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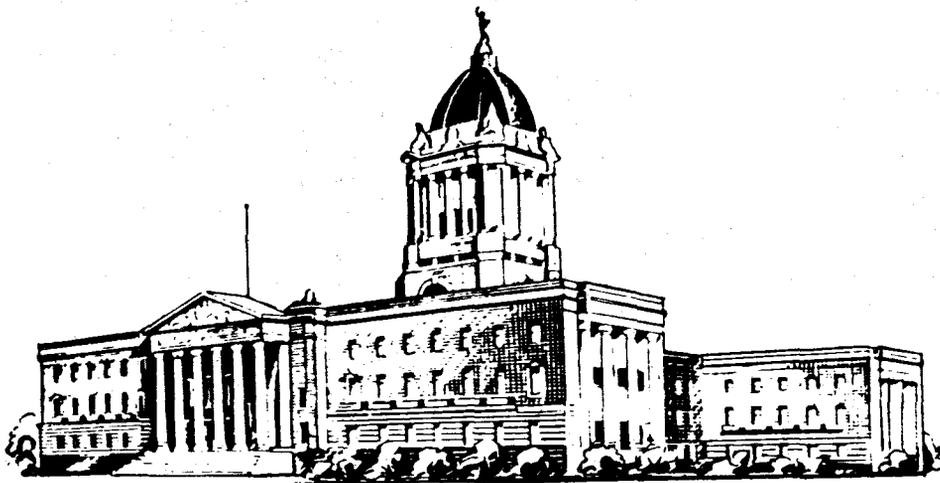


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

Speaker

The Honourable Ben Hanuschak



Vol. XVII No. 76 2:30 p.m., Thursday, May 14th, 1970. Second Session, 29th Legislature.

ELECTORAL DIVISION	NAME	ADDRESS
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	Reston, Manitoba
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	10 Red Robin Place, Winnipeg 12
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	Binscarth, Manitoba
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BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon, Man.
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	11 Aster Ave., Winnipeg 17
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg 20
CHURCHILL	Gordon Wilbert Beard	103 Copper Rd., Thompson, Man.
CRESCENTWOOD	Cy Gonick	115 Kingsway, Winnipeg 9
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtniak	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ELMWOOD	Russell J. Doern	104 Roberta Ave., Winnipeg 15
EMERSON	Gabriel Girard	25 Lomond Blvd., St. Boniface 6
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	Cranberry Portage, Manitoba
FORT GARRY	L. R. (Bud) Sherman	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg 9
FORT ROUGE	Mrs. Inez Trueman	179 Oxford St., Winnipeg 9
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.
GLADSTONE	James Robert Ferguson	Gladstone, Manitoba
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
KILDONAN	Peter Fox	627 Prince Rupert Ave., Winnipeg 15
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	Woodlands, Manitoba
LA VERENDRYE	Leonard A. Barkman	Box 130, Steinbach, Man.
LOGAN	William Jenkins	1287 Alexander Ave., Winnipeg 3
MINNEDOSA	Walter Weir	Room 250, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	Box 185, Morris, Man.
OSBORNE	Ian Turnbull	284 Wildwood Park, Winnipeg 19
PEMBINA	George Henderson	Manitou, Manitoba
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	361 Burrows Ave., Winnipeg 4
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Room 248, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RADISSON	Harry Shafransky	4 Maplehurst Rd., St. Boniface 6
RHINELAND	Jacob M. Froese	Box 40, Winkler, Manitoba
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	2 River Lane, Winnipeg 8
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	1516 Mathers Bay, West, Winnipeg 9
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	Inglis, Manitoba
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	Glenboro, Manitoba
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RUPERTSLAND	Jean Allard	119 Provencher Ave., St. Boniface 6
ST. BONIFACE	Laurent L. Desjardins	357 Des Meurons St., St. Boniface 6
ST. GEORGE	William Uruski	Box 629, Arborg, Manitoba
ST. JAMES	Hon. A. H. Mackling, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johansson	15 - 500 Burnell St., Winnipeg 10
ST. VITAL	J. A. Hardy	11 Glenlawn Ave., Winnipeg 8
STE. ROSE	Gildas Molgat	463 Kingston Crescent, Winnipeg 8
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SOURIS-KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	Nesbitt, Manitoba
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
STURGEON CREEK	Frank Johnston	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg 12
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	Swan River, Manitoba
THE PAS	Ron McBryde	56 Paul Ave., The Pas, Manitoba
THOMPSON	Hon. Joseph P. Borowski	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	Kenton, Manitoba
WELLINGTON	Hon. Philip Petursson	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
WINNIPEG CENTRE	J. R. (Bud) Boyce	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg 3
WOLSELEY	Leonard H. Claydon	116½ Sherbrook St., Winnipeg 1

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
2:30 o'clock, Thursday, May 14, 1970

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere) introduced Bill No. 85, an Act to amend The Consumer Protection Act.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet) introduced Bill No. 25, The Animal Diseases Act. (Recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.)

MR. THOMAS BARROW (Flin Flon) introduced Bill No. 73, an Act to amend The Flin Flon Charter.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At this point, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 100 Grade 11 students of the Steinbach Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. Art Reimer and Mr. Jake Epp. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

And 31 Grade 8 students of the St. John Brebeuf School. These students are under the direction of Sister Brenda Ann and Miss LaBossiere. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for River Heights.

And 26 Grade 6 students of the Ralph Brown School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Glendenning. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

On behalf of the members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you here this afternoon.

Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services.

STATEMENT

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Services)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to have leave to make a very short statement. (Agreed.) Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an announcement of public interest concerning the possibility of a mail stoppage during the month of May. We have reason to believe that if the stoppage occurs, it will take place during the latter part of May when we would normally mail out cheques relative to the Social Allowances, Blind and Disabled programs. The cheques relative to the above programs were mailed today, Thursday, May 14th, and should be in the hands of the recipients by Friday, May 15th. We have deemed this action necessary in order to ensure that the recipients are not required to go without funds. It is also very important to note that these cheques may not be cashed before the date indicated thereon. Cheques are accompanied by the notice informing recipients of this fact.

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

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition)(Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, if I may, I'd like to thank the Minister for his statement and commend him for taking the action that he has to see that the cheques go out. May I say that he's got more confidence in the mails than I have to say that a cheque mailed today would be delivered tomorrow, but that's his statement not mine, and I think he's done the right thing.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. I wonder whether he could indicate whether he has on file any facts or statistics prepared by consultants, either internally within the civil service or outside, which would justify the position of the government that a saving of 15 to 20 percent would be made on auto insurance being run by a government monopoly.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I understand the Minister of Finance told him not to answer that.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance)(St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, on a matter of privilege. I did not tell him not to answer it. I said I wouldn't answer it.

MR. WEIR: And I said the question wasn't asked of you.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, my request to the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, if he's not prepared to answer it, if he has such information would he be prepared to table it in the House so that we could review those figures ourselves?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Highways. Have the Indians in the north been able to keep pace with the bush clearing contract?

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Transportation)(Thompson): I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I couldn't hear.

MR. MOUG: Have the Indians in the north been able to keep up, keep pace with the bush clearing contract that they'd been awarded by the government?

MR. BOROWSKI: I'm happy to say they're ahead of schedule.

MR. MOUG: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that too. Do they do most of this work themselves or do they sub-contract some to contracting firms?

MR. BOROWSKI: With the exception of the Grand Rapids, which was given to the Indian Brotherhood, with that exception it is all done by hand.

MR. MOUG: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Do the Indians manage to get a full minimum wage out of this for their work?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I don't know why the sudden interest in the Indians by the members from the other side. The work is given on a piece work that is \$200.00 or \$100.00, \$180.00 per acre. Now some of them, I understand, have made as much as \$6.00 per hour depending on how they work. It's piece work and it's up to them how they work.

MR. MOUG: Mr. Speaker, there's an Indian school in my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable Minister of Labour or the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources - either one can answer. Could he confirm the fact that the Fish Marketing Processing Board has indicated that the fish processing plant will be located in the City of St. James rather than the City of Transcona?

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources)(Inkster): No, I can't confirm that, Mr. Speaker.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): I can't confirm it either.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question of the Honourable the Minister of Transportation. Could he inform us whether any action has been taken with regard to complaint of provincial roads 243, 421, and I've had repeated calls since then with respect to these roads and also roads 245 and 201. Has anything been done or will anything be done? Because these people are left stranded; they can't deliver their milk and the buses can't....

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I think I can answer the question. The member has brought it to my attention on several occasions personally, and I'm sorry to say that nothing has been done and nothing can be done. The roads are in such bad condition due to rain and recent snow that we can't even put graders on them. As a matter of fact, several communities are without bus service and will be until the roads dry up, and there's just nothing we can do about it.

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

MR. JACK HARDY (St. Vital): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Transportation. Can the Minister advise this Assembly as to when the starting date, or the contemplated date for compulsory vehicle inspections will be instituted?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I've had the bill in at Counsel for about two months, I guess, and it's a question of how soon they can get it into the House. As far as I'm concerned, we've been ready for two months and as soon as it gets on the Order Paper I hope that we'll pass it very quickly so we can start that program.

MR. HARDY: In fact then, Mr. Speaker, I gather from the Minister that the mechanics for this have in fact been set in motion.

MR. BOROWSKI: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question before the Orders of the Day is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. I wonder whether he can inform the House whether he's had an opportunity to have a personal conversation about unemployment and job difficulties in the province with the federal head of Manpower stationed in Winnipeg?

MR. CHERNIACK: By personal do you mean face to face or on the telephone?

MR. SPIVAK: I asked whether he had a personal conversation either over the telephone or face to face.

MR. CHERNIACK: I wouldn't answer that question.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Adjourned Debates. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Can the Minister confirm or deny that he is presently negotiating to buy a life insurance company and go into the life insurance business.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce)(Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I can categorically deny that this is so. I can categorically deny your suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the very serious nature of the weather conditions that appear to be going to have some effect on this Operation Lift insofar as the Federal Government is concerned, I'm wondering if the Minister has had any correspondence with the Federal Government in regard to probably making some changes insofar as the cover crop is concerned, namely the 15th of July, as I understand. It has to be either turned under or harvested.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is yes. I want to, while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, answer the Honourable Member for Rock Lake in answer to a question that he put to me yesterday dealing with ARDA funds being allocated to the development of Rock Lake. I want to say that there are no ARDA funds towards that particular area and the decision was made by the previous administration.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder whether he can confirm the fact that instructions have been given to one of the term employees in his department to study the possibility of a Crown corporation for life insurance in Manitoba, headed by a government or in which there is a government interest?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is making statements or asking a question which is really a matter of internal departmental business, and again, I'm continually amazed of the Member from River Height's imagination and perhaps nightmares that he may be having, I don't know. But I would repeat, Mr. Speaker, that this is departmental business.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In other words, while the Minister was capable of categorically denying the question of the Member from Assiniboia, you're not in a position to categorically deny this.

MR. SCHREYER: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Member for River Heights rose to his feet during the question period and started out with a choice of words that was clearly not in the interrogative vein, so he's out of order before he even started.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. Does the legislation presently before the House of Commons in Ottawa in connection with marketing boards, will that restrict the operation of the marketing boards in Manitoba, and does the federal legislation override provincial legislation in this respect?

MR. USKIW: I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the federal legislation is enabling legislation which permits the various commodity groups in Canada to enter into national marketing boards, but it is not something that is compulsory.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development. I wonder if the Minister can inform the House if it's true that either him or his department is in the process of purchasing, or has purchased, a large supply of hearing aids?

MR. TOUPIN: No, Mr. Speaker. I've purchased a few examples but not a large supply.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, is it the intention of the government to purchase a large supply of hearing aids?

MR. TOUPIN: This is a matter of policy that will be studied and the House will be informed in due course.

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

MR. HARDY: I'd like to direct this question to the Attorney-General, Mr. Speaker, thank you. Is it the intention of the Attorney-General to bring forward a clarification of the policy with respect to The Highway Traffic Act as it applies to minibikes and go-carts?

HON. AL. MACKLING, Q.C. (Attorney-General)(St. James): The Children's Toys Act, did you say? I didn't hear that.

MR. HARDY: You may have interpreted it that way.

MR. MACKLING: Well I think you'd better file an Order for Return on a question like that. That's a very important matter, I'm sure.

Mr. Speaker, while, however, I'm on my feet, there is a matter of some urgency that I indicated that I would advise the House as to when the Revised Statutes would be available, because I know it's a real inconvenience to be checking the printed Acts against references to the Revised Statutes. I'm assured that by about the middle of next week the Revised Statutes will be available for the members.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder whether he can confirm that he has instructed, either within his department or consultants hired by his department, of the determination of the feasibility of entering a provincial bank, the government entering into a provincial bank.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member from River Heights should know the answer to that because he is a member of the Committee on Economic Development, and the Committee on Economic Development - I believe it was on the motion of the Honourable Member from Rhineland - was, one of the major recommendations of the committee was that we should consider and look into the matter of a provincial bank. I'm a member of that committee and I hope to make a contribution in the discussion and the information supplied to that committee, and the honourable member knows darn well, therefore, what the answer is.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that the honourable member confirmed the answer and I would wonder whether he would indicate to the House who is doing the study for him.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that kind of question -- I recall of no precedent where that kind of question has been entertained because it's asking for information as to the internal operations of the administration.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'll phrase the question in such a way that I will not impinge on the rules. May I ask the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce whether he can inform the House whether the study is being made internally within the civil service, or consultants have been hired by the government?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I fail to see the relevance of the question. As long as we're providing the research for the committee, this is the most important matter that should be considered.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to pose a question, and the question happens to be a valid one and it happens to be a relevant one. -- (Interjection) -- Yes. Is the study being conducted by the Department internally or have consultants been hired by the Minister or by the Department in connection with this information?

MR. SPEAKER: . . . question previously.

