

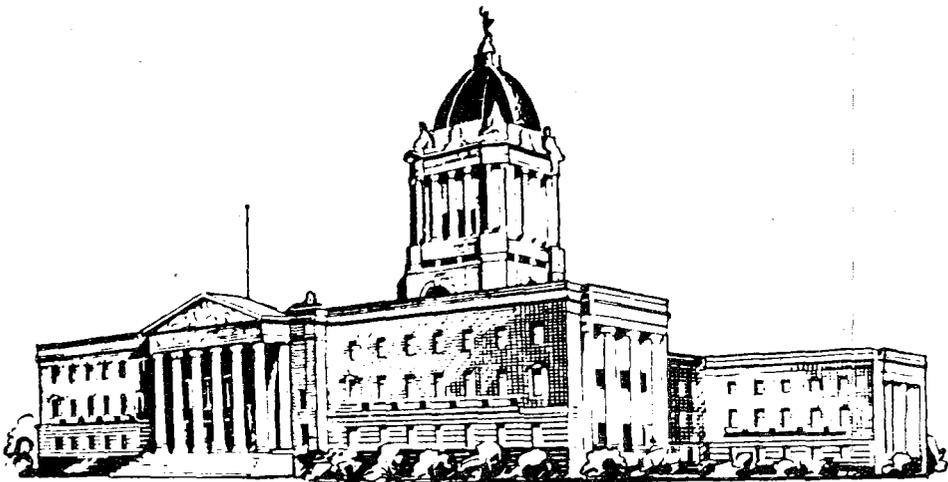


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XVIII No. 102 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 7th, 1971. Third Session, 29th Legislature.

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

9:30 o'clock, Wednesday, July 7, 1971

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements; Tabling of Reports; Notices of Motion

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Honourable the Attorney-General.

HON. A.H. MACKLING, Q.C. (Attorney-General) (St. James), on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, introduced Bill No. 103, an Act to amend The Municipal Assessment Act.

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

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Youth and Education) (Seven Oaks), in the absence of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, introduced Bill No. 74, an Act to amend The Veterinary Services Act.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 10 young people of the Children's Hospital. These people are under the direction of Miss Ojczyk. This group are the guests of the Honourable the Speaker. On behalf of all honourable members I'd like to welcome you here today.

Oral Questions; Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT BILLS

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Bill No. 36, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance and the amendment thereto by the Honourable Member for Morris. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I've been repeatedly challenged to take part in this debate and I can assure you, Sir, that there was no need for this challenge because I feel that this is a very important piece of legislation, it is something that concerns especially the people of the Greater Winnipeg area and I never intended to duck this debate at all, Mr. Speaker.

I was reminded yesterday that maybe I should examine my conscience, and I can tell you there is one thing that I, although sometimes I'll admit that it is quite difficult - we have problems - sometimes it's difficult to know exactly what to do, but I can assure you that I've never ducked any bills or any votes, and I think that the honourable member that reminded me that I should maybe search my conscience cannot say the same thing. I remember him ducking a vote on Medicare in Ottawa but that's another story.

Now no doubt, Sir, that on this debate, this legislation, some members will try to play politics. They'll try to embarrass certain members and I don't think this is wrong in our democratic system of government, I think this is to be expected. But I might say that I'm kind of disappointed in the debate that I've heard so far from the members of the Conservative Party. I find that there seems to be one or two who have done their homework, the Member for Riel I think had a lot of research in his speech, but the others I think just felt that they had to complain, to criticize, and I don't think that they are getting anywhere at all.

Let's go back, Sir, we're talking about the management, the government of the Greater Winnipeg area, let's go back in 1960 and see what happened. What did we have before 1960 when the Conservative Government created the Metro form of government which, I would say, is a Frankenstein that they've got back, that is haunting them, that's given them a lot of trouble. They never wanted to face their responsibility and this is why we've had this mess that we have now.

The Leader of the Opposition, when he spoke, talked about that anything like this, mentioned that anything like this we should bring in at a reasonable pace. We should learn by

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd.) experience, he said, and the people should be involved. Well I can assure him that there wasn't very much of a reasonable pace when Metro was brought in. There was no referendum at the time, no referendum at all, and the same thing that exists now, that they say exists now, there was no idea of the cost, Mr. Speaker. Why did we need Metro then: Why did we need Metro? We had the Greater Winnipeg Planning Commission, we had the Metro Transit, the Water District - Greater Winnipeg Water District, Greater Winnipeg Sanitary District and so on, and we could have had co-operation. There could have been a few minor changes in the law and we could have had co-operation between all the different municipalities. The day that Metro was born we couldn't go backwards.

I remember at the time taking part in this debate, I prophesied that we would have total amalgamation. In fact my exact words were "Perhaps we will not see it in five, ten or fifteen years, but it will surely come and the First Minister knows it. For the moment it would be extremely difficult to have total amalgamation, politically it would be next to impossible, but it will come and the government should make this clear."

Mr. Speaker, I think that it was inevitable that we would have to go towards this total amalgamation and I think it is to the credit of the government that this is not, although there is and there might be amalgamation, this is not complete total amalgamation, it is, as the First Minister said yesterday, something different. At the time, let me say that the First Minister of the day, Mr. Roblin, never denied that. One would have only to read the headings of some newspaper clipping stories, and you'll find in the Free Press of September 18th, 1959, the heading was "Step by Step to One Big City", and in the Tribune of June 29, 1969, "Duff Favours Metro Amalgamation" and so on, and if you care to read the story certainly you can.

So what has been the situation since then, since 1960 or about the time that we brought Metro in. I did a bit of searching, Sir, and I found out some of the clippings and I will just quote from some of them to give you an idea that the problems, what we are faced with now, is not that much different than we had in 1960, and the reasons why we're faced with these problems. If you were to look at the Free Press of June 8th, 1959 - and I'll quote just part of it, Mr. Speaker - you'd have: "The Manitoba Government is seriously considering putting a referendum to the electorate of Greater Winnipeg on whether the area should have a Metropolitan Government or be one big city, but this is only a qualified decision. Premier Duff Roblin said that he favours a referendum but some of his advisors do not however. They believe the government should take the responsibility for whatever plan it supports, no matter how unpopular that plan might be in some quarters."

Now some of these people are talking about - as you know we didn't have the referendum - they're talking about the technique, the device of old for unpopular royal commission reports is to damn them with thorough study. They are thoroughly studied for so long that the public forgets what was in them and they cease to be a political factor. Such is the immediate prospect of the Royal Commission's report, and my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition is now saying, yes, let's study, you're going too fast. This is what he's saying. I think that they have no alternative, they just say, well not now, not now. And there's another one here to show - they're talking about going to eight cities or something. That isn't new. That is not something that was just born from the Boundaries Commission. This was refused by the then Provincial Government, the Conservative Government, and you'll find on February 17th, 1960, of the Tribune, it's the first heading: "Premier Duff Roblin's Metro Bill has swept away any chance for the creation of little balkans in Greater Winnipeg." This is something that they didn't want then.

But we've talked about cost also. This is something that the Leader of the Official Opposition is saying the important thing is the cost, you don't know how much it is going to cost. Well the important question - and here it's in the Free Press, February 17th, 1960 - "The all important question of where does the money come from required to operate the proposed Metropolitan Council for Winnipeg is firmly attached to the two main standards, equalized assessment and sound financing practice. Premier Duff Roblin, asked Tuesday whether he thought municipal taxes would go up or down with the new Metro area replied, 'In my experience taxes go only one way - up.' Very clear. The Premier said he hoped the benefits derived from the Metropolitan Government would more than compensate for any extra costs."

Now my honourable friend the Honourable Member from Silver Heights, I think, made a big thing of this yesterday, that it's going to cost an awful lot more. Well this is fairly easy, you're safe by saying that taxes are going to go up, that this is the pattern. And I brought,

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd.) Sir, I have three different tax bills of three different municipalities and there is only one year that the tax was lowered. And I can tell you in St. James on a property in 1967 the tax was \$3,302 -- \$3,300; 1968 is \$3,500; 1969 - \$4,079; and then \$4,215 in 1970. This is one. Now there's another one that I have in St. Boniface now. For 1967 it was \$3,978; 1968 - \$4,837 for the same thing; 1969 - \$4,987; 1970 - \$5,494. And now in St. Vital: 1967 is \$774.59; \$864.20; \$932.36; then the one that went down - \$856.00; \$871.00 and \$964.69.

Another point that my honourable friend from Sturgeon Creek tried to make was how can you expect the community committees to work? They have no say, they have no say in raising taxes, they weren't doing that at all. They had no responsibility and those were the people that control. But who are we trying to kid? How much say do the municipalities have in raising taxes now? Isn't it a fact that they are pretty well just a collecting agency? Look at any tax bill that you want to look at. For instance out of \$964,00 of total tax, the general municipal -- the tax is \$203,00. The rest - no control. Metro says you raise so much money and this is what you have to do. The school board says you raise so much money and this is what you have to do. So who are they trying to kid, to say now you're taking this away from them. I think that they realize that we shouldn't take them too seriously. And what was the situation then? The community, some people in the community of St. Boniface were against this the way that some are now.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Would the honourable member permit a question?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, certainly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Is the honourable member aware that out of the municipal general levy, at least 85 percent of that amount is uncontrollable as well - of the 200 that he is speaking about.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: . . . part on the Opposition that this is something else I think that they can ponder, and besides that of course you have local improvement and so on and you pay for sewer and water and things that will remain the same I'm sure.

As I was saying, the communities, some people in different communities were against it, the same thing. George Forrest was leading a group then and he's leading a group now; that's his right. You know, I think that we saw -- (Interjection) -- Beg pardon? -- (Interjection) -- What about the Mayor of St. Boniface? I'll come back to that, the Mayor of St. Boniface.

The Leader of the Opposition, last week I think when he was being interviewed and I heard him on the radio one morning, he said we have to stop acting the way we are if we're going to beat this government. We've got to stop this fear and hate tactics. We don't want to exaggerate any more. He was admitting that this had been done in the past. He was showing how they could beat the government. And he says we must study the needs of our society and that then we could look back at the behaviour of our Party.

Sir, I think that maybe we should do a little bit of this right now, look back at the behaviour of the Conservative Party when they were in power. Now it was a known fact that the Conservative Party created Metro and then it abandoned them. I think that this is why we have so much trouble. You remember, you can show us the cartoon that they had in the Free Press where they showed a baby in a basket at the door of the Greater Winnipeg area. There was a tag on the basket "Metro", and you could recognize the baby, the face of the late Chairman of Metro, Mr. Dick Bonnycastle, and you could see Roblin dressed as a Boy Scout tip-toeing out and leaving the baby there. And this is exactly what happened, Sir, exactly what happened. The government from the start created Metro and then abandoned it. It was afraid to tangle with Mayor Juba who opposed it from the start. They never gave any protection to their Chairman, they never gave any protection to their Chairman at all. I think that at least once that this was brought in, this Metro form of government was brought in, at least it should have been made to work, it should have helped, and even the people that opposed Metro, such as I, once it became law we did everything possible to try to make it work, but since 1960 we've had this untenable situation, Sir.

The government, as I say, never faced the problems. It set up committees and studies, especially before each election, and if you look back you'll see that I'm not exaggerating. Do you remember, Sir, the bill, that Metro asked for a review in 1965, but all of a sudden in

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd.) 1962 there was a commission created, just before the election of 1962 because Metro wasn't popular, Metro was a mess and this could not be discussed, it couldn't be an issue in the provincial election, so we'll do something once this commission reports. And we have had how many commissions? The Greater Winnipeg Investigation Commission, the Blake Goldenberg Report, the Commission and Review that I spoke about in 1962, the Michener Royal Commission, Cummings, Kushner, Boundaries Commission, and now the present White Paper of the government. And the government has gone out to see, invited any municipality, any people to meet with them to discuss this, but the Conservative Party say wait, it's too soon, we've got to study this. And they have done nothing.

