

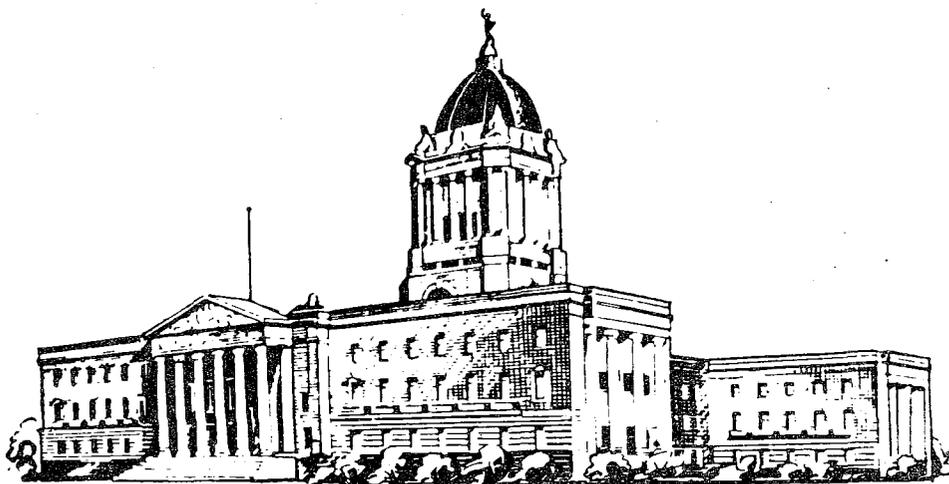


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Ben Hanuschak



Vol. XVII No. 126 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 24th, 1970. Second Session, 29th Legislature.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

9:30 o'clock, Wednesday, June 24, 1970

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees. The Honourable Member for Logan.

REPORTS BY STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments.

MR. CLERK: Your Standing Committee on Law Amendments beg leave to present the following as their Eighth Report.

Your Committee has considered Bills:

No. 75 - An Act to amend The Liquor Control Act (3).

And has agreed to report the same with certain amendments. All of which is respectfully submitted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Matthews, that the report of the committee be received.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources)(Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I would request the indulgence of the House to let this matter stand. (Agreed)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: I should like to direct the attention of Honourable Members to the gallery where we have 28 Grade 6 students of the Dakota Elementary School. They're under the direction of Mr. Camzak. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Riel. On behalf of the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you here this morning.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, on the weekend, last weekend, at Ste. Rose there was the crowning of our Miss Centennial Queen of Manitoba. I want to say that the crowning took place on behalf of Miss Darlene Meyers of Lac du Bonnet, who **won the event** for Manitoba. I simply want to take note that beautiful things do come from Lac du Bonnet.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, if I may, I'd like to add my congratulations to the young lady and to say that beautiful things do happen in Ste. Rose. As a matter of fact Mr. Speaker, it was a very fine event. It was originated by a committee there for which I was not responsible; it was a local endeavour. I think it was an example of some of the things that the small communities can do and which I'm happy to see them doing during the Centennial; it brought people from all over the province who probably would never have come to that part of Manitoba in the first place for other purposes. They've seen another part of Manitoba, seen another community, another group of people, and I think all this is most important in cementing our province together, and it is a proper Centennial project. I compliment the young lady and all of those who participated.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. LEONARD H. CLAYDON (Wolseley): I'm trying to get the page, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to ask a question of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Have all the payments now been made to fishermen under the compensation plan because of pollution?

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, they were scheduled to have taken place but I couldn't say that each one has arrived in the hands of the fishermen. I know that I haven't to my knowledge received any complaints, but they were scheduled to have been made.

June 24, 1970

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, a further question on the matter of pollution. Have the continuing studies on the Assiniboine River particularly indicated any change in the mercury content there?

MR. GREEN: Not that I'm aware of, Mr. Speaker, but I'll take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the government House Leader will we be sitting on Wednesday, July 1st.

MR. GREEN: No, Mr. Speaker. It's my impression that there is general desire not to sit on July 1st. I was going to make an announcement and I thank the Honourable Member for asking me the question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary somewhat on the same subject. I read in the publication I received last night from the Centennial Corporation that the Members of the Legislature and their wives were to dine with the Federal Cabinet on the night of the 30th. Is this so, because I have had no announcement here in the House.

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, if the question is is there a formal dinner being tendered for the Federal Cabinet - is that the question?

MR. MOLGAT: No, the question - when I arrived home last night I found a publication and I think it's called "Manitoba Centennial", and in perusing it I find that apparently members from the Legislature and wives are to attend a buffet dinner of some type on the eve of the 1st of July, and I wondered, I have heard no announcement in the House - is it correct?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that is correct and the only thing that surprises me is that the invitation has not been sent out to Honourable Members. I had assumed that it had been. However, I'll check today with the Centennial Corporation - well, I'll check with the appropriate office in this case and find out what's happened.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. CLAYDON: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could direct a question to the First Minister. I wonder if he could tell us, have you received a copy of the Boundaries Commission report as yet.

MR. SCHREYER: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): My question is for the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the pollution on the Assiniboine River, can the Minister advise the House as to whether or not his department or any department has pinpointed the source of this pollution?

MR. GREEN: Well I can advise the member that to this date I have not been informed of the source and I assume that it has not yet been located.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. RON MCBRYDE (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister responsible for the FRED-ARDA agreement. I wonder if the Minister can inform the House whether this government has made a decision to continue with the garment training factory on the Peguis Indian Reserve?

MR. USKIW: Yes, the project is going to continue Mr. Speaker, as a training program.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would like to call the debate that we left off with yesterday, with Bill No. 98, on Page 4 of the Order Paper. The Health Services Insurance Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development. Bill No. 98. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. GREEN: Perhaps someone will speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Stand? (Agreed)

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order if I may. Could the Minister indicate what the sequence - will we be following that page as is?

MR. GREEN: Substantially, we will try to follow this page for this morning's session, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Second Reading. Bill No. 111. The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, is there anyone in the House who wishes to speak on Bill 98?
HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Development)(Springfield) presented Bill No. 111, An Act to amend The Child Welfare Act (3), for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege to present to the House a number of amendments to The Child Welfare Act. The majority of these amendments are designed to meet certain emergency situations that cannot wait for the general revision of The Child Welfare Act that is currently being undertaken by my department. In addition we believe that these amendments will facilitate the provision of the Child Welfare service which is more closely related to the present day needs of children and of present day expectation of adopting parents and the community at large. In addition certain changes are being included to meet Federal requirements for maximum cost sharing under the Canada Assistance Plan.

In summary form, I would like to outline the main points in the amendments: (1) Certain parts of the Corrections Act are being transferred to The Child Welfare Act to allow for Federal Government cost-sharing of children who can be both delinquent and neglected and who are committed to the Portage Home for Boys and the Manitoba Home for Girls. Provision is made for a Board of Review that will concern itself with all admission and discharge to the Home for Boys and the Home for Girls. (2) Clarification of the existing Child Welfare legislation to permit emergency medical and surgical care of children where the parent or the parents refuse to allow treatment which is of a life saving nature. (3) One of the major changes is to permit non-board care under The Child Welfare Act, so that a parent or parents can obtain temporary care of children without the necessity of a child having to be committed as a ward of the director or Children's Aid Society. For example, the amendment permits an unmarried mother to obtain temporary care for her child while she is seeking employment, without having her child declared neglected and made a ward. (4) Provision is made in the amendment for compulsory reporting of the battered or physically abused child. These amendments are designed to facilitate a more rapid and practical method of taking action both to the courts and through community agencies for the identification, reporting and follow-up of the physically abused child. (5) A number of technical changes in adoption procedures as a result of the requests and suggestions that have been made by adopting parents over the past number of years. (6) Provision is made for a number of minor technical changes to permit better handling of custody actions in the courts.

Mr. Speaker, we have long recognized the need to revise our Child Welfare Act in accord with present day requirements, and as I mentioned earlier, a total revision is under way now. However for the time being, the amendments contained in Bill No. 111 are urgent and essential for present day operations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMEN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member from Brandon West that the debate be adjourned.

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

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona) presented Bill No. 117, an Act to amend The Employment Standards Act, for second reading. (Referred to Industrial Relations Committee)

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that this bill will receive in many quarters a considerable amount of support and possibly in other quarters some objections; but I guess that is typical of most bills, and particularly those dealing in the field of labour-management relations. The object of this bill basically is to make provisions for payment for certain holidays that have already been established as holidays under the Employment Standards Act. But I think it would be well for me, Mr. Speaker, to explain some of the items, without of course referring to sections as such, to refer to some of the items that are contained within the bill.

You will note first of all that at the offset there is a deletion of reference to "shops" in the bill that is being proposed at this time. The reason for this is that a shop, which includes restaurants, hotels, etc., at the present time can require an employee to work an additional three hours per day without the payment of overtime. The purpose of the deletion is to place the employees in shops - which is as I say was defined as restaurants, etc. - in the same position as other employees in industry, in that if the eight-hour time is exceeded then the employee is entitled to time and a half for overtime.

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd.)

Another provision of the Act is the reduction in the work hour week. At the present time we have two work hour weeks before the necessity for the payment of overtime. In respect of female employees, 44-hour is the standard work week before it is required of the employer that time and a half be paid; and at the present time the work week for males is 48 hours before the payment of time and a half for overtime, and believing in the equality of the sexes and equal treatment for all it is the intention within this bill to equalize both sexes at 44 hours a week before the payment of overtime is required. I must confess, Mr. Speaker, that while I am saying this, this is contrary I know to some of the suggestions I made while on the other side of the House that we should have a uniform 40-hour week before the payment of overtime, and I make this confession, knowing that if I don't do it, my friend the Honourable Member for Assiniboia and others will say, what about the propositions you used to make when you were on the other side of the House. So I make this confession, but I want to say, I want to say that it would be my desire, and the desire of the government, to arrive at the 40-hour week before payment of overtime, in due course.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Including the House here.

MR. PAULLEY: Including the House? Oh, my honourable friend they get time and a half every day so this really doesn't affect them at all. As a matter of fact, so many people say that they're so well paid that we shouldn't take them into consideration at all. And also Mr. Speaker, I think that I should at this particular time say that it is the intention that the 44-hour week becomes effective on the 1st of January of next year. The reason for this is that despite our desire, individually and collectively on this side, we realize that there have been a considerable amount of change taking place in the labour legislation and other legislation at this session and we do believe, and I think I can illustrate this by the progressive increases in the minimum wage, we do believe that industry should have an opportunity of adjusting themselves to changes in labour legislation. We don't want to put the shocks all in one basket and workers have over the years requested what we are suggesting without avail. We do realize that we have to take under consideration management as well; but I don't expect that management really will be objecting too strenuously to the proposals contained within this bill.

As I illustrated a moment ago, an employer will be required to pay an employee for the general holidays listed in the present Employment Standards Act, which are New Year's Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Again, Mr. Speaker, it was felt fair that for this year, that this bill or the section dealing with the holidays would come into effect on the 2nd of July due to the fact that a bill has already been passed establishing a holiday for July, namely of course our Centennial Day, July 15th. So for this year, employers will be required to pay their employees for Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, and then of course in subsequent years the payment will be for the seven statutory holidays. I realize that in some jurisdictions there may be eight, I believe in the Federal jurisdiction there is either eight or nine paid holidays, but we felt that this would be a start at least. Also, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out in respect of general holidays that where there is an agreement which at the present time provides for a lesser number of paid holidays in the year this legislation will supersede those agreements; but, where there are agreements in effect at the present time providing for a greater number of general holidays then this legislation will not supersede that agreement.

