

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Thursday, February 21, 1974

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to my gallery where we have some distinguished guests. They are the members of the executive of the Société Franco-Manitobaine: Mr. Roger Collet, President; Dr. Gerard Archambault, Vice President; Richard Dorge, Secretary-Treasurer; Hubert Gauthier, Executive Director; and the following councillors: Rodolphe Comeault, Guy Jubinville, Mrs. Denise Fournier and Miss Michelle Gosselin. On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here today.

We also have 12 students of Grade 12 standing of the Beliveau School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Murray. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Radisson.

And we have 35 students of Grade 11 standing of the St. Anne's School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Legere and Miss Bartmanovich. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

And we have 50 students of Grade 9 standing of the Louis Riel School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Dandenault. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. Again, on behalf of all the honourable members, I welcome you here today.

Presenting Petitions: The Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

PETITIONS

REV. DONALD MALINOWSKI (Point Douglas): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Mount Carmel Clinic and seconded by the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. SPEAKER: Reading and Receiving Petitions. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. CLERK: The petition of Hazel Vellam and Others, praying for the passing of an Act to incorporate The Minnedosa Foundation.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports; The Honourable Minister of the Public Insurance Corporation.

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. BILLIE URUSKI (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation) (St. George): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the report of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1973.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I was asked the other day if I would table in the House the submission by the Province of Manitoba to the National Energy Board regarding the matter of the exportation of oil. This is a document that has been made public as a matter of course; there is a copy already in the library, but in view of the request of the Honourable Member from Riel, I'm now tabling as Minister in charge of the Manitoba Energy Council our submission to the National Energy Board dated December 14, 1973.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q. C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the report of the Flood Forecasting Committee, dated February 20, 1974.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other reports or ministerial statements? Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, may we have that matter stand?

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. Questions. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (Leader of the Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, you know, I must at this point rise on a point of privilege. I appreciate the fact that not all the members of the Cabinet can be here nor that necessarily that it follows that the Premier will be here on every occasion, but this is not the first time since this House has opened that we've been faced with a situation where a significant number of people on the front bench are not present; they're arriving now. Now, Mr. Speaker, -- and the questions that are to be asked are to be asked of people who are not here. --(Interjection)-- Well it's not a question of being "too bad". --(Interjection)-- Well that's fine, then maybe, Mr. Speaker, we should adjourn the House for a period of time until the members of the Cabinet can come into the House. --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker --

MR. SPEAKER: Order.

MR. SPIVAK: On the point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the privilege of the House, Mr. Speaker, I recognize and appreciate the fact that it does not follow necessarily that Cabinet Ministers can be here on time, but the fact is that there are a number of people who are fairly important to the running of the government that are not present and this is not the first time that this has happened. And, you know, Mr. Speaker, if they are in fact pre-occupied maybe we should adjourn for 15 minutes to allow them to come in. The Premier has arrived.

MR. SPEAKER: On the particular issue the honourable member raises, I must inform him there are no procedures which indicate that this is a matter of privilege. It may be a matter of convenience. I'm afraid that I cannot rule on it in respect to convenience. Questions. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

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MR. SPIVAK: Just for the benefit of the House Leader, it's not a matter of grand-standing. The Premier is here and the question, my first question . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. --(Interjection)--

MR. SPIVAK: . . . nor has he done anything for my benefit.

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier really in the absence of the Minister of Health and Social Development. It relates --(Interjection)-- Well I didn't know he was in the city, Mr. Speaker, but my question will be directed --(Applause)-- Mr. Speaker, it would appear that my suggestion that we should recess for a period of time should have been taken.

Mr. Speaker, then my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development or to the First Minister, and it relates to the resignation from the Manitoba Health Services Commission of Dr. Patrick Doyle. I wonder if it is the government's position . . . His resignation from assistance and work with the Manitoba Health Services Commission, and his reasons for resignation which appear to be in the paper basically charging multi-headed inefficiency existing in the health care administration of the province. Yes, my question, Mr. Speaker, to the government, is: do they take the position that Dr. Doyle is in the same position as Dr. McPhail in that there is a conflict of interest with respect to the operation and involvement that took place between himself and the government?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, Dr. Doyle resigned; he was a consultant for the Commission, had been for a number of years. He resigned, he took it on himself to resign; this is a decision he made and that of course is his own affair. I don't think it's analogous to Dr. McPhail who was a member of the commission itself.

MR. SPIVAK: Well I wonder then if the Minister can confirm that it's still the government's position that Dr. McPhail's resignation was in fact motivated by a conflict of interest.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I wonder whether it serves any purpose of the procedures of this House why someone was motivated about anything which does not pertain to the procedures of this House. I think the question is out of order. Would the honourable gentleman rephrase it?