MR. SPIVAK: But, Mr. Speaker, I did not receive an answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, but the question was put. Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Honourable the Minister of Government Services. Could the Honourable Minister provide the House with copies of the regulations of the Saskatchewan Automobile Insurance Plan so that we could have a better way of studying it. I don't think the library would have that many copies so that we could. . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, may I suggest to my honourable friend that I am not responsible for any regulations of the province of Saskatchewan, and if my honourable friend wants to do a little research he can find the answer possibly in our library here in Manitoba, or possibly he could ask the Leader of the government of Saskatchewan to provide him with them. I haven't them in my possession.

MR. FROESE: A supplementary question. If he cannot provide us with the Saskatchewan one, could he supply us with the Manitoba ones?

MR. PAULLEY: I would suggest to my honourable friend, yes, I would be prepared to supply my honourable friend with the regulations of the Province of Manitoba when they have been accepted, adopted by the Cabinet of the Province of Manitoba. There will be no hesitation on our part, Mr. Speaker, in providing the honourable friend with full information when such is available.

MR. FROESE: A further supplementary then. When will that be?

MR. PAULLEY: In due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I wonder if he could advise the people of Manitoba on the availability of federal money for the assistance of those who are seeking either temporary or permanent flood relief. I ask this question in view of the statements that have been reported, allegedly made by the MP, Mr. ...

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the honourable member has placed his question. It appears that he is now entering into debate.

MR. GIRARD: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would kindly ask me to explain.

MR. GREEN: Seeing as he's a nice guy, could you explain the question?

MR. GIRARD: Mr. Speaker, I ask this in view of the alleged statements made to the newspapers by the Member of Parliament Mr. Smerchanski. He advised the people of that area that is now flooded that there is federal money available and it simply depends on the asking for it. Maybe you have seen some of those reports.

MR. GREEN: I've seen no reports but I assure my honourable friend that we don't have to be prodded into asking for money. The whole question of flood compensation is now being dealt with. The regulation indicating the kind of compensation that will be available is very similar to last year's except it applies to different areas, and the department is now and has been discussing with federal authorities what contributions will be available for the compensation program.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Adjourned debates on second reading. The proposed motion of the Honourable -- the Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Can I just add, Mr. Speaker, that some time ago I was asked whether mink ranches would be able to fish the lakes that were prohibited for commercial fishing in order to feed their stock, which they've had the right to do from time to time. Now, without any guarantee as to what effect this will have on the mink, Mr. Speaker, there is a program which will enable these mink ranchers to get fish only for the purpose of feeding their mink, and with ample precautions taken that there be no other use of this fish. And anybody who wishes can get the information directly from the department.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Adjourned debates on second reading. The proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General. The Honourable Member from Fort Garry.

MR. BUD SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, in adjourning this debate at the time I did, Mr. Speaker, I did so for the purposes of familiarizing myself with the contents of the proposed legislation and checking out one or two aspects in which I had specific interest. I find, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues and I are in agreement with the position the government is taking on this particular legislation. We have no criticism or objections to the proposal and we're prepared to see the House proceed with the passage of the bill, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, we too in our group have no opposition to this bill. We are prepared to pass it, let it go into committee so we can hear any representation on it. I think it's just a streamlining and updating the legislation in respect to the trust companies which I understand has been in process and as a result of the problems that they had in Ontario; I think this has been in the process for the last couple of years and in that respect we agree with the legislation.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I had adjourned the bill for a colleague and I thought that he had wished to speak upon it. I find that on his return

(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd.). . . . from a day's absence that he had spoken and had endorsed the bill, and I'll let it pass at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Labour, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When this bill was first introduced, my preliminary reactions to this bill were quite favourable. However, in the past week a meeting was held in my constituency to discuss the veterinary services, and the feeling of the community was such that there was not unanimity on this question, and while we realize that the bill is permissive, I think that probably the government could do much in the line of informing the farmers of the contents of this bill as all of Manitoba is not in the live-stock industry. Some areas are predominantly grain growing, some are mixed, and some are predominantly livestock.

I think the main reason for the introduction of this bill was a growing concern by all people regarding the steadily declining number of veterinarians in the province of Manitoba. I believe we now have 26 in Manitoba when we used to have almost double that number. This is of great concern to those that have livestock, but also, if this bill is implemented and the establishment of veterinary clinics becomes a reality, those farmers that have cattle, sick cattle, become increasingly concerned that they may not be able to move those cattle to the clinics, and because of the activity of the clinics it will be almost impossible to move the veterinarians to the cattle. This, they feel, might cause a further deterioration in the veterinary services that are already limited in the province. So I would ask the Minister to consider this question seriously and perhaps more discussion in the communities should be forthcoming before further action is taken on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I just want to rise to answer some of the questions that have been put by the various speakers. The Member for Arthur had questioned about the capital cost of the veterinarian clinics that will be established throughout the province. It's estimated that the capital cost of each clinic will be some \$15,000. The operating costs will be about \$10,000 per year. The province is going to pick up the entire capital cost of the building, the facilities, and will share equally with the districts the operating costs, up to a maximum of \$5,000 a district.

The question of licensing of technicians was raised. This is something that I've been advised is at least two years away although there is some work being done in that direction, but it is not something that is going to be accomplished over night.

The question of a satellite operation in one or two other areas of Manitoba has been raised by the Member for Arthur as well, and I want to point out to him that that is not going to be necessary once we have established throughout Manitoba the 30 clinics that we feel will adequately serve the rural communities. In essence, they will become the satellite clinics of the main centre, and that being the vet clinic in Winnipeg at the University campus grounds.

It has been asked by members opposite what the reaction of municipalities was. I want to say that it's very positive; that our problem is not selling the idea of clinics, our problem is meeting the demand that we face in the first year of operation. It seems that there is a rush for the establishment of these clinics throughout the province, and I'm convinced at this point, Mr. Speaker, that we will not be able to meet that demand in this current year due to our budgetary provisions. It is intended that within some five years we will have the program completed, but in this particular year I expect some nine districts to establish clinics in the province of Manitoba.

The Member for Rhineland raised the question about raising the municipal share through assessments. It's a fair question, although it is not a departure from past practice. I want to say that that has been the formula through which the municipalities have been raising their funds under the old scheme.

What is the budget of a clinic? Of course, that can be determined by the district and will vary from one area to another depending on the amount of services required in that area

(MR. USKIW cont'd.) . . . . and the amount of veterinarians that will be working out of one clinic. And logically, Mr. Speaker, it will be determined by the cattle or livestock population in a given district.

Is there a schedule of fees? Again, this is a question that will be determined as between the districts and the veterinarians, and dependent of course on the contract which they enter into and the kind of a plan that they enter into. As you know, there are three options. So there is no one standard formula. Each district will develop its own program and each district will be entitled to the basic provincial grants as they apply.

I think that pretty well covers the problem. The Member for Birtle-Russell raised the question of whether the veterinarian will be able to get out to the farm to treat animals. I have to say that I don't see any reason why that won't be possible under any of these plans, in particular the broadest plan that is offered, simply because there will be a fee schedule that will establish a fee per hour within the clinic and a fee per hour outside the clinic, and that the farmer himself will choose just what particular system he wants to use, whether he wants the veterinarian to drive out to his farm or whether he's prepared to bring his problem to the clinic. That will be an optional thing and the choice will be the user's choice, really. So I think that covers all the questions, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable Minister would permit a question? He refers to the satellite service centres as perhaps being substituted by the ordinary vet setups. Does the Minister not agree that a satellite service centre, if suitably equipped, would cost far beyond the regular \$15,000 that he was speaking of - capital cost.

MR. USKIW: Well of course, Mr. Speaker, it depends on the kind of a centre one is talking about. We feel that with the expenditure of some \$2 million in the main vet lab facilities in Winnipeg, that that in itself will be -- it will be possible to accommodate all the needs of the 30 clinics through that facility, and that the clinics themselves will have some facilities to analyze and test and so forth, so that there is no real need for any expansion of the kind of facilities that we are building in the city of Winnipeg. We think that there will be good communication and liaison between the district labs and the main lab in Winnipeg.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Second Readings, Bill No. 43. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, will you call Bill No. 17, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debates on second reading. On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Bill No. 17. The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, may I have this matter stand? (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 40. The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I've examined the bill and I find nothing here that I'm in disagreement with. I'm willing to have it go through the committee.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. Bill No. 7. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. Bill No. 3. The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the member, could we have this matter stand? (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Youth and Education. Bill No. 57. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, in checking the records and the statutes when the Public Schools Finance Board was originally set up, I find that the purpose was to facilitate the financing of the Foundation Program and to assist divisions in the economic operation of the school system. I find that, in my opinion, there is a departure from the purpose in this Bill because I feel it definitely removes certain authority from the Division board and passes this on again to the Public Schools Finance Board. I'm referring to the matter of purchasing of

(MR. FROESE cont'd.). . . . equipment, because we find here that they're bringing forth a new principle, and that is that the Public Schools Finance Board will now be purchasing equipment and for that purpose renting it to Divisions. I don't know to what extent this will be carried out in the final analysis. No doubt this program is new but I'm sure there will be further extensions of it. In certain respects that might have some validity because if our population should decline that some of the schools might not be in operation several years from now and some of that equipment could then be used in other schools. But Mr. Speaker, I do not subscribe to the principle because I feel that our local Division boards and District boards - and Division boards are what we're speaking of here - should retain the maximum amount of autonomy and authority possible, and that their rights should not be infringed upon any further than what already is the case.

I find that this is also a requirement here under another section of the Bill, which will now put the onus on the Division boards to provide reports and produce reports and do research for the Public Schools Finance Board, and Mr. Speaker, I think we're going too far in this. I don't like to see all these different things slip into the legislation which gives the government more and more power and removes that power from the boards.

Then, too, we find there is a new section in here also, the matter of withholding grants. I don't know to what extent this will be carried out. We find that today some of the municipalities find it hard to collect taxes and therefore they don't want to provide these moneys to the Division boards, and I think some correspondence has gone on with the Department in this connection. I don't know whether this particular section has anything to do with that but I don't like to see the pressure being put on boards in this way and that grants will be withheld from them. Is the co-operation between the Department and the Divisions really that poor that we have to put on that pressure, and do we have to go to the extent that the Bill is asking for? I would certainly like to hear from the Minister on this, whether it is actually required that we have to put on this pressure and that the onus has to be put on the Division boards in connection with the other sections. Certainly if there are not valid reasons for this, I certainly do not intend to support the Bill.

In connection with the matter of rentals, I would like to hear from the Minister just what the intention is of the government in this respect and just what programs are envisaged.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? Will the Honourable Minister be closing debate?

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Youth and Education)(Seven Oaks): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Member for Rhineland, I want to assure him there is nothing insidious about this Bill. There's nothing hidden, and I don't think he need worry about the greater loss of autonomy of the local school boards. What we're trying to do is make the operation more efficient than it is today.

The question of asking for documents is not new; as a matter of fact, at the present time the board has the authority and the school boards are required to file certain reports, on request, to the Finance Board. The kind of reports we are talking about are the mileage, for example, of the buses that they operate, their maintenance, their enrolment figures, matters dealing with the financial position of the school division - these are all documents which have to be filed now. Unfortunately, some of these documents don't come through in time and they're not being made available when they're supposed to.

The suggestion that we are asking the school boards to do our research for us is the exact opposite. We need this information if we're going to have any meaningful figures and calculations on the present and projected costs of running the system, and it's simply because some boards - and it's very few - don't make this material available, that the Finance Board feels justified in asking for the authority so that the Foundation Program can be made to operate most effectively. And without this information they can't do that, so that simply it gives the power to the board to, if necessary - and I say this is just a requirement - if necessary they can withhold moneys or grants which are payable under the Foundation Program.

Now I think that in itself, the mere passage of it, would assure that the reports will be coming in as they should have been coming in up to now. There's no attempt at wielding any big stick on them or in any way forcing them to do something that they shouldn't have been doing up to now.

The other aspect of the question of the operation of Central Purchasing, and the Member for Rhineland and others wanted to know about this, but the Member for Rhineland is concerned

(MR. MILLER cont'd.). . . . that we are taking away the autonomy of the local boards. I suggest to him what we are going to do is help to make it possible, really, for the boards who at present have to buy or are buying on a local basis, in small amounts, I'm convinced that by central purchasing we can bring the cost down both to the province and to the school boards, and therefore to the taxpayers.

The Member for Emerson, as a matter of fact, was a little concerned that perhaps we hadn't gone far enough, and his suggestion was, can they by-pass Central Purchasing because there's nothing in here that says that the school board is compelled to buy through the Central Purchasing of the Finance Board? So you have the two different positions, one by the Member for Rhineland and one by the Member for Emerson.

I'm hoping that this can be resolved, frankly, through mutual understanding and agreement by both parties, because I'm satisfied that everyone is concerned with the most efficient and the most beneficial way of providing services and facilities, and if there's a way of saving money there's no doubt in my mind that the school boards will be happy to cooperate, and the passage of this Bill will make it possible for the massive buying power of the province to be used to buy equipment and furnishings - for example, buses is the best example I can think of - make them available to the school divisions.

