they had an operating deficit last year of \$35,175.32 and the Department - I see the Minister of Labour and the present Minister of Health are having a conference in depth to see whether I'm right or wrong or indifferent, but I've got the balance sheet right in front of me. The Department has said on more than one occasion, "Do you know what you people have done? You've bought too many expensive drugs and paid too much for them." You're partly right. You're partly right, my friends, but I say it's your fault because you pointed out to Neepawa -- and no doubt this has gone on all over the province -- that -- (Interjection) -- the same as Gilbert Plains, the same thing at Gilbert Plains, he tells me - that we were paying twice as much for the same drugs in Neepawa as the General Hospital is able to purchase them for.

Then why do you permit it or why don't you tell the boards, "Look, you should cooperate and make your purchases all together." That is, the government. If, because of the wrong type of purchasing in drugs, it results in a deficit of this size, then surely the government has a responsibility to see that the boards are well aware of where they can buy drugs at the same price as the General Hospital buys them. Surely with the advent of Medicare -- let's put it that way -- the government has some responsibility to make certain that these local hospitals do not pay "too much for their drugs". Now do you know what we're doing now? We're buying our drugs from Selkirk, through Selkirk Hospital, because Selkirk -- (Interjection) -- well, you may know how to buy but you're still paying a lot more than the General. They apparently were able to buy through Selkirk at two-thirds of what they had been paying. If they could buy them at the same price as the General, they would pay half of what they're paying. This is not right and should be corrected.

Now Mr. Speaker, I have a lot more to say but I have no time in which to say it. Two minutes, he says.

Well, then I want to bring you up to date on a very current issue. Most of the eating places in Winnipeg, the good ones, that is, have these place mats now with news on them, and when you sit down for breakfast, as long as you're not there before 8:00 o'clock, you can read the morning news and eat breakfast at the same time. And this is a Manitoba industry, apparently. -- (Interjection) -- For how much can you eat breakfast? They're place mats with the current headline news on them, and you know what the headline news are in this one? Surely I'll have time to read this one. Headline news on today's place mats: "An Ontario man

(MR. SHOEMAKER cont'd)... recently did a dastardly deed to big business by going over to England and purchasing tractors for himself and a few of his friends. The money saved on each tractor was in the neighbourhood of \$3,000, which one and all will agree is a pretty nice neighbourhood. Canadian farm implement firms were importing these tractors laid down in Canada for \$3,500 and selling the same for \$6,500. Now this money-saving rascal has a million dollars worth of tractor orders and big business must act with haste to protect the \$3,000 middleman's profit."

Now I ask my honourable friend, the Minister of Agriculture, in light of this story, in light of the story that got the - I was going to say the headlines - the bottom lines of the Tribune the other day, "Tractor-buying U.K. trip saves farmer \$3,000" and there's items in all of the current papers on this subject matter, what's wrong and what is my honourable friend going to do about it? Because if a farmer can save \$3,000 in this day and age he wants to know about it. Is that right, my honourable friend, the Deputy Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order please. I have allowed the gentleman to exceed his allotted time. Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. PETURSSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to add a very few words to the current debate and nod to the Speaker, as is traditional, in recognition of his occupying the Speaker's Chair, and thank him for the manner in which he conducts the business of the House, and pay my respects to the mover and the seconder of the Speech from the Throne, and I offer my congratulations to the new members who have taken their seats today. I must say that the Speaker addressed them in a slightly different tone of voice when he was saying, "The Member will kindly take his seat" than what he ordinarily does to the rest of the members when he is acting in the other capacity. Next Monday he'll have the privilege and the opportunity of welcoming another member to his seat. We all have great confidence that it will be on this side of the House that he will sit rather than on the other.