Members will find Mr. Speaker, in the legislation, a spelling out of the conditions under which general holidays must be paid for. What we are attempting to do by these sections is to make it as sure as possible that any unscrupulous employer - and there may be one or two in the province - cannot deprive the individual employee of a general holiday by laying him off the day before the holiday in order to avoid the payment for the day. We are making provision in this Act so that if an employee works the greater portion of 30 days prior to a holiday then he is entitled to the pay for that holiday irrespective of whether he is working just prior to or just after the holiday. This follows generally the provisions contained in the Labour Standards Code of the Dominion of Canada.

Then, of course, there is the question of what happens if, say for instance, Christmas Day falls on a Saturday or a Sunday which is normally considered days off. There is a section which will provide that either the Friday or the Monday shall be a holiday for which the employee is granted a holiday with pay, providing of course he qualifies otherwise. Then in the new proposal there is a provision whereby the employee and the employer can get together to decide when they will actually observe the general holiday. For instance, if as this year July 1st I

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd.). . . . believe is a Wednesday, Dominion Day, by agreement between the employer and the employee they can observe the Monday if they so desire or the Friday after the holiday, in order to have a long weekend. I think this is becoming a standard practice in industry.

In the construction industry, where there isn't - sometimes it's a course of a continuing industry, there is provision within the Act insofar as the construction industry is concerned that an additional two percent wages will be paid to the employee in the industry in lieu of pay of statutory holidays. This is to be paid to him on the 31st day or when he resigns or is discharged, whichever date comes earlier. Now that generally outlines the proposals contained in this amendment to the Employment Standards Act.

I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that lately I have heard quite a number of people using the expression of paying an employee 2 1/2 times his rate for a general holiday. I want to point out that this is not so Mr. Speaker. An employee will receive for the holiday payment at straight time, his normal payment at straight time for that holiday, but if the employer desires him to work on that general holiday, then he will pay him time and a half for that day but still pay him for the holiday. So it's no question of two and a half times pay for any particular day, because he would have to pay him for the holiday in any case and it is at the option of the employer as to whether he works on that general holiday or not.

Again as I said at the offset, Mr. Speaker, I realize and I appreciate this does not make provision for all that has been advocated by labour over the past year, or even by myself while on the other side of the House as I illustrated. I do, however, believe Mr. Speaker, that it is an advance in labour legislation in the Province of Manitoba. I hope that it will be acceptable to both management and labour in the spirit in which I present it to this House and I recommend the adoption of the proposals contained in Bill 117.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye that debate be adjourned.

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

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs)(Selkirk) presented Bill No. 39 the Municipal Act for second reading. (Referred to Municipal Affairs Committee)

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, this new Municipal Act is a long awaited and extensive piece of legislation that has been followed with keen interest by a great many members of this House. There are many changes incorporated in this bill; some are important, some not so important. Those who were members of the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs that recommended the contents of the bill will be familiar with the changes. I intend to deal with a few of the changes in principle that occurred to me as being of particular interest to the members and to the municipal men and women who will be using this legislation as their guide in the future.

In several ways the authority and, of course, the corresponding responsibility of municipal councils has been extended. For example, councils will be authorized to fix their own remuneration and their own rates of indemnity and mileage expenses incurred while travelling on municipal business. There are provisions for disclosure and certain tests of reasonableness but there are no statutory limits.

Municipal councils will also be able to establish and dissolve Boards of Parks and Recreation without a vote of electors or ratepayers. The content and ceiling of the budgets of these boards will also be at the discretion of municipal councils. Capital borrowing by-laws may be passed by councils without reference to ratepayers or electors but subject still to the authority of the Municipal Board and with extended opportunities for interested persons to be heard by the council and the Board in this regard. Municipal councils will have authority to enter into agreements with school boards for joint construction, ownership and operation of any public work or building. Municipalities will also have the authority at the discretion of council to deposit funds with the Credit Union or Caisse Populaire as well as with a Chartered Bank. There are substantial changes contained within this bill dealing with the make-up of the municipal council and proceedings relating thereto. Members of Council will be required to be Canadian citizens which includes a British subject who is a resident of Canada upon coming into force of this Act, 18 years of age, an elector and a resident of the municipality or ward for at least 6 months. There have been some extensions to the disqualification of a person from holding office as a member of council to include persons nominated for or being members of the council of another municipality or of the House of Commons.

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd.)

Members of Council who move from a municipality will now become disqualified, but on the other hand, certain other disqualifications have been removed. These include some officials of the courts whose positions do not appear to be in conflict with that of a municipal councillor. Persons indebted to the municipality are no longer disqualified from being elected to and holding office. There will no longer be a provision for dividing a town into wards for purposes of election as in the case now with a village. Rural municipalities, cities that choose to use the ward system for electing members of council will be required to establish wards, having approximately the same number of inhabitants in each.

Nominations will be held on the first Wednesday in October as was the case in most municipalities previously and nomination papers will be required to be signed by 25 electors or one percent of the electorate, whichever is the lesser.

Elections will be held on the 4th Wednesday of October as is now the case pretty well through the province. Consideration was given to holding elections late in November but the committee was persuaded to revert to the October date.

Instead of taking office in January, the newly elected council will assume its duties on the 14th day following the date on which the election is held. This will mean that the new council will be in office almost two months before the commencement of the fiscal year. The term of office for members of council will be three years with the term of all members expiring in the same year. This sets the stage for triennial elections. There is however, provision whereby a council may exercise an option to continue or revert to the two-year period with alternating terms of office and annual elections.

Councils will be required to adopt provisional estimates to cover their authority to expend money between the 1st of January and the date upon which their tax levy by-law has been passed. Council will also be required to prepare each year a five year forecast of its capital budget. There are provisions for placing before the municipal board objections to local improvement by-laws in cases where the large number of people involved render the presentation of a majority petition impractical. Municipalities wishing to acquire land in another municipality will require the authority of the municipal board in all cases, whereas at the present time the authority of the board is required only if the land is to be expropriated. Municipalities are authorized to adopt by reference the national building code. This and other powers may have been exercised by some municipalities in the past without specific authority and an attempt has been made where possible to clarify the powers of the council in this regard.

As I stated at the outset there are a great many detailed changes in this legislation. I have endeavoured to review those that I feel will be of interest to the members at this time. In closing I think it would be only proper to take the opportunity of thanking the draftsmen Charlie Chappel, Mr. G. S. Rutherford, for the effort and patience which they have displayed throughout the period during which the committee was considering the draft act and for many months prior to that.

I would particularly like to commend the members of the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs on the cooperative and workmanlike way in which they have approached the momentous task of examining the draft act and formulating the recommendations that are now embodied in this Act. It was a clear exemplification of the functioning of a Legislative Committee at its best.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. CLAYDON: Mr. Speaker, unless somebody else would like to speak at this time, I would move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Morris that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would please call Bill No. 113 out of order, please.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Youth and Education)(Seven Oaks) presented Bill No. 113, an Act to amend the Public Schools Act (2) for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Youth and Education.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be introducing today for second reading this Bill No. 113 which I believe in many ways to be a milestone in the history of this province. Before dealing with the bill itself in any particular fashion, Mr. Speaker, I should like to go into some of the background of the circumstances responsible for bringing this bill before this Assembly.

Just under a year ago, I think it was, July, 1969, the Royal Assent was given to Bill C-120, that was the Federal Government's Official Languages Act, and after a none too volatile

(MR. MILLER cont'd.). . . . debate the bill was passed by an overwhelming majority of the House of Commons. It established once and for all insofar as the Federal Government and its areas of jurisdiction was concerned that French was on equal par with English as an official language of Canada. During the course of parliamentary discussions the point was made by representatives of all parties, I believe, that the provinces should follow the federal initiative in their own areas of jurisdiction wherever practicable and that in fact the real tasks involved in the nationwide implementation of the official languages principle lay with the provinces. Approximately a year and a half prior to the passing of this federal measure, at the Constitutional Conference in February of 1968, with the Honourable now Leader of the Official Opposition representing the province at that time, the following consensus on language rights was arrived at by the Conference. There was recognition that French-speaking Canadians outside of Quebec should have the same language rights as English-speaking Canadians within Quebec. Further, it was recognized that governmental action required to implement that principle had to be taken as quickly as possible in all provinces. Therein lies for the most part the motivation behind the bill that I am introducing today.

Now needless to say we believe that the extension of official language rights in the provinces is both a correct and a necessary measure geared to strengthening the bonds of Confederation and of course as long as the Canadian Federation remains, and so long as Manitoba is part of it, the two official languages of Canada must be enhanced as official languages in Manitoba. Let me hasten to assure all members and everyone, the public, lest there be any doubts on that score, that there's absolutely no intention behind this bill to coerce any Manitobans into having their children forced to learn the French language. The bill is a simple and a straightforward attempt to provide French-speaking Manitobans, and others who are interested as the case may be, with their established right to be instructed in the official language of their choice within the framework of our public school system. Thus, for example this bill would allow the French-speaking parents of a large enough group of elementary or secondary school children who attended a school where the students were living in a predominantly English-speaking area to have the right to require that their children to be instructed in French. By the same token, if the English-speaking parents of a large enough group of elementary or secondary school children attending a predominantly French school in a district wish to have their children taught in English, again the onus would fall on local school boards to comply with such a directive. Also individual school boards would be able to enter into agreement with each other to facilitate the creation of large enough classes in which instruction could be given in what in that case is a minority official language. To reiterate therefore there are no elements of coercion involved but rather only the further extension of the already established rights of Manitobans through their public education system.

Mr. Speaker, I would expect that there will be many English-speaking Manitobans who will avail themselves of the opportunity to acquaint themselves with our second official language, and I believe that our sense of national identity as Canadians will be strengthened through the knowledge of our second official language. But of course that is a reality that no government can invoke or should invoke by simple passage of law. For the present we must be content with measures taken to assure French-speaking Manitobans of their language rights in areas of our jurisdiction.

There is yet another major aspect of this bill, Mr. Speaker. Just as we recognize our commitments to do our part in following the federal lead in helping to strengthen Confederation and at the same time recognizing the virtue of promoting our two official languages for the sake of building our national unity, our national identity, we also recognize the necessity of following the lead of the people of Manitoba. As the Premier and as many of my colleagues have stated time and again, the basic cultural character of the Province of Manitoba cannot and should not be reduced to a dull uniformity. There are few things more important for a group or an individual than a sense of dignity and of pride in their origin. We favour no melting pot philosophy. We don't believe that it works; we don't believe it can succeed. Rather we wish to encourage the development of what is now commonly known as our cultural mosaic.

Mr. Speaker, in this respect Bill 113 also provides for teaching of a language other than the official languages of French or English as a subject from as early as kindergarten or Grade One with the approval of the local school board. In other words a school board, as they do now, could authorize the reaching of Ukrainian, German, and we will be extending that to include languages such as Cree, Saulteaux, or for that matter any other languages. These could be subjects introduced in a school system where the school board so desires at the request of

(MR. MILLER cont'd.). . . . people in the community. In this way, Mr. Speaker, I hope that what we have all been talking about for many years in Manitoba will now be a reality and I trust and hope that this bill will be favourably received by the members of this House, unanimously.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, if no one else wishes to speak, I would move, seconded by the Member for Roblin that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on second reading on the proposed motion of the Honourable the First Minister. Bill No. 121. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few remarks on this bill and I do rise to say at this time that I support the Human Rights Commission Act. I just have some notes that I used, I believe three or four years ago in this House when I took part in the Labour estimates at that time, and if my memory serves me correct, I think it was my first or second year in the House, when I participated in the Labour estimates that I asked that Manitoba establish a declaration of human rights to outlaw such things as discrimination in accommodation because of sex, religion, colour, race, nationality or ancestry and to outlaw discrimination in employment because of sex, religion, colour, race, nationality or ancestry and discrimination in employment because of age, discrimination in employment because of union activity and discrimination by a trade union of any member because of sex, religion, colour, race, nationality or ancestry, a declaration recognizing the right of any member of a professional or trade body or trade union to a reasonable opportunity to participate in affairs thereof and to a reasonable means of redress from complaints against such professional body or trade union. This is the position that I took in the House, as I mentioned, some few years ago. So I do feel that this Human Rights Act is timely. I know there's some points that I will try to raise because I'm not just so certain how it will affect some organizations and people, but, Mr. Speaker, I feel that many of us as Canadians feel that discrimination based on race, colour, creed, language or country of origin is foreign to Canadian character; and I would like to say that perhaps we are flattering ourselves in that respect.