Now the question with regard to the furnishings that they may sell or rent or give equipment, one of the problems has been that sometimes, and I think the Member for Riel pointed this out quite correctly, that there have been occasions when a temporary accommodation is made available, a mobile temporary accommodation is made available as a classroom to a school division, it's given to the school division and two or three years later they don't need it, but the way things are now it is theirs and they can do with it what they will. Now, this really makes no sense to me because it was supplied by the Finance Board to tide the school division over for a certain period, and that same unit could then be used elsewhere in Manitoba. So it was with this in mind that this sort of legislation was created, in order to make for greater flexibility, the most effective utilization of our resources and our money, and I don't think the Member for Rhineland need be concerned about the local authorities somehow being pushed around or losing, as I say, their autonomy. This is not the idea. The idea behind this legislation is to make it more efficient to operate our school system, and I trust that this will receive the consent of Law Amendments and will be passed by the House because there is some, not urgency, but there is a question of getting the Bill through so that the Finance Board can arrange to purchase buses in time for this September.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General, Bill No. 58. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I adjourned this debate to have the opportunity to examine the Bill fully; I have done so and have consulted with my colleagues and we're ready to proceed with it, Sir.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Youth and Education, Bill No. 59. The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I think that this Bill should proceed at this point on to Law Amendments Committee, and rather than make any remarks on it at this time, I would simply say at this point that we would prefer to look at it in more detail at Law Amendments.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General, Bill No. 60. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, once again, the purpose of my adjournment was to study the Attorney-General's remarks and the proposed legislation. We note with interest what the Honourable Attorney-General had to say, Sir, particularly with respect to the amendment to The County Courts Act that is related to the whole subject of garnishment, and how it will be taken out of this Act and incorporated under The Garnishment Act and hopefully improve the rationale for and the efficiency of the operation of the County Courts. We are in favour of this legislation and would like to proceed with it, Sir.

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

MR. FROESE: 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: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General, Bill No. 69. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, in checking the statute, I just had two concerns in connection with this Bill as far as the regulations are concerned and that they will be made available. First of all, it's the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council that will decide on this matter and whether we'll always agree, I'm not sure. This is the problem. However, as long as I get one assurance I think I can give support to the Bill, and that is that all members get and will continue to receive bound copies of the regulations. I think on that basis I'd be inclined to support it.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, Bill No. 56. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, perhaps as I start my remarks maybe I should advise the members of the House, of the Assembly, that I do hold shares in a company, not all shares, transacting business, transacting auto insurance. This company is diversified. It also does business in real estate, business management and appraisal work. There are 14 people employed, and if the Bill does go through and if it's strictly a government monopoly type insurance, I would also advise the House that there would have to be two people displaced as a result that there wouldn't be sufficient work for them. I want to do that as a result of the remarks that were posed to the House by the Member for St. Matthews, I believe.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this is the most important piece of legislation, one of the most important to come before this House in a long time, because it involves very important public interests. It is also extremely controversial because it does affect, or can affect many people. We in the Liberal Party recognize the important public interests involved but we also feel that where legislation affects private interests it must do so fairly, constructively, and only after those involved are given a fair hearing. We believe that it is possible to reconcile the public and private interests involved in an issue of automobile insurance, and to do so in a way that will avoid great controversy and a political battle that would be damaging to Manitoba's reputation and prospects for economic growth and economic future in this province.

It is also important that we preserve our province's reputation for dealing fairly with private investors if we are to have economic growth. Instead of promoting conflict and confrontation, I feel we should be promoting cooperation. It is in this spirit that we in our group will approach this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we will be proposing amendments to this Bill at an appropriate time, which we believe will be acceptable to public and private interests.

I wish to deal just a little bit with the report and I intend to be very critical of the report because, Mr. Speaker, the government of this province has failed to carry out the most primary function assigned to it by its electorate, and this is to make decisions which are based upon fact and reasoned analysis. The effort by this government to divorce discussion from facts, when the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Pawley, bandy about statistics as they were facts, they know their own committee's report admitted that statistics are arbitrary and unverifiable. When the government announced that it was appointing a committee to study auto insurance, it misled the public into believing that it was acting responsibly in studying a complex problem before deciding on a course of action.

On October 29, 1969, the terms of reference were given to the committee to study all aspects of insurance. The deadline for submission was November 17, 1969. Under pressure the time was extended to December 30th, 1969. The Manitoba Law Society for one had to ask committee for extension. The short time allotted for briefs on such a complex important subject is evidence of government's insincerity to study the problem in depth.

Mr. Speaker, it is not surprising when the report appeared that it was composed of assumptions, speculation and preconceived notions. The committee admits that they did not analyze the methods used to set rates in insurance - page 10 of the report. The committee makes assumptions as to why the Wootton Report was not accepted in British Columbia - page 23. And, Mr. Speaker, if I may digress, I would like to point out that the Wootton Commission did say that the insurance could be cheaper, but it also stated that there would be a \$250.00 deductible on liability section as well, meaning if you had a claim that was \$500.00, the insurance

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) . . . . would pay \$250.00 and then you had to go to small courts to collect the other \$250.00. That's the Wootton Commission. So there were inconsistencies and this is partly why British Columbia did not accept it. The committee here just made assumptions why the Wootton Report was not accepted in British Columbia. How can a responsible government make decisions on the basis of a shoddy collection of assumptions and guesses?

On page 26 of the report the committee says, with respect to the problem of trying to guess the cost of Saskatchewan automobile insurance scheme, and I quote: "There are many expenses which cannot be clearly identified as in the case of salaries, rent, telephone, etc." This is right out of the committee's report, Mr. Speaker. The committee was unable to determine the validity of this arbitrary expense charged upon the compulsory automobile insurance plan. This government, through its public statements, suggests insurance is cheaper and is misleading the public into thinking these statements are based on facts. Mr. Speaker, these may be true, maybe the government insurance may be true, but we don't know.

If we want to get into statistics we can, and I don't intend to quote many, but the Minister of Municipal Affairs did and he picked up classifications - and I could find the same kind of classifications. When I spoke here the last time on the grievance motion I went to the phone and I phoned the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office and I asked them for classifications on a car, '65 Plymouth, driver 25 years or over, three years' accident free. On their plan there's no passenger hazard included, and as for the basic liability coverage, which is \$35,000 limit, \$200.00 deductible collision, and which is included in the Saskatchewan plan, compensation without fault, and the price that I was quoted - pleasure use, \$63.00.

At the same time I phoned the Portage la Prairie Mutual at Portage and I asked for the same quotation on a car, '65 Plymouth, driver 25 years of age or over, three years' accident free. In this plan there is driver passenger hazard included and I'll give you how the rate was made up. There was PLPD - \$31.00; all perils, \$200.00 deductible - \$15.00; and compensation without fault, the same as in Saskatchewan except a little better. There is no limit on the amount. In Saskatchewan you're limited to \$10,000; in here there is no limit, and the price was \$53.00, \$10.00 less in Portage than anywhere in Saskatchewan -- (Interjection) -- A resident of Portage.

Now I know I could find as well -- I don't think we can accomplish anything here by arguing, by picking certain areas and certain classifications because I don't think it would add anything to the debate. I think that we try to suggest that we're not giving actual or proper facts, but these are the facts, Mr. Speaker. These are the facts; I phoned. So we can find all kinds of classifications in the same way.

Mr. Speaker, by bandying about percentages such as 15 percent and 20 percent when making its comparisons, this government is deliberately reinforcing false information because it's not based on any analysis, it's not based on any facts. This government has failed in its duty to the people of Manitoba by not supplying them with a responsible study that the appointment of a committee promised. In order to mask its committee's incompetence, the government is presently engaged in a campaign generating emotion, a campaign designed to erase reasoned analysis. This is true. The Premier, when he was at the Centennial Concert Hall at the performance, he stated we're going to fight the election on this issue. The Minister of Municipal Affairs mailed letters to his constituents before the bill was ever presented to this House and he called out the reserves, the activist reserves, to arms. Is this not true? And surely, surely the First Premier is much more capable of a person to have handled this matter in a much different way than by confrontation, Mr. Speaker.

The government knows that nowhere in the report is there found a discussion of alternative solutions, be it favourable discussion or not. Nowhere in the report is there an analysis of the multitude of side effects that the proposals will generate. In its criticism of the high-level diversion for South Indian Lake, the nub of the NDP attack was that only the cost of Hydro was considered. This was valid criticism. It is the responsibility of government, when assessing a problem, to consider the over-all costs of a proposal to the people, and at that time, Mr. Speaker, we agreed on the Hydro. Why doesn't it apply here? The issue is not whether such a study would or would not favour government insurance; the question is why did the committee not consider the over-all picture. Why did this government accept a report which studied the problems while wearing blinkers?

Mr. Chairman, I know that the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources will say, well we've studied for many years. But I say that the politicians in this House are to blame as much

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) . . . as the industry or anybody else, because in 1962 when we brought in a \$25.00 Unsatisfied Judgment Fee for drivers that didn't buy insurance, it was wrong, and I'd like to see if anyone in this House proposed amendments at that time to make insurance compulsory. Nobody did. This should have been the course of action. We didn't do it. We didn't do it.

Mr. Chairman, the government by its incompetence and by its present ways has failed to properly study this problem and is making the bill on assumptions. Bill 56, you will note in the definition section, under (a) benefit by regulations; (f) coverage by regulations; (h) insurance monies to be defined by regulations; (j) insured to be defined by regulations; (r) plans being voluntary, universal and compulsory to be established hereunder; (z) defining universal compulsory insurance: "(s) universal compulsory insurance as defined from time to time by regulation." Mr. Speaker, everything in the bill is by regulation. What is the purpose of discussing it here? Are we going to get the regulations or not? How can we discuss it intelligently in this House without the regulations?

This bill gives the Cabinet power to proceed by regulations which will not be subject to the review of the Legislature. The bill gives the Cabinet power to make regulations authorizing the government insurer to engage in and carry on the activity of automobile insurance. In effect, the bill provides the mechanism by which the whole business of government insurance will be carried on by regulation. There is no possible way of determining what the rates for automobile insurance are likely to be or how they will be calculated.

This bill provides a skeleton of the scheme, leaving the meat to be dealt with by regulation as the government sees fit. In effect, if this bill is passed the government will be given carte blanche to do what it wishes in the field of government universal auto insurance without regard to the Legislature. Regulations can be altered or repealed without notice, without knowledge or approval of the Legislature, the elected representatives of the people. The government insurance corporation in effect will be a law unto itself. The rights of the individual insured will be subject to and governed by government regulations which may exclude the jurisdiction of the courts and the protection which the law provides against the encroachment of arbitrary government procedures.

This bill provides a six-month limitation period for actions by an insured against the government insurer. Mr. Speaker, the fact is that an insured has one year now at the present time to commence action against private insurers on their policies. This is contrary to the spirit and intent of the amendment to the Limitation of Actions Act.

This bill has extraordinary provisions. It enables the government insurer to obtain judgment and to effect recovery against an insured merely by obtaining an assignment of the judgment. It is quite apparent that this offers little protection to the ordinary insured who, after all, the proposed legislation is supposed to benefit. This bill enables the government insurer to have the driver's licence of an insured person suspended until the government insurer's judgment against him is repaid. This is not the present situation.

No indication is given as to what plans of automobile insurance will be established or what is meant by "universal compulsory insurance." The bill contemplates that the government insurer will employ agents. Mr. Speaker, this seems strange in view of the savings the government have said and hopes to achieve by eliminating the insurance agents.

The bill appears to give carte blanche to the government insurer to obtain whatever information it wants. The present situation is that the insurer is limited by the explicit provisions of the Manitoba Insurance Act. The bill implies that there will be cases in which the government insurer will deny liability but a private insurer will not be entitled to do so. Why does the government need to protect itself with rights that are not available to the private insurance companies now? This bill casts unreasonable burden on the insured. It states "any person shall comply with any regulation or any plan or part thereof." This part of the bill is a loaded dice in favour of the insurer and against the insured person and not in his favour.

This bill will establish a Rates Appeal Board respecting additional coverage. Why shouldn't the basic rates be subject to review as well, Mr. Speaker, if the government monopoly is created. I understand the appeal is only for the additional coverage.

This legislation should also be viewed in the light of the government's intention to eliminate private independent audits of government agencies and to have auditing done by government auditors. Manitoba does not have an Auditor-General who can expose the extravagancies of government bureaucracy. The Premier's statement: 15 to 20 percent will be saved

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.). . . . by government scheme. Will this apply to all people in Manitoba? Will it apply to a small percentage? Will it apply to the rural area or the city part? Because if we're going to talk about rates we can use them to our advantage, and I'm sure that everyone in this House can do so.

Mr. Speaker, when the Minister introduced his bill the other day he talked about that there'll be no advertising and the government can save on advertising. I have a letter here that I wish to read into the record and it's addressed to Mr. E. Schreyer. I don't know this gentleman, I got it in the mail. It says: "Dear Sir: On Saturday, May 2nd, the Winnipeg Tribune reported you as stating that your government thought they could save 15 percent on automobile insurance in areas. Some of your reasons are listed below along with my comments to them.

"(1) No cost for advertising. As you are planning on following the Saskatchewan Government your statement does not hold water. In the five years that I was associated with the insurance industry in Saskatchewan, there was hardly a day that one did not hear or see radio and T.V. advertising praising government insurance. The government office spends more on advertising in Saskatchewan than any other private company.

"(2) Elimination of policy issuance. The insurance industry has for years been considering the issuance of pink cards only. Policies are usually not necessary. If required, copies could be made available from the Queen's Printer.

"(3) Elimination of agency commissions. This averages thirteen and three-quarter percent so it's practically all of the 15 percent of reduction. What a clever idea. Why don't you reduce our grocery bill by eliminating the storekeeper's commission? What about the service station operator's commission as well, or do you have plans for these and all others?

"Your comments will be greatly appreciated. Dudley Dickson, 132 Thorndale Avenue, Winnipeg 8." And it's addressed to, I understand, all MLA's and I'll be prepared to table that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that the argument is that under the compulsory portion of the coverage in Saskatchewan 85 percent of the premium income is returned to the public in the form of loss payments. This is the whole argument that this government has based their case on. Whether this is or not is a little difficult to say, but, Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that in the Superintendent's Report of the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office, under its package policy returned only 57.5 percent of the premium to the people, only 57.5. That was in - I believe last year - or in 1967. In 1966 the figure was 60.3 percent and in 1965, 53.1 percent, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHERNIACK: Is that the competitive portion that you're citing?

MR. PATRICK: That's the supplementary coverage, the package plan. But it's still the government's supplementary plan, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHERNIACK: Competitive free market is it not?