I find it difficult to know exactly what the members of the Conservative party want. The urban MLA's say this is no good for the city, for the Greater Winnipeg area, it's no good, and we heard that last night again. The rural members say it's too good, you are favouring the Greater Winnipeg area and that's not fair, you don't believe in representation by population, we don't believe in that at all, we don't want the city to get together to try and iron out their troubles, this is no good, let's keep them divided and then we're all right, we are going to have more for Manitoba, let's keep them divided. I don't remember too many of the people from the city, the MLA's from the urban points that complained when we try to give aid to farmers and so on, we've gone along with this, but all of a sudden the rural members are saying, now you are going to destroy the country - yes, we agree there might be 85 to 90 percent of the people of the population that will live in the cities eventually but don't make them too strong, they'll be too strong and we'll disappear. You'd think that because there's a change in this the people would leave. They are saying that it's going to cost that much money. Are they going to leave the rural points to come and live in the city where it's going to cost that much money? It doesn't make sense. Of course this is the same group that I think we saw in a vote, Mr. Speaker, that the rural members wanted to curtail this money going to the University of Manitoba and they had a vote but the city members voted in favour, so maybe this is the same situation that we have here now.

Well, Sir, I don't think that — though we have also talked about amalgamation, they are saying they want a referendum, they are saying who are we to decide, let the people decide. Now this legislation makes it possible for the representatives of the people in this level of government to decide if they want amalgamation of police and fire. They made it possible, that's all. Well if that's their referendum, doesn't it make more sense that the people elected to represent our population at this level of government should decide what they want, then have members here, where half of them are rural members, they are going to decide whether we should have an amalgamated police force here. Mind you, it is a responsibility, I'm not denying this, but I'm saying doesn't that make sense? Now they are saying it's automatically — why are they saying this, it's automatically going to be done, we'll have an amalgamated police force. This is something that the people will take their responsibility. I don't know if they are going to be the parties that will be represented. Truly, to be honest with you, I would sooner not see it. I don't think anybody's going to listen to me, but I would sooner see the people going in as independents, not party politics on this level, but probably, as I say, they won't listen to me and you'll have party politics and it might be that some will stand for total amalgamation, I don't know. There's your referendum and that is democracy in action, Sir.

Now another thing that I'm getting a little fed up with, especially the Honourable Member from Sturgeon Creek, he's always talking about costs for some people, he wants the good life - we all want the good life - but he's saying, oh yes, what are you going to have, and he seems pleased to be able to say if they have total amalgamation all the policemen will be paid the same. Why shouldn't they? It's about time we faced that the bullet that killed that policeman in St. Boniface, you know, it was the same kind of bullet that could kill somebody else in Winnipeg. It's the same thing. We are in need of good police protection. Gosh, they're even going into the police station now to attack the police. I think that this is a very important thing. We need the police and for equal work they should get equal pay. I'm certainly not against it, and if it means that we are going to increase taxes it's only fair. Why should one section of the population be told no, you are going to be paid less, if you risk your life in St. Boniface or St. James your life is not worth as much as if you risk it in Winnipeg. Isn't that ridiculous, Mr. Speaker? Haven't we any faith in democracy at all?

Now another thing that we are saying, we don't want to amalgamate and we should study,

(MR. DESJARDINS con t'd.) but this former government allowed the amalgamation of Assiniboia and St. James while the study was being done, and of course that made it more difficult and those people are very much against it. Why shouldn't they? They had a chance to choose their partners and the rich will get richer and the poor, poorer. What are you going to have? Certain people will say let them have all this, let them choose themselves, and then you'll have a small community that nobody will want. What are they going to do? What are they going to do? What do they call them in the province? You have these unorganized territories - are we going to institute the unorganized territory here in the Greater Winnipeg area? No, Mr. Speaker, I think that after the action of the Conservative Party, the way they played around and the mess that they left this situation here in Greater Winnipeg, I don't think that the people will take them too seriously.

And now I think that maybe we should have a look at our friends the Liberal Party because there is something fishy here, something's wrong. I am the one that's supposed to be changing my mind all the time - remember that? - I'm the one, only me. Now, remember in 1968, the main platform of the Liberal Party was they felt that something had to be done and the caucus was unanimous, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you. They might not have agreed with it, they might not have liked it but they were unanimous, and the only one that posed any condition was myself because I wanted certain safeguards, certain protection - and I'll come to that later.

But now my friend the Honourable Member for Assiniboia says we're no longer in favour, things have changed. What has changed? I have here a press release of the then Leader of the Liberal Party, now Senator Molgat, and I'll quote some of the things that he said and we'll study this together, my honourable friend and myself, to see what has changed, why he feels what Mr. Molgat said then is not valid any more. "The area of Greater Winnipeg is administered by fourteen different municipal governments. This multiplicity of governments makes municipal government more costly, inefficient, unco-ordinated and ineffectual. The taxpayer must bear the load. The energies of existing municipal government are too frequently wasted, in a never ending contest against each other. Each municipality must engage in a struggle to secure industrial development in its boundaries to provide tax revenue." Has this changed? "And there is a constant conflict between Metro and area municipalities as to which municipal government should be entrusted with various municipal responsibilities?" Has this changed? "The present unsatisfactory situation is growing ever more serious. Unless steps are taken to permit municipal government to function more smoothly, the present state of affairs will become progressively worse. It is difficult to see how the present jumble of separate political jurisdictions, with a past history of internal conflict, would be able to determine spending priorities as between themselves, and without this there could be no assurance that the taxes of the community will be wisely put to use." I don't know if that's changed.

Mr. Molgat stated at the time that the problem was too urgent. "I recognize that solution is not easy and any proposal is likely to arouse considerable opposition in various areas." That's certainly not changed. "On the other hand, the alternative of proposing nothing and doing nothing can only compound our problem, lead to stagnation and make the final solution even more difficult and costly. Having considered many alternative solutions, I have come to the conclusion that a single amalgamated municipal government would seem to be the most logical vehicle to conduct municipal government affairs in Greater Winnipeg." This is total amalgamation, away more than this bill proposes. "I recognize that this solution may be unpopular with some of the elected officials and with others" - I'll read this again - "I recognize that this solution may be unpopular with some of the elected officials and with others, but I believe it must be looked at in the interests of the Whole of the Greater Winnipeg area, of the citizens and taxpayers of that area and of the whole of Manitoba. We must take every step possible to cut waste, duplication and, where possible, cut taxes."

Mr. Molgat said "that in terms of municipal services there are virtually no services which could not be administered more efficiently and economically on a Metropolitan-wide basis than under our present divided system. Police and fire protection, urban renewal, housing, these services should probably be co-ordinated, unified responsibility falling upon the tax resources of all citizens of Greater Winnipeg.

"Amalgamation would result in equity, both in the imposition of municipal taxes and the share of tax resources from business and industry." Now that certainly has not changed either. "Amalgamation would end duplication of administration and political officials and would allow area-wide planning and development and permit the area's resources to be

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd.) marshalled on a sensible basis to provide for future growth of this urban area.

"An area of concern which would arise and for which specific provisions would have to be made in keeping with the principle of Canadian unity would be the protection of the historic and cultural nature of St. Boniface." I certainly agree with this. "Proper methods of easy . . . set by local taxpayers on municipal services would probably also be necessary, and regional service centres could be considered in this regard. Existing names and identities of the geographical areas such as St. James, Fort Garry, the Kildonans and others could of course be preserved." And we have this.

"A new concept of urban government is required. Taxpayers cannot afford to continue with two levels of local government, Metro and municipal." Now I agreed with that then and I agree with this now, and I'm the guy that's always changing my mind - remember?

And this was kept on by Mr. Molgat in January, 1968 in the Tribune. "Claiming the issue was too urgent to permit further delay, Mr. Molgat continued, 'I believe that there is an urgent need for a decisive alteration in the structure of municipal government in Greater Winnipeg.' He said he realized total amalgamation would be unpopular with some elected officials and pointed out specific provisions would have to be made to safeguard the historic and cultural nature of St. Boniface." And I could go on and on with some of the statements that have been made by Mr. Molgat speaking for the Liberal party, and I think that he is absolutely right. So all right, the Liberal party has changed its mind but they have never — I'm not convinced that they were right. There is nothing that was said then that doesn't apply now, not one single thing, and I defy the members to refute this or to show me where things have changed that much.

Now we have talked about the culture of the City of St. Boniface, and we want to know that they were toying with this idea before. We could also look back and see some of the headlines such as "St. Boniface, Transcona, St. Vital meet unofficially" - they tried to keep it a secret at the time; "St. Boniface favours three-way merger" and so on. Now what does that mean? Were they that worried then of the autonomy, of the linguistic and cultural rights of the people of St. Boniface? Is that really their concern? Is that the concern of the council of St. Boniface? I don't remember them opposing the Metro form of government that much. It was the citizens, not the committee. So I say that I doubt that they are that worried about the linguistic and cultural rights of our population of the people of St. Boniface or the autonomy of the City of St. Boniface. If they are, I say that if they are, if they are worried I say that they are unduly so.

Now, Sir, maybe I should come closer to home and speak about the thing that I'm expected to speak about, because when the Member for St. Boniface is in a debate, especially in this debate of course, I should be, I'm expected to see what can be done to safeguard certain rights of the people of my constituency and the people of French origin in Manitoba. But I'm so surprised, all of a sudden everybody is talking about protection for St. Boniface; everybody is worried about it. And I can say, Sir, that I'm very touched by this sudden interest, this concern, but before going overboard on this I would like to hear from these people what kind of protection they have in mind for the people of St. Boniface. If by protection they are talking about separatism, isolation, I'm not too sympathetic; but if they are talking about — (Interjection) — that's right, the retention of language, cultural and historic history, well then I'm with them, certainly I'm with them. Maybe we should determine to see if Bill 36 will actually endanger this culture, the history of the people of St. Boniface. We should see what the present situation is, or better still, maybe we should look back and see what it was a few years ago before this government took over.

I can tell you that everywhere in the province, including St. Boniface, French certainly wasn't used too extensively as a language of instruction. All council meetings were held in English. It was very difficult, and it's still difficult for any delegation to be heard in French in St. Boniface, in the City of St. Boniface. No law exists that would make it mandatory for the city to send notices in French, but I must say to the credit of the council that, by consent, this was being done. Some twenty years ago or so when I was an alderman of the city - and I had some experience in municipal politics also, I served on the City of St. Boniface as alderman - I introduced a motion which called for bilingual signs in the old part of the city, but very few can be found now. Many French-speaking dignitaries visiting the city are greeted only in English. I guess this is what we are supposed to, what I mention, these things we are supposed

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd.) to protect and safeguard, and although many municipal employees are bilingual, no law, nothing exists that would guarantee that the citizens of the city, of the community could be served in French if this is their wish.

Furthermore, we find that less than 50 percent of the population of St. Boniface is of French heritage and the percentage is constantly being reduced. Now some people feel St. Boniface, automatically that's French, and that's not the case. In the Greater Winnipeg area there are more people of French origin living outside the City of St. Boniface than you would find inside the city limits, probably three out of five would be living outside of the City of St. Boniface limits.

Now the Honourable Member for Emerson - I'm sorry he's not in his seat - is worried about rural citizens. Bill No. 36, he says, will do much, too much for the urban people by uniting them, but he doesn't seem interested in the rights of the French Canadians, French Manitobans outside of the City of St. Boniface. Well, I can assure you that the government, there are some safeguards that are already in effect. The government is interested in all the Franco Manitobans, not only in those of St. Boniface - and I certainly can give you facts to tell you that I'm right on this.

The introduction of Bill 113 making French a teaching language for those who desire it, and I've always - I want to be quite strong on this - no intent to shove it down anybody's throat.

Grants to build a French Manitoba cultural centre, which was one of the centennial projects for St. Boniface.

Support in request for a French teachers' college in St. Boniface.

Manitoba finally joined Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick as part of a Canadian delegation, something that was never done before. (Mr. Desjardins spoke briefly in French) Ministerial Committee of Official Languages; French Canada Cultural Agreement; French Canada Joint Commission; co-operation with Federal Government on French districts; promotion of bilingualism amongst civil servants; exchange programs with French provinces and other countries; and there are studies being made now possibly setting up a translation office.

While we are talking about protection we should not forget Part III of the Bill, the special section on official languages. There is no point in me reading that now, you know that it guarantees the right for the people of the community of St. Boniface to be served in French if they so desire, and also for the people that will go to the main office of the new form of government. This is something that was never done before, and I hope to be able to introduce some other amendments in second reading that I feel that might help in keeping our guarantee without imposing anything on anybody else. And I'm . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member has five minutes.