There is also no reason to believe as more people come to Canada from, for instance Caribbean and Asia, that we will be relatively free of any racial tension or have less misunderstanding that exists at the present time in other countries, discrimination, deplorable as it may be, and I feel that governments have and are taking the necessary legislative action to remove discrimination by law. But the fact remains, Mr. Speaker, that you cannot legislate discrimination out of hearts and out of people's minds. Discrimination can take many forms. It may be no recognition; it may be a smile which is outside the law and cannot be legislated.

I would like to see greater recognition of this problem in our society by people dedicated to public welfare. Voluntary organizations do much in many fields. I feel they could do a great job, a great deal to eliminate discrimination. I would like to see service clubs get involved in a program for action through public education to bring people together. Discrimination is too serious a problem as well to be left to the government alone. As individuals I feel that we must take a strong stand against discrimination to assure those in a minority position as regards to race, colour that they shall in every respect benefit from the same opportunity as the majority does.

We have accepted in Canada the principle which is different than the one across the line in the U.S. from the melting pot principle. It is not the principle absorption or assimilation in Canada, it is the principle of being yourself. There is place in the Canadian mosaic for various cultural expressions and for more than one colour of skin. This is not done by setting race against race, colour against colour or voice against voice, I think we should recognize not only the rights of people to be different but also accepting the rich cultural contributions inherent in those differences of many people.

Canadians are sometimes accused of complacency in the question of discrimination. Mr. Speaker, I believe there is some truth in this charge. We have accepted the fact that freedom is respect for the rights of others. A definition of a free society is a society which permits its various groups, cultures and people to express in their own manner the spirit which moves and determines their cultural heritage. I will admit that there is something nice and endearing about the Scots and their kilts or dances of the Polish, Hungarian, Ukrainian cultures, or songs of the Irish and the Germans, or the carving of our native Eskimo people. We have something to learn from others, Mr. Speaker. Discrimination is used by those who wish to undermine

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) . . . rather than build. I think we must all stand for equal opportunity in society. The situation in our own city probably is quite unique, that somehow under the very cold winters and blue skies in Western Canada I think that we have probably progressed much better than in some other areas of Canada because we have learned to get along with each other in probably a more friendly and better way than some of the other areas in Canada, because we don't have to go too far, if you go to the west end of Winnipeg itself you'll find in a matter of a very few blocks you may find people of almost 65 to 75 different origins and I think it's a great accomplishment. It's taken a long time but they're all getting together well. For those reasons I think that our culture in Winnipeg or in Manitoba is quite rich and as a result we don't have to go too far, we can just see our ballet or our music festival, our theatre and many others that we can speak of in this city alone. But I am the first one to admit that there is such a thing as discrimination in our society and as I mentioned I don't think it's only the responsibility of the government because it's difficult to legislate but I think it's the responsibility of all of us to see that there is no discrimination and it does not exist.

There's just one point that I will pose to the First Minister and perhaps he can answer. I can see that there may be problems in the way of discrimination in employment. I know that I have mentioned in this House before that there shouldn't be any discrimination in employment as far as sexes are concerned or age of people. But this may be pretty difficult because there may be an area that an employer needs a male employee because the job is such, so in advertising you may be forced to -- (Interjection) -- Well it may be in the selling field, in the selling field. It may be difficult not to discriminate. I have stated myself in this House I believe this spring and last fall that there should be not any discrimination as to age because if a person is capable to perform a certain function or do a job at age 25 and he is able to do the same type of a job at age 50 I don't think there should be any discrimination in employment in respect to age. But I find little, not in disagreement, but I could just see some complications in respect to discrimination of sexes because there may be jobs that would not be the type of job that would be feasible for the female and this may be some form of discrimination and how we get around it I don't know.

So these are the few points that I wanted to bring to the attention of the members at this time. There's one more point I wish to raise. Perhaps the First Minister could question, and that's discrimination in apartment buildings. I know at the present time there are apartments which definitely advertise that no children, and I don't know if you'd call this discrimination or not, but there are some apartments which are strictly for older people or retired people and would this constitute discrimination or not? I don't know, because some apartments only do have older and retired people who feel that they'll have more privacy and more quiet and peace in their apartment block if there's no children. Again I'd like to say, is this discrimination by advertising no children in some apartment blocks? This may be some form of discrimination of certain persons, but maybe it's not, so perhaps that's another area that the Minister can explain to the House. These are a few points that I wish to make at this time and I think the bill is timely. I just hope in some areas that it doesn't cause problems.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. EARL MCKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Virden, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you'd go back to Bills No. 107, 108 and 122, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on second reading on the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance, Bill No. 107. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed the bill to the best of my knowledge and find that I support the principle of the bill and I do associate myself with some of the views that were expressed by the Member for Ste. Rose and I think the Member for La Verendrye with regard to government being in a position now to exempt themselves from the motive fuel taxes, and I just can't understand like, if we can't move into the field of the municipal government and at least recognize their problem. I think it'd be worth at least a chance for them to relieve some of their costs that they're buried today of improvements to the various municipalities in the province, even though it couldn't be maybe handed over to the schools who now of course, if the Minister could take a look at it, the buses are using a tremendous amount of fuel. We have bulk buying principle being used for the school buses today which is possibly a saving to the

(MR. McKENZIE cont'd.) . . . school boards and if this was to be another saving to the taxpayers, I'm all for it but the other, I think would be possibly being more specific in the definition of what equipment - and that would be government - would be exempting, possibly that'll come in the regulations. I'm not that well informed in the drafting of bills but is it road equipment and like, I suppose regulations will spell that out, but with those few remarks Mr.

Speaker, I support the bill in principle and possibly the Minister will clarify that in committee.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance)(St. Johns): May I ask a question of the Honourable Member? I didn't understand just what he was referring to about equipment and definition. Mr. Speaker, could he be permitted to cite, if not the section. . .

MR. McKENZIE: Well I imagine, Mr. Speaker, he's covering the waterfront. Equipment covers a wide field. It says there, Section (i) Motor Vehicles; (ii) Equipment; (iii) Machinery. I suppose anything that burns motor fuel would be covered.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, my remarks will be very brief as well. I checked the Act the other day; I've made some notes and I haven't got them with me. However, my question is why have the difference in the rate of refund from propane and gasoline and I notice that there's a difference of two cents. And then also are these rates the same as before and were they fixed before they were the variable. From here on they will be fixed; I understand that it's in the legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked a question the other day of the Minister of Finance in regard to these two bills. I don't believe the Minister answered the question, and the thing that probably concerns me more than anything with these two bills, and Mr. Speaker, I prefer to lump them together, is a question of supply. We can talk all we want about coloured fuel or uncoloured fuel for various types of equipment and some of it may be motor boats, some of it may be skidoos, cars, trucks, various types of equipment, but Mr. Speaker, the question of supply of this type of fuel poses a serious problem. In my experience any time that bulk storage of fuel is a practice, it seems that tanks have a habit of developing leaks and the fuel disappears at an alarming rate. Now if the Minister is looking at this as a possible source of the supply, having government bulk storage of fuel at various locations, then I would ask him to consider it in the light of experience of others.

However, if the government is planning on setting up their own service stations, Crown service stations, strictly for the purpose of supplying fuel to government vehicles through metered pumps that are properly maintained and operated with attendants there and under lock and key I can see this possibly working, but at the same time, Mr. Speaker, any time we find the government operating Crown corporations I would think that there might be a possibility of a little hanky panky from time to time, with some - shall we call them - neo-government employees saying well, why can't I get government purple gas in my vehicle, too, and I'll get Joe to sign for it tomorrow. This is definitely a concern and it could pose a serious problem. So Mr. Speaker, I ask this question, that while this may in some areas provide the necessary answer for the problems that exist under the present system, and I can see this in northern Manitoba where you have fuel drops unattended and the disappearance of large volumes of fuel, I can see it causing a reverse, or the reverse effect can be true in other areas of the province where you have heavier settled areas.

While I sympathize with the Minister of Finance in the reasoning behind this bill, quite obviously there must have been some reason, and the only reason I can see is an effort to get more effective control to try and minimize their losses. Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the cure as proposed here will be truly effective. I think it could cause more problems than exist at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRIDE: Would the member permit a question?

MR. GRAHAM: Certainly.

MR. McBRIDE: Is the previous speaker aware that the government already has its various points throughout the province, government garages and gas pumps at these garages? Is the previous speaker aware of the fact that the government already has at various points throughout the province, government garages with gas pumps at those garages to give gas to government vehicles and that these were in existence long before this government came into office?

MR. GRAHAM: This is quite true, but how far apart are they?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: I would be closing debate, Mr. Speaker. I suppose I ought to start with the last speaker only because he's the one who irritated me enough to want to respond to him first of all. I don't know whether today's a bad day for him or whether this is usual but there were insinuations, talks about hanky panky - I'm not quite sure what it is, but I'm sure it doesn't relate to handkerchief - and suggestions that governments that are willing to go into Crown corporations have to be watched. Now the insinuations were such that I couldn't even draw any inference that was intelligible and therefore I can only say that I don't understand him but it's not the first time that I've had difficulty in understanding him.

He seems to be concerned about the government wishing to have more effective controls, and suggests that more effective controls might not be adequate enough to bring other problems. I don't mind saying that there has been reason to be concerned about effective control and that there is good cause for the government to want to protect the taxpayers' monies in relation to the improper use of motive fuel, so as to ensure that they are used for the purpose of the vehicles and the fuel is used for the purpose which was intended.

Now if you look at the original act itself, it provides that motive fuel that may be used with marked or coloured dye in it, would be the operation of fire fighting apparatus or lighting plants if the user is a municipal corporation; or the operation of machinery used by a hospital; or the operation of agricultural machinery other than motor vehicles while carrying out agricultural work on farm land; or the operation of a canoe or boat during an open season for commercial fishing - and we've discussed that feature - purposes other than moving or operating an internal combustion engine; these are uses that are now provided as being tax exempt by use of coloured motive fuel, and we are now saying that a vendor may be permitted, by this amendment, to sell coloured fuel to government vehicles.

What that brings with it is obviously a right to do that which the government should be able to do to protect itself, and the insinuations are really the things that made me refer at all to what the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell had to say. They were veiled, they were vague, but they were there and they were not pleasant, so I'll leave it at that, only to add that in the main, government vehicles are being serviced from government garages where coloured fuel may be used. The orders are to government vehicles, drivers of government vehicles, that where there is a government garage within a reasonable distance then that's where the fuel should be obtained. Where they are not within reasonable distance, then they may get it elsewhere. There's no prohibition on a government vehicle purchasing fuel that is not coloured - let's make that clear. This doesn't say it shall be so; it says that those who are able to sell coloured fuel may sell it, may put it into a government vehicle, so I don't think that there's any real basis for concern, but I could say this that if it appears that there is a problem that has resulted, then it can be corrected and I would say it would be corrected. This matter has been discussed at length by the Department of Government Services and the Department of Transportation and this bill comes as the result of pretty intensive investigation of the staff and coordination of discussion of the staff of the two departments and I accept their statement that it's feasible and desirable.