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I think that is something that we should seriously consider because I think it has an effect on the whole plan. I think it becomes part of the average doesn't it? It would reduce your 85 percent average pretty quickly. Mr. Speaker, the other point, the Workmens Compensation Board in 1969 in Manitoba returned only 61.6 percent of its income in the form of benefits to the people of Manitoba. -- (Interjection) -- But it still returned only 61 percent, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHERNIACK: Where does the private enterprise do work with compensation? Apples and oranges.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, that's right. That's what I say. Apples and oranges when you're trying to compare the figures in Saskatchewan to Manitoba, and that's what I said when I spoke on this matter a couple of days ago because we're comparing two different plans which are completely different and there's no way you can assess the cost factors. There's no accountants in the city would and the committee stated so, and for the government or the First Minister to be bending around figures, I think it's almost unbelievable.

The other point, Mr. Speaker, that I wish to bring to the attention of the members of the House is that the plan provides that medical and hospital payments will not be included in a claim for damages. This must involve a substantial amount of money. These payments will come out of the general Medicare, which of course has been put on an ability-to-pay basis and is being subsidized by tax. The tax rise last year was to subsidize Medicare. When this large burden is added to the Medicare, presumably taxes will have to go up again. What actually I'm saying is that this plan will be subsidized if there will be no subrogation against the two

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) . . . agencies, the Medicare and hospitalization, and the plan will be subsidized by large sums of money, by millions of dollars. I would like the Minister to explain that point as well, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the other point that I wish to draw to the attention of the members here is that there was a considerable amount of debate on the compensation without fault. Mr. Speaker, there is no difference, no difference in the insurance in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In fact, we have much more superior coverage. The compensation without fault means strictly accident benefits, which is part of the package plan in Saskatchewan and which is voluntary in Manitoba. I believe the industry wanted it to be compulsory a year or two years ago and the government of the day should have made it compulsory. There's no difference, there's no such thing as compensation without fault or difference between Manitoba or Saskatchewan. You have every coverage - every extension of coverage that you have in Saskatchewan is available here, except the point that I'm saying, that compensation without fault in Manitoba is not on a compulsory basis. To my information, I understand that around 80 percent of the people buy it and the government could have easily made it compulsory. The cost is very nominal - \$7.00 per policy. Furthermore, you can buy increased limits in Manitoba which you cannot in Saskatchewan as far as your compensation without fault is concerned. So in both provinces the types of coverages that are available to the motorist are almost identical, Mr. Speaker, and for the members to say that it isn't so is completely false, Mr. Speaker.

In conclusion, I want to outline the position which our party will be taking on this important bill. We intend to vote against the legislation when it comes up for approval in principle because it is not acceptable in its present form. There is no provision for proposing amendments on second reading, as you know, Mr. Speaker, so we will oppose it on second reading. However, if the bill goes to committee and it gets that far for detailed consideration, it will be our intention to advance amendments which we feel will strengthen the legislation and make it acceptable to all Manitobans.

Our main objection to the bill as it now stands is that it denies Manitobans the freedom of choice, and I feel that Manitobans should have this freedom of choice. It requires all Manitobans to be insured for automobile insurance under a government monopoly. We feel this is wrong in principle because competition is the very essence of our society and it is the best method of ensuring that Manitobans obtain insurance at the lowest possible rates. We will be proposing a simple amendment which will have the effect of allowing Manitobans to obtain their insurance from either the government corporation or a private company of their choice. This will have a two-fold effect. Firstly, it will ensure that private companies are in fact competitive in their rights and coverage; and secondly it will ensure that the government provides maximum coverage at the lowest rates. Thus the amendment will act as a check on both parties involved in the insurance field, the government and the private insurance.

Mr. Speaker, the argument that was advanced to this House by the Minister of Mines and Resources does not hold water, because he said if we had set up a corporation that would compete with the private sector we would get the bad business, the bad risk, the companies would get the good risk and it wouldn't work. Not so, Mr. Speaker, because if the government plan is compulsory, or is competitive, it will be competitive for the bad risk and it will be competitive for the good risk and any consumer in this province - anyone, I don't care who it is - myself, I'll buy where it's going to be most advantageous to me, and I'm sure that it would work without any problems. Out of this plan, Mr. Speaker, there will be no losers under the proposal. On the contrary, the people of Manitoba will be the winners because there will be strong competition for subscribers. If it turns out that the government plan is in fact a much better deal than there is no question about who will get most of the business, but at least there will be the fullest protection for Manitoba motorists in terms of insurance cost.

We are being asked to approve a bill which is virtually devoid of any details respecting the government plan. We've only some vague details about coverage and even less information about the insurance rates. What the government has told us is that the rates will be announced at some later date prior to implementation of the proposed plan next year. Mr. Speaker, there's no guarantee, absolutely no guarantee what these rates will be. Furthermore if the rates are lower in the first year, as it is likely the case to be, there's nothing to prevent the government a year or two later to increase the rates to whatever level it wants. If this happens, there will be nothing the motorist can do about his insurance at that time if there's a government monopoly. I feel that this bill could wipe out the private companies insofar as basic

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) . . . . coverage is concerned as everybody will be forced to take the government plan.

Mr. Speaker, the most unfortunate thing in Winnipeg and Manitoba is that Winnipeg is the insurance centre of Western Canada. We have more companies employing more people in Winnipeg in this field than there is in Calgary, Edmonton, Regina or Vancouver, and it would have a great effect. We have three Manitoba companies in this province; we have two Canadian largest companies in Canada established with head offices in this city, which is Canadian Indemnity in Winnipeg and Wawanesa in Wawanesa, Manitoba, the two largest Manitoba companies in Canada and I think it would have great effects on these two companies.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we feel it is vital that Manitobans be given the freedom of choice in automobile insurance because of the protection which competition provides, not only next year but for subsequent years. There can be no denying that the presence of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Canada has a very definite impact on the government owned Canadian National Railway. The same can be said of the Canadian Pacific Airlines which competes with the government owned Air Canada operation. Bringing the examples even a little closer to home, the present NDP government obviously endorsed the procedure which has followed with respect to Medicare and allowed Manitoba doctors to opt out of the plan. While a majority of doctors are operating within the plan, the fact is and remains that they were given freedom of choice. Mr. Speaker, even with the Medicare, it did not displace anybody because the doctors' plan that was operated in this province before became the agency for the government. -- (Interjection) -- a very small amount because the greatest percentage were insured with the doctors agency so it displaced no one.

Mr. Speaker, some comments are also in order about the government's vague promises of some amount of compensation to agents who are displaced by the proposed plan, and I think it's incumbent on this government to spell this out soon before the bill goes to second reading. Is there any reason why any of these agents, who are small businessmen in the true sense of the word, should be treated any differently than anyone else in the province, fairly and squarely? There's nothing to prevent a doctor, a lawyer, a baker, a grocer, or any other small businessman to sell his business today at the fair market value. But can you imagine an insurance agent who has struggled all his life, trying to sell his business today? It won't be worth the paper it's written on if the bill passes unchanged, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to wind up my remarks by saying that our group agrees that everyone and everything isn't perfect in the automobile insurance field today. We agree with that and we spelled that out a few days ago. We feel there is considerable room for improvement and we have on previous occasions made numerous suggestions in this regard. It is our belief that most of the wrongs which exist can be cured by regulatory legislation rather than the government actually entering the insurance field. We could for example have a provincial insurance review board to ensure the rates are competitive. We could raise the minimum liability limit simply by passing a bill. We could make it mandatory for all insurance policies to include the very desirable no-fault clause. We could make it compulsory insurance in Manitoba, but the government has refused to listen to any reason at all; it believes in confrontation. It has proceeded on the course it set for itself immediately after last June's election, determined to introduce a government type monopoly insurance.

That being the case, we are forced to deal with what we have proposed before us, Mr. Speaker, rather than what we feel should have been done. This is what we'll do, not in the spirit of confrontation but in a constructive sense. The amendment I have outlined is just one of the things that we'll be introducing to the bill to ensure Manitobans are provided with the very best coverage possible at the lowest rates and to give the people the freedom of choice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. CHERNIACK: I would like to ask the member a question before the Honourable Member for Wolseley speaks, unless he indeed wants to ask a question.

MR. LEONARD H. CLAYDON (Wolseley): Yes, certainly you ask the question.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, may I say I really meant a few questions, and of course the honourable member will indicate when he doesn't want to answer them. My first question, Mr. Speaker, is whether the honourable member can inform us whether all members of the Canadian Underwriters Association use the same rating book and establish the same premiums, or is there competition in premiums as between members of the Canadian Underwriters?

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I can answer that question quite readily and easily. The

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) . . . . Canadian Underwriters use the same rating system but there is competition in Winnipeg. Portage Mutual uses its own rating; Wawanesa uses its own independent rating; All-State uses completely - it doesn't belong to any association; so does the Federated Mutual; so does the Saskatchewan Co-op. They're all independent; they use their own rating systems.

MR. CHERNIACK: I wonder if the honourable member knows what percentage of insurance is written by the members of the Canadian Underwriters Association?

MR. PATRICK: I don't know.

MR. CHERNIACK: No. Well then, I wonder also if the honourable member could inform us from his experience, which I'm sure he has, what percentage of the gross income of an insurance agent is paid out in expenses to operate? Is it 50 percent or 20 percent? In lawyers, I would say it's about 45 to 50 percent. I wonder if the honourable member knows.

MR. PATRICK: I would say, Mr. Speaker, it would vary because it depends on what part the automobile is of this particular agency's business, so it would vary.

MR. CHERNIACK: Maybe the honourable member could inform us generally what the percentage to operate an insurance office is, unrelated to whether it's auto, fire or other. And if he doesn't know of course he'll say so. I thought he could help us. Well then, finally my last question, Mr. Speaker. Would the honourable member expect that if any insurance company was able to write 100 percent of the insurance coverage, would there be a savings in operating costs.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I would say yes and no. I'm sure if you had one bakery in Manitoba it may be feasible to sell bread cheaper but it may not. It depends how large an agency gets and how large your business gets. It's pretty difficult to . . . .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I have a question as well. Would the honourable member submit to a question? No? Well, I just want -- I have one point. I think I heard the honourable . . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. And if the Honourable Member for Wolseley would allow the Honourable Minister permission to use his time.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I stood before the member for . . . .

MR. CLAYDON: Mr. Speaker, I'd allow him to ask his question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister may ask his question.

MR. USKIW: Is it right, did I hear you correctly, Mr. Speaker, that you had stated, the Honourable Member for Assiniboia stated that he would prefer that the Government of Manitoba pass legislation to force people to buy insurance from the private sector?

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I said I believed that no one should be on the road without insurance. That's what I said.

MR. USKIW: Would the honourable member submit to a supplementary question?

MR. PATRICK: Sure.

MR. USKIW: How would you ensure that this be done?

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, perhaps you're not familiar, but I'll just quote you what the Liberal Party said and has said for many years, at least since the last four or five years. "We believe it should be made an offence to operate a motor vehicle in Manitoba without insurance." So we believe in compulsory insurance, yes. -- (Interjection) -- No, I recommend that, I believe in compulsory insurance.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, might I ask the honourable member a couple of questions if he'll accept?

MR. CLAYDON: Well, is this going to go on all afternoon - question?

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): On a point of order, is the question period taking up the time of the Honourable Member for Wolseley?

MR. MACKLING: No, it doesn't take up any of his time.

MR. WATT: O.K. I'm asking the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: No. May I remind the honourable members that I believe that the purpose of questions after a member takes his seat is for the purpose of explanations and explaining something which may have been misunderstood by those members listening. The Honourable Minister wishes to . . . .

MR. MACKLING: Well, if the honourable member will - thank you. I thought he would because he is a gentleman. In his remarks he did refer to the costs, the administrative costs under the Saskatchewan public insurance system and he referred to the arbitrary administrative

(MR. MACKLING Cont'd.). . . . costs of \$13.75. Do you know what year this was implemented in Saskatchewan? Do you know when that arbitrary figure of \$13.75 was set up in Saskatchewan?

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I don't, I haven't got the report with me. I have it in my office and it's stated in the report, and I'm sure the Minister can look it up in the report. All I can tell him is that I have done some calculation and research and it's a known fact that the Superintendent's report of the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office under its package policy returned only 57 percent of the premium. In 1960, it only returned 60 percent; and in 1965, 53 percent, Mr. Speaker. So all I say is if you average the two out you're nowhere at 85 percent, Mr. Speaker, not even near; you're not even 70 percent if you average the two out.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Speaker, the honourable gentleman knew that I was referring to the compulsory . . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Has the Honourable Minister a question?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, I have. In view of the fact that this arbitrary administrative cost on the compulsory insurance was established in 1968, do you know what the premium cost was on the compulsory section of the Saskatchewan insurance prior to 1968?

MR. PATRICK: No I don't, Mr. Speaker, but I can tell the Honourable Minister that I know for 12 years that there were deficits since the time the plan came into Saskatchewan in 1946 - for 12 years there were deficits.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. CLAYDON: Mr. Speaker, I think my opening remarks should be that I am not in any way connected with the auto insurance industry nor any members of my family or any of my relatives, and other than the fact that I am a policy holder, I have nothing to gain or lose except the loss of my right to freedom in a democratic society.

Now I feel compelled to say a few words on this bill in view of the dictatorial aspects of the bill, and I want to read to you, first of all, the first paragraph of the Canadian Bill of Rights, and I'm wondering if many of you on the other side have read this - and I quote: "The Parliament of Canada, affirming that the Canadian nation is founded upon principles that acknowledge the supremacy of God, the dignity and worth of the human person and the position of the family in a society of free men and free institutions." Now it seems to me that if we are going to affirm that statement, that this Bill, the way it is now being presented, is taking away from the public their free right of choice.