MR. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Sir. I am satisfied that the safeguards that I have in mind will be met now and I'm not afraid to support this bill, I support it wholeheartedly. The name of St. Boniface will not disappear. I'll keep on asking that my address be St. Boniface Greater Winnipeg area or whatever you have - it's the same thing. Now they call it Winnipeg 6, and somebody changed the Winnipeg 6 and you call it St. Boniface 6; that's just to please the people that are there. This could be done, this could be done if it's the wish of the people of Manitoba, of St. Boniface.

Now I'm sure that the little corner where the old Mr. Girard lives is not going to disappear, the name of the street will not be changed. I am confident that St. Boniface Hospital will remain. The museum, I am told, will not be transported to Quebec; we will not exhume the body of Louis Riel to bury it at Selkirk; and I don't think the police have been instructed to prevent the from meeting. I am sure this is not going to be done.

The political climate here in Manitoba has changed. Our citizens are matured. We are learning now not to base our decisions on prejudice. We want to see our own culture flourish but we do not favor separatism. We are Canadians living in Manitoba and we are proud of it; we are not Quebecers visiting Manitoba. I am a Manitoban first of all, and I'm not too worried about Quebec and I'm sure they don't give a damn about me. If the French fact disappears in Manitoba it will not be because of this bill, not at all. It will not be because of the government but because - and certainly it will not be because of our English-speaking friends - but it will be because we might be divided by petty jealousy and fear and we're trying to build a wall around us, and this is what I don't want to see. I want to safeguard this. The French Manitobans have rights. Why should they have rights on Provencher Street in St. Boniface,

(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd.) why should they have rights in a corner — now we'll talk about the French corner, the French block. The way we have it, where it will be the French block, will be between Desmeuron, Marion, Provencher and Tache. This is not what we want. We want safeguards that will safeguard, if these rights are worth retaining, that will safeguard, bring safeguards for all the French of Manitoba, and French culture all over Manitoba and not only in St. Boniface.

Now French people have been used in the past and I don't think this should happen in Bill 36. All these people that are most suddenly worried about the French fact, are they really sincere? Is it possible that they might have ulterior motives, that they are trying to play the political game? If they are sincere let them point out, let any member in this House point out in this bill what can hurt, what can help make the history, the culture and the language of our people disappear. I think it is quite the opposite. Some of us have been told to go back to France, although we might be of eighth or ninth generation in Canada here; to go back to Quebec although we might be from the fourth generation in Manitoba. Well, I don't think that here in Manitoba we should be told to go back to St. Boniface. If I'm a Manitoban I'm proud of being a Manitoban and I don't want to go inside the walls of a little corner and say this is my home and nothing else. I very seriously cannot see how anything in this bill can endanger the culture that I'm proud of, the history that I'm proud of and the language that I want to keep for my grandchildren and so on, and I have no hesitation, Sir, to support this bill and to go on record very clearly that I do support this bill. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest, as I know many others did in the Chamber, as the Member from St. Boniface spoke on Bill 36, and you couldn't help but wonder as you listened to the member what had happened to the fighter that once stood over on this side of the House and championed the rights of the people of St. Boniface and the people of his culture. I am sure that the member's statements that he made were well-intentioned and he does have in mind what he thinks is best for the people that he has represented over the many years in the Legislature, but I think the most crucial part of his statements came when he quoted the former Leader of the Liberal party and read out from press clippings, which had been obviously well prepared by himself, the statements made by the Leader of the Liberal party at that time.

What he avoided to read were the statements made by himself at the same time that those press clippings regarding the position of Mr. Molgat were made, because when the Member for St. Boniface sat over on this side of the House at the time that Mr. Molgat was presenting the position of the Liberal Party regarding the amalgamation question and which he came out for a referendum and basically in support of total amalgamation, the Member for St. Boniface sat very uneasily with that position of the Liberal Party and in fact stood up and made very clear his position, which was a very distinct position for St. Boniface in the structure of a total amalgamated city. His position has changed and the provisions in Bill 36 do not reflect what we would have expected the Member for St. Boniface to demand if we were to base our conclusions on what he said when he was on this side of the House. However, as somebody has said, probably he himself, that positions do change and obviously his has changed and many others have.

I think also he must be aware he has made the statement that everybody's worried about St. Boniface. My concern, Mr. Speaker, is that there has been far too little said about the position of St. Boniface in regards to the amalgamation question. There has been very very little discussion — in this House at least. There may have been a lot of discussion elsewhere, in fact I know there's a lot of discussion in the City of St. Boniface. Do you know, for instance, that the group that has been fighting lately to determine public opinion in St. Boniface — because the St. Boniface Council itself has not said a great deal, they sat rather dormant during this question — the group that has gone to work to do some survey of public opinion has found that in the part of old St. Boniface that the response is almost unanimous, 95 to 100 percent for the position of retaining the City of St. Boniface.

Now, it's fine for the various theories to be presented, but the Member for St. Boniface is taking a pretty big load on his shoulders if he's going to assume the responsibility for doing something that presently has not been interpreted to the people of St. Boniface, because the people of St. Boniface do not understand the question in the same light as he has presented in this House, and if he is, in fact, going to sell that position he's got a mammoth job on his

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.) hands to do it. -- (Interjection) -- Pardon? Well, the First Minister is -- I suggest, Mr. Speaker, if the First Minister was listening to it, I was not trying to present the position that I knew St. Boniface, all I'm saying is that when you find nearly unanimous support for one position regarding this question in the City of St. Boniface, it simply means that there has not been an interpretation to the people to the extent that the member has presented in this House.

Now that's the position I presented and that's the position that I believe to be true, that if in fact -- (Interjection) -- no, I'll submit to a question when I'm finished. But as of this day the value of total amalgamation to the citizens of St. Boniface has not been made clear to them. They do not believe in it and they see the disappearance of their city charter which is distinct, different, and has always been a mark of uniqueness for that community. Now that separate charter is gone and that separate charter was important to them.

There's no question that the position of the French language in the educational program of the province is an important factor and perhaps more important, probably the most important factor if one is interested in retaining the culture and the language of a particular group, the Federal Government in its move -- and I would like to comment on this too. The major move that has been made to preserve French in Manitoba was made in Bill 59 in 1966 or '67 and not in Bill 13 that extended the degree a year ago. We've heard a lot about whatever was in Bill 113 or Bill 13 that came in to this House a year ago, but the major move that was made in French, for the preservation of French language was made in Bill 59 several years ago. And the French people by and large will recognize this. Well, you can put this -- (Interjection) -- that's fine, I know, I've heard the honourable member's criticism. I haven't spoke on this issue but I think I'm as entitled as anybody. I don't intend to pretend to be an expert on it but I have the feeling, the gut feeling feeding back that they're not buying all this, that the French people that I am in contact with, which is certainly not as great as the Member for St. Boniface, but they're saying we had rights, we were seeing the rights coming in, we saw the B and B reports come in, we saw Bill 59, we saw changes going on. Why do we have to lose our separate charter? -- (Interjection) -- Well okay, if the Member for St. Boniface is convinced

. . . . MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would like to indicate to all honourable members that interjections are not allowed. I would also like to ask the honourable member addressing the Assembly to address his remarks to the Chair and probably that will cause less interjections. The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, despite the representation here this morning by the Member for St. Boniface, which I think is worth comment because I'm certainly glad in the latter part of his speech he finally got on to the position of St. Boniface, because if anything has been avoided in the discussion of this bill it is the position of those who had a unique position before because of the city charter, and of course St. Boniface stands out as the most important. Now I'm sure he's right, that the former council maybe not have -- you couldn't tell to look at it that there was that much there to miss, the street signs weren't bilingual except in a very restricted sort of sense, and when visitors came to the city they didn't see enough French. Well now, can he tell us that as a result of after this there is going to be an improvement in this? Can he tell us that a community committee which has no by-law power, no fiscal power and has no power over personnel salaries, because I would gather from his remarks that he intends to see one salary schedule for all employees across the city, and the bill itself shows that the responsibility administratively for staff is a one-city staff and not responsible.

MR. DESJARDINS: Has my honourable friend read Part III on Official Language, and if so, doesn't that answer the question that he's asking me now?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of the part that he has referred to. What I'm referring to now is the practicality of how you retain a control within an area. I'm saying that apart from the language provision, apart from the language provision the community council in St. Boniface does not have fiscal responsibility, it does not have by-law responsibility and it does not appear to have responsibility for the employees that are in that area. The employees come under, as far as the bill was concerned, the employees come under a central administration and only by delegating to the community council can you have it otherwise.

But certainly if by taking his remarks at face value where he defended the position of having a one salary structure across the city and suggested that it was discrimination to do

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.) otherwise, he is in effect giving tacit recognition to the fact that there will be a levelling across the entire one city for the salaries, I suppose, of police, fire and the other categories of employees, which in effect means that you have a central administration and not a decentralized administration. So you can't have it both ways. The government, the Minister of Finance I suppose, has said that the provision is there for them to come under the community council. I don't think anybody seriously believes that the employees are going to remain under the community council for any period or great period of time when the bill does not make any direct suggestion that employees do report in that manner.

Now the other interesting part I think is that coming - if I can divert from St. Boniface, I see the honourable member has left - I think that perhaps that I hope when this bill goes to committee that we'll have sufficient representation from the different interest groups, and I think we should hope that there is good representation from St. Boniface to state their case on this because there are a great many in that area that feel that they are being disenfranchised at the moment by the lack of discussion that is going on in that particular area and this is coming from the lack of projection. The Member for St. Boniface, compared to his usual manner of representing their position, if anything over-representing it on the many issues that are faced in this House, but in this case, which is probably the most important issue that has faced the community since its original charter came in, we find that very little has been said. When he says that everybody is worried about St. Boniface he must be getting from some of his constituents, because you'd sure never know it in the Legislature that anybody's very concerned about it, and I think that the Member for St. Boniface does owe it to himself and his constituents to go back to his position that he presented in this House when the Liberal Party as the Official Opposition presented their solution to the amalgamation question and when the Member for St. Boniface laid down his reservations about it and the qualifications on it, because the present bill I think you'll find is quite different from what he wanted at that time.

With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I'll let this go to committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

MR. DONALD MALINOWSKI (Point Douglas): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia wishes to speak?

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: I would like to make just a few remarks. I didn't intend to speak, but since the Premier spoke yesterday and the few points that he raised, I wish just to make a few points.

The Honourable Member for St. Boniface has been suggesting that I've changed my mind, I believe that he quite well understands my position and the position I had at the time, and even at the time the Liberal Party took the position that it should be total amalgamation I was very strongly against it at the time and I said I couldn't under no circumstances undertake to suggest that the City of St. James-Assiniboia would be willing to accept it, and I couldn't under no circumstances accept it and I don't believe - I'm certain and I didn't vote on the bill, not by design or not by walking out of the House because I don't believe that I ever, ever skipped a vote, I've always taken my place in my seat to vote except one occasion, I believe we switched seats and didn't vote on some issue, I forget what it was. -- (Interjection) -- South Indian Lake, well okay. So that's the only time that I have done it, otherwise I have always taken my position here.

You know, to say that we shouldn't change our mind I think is quite ridiculous. Only the other day, I think it was Philip Givens, the former Mayor of Toronto who was on T.V. and said about a person changing his mind or diverse opinions in a party, and I felt that the Liberal Party as a party that there are diverse opinions, where there are opinions generally received and easily sought, I think that it would be unfortunate if the Liberal Party would be problem oriented, I'm not problem oriented but formula oriented. I think the Liberal Party is a problem oriented, and if the NDP is a formula oriented well that's unfortunate, but I think liberalism is a political attitude rather than a doctrine, and I would reject dogmatic approaches in this instance.

The other day the First Minister stated that this is not total amalgamation. Mr. Speaker, let me ask you, when you combine the assets and liabilities of the 13 or 12 municipalities, if you combine the assets and liabilities, what really have you got if you haven't got total

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) liabilities - and this is exactly what's happening here, you're combining the assets and liabilities of all the municipalities and the cities and in my opinion what we are getting is total amalgamation.