In paying my respects to the Speaker, I can't refrain from making a reference, a very brief reference but I think long overdue, to the words that he reads each day as we open the session; the words, that is, of the opening prayer. It reminds me, in listening to it each day as we assemble, of the words of a man who was asked to express himself or his opinion about a sermon that had been given by some visiting clerical dignitary, and he said: "Well, in the first place he read it, in the second place he read it poorly, and in the third place it wasn't worth the effort." I cast no reflection on the Speaker. These words that he reads were placed in his hands to read and have probably been handed down from the first days of this province's existence - the first days of the existence of this province. They are, I think the members will admit, archaic in terminology and reference and they hardly reflect the centennial slogan "Going to Beat '70." I do not quarrel with the opening words of the prayer, "Oh eternal and almighty God," although it has been said of Unitarians - of which I am one - that they open their prayers by saying "To whom it may concern." But I have strong reservations about the words "By whom kings rule and make equitable laws." I don't recall when it was in history, whether it was at the time of the Magna Carta or some other time, that the people rose up against the idea of the divine right of kings, and they opposed it; they denied it, and they eliminated it, but we continue to say "By whom kings rule." I would question also the statement that kings make equitable laws or that they necessarily make equitable laws. In a democracy, it is the people's representatives who enact the laws and they do not always turn out to be equitable, even though they may be inscribed by the King's - or the Queen's in this case - representatives. I wish the phrasing of this opening prayer could be changed to something more in accord with the democratic outlook and thinking which I believe this House feels that it represents. I do wish also, with all proper respect and deference to the Speaker, that even in its present form it could be read somewhat more correctly and understandably than at the present time, particularly with reference to the clause where it is stated, "We are assembled here before Thee to frame such laws as may tend to the welfare and prosperity of our province." I hope you get the difference; that is, there should not be a pause or a hesitation after the word "laws." That phrase is to continue uninterruptedly unto the end, and it should read: "We are assembled here before Thee to frame such laws as may tend to the welfare and prosperity of our province." This is a little lesson in diction and in English construction, Mr. Speaker. And with complete respect, may I suggest that the phrase be read in this matter; and in making these criticisms, I feel it would not be inappropriate, Mr. Speaker, if this government -- it names a commission to all kinds of other things -- if they were to name a

(MR. PETURSSON cont'd)... special commission to draw up a new prayer, and that at least one of each of the several religious groups in the House would be represented on that special commission, including Baptist, Lutheran, Anglican, Jew, Mennonite, United Church, Continuing Presbyterian, Ukrainian Catholics, Greek Catholics, Unitarians, Roman Catholics, Unbelievers, Atheists, Non-subscribers, Dissenters and any others whom I may not have been able to think of, but they are all represented here in one way or another.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I look forward to that prayer and with that group.

MR. PETURSSON: Pardon?

MR. SPEAKER: I say, I look forward to that prayer with that group.

MR. PETURSSON: Very good; very good. I think it would be something that we could work on enjoyably and perhaps entertainingly. Now, with that, I leave this matter, Mr. Speaker, and in just a word or two I would turn to the government and offer a word of congratulation. I believe it was a matter of concern to the government when Mr. Beard handed in his resignation last fall, but in losing a Beard from their numbers, they decided to grow another beard and so the government is not without a beard. It is very becoming, although I must say that one of my colleagues did say on the opening day -- and he used the word that the Prime Minister in Ottawa has made a part of the parliamentary language -- one of my colleagues said, "Who the hell is that old man sitting there across the way?" But now, Mr. Speaker, I would wish to

MR. CARROLL: Who said that?

MR. PETURSSON: Mr. Speaker, I would wish for a moment to mention my constituency, the constituency of Wellington. It is one of the most compact constituencies, I think, of all the constituencies in the province, and it has undergone the smallest change, the least amount of change of any of the constituencies in the redrawing of constituency boundaries. It lost one street. It had extended to Sherbrook Street from the west, but now it is cut off up to Maryland Street. Otherwise, the constituency remains exactly as it was and with the appropriate number of people in it to fit in with the other constituencies where the numbers were adjusted.

The one thing that did not change was the traffic that travels through that constituency, the cars, the trucks, the buses, both carrying people going to work and coming home from work, with the resultant gas fumes polluting the air as they drive through. The traffic going and coming on a winter's morning, something like what we have experienced both in cold and in mild weather, throws up a smoke screen, a cloud that it is sometimes difficult to see through and difficult for people with respiratory diseases to breathe in. And now I understand, according to newspapers, according to reports and according to action that has been taken by the Metro Bus Corporation, new buses are to be added. I don't remember how many but it will make up a total of some 660 buses, replacing the trolleys that have been operating up until now and will be up until they add the new buses. These are diesel buses, each one spewing out its fumes to poison the air on the streets, both residential and otherwise. And this is being done at a time when certain large centres in the United States, because of the air pollution that they are experiencing, when large centres in the United States are beginning to eliminate diesel buses and are installing trolleys.

Now Metro has built a \$700 million garage to house the diesel buses. They had no need of a garage while they had the trolley buses because they were self-heating and didn't require the protection of a garage. But in the expectation of adding a great number of diesel buses to the fleet that they now operate, the Metro Corporation built this \$700 million garage. Now if they had continued on with their \$7 million garage - I'm sorry - I'm sorry - If they had \$700 million they wouldn't know what to do with it, but even \$7 million, Mr. Speaker, adds a considerable expense to the operating costs of the buses and is one reason why the bus fares are going up, or are being proposed for an increase. If the trolleys had been retained, then there would probably not have been any good reason for increasing the fares, and it surprises me a bit that this should be done at the very time when power beyond imagination is being developed in the north. The trolley buses would have been an ideal customer for the kind of power that is to be produced.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I must interrupt the honourable gentleman, but he can of course continue later in the day. It is now 5:30 and I'm leaving the Chair to return again at 8:00 this evening.