Now I'm not going to bleed for the auto insurance industry because I've had a difference of opinion with them over the years. Certainly there are things that are wrong, but the answer is not the complete destruction of the industry. Now I want to tell you that for ten years I've been a member of the Personnel Committee of the City of Winnipeg, and every time a matter comes before that committee I hear from the Labour members on that committee, "oh, well, we must negotiate; we must bargain in good faith." I keep hearing this thing like a broken record. Now, if there are matters wrong in the insurance industry, with the private insurers, surely the way to approach this subject is to negotiate and sit down and talk to them and see if we can't eliminate those, not to eliminate the industry, and I would suggest to you on the other side that you should stop trying to kid the public into believing that they're going to get something for nothing. Nobody in the world ever gave you anything for nothing, even your own brother or sister can't give you something for nothing, because if they do, they've had to pay for it; somebody else has to put the money up to pay for whatever is given away; and that same philosophy will hold true when you put in this Bill if you think that you're going to give somebody something for nothing.

Now I'm not opposed to a compulsory insurance plan; I'm not opposed to the government establishing a government-sponsored plan, nor am I opposed to the government setting basic minimum of coverage or of requiring proof of coverage before issuance of licence. Now I should say to you that when I was in England I purchased a car and I went to get it insured, and I like their system - and of course you realize that they have a permanent registration plate on every vehicle; and on the windshield of your car you have a little validating holder, a bakelite holder that holds a validating sticker. You can go in, you can buy a licence for a quarter of a year, a half a year or one year, but in order to get that licence you must show them proof of responsibility in the form of an insurance policy before they will issue the sticker, and the insurance must be valid for the life of the licence which you have applied for. I thought that was a very good system. It allowed me the right to go out and purchase my insurance wherever I

(MR. CLAYDON cont'd.). . . . wished to do so, but I had to provide this proof of responsibility; and I thought this was a very good plan and could well work here. And I want to say that I am opposed to force of any kind, including a compulsory government plan.

Now if you really believe that you are democratic, and I'm, for one, believing that you are not and that the title New Democratic Party is a misnomer, because you're not new, you're old CCF party; you're not democratic because you're not allowing the people a free right of choice in the matter, and I would suggest to you that you should cool this subject and take it very easy and I'm going to give you some reasons for this.

I have received a number of letters from constituents in my community and I have replied to them, and I want to clearly tell you what my reply is so that you know what my position is. I tell them, I said, "Let me assure you that I have no intention whatever of supporting a compulsory plan. I do however, believe that insurance on all vehicles should be compulsory but you should have the right of free choice where you will buy it. I would therefore have no objection to the government introducing an auto insurance plan that would allow you the privilege of deciding between that plan or a private insurance plan. I feel very strongly in this matter, that it is a matter of principle for I am one of those Canadians who volunteered and spent six years of my life in the last war fighting the forces of oppression, and I have no intention of supporting any movement that would further erode our rights to freedom as we have come to know them." And I thought you should know my stand on that matter.

I think it's a shocking situation and heaven forbid that it would ever happen in my constituency, but I have a letter here that comes from the Premier's constituency and I want to read you part of this letter because I hope that no member of my constituency will ever feel that he has to write a letter to another constituency in order to be heard. He says: "Unfortunately. . . ." -- (Interjection) -- Well, you send them to me; I'll certainly deal with them. "This letter is to register my protest against the above subject" (which is auto insurance). "Unfortunately my own MLA is Mr. E. Schreyer and I don't think this letter would receive too much attention from him. I am the fourth generation of our family here in Manitoba and all of us have always believed in free enterprise. Should this legislation go through, I and my family will be leaving the province. I see, as I'm sure you can, the writing on the wall. I'm sure I did not spend 6 1/2 years in the RCAF during the last war fighting for this type of a system. I also know that you did not either."

Now, I do not know this individual personally, but I would hope that any constituent in my area would feel that he has a right to come to me regardless of whether he voted for me or not, which was the case that happened about a week and a half ago. One constituent who came to me admitted that they did not support me in the last election for the mere reason they felt it was probably a good time for a change, and he felt that they should be given a chance in office. He admitted this to me openly, but he feels now that you've had that chance in office, and now he's not satisfied with what you're doing and I think, and I would warn you - and I'm going to give you some evidence of this and you all know about it, too - I would warn you to take it easy, because if you'll recall, it was the members of your party on City Council that tried to force the people in my constituency to put in fire alarms and fire escapes. You will recall that very well. It was the members of your party that tried to force that legislation in the city of Winnipeg, and what was the end result?

MR. GREEN: Would the honourable member permit a question at this point?

MR. CLAYDON: No. You sit down. You listen to me and you sit down for awhile. You're always jumping up there like a jack-in-the-box. I'm getting into the subject, as you'll well see, and intend to go on.

Now in that fire alarm, fire escape business, you had a petition taken up in about two square blocks, and union members of a number of unions had to sign that petition asking the City Council to leave it alone, and many of these people have come from European countries to this country for one reason - they came here expecting to find freedom. They left countries where there was Socialism, they left countries where there was dictatorship, and they came to this new land thinking that they were going to find the freedom. And these people have depended on me, and as long as I have a breath in my body I will stand by them to see that their freedoms will not be further encroached upon. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, I will protect them and I don't care whether they vote for me or not, they still have a right to come to me and I expect that they will, and they trust me and I hope they always will because I will not let them down.

Now I'm going to question the prompt payment of claims by the government if they get

(MR. CLAYDON cont'd.) . . . . into an insurance scheme. As you all know, I recently had a bout of medical problems and only about 2 1/2 weeks ago I received a cheque for a small amount of an occurrence that took place last September. That was the speed with which the government dealt with that issue. It took them from September until into April to make a payment of \$8.50. Now, I have never in my life known a government agency to be more efficient than a private agency, and I'm convinced that that will not be the case in this instance when you set up a government-sponsored plan.

Now look at the situation if I have a dispute with the government over servicing a claim. I'm unable to go any place else to purchase my insurance. I'm locked in. You're going to force me to buy the government plan. As it stands today, if I have a dispute with my insurance agent or my company I have the free right of choice to go to another one and see if I can get a better deal, but I won't be able to do this under the government plan. Now, as I said before, I would have no objection to you establishing basic minimum requirements and allow me the privilege to go out and purchase from any source that I want, my coverage providing I equal or exceed your basic minimum. Give me the right to decide. Let me, in a free society, determine for myself what I want, whether I want to buy your plan or whether I want to go outside and get a plan which may include additional services.

Now, what I'm concerned about is that Bill 56 places too much authority in the hands of too few people, and that those few people would become public snoops under Section 22. Now you make a certain assumption: you say that it's going to be 15 to 20 percent less costs. Can any member on that side of the House stand up and guarantee to me that this saving in effect will be 15 or 20 percent, and that the savings will continue with time? Can you stand up and guarantee me that? And you turned around in your election literature and you said all the evidence is in. Before last June. And then I hear the Minister of Municipal Affairs on the radio yesterday say, "We're going to now study some of these aspects." Yet here last year, well before June 25th, you said, "All the evidence is in." Now who are you trying to kid? You're kidding nobody but yourselves.

What happens to the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund if you go into the Plan? Is this the money that you're going to dump into this auto insurance plan to start it off? Nothing has been said about that, and I would say to you that if you are sincere people over there as you profess to be, if you are democratic, then I would suggest that you should allow this to be a free vote in the House to allow the constituents in your area to approach their individual members and express their viewpoint, and then come into the House and vote on this matter in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the constituents.

Now I ask some question, and I would like somebody on that side - and I couldn't care less who handles this question - but I would like somebody to answer me this: Why did the government assign a higher priority to auto insurance than to the transfer of Health, Welfare and Education to ability to pay, also the \$2,000 assessment reduction? Why was a higher priority given to that when one of the major planks in your program were these other two issues - big full page, "\$2,000.00. We'll do it." Definite, categorical statement and you haven't done it. But you assigned a high priority to the auto insurance plan. Why? Tell me this; tell me this; how do you compensate for insurance agents who have invested in retirement plans, men who have spent their whole lifetime, in the insurance bill; have contributed to private pension plans and now face the possibility of being put out of business and the possibility that they may not be able to continue with those private plans? How do you compensate a man for that? And you say, "What about the little man?" I don't think you care about the little man. Even \$100.00 deductible to some of these people is a hardship, and yet some of them are willing to go out and buy insurance that would give them, say, \$25.00 or no deductible.

I want to ask you this; how can you meet this type of insurance coverage? And this relates to antique automobiles. And you've made no provision for antique automobiles in this Bill. I see nothing in it for antique cars. Here you can buy \$100,000 liability on the first car for \$15.00, medical payments up to \$1,000.00 for \$3.50; you can get comprehensive insurance, including fire and theft and collision, for \$1.00 per thousand, and based on the value of a \$2,000 antique car it would cost you \$20.50. Do you mean to tell me that you're going to better that? You're going to reduce that by 15 to 20 percent? I don't believe it for a minute and I don't believe there's any government plan that'll ever touch that kind of a policy.

Now I'm quite disturbed about the service aspect of this policy. Recently I had requirement to phone up my insurance agency. I required additional coverage. I called them up, and by the telephone I had a binder; I was covered. Will you do this? And I know of certain people

(MR. CLAYDON cont'd.) . . . . who are unable to make full payment at the time of purchasing licences, and that their agents are carrying these people on their insurance premiums at no interest cost to them whatever. I know this is a fact. Will you do this? Will you carry the small man who can't meet his full payment and will you do it at interest-free rates? You won't do that.

The other day I asked the Minister a question, if he would give us the regulations. I can't deal with technicalities now because I don't know what the regulations are. You'll probably wait till we get out of the House and then pass a whole series of regulations over which I will have no control. I will not be able to express the opinion of my constituents. You call that democratic? Give me the right to stand up and be counted and I'll stand up, but let me express the opinion on behalf of my constituents.

And then, when I asked the Minister yesterday a question as to why they referred this - he told the public over the airwaves that they would refer this Bill to the Public Utilities Committee rather than the Law Amendments - he didn't answer the question. He didn't tell them one of the reasons why, and I'm hoping he will stand up yet in this House and tell them one of the reasons why he told the public that they were referring it to that committee.

With all these questions in doubt and the fact that you call yourselves democratic, I say put this to a free vote in the House, allow the constituents to approach their members, allow people like who wrote me this letter to approach their members and express their point of view and be heard, because you really do not represent the majority of the people in Manitoba, you represent less than 25 percent of the voters. So I say to you be democratic if you are a democratic party and give the people their free right of choice and their free right of expression.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: I wonder if the honourable member will now answer a question?

MR. CLAYDON: Certainly.

MR. GREEN: Is the honourable member aware that last year in this House he voted to give the Conservative administration power, by regulation, to impose the very type of fire controls that he opposed on city council?

MR. CLAYDON: Those fire controls were absolutely contrary to the type of fire controls that were being advocated in the City of Winnipeg.

MR. GREEN: Is he aware that he gave the government the authority to establish the nature of control by regulation?

MR. CLAYDON: Yes, but let me tell you this. You're distorting the whole issue because . . . .

MR. GREEN: That's a fact.

MR. CLAYDON: Let me answer the question or do you want to answer too? Let me tell you this. The question that you asked was simply this: in the case of the City of Winnipeg, the regulations that were being provided by the City of Winnipeg, that were being promoted by members of your party within the council, were that they would make all these regulations retroactive on all properties. The new regulations do not do it and that's the difference. I said this and I always will say it, I have no objection to introducing that type of a regulation providing you don't bind the people who are already stuck with the property.

MR. GREEN: Is the honourable member aware that he gave the Conservative administration the right to pass, by regulation, what fire controls could exist anywhere?

MR. CLAYDON: Oh, I'm aware of the question, yes. But the whole issue was that it's a difference between whether it's retroactive or whether it's for the future.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. CY GONICK (Crescentwood): . . . . table those letters that he said he said he received from his constituents.

MR. CLAYDON: I would not table this letter without consulting the writer and -- (Interjection) -- Now just a minute, let me answer the question, I don't want you to answer it for me back there. I will contact this individual that wrote the letter to me and if I have his permission to table this letter in the House I will do so.

MR. GONICK: What about the other ones he was . . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect to my honourable friend, if he chose to read the letter then I believe he is obliged to table it. He didn't have to read it, but having read it he must table it.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): . . . same accord. I'm sure the writer of the letter deserves the courtesy of a question by the honourable member before he does table it.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the writer of the letter sent the letter to my honourable friend. If he wanted to give the writer the courtesy which my honourable friend now says that the letter writer is entitled to, then he should not have read the letter in the House. Having read the letter, he is obliged to file it.

MR. SPEAKER: The rule is that the honourable member is obliged to table the letter.

MR. CRAIK: To table it.

MR. SPEAKER: The letter or letters that were read.

MR. GREEN: One from the Premier's constituency.

MR. CLAYDON: No, the one letter that I did read was my reply to a constituent in answer to their reply. That one I read, and the other one is the letter that was . . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. CRAIK: . . . ruling that you brought in is going to be an extremely important one because there has never . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member debating my ruling?

MR. CRAIK: No, I raise -- no, I'm not debating, I'm not debating your ruling. I'm not debating the point that's been made here, but I would ask you to give it some further consideration because we don't have all the -- and the reason I ask it of you, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I have made a ruling. I'm afraid that our rules do not permit any honourable member to speak to a ruling made by the Speaker.

MR. CRAIK: I'm not debating with you, Mr. Speaker, I'm suggesting . . .

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

MR. SPIVAK: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wonder for our clarification and for mine whether you would mind at this point, or if not at this time on another occasion, to indicate to us the rule which you interpreted . . .

MR. SPEAKER: When the occasion arises I shall do that.

MR. SPIVAK: Well no, Mr. Speaker, by way of a point of order . . .