The Member for Rhineland referred to the difference in rates. I think he means between motive fuel and gasoline, and as I understand it, the difference in rates has to do with the measurement of energy produced per gallon. Now I don't know whether the term is BTU's or if that only refers to heating energy, but I believe that the differential in the tax is based on the value per gallon that it is to the user, and that the relationship is a - I suppose a chemical one or it has to do with the properties of the fuel - and the purpose is that there should be an equality in taxation so that regardless of which fuel you use you pay the similar tax based on the forces produced or the energy derived from the difference in fuel. There is no change in the rates, as I think the Member noticed, no change at all proposed in the rates in these bills.

The Member for Roblin reiterated the point about municipalities, and I only repeat what I said to the members who spoke earlier, that there is no change in the exemption feature, there is no change in any of the tax base. When we say that government may use purple gas and as was pointed out in an interchange on this matter with the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, there is no change at all because when tax was paid by the Government of Manitoba it paid it to itself and therefore there was no question of increasing or decreasing taxation. I think that deals with the questions asked of me.

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd.)

I might point out, without any fanfare about it that this bill and the accompanying bill, companion bill, are in line with the recommendations of the Northern Task Force and is another step in the direction that this government is taking in recognizing problems of the north.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. McKELLAR: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could direct a question to the Minister — (Interjection) — close the debate but I just have one more question regarding Crown corporations. Will the cars used by Crown corporations be allowed to use coloured gas?

MR. CHERNIACK: That question becomes more of a legal one and I am not sure that I want to answer positively. I can try and get the answer for committee. The wording is "owned by the government" and I will make a note to have the answer to that question for when we debate it at committee.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask the Honourable Minister a question on his comments. Regarding the government paying the tax, I'm quite aware the government has not been, but is the Minister prepared to consider giving the same exemption to municipal corporations, hospitals and school boards?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, all this is very cute. The Member for Ste. Rose knows that this is a different problem with a different and very extensive decision that has to be made and surely he doesn't expect this kind of policy to be so easily and glibly dealt with in response to a question such as he has asked.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, a further question. Is the Minister prepared to consider giving the exemption to municipalities, hospitals and school boards?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I've been considering that problem for the last 30 years and I'm still considering it and I don't need any prodding to continue to consider it.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At this point I would like to introduce our guests in the gallery. We have 43 Grade 6 students from Victoria Ruth Hooker school under the direction of Mr. Mikolaynko and Mrs. Hatherly. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. And 60 grade 4 students of the Happy Thought School under the direction of Mrs. Klim and Mrs. Sokolowski and this school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. On behalf of the members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you here this morning.

GOVERNMENT BILLS (cont'd.)

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance, Bill No. 108 The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I adjourned the debate for the Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): Mr. Speaker, I'm quite happy to see that the resolutions that have been presented at the last session have finally realized themselves into a bill and presented in this way to the House today. I would like to recall, however, that at the time the resolutions were introduced dealing with this matter, on two separate occasions I spoke about the fact that the resolution did not go far enough. I am wholeheartedly in support of the bill and what it does and for the reasons that it does it, but I think that it might well have been wise for the Minister to consider going a little further and including other people as well. I can realize that this might mean some slight loss in revenue but I'm not certain that this is a significant loss in revenue.

I can see now situations arising in south eastern Manitoba that happen to be in my constituency, where you have the trapper and the fisherman and the logging industry all operating in very close proximity. You will have the fisherman who is privileged to use tax free gasoline or get a rebate on his gasoline tax, and on the other hand, you will get the trapper in the very close proximity again, who is again privileged and all these three will meet in the same community and compare notes and I think it's a sad commentary in the evaluation of who should be getting a rebate or not, when the man with a chain saw, who earns a meagre living, is not entitled to have the same kind of privilege. I'm sorry to see that the bill has not considered that

(MR. GIRARD cont'd.). . . . industry or those people involved in that industry giving them the same privileges as the other group.

I would like to point out at the same time Mr. Speaker, that we well know that the revenue brought to people in the fishing industry or in the trapping industry is quite meagre but we should not forget that the revenue brought to the carrier of the chain saw, the man with the lunch kit who goes to the bush every day is also very meagre and I think the assistance of the extension of this Act to include them will be well warranted.

I wonder if the Minister has given that consideration and if he has, I would like to know why it has not been included in the Act.

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

MR. JACK HARDY (St. Vital): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In connection with Bill 108 presumably some comments that I have to make - and they will be few - have already been suggested by other speakers in connection with 107 and I can assure the Minister of Finance that I have no intention of being cute in my remarks and I can appreciate that he has been perhaps perusing some of the problems that arise here for the past 30 years.

It has to do with the inequity or the inability of the government at this time to give consideration to a similar application of the refund to other areas of government. It has been suggested that, in fact, the provincial government is paying to themselves the tax that would normally have been collected. This I have no quarrel with but may I suggest that there is a difference of opinion here, a difference of policy inasmuch as the provincial government is now paying the 5 percent revenue tax on its own purchases, and in fact, is paying it into the general fund; at least the revenues from that source are in fact, going into the general fund.

So I'm suggesting that consideration be given to allowing a refund in the gasoline tax, to other governmental jurisdictions below that of the provincial government because in fact, I think that if the provincial government can adopt this attitude where they in fact, are supplying their own vehicles, their own governmental vehicles, less the 17 cents gas tax, then I'm suggesting that very serious consideration should be given to this same policy being adopted for other government vehicles within the municipal field. Certain areas with respect to the motive fuel are in fact at the present time in this category and I refer to fire equipment, fire fighting equipment and things such as this but basically I can see no difference between the provincial government supplying their vehicles on this basis than allowing the same to be applicable to municipal vehicles. I include in this category police cars, public works equipment, and I think probably one of the areas of contention, one of the greatest areas of contention - and this has been discussed on previous occasions - is in the area of public transportation. I feel that consideration should also be given in this area but I'm asking that the Minister give very serious consideration and I understand that he has been mulling this over in his mind for a number of years and nothing has come of it up to this point but quite frankly - and I do not want to be repetitious - I'm suggesting that the same consideration be given to municipal vehicles.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. MCBRYDE: I think, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say a few words on the Gasoline Tax Act. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a couple of comments on the remarks of the Member for Emerson. He mentioned at the beginning of his speech that he is glad to see that this finally came about after it was brought up last session. I'd just like to mention to the Honourable Member that it was brought up the session before that when the Conservative Government was in power; no action was taken at that time.

In regard to his comments on the problem of tax rebates for chain saw operators or for logging companies, I would like to say that this has some validity but I suppose one of the main problems is that it is very easy to determine who is a trapper, because he has a license. It's very easy to determine when you are selling the gas, who is a fisherman because he has a license, but unless you are going to start licensing fallers, it's quite difficult for the person selling the gasoline to be able to determine and give rebate to people who don't have a license in their possession.

I suppose also in the comparison of - I would like to suggest also to the Honourable Member that where there are people working in the bush who are fallers, who are getting such low wages as trappers and fishermen, that I could give him the name of my former union, the **International Woodworkers of America** who would be pleased to organize those workers to get them a more decent wage. I would also like to get in terms of the comparison he made - the trapper might live in the same community as the faller and therefore there would be some

(MR. McBRYDE cont'd.). . . . feelings amongst them. I suppose you could take that even farther, that there are people in that community that do guiding as well and then maybe we should exempt these people as well from being able to get the tax rebate or refund.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to go back to the main point here that I'd like to make in regard to The Gasoline Tax Act. Mr. Speaker, this is a problem. This House has recognized it as a problem for a long time. My main concern with this Act however, is that it's too complicated and too inconvenient. I brought this matter up when we discussed it before the bill came before the House and it appears that there's no other way to handle it. There doesn't seem to be another practical way to look after it, so Mr. Speaker I support this bill because it's better than not having a bill but I still say it is going to be very awkward and inconvenient to be workable. Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to represent a number of trappers and a number of fishermen, other people in isolated communities and one of the biggest problems is unemployment insurance and filling out unemployment insurance forms and sometimes it takes three or four letters and visits to the Unemployment Insurance Office by myself to straighten out applications on behalf of people who don't understand all the problems related to forms and applications and how to go about these kinds of things, and I think it's going to be very difficult for a lot of these people to take advantage of the Act because of this problem. Hopefully there are others in the community who will be able to give advice and some guidance and it will probably mean more work for myself which I guess I can't complain about too much, so Mr. Speaker, that's the point I'd like to make. It's unfortunate that we couldn't find a simple way to do this but it appears that there is no other way to do it and so I hope that we can make this sort of complicated and inconvenient method work out for the people affected. Thank you.

MR. GIRARD: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the previous speaker would permit a question, I wonder if, in his speech, he has meant to indicate that he is opposed to having the chain saw operator be given the privilege of using tax free gasoline or is he simply saying that it is too complicated a thing to be able to permit him to do so?

MR. McBRYDE: I would say it is, Mr. Speaker. I think it's probably not practical to be able to do it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Again my remarks will be very brief in connection with this report. I just rise to endorse the bill. I think we could have had it much sooner than this, because I feel that the people in the North who are making their livelihood are as entitled to the tax rebate as the farmer.

However, there is one question that I have and that is, Is it prohibitive or can credit cards that are being issued by various oil companies be used in connection with the purchasing of the gasoline by these people? Is there anything that could prohibit them from collecting the tax in any way - is there anything wrong with that?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. McKELLAR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake that the debate be adjourned.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to introduce 35 students from Rosenort Elementary School who are with us in my gallery. They are grade 5 students under the direction of Mr. Hoepfner and Mr. Loewen. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Morris. On behalf of the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly I welcome you here this morning.

GOVERNMENT BILLS (cont'd.)

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading. Bill No. 122. The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. AL MACKLING, Q. C. (Attorney-General)(St. James) presented Bill No. 122, The Personal Investigation Act for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, The Personal Investigation Act is a new piece of legislation which hopefully will provide a measure of security in an area where there is a great lack at the present time. As I have indicated in introduction of previous legislation it was hoped

(MR. MACKLING cont'd.). . . . that we would be able to prepare legislation dealing with the credit reporting agencies and that is the nature of the bill that is before you.

I wish, Mr. Speaker, to quote from the report that was prepared by Messrs. R. Dale Gibson and John M. Sharp, both of whom are professors at the Manitoba Law School, University of Manitoba, in an article they published entitled "Privacy and Commercial Reporting Agencies" which was prepared under the auspices of the Legal Research Institute of the University of Manitoba, published in October 1968.

It's entitled "Privacy and the Law". There is a continuing study by the Research Institute in this field and I want to pay respect and acknowledge with sincere appreciation the efforts by Messrs. Sharp and Gibson to the government in formulating the draft legislation both dealing with the licensing of private investigators and security guards and also in respect to the legislation that is before you.

Mr. Speaker, quoting from the report, in the introduction they point out that "Credit bureaus and other commercial reporting agencies are important factors of the modern commercial scene. These are organizations which gather and provide to their members or customers personal information about individuals and corporations in which their members or customers have some commercial interest by reason of their being prospective lenders, insurers or employers, etc. The activities of some of these organizations are regarded by some observers as constituting an unjustifiably great intrusion into the privacy of the individuals being investigated."