I believe I was the first one to make my remarks in this House from one of the urban members and I believe that almost everyone else who has spoke closely related the points that I had made some three weeks ago now. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that members would agree that it is wrong for any government, wrong morally and wrong ethically to put legislation through when you haven't got the concurrence of many people. The idea - I don't argue - the idea may be a good idea and it eventually has to be done, but I don't believe that you can do it in such a short time.

The second point is you have not the concurrence of for instance, let's use St. James-Assiniboia, I would say that you have almost 95 percent of the people against it. Is it right, is it right for any government to put legislation through when you have so many against it? If you take Fort Garry you'll have the same situation. You have some other jurisdictions. You have, say, East Kildonan, you'll have the same situation. Now you know we could be ridiculed in this House as members and say we don't know what we're talking about as members, we've never sat on municipal councils, but surely when you take people like Abe Yanofsky and the Mayor of Fort Garry or the Mayor of St. James and their councils, surely you must give them a little bit of credit. They must have some intelligence because they've run pretty good administrations in those cities. And St. James-Assiniboia has one of the finest administrations for many many years. That's why it's such a fine place, that's why it's such a fine place to live. -- (Interjection) -- Well, at that time I understand the Attorney-General, I understand from the whole council he was always of the opinion that there should be no amalgamation, and as far as the people are concerned his idea was that there should be no amalgamation of any kind. But that's -- (Interjection) -- Well, you haven't changed.

What do you get now? You combine the assets and liabilities, what do you get if it's not total amalgamation? To say that it's not total I agree, because how any council will be able to say you don't need amalgamation of fire and police, well, Mr. Speaker, it's unbelievable that then the same council will say the police in St. James - now you'll have one unit, one regional government - should receive \$300.00 less a month than the policemen in some other area. I think it's ridiculous. I will say once amalgamation takes place, once you have a new council elected, you will have a total amalgamation in the police services and fire within months - not years but within months. Are you going to tell us that your civil service will have a different pay in St. James than -- or you'll even have a civil service in St. James? -- (Interjection) -- Well, I'd like to finish and I will answer all the questions.

It's unbelievable to say it's not amalgamation when, you know, we'll let the 50 member, the 50 member council decide. Do you know why? Because then you can put the blame, it was the council that did it. But council has no choice because you've already combined the assets and liabilities so what have you got? You take four little companies and combine the assets and liabilities you've got a new company. So what have you got: This is what we're getting at.

So what I get from the debate, Mr. Speaker, on Bill 36 is that almost all members of the Opposition were worried about the lack of solid base, the time required to set up the administration and the members are also worried about the cost, and I think the cost is most important because to say that there will not be an increase in costs - and this is the question I tried to pose yesterday to the First Minister - the Boundaries Commission Report, every city that they have studied in the United States, every city that they looked at, they said after you've reached 200,000 population the larger the unit the larger the per capita cost, right in every city that's quoted and they've looked at hundreds of cities in the United States. So the facts are once our unit will be 550,000 people, naturally the per capita cost will be greater than they are for a city of say St. James-Assiniboia which is 75, close to 80,000 people. -- (Interjection) -- I will when I'm finished, I'll lose my train of thought. So I think it's important.

Now you have quotations from every administration and local councils. I see one from the Mayor of St. James who is a very much respected mayor in the City of St. James-Assiniboia, very popular, and he calls it, the proposed new centralized government, he calls it a dictatorship, which I wouldn't even want to call it that, but what he says is that the 22 members from Winnipeg will run the show. I can't see any possible merit in the system of community committees. It just won't work in St. James-Assiniboia. We have six wards giving us six councillors to serve our community committee. They will have no power except to

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) supervise the administration of a budget already approved by the Central Council and one that they can't exceed. There will be no point in citizens meeting with their ward councillors as no answers to their questions can be given. Whatever they have to say must be taken back to the Central Committee. It could take months. Instead of the people getting closer to their government they will be getting further away. So what he's actually saying, what will the six member committee do? Will they take it to the City of Winnipeg? Well naturally the City of Winnipeg Council will be against it.

The other point that you have some opposition in St. James-Assiniboia, the last Times News of June 9th you have "Province Slashes City Budget by \$160,000." And I'll tell you the people are concerned, very concerned because here they had a program for two small community clubs, community clubs that they've collected for one community club in Kirkfield Park over \$20,000 from donations from house to house and door to door, and they started the program I understand over two years ago or a year and a half ago. So what did the Minister of Finance do? He said the budget is slashed and you can't go ahead with your two programs. You cannot build two community rinks. What will happen when you'll get a total amalgamation — (Interjection) — when I'm finished. When total amalgamation takes place, do you know what will happen? Those community clubs will have no chance of being built in Kirkfield Park because there are other places will be in the Greater Winnipeg area that will probably require them just as much or much more. So far those reasons, surely the people in St. James-Assiniboia will be concerned, and rightly so, when they've collected twenty some thousand dollars for a local community club and they can't go ahead and build it. So I think there will be repercussions.

And again let me say, I've said it, that we recognize the necessity that Greater Winnipeg has for regional government. Metro has served us probably not as well as it should have but reasonably well, and I think that there are obvious flaws and there are good reasons for a great deal of improvement. So your point and the attitude may be in the right direction but I don't think the way you're going about it you're solving the problem, you're going to antagonize many people.

What is the purpose of municipal government, Mr. Speaker? (a) I think to administer essential community services, to regulate and control certain areas of social economic life in the interests of health, welfare and safety of residents, and I think municipal government must discharge its duties in accord with the will of the government. A municipal council exercises the powers invested in a municipal government which is responsible to the people for conduct of local affairs. An executive translates policies of the council into action and the civil service administers the services and enforces the regulations established by council.

The reasons I point these out is because the form of government should be easy to understand for the average citizen. The citizen should be able to recognize who is responsible for what in the municipal government and this will not be the case under the present system. I think the government, or the people will be much further from their administration. I think, secondly, there should be a well-functioning executive for organization, a link between council and civil service; and thirdly, there should be an efficient administration with a minimum of departments, and under this jurisdiction you'll have a larger administration than we have right here in the Province of Manitoba.

So the structure proposed in this bill, in my opinion, is a jumbled-up executive image. There are three or more executive bodies with ill-defined duties. I have pointed out before, for instance, that you had your commissioners and you have even councils having the same responsibilities. I think there is also an actual executive committee. There are the committee of council and the responsibilities in the bill are not defined properly what is the responsibility of each. There are the commissioners with some additional powers delegated to community committees, and again I'll be the first one to admit I'm not that experienced in municipal government, but everyone that you talk to, this is their opinion, the people who have had tremendous amount of experience in municipal government. When you talk to people like the Mayor of West Kildonan or the Mayor of St. James or Mayor of Fort Garry, surely they must know what they're talking about. I think there are cross-jurisdictional conflicts between the functions allocated to the committees and various departments which shall fulfill their functions.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation proposed in Bill 36 I feel does not stand to the standards of good municipal government. The government I believe deliberately is withholding information to the collection of costs, because they keep saying well it's up to the new council because they

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) say it's difficult to quote the costs of amalgamation and what will the council spend; we don't know, it's up to the new council. But I think it's worse to hide one's head in the sand than not have at least some costs figured out and surely the government could have come up with costs.

So, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion Bill 36 sets out a confusing government structure and it will be in my opinion a considerable burden on the taxpayers and on the people in the constituency of Assiniboia and also on the City of St. James-Assiniboia. So for a few of the reasons that I've pointed out, I cannot see that I can support the bill.

The other point that I feel in the plan is not good is the retroactive feature in it. I don't think that Metro cities and municipalities should be robbed of what they have built or acquired through the years, because some of the amenities that we enjoy in our area, perhaps the people when they purchased their homes they paid more for their lot, they paid more for the property, so why should they be losing their amenities at the present time. My feeling is that through the total amalgamation - and I'm not mistaken, I'm sure that the Honourable Minister will agree that St. James-Assiniboia will be the city that will be the most penalized, will be the one that will pay the highest increase in tax next year after the amalgamation takes place, and is it proper when you haven't got the concurrence of the people of St. James-Assiniboia to force this legislation through, and not only St. James-Assiniboia, I feel that there's many others.

I feel that there is something to be done, you have to go and I think that you need more time, you can't establish a proper base between now and the next two months to hold elections and start immediately. We know at the present time the jurisdictions that are under Metro, such as regional planning, zoning and so on, there's nothing wrong with that and I think the government could proceed under the same basis for a regional government with representation from, say, various councils to one council of government, be it a regional Metro government, this could be done, but on the basis that we're going at the present time I cannot see it. I think it will cost the people of at least my constituency and many others much more in tax dollars next year because your Metro Boundaries Commission Report I'm sure has stated quite conclusively that costs - I haven't got it with me but I'll bring it to you - that the cost factor per capita is always larger as your city is larger. If your unit is say 200,000 it's more per capita cost than if it is 150,000, and if it's 300,000 again per capita costs are higher. Now -- (Interjection) -- Well I would say that we have pretty good service in St. James-Assiniboia really. We have pretty good service in our area. So if the Minister can explain to me in some way that this is not total amalgamation - but there is no way I think that the government can explain that there isn't a total amalgamation because when you combine the assets and liabilities of all municipalities, Mr. Speaker, this is certainly total amalgamation as far as I'm concerned and I cannot support the bill.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I have a few questions. One is in relation to the press clipping that the honourable member had relating to community clubs. Would he not agree that there is in that very newspaper the statement by the Mayor of St. James-Assiniboia that he did not expect that there would be concurrence because this proposal was a complete departure of policy of the City of St. James.

MR. PATRICK: The heading of the clipping says, Mr. Speaker, "Province Slashes City Budget by \$160,000 and Kirkfield, Westwood and Sturgeon Creek clubs will not get building grants."

MR. CHERNIACK: . . . did he only go by the headlines?

MR. PATRICK: Well, the information that I had, Mr. Speaker, from some of the people that were concerned with the Kirkfield Community Club - yes, I'll read it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would like to know which honourable member is on his feet. I can't have both. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Am I correct in interpreting what the honourable member just said, that he didn't actually read the newspaper story which he was referring to and therefore cannot confirm my statement that the Mayor of St. James-Assiniboia said that the proposal, he did not expect the proposal to be accepted because . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Minister of Finance is debating the issue.

MR. CHERNIACK: Will the honourable member agree that the monies requested were not planned, that is for the community centres, will he agree that that's the case, were not planned by the council?

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I couldn't answer that question, I don't know.

MR. CHERNIACK: Would the honourable member accept my statement that the application . . .

MR. SPEAKER: On a point of order. The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Finance is debating and not asking questions of clarification.

MR. CHERNIACK: The honourable member has quoted a newspaper which I think he stated, he agrees he did not read, where he spoke about my refusal to grant a certain request. I think you have ruled that a member has a right to make a correction in fact, and the manner in which I worded would be - I would appreciate your guidance - but I would like to get the acceptance by the member when I would like to point out to him that the application by the city was made to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and that the newspaper refers to me rather than the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Now, Mr. Speaker, in what way - (Interjection) - on the point of order, I would like to have your guidance as to how I could have the honourable member accept that statement because it is a question of fact.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I'll read the article. If the Minister wants me to read the article I'll read it. You know, what provincial department - if he wishes me to do it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I wonder if the honourable member can give an explanation to the question without having to read the whole article.

MR. PATRICK: . . . answering the question by reading the article. The first thing I could say to the Minister, I don't know if we have all the information in the article or not. I talked to some people that are concerned with the Kirkfield-Westwood Community Club and, in my opinion, the information that came to my attention, it was because the government said "no, you can't expend any more money." Now I don't know if it's true. The Minister will have an opportunity to close the debate and he will be able to tell the members what are the facts, but if he wants me to read the - (Interjection) - well I'm sure the Minister has all kinds of copies of this, but if he'd prefer me to read it I'll read it, but surely he'll have an opportunity to tell his side of the story when he closes the debate.

MR. CHERNIACK: . . . except to ask if I may be permitted another question, Mr. Speaker. Does the honourable member accept the principle of ability-to-pay taxation, and in that case, does he believe that every time there is taxation imposed on, let's say, the wealthy people, that they should be asked first if they are willing to pay it?