. . . .Continued on next page

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. RON McBRYDE (The Pas): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take the first few minutes to deal with a few of the points raised by the Honourable Member for Wolseley. One of the main centres or points in his argument has been the argument in terms of loss of freedom, or a problem in the amount of freedom available to people. I think, as the Minister of Municipal Affairs pointed out the other night, that this has been an argument used for many years, for many long years to oppose the idea of progressive, socially progressive legislation. I assume the honourable member was here when he read a few quotations the other night, when he said "it should be left to private enterprise since public coverage would remove the enterprise and competition of individuals." I assume that he was here when the Minister of Municipal Affairs read "a scheme of universal coverage by the state is socialism. Universal coverage is foreign to our country. Requiring people to pay under universal coverage is dangerous and there is no confidence in compulsory equalization."

Those are arguments, as the Minister pointed out, that were made 140 years ago in 1830 by opponents of tax-supported education for all children within the population. This is the type of argument that the honourable member has used today, that has been used since that time, probably even before that time. It's something called freedom, which I'm not sure the member understands. What would happen if we took his debate, his debate on freedom to select your auto insurance agent and applied it to Manitoba today? Probably, first of all, we would have to return Medicare - and I'm not sure the honourable member would disagree with that, I'm quite sure he'd vote in favour of that - we'd have to return Medicare coverage to the private enterprise system. I would also guess that we would have to return Workmen's Compensation to the private enterprise system. I'm quite sure we'd have to return the Fish Marketing Corporation back to the fish processors, which I think the honourable member voted in favour of.

I suppose if you carry this matter of freedom of choice to its logical extension, the government is interfering in many ways. I assume that the honourable member has a driver's licence, which is compulsory and which he must purchase. He probably has a marriage licence. I'm not sure if he has a fishing licence or a hunting licence, but I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, that he must understand that he is using an argument that has been used for a long time and is not debating this issue on its relative merits or demerits but trying to bring in an old argument which I think was lost a long time ago and I hope will be lost again.

The matter was also raised by the honourable member in terms of the service aspect. And it was raised by him I believe and the Member for Assiniboia in terms of -- and I agree with the Honourable Member for Assiniboia when he said you compare these statistics with those statistics. I forget who it was that said you use statistics like a drunk uses a lamp post, for support but not for light. The insurance agents in their pamphlet would be very good drunks because they would hardly fall down in the way they have managed to manipulate the statistics.

So as an MLA for a certain area, I had an obligation to try and understand these things myself. But I'm in a unique situation in The Pas because I believe we're only 26 miles or so from the Saskatchewan border. We have lots of people from Saskatchewan in The Pas so I went and talked to them. I talked to as many as I could find. I went door to door in The Pas last week. I found one person from Saskatchewan that was against what this government is proposing, one person - and that same person would be against Medicare - it was a matter of philosophy or principle of some kind that I couldn't quite comprehend. But in these two aspects, in terms of the expense of the coverage, I could find no one who had to pay more when they came to The Pas for their -- or rather who had to pay less, excuse me. Every one of them had to pay more when they came to The Pas than when they moved from Saskatchewan.

So I asked them about the service - and I have no other way to judge this, I haven't been to Saskatchewan - I asked them about the service they received in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I could find no one with a complaint with regard to the service in Saskatchewan. I could find lots of people with complaints about the service presently being given to them by the private insurance companies but I couldn't find anyone who had complaints against the service being given in Saskatchewan. So I have to use this as some basis, and since statistics can be used either way, to make my own individual judgment on this matter.

There was something inferred I think by the Member for Assiniboia - and I'm not sure if it was the Member for Wolseley - and it's been said a number of times that we should require -- he didn't say that we should require people to buy from private enterprise but he did say we should require everyone to have a minimum amount of insurance coverage. I think that the

(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . . insurance agents, or some of them at least, have recommended this and I think this has been the basic position of this government, that we do believe that there should be a minimum insurance coverage and that this coverage should include a no-fault system. Having accepted that, we also accepted the responsibility to make sure that this coverage could be provided at as low a cost as possible to the public of Manitoba.

Now there are other alternatives as the honourable member has suggested. One of the alternatives was the alternative that the B. C. Government has brought in. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that we had to look to that, to look at the alternatives, and this is why the weight was in favour of the plan that we've introduced to this House. Initially, the Minister in charge of insurance in British Columbia, the Attorney-General, Leslie Peterson, announced that motorists would pay \$24.00 less for their insurance. Later on, Mr. Speaker - and there's quite a debate over it - but it turns out that the motorists have to pay from \$13.00 to \$22.00 more for their insurance in B. C.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is quite important, this argument so I'd like to read from the Vancouver Sun, December 13th, 1969. This is from a column by Allan Fotheringham. I know the Sun is not an NDP paper; I am not sure whether this particular writer is or what his political allegiance is. So I'd like to quote from this quite extensively because it relates to the specific arguments raised by the Member for Assiniboia. "One does not know whether to laugh or to cry. The point is not that the Provincial Government has double-crossed the motorists on auto insurance, it is that Attorney-General Les Peterson has been double-crossed by the insurance industry. Here we are, after a Royal Commission on insurance has recommended - and the government has accepted - compulsory no-fault insurance regulations to go into effect by January 1st. And now - after we have been ordered into this by the government, let us remember - the private insurance industry informs us that it is raising the rates \$22.00 per motorist.

"It is Peterson who is being" - I'm sorry, the print isn't very clear there. "It is Peterson who was such a sucker as to announce in the Legislature at the second reading of the new insurance bill on March 29th that the average motorist would pay \$24.00 less under the new rules. (We will ignore the fact that the cynical opposition claimed at that time this was simply a pre-election statement. Or that Garde Gardom" - who is a Liberal - "member of the legislative committee on royal commission predicted that premiums would be raised 25 percent - almost exactly as the insurance industry has announced it.) It is Peterson who is stuck by law with introducing the no-fault regulations by January 1st, 1970. And so, the Canadian car insurance industry springs - just 20 days before that date - the announcement that it is going to jack up the rates."

The next heading is: "Let us Look at a Few Facts." And I think this relates to another point made by the honourable member. I'm not saying this is the situation in Manitoba because I don't know the situation in Manitoba. But this is paraphrasing the Wootton Commission in terms of British Columbia. "The Wootton Royal Commission, which took the most exhaustive look into auto insurance undertaken in North America, decided that there was no real competition in B. C. auto insurance. In fact the auto insurance people existed in a price-fixing cartel. Here is the most interesting fact: immediately after the Wootton commission handed its report to Victoria, the Canadian car insurance business regrouped itself into an even more protective grouping - the Insurance Bureau of Canada, which even drew in such independents as Allstate. There is now only one single-minded spokesman for the strengthened cartel: the IBC. It was J. E. Burns, Chairman of the IBC committee looking into the B. C. royal commission, who uttered those immortal words when the Bennett Government issued its watered-down recommendations: 'We as an industry say God bless them.'" And I'm sure the insurance industry did say "God bless them" in B. C. and I'm sure they would say the same thing if we introduced a similar plan in Manitoba.

There's another section here and I think I'll read some of it too as it relates to our problem here. "It would be most interesting to learn the opinion of Vancouver Centre MLA Herb Capozzi." I think that's Social Credit. "He was chairman of the legislative committee that actually came on even stronger than the Wootton commission on what should be done to the auto insurance people. The royal commission recommended that if the insurance industry did not cooperate, the question of the government taking over auto insurance should be examined. Capozzi's legislative committee (featuring Gardom and the NDP's Alex MacDonald) urged that the government, without ifs, ands or buts, consider issuing car insurance itself." Now, Mr. Speaker, we see the predicament they got themselves into in B. C. with attempting to do what

(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . the member has recommended, and now they're having to consider going into insurance themselves even though they are very much against it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important also to stop and look at Saskatchewan. As the honourable member knows - and I think he's asked us a number of times or I think he said in one previous speech, if we studied this and other governments have studied the insurance plan in Saskatchewan, why haven't they done it? His party in Saskatchewan of course, as he well knows, and much to their embarrassment, to his embarrassment I believe this day, said that they would give back the insurance in Saskatchewan, back to private industry.

In the Star Phoenix on March 1st, 1969, Dave Boldt said, "There were numerous reasons why the government decided not to sell the SGIO, the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Agency. Among these were since its inception the Government Insurance Office has returned" - my figures aren't too good here - "\$7,891,404 to the provincial government. During the last four years the company has returned" -- I'm sorry the figures are smudged there. "During 1968 the amount returned to the government passed the \$100,000 mark for the first time. The SGIO invested in more than 150 Saskatchewan communities last year. The total investment in this province now stands at more than \$18,500,000. The SGIA has gained a reputation for providing almost unlimited capacity and stability of market, something one would not want to see replaced by the sometimes hot and cold approach of other companies. The insurance office last year paid more than \$112,000 in lieu of taxes in eight communities and its total payroll surpassed the \$2,900,000 mark." I see that the honourable member has dropped this argument about the amount of money reinvested in Manitoba that he used before, and I think it's quite evident here that the Saskatchewan plan invests a considerable amount in the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, if the . . .

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

MR. McBRYDE: Wait till I'm finished then I'll permit a question. Also in regard to the various other studies that have been made of the Saskatchewan plan, I'd like to quote from the Los Angeles Times, July 15, 1966: "The 20 years old program" - talking about the Saskatchewan Insurance Program - "The 20 year old program is deemed virtually an unqualified success. Support for the program cuts across party lines and lays to rest the usual socialist versus free enterprise arguments." That is with most people it lays this argument to rest. "'The Insurance program,' said Dave Boldt, Provincial Minister of Welfare, 'is the best thing the Socialists ever did.'

"Even representatives of the private insurance firms have kind words for it. 'Sure, we could make more money under private schemes,' said E.C. Hammond, an insurance executive who is Vice-President of the Insurance Agents of Saskatchewan, 'and many agents would like the government to get out of the insurance business, but the majority' - for instance this insurance agent - 'think the compulsory scheme on the whole works very well. It seems to be a better system.'

"Thatcher, a booster of free enterprise, would like to turn the program over to private firms as the Liberals did with some of the other enterprises that had been operated by the government under the CCF, but no one has offered a satisfactory alternative. The program's success and popularity is based on its relatively low cost and what its supporters say is its smoothly run administration from the day a motorist purchases his insurance until the day he collects the damage claims."

Mr. Speaker, I think the question that the Honourable Member from Assiniboia asked is a key question, because if these studies have shown and said that the Saskatchewan program was efficient, the Saskatchewan program was more beneficial to the motorist, and as the Member for Assiniboia asked and others asked, then why haven't other governments done it? I think this is a very critical question. The Minister of Municipal Affairs pointed out that some other governments have done it. But why haven't more, Mr. Speaker? And I think this is important. Certainly we know here in Manitoba that the insurance businesses, the insurance agents have something to lose from this program. They've claimed for a long time that they're not making that much profit, but one would be very skeptical if one sees the fight that they're putting up in order to retain that little profit they are making or they claim to be making.

The Manitoba Business Journal -- and I think everyone knows it but I'll just repeat this to re-emphasize it, that the insurance agents and the insurance companies have something to lose. The Manitoba Business Journal states, "Private auto insurance companies and their agents are making a massive effort to persuade the government to refrain from introducing public auto insurance."

(MR. McBRYDE cont'd)

From another newspaper quotation, "It is certain to arouse strong opposition from segments of the insurance industry and from negligent lawyers."

From the Tribune on December 31, 1969, a report of the hearings in Thompson. "The brief said that only two parties benefit under the present system, the insurance company who has a vested interest to show that its client is not at fault so it won't have to pay a claim, and the lawyers who are growing rich at the expense of Manitoba motorists."

Here's a quotation - I'm not sure where it's from, it's from an auto insurance company. It says: "The agency force with a foothold in every house should certainly be able to affect election results." In other words, they're saying to the agents and to the insurance companies; Get out and fight this thing; you have something to lose.

When the Member for Assiniboia says why, why haven't other governments followed the program of Saskatchewan, I think the answer is here, Mr. Speaker, because they are afraid of the interest of the insurance companies and the insurance agents and a certain number of lawyers. Mr. Speaker, to me this is a critical question in this issue, one of the critical questions, because if the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party are afraid to go against private interests to benefit the public of Canada and of Manitoba, then it's up to the NDP to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I took my political science studies in the United States, and I would like to say to the House that I would never run as a candidate in the United States of America because the lobbies in the United States are so powerful that a legislator can have no effect. His hands are tied by these powerful interests. And, Mr. Speaker, that is why I didn't join the Liberal Party or the Conservative Party, because I don't think they can do the things that need to be done because they're afraid to go against any private interests that might oppose them.

Well, Mr. Speaker, when the Member for Assiniboia says this is a key question, I agree with him. It is a key question and my answer is that other governments haven't taken this action because they are not NDP governments. When other NDP governments come into other provinces, and Canada as a whole, then we'll see legislation that benefits all of the people and not just certain private interests.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to turn to the speech made by the Leader of the Opposition the other night when we talked on this matter - and, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to say too much against the Leader of the Opposition because usually when you meet someone who has a certain public image you're usually disappointed with that person. Mr. Speaker, I might say that in the case of the Leader of the Opposition, his public image was poorer than the person himself. Basically the Leader of the Opposition is honest and fair. I'd like to say this and speak my mind on that matter. I would expect the kind of speech that came from the Leader of the Opposition to come from the Member for River Heights or Lakeside or Fort Garry, but not from the Leader of the Opposition because usually he's too fair.

A MEMBER: They wrote it for him.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, perhaps they did write it for him, or at least he might have been influenced by them. Well, Mr. Speaker, in his argument the other night he basically gave up the debate and I think that many of the members on the opposite side have basically given up the debate. That is, they have accepted the government argument, the government reasons for going ahead with it and are digging for something else, something else they can argue about. And they're looking quite desperately for it. What the Leader of the Opposition picked out, Mr. Speaker, to try and make the point on to the public of Manitoba, was that this was an assault on the basic principles of responsible government.