They describe in this article the fact, Mr. Speaker, that there are two major reporting agencies, those which basically act as information exchanges between groups of merchants operating in particular areas and those which actively search for information on behalf of their members or customers. The former, that is the first, dealing with groups of merchants, are commonly referred to as "file agencies" and the "investigative agencies" are termed as such.

Information obtained often includes or is supplemented by information relating to bankruptcies, divorces, criminal convictions, promotions, public service awards and so on gleaned by the reporting agency from public records, newspapers and so on. In addition so that of course, as many of the members know, a lot of information is obtained by personal enquiry of neighbours and so on. The preparers of this report indicated that they had made no attempt to estimate the total number of reporting agencies operating in Canada but they conclude it must be very high. Quoting from Page 10 they say: "There seems to be a credit bureau or a branch thereof in virtually every significant urban area in North America. In the United States there are 2,000 bureaus serving 36,000 communities who are members of the Associated Credit Bureaus of America and in Canada where they are linked by the Associated Credit Bureaus of Canada, they seem to be just as common. There are in addition other file type agencies competing with the credit bureaus although competition is hampered by the reluctance of the principal credit granters to cooperate with more than one pool and by the policy of the association to grant membership privileges to only one bureau in any one particular area."

They point out, Mr. Speaker, that generally speaking reporting agencies seem to be commercial enterprises aimed at producing a profit for their proprietors or shareholders rather than cooperative associations designed to provide members with services at cost. Five of the six organizations studied in this report have national or international connections. Some of them claim to be able to obtain a report on someone from most parts of the western world. There is a possibility in fact, they indicate, that the Canadian association will in the distant future become a single company. They advise that the retail credit company, the pioneer and giant of the reporting business, has been in existence since 1899 and has 308 branch offices and 1,300 sub-offices throughout North America.

They point out and I would like to quote from Page 12 of their report: "Unlike most other industries dealing with sensitive matters vital to the welfare of large numbers of people, the reporting profession is almost free from government control or regulation. There are regulatory statutes in a few places." And they refer to some provisions in Ontario that has a Private Investigators and Security Guards Act which the proposed Act here will be a counterpart, but in most areas including Manitoba there are no licensing requirements or even regulatory statutes. They point out that the major risks that they refer to in abuses in the area of credit reporting are of two types: (a) the danger of inaccurate or misleading information being reported and (b) the danger of accurate information being used for unjustifiable purposes.

There are instances, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to refer to of the dangers having materialized in the lives of people to their major detriment. We have the benefit, Mr. Speaker,

(MR. MACKLING cont'd.) of a very carefully written and authoritative article which appeared in Maclean's Magazine in the March, 1970 issue and although it's a fairly lengthy note I think it is important enough for members to hear this story which the article relates in the life of one young man and how it affected his family. It's well written and I think fairly concise but I would like to read this into the record because it magnifies, through this case study, the urgency of legislation in this field. I will quote the entire article. The article goes on for many pages but I would like to refer to the one case study that they start with -- (Interjection) -- No, Maclean's Magazine, March, 1970.

"Bruce McGrath still thinks credit and character reporting on people is necessary in today's society but it shouldn't be self-policing. There should be laws about false reporting. Bruce McGrath should know. Seven years ago he collided with Canada's credit spy system and he has not recovered yet. McGrath will be 34 in May; he is a second-year law student at the University of Western Ontario in London. He will be 37 before he can begin to practise law. His wife Judith, a nurse, will then have been the principal breadwinner for themselves and daughter Tracey, now nine, for most of ten years.

"When he was 27 the future looked good for McGrath. He was the branch manager for a finance company at Sarnia, Ontario. He had climbed aggressively, rapidly in five years through the hierarchies of three companies. He had made some enemies on the way up but Sarnia was home and he was well-known especially as a 150-pound but terribly tenacious quarterback of the Sarnia Golden Bears and the Sarnia Imperials. Then he resigned for personal reasons which, Maclean's is satisfied, had nothing to do with his ability, business judgment or honesty. With this background McGrath had no trouble getting job interviews with, he says, twelve different firms. In some instances he was told he was hired but there was always a final rejection. He couldn't find out why.

"Then a Sarnia-based businessman offered him a job and McGrath told him, 'I don't know what it is but something is wrong. I've had a dozen jobs offered and then withdrawn.' The man called on the McGraths a few days later. He brought a personnel file compiled by a large firm that specializes in such reporting. That report quoted unnamed previous colleagues as saying McGrath had been fired. The reason given was the unspecified charge of loose morals. Ex-colleagues with an earlier employer said McGrath had been sacked there too, when in fact he'd been promoted twice and had resigned for a better job. After his act of kindness in showing McGrath what was said about him -- subscribers sign agreements not to let subjects see the report -- the Sarnia businessman withdrew the job offer. McGrath was never able to get the reporting company to show him the file. No law says it must unless the company is sued. Yet it was there for any subscribing business firm to see for about \$25.00 a time.

"He could not set the record straight; no law permits him that right. Unable to find work, McGrath tried running his own Sarnia men's wear shop for nearly two years but he was undercapitalized and failed. He job hunted again without luck. 'Finally we decided to make a whole new start' he said, and the McGraths went to the University of Western Ontario. McGrath pays his law tuition with money earned doing part time jobs and with the help of provincial loans and bursaries. Judith works at St. Joseph's Hospital to meet the family expenditures. Their living is adequate but tight. McGrath remains obsessed by the unfairness of it. Nothing makes these people responsible for their errors. Surely there should be a right to know your accuser. Nothing even forces them to remove information after a certain passage of time. 'Maybe I'll still be under the gun when I graduate.' The credit reporting agencies will all say they remove adverse information eventually, often after seven years but that is not required in law and there is no way of checking.

"McGrath came to Maclean's. We asked two agencies to report on him as a prospective employee. One quickly gave him a thoroughly clean bill; the other, the one that made the damning 1963 report, telephoned first to say that he was shaping up to be a bad risk. Then it sent a man around to say that McGrath was a troublemaker. We said we'd like a report anyway. During this time we were interviewing officers of this and other companies about credit reporting and this agency circulated a note to its employees advising them of Maclean's interest. The McGrath report was vetted by the company's home office in the United States. Finally we got it, forty-six days after we had asked for it. Such reports normally take less than a week to provide and McGrath, that bad risk and troublesome man came through transformed. That old job of his? Why he wasn't fired at all but had resigned, according to the new report. Morals? No criticism of subject's reputation or associates. Is that the

(MR. MACKLING cont'd.). . . . company's last word on Bruce McGrath? We don't know; neither does he."

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's a documented example of what happened in the life of a young man through — (Interjection) — Pardon? I'm sorry.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): I'm just wondering what the word "documented" means.

MR. MACKLING: It's documented by this having been published with all of the personal facts related in respect to this young man and it hasn't been challenged that I'm aware of and Maclean's have a file where they established that they asked the same reporting company, the same credit reporting company, to give a report and the results are as they indicate.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this article, which I would commend to every member of the House to read, sets out various case studies and comment by individuals. They interviewed one of the kingpins in the credit reporting field, the Retail Credit Company of Canada, Mr. Gordon Kennedy, and they point out that retail credit's protective enterprise grossed at \$8,931,945 in Canada in 1968 and Kennedy expects the 1969 figures to be better. This is big business, Mr. Speaker, and the agencies involved make substantial profits on the information they sell and I insist, Mr. Speaker, that there hasn't been the type of responsibility on the part of agencies in this field that obviously is required.

It's interesting to note that this Mr. Kennedy, on Page 8 of the Maclean's article, says it's the insurance company using his service that want to know, "Are associations promiscuous or confined to one and has any family trouble resulted?" There have been conversations or it has been questioned in this House about the use of credit rating by insurance companies and obviously, as Mr. Kennedy has indicated, the insurance companies make great use of the reporting agencies to determine on various particulars of the human condition of individuals who are prospective insureds. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, there's an area of great need in this whole field and the legislation that you have before you is designed to provide a remedy for persons whose credit rating may be adversely affected by either mistake or some malice on the part of someone who has some adverse interest in the individual involved.

The bill speaks for itself, Mr. Speaker. I think that the particulars there indicate the nature of the requirements. The agencies will be required to furnish a copy of their report on request where they have a report on file. They'd be required to notify an individual when a report has been made on him and in this manner it will be possible for someone who has been adversely affected by a credit report which is untrue to have the record set straight and there's no question but commercial reporting agencies are necessary in our society. They perform a vital function and no one is suggesting that it's improper that these agencies continue because the work that they do is highly necessary in our present credit buying society, but a measure of responsibility that is long overdue will now be possible through the introduction and implementation of this legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. J. R. FERGUSON (Gladstone): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Member for Virren, that debate be adjourned.

MR. McBRYDE: If no one else wishes to speak I'd like to.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: If I may intervene at this point and introduce 25 Grade 5 students from Blumenort School under the direction of Mrs. Doerksen. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye. On behalf of the Honourable Members of the Assembly I welcome you here this morning.

GOVERNMENT BILLS (cont'd.)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to make a few brief comments on The Personal Investigation Act. I feel a little bit involved in this as I was the only one last session to speak on this matter and I've been one of the ones pushing the Attorney-General to come forward with this legislation.

When I spoke last session I mentioned a couple of examples and I think they bear repeating. How I became familiar with this matter was a couple of incidents that I became involved in or aware of. In one case, which was in British Columbia, there was two girls who were fresh out of their professional training who stayed in the city at a motel for a temporary period of time,

(MR. McBRYDE cont'd.) at which time they bought an automobile and applied for automobile insurance. Since these two professional girls were single, on a couple of occasions had RCMP constables, who were also single, came to their place to visit them. So when the investigation agent came around he went immediately to the motel operator and asked what was the character or reputation of these two professional girls and the motel operator says, Well, I don't think it's very good because RCMP have been there twice already. And as a result there was a very negative report filed. Mr. Speaker, I have also had a complaint from one of my constituents in The Pas and I haven't had the opportunity, like Maclean's Magazine, to investigate the nature of the problem, but his case sounds from his side of it very similar to the one quoted in Maclean's Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, I think one of the most important things that maybe the Attorney-General passed over in that excellent article, was the nature of the reporting, and the reporting can be very inaccurate. In that particular article I believe they've quoted some of the people that do the reporting. I know for example of a person in The Pas who was approached to be a reporter for a credit agency. He knew nothing about the job. They said, we'll pay you so much per report and you send it in, that's all there is to it. And he said, just think what you could do if you didn't like somebody. He turned down the job, you know, because of this possibility. In this particular article it mentions that the rate of pay for these people that do the reporting is not that good. In order to make a living at it, they have to really hustle to get the reports done. So on occasion they only interview one person, sometimes two people; on other occasions they telephone a couple of people; and occasionally they said they had to make it pay, not really do a report at all but make it up, make it up and submit it because otherwise they wouldn't have made a decent salary for that particular week.

Mr. Speaker, this is the very dangerous aspect of the credit reporting agencies and I'm sure the honourable members opposite who very recently have been very concerned about the idea of freedom would see that this is a very deep invasion of a person's freedom and of a person's privacy. So, Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased that we've been able to come forward with this progressive legislation and to protect individuals in this province from the problems related to the credit investigating agencies. Thank you.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, by way of information, Votes and Proceedings this afternoon will have three bills in addition to the one that I had mentioned going on the Order Paper. One of them I have already put aside and it will not be introduced. Another one I'm looking into seeing why it was introduced; and the third one, the Municipal Tax Deferral Act, the Minister originally thought he could move as an amendment to other bills which were before the House, so that one is an extra bill. As I've indicated, one will not be introduced, The Public Libraries Act, and the other municipal act is being looked at. As I indicated, I thought there would be only one more which is the Mining Royalty and Tax Act, that is there; the other three we are trying to deal with so that they - only one at this point is certain to be introduced.