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: . . . if he's going to answer the question.

MR. PATRICK: . . . Mr. Speaker, on ability-to-pay principle, but you know there's various areas that you can apply ability-to-pay principle, because you can - we've talked about the ability to pay for the last two years and you are going to reach the area pretty soon that you are going to kill the goose that laid the golden egg when, you know, you are going to overdo it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: I wonder if the honourable member would now answer the question that I wanted to put to him earlier. Would you indicate on what basis you believe, if you do believe, that there ought to be a differentiation between the salaries paid to a police officer or a fireman as between the City of St. James-Assiniboia and the City of Winnipeg?

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, once amalgamation takes place, I think it should be automatic that the salaries should be the same.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable member would endeavour to address himself to the question I put to him though.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, it's easy for me to answer the question. The police and the members of the police commission they negotiated a contract for their salaries and wages. They are happy with the negotiated salaries I'm assuming otherwise they would not sign, they wouldn't have signed a contract. They must be happy. The second point is - and I think this is what he's driving at, the Attorney-General - I'm sure the policeman's duty in the City of St. James is not as difficult perhaps as it would be right in the heart of, say, a Greater Winnipeg area, in the business section of Greater Winnipeg where you are confronted with bank robberies, with all kinds of dope, you are confronted with prostitution and all kinds of things. This doesn't happen in the City of St. James. You know, they have less - (Interjection) - well let me finish, let me finish my answer. In the City of St. James-Assiniboia, I feel that

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) a policeman has responsibilities but they are not as difficult as the ones that you may have to put up with in other areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. HARRY SHAFRANSKY (Radisson): The Honourable Member for Assiniboia stated that the costs will rocket under the re-organization of the urban government. Is this what happened in the joining of the St. James-Assiniboia? Did costs go up?

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

MR. GIRARD: I move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the Member from Roblin, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill 52.

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MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs)(Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, during the past week we have had considerable debate in regard to Bill 52. During the period of that debate we have heard a great deal of misrepresentation or else a complete ignorance of the facts that are being outlined and being expressed within that bill. Some of this has been of such a nature, Mr. Speaker, that one can only wonder whether or not the members opposite have been doing their homework at all, or whether they have simply been seizing upon the material or the words, the phraseology that is being handed to them from day to day by the representatives of the insurance lobby, without themselves attempting to analyze that material in order to ascertain whether the material is in fact correct. Because, Mr. Speaker, if any person with some objectivity had taken the material that has been posed in this house during the past week by members of the opposition, and had scrutinized it with objectivity and with some sense of a cool analysis, they would laugh the honourable members out on the opposite side. But, of course, I do not excuse the honourable members simply because they take erroneous information that is handed to them, because they must bear the responsibility for the information which they use that is handed to them by their supporters on the outside.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. PAWLEY: First, I would like to deal with a number of matters that were raised before and I particularly wish to deal with the speech of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. I regret that he is not here. But first I would like to deal with some of the issues raised by the Honourable Member for Roblin, who obviously has not read the Bill, because if he had, he would not have raised the questions which he did in the House, because the answers to his questions are there and they will be outlined to him during committee. Possibly if he did read the bill, he didn't have someone about to explain it properly to him in the process of his reading of it.

He made one suggestion here that under the bill those that are involved in a policy violation will cause those that are involved in an accident with such a person, to not be able to collect benefits under the plan. This was a statement that he made in the House. All I can say to the honourable member, that the bill very clearly specifies that this is not the case, that the innocent member will collect, the innocent party will collect, the corporation reserves the right to collect against the person that violated the term of a contract. And let me say to the honourable member, because I am rather amazed with his background in insurance that he does not know that this has been the practice ever since automobile insurance has been sold in the province of Manitoba - that every time there is a policy violation, the innocent party, the innocent party collects, but the insurance company always reserves unto itself the right to collect back from the contract violator -- (Interjection) -- yes, I forgot that he's - well, it appears that he hasn't studied the quality of the product very well or he would have known that -- and the company always reserves unto itself the right to collect back. -- (Interjection) -- The Honourable Member from Assiniboia - and let me say that I'll deal with questions when I'm finished.

The Honourable Member for Assiniboia rises, and I know he's rising, because he read to us a letter that he received from Saskatchewan, and that is the same type of letter that I have seen on many occasions when I was practising law, written by private insurance companies in which they deny the claim in order to compel certain legal proceedings to take place, in order that they will not be necessarily prejudiced in their payout on behalf of a policy holder that violated a contract because of some offence. It generally takes place as a result of an offence under the criminal code, for instance, for driving while impaired or dangerous driving or some other offence which is a breach of the insurance contract itself, nothing new, and I would think that honourable members would have known this, before they had suggested there was something novel or strange in this type of operation.

The Honourable Member for Roblin also really surprised me, because again he hasn't followed the debate or he just doesn't plain believe anything that's said on this side of the House. If he wishes to pursue that course he can do so, but he suggested that we were going to be dipping into the consolidated funds and the plan would be subsidized. And again all I can say to the honourable member, because I am prevented from dealing with specific sections, but if he would study the bill he would see that this accusation is misguided and is not warranted under the provisions in the very bill that is before him at the present time, and when we come to committee we'll pinpoint that particular section so that we can ease the mind of the Honourable Member for Roblin. I know that he must be genuinely concerned about this, and yet, through

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) one year of attempting, in attempting to persuade, I see that we still have failed to ease his mind on this important question. There will be no subsidy and the only monies that will be advanced from the consolidated funds are funds that must be repaid in order to assist in the initiation of the program itself.

The Honourable Member for Roblin also feels that he has seized upon a rather pertinent point when he says ha ha, last year you fellows said there would be no advertising, that private insurance companies build up much of their cost factor by advertising but look what you are doing, you are advertising. You know, if the honourable member will trace back he will find that we had indicated on several occasions that there would be a decrease in the amount of advertising that would be carried on for the purposes of the corporation for a continued operation. The advertising that he refers to has been advertising not to sell anything, not to sell the insurance contracts, but has been to provide information as to the rating, the cost factor, the premium factor insofar as automobiles is concerned, and I don't know for the life of me, Mr. Speaker, how you would ever get across information to the public of Manitoba unless you were prepared to provide them with that information some way or other as to what their premiums would be and their other costs. The Honourable Member for Roblin would appear to prefer to leave people in the dark, I suppose, so that he can continue to guide them along false paths in the dark that might lead them off to rather unfortunate accidents as a result of incomprehensible representations that he'd be prepared to make.

And in case the Honourable Member for Roblin forgets - because I believe he was in the House back in this particular period, certainly before my tenure in the House - his government spent over \$100,000 in advertising to sell sales tax, sales tax in the province of Manitoba, \$100,000 in ads, radio announcements, etc. to sell the advantages of a sales tax. I don't know how the Honourable Member for Roblin stands on record on this important area of advertising, whether or not he joined in supporting his leader and government at that time that this money was being wisely spent, that the people of Manitoba should be vigorously informed as to the advantages of sales tax. I looked a little further and I found that over \$100,000 had been spent by his government in selling Medicare to the public of Manitoba - yes, Medicare, that only a year or two before they had been denouncing as some sort of extreme policy and they were refusing to participate in Medicare; but they saw fit to use over \$100,000 of taxpayers' money to sell Medicare. Well, at least I will say this on the question of Medicare, I think there was justification because there was certain information that had to be spelled out to the people of Manitoba and I think it was proper right that they should have spelled it out by way of informational advertising -- (Interjection) -- Possibly it was in order to soothe their conscience. But on the question of selling the advantages of sales tax, I think that's carrying it just a little too far.

But there is an analysis, there is a parallel between the information advertising on Medicare and the information advertising on Autopac. They are two basic social programs, new programs that required a great deal of information to be given to the public so that they would know what their costs were, what their benefits were, what their manner of payment was, and all the other very necessary information that the public requires. The honourable member knows this. He knows that it's a popular thing to say ha ha, you're spending taxpayers' money on advertising, but he knows that it was very very necessary under the circumstances.

The Honourable Member for Roblin then went a little further and adopted a well-known technique of creating fear and suspicion, because he made a statement that if you want insurance on a Saturday night, you buy a car on a Saturday, you're not going to be able to obtain your insurance till the Monday under the Autopac scheme, and this is absolutely untrue. Arrangements will be made in order to provide motorists with stickers over a temporary period of time so he needn't worry about this particular question at all.

But the honourable member thought that he was going to hurt, was going to I guess plunge the knife in where it would be very soft, and he tried to get at my own constituents of all things and this was rather strange you know. I don't know what his colleagues are going to do come the next election in my constituency if they have to campaign on the basis of the pronouncements that were made by the Honourable Member for Roblin that they're in the wrong rating area.

But I ask the Honourable Member for Roblin a question. If he had approached the insurance agents in Selkirk in order to ascertain what coverages, under what territorial grouping they presently sold policies in Selkirk and St. Andrews and St. Clements - the Minister of

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) Agriculture by the way is partly involved in this as well as the Minister of Municipal Affairs - and I would like to just read out to him where the agents in the Selkirk area presently sell their insurance in that area rated under Territory 2 rural rating, so that he will now know that there isn't any special favouritism being given to my own constituents. This would be the last thing that I would want to be charged with, that I was dealing in an inequitable fashion. Co-op Insurance sells Territory No. 2 - in fact, they did sell as Territory No. 1 till about three years ago and then switched to Territory No. 2, St. Andrews and St. Clements; Portage Mutual - Territory No. 2; Prudential of England - Territory No. 2; Gore sell under Territory 1 in that area but charge the preferred risk rates if the vehicle is driven to work so this is rather a unique departure; the Guardian did; Economical Mutual sell under Territory No. 2, and of course this is where the insurance in that area is presently written and the vast majority of the people in that area are presently rated under Territory No. 2.

I recognize the fact that the Honourable Member for Roblin in his distaste for what I am doing would like to take it out on my constituents by having them the only ones in Manitoba that would be measurably paying increased rates in the Province of Manitoba, and I suppose it's a justifiable political tactic for him to take, but I do wish that he had made some attempt to do some basic spade work on this before making that type of accusation in the House.

The Honourable Member for Assiniboia made statements in the House which I must say I want to hear . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I wonder if the honourable member would address himself to the Chair and to the microphone. When he wanders away it doesn't go on tape. The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia made some statements in the House and I think that they deserve some favourable comment because there is only one criticism that I feel that can be legitimately levelled at the plan that we are proposing to the motorists of the province, and I said this practically in the same words that the Member for Assiniboia used ten days ago because I wanted to be as frank about this matter as I can, and I'm very surprised that only the Honourable Member for Assiniboia had seized upon what I think is legitimate criticism of Autopac. All the rest of the stuff is quite frankly pure junk, but the honourable member did seize upon what I suggest is legitimate criticism, criticism that we should look upon and attempt to correct and that is that the plan has failed to go all the way towards a no fault system.

At the present time, as we know, the no fault legislation is being proposed in many states south of the border and third party, the question arises whether or not we wish to eliminate third party liability rights completely, because this is the system the honourable member proposed, and to pay complete economic loss arising from an accident, all loss of wages, other out-of-pocket money, to 100 percent regardless of responsibility for the accident. This is the ultimate. What we have here is a partial system of no responsibility coupled with a third party liability area of insurance, and I want to say to the Honourable Member for Assiniboia that I would hope that he would continue to raise this point and I would hope that we as a government will continue to look at this, because I feel personally in my own mind that we must head in this direction, that in our present day of congested transportation and modern statistics involving accidents, no responsibility insurance makes more and more sense. The elimination of third party liability and all the uncertainty and the inequitable settlements that are derived from that form of insurance is unsatisfactory.

I will say this to the honourable member, that I hope that when the time comes that this government proposes this legislation in this House - and we will do it when we have made a proper cost analysis so that we can ascertain that it will not be additional costs to the motorists of the province - that he will continue to support this insurance, that he will not for some reason or other shift ground at that time, because I have a pretty strong suspicion that after there's been proper surveys and investigations undertaken that we're in for some pretty major reforms in the system of compensating the motorists of highway traffic accidents in Manitoba. This complaint is quite legitimate. Let me warn the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, however, that he will have to prepare himself to fight certain powerful interests on this question. He should not fool himself on this question, and I would hope that when that day comes to show his stand he will join hands with those that propose this change.