Mr. Speaker, this is very interesting and I'm a new member here so I wasn't sure, you know, what is all this about, so I had to go back to old Hansards to try and get some understanding of the position of the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker, what I was able to find out from the type of legislation that we're bringing in here is not really unusual. It's fairly normal legislation. Mr. Speaker, I think that the Leader of the Opposition, who is usually fair and honest, was actually misleading the people in attempting to bring something into this issue to confuse it even further, and this is the issue that the regulations have not yet been presented. For the benefit of the members opposite, who I'm sure remember this better than I can because I just found it the other day, I'd like to quote from Hansard on March 20, 1969, Page 1808. This is from Mr. Lyon, the former Attorney-General I believe. At that time, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lyon was talking on the Revenue Tax Act, at which time members in the Opposition felt

(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . . that there wasn't enough information made available in the regulations, so Mr. Lyon -- (Interjection) -- '67. I'm sorry, March 20, 1967.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the members of the Opposition will be interested in hearing their party's position when similar legislation came in on which the Opposition didn't feel there was enough information in the bill and that they wanted to see the regulations. Mr. Lyon said: "Well, let me deal first if I may, Mr. Speaker, with the question of making public immediately the regulations pursuant to this Act. The first thing that occurs, I am sure, to all members of the House, is the axiomatic fact that regulations are essentially the administrative machinery of the Act. They are nothing more; they are nothing less. Regulations passed by this Legislature, regardless of the time that it was introduced, whether by this government or by the previous government or whatever, it's an integral part of the procedure of making an Act work. We must give to the Civil Service, to the staff who are responsible for making the piece of legislation after it leaves this House and making it work, making it have application to the people, we must give them certain machinery with which to work, and by and large this machinery is provided through the aegis of regulations, the well established principle in our parliamentary form of government, the well established principle in terms of the legislative process entirely." This is what the Conservative Government said when they were in power, and when we do the same thing, and the First Minister says, "Assault on the basic principle of responsible government." What a difference a year makes! I think someone said that the other day. What a difference a year makes. The Leader of the Opposition was arguing -- his representative was arguing exactly different at that time.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how far I can go on with this. I see it's making the honourable members opposite very uncomfortable. "As much as possible you join with the thought that regulations are a necessary part of the legislative process, and as much as possible Legislatures or Parliaments - and we have a parliament in the broadest sense of the word - must combine themselves because of the pressure of our responsibilities and the pressures of our duties as individual members within this Legislature. We must confine ourselves as much as possible to broad principles and to discuss these principles, particularly at second reading," - as we are attempting to do that at the present time - "in order that we may voice back and forth the feelings that we have, how this type of legislation commends itself to us in terms of how we see it affecting the public interest and so on. There's nothing new about this," said Mr. Lyon, "I'm sure that all the honourable members as much as possible confine themselves to the discussion of principle.

"We're not an administrative forum. I repeat, we're not an administrative forum. We're not like a rural council or municipality. We do not have administrative responsibility as 57 legislators. Certainly it is true that a number of this Legislature who are of the Executive Council in turn have additional responsibility as members of that council to oversee administration of the legislation after it leaves the House, but that in no way reflects upon our fundamental duty as members of this Legislature to debate and to discuss principles, which is what the Act contains and is what we're here to deliberate on at the present time."

Mr. Speaker, that was their position then. The Leader of the Opposition says we are assaulting the basic principles of democracy. Their representative says these were the basic principles of democracy. Mr. Speaker, I'm getting very confused by the members opposite. -- (Interjection) --

Since the honourable members are enjoying it so much I'd like to quote a little bit further from this. "Well, having said that I am still dealing with what I consider to be very axiomatic matters, then I say thirdly, that all of us in the House realize that the passage of regulations depends first upon the passage of an Act which enables them." I guess that's good logic, Mr. Speaker. "Broadly speaking, as another point, a fourth point, the Act will and does establish the principles but it cannot and it will not spell out the administrative technicalities because that is what the regulations are for.

"To come back actually to my first point, regulations are there for a specific purpose. They are there to provide the kind of flexibility in the operation of an Act, particularly a complex piece of legislation such as this is. Regulations are in an absolute sense sine qua non" (whatever that means) "if you are going to have the Act operate with any degree of smoothness. And I'm not saying by that this Act is simply going to be without 'bugs' even with regulations, because it has been the experience in all other provinces, when they have introduced this kind of taxation in other provinces, that there have been situations arise which have not been contemplated when the Act was first passed and some flexibility has to be given through the

(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . . . medium of regulations." He said "and some flexibility has to be given through the medium of regulations in order to ensure that wrong is not done or the hardship is not unnecessarily inflicted in areas where it was not intended to be inflicted and so on. That is what regulations are for. That is why we must set up the administrative machinery of this Act."

So Mr. Lyon was saying that we have to have the regulations set by those secret people hiding down the hall, as the Member for Sturgeon Creek would say, after the Act is passed. That was his party in 1967, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important in terms of what we are saying to the people of Manitoba. Basically, the Conservative Party have not been able to come up with a logical argument to oppose our proposed legislation. --(Interjection) -- The Member for Sturgeon Creek says "Bunk". That's the extent of his argument. So because they can't come up with another argument they have to find something else, Mr. Speaker, something they think they can sell to the people. They got stuck on this problem, the Member for Wolseley of freedom, which we've already talked about. Then the Leader of the Opposition got stuck on this problem of regulations. The position of his party a number of years ago, the normal way that regulations are used, would show that this argument is quite invalid.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could -- I've been able to entertain the Conservative Party for a few minutes, I wonder if I could now go back to the point of vested interests in this debate and attempt to entertain the members of the Liberal Party for a few minutes. I'd like to quote from this great lady of the Liberal Party, Judy LaMarsh, in her memoirs of "A Bird in a Gilded Cage". Now, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Party -- (Interjection) -- in most places. Mr. Speaker, at that time this lady was the Minister, I believe, of National Health and Welfare and in charge of bringing forth the legislation for the Canada Pension Plan. I think the members from that party will agree that the Canada Pension Plan was a good measure. I'm not sure that the Member for Wolseley would agree with them on that point.

Now, Mr. Speaker, she's got a problem because she has some opposition from insurance companies. "About this time the Canadian insurance companies, or some of them, began to show their hand publicly. Some of my first visitors after I took my office as Minister of National Health and Welfare were a group of insurance company presidents. I was quite awed as I awaited them. They turned out to be ordinary mortals, however, and soon got to their point."

MR. SPEAKER: Order. The Honourable Member for Assinibola?

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I understand the member is reading. Will he be prepared to table the document after he's finished reading?

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the honourable member is aware, is well aware of the ruling of this House with respect to quoting from books and I believe the honourable member has complied with that rule.

MR. McBRYDE: If the honourable member, Mr. Speaker, wishes to borrow it after I've finished with it, after today I'll probably be finished with it forever. When the insurance interests came into her office, she said, "They did not really expect the government to carry out its announced plans for a universal pension scheme but they were getting wind of the work we were doing and wanted our assurance that they need fear no government action. I was more than a little surprised at their attitude." I'm a little surprised that the Federal Minister was surprised at this attitude; I think it's quite prevalent. And this is what she said, Mr. Speaker. Now I know that insurance people and businessmen are not evil people, but the Liberal minister at that time said, "I'm unable to understand businessmen who simply assume that the promises of a party during an election period are merely promises made with no intention of being carried out." And she went on to say, "We had no real meeting of minds at all, although the atmosphere was polite enough, as I could not understand their bland assumption that we would renege on our election promises. They could not make me see that it would be better all around and less disruptive of business if we just forgot the whole thing." Now I'm sure that that quote affects members opposite. It would be a lot more comfortable for everyone all around if we just forgot this whole thing, except for the people of Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, it would not be better for them.

Mr. Speaker, there's a couple of other good quotes here I'd like to dig out for the entertainment of the Liberal members of the House. "I had been warned by my advisors that there had been a well-financed lobby set up by the insurers against the prepaid hospital insurance

(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . scheme when it was first introduced by Paul Martin in 1957 and that I might expect the lobby to wonder what their stockholders" - this is a good quotation, Mr. Speaker - "I often wonder what their stockholders and policy holders themselves, prospective beneficiaries under the new government program, feel about the specialized feeding of their own interest which goes on at their own expense." That's very interesting, Mr. Speaker. I wonder who's paying for the big campaign being put on by the insurance agents in Manitoba. I can only guess it must be the people paying the insurance premiums. They're paying for it out of their own pockets.

MR. EARL MCKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, that's an untruth if I ever heard one.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas. Order, please. The honourable member may continue. Order, please. The Honourable Member for The Pas may continue.

MR. McBRYDE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to continue to quote from Judy LaMarsh and her book, and I'd like to quote this part because it just comes close to home that's all. "I began to hear the insurance lobbying in national and provincial capitals. Duff Roblin of Manitoba was under the gun constantly in his own province from the Great West Life and its president. This is one of the few industries to have its head office in Winnipeg and Roblin was told, if he couldn't already see, where his own political interests lay."

Mr. Speaker, I'm not saying this, Mr. Speaker, I'm just quoting from the Federal Liberal Minister at that time. "David Kilgour, the President of Great West Life, had previously led the attack against the national hospitalization legislation. He made a much publicized speech entitled, fittingly, 'let's raise a storm'. He advocated an all-out assault by all insurers and their thousands and thousands of agents around the country against the passage of a universally contributory pension scheme. He publicized the matter pretty well himself and had the speech made up in an expensive little pamphlet and then flooded the country with copies. Every local insurance agent got one or some similar advice from his own head office."

Mr. Speaker, now I don't really believe this, that a Liberal, a Federal Liberal would say this, and I don't think she's quite being fair here but I think it's worth reading into the record. "The opposition of the insurance companies is a shameful chapter in the history of Canadian businessmen, and I hope no industry ever tries so blatant an attack upon the duly elected government again." Mr. Speaker, this poor federal Minister was quite surprised by the insurance industry which she opposed. Mr. Speaker, this government was not surprised. Mr. Speaker, we knew this was going to happen; we knew there is special private interests that are going to lobby us and attempt us to do something, Mr. Speaker, but we are willing to put the interest of the people of Manitoba ahead of these private interest groups. And on that note I'd like to finish, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I understand that the honourable member will yield to a question. I actually have three questions. They are not related and I'd like to, if I may, ask each one separately. First - I'll make reference to the book in a few moments. He made mention of the fact that the Saskatchewan Insurance Company have some \$18 million invested in -- I believe that was the figure that he quoted. I wonder if he's aware of the fact that private auto insurance companies in Manitoba have approximately \$58 million invested in Manitoba.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid I wasn't aware of that. Mr. Speaker, I receive every day in the mail things from the private insurance companies, and I'm sure that if any figure or fact or statistic was in their favour they would have sent it to me, and since they never sent me anything on this particular item, I assume that the fact didn't go in their favour.

MR. SPIVAK: On this one point, I think if the honourable member will check Hansard you'll find that that information was a factor. The second question I'd like to ask the honourable member having come to the conclusion that auto insurance was in the best interest of Manitoba, can he assure the House or can he inform the House that he has had sufficient facts presented to him to determine that there will be in fact a 15 or 20 percent saving to the people of Manitoba as a result of a government auto insurance plan?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I would answer that question simply this way, that I am convinced in my own mind there will be a saving to the people of Manitoba. I cannot say the exact figure of the saving because it's going to vary from each person depending where you live and what your accident rate are, etc., but I'm sure that the people of Manitoba will save

(MR. McBRYDE Cont'd) . . . money on auto insurance.

MR. SPIVAK: My third question, Mr. Speaker, and the last. He's convinced this is in the best interest of the people of Manitoba and he's sure they will save money. Is he prepared to go to the people of Manitoba and ask them if they so choose? Now, go to the people right now.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I went to the people of Manitoba on June 25th and I'm prepared to go again when the Opposition wishes me to go again. Mr. Speaker, I did a count within my own constituency, as I said, and if the Opposition wishes to defeat us, Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't object.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Would the member submit to two questions? Are you putting in the same category privately owned life insurance companies with mutual companies, like the Portage Mutual and Wawanesa Mutual, where excess profits are returned to their shareholders?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I think that I believe in this basic principle that the interest and the profit should be turned back into the benefit of the people who invest in it, and I think, Mr. Speaker, this is what the government plan is proposing to do.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: The other question, Mr. Speaker, did I understand you to suggest that companies, mutual companies like Portage Mutual and Wawanesa Mutual, are actually putting funds to members of this House to help finance the campaign against this plan?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I never said anything like that, you know, but if the shoe fits, I suppose they could wear it.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I didn't get the answer, Mr. Speaker. Could I have it again.

MR. McBRYDE: I never said that.

MR. WATT: . . . ask the member a further question? Mr. Speaker, my question involves around the part of his speech, the good speech that Sterling Lyon made in this House in '67 on the Revenue Tax. Is he aware, or has he read the Act and aware that Subsection (10) of Section 2 clearly spells out the percentage rate - 5 percent sales tax - clearly spells it out in Subsection (10).

MR. McBRYDE: Were you finished your question? I read the Act and it seems that there is a little bit more detail in that Act than in our present Act, but, Mr. Speaker, I was quoting that speech to argue the principle, the principle they've been arguing. Now what they're saying is this bill here is a little bit pregnant and this bill here is a whole bunch pregnant, Mr. Speaker, they are all pregnant.

MR. WATT: Might I ask a further question? Is it not clear to my honourable friend that all we're asking for is rates, and that the rates are set out in this bill.

MR. McBRYDE: If we gave you the rate, would you vote in favour of this bill?