MR. SPEAKER: Second readings. Government Bills. Bill No. 123. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, may I have leave to have this matter stand. (Agreed)

MR. MACKLING presented Bill No. 126, an Act to amend The Real Property Act, for second reading.

MR SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 126 in some respects provides a measure of housekeeping in respect to certain administrative functions of the Land Titles system. There are, however, some changes in principle, and I'll endeavour to briefly indicate the nature of the changes. There are provisions that would return the system that had been in existence prior to a 1968 amendment in respect to registration of postponements of rights under The Land Titles system. Apparently the amendment that was introduced in 1968 really confused the system, so that this does return a measure of clarity that had existed heretofore in respect to the registration of these certain documents.

The bill further provides for the approval of certain plans by the Director of Planning of the Metro Corporation. These are plans which do not dedicate any land to the public. In some cases outline plans showing the streets, lanes and public areas have already been filed and a large block shown on the plan are subdivided by a later plan once the lot sizes are required by

(MR. MACKLING cont'd.) the builder have been established. It should not be necessary for a later plan to be approved by resolution of council.

Mr. Speaker, the bill further provides for the preparation of plot plans from existing records. This is designed to simplify the present lengthy metes and bounds descriptions. The description of the plan will be easier to interpret, and the special plan can also form the basis of area plans for title index and other purposes. It can also reduce the material to be handled in the event of computer use, as well as to facilitate reference to a parcel for searching purposes. I remind honourable members that some time ago I indicated that - I think it was during the course of my estimates - that we are actively pursuing the probability and possibility of programming by computer for Land Titles purposes.

Further provisions permit a District Registrar to require the filing of a plan where there are a number of parcels being transformed out by metes and bounds. In order to give the planning authorities more control it is provided that all such explanatory plans should be approved by the local authority and also that there shall only be allowed one building lot on each parcel; and after that a plan of subdivision is required.

The bill further provides for the filing of a plan without a survey on the ground in certain special circumstances. The Highways Branch have experienced difficulty on occasion when dealing with a portion of a road which is already clearly defined on the ground, yet being required to certify that another survey has been made.

The amendment provided in the bill has been approved in principle by Mr. Roberts, the Director of Surveys Department of Mines and Resources. It is recognized that in certain cases plans on Crown lands should comply with the requirements of the Real Property Act.

A further amendment is necessary to take care of the fact that under the revised tariff the total fees in some cases will not be sufficient to pay one-quarter of one percent required under the old section. That's into the assurance fund. A further section will bring the Manitoba Real Property Act in line with the provisions of the Alberta and Saskatchewan Act with respect to liability for certain corporate acts. It will enable the District Registrars to eliminate the present requirement for filing corporate by-laws and resolutions with respect to each individual transaction.

I think, Mr. Speaker, those are the highlights of what in effect is a housekeeping bill designed to facilitate the better administration of The Land Titles Office systems.

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

MR. HARDY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Gladstone, that debate be adjourned.

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

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MR. MACKLING presented Bill No. 127, The Age of Majority Act, for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I heard one single voice saying "explain". Thank you very much. I also heard a voice saying "pass" and I trust that this legislation will pass with expedition. Someone says "sit down" - thank you very much for the invitation. However, now that I'm on my feet and have been invited, I will address a few remarks.

I think, Mr. Speaker, with all deference to the levity that we sometimes have in this House, this place of legislation does provide for a very important transition in the law affecting the lives of many thousands of people in this province and will have a very substantial impact in all segments of the society in the province and I trust that honourable members are reflecting very seriously on all of the impacts that it will have. As you know, Mr. Speaker, during the course of this session, this House accepted a Private Member's resolution, the resolution of the Honourable Member of Assiniboia; the vote on that measure as I understand, although I wasn't able to be in the House on that day - I would have voted in favour of it if I had - was 39 to 5. I was paired by the Honourable Member from Assiniboia and he was released because he knew that I would have voted in favour, so the vote would have been 40 to 5 on that day if it had been possible for me to have been here.

During the course of my remarks in respect to that resolution, I indicated the full extent of my support for the principle involved. In my remarks in speaking on the resolution, I did, Mr. Speaker, allude to the historical background of the fixing of the age of majority that is now in existence, and pointed out by reference to the study of the Latley Commission and Hansard has this misspelled as Lakely, and it's Latley, and that's probably my fault because my diction may not have been very clear. -- (Interjection) -- It wasn't that bad? That's good.

The Latley Commission in England made what I have already confirmed to have been, what in the eyes of many, was a very exhaustive study of the background and the principles involved in this whole question, and I would like to refer further to this report, Mr. Speaker.

On Page 20 and following of that Commission's report, they deal with the age of majority and the Commission points out the historical cause of the present age to be irrelevant. I would like to quote, starting from Page 46; "Grotesque as it may seem that the weight of the armour in the Eleventh Century should govern the age at which a couple can get a mortgage or married today, the historical background of a subject does not, of course, necessarily tell us anything one way or the other about its present usefulness." Section 47 of that report, and I quote: "What the history does show is that there is nothing particularly God given about the age of 21 as such and that things do change in the light of changing circumstances." In Section 50, they say: "The importance of looking closely at the historical picture seems to us to be this. Even this very brief survey does not suggest that there may be doubt as to how accurately the ages of 21, 15 or 25 ever really reflected the needs and maturity of young people, and if this is the case, it puts into a new perspective all the arguments about whether the young have radically changed since the existing law was formed. But our case for reconsidering the age of majority does not rest only on this. If the law has never matched the needs of the young very exactly, we do not feel that we need necessarily prove that the young have changed before we recommend a change in the law. The point is not whether the law fits young people better or worse than it once did, but whether it fits them as well as it should. Much more important than comparing today with yesterday is the straightforward task of observing the young as they actually are now."

I would like to say something about young people today. In some of the submissions to the Latley Commission which were opposed to the lowering of the age of majority to 18, it became very clear that the reason for their opposition was an inner irrational prejudice against young people per se. As the Latley Commission pointed out, there is a tendency in the press to sensationalize and to report fully the actions of an insignificant minority of young people which give the impression that their irresponsibility is the general mode of practice. Naturally because it is not news very little attention is paid to the responsible and constructive things that most young people do. Many older people often equate delinquency with such irrelevancies as bright clothes, long hair, a love of pop music and so on. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I think that the modern music of our present young people in their generation has more love, has more love and sincerity and honesty than in many of the decades that existed before; and I say it's a challenge to our society that we can respect and admire. There's far too much, Mr.

(MR. MACKLING cont'd.) Speaker, far, far too much, Mr. Speaker, of the criticism of young people today. In earlier remarks in this House and outside of this House, I've commented upon the studies that have been made, for example, by the juvenile section of the City of Winnipeg Police and they found that it was less than nine out of a hundred, a very very small percentage that had any contact at all with the police or authorities - any contact at all; not just delinquencies, any contact - and yet to hear some people speak and to hear so-called enlightened people talk about young people, they think that our young people are running wild. I say, Mr. Speaker, that these sort of comments are ridiculous and do great disservice to the overwhelming, the overwhelming number of young people who are responsible, much more attuned to the responsibilities of the age than previous generations. -- (Interjection) -- It is true. I would like to debate at length anyone who wants to provide carping criticism of the activities of young people in our generation. They believe, Mr. Speaker, they believe, Mr. Speaker, in wearing garments that are comfortable, garments that are comfortable, and I say that this makes sense. I for one, I for one, object to men's styles that would cramp us in tight fitting trousers, in abnormal dress. I think this is as much or more abnormal than the young people's rejection and wearing of comfortable, loose fitting clothing.

The bulk of the evidence, Mr. Speaker, before the Latley Commission from various groups including business and professional associations led the commission to come to the conclusion that if anything young people are much more responsible now than they were in the past. This is the evidence that was prepared by a commission of responsible people that was conducted during the course of two years in England. They also added in Section 71 that they felt extremely strongly that to keep responsibility from those who are ready and able to take it on is much more likely to make them irresponsible than to help them. I think, Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Minister of Transportation wants to speak later on this bill I will invite him to do so . . .

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Transportation) (Thompson): I was just trying to help you out.

MR. MACKLING: . . . because I would like nothing better than to be able to, you know, publicly argue against any proposition that he is suggesting that I'm not quite certain of. -- (Interjection) -- Well, I'll invite the comments of the Member from Rhineland as well, and I hope that he does participate in the debate on this bill.

Quoting further from the report in Section 89 of the Latley Commission, they say: "The balance of our evidence leads us to believe that the withholding of responsibility from people of a responsible age could be a factor in making them anti-social; it could not be a factor in making them significantly better behaved. Whatever legislation follows this report the problem of juvenile delinquency will remain, but we must not legislate merely for a fistful of felons but for the vast majority of young people, some of whom may perhaps be helped to stay on the right side of the law by being treated as sensible people."

Mr. Speaker, the Commission received recommendations to not only maintain the age of 21 but also to raise it above 21, to lower it to 19 and to lower it to 18. The case -- (Interjection) -- Well, if the Honourable Minister of Transport wishes to make an amendment to this bill in Law Amendments Committee to 17, I think he has every right to do so and I wouldn't discourage him.

In respect to the case for raising the age of majority above 21, the Commission received one piece of evidence advocating this. To quote the Commission, and this is in a two year study, and I quote -- this is the Latley Commission in England that Lord Gardiner was head of. "Its laconic splendor should not be lost to history." This is the one submission that the age of majority should be increased to over 21, and this is one submission that the Commission received from the whole of England and they say - and I'd like to repeat this: "Its laconic splendor should not be lost to history." Written from a London club, signature indecipherable, it reads in its entirety: "Sir, re age of majority, 21 is wrong; 50 is right. Verb. sap. Yours faithfully" -- (Interjection) -- Yes, that's right, that's from a London club. I don't know what club, they didn't indicate.

The case for over 20, they indicate a very few of those recommending lowering the age suggested that it be lowered to 20. On examining the evidence presented to the Commission, they came to the conclusion that although some of the arguments were closely reasoned and admirably thought out, they were exactly the same arguments which were used to keep the age at 21.

Dealing with the case for the age majority at 19, they said that the case made was a strong

(MR. MACKLING cont'd.) one. They evidently tried -- (Interjection) -- Oh yes, Social Credit seemed to like this. They evidently tried quite hard in considering this age to rid their minds of any preconceived preference for 18 merely because this is the age that mainly crops up in public discussion, and 19 came a clear second to 18 which was their final choice. The advantages of 19 are these, and quoting from the report, "We are sure that by 19 the vast majority of young people are ready for the full rights and responsibility of adulthood. At 18 there must inevitably be more who are not yet ready, though admittedly only a minority. Although the evidence shows decisively that the current age of majority is too high for many purposes, this is a sensitive, delicate and difficult area in which we think it is impossible to produce absolute scientific proof of the superiority of 19 to 18 or vice versa."

The case for age at 18 as adduced by the Latley Commission have already I think been set out, Mr. Speaker, in my remarks, but to summarize:

"(1) There is undeniably a great increase of maturity towards that age.

"(2) The vast majority of young people are in fact running their own lives, making their own decisions and behaving as responsible adults by the time they are 18.

"(3) Those are witnesses¹⁴ and I'm referring to the Latley Commission - "who seem most closely in touch with the young, favoured 18 as the age at which it was not only safe to give responsibility, but" - I underline this, Mr. Speaker - "but undesirable if not dangerous to withhold it.

"(4) This is the age at which, on the whole, the young themselves" - and this is important - "the young themselves seem to reckon themselves of age. Some of their arguments may not be sound and we have already said that popular preconception was not influencing us more than we could help. Nevertheless, this was a point which weighed with us. We felt that an important factor in coming of age is the conviction that you are now on your own, ready to stand on your own feet and take your weight off the aching corns of your parents, fully responsible for the consequences of your own actions."