The legal profession, as an example, is firmly opposed to this reform. They strongly

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) opposed it in the representations they had made to the Automobile Insurance Committee, they've opposed it with tremendous success in the United States; and frankly, this doesn't worry me. But I would appreciate when that day comes that the Honourable Member for Assiniboia will see fit to join with other progressive people that propose this change in legislation rather than remain silent or in opposition at that time. So to the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, let me say that I appreciate your comments and I think they were a deserved and responsible criticism of the plan.

Now I can't say this for the address of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition because I don't know who prepared some of the statistics and rates given. I know that there are agents in the caucus, but I don't feel that they had a hand in this because they would have known better. I do know that the statement he released and the statistics he gave in the House were very similar to the figures that were used by Mr. Harley Vannan in certain news releases that he's been giving over the past two or three months - same model car, same year of car and same rates, and I suspect that this is the source of his information. He made a number of statements in the House -- (Interjection) -- When I'm finished, you can ask all the questions you wish. Okay, you go ahead and ask.

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

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): I'd like to know where those rates come from -- (Interjection) -- No, the rates that you are talking about.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: Well, I'm referring to the rates that the Leader of the Opposition outlined in the House, Page 2240 in Hansard. Maybe you can tell me where they came from. I only suspect they come from Mr. Harley Vannan and the statements that he released, and I suspect that he had some of his own personnel work on these rates. I'm sure he didn't pull them out of thin air. If the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney knows better then he should inform me of this.

Several statements I would like to emphasize that were made by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition before I proceed with my critique of his remarks, and I would like to quote the Leader of the Opposition. "Mr. Speaker, this would involve probably 64 percent." Now that is important. He indicates that the rates that he outlined in the House would involve up to 64 percent of the motorists of the Province of Manitoba. He was very clear on that point, there was no misunderstanding that the rates that he outlined would be applicable to 64 percent of the motorists in the province. He asked the Minister to refute these figures, not to go around these figures, and I don't intend to do so.

He proceeded to throw around some names, which I regret very much, and he suggested that those advising the government were ignoramouses, or otherwise, he said that the government was made up of a bunch of ignoramouses after he made those particular statements. He went on to say, "I'll show you that Wawanesa is cheaper than the government in everything that they are offering." This was a blanket statement - yes, the Leader of the Opposition made that statement on Page 2241 and he outlined to the House a series of rates which he indicated were rates for 013 and 023. In questioning from myself he said that that was the rating classification. In other parts of his speech he said that those classifications were available to 64 percent of the motorists in the province.

Now first we should attempt to look at these rates I think quite closely that were delivered to us in this House. First, I would like to deal with an article which I do think emphasizes pretty measurably the inaccuracy of some of the rates that have been thrown out by representatives of the insurance industry, and I would refer to the Winnipeg Tribune article of May 1st which vividly illustrated the so-called validity of the insurance companies claims as to their rates. Referring to the calculations that the insurance companies had passed around, the Tribune legislative reporter wrote, and I quote - this is in the May 1st article - "However, their examples remain theoretical and they did not support their calculation by pointing to specific cases of people currently being insured at the low rates they quoted. The rates they calculated for a reporter showed a substantial saving over the proposed Autopac rates, but they also showed a substantial savings over the premium which one of the reporters had just paid to one of the same companies." That's strange, isn't it?

The same article added: "So far there has been no real evidence that government claims of 10 to 33 percent savings are false. However, undeterred by these facts, the Leader of the Opposition and the insurance industry have forged ahead using the same type of discredited

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) calculations that they used in their attempt to discredit the basic rates, in an attempt to discredit the basic and extension rates when they are coupled together."

Now this doesn't concern me at all because every motorist in the Province of Manitoba can very easily answer this question for themselves because they will simply take their policy that they have, even though it may be a 1971 policy, and will rate it along with the proposed government rates for 1972, and when every motorist has done this and compared coverages I am satisfied that they will see who has been telling the truth in this House and outside of this House as to rating comparisons. I look the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney in the eye and say to him I have complete confidence, and I think if I could give a little bit of political advice, because my colleague the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources does this from time to time to the members opposite, that even if information hurts you're much better to acknowledge, acknowledge that it hurts than attempt to gloss over it or attempt to misrepresent, and it's the same thing with the rates. Tell the truth.

Now let us look at the rates themselves -- (Interjection) -- I'll be dealing with that, you just have patience and you'll probably wish I hadn't dealt with that. First, there is an acknowledgment in the statements that were released by Mr. Vannan that rates, public automobile insurance savings were minor. Well, if you compare the insurance company rates for Vannan's own company that were used by the Leader of the Opposition, you will find that they represent a savings of 12 to 15 percent, and certainly I suggest that that type of savings is not minor. -- (Interjection) -- That's right.

Furthermore, there is an acknowledgment in the statements made by the Leader of the Opposition that 36 percent of the Manitoba motorists will pay less under Autopac. This is a premise that he started out with and it's an important one because that 36 percent were motorists that paid very very high premiums, and when someone suggested here last night that those motorists would save 30 to 35 percent they were quite wrong. The savings that those motorists will save, and this is the first time that we have indicated this from the government benches, is much higher than 35 percent. We were being overly modest when we had used the savings figures that we'd used before, because I can tell the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney I've had many people contact me in the last several months and indicate that they have saved two, three hundred dollars with their automobile insurance premiums in this province, and a large chunk of that 36 percent fall into that category. You're not going to just write off that percentage that paid the highest rates within our community as you appear to be prepared to do so by inferring that they might as well go on paying their exorbitantly high rates, the younger drivers, the younger single owner operators of vehicles. The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney knows very well what those rates are, and yet his method of approach would continue to perpetuate that type of rating system for those motorists.

Then the Honourable Leader of the Opposition used the rating comparisons for the four companies. First, the four companies represent only 25 percent of the insurance sold in the Province of Manitoba. He very neatly, very neatly excludes any company that is a member of the Canadian Underwriters Association, and this is a very, very important omission, because, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Underwriters Association represents 38 percent of the insurance sold in the Province of Manitoba - CUA. But you can't find any reference to a CUA rating there. Why? Because, of course, this would have made the rating comparison being used by the Leader of the Opposition most unfavorable because the savings in those categories are very great and in every case, if the honourable member would do some calculating he will find that the savings are in the neighbourhood of 30 percent insofar as the CUA rates are concerned.

So already we have narrowed down those that, it is alleged, pay more to less than 40 percent. You start out by acknowledging that there are 36 percent that will pay more, this is acknowledged, you by your omission -- a deliberate omission I suggest, I can understand why you deliberately omitted the CUA representing another 38 percent of the motorists of the Province of Manitoba. You weren't going to use their figures to calculate. So already you have excluded the majority of the motorists from Manitoba in your rate comparison. Then we go on to further narrow down the situation and we find that when we take the 25 percent of the motorists represented by the companies that you have given us, that we are down to 16 percent of the motorists because, of course, you have to exclude the 36 percent there that are acknowledged to pay more, so we are down to 16 percent of the motorists that you have used

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) as your stanza in comparing rates for 100 percent of the motorists in Manitoba that you arrive at your 64 percent figure at.

Then we take the most favorable rates that the Leader of the Opposition outlined to the House and commence to analyze them, and of the 48 examples given in the industry's handout - that's what I call it because that's where the Leader of the Opposition received it - 28 are lower than the government and 20 are the same or higher. If we take this proposition of the industries without questioning it any further, we quickly find that the claims of the industry, even if their figures are correct, can be applied to something over nine percent of the motorists in the province. If we use their figures alone, accept them carte blanche without questioning them, we find we're down to nine percent of the motorists - it's a big decrease from 64 percent. However, when one examines the rates they have given out on a company-by-company basis the comparisons get more interesting. Now this is where I would like to deal at some length. I would just like to draw to the attention of the members the inaccuracy of the rates given by the Leader of the Opposition the other day in this House and the obvious fact that nobody had checked these rates. I could go into much more detail than I am but I'm going to give you some specific examples.

In Winnipeg Territory No. 1 - Wawanesa. On the schedule that he handed out in the House, gave me a copy of it, he had indicated that rates of \$127, \$100,000 third party liability, \$100 deductible, compared to Autopac \$127. Let me say if you will take your rating manual you will find that the rate for that same coverage should not be \$127 but should be \$141. I've had this verified many times over. If you take the rating comparison for the other one that he used, Wawanesa Territory No. 1, \$134 which was used by the Leader of the Opposition, \$134, he compares that with the \$136 of Autopac and says hello there there's where Wawanesa's a little lower, you'll find that the rate should be \$152. Quite a difference in the figures that the Leader of the Opposition used in this House and what the actual calculation should be under the rates 013 and 023.

But I want to go on, I want to go on. In Territory No. 2, the Rural category, the Leader of the Opposition -- (Interjection) -- well, I'm sure it wasn't knowingly, I'm sure some information was handed to him and I'm trusting it wasn't from the Member for Souris-Killarney, I'm sure it wasn't from him -- (Interjection) -- well, if you've got the rate book then you know that I'm right. In Portage la Prairie, an example that was used, \$90, \$90. That was Territory No. 2, 023 Portage la Prairie. He relied a great deal on that rating comparison the other day. If you check your rating book, you'll find that that rate should be \$100, not \$90. Right there you've got 10 percent difference. And if you use the \$97 for \$100,000 third party liability and for \$50 deductible you'll find that where a figure was used in this House of \$97, \$97, check your calculations you'll find it should be \$109, a difference of \$12.

I could go on to other comparisons here. I've given enough to indicate that the ratings that were given by the Leader of the Opposition the other day as being rating groups that represented 64 percent of the motorists of the Province of Manitoba, 013 and 023 were inaccurate and misleading - and were rubbish - and garbage? Yes, I'll use that term, I very rarely do.

Now, there's an explanation for this, there's an explanation for this inaccurate information and I would like to now give the House this explanation because the Leader of the Opposition should have handed us this explanation but he preferred to gloss over the explanation or not even make reference to it for some strange reason. Because there is an explanation. The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney knows what that reason is. That the rates that were given in this House were not for 013 and 023, were not the rates that were applicable to 64 percent of the motorists of the Province of Manitoba but were select rates, select rates; and let us now deal with select rates, and what select rates mean. I would think that the Leader of the Opposition could have spelled that out to this House when I asked him the question as to the classifications he was using, he could have said that they were the select rates for 013 and 023, that they weren't the rates that necessarily 64 percent of the motorists of the Province of Manitoba can obtain. I would have thought he would have wanted to have informed the House of this, but he didn't, he saw fit not to; they were select rates.

Now I think we should deal with what select rates mean and I wish this information had been handed to the House a week ago before there has been so much misinformation talked about the province, confusing people as to what the real facts are.

Now what this basically means is this. When you go to purchase your rate from an insurance company, you discover that you're not in the particular category that has been outlined

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) and you don't qualify for that extra-special rate. Now I would like to deal with what select rating means. Wawanesa, let's take Wawanesa first. Wawanesa, and I'll read into the record from the Wawanesa rate books what they say about select rating.

"Select rates are applicable to all classes and the requirement for driving record three including farmers. All drivers must be accident and conviction free throughout the past three years. Not applicable to the following" - now we get down to the nitty-gritty of it. If the honourable member's got his rate book there he can follow along. "The driver aged 65 or over." I wish the Member for Birtle-Russell was here because he's always concerned about the drivers over 65 on our roads. They exclude them immediately, anybody over 65. "Where the first three accident rating is applicable, exclusion. Where endorsements number 28 or number 29 are attached to the policy, accident and conviction free means," and then they define it for us: "Each operator has not been involved in an accident, including first accident, and there has been no moving traffic conviction in the past three years." Not even a speeding ticket, in the past three years. If you had a speeding ticket three years ago you couldn't get the rates that the Leader of the Opposition outlined in this House. A speeding ticket, or if you'd gone through a stop sign you couldn't have obtained those rates; nor any conviction under the Criminal Code in the past five years. Yes, I'll certainly table the Select Rating Qualification that I have here.