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MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the government has reviewed its position, in writing, to Dr. McPhail that his reasons for quitting were motivated by a conflict of interest.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I believe a letter did go forward from the Department or from the Minister at the time when Dr. McPhail resigned, and I believe the copy -- as a matter of fact the Leader of the Opposition has a copy, did you say? Apparently he waved it around a couple of weeks ago so he must have a copy. And the reasons that McPhail gave are his own reasons. The Minister at the time acknowledged his resignation, and it didn't agree entirely with some of the statements made by Dr. McPhail and that's where it rests. People have a right to resign when they wish to for whatever reasons they feel. I'm not going to impute motives to Dr. McPhail; that's up to him.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I wonder if he can indicate whether the government intends to take any action on Dr. Doyle's resignation and his charge of multi-headed inefficiency existing in health care administration in the province.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the government's always taking action to improve the system; we are always doing it and we will continue to do it.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, there was a question taken as notice for the last two days with respect to Concordia Hospital and the investigation that's being undertaken. I wonder if the Minister is in a position to answer that.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I arrived back late last night and this morning I gathered there were some questions on Concordia Hospital, and one of the questions I believe taken as notice is, when was this investigation commenced; whether they, that is the government, initiated the investigation or whether the Manitoba Health Services Commission initiated it. It isn't really an investigation, Mr. Speaker, and the term "investigation" is perhaps the wrong one. The term "investigation" can be applied perhaps but only very loosely in this connection.

Personnel at the Concordia Hospital approached staff of the Commission to discuss some concerns they had with them. The first step, from what I understand, the staff discussed this with the Manitoba Health Organization, which is the Hospital Association. The Manitoba Health Organization suggested they see the Commission and the contact was made with the staff. It was then that because of staff initiative it was decided that the hospital and the Commission conjointly undertake to look into the matter, and to this end the hospital has sought the advice and the expertise of the College of Physicians and Surgeons and also the services of a consulting firm. The names of the consulting firms as suggested by the Manitoba Health Organization, that is the Hospital Association, there were two firms named. The board itself will make the determination as to which of the two firms is going to be named. I believe the meeting is tomorrow night, that's the 22nd; today's the 21st -- yes, tomorrow night. The question was whether the government had asked the College of Physicians and Surgeons to become involved and the answer to this is no. The government had not been involved nor, as a matter of fact I think, was the Commission involved. It was the board of the hospital that contacted them. It's at the invitation of the Concordia Hospital Board.

The other question, does the Government of Manitoba have a representative or an appointee directly on the, directly or through the Health Commission, on the Board of Directors of the Concordia Hospital? The answer again is in the negative.

And does the government have or does any government representative have copies of the complaints, the irregularities alleged in the Concordia Hospital, and really the standards, you know, of the administration, and the administration of the standards as well as the care generally in a hospital and how it's run, is the responsibility of the Health Service Commission, but you know I understand that for that reason that the Health Services Commission was talked to, and there's nothing in writing, there were only verbal contacts throughout the early stages of this matter. --(Interjection)-- Not through the early stages; it was by discussion, I believe.

And the question addressed to the First Minister: does the First Minister have the information on which the complaint is founded? The answer is no, because the substance of the whole matter was extracted from hospital records and reported to the Manitoba Health Services Commission via the Board itself, by the Board of the Concordia Hospital.

The question was raised about Dr. Bradley's presence in Manitoba and I'm informed that

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(MR. MILLER Cont'd) the last year - I think it was last year - the Concordia got provisional accreditation, and it is the practice when a provisional accreditation is granted that the institution is visited fairly regularly thereafter to ascertain whether that provisional accreditation should become permanent, and I'm informed that Dr. Bradley's visit coincided with the normal accreditation visit to Concordia Hospital and did not come about as a result of this particular incident.

And the other question is: did in fact a member of the Health Services Commission threaten, as alleged in the newspaper, the Concordia Hospital's judicial inquiry. Well, the fact is no such threat was made, I'm told, and it was in discussion with the Concordia Hospital Board as to what vehicle they thought would best be suitable, whether it should be an inquiry of some kind or an alternative method considered by both parties as the best way to move on this matter. And the best way apparently was agreed upon, that it would be by the use of a consulting firm.

The question asked by the, I think the Leader of the Liberal Party, was whether the Toronto firm of Hickling, Johnson has been retained and I answer that as yet nobody has been retained. The Board of the Concordia Hospital make that decision apparently tomorrow night. The names of the consulting firms were recommended by the Manitoba Health Organization.

Now the other question: Are there firms in Manitoba that are capable of investigating the defaults in hospitals? I can only say there may be -- it is possible. However, the choice of firms, I say, has been left in the hands of the Concordia Hospital Board and so they'll be making the selection and it's really up to them to do so. Whether there are other firms, whether there are firms in Manitoba or not who might undertake it or have the capacity to undertake it, I don't know. It's not a very common -- it is a very difficult and complex field and there aren't too many firms in Canada. That I do know.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party. Order, please. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition have a supplementary?

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wonder then in the basis of the statement or the answer to the question that the Minister has provided, whether the government's in a position to deny any suggestion that in this investigation there is a question of malpractice or irregularities involving death.