Mr. Speaker, the historical causes for 21 are not relevant in our contemporary society. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that most young people today mature earlier than in the past. Also, Mr. Speaker, by 18 most young people are ready for those responsibilities and rights and would greatly profit by them, as would the teaching authorities, the business community, the administration of justice and the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, the Latley Commission's conclusions, which I have enunciated, are the conclusions which I wholeheartedly accept. I think I have indicated, Mr. Speaker, many of the reasons why, in my earlier remarks, there is a watershed, there is a dividing line at age 18, and with all respect to those jurisdictions who have fixed 19 as the age of majority, it's just been a backing away because of uncertainty. The Latley Commission came out clearly in favour of 18 and the laws of England were so changed to provide for the age of 18. The Parliament of Canada is now considering changing the Election Act to provide for election at age 18 and voting at age 18. We are moving, Mr. Speaker, to now bring our laws in tune with the greater responsibility that is being accepted by our young people and I think that it's high time that we accepted this legislation and hopefully it will pass with the unanimous endorsement of all members of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Would the honourable member answer a question?

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps the Honourable Minister could answer the honourable member's question at the conclusion of debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I'll accept questions at any time. If leave is necessary, I think leave can be given that the question can be asked and the answer given without closing debate.

MR. SPEAKER: May I remind the Honourable Minister we are not in Committee of the Whole.

MR. MACKLING: I know, I know, Mr. Speaker, by leave.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. My question is since he's so convinced that the people at 18 are responsible, and probably they are, do you not believe that then they should be able to negotiate student loans to carry on rather than to be supported through the public

(MR. HENDERSON cont'd.) purse in the way of welfare and this program like we spoke about yesterday. Do you not believe they should be able to make loans?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I really believe that this is a debating point which should be properly put at the debating point. I don't think that we should let happen what happened yesterday, that it becomes a debate and a cross-examination of the Minister.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, now that the question has been asked however, I want to just briefly answer it.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with the Honourable House Leader. Are you ready for the question?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, by leave, the question has been asked.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: On a point of order, leave was given and I think we should follow it through.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave was given for asking a question. The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR (Virden): I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Wolseley, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on second reading on the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Government Services, Bill No. 116. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I beg the indulgence of the House to have this matter stand. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Second readings, government bills. No. 130. The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. GREEN: Stand. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 133. The Honourable . . .

MR. GREEN: Stand. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 132, The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I'm not really ready to speak on it. However, since the other Ministers are absent, I'll make you a few brief comments. It's a type of bill that will be discussed further on and I'll simply say . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. There's no motion before the House.

MR. BOROWSKI presented Bill No. 132, an Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act (2), for second reading. (Referred to Law Amendments Committee)

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, as I said a moment ago, I wasn't quite ready but I will briefly deal with the contents of the bill and I'm sure we'll have an opportunity to discuss it at another time.

The majority of the items in the amendment are housekeeping. There are, however, 12 basic changes which I think are important, that are going to have an impact on the people that this legislation deals with.

The first one is legislation dealing with farm trucks and I think I indicated at that time that the problem we face now is that certain commercial firms and contractors can buy a farm truck licence and they use it for commercial purposes and they also use purple gas, so what we are going to do in this legislation is define a farmer. Up to the present time a truck was defined which was just not adequate, so this bill is going to define a farmer which will cut the abuse and the skulduggery that's been going on in this area.

There is going to be another section of the bill which deals with probationary licences which was dealt with at some length in the last week. I think the press had a fairly good story on it. We are bringing in a new system where new drivers, which we find by statistics are involved -- 33 percent are involved in an accident the first year they drive. Now this is a pretty shocking figure, and when I first seen it I found it difficult to believe. I heard the insurance companies say for many years that the young drivers are the worst offenders and therefore they should sock it to them insurance-wise. At that time I felt that this was a gimmick the insurance companies were using to simply load on high premiums.

However, looking at these statistics, I think that the insurance companies had some valid reason for putting higher premiums on the young drivers and particularly drivers in the 16 to

(MR. BOROWSKI cont'd.) 18 group, and perhaps this is one of the reasons that I disagree with the Attorney-General when he keeps preaching about how responsible the kids are today. The fact of the matter is that in every field that you look in you'll find that the kids today are not as responsible as he would have us believe and the accident statistics clearly show that when they get behind the wheel they are the most irresponsible group on the highway. And you can argue all you like, the statistics are there and if you want to say they are full of beans, those statisticians, you can say it; I accept their figures.

So the probationary licence is going to be a licence for one year, and in the course of that year that driver, that new driver will know that if he has a moving traffic violation he will be subject to automatic cancellation of the licence for up to one year. So in effect it will give them an incentive - the opposition talks about an insurance incentive, this will give them an incentive to develop good driving habits in that one year, because he will know that if he is involved in one accident or one violation that he is going to walk, to be a pedestrian for the next twelve months. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, if it's his fault. He is going to think twice before he makes a silly move or starts going 80 miles an hour or drinking when he's driving.

It is our hope that this one year will be an orientation period in which time they will develop good driving habits, and statistics again show that after they get through that critical one year that they become fairly safe drivers. I think you might compare this to a honeymoon - you know, things change after a year. So it's our hope that this legislation will cut down the fatalities and the accidents in an area which is not only large but is growing every year.

-- (Interjection) -- Well, you can probably call it a trial marriage, and it's one that I hope will be more successful. -- (Interjection) -- Bill 132. Well, I don't know the paragraph, you'll have to look it up yourself.

There are 12 basic changes in the Act that I think are important. The one that I've just listed, the probationary licences is one of them.

Another one is requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets. Now I know some members on the opposite side, when they were in office, they thought it a terrific idea because they had the bill on the Order Paper and I believe it was discussed in the House on two occasions. When I sat in the opposition for a brief time I recall that Mr. McLean, the previous Minister, had this bill and I believe I even argued in Law Amendments that this was a good thing. I recall some of the members that are opposed to it now were in favour of it at that time, and I hope when we get to Law Amendments, I have gathered over the past few months sufficient statistics that I hope, after they are put on the table, that they will convince most of the members of the House, including some reluctant members on this side, that they will realize that there is really a good case to have helmets made compulsory in Manitoba.

Another provision deals with an escalating penalty for overweight. At the present time we have what I consider a licence to steal. We have truckers that overload their trucks and when they come before a judge they pay an insulting \$25.00 fine, which is really more than a licence to steal. We have had a situation in Thompson where a trucker was overloaded 22,000 pounds. His extra earnings as a result of the overweight were \$31.50. He got called before a judge, he paid \$25.00 - \$4.50 fine. He still made \$2.00 and you're lucky if you catch him once a month, you're very lucky and he makes about ten loads a day. So you can see that the present system really encourages people to violate the law. These truckers that are doing this are responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to our highways and I suppose when we hear of bridges collapsing or breaking down long before their expected period that you could probably chalk this up to truckers who overloaded on these bridges. There's no way of proving it but our engineers feel that if a bridge gives out in 15 years instead of lasting 25, they say you can fairly safely assume that it was overload trucks that caused deterioration and the breakdown of this bridge.

So the penalty we're going to be providing is the same as Saskatchewan and Ontario and that is three cents a pound -- (Interjection) -- And Ontario too. Good old Tory Ontario. They have the same legislation and I'm sure the former Minister of Highways would be the first one to appreciate a provision like that. He seems to think it's a kind of a joke, but it's very serious legislation and going to protect the highways that you and I and everybody else is paying for, this year to the tune of \$58 million or thereabouts.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, . . . interrupt the Honourable First Minister. In presentation of his bill he makes reference to something a joke -- or the Minister. There were specific things in the bill which I'll speak to him about later on.

MR. BOROWSKI: Thank you for promoting me to the First Minister. Mr. Speaker, I don't think I'll ever reach that point. Another escalating clause is being put in for speeders . . .

MR. WALLY JOHANNSON (St. Matthews): You never know . . .

MR. BOROWSKI: Not unless the insurance agents are successful in doing away with the First Minister. There's an escalator clause put in for speeders and I think there was a fairly descriptive cartoon in the Free Press about three months ago where it showed the fine based on five limit intervals, and I think as it's set up in the Act the first five miles is \$1.00 per mile; the second five miles is \$2.00 per mile and each additional is three, five, eight and ten, so if you're going 100 miles an hour you're going to pay your regular fine, whatever the judge in his wisdom or lack of decides, and then you will pay the per mile fine, which could come to a couple of hundred dollars, and I think this again is an incentive for drivers to drive sensibly. Ontario has it. They put the legislation in about a year ago I believe and they say it's working very nicely. -- (Interjection) -- That's a very good point of the Member for Churchill who asked the question. Again seeing the statistics - not from the politicians, I wouldn't take their word in anything - but people who are in the business of safety, highway safety, will tell you that speed kills and I think if you had governors put on the cars at 60 miles which is the legal limit, that we as legislators agree is the limit, I think you'd find there would be a tremendous decrease in accidents, certainly in fatalities, because even though you do have an accident, if you get an accident at 30 miles an hour you may get a scratch; if you get in an accident at 60 miles or 90 miles the chances are you'll be dead. So there's no question that speed kills. But I can't tell the car manufacturers that they mustn't put in 400 horsepower motors and cars that can go 150 miles an hour. It will be up to Ottawa. Unfortunately a lot of the problems that we have to live with are really the responsibility and within the jurisdiction of Ottawa.

One other section in there prohibits garages from repairing vehicles that don't display a sticker. I spoke to the Minister of Highways in Alberta and he says it works very well there. They've had a rash -- I shouldn't say a rash, I suppose we all face that problem where hit and run drivers can go to a garage and they can fix the car up, slip the garageman a few dollars and says don't tell anybody about it and he drives off. The present system is if you're involved in an accident the police have stickers on hand and they slap a sticker on your windshield which indicates that the accident is recorded; and if there is no police then of course it's up to the individual which he must by law in any case report the accident if it's over a certain price tag, I think a \$100.00 is the limit. If it's under \$100.00 of course he doesn't have to. So it's up to him to go to the Registrar, to one of our offices or to the police, make the report and they will put the sticker on his windshield. When he goes into the garage the garage knows that the accident is not a hit and run, that it's been reported. There is an onus on the garage keeper in this case, in other words he must be satisfied that the vehicle or the accident has been reported and if he fixes that vehicle and gets caught he's in trouble himself.

Another amendment to the Act deals with doctors and optometrists reporting to the Registrar people who they feel shouldn't be driving. I've had discussions with both groups and my initial reaction was, when I discussed it with the Registrar, we should compel them to tell the Registrar that that man is physically unfit to drive. He may have a blackout at any time thereby causing an accident. The doctors assured us it wasn't necessary, that they were as concerned as we were about the fatalities on the highways and accidents, and that they would like us to pass permissive legislation and they would co-operate. I indicated at that time that we will do this on the understanding that if there is an inclination on the part of too many doctors that will not co-operate then a year from now we will consider putting in compulsory legislation compelling the doctors to report to the Registrar that that patient of his is just not fit to drive. The other reason they wanted this in the Act is at the present time some doctors do report but they're always living in the fear that the patient may sue, there's a breach of confidentiality, and he says we would like the protection from the Legislature. If you want us to help you we would like you to help us, to protect us from some person that may be angry that he lost his licence because of what a doctor said. He said pass the legislation so nobody could sue us, so this is going to protect the doctor.