When calculating the premium for select classes, deduct ten percent to the nearest dollar from the three premiums shown in the manual, applies only to bodily injury and property damage, all perils or collision, maximum deduction \$10 per cover. That's where the discount comes in. All new applications for select rating must be fully completed, include all driver licence numbers. Where select rating applies to renewals not presently enjoyed, select rate, the underwriting rating statements must be received at least six weeks prior to the renewal month. That's just an added piece of information.

Let's take Portage Mutual, what they say about select rating. "Select Rating: The select rating applies to all classes." - this is Portage I'm reading from, I'll table this too - "the select rating applies to all classes with the following requirements: i.e., (1) Three years' driving experience in Canada or U.S.A." - they've narrowed it down even a little further, your driving experience must be in Canada or the United States to qualify. "(2) Accident and conviction free during the past three years. (3) Driver not under 17 or over 65 years of age." Again it's narrowed down a little bit from what Wawanesa's was. "Accident and conviction free, each operator has not been involved in an accident and no moving traffic conviction in the past three years nor any conviction under the Criminal Code in the past five years." Again the same statement as in the Wawanesa select rating. A ten percent discount shall be applicable to no claim, three year rate, a third party all-perils and collision, the maximum deduction per car \$10 one year, \$5 for six months" - that's what it states here.

And I would like to read to the members the questions - rate guide for private passenger driver's classifications from the Portage Mutual rate book dealing with this very question, page -- you can find it. "The following table will provide a method of determining the driver classification applicable to the great majority of contracts written on a single vehicle basis. For those risks with unusual requirements, refer to the complete classification breakdown on page 26, 27 or refer the matter to the company itself. Ask your client the following questions and when you get the first "yes" answer look across to the correct rating class," - that's what they tell you. Now here are the questions: "(1) Is principal driver a single male 16, 17 or 18, if so Class 10. Is principal driver a single male 19 or 20, Class 11. Is principal driver a single male 21 or 22, Class 12. Is principal driver a single male 23 or 24, Class 13. Any occasional male driver under 25, Class 06." Note, they've got a note there: "To this rate must be added the full rate for the principal driver. (6) Is principal driver a female under 21. Is principal " - I guess that's why the Human Rights are writing letters. "Is principal driver a female aged 21 to 24? Is principal driver a married male under 21? Is principal driver a married male 21 to 24? Is car used chiefly for business?" You can see how they're eliminating all the vast majority of the population of the province and still say they've got 64 percent of the population; it's rather strange mathematics. "Is car used chiefly for business?" That excludes you, of course, immediately. "Is principal driver single male 25 to 29? Any occasional female driver under 25? Now this next one is really a funny one, listen to this one. Are there more than two drivers? Are there more than two drivers? Is driver driven more than ten miles to work? Does annual mileage exceed 10,000 miles? -- (Interjection) -- I

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) guess a person's gotta calculate out to see whether they're one mile over the 10,000, and you talk about us being arbitrary and rigid. "Is vehicle used for professional or vocational purposes?" Other questions: "Has any driver been licensed less than three years?" Now that excludes you, of course, immediately from any select rating if you've been licensed less than three years. It's rather inconsistent, they say they're not going to apply it to anybody 17 and under and then there's a provision that - the licensing is for three years.

And the final question, a big question; after you've gone through all the nitty-gritty, the final big question that's pertinent to the whole examination: "Are all questions answered "no" to this point?" If you have managed to get through the gauntlet then you would have to deal with this question whether or not you've had a speeding ticket in the last three years or you've gone through a stop sign or whether you made a right-hand turn like I did last year where you weren't supposed to and that would eliminate you, of course, from any select rating; you would have to deal with that question. You would have to deal with your criminal record for the past five years, you would have to advise them whether you were 65 or over; and still we are being told that this represents 64 percent of the motorists of the Province of Manitoba. That's what we were told. Not only did the Leader of the Opposition tell us this but last night the Honourable Member for Brandon West repeated that statement in this House - that 64 percent or more of the motorists of the Province of Manitoba were represented by these rates that had been advanced in this House a week ago. He confirmed it. I know that that same statement was endorsed by others in this House too.

Now, I haven't dealt with Allstate and it's rather interesting, you know during the course of the debate on automobile insurance last year it seemed that none of the insurance companies wanted to compare themselves with Allstate, they just never attempted to make any reference to any comparison between their benefits and Allstate rates, and now we are being constantly sold the benefits and the wonders of Allstate Insurance Company. During the heat of the insurance debate last August, the only group that was trying to sell Allstate was Allstate themselves but now we are being constantly bombarded with information on behalf of Allstate. It's strange that they don't write for the vast majority of the Manitoba motorists if they are such a good company.

I can only assume that when members opposite endorse Allstate rates, point to Allstate as the way, as the path, that they are endorsing operations, the operations of Allstate. I can only assume that, otherwise I know that they in all integrity would exclude that company from any attempt to draw comparison; so I am assuming that they are depending upon the operations of that company to carry them through with favourable comparison.

Now since the Leader of the Opposition appears to know so little about Allstate - and this was disclosed during some questioning in the House last week - I think that possibly we should review some of the history of this company, how it commenced its operations, and in order to do that we should refer to the July 11th, 1959, edition of Business Week magazine, and a brief history of Allstate Insurance Company appeared there. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition would like to hear these comments. I wish he was in the House so that he could hear this part, because he relied so heavily on Allstate in his rate comparisons and other comparisons last week. It's a 1959 edition July 11th.

The story begins by saying that Allstate's concept of mass merchandising and mass processing in this business stirred up the selling, rate making and paper work practices and sometimes the indignation of the old line companies. The story goes on: "Credit for the idea that Sears could do well in the insurance business is given to one Carl L. Odell, an insurance broker who was 30 years ago a commuter train companion of one General Robert E. Wood then President of Sears. Odell suggested to Wood that salesmen's commissions made up far too large a part of insurance costs. -- "Sales commissions made up far too large a part of insurance costs, he said that. "That direct mail selling, the Sears type, could greatly reduce costs and thus prices to the motorists."

I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition would agree with this concept. I assume that he must, in using their figures. "That salesmen's commissions make up far too large a part of insurance costs." The same article also continued: "From the beginning, Allstate salesmen were employed directly by Allstate and sold only Allstate insurance -- (Interjection) -- Captive Agents. I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition approves of this system of captive agents. I wish this matter could be spoken to.

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd)

Again, from the same article: "This system of selling was and is an innovation in the casualty insurance company business, where most agents are independent contractors who often represent as many as thirty companies." I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition would approve of doing away with the independent agency system altogether. Is this what he is proposing by inference in this House?

And again from the same article: "Agents don't have to file half a dozen or a dozen reports to different companies, so they can devote more time to productive selling. Their volume tends to be higher so the commission per unit can be reduced without hurting the agent unduly."

I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition is aware that Allstate presently pays a 15 percent commission to its captive agents for new business but only 6 1/2 percent on repeat business, which makes up the greatest part in any agent's volume. If he contends that Autopac commission structure of 7 percent and 10 percent are starving the agent, I wonder why he is so eager to point to a company that pays 6 1/2 percent on most of the business that their agents handle. Why? I can only rest assured that there wasn't sufficient homework done on this part because I wouldn't think for a moment that the Leader of the Opposition would want to associate himself with that practice; but until I hear otherwise, I can only assume that by the use of Allstate rates and calculations in this House, that he is in fact associating himself with that practice and that procedure.

Now I would just like to pursue this just a little further on Allstate - I would like to quote from one more magazine. In July 1970, when Consumer Reports magazine, which was sold here locally -- it occurs to me that none of the members opposite read this magazine -- there was a questionnaire sent out to 230,000 motorists in the United States and they rated various companies as to their performance record, from the best to medium to poorest and Allstate was not average, not below average but was rated much below average, and I refer you to the Consumer Report in which they analysed each insurance company, rated them and that was the rating they gave to Allstate Insurance Company. If that is the type of information that the Opposition wish to rely on for their statistics, they may do so, and only the future will correct the poor impression that is created by the use of this type of faulty information.

It is interesting to note that the public relations handouts by the insurance industry, I think, at this point are not intended for circulation in Manitoba. The information that was handed to the Leader of the Opposition by the insurance lobby for use in this House was not really meant that it would have much impact here or in the province of Manitoba. To the Leader of the Opposition, this was I'm sure his primary concern but it wasn't the primary concern of the insurance lobby. Their primary concern right now is the province of Ontario and what is occurring there, and everything must be done imaginable no matter to the length and to the degree which they are able to go, to distort the facts of the plan here so they can carry that distortion into the province of Ontario which will be fighting an election issue of which automobile insurance will be an important part of that campaign. So its Ontario that these remarks are being directed at. We shouldn't fool ourselves in this House, we can at least be frank with ourselves and recognize this. The comments are directed toward the Ontario voters. But it's very interesting that a week ago the Toronto Globe and Mail, which is a respected Conservative paper, in Toronto, but one of pretty honest analysis. I must say -- well, I want to say to the Honourable Member for Morris in his mutterings, that he can prove . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I should like to once again indicate that interruptions unless on a point of order, or a point of privilege, are not part of our procedure and I would again ask the Honourable Minister to address himself to the Chair and not to the honourable members directly.

MR. PAWLEY: The Toronto Globe and Mail editorial in discussing the no-fault plan that's just recently been proposed by the Ontario government, probably a similar type of program that given time, maybe 5 to 10 years, a Conservative government would have embarked on here - the important words are "given time" -- would have proposed in this province. The Toronto Globe and Mail had this to say: "Yet the Ontario plan is plainly no more than a partial plan. Mr. Wishart described it as a second to none anywhere on this continent. It would be difficult to prove the Manitoba government operated plan will provide maximum death benefits of \$10,000, twice that in Ontario. It will also provide no-fault property damage compensation and all" - and these are the important words - "at reduced premiums." From the Conservative Toronto Globe and Mail, "all at reduced premiums."

Now I would like to just make a few comments about Wawanesa and some of their

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) operations for the interest of members of the House when we discussed the question of agency commission. In the province of Quebec what Wawanesa does, in fact, is hire retired businessmen between the ages of 60 and 70 and pays them salaries ranging from \$255 to \$280 per month to do direct writing of policies and also to take information on claims - by the way, that's something that agents won't have to do in Manitoba under Autopac. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is clear even from the actions of Wawanesa that the independent agency system is something which the companies themselves are attempting to eliminate. What is happening in Quebec now could happen in Manitoba tomorrow and could happen right across Canada next week and those agents that really understand the insurance system know and understand this. When the members opposite question our compassion or question our fairness, I would say to them to compare our system which gives existing insurance agents a chance to stay in business and earn a fair percentage of return, with Wawanesa's system in the province of Quebec paying the wages which I have indicated above, or alternatively gives, as in the case of Allstate, independent agents no chance at all, or as was the case with Midland Insurance Company last year, when they withdrew \$25 million of insurance premium from the hands of agents altogether, all across Canada.

All I want to say in conclusion is that I have no doubt three years from now when the public of the Province of Manitoba are able to revert, look back, and to think about the first term of government, New Democratic Party government in the Province of Manitoba, and when the majority of the people are asked at that time in Manitoba, what in your view was the most progressive, most humane, most socially useful, most effective, most important piece of legislation that that government introduced, their answer will be Public Automobile Insurance.

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

MR. McKELLAR: When I made my speech on second reading I asked a question of you, and I know you weren't in your chair at the time, as to whether you had a letter from every state in the United States recognizing your plan. Have you got those letters on file?

MR. PAWLEY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I thought questions were to clarify points that were raised during my remarks itself during the speech. I will answer this question if it's in order. The answer to your question is that these steps are being undertaken at the present time; there will be no problem involved, the honourable member need not concern himself unduly on this point.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

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

MR. McKELLAR: Ayes and Nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the Members.

The question before the House is Bill 52, proposed by the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Adam, Allard, Barrow, Borowski, Boyce, Cherniack, Desjardins, Doern, Gonick, Gottfried, Green, Hanuschak, Jenkins, Johannson, Mackling, Malinowski, Miller, Paulley, Pawley, Petursson, Schreyer, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, Uskiw, Uruski, Walding.

NAYS: Messrs. Barkman, Bilton, Craik, Einarson, Ferguson, Froese, Girard, G. Johnston, Jorgenson, McGregor, McKellar, McKenzie, Moug, Patrick and Mrs. Trueman.