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, according to our rules, any member who quotes from a document, upon request must table the document. So I counted seven articles and one book that the member quoted from and I would ask him to table them.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't agree to my honourable friend's statement of the rules. The rule is that when a person quotes from a document that is not available generally - the book is available for 75 cents a copy - and if the honourable member wishes identification of the articles which were quoted he's entitled to ask for it but he's not entitled to ask that they be tabled.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order - and I asked for clarification before and I suggested this would probably come up again - I think there has to be some ruling and some explanation of the reasons for the ruling with respect to both the quotation from letters, from documents and from material and books.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. That point had already been dealt with by the Chair. May I remind honourable members that they are not to engage in debate with the Chair. Are you ready for the question?

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, can I ask one more question of the honourable member? He talked about the 22 or 24 percent increase in British Columbia. Is he aware that their rates were set on the basis of \$250 deductible, not on Collision section but on Liability, where you would have to go to the court even if you were not at fault to recover this. The Attorney-General was confronted with a dilemma that he thought he wouldn't even have enough lawyers in this province to collect these claims so that people would have enough -- is this not the reason why the rates went up because . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, you had ruled earlier that a question can be asked for clarification of a member's speech. The honourable member is now engaging in debate by attempting to question, to inform the honourable member something which he thinks the honourable member is not aware of. And that's the way he put his question: are you not aware that such and such and such and such and such were the case.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member said that the rates had to go up 22 or 24 percent, I forget what specific --(Interjection)--dollars, and is he aware, is it because of the \$250 deductible that the Attorney-General dropped, and he said there'll be full compensation in the case of PL/PD claims.

MR. McBRYDE: My understanding of the B.C. program or the problem in B.C. was that the government followed the advice similar to that given by the Member for Assiniboia that compulsory coverage to a certain extent be required and that private industry does this. He thought this would be done with a saving. Mr. Speaker, it turned out it couldn't be done with a saving, that the insurance companies increased their rates and it's going to cost people of British Columbia more for their insurance - and it's compulsory insurance.

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

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, will the member permit another question? He made reference in one of his stabs to the situation in Manitoba whereby he inferred that a great number of the law profession were making a lot of money out of the present situation. Is he suggesting that in total that in Manitoba there is more money per capita spent on litigation than there will be under the Saskatchewan system where the -- well, is it not true that in Saskatchewan the individual must sue rather than the company?

MR. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member asking a question or participating in debate?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I believe the question is related to -- I'm not quite sure --(Interjection)--I'm sorry, I've forgotten your question.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, in the honourable member's speech he made reference to the fact, inferring that the law profession in Manitoba was making a great deal of money out of the present setup and this was probably unnecessary. --(Interjection)--Well I'm glad you can because -- can the member indicate whether he feels that in total, when you take private litigations and company litigations, that there are going to be less dollars spent on litigation under the government scheme, and can he say that in the Province of Saskatchewan that in total there is less money spent, individuals included, on litigation?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I think this is true but I don't have the facts before me to verify it. But just to return to my speech for a minute in regards to this question, I was stating there that certain people might be opposed to a government program because they have some interest in it, and this would be insurance agents, companies and lawyers, and I didn't say it was excessive or not excessive.

MR. CRAIK: One subsequent question. Under the present circumstances in Manitoba is it not very likely that a company would be the party who would pursue the litigation rather than the individual, whereas in Saskatchewan the individual must do it.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the honourable member a question?

MR. CRAIK: Well I'm asking a question, Mr. Speaker. If this is the attitude of the government we might as well just . . .

MR. SPEAKER: If the honourable member wishes to put his question, I would appreciate it if he would.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, if there was a little less nervous reaction across the way I could. Now the question, the question I asked specifically, was asking the member because he made reference to it in his speech, is it not true that now in Manitoba that the companies would carry on a great deal of the litigation that goes on whereas under the government scheme in Saskatchewan the individual must pursue the litigation.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the honourable member had asked his own question and answered it in the manner which he chose to.

MR. CRAIK: Do I not get an answer, Mr. Speaker, since the topic was introduced by the honourable member?

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

MR. McKENZIE: Thank you for your applause and your kind remarks. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure before my speech is over they won't be applauding. I stand before you here, Mr. Speaker, as somebody who has a vested interest in the insurance industry, and we were

(MR. McKENZIE Cont'd) . . . challenged the other night as maybe not being able to enter into the debate. I'm glad that your ruling was one of such . . .

MR. GREEN: On a point of privilege, I wonder who challenged the capability of the participating in the debate of the honourable member, because he's making a general charge and I want to make it clear that that is not the position of our party.

MR. McKENZIE: I'm satisfied with the ruling. I'm satisfied with the ruling.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I want -- Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege. The honourable member has charged that somebody, by that it means anybody in this House, has challenged his right to participate in this debate and I want him to either name the person or withdraw the charge.

MR. McKENZIE: I didn't mean it that way at all, Mr. Speaker, I meant that somebody had said that I had a vested interest in the business.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member will look at his remarks tomorrow in Hansard he will see that he said, in addition to the remark that he has just made, that he was challenged as to whether or not he could participate in this debate, and either he should identify who made the challenge or he should withdraw the charge.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I didn't mean it -- if the Minister heard it that way, I didn't mean it that way. I meant that somebody has said that because I'm an insurance agent I may have a vested interest and it may be I shouldn't be entering into the debate. That's all I said, and if it was said in some other terms, I apologize, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway, let's get back to the speech of the Honourable Member from The Pas who just spoke. If I ever heard a lame-duck speech in all my life, there was one. It will go down in the history of this province, Mr. Speaker, as one of the wishy-washiest efforts I ever heard in my life. The great sect reader, and all the things he's quoting from and reading from and what all this paper was, but nevertheless he read it into the record and I'm sure he set the insurance industry in this province back 50 years by some of the things that he read into the record there. Most unfortunate, most unfortunate.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that there are two completely free people in this world -- the investor and the tourist; they can always go elsewhere. That remark was quoted by the Honourable Jean Luc Pepin at the Export Association Meeting here not too long ago. On this bill that I have in my hand here hangs the future of a great industry that has its base in this province -- the insurance industry. We have to be very very careful how we handle this legislation and how we handle this industry in this province, because this is one of the most valuable assets that we have in this province. The insurance people have had a wonderful record in Manitoba and we're treading on dangerous ground when we are trying to destroy it as legislators. It has been said, Mr. Speaker, that justice must not only be done, but I say as members of this Legislature, Mr. Speaker, that we must see that justice is done in this particular debate.

The Member from The Pas said that this is normal legislation, Mr. Speaker, and I sure would like to ask him to explain to me what he means by normal legislation. A bill of this nature whereby this government setting up a Crown corporation, a quorum of Cabinet can move off in a back room and tear down the industry, the insurance industry in this province; make their own laws; make their own regulations; do as they please and we can't even have a chance to debate it, see their annual statement, see anything. Now if that's normal legislation, Mr. Speaker . . .

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

MR. McKENZIE: Wait till I'm finished, please. If that's normal legislation which the Honourable Member from The Pas read into the record a while ago, I would like to hear his remarks as what's normal about it. What's normal about Bill 56. Nothing; it scares me. The future of Manitoba, the future of this city, the future of the capital of our province is hinging on this debate on auto insurance. I challenge the Minister who is pioneering this, or persevering with this bill and bringing it through this House, that they keep reflecting back to Saskatchewan all the time, and I say there is no relationship whatsoever to the situation in Saskatchewan in 1946 to the situation in Manitoba as I stand here in 1970. Nothing in common at all, and why do you keep reflecting back to Saskatchewan? What's so good about Saskatchewan as far as an insurance industry is concerned? I hope the Minister will take some time on the second reading of this bill and give us the reasons why he went and delved into Saskatchewan at 1946 and compares it with Manitoba in 1970. I submit there is no comparison

(MR. McKENZIE Cont'd) . . . at all as far as the insurance industry is concerned.

I was browsing through the Manitoba Business Journal this morning and I came across a very interesting remark on Page 6 of the February issue, 1970 issue of the Journal, and it was said in there and he says, "I have examined the facts and figures on government auto insurance in Saskatchewan originally implemented as a social experiment by the previous CCF administration, and it is my opinion that as good as the Schreyer government's intention is to provide low cost auto insurance to Manitoba drivers, it should desist and abandon enforcement of such a scheme. This opinion is substantiated in a brief presented by the Manitoba Government Automobile Insurance Committee by the CIF, Cooperative Fire and Casualty Company headquartered in Regina."

I found it highly interesting that the brief opposing government automobile insurance was presented by a socially, economically-minded organization representing 36 people's organizations across Canada who own and control CIF. The brief was the collective view of at least 300,000 members and 28,000 policy holders in Manitoba. And they said that "the auto insurance industry in Manitoba should remain the way it is with private companies and cooperators competing in the marketplace. However, with modifications being made in some areas with government showing leadership in revising those areas. And it went on and said-- and these officials pointed out the tragedy of the implementation of government-sponsored auto insurance is that the average auto driver does not know what the hoopla is all about, but he's hoping he'll get something for nothing by government handout. It just doesn't work that way, and that is a statement that I verify and back most wholeheartedly, Mr. Speaker, because it just doesn't work that way.

Let us go back to where the debate started, Mr. Speaker, the report of the committee, who in some quarters have been called a kangaroo court, tada tada. But I don't think we have to say it was a political appointed group with no interest, I don't think, in the insurance industry in this province who went around and listened to these briefs, as the number one term of reference was to investigate the feasibility of initiating a program of government automobile insurance. And that was the only terms of reference that that committee had, so we well know what their interest was in the industry as they went around and listened to briefs and prepared this report.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the make-up of this committee in that form, along with the terms of reference that they had, came as a complete surprise to nearly all Manitobans. I'm sure it was the interpretation of most people in this province that a committee of that nature was going out to study the destruction of -- how to destroy an industry, they would at least extended the industry the courtesy to sit around the same table and discuss it with them before they started tearing it down. I regret very much the terms of reference of that committee and the way the background was prepared for the bill that we have before us at this time.

Now the theory, the theoretical advantages of government operation of business, any business, are many, and I've heard many debates, but those theoretical advantages disappear very quickly when a bureaucracy moves in. And I don't think that's an unfair statement to make. Red tape and inefficiency become the rule of the day when the bureaucracy moves into any organization. And suddenly, what happens? We see bureaucracy working every day. First thing, the customer is wrong every time. Is that right, Mr. Speaker? And he can't go any place else. Where are we going to go if we have some complaints with this insurance industry that is proposed to be set up in this province? Who can we complain to? If we have a claim that isn't settled, where can we go? --(Interjection)--Yah, you're MLA.

I'm most concerned, Mr. Speaker, and I think the record shows of a bureaucracy -- the Member from The Pas quoted the Honourable David Boldt from Saskatchewan at great length a while ago. I'll quote him one about the alleged scandal in Saskatchewan in the insurance industry that was handled by that province, and the quotation is from the same Dave Boldt whereby it says "Insurance Scandal Alleged in Saskatchewan." This is the Regina Leader Post that I am reading from --no, the Winnipeg Free Press, pardon me. December 2, 1965 - and I quote Mr. Speaker: "Investigation into the operations of the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office shows at least \$3,500,000 was squandered by the former CCF government, Welfare Minister Dave Boldt said today." And he goes on: "Mr. Boldt, Minister in charge of Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office, said in a press release 'Investigations were brought to a head when it was revealed that the Saskatoon Collegiate Board earlier this year expected large savings in insurance costs by calling for tenders on a competitive basis.'" It

(MR. MCKENZIE Cont'd) . . . goes on to say: "As a result, the Board's premiums were reduced to a point where they were able to effect a savings of more than 50 percent and the coverage was extended. The former CCF government", it says, "knew the operation of the Saskatchewan Guarantee and Fidelity Company used by SGIO and operated a general insurance company in Montana as a re-insurance firm" and so on and so forth.

So it ends up, it says: "So the CCF Government set up a loss equalization agreement between SGIO and SGF. The results of the SGI were deliberately distorted so that according to the Provincial Auditor's report, at least \$3,500,000 was diverted into the coffers of SGF." So that's a government insurance scheme. So while he's quoting Dave Boldt at one length in his debate on this particular subject, I'm sure he should start quoting from this statement from Mr. Boldt which shows the other picture of the industry as it's operated by a bureaucracy --(Interjection)--The date was December 2, 1965, Winnipeg Free Press.

I wonder what are the facts as we stand here this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, in this debate on second reading of this Bill. If this Saskatchewan Government compulsory, monopolistic insurance scheme had paid premium taxes and had paid taxes over the past 25 years, what would have been the result? What would have been the result? Now maybe the Minister will answer that question when we get to the second reading of the Bill. Would it have been in the red or would it have been in the black? I ask the question because he knows, he's quoting at great length from their plan, so maybe he can answer that question for me some day.

And supposing, let's say the public - are the public going to have an audited statement of this Crown corporation or how are we going to see what's going to happen in there? Are we going to get an audited statement in the Legislature? --(Interjection)--Oh, you are.

MR. GREEN: Absolutely.

MR. MCKENZIE: These are questions that I am asking and they're questions that are on the tips of nearly --(Interjection)--And we debate on the rates. I wonder when the Minister is going to get his rate structure or where he's going to establish his rate premium. Is it going to be a flat two base premium type, three, or is it just going to be a flat premium right across the province. Where is he going to establish his rates? The world of insurance business operates in a world of hard, cold facts, and I don't think that we have to argue about the pros and cons of rates. I said the other day in the debate previous that one of the insurance companies that I represent will meet the rates of a government plan at any time, and in many cases they'll be in a better position than the government scheme dollar and cents-wise.

But the facts are, in looking at the industry, that over the past 10 years there's been a fabulous growth of motor vehicles in this province. There's been a tremendous growth in the number of injuries, losses of property, prices of automobiles and so forth which I don't think has any reflection on the 1946 scheme as it was dreamed up in Saskatchewan.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I suggest to the honourable member that if he wishes he may continue at another time. It is now 5:30. I am leaving the chair to return at 8:00 o'clock.