There is legislation concerning hovercraft and as I indicated yesterday it's not worth too much. You can read it in the Act and if anybody wants to make some amendments or changes in it, he'll have an opportunity.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): What's the speed limit?

MR. BOROWSKI: Well you'll have to read the Act to find that out. -- (Interjection) -- That's probably too fast for him.

Standards for vehicles and replacement parts. This again is legislation that we have in other jurisdictions and this will do away with garages using junk material or inferior material, worn parts. I think some garages have a habit of when they take a car on a trade-in, some jalopy, and they'll take some parts which they consider are good and they'll put it into another car and charge the person the full fee. This legislation lays down standards that they must follow. I believe the Federal Government has legislation that will come into force this year that will deal with this very same matter. Tires must be marked as retreads or recaps. This isn't what the resolution of the Member for Roblin asked for, that there should be a standard set up for tires. I would love to set up that standard. The Federal Government is passing a bill, C-137 I believe, which will deal with the matter and it can only be dealt with at the federal level. However retreads and recaps we can deal with and it's dealt with in the bill.

Another important piece of legislation is the impoundment of motor vehicles upon conviction for driving while suspended. We have at the present time under three sections of the Criminal Code that you can impound vehicles, which I don't think are fair. For example, if you're caught running moonshine you can have your vehicle impounded and I've never really considered homebrew making or running a serious offense. Yet they -- (Interjection) -- This is the way they built this country and I see nothing wrong with it. However, the law is that they can impound these vehicles -- and this will help our grain situation and surplus situation. They can impound, in fact do impound vehicles. They impound vehicles for a person out at night hunting with a light. He may not shoot anything, simply may have a loaded gun as in the case of four people at Dauphin about three years ago, where they're out in the middle of the night with a light and they had guns in their hands. They were caught by the games branch, their vehicle and guns were impounded and they were subject to a very high fine. Now it seems to me it doesn't bother our conscience to impound that vehicle and their guns and put a high fine, I don't think it should bother our conscience if we grab these irresponsible people who have lost their driving privileges and who will take the car and drive in any case. So in the Act it provides that if a person caught driving a car while his licence is suspended the car will be impounded for the time the suspension lasts, whether it's three months or six months.

The last part of the legislation which I think is important and I hope we can deal with it quickly so we can get on the road with our program, deals with vehicle inspection, the 16,000 vehicles that we'll be selecting by computer for compulsory testing this summer. We have our men and our machines and equipment ready, all we have to do is pass the legislation and they will be in high gear across Manitoba checking vehicles. While this thing here will be picked by computer I have indicated that the members of the Legislature and Mayor of the City of Winnipeg, his councillors and Metro will be asked to bring in their cars on a voluntary basis. This will be a kind of an indication that they think it's a good program and they don't mind subjecting themselves even though their cars weren't called in. The question was asked whether we could handle buses. I understand that buses or trucks, big trucks, cannot be inspected, for the simple reason that the equipment we have is not the type of equipment that can check out buses and large trucks.

Mr. Speaker, this is the twelve important points of this bill and when we get into clause by clause study I'm sure there will be many questions and other ones that I don't think are important but maybe the members on the other side or on this side will think are important, at which time of course we can discuss in detail.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, in looking over the contents of this bill one could hardly, one could hardly apply to it a general principle. So if you're talking about discussing the principle of a bill it's pretty hard to find one in this legislation. It is an accumulation of amendments to the existing Highway Traffic Act which encompass a wide variety of changes from how a farmer should paint the name on the side of his truck to the wearing of helmets for motorcyclists. It would be extremely difficult to pick out any singular point in the bill upon which one could attach a principle; unless, Sir, one could say that there is a recurring theme throughout the entire bill and that is the one dealing with penalties. There are eight in all changes in the penalty sections of The Highway Traffic Act. I'm not going to be so unfair as to say that they all are asking for changes upward in the amount of the penalty because that is not the case. There are some changes that are actually down, graded down, and others that are

(MR. JORGENSEN con t'd.) graduated and I'm not disagreeing at all with the proposed changes. There are a number of questions, however, that one would naturally want to raise in looking over the proposed amendments, questions as to the reasons why, the motivation behind a good many of the amendments that are being proposed. It is one of those bills, Sir, that to me would show the desirability of having attached to the bill on one side of the page an explanatory note as to the reasons for the amendment and how the amendments fit in with the particular clauses that are being amended. I have made this suggestion before. I think it's one that would facilitate and expedite the passages of bills, particularly those bills that are amending through this Chamber. I don't think that it's necessary in a new piece of legislation but I do think it is a desirable practice that could be followed in bills to amend existing statutes and I hope that the government will give consideration to following that practice.

Now, Sir, I note with interest the continuing battle that goes on between the Minister of Transportation and the Attorney-General. This always provides for some enjoyment on the part of members on this side of the House to listen to this conflict that seems to recur all too frequently. Last night we had a pretty good example of that conflict and we were hoping that we would save any further discussion of that nature for the late show tonight, which I understand, Sir, the Manitoba Hotel Association are going to ask to pick up the rights to sponsor for the late show.

MR. BOROWSKI: You'll be the leading star.

MR. JORGENSEN: One other interesting comment that the Minister made was he was going to attempt to get rid of the "skulduggery" was the word he used. I noted that the Minister of Finance had nothing to say about that, he took serious objection to a similar remark made by the Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. USKIW: That was different.

MR. JORGENSEN: That was different, of course, the Minister of Agriculture says. When it comes from this side of the House it's wrong, but I'd be interested in knowing what the Minister of Transportation means by the word "skulduggery". I know that there is a difficulty and I was wondering -- I was wondering if the Minister and his department had not given consideration to the possibility of permitting farmers the right to use their trucks on construction projects. Now if the members will bear with me for a moment I'll explain just exactly what I mean. A good many farmers, particularly those who do not have large acreages do own trucks that from time to time they make available for various projects. By having a farm licence this pretty well disqualifies them from using those farm trucks on construction projects. At the same time there are a good many cases where contractors would like to get the use of a farm truck or to get the use of whatever truck may be available and yet we have this difficulty in those people who own fleets of trucks who are compelled to use regular gas rather than purple gas, objecting very seriously, and legitimately, objecting to the use of farm trucks for these projects.

I was wondering if there is not a possibility that for particular projects a temporary licence or a conditional licence or whatever you want to call it could be given to a farmer to employ his truck on a particular construction project or for a particular season of the year, a licence that could be renewed and be attached to his existing farm truck licence. I want the Minister to have a look into the possibility of that sort of an arrangement to be made to enable many farmers who attempt to supplement their income by using their farm trucks for those purposes.

I might say to the Minister that in looking over many of the sections of the Act we can come into agreement and say that most of the sections of the Act are very desirable amendments, very desirable changes in the light of changing circumstances. I would point out to him however that one section of the Act which I will oppose, and I think most members on this side of the House will oppose, is the one that he mentioned dealing with the compulsory wearing of motorcycle helmets. And he mentioned this, that the bill was introduced last year by the then Minister of Transportation and was supported by many members on this side of the House. Well, I think that's fair to say, it's a fair comment, but after hearing the representation from the representatives of the motorcycle groups in this province, I've come to the conclusion that they have a far better case than the Minister and I think we can tell him in advance that we're going to oppose that particular section of the bill, but that of course does not mean that we're going to oppose this bill now proceeding to the committee for examination.

I might ask the Minister however, because of any complicated sections in this Act, ask

(MR. JORGENSON cont'd.) him if it would be possible - because I intend to get an explanation on every section, and there are a good many of them that I would like explanations on - I wonder if it would be possible for him to have someone from his department at the committee when this bill is before the committee to make sure that the reasons for the changes that are being proposed are explained in such a way that most members of this House can have a fair understanding of what is happening if the sections of this bill are being adopted. I would hope that the Minister would agree to having someone from his department there to give those explanations. It's not that I don't think that the Minister is capable of giving those explanations himself, but he may not be quite familiar with the reasons for the changes in the first place. They come from many sources that even the Minister himself is not aware of.

So I hope that he will give consideration to having someone from his department before the committee so that when the bill is being discussed in committee we will have an opportunity of getting the answers to a good many of the questions that I am sure that members on this side of the House will want to ask in connection with this legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 134. The Honourable the First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER presented Bill No. 134, an Act to amend The Election Act (2), for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that in the past decade and more there has been mounting concern in North America about the rising costs of electioneering and the election process generally, and from time to time it is possible to read of different proposals being put forward by different elected representatives, be they members of Parliament or Congressmen in the United States, proposals being put forward as to realistic and effective ways of limiting the amount that can be allowed or would be allowed for electioneering purposes, but thus far there seems to be relatively ineffective means on the statute books of doing just that.

I was very interested to read in the newspapers just a few days ago that one of the federal members of Parliament, a Conservative, a former Cabinet Minister, Mr. George Hees, did have a number of pointed things to say about the escalating costs of electioneering in Canada, and he came forward in his case with a proposal that there be a statutory limitation in the Elections Act of ten cents per elector allowable per party and per candidate. Mr. Speaker, I rather think that the specific proposal that this honourable gentleman put forward may not be realistic, but despite that I find it possible to agree certainly with the general intent and tenor of his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, we find also a second curious anomaly in Canada today relative to the question of election expenses. On the one hand everyone uses the catch phrase about democratic process, participatory democracy; everyone talks of the importance of seeking rational change to an orderly system; and yet on the other hand there are too many people in our country who distrust politics and distrust politicians, and I suspect that one of the reasons that there is that kind of distrust, both latent and/or open, is because for too long now we have had inadequate disclosure of the internal operations of political parties, the way in which they raise funds and the amount that they are allowed to expend in election campaigns. Therefore, one of the ways that we can hope to bring about some remedies of this undesirable situation is to try and reform our Election Act, particularly as it bears on the subject of the accountability of political parties and election committees, the revelation of their sources of funds and an accurate accounting of the disbursement and expenditure thereof.

It is time therefore, I suggest, for us to bring the practice of politics out of the nineteenth century and fully into the 1970's. That means that it is time that we take the affairs of political parties out of the back room and bring it out more into public view. It is almost ludicrous, for example, that under our present system a public corporation that manufactures widgets, or whatever it manufactures, is required to disclose more of its affairs than a political party which guides, or wishes to guide the destiny of the province or of the country, whichever the case may be.

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.)

So in Bill 134 we are proposing changes in Manitoba's Election Act to bring the affairs of political parties in our jurisdiction in Manitoba more into the open. At present Manitoba does have in its Election Act, does make some recognition of the role of the political party in the democratic process. I say that because curiously, still in many democratic jurisdictions there was no formal cognizance taken of political parties as such, and yet they are the important instrument in the democratic electoral process.

Under our present Election Act in Manitoba there is a limit set on how much the central office of a party can spend during an election campaign, and that limit under the present Act happens to be \$25,000. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that political parties in Manitoba - and I'm not pointing my finger at any political party in particular - have traditionally ignored the provisions of the Act during elections. The limit of \$25,000, which is a limit imposed by law in the Act, has not been lived with, it has not been -- the practices of parties have not been in accordance with this legal limitation. Therefore, we propose in the new Act that we intend to set realistic limits on election spending somewhat higher than they are now, but to add some teeth to the Act so that the provisions will be more effective and more likely to be enforced.

Mr. Speaker, it being 12:30, may I simply assume that I can carry on at the next sitting.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the First Minister will be able to continue when it next appears on the Order Paper. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Cultural Affairs, that the House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): . . . if the House Leader could indicate the procedure this afternoon.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it's the intention of the government to proceed with the motions on the Order Paper starting with Page 3 - 43, 17, etc. It's the intention to permit the Premier to finish his remarks on the last bill just spoken on.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 Wednesday afternoon.