MR. CLERK: Yeas 27, Nays 15.

MR. SPEAKER: In my opinion, the yeas have it. I declare the motion carried. The Honourable the House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Could you call Bill No. 27, please, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, this Bill 27, the Personal Investigations Act, may I say to you, Sir, that I listened to the Minister very closely when he introduced this bill. In my opinion, it's not what he said, it's what he did not say, Mr. Speaker, that concerns me. I have a feeling, Mr. Speaker, that this bill is similar to the one we dealt with last year which was ultimately withdrawn. The more I read it the more it worries me. Mr. Speaker, it smacks at the rights and freedoms of our people. The bill speaks for itself.

I'm well aware, Mr. Speaker, that present day living requires that people of necessity through income tax returns, estates, pension applications and several other means of inquiry

(MR. BILTON cont'd) have given up many treasured personal rights. Surely, Sir, it is not necessary to go all the way and place in the hands of a bureaucracy this personal investigation act. I know it will be said that the intent is not as I suggest. That may be true, Mr. Speaker, but it is not spelled out in the Act, nor did the Minister elaborate on this point. One knows, Sir, that once the law is on the statute books its interpretation is then the responsibility of the people at many levels of government and appointed by that government armed with the authority which that law provides, which has been exhibited I would suggest to you on many occasions and sorry situations have developed.

The Attorney-General, Mr. Speaker, when speaking to the resolution of the Member for Assiniboia proposing a Manitoba Bill of Rights, he questioned the advisability of same. He told us in no uncertain terms that both Russia and Spain had similar legislation which they trampled on every day. That being the case, Mr. Speaker, how can he endorse this bill? The Member for Logan when speaking on the same subject went to great length in quoting the historic rights of our people developed over many years of struggle. Can he in all conscience vote for the contents of this bill? We had quite a discussion the other day on the bill to do with the rights of Hutterites. The First Minister made his position perfectly clear as to where he stood. We had an exhibition the other day, or yesterday, on the letter that supposedly emanated from the Attorney-General's office. There was confusion there, Sir, and there will be confusion with this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the appointment of a Director. That person I suggest to you, Sir, could and would become the most powerful man in the province when it comes to the personal affairs of individual Manitobans. The bill, Sir, calls for factual information, not only places of residence, the make-up of a family, but income, paying habits, cost of living obligations, matters of personal record, and possibly, Sir, things you wouldn't even tell your mother, depending upon the zeal of the investigator. Added to this, Mr. Speaker, the bill requires that your medical background be given. In other words, by law, the investigator can demand desired information from your personal doctor. This bill, Sir, authorizes personal investigation which in the end spells out the entire make-up of the individual. The collected information, too, Mr. Speaker, can be transmitted to federal, provincial, municipal government or police forces. It allows no reference to race, religion, ethnic origin, political affiliation and it goes on to say that it need not be recorded unless the subject being investigated agrees. I know that throughout the bill, Mr. Speaker, consent of the subject is called for. I wonder if the sponsors of this bill realize the impact of this suggestion to thousands of people. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, Mr. Premier.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): I thank the honourable member. I would like to ask the Member for Swan River if it is his interpretation of this bill that it increases the extent to which the state and private investigatory agencies can intrude into the private lives of the individual, or whether it's his interpretation of the bill the intent is to restrict the intrusion into private lives by the state or private investigatory agencies.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I wonder if the First Minister would do me the courtesy of hearing me out and in all probability he will get what I'm driving at. I'm only beginning to fight. Sir, as I said a moment ago I know the bill asks for the consent of the subject in its many ways of inquiry, but, Mr. Speaker, I say to you that the average man and woman become bewildered when confronted by an examiner. An interview by skillful probing by an interviewer can piece up valuable information that could be determined intrusive, improper and violate the individual's dignity. The claimed data taken would be, as it says in the bill, considered confidential and its access limited.

Mr. Speaker, I say to you the fact is that confidentiality under circumstances such as this cannot and will not be protected. What I am saying, Sir, the moment this Act becomes law the inference is there and individuals will never know the day they will come under the shadow for one reason or the other. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, the word of an investigator, on his word, on his investigation, the person is no longer innocent until proved guilty. This bill implies that a man is guilty until he himself proves himself innocent. The bills allows the Director, Mr. Speaker, in carrying out his powers to have access to a man's business, documents, personal files, correspondence and other pertinent records. Added to this also, Mr. Speaker, the Director can remove that material from a man's premises and make copies or

(MR. BILTON cont'd) take extracts from it. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that if this bill becomes law no home or business will be sacred any more.

I have referred to only parts of the bill, Mr. Speaker, to indicate the seriousness of the proposed law before us. True we have seen a curtailment of people's rights and privileges being imposed on our people in recent days. Remember, Sir, the effects of the contents of this bill can and will become far-reaching in the hands of a government investigator. A learned judge only the other day assured the people of Manitoba that the divine right of kings is not present in this province. Is not this bill taking us rapidly down the road where the divine right of government will be held supreme? Think of the possible complications, Mr. Speaker, of the average man on the street. I am confident the House will rue the day this Act becomes law. History has surely taught us, Sir, the society overly protected becomes overly permissive, overly dependent, decadent and finally gangrenous.

I represent a constituency, Mr. Speaker, where the majority of people came from the Ukraine and Russia and elsewhere to escape the personal research of their privacy by an investigator. I know many of my people would be disturbed when confronted with the contents that this law entails. The people throughout Manitoba likewise will object in no uncertain terms to the contents of this bill when they realize what it brings about. All we can do is to endeavour to try and hold the line, but the government by sheer majority can pass this bill into law and it will be a dark day for the people of Manitoba. I, Sir, am proud to have the opportunity to have been in the position to voice the opinion of the silent majority beyond these walls. The day will surely come if the present trend continues, intentionally or not intentionally, this province will lack freedom of movement, thought and action and also personal intent. Through this government's intent to over-protect, oversee and overtax and over-direct, Sir, the population of this province.

While the Minister did not say so, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the evidence this Act will provide is necessary to accommodate Autopac. If this is not the case the Minister did not say so. It seems logical to me that if the government is to hire agents to sell insurance then surely it intends to hire investigators. Presently there is nothing to say that they won't. If this transpires, Mr. Speaker, will the army of men come under the control of the Director that this bill appoints? Here again, Mr. Speaker, when the Minister was introducing the bill he made no mention of that point. If what I am surmising is true, what a goody bag this province bought with the insurance Bill 56 last year. The people were not told then that the package included the contents of The Personal Investigations Act. This Act takes away some of the sacred rights that were fought for and protected for many centuries. Is the Act necessary to be a crutch to accommodate recent legislation now on the books? I refer to The Rentalsman Act, the proposed Provincial Police Commission requiring as it will investigative work of policemen, the Highway Traffic Act, the Consumers' Act, the Hearing Aid Act, all these and others, Mr. Speaker, require investigative work. Surely the government is not going to set up an investigation bureau. The Personal Investigation Act in my opinion lays the groundwork.

If this is not so, Mr. Speaker, I ask the government to tell me it is not so and to tell the people of this province that it is not so. Is this legislation necessary? And I say again that this legislation, Sir, is dangerous. It is unnecessary and should be withdrawn for it will create a feeling amongst our people that they will be ever under government surveillance brought on by progressive accumulation of complete files covering their private lives, held by the government under the hand of this Director, Sir, which in essence is no one's business but their own. And I repeat that again, Mr. Speaker. It's no one's business but their own. It would appear to me that this government is overly anxious to accommodate the few at the expense and the despair possibly of the multitude. This is not a new government, Mr. Speaker, this is a new regime. I can only be thankful for what has been and for what is to be and hope for the best in the future, remembering the efforts that have gone before by gentlemen in this chamber to protect the rights of the people and I like to stand as one of them.

There is no way, Mr. Speaker, absolutely no way that I will assist the transition that carries with this legislation or legislation of this kind. I will do nothing that will create uncertainty in the private lives of our people at all levels of society.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, listening to the Honourable Member for Swan River, I was wondering whether we were both thinking of the same bill. We are supposed to be considering Bill 27 at this time. Now the honourable the Minister of Consumer Affairs will be

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) speaking later in this debate, at which time he will deal with many of the points that honourable members opposite may want to raise, including the Member for Swan River; but Mr. Speaker, I couldn't let another minute pass without challenging head on some of the interpretation and assumptions that the honourable member for Swan River has made with respect to Bill 27. He seems to interpret the bill as having as its purpose a further extension of investigation and infringement on individual and civil rights by state and private investigatory agencies. -- (Interjection) -- When I'm finished - all right, yes, go ahead.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: mind my making my own interpretation known -- (Interjection) -- No, well, that's fine.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, of course I can have no objection to the honourable member making his interpretation known but I can object to the complete inaccuracy and distortion that he puts on the record in making his interpretation known, because his interpretation is in every important respect, completely wrong. The purpose and objective of Bill 27 is to put constraint on the degree to which state and private investigatory agencies have been able in recent years to delve into and snoop into matters that are the right of the individual to have private.

The honourable member asks "is it really necessary to have this bill at all?" Well, Mr. Speaker, you know that's a matter of opinion whether or not it's necessary. I suppose that we could simply withdraw the bill and insofar as the operations of government are concerned it wouldn't hurt us one bit, but it would not be very helpful to those who are concerned about the growing - and it has been a gradual and steady increase in the way in which and the extent to which investigatory agencies have been delving into affairs of individuals, unbeknownst to the individual; and I ask honourable members opposite to look at Section 3 of the bill where it states very clearly that a provision of this legislation, is that there shall be no investigation of a personal kind without the written consent, prior knowledge and consent of the person being investigated.

Now my honourable friend, being an ex-police officer should know that over the years there has been a growing concern and a growing practice with respect to use of electronics - eavesdropping, credit rating of individuals - many of these practices I think are dangerous, particularly if allowed to develop in a cumulative way over years, and that's what's happened in our time. The honourable member surely, surely cannot be completely unaware of the intent of Section 3 which is to require by law, that if any individual is being investigated he must as of the coming into force of this Act, be informed that he is under investigation, or his credit rating is being investigated, etc.

Surely the Honourable Member for Swan River is not satisfied with the present state of affairs whereby investigating agencies, companies, are able to snoop into the affairs of individuals, unbeknownst to them. Is that desirable? He says is this legislation necessary and I can tell him that those who are most intimately connected with Human Rights Associations, Civil Liberties Associations, these are precisely the people who have been advocating legislation such as this, and then the Honourable Member for Swan River presumes to leave the impression presumes to leave the impression that this is a further extension of delving into and snooping into the private affairs of individuals. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, I'll answer it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: May I ask the First Minister is it the intention of Autopac to appoint investigators?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that question to me proves beyond reasonable doubt that the honourable member hadn't read this bill very carefully; because if he will check Section 2 of the bill he will see these words - and if I may, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if it's within the rules - well, then I shall paraphrase: that this legislation specifically does not give any authority to government beyond what it has already, and the federal, provincial, municipal governments are specifically excluded from the provisions of this Act and are given no authority under the provisions of this Act, so that whatever government was incapable of doing of an investigatory kind before Bill 27, they remain in that same position after the passing of Bill 27. So it answers the honourable member's question in a very clear way. Bill 27 has no relevance whatsoever with respect to any government agency, federal, provincial or municipal and Autopac is a provincial agency. Therefore, the honourable member has his answer.

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd)

I say in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that here you have the height of irony, really, in the most precise sense of the word irony, that we have introduced legislation - part of the motivation behind this legislation comes at the behest of Civil Liberties Associations, Human Rights Associations, people connected with such associations who have had a growing concern about the extent to which people, individuals could have their private lives and credit ratings investigated in a way that was kept hidden and secret from them. We have introduced this legislation to safeguard civil liberties in this respect; the Honourable Member for Swan River pretends that it's an intrusion. It is the opposite of an intrusion. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I must say that if the honourable members opposite, if their criticism is based on the same premises as the Member for Swan River, then their opposition is worthless, their criticism is worthless because it is completely beside the point.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Consumer Affairs, the House do now adjourn until 2.30 this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 2.30 in the afternoon.