MR. MILLER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the government is not in that position because the government does not deal directly with the Concordia Hospital. It is not privy to the information or the discussions that have been going on. What I am reporting to the House here is information conveyed to me through the Health Services Commission, and so the allegation made by the Leader of the Opposition is something that I can't directly answer. I don't know the terms of reference that the consulting firm will be addressing itself to, I don't even know who the consulting firm is as yet, and whether this is something that will be part of their terms of reference and study I don't know. I do know that they will be, I am told they will be looking at the administrative structure, the method of operation of the institution itself. Remembering that Concordia is moving into a much larger facility in the very near future and that now is the time, if there are needs of strengthening the administration, strengthening the procedures, the controls, then of course now is the time to do it.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, in view of the Minister's answer and in view of the fact that there have been suggestions in the media that there were irregularities that resulted in patient deaths, would the Minister undertake to inform this House whether this consideration by the investigatory process is taking place, that in fact there is that consideration being taken place or at least be in a position to confirm to the people of Manitoba that no such irregularity has been suggested?

MR. MILLER: I can't give a definitive answer to that today, Mr. Speaker, because today I don't know. I know the College of Physicians and Surgeons -- I believe the College of Physicians and Surgeons is seized of this matter too, and so they're certainly involved, and I'm sure that being the responsible body that they are if there's something that needs addressing itself to they will do so. Insofar as the study itself is concerned or the firm that's being hired as consultants, what they come up with I don't know and we won't know until after they're through, and I will only receive that as a matter through the Commission, I assume, because they'll be doing this study on behalf of the board.

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

MR. I. H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): To the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. What is the purpose of the investigation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MILLER: Well I guess, Mr. Speaker, I guess the honourable member doesn't listen too closely because I started off by saying that contact was made by staff, from staff apparently from Concordia, who had some questions about the manner in which the hospital was run. They contacted the Manitoba Health Organization who advised them to contact staff of the Commission, and that was the chain of events. Because of that the Health Services Commission felt that it would be desirable to call in the board. They discussed it with the board and as a result of those discussions both the board and the commission agreed that a consulting firm should be brought in to look at the Concordia Hospital, its operation, its method of operating, its staff, its administration, and that is where it's at.

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

MR. ASPER: I thank the Minister for the answer. The second part of the question is: what is the substance of the complaints? What's the nub of the complaint?

MR. MILLER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not privy to that information. I really am not. I really am not. I have seen no -- I have not seen . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the complaint; I have not seen any letters on it. What I have before me is what came through the Commission that the hospital and Commission conjointly undertook to look into the whole question and all the matters that have arisen, and I have every confidence that the Commission will certainly pursue this till it is satisfied that the matter has been adequately looked into and that the solutions, if there are problems, will be developed by the consulting firm.

MR. ASPER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister undertake to ask the Board of Directors or the Manitoba Hospital Services Commission to furnish him with a copy of the complaint which is in writing, and table it in this House so that honourable members may know what we're talking about?

MR. MILLER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what letter is referred to and I'm not sure what there is or is not in writing, and before I would undertake to table it I would have to ascertain whether in fact there is something that can be tabled.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. I wonder if he considers -- well he would consider it an obligation on the part of the government because of the suggestion that there were causes of malpractice that were responsible for patient deaths, not to warrant his government determining for themselves and reporting to the Legislature that this investigation is either dealing with this matter or not dealing with this matter, so that at least the people of Manitoba can be satisfied that there is no problem with respect to health care in the province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Well, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has heard the Minister of Health and Social Development give a rather lengthy account as to what investigation is under way and contemplated in order to ascertain the validity of the allegations referred to. I would assume that the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition understands that this is a rather delicate and difficult situation since there is not much point in dealing in the Legislature with thus far unsubstantiated allegations involving particular professional people until in fact the investigation has been conducted and something definitive is available to report. Until such time, it is merely giving further momentum to thus far unsubstantiated allegations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable First Minister. Does the First Minister not agree, however, that either there has been gross irresponsibility . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The question in that form is argumentative. Would the honourable member rephrase it?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I will try to rephrase my question. The report carried in

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(MR. ENNS Cont'd) blazing headlines in one of our newspapers, namely the Free Press, is such, surely, that the Minister would agree raises a great deal of doubt in the minds of those persons normally using that facility.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I do not see that is enhances the procedures of this House to discuss the merits or demerits of a newspaper article. Would the honourable member rephrase his question if he has one? The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to rephrase that question once again. Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that there are a number of thousands of Manitobans that from time to time use the facility of the Concordia Hospital, whose very usage has been cast under a grave cloud by either irresponsible newscast reporting or . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please. No opinions.

MR. ENNS: Does the First Minister not consider it of utmost importance to clarify the issue on which this story was carried in the first instance?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the answer is an obvious yes it is important to ascertain as much as it is possible to ascertain on matters of these kinds, whether or not any of the allegations are true in whole or in part, and the Minister of Health and Social Development has confirmed that a course of investigation and ascertaining of the validity of these allegations is under way. The reference to the newspaper, I say only this, that the headline may have been blazing, as the Honourable Member for Lakeside said, but the substance or the story part of that particular article was not unbalanced. The headline was disturbing, and I don't know what else can be said to assuage any fears about Concordia Hospital. It is certainly irrational and premature to draw any conclusions at this point in time. I can only say that personally if I had to go to hospital - I haven't been in hospital a day in my life but if I ever do - it probably would be Concordia, even tomorrow.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. I commend him on his choice of hospitals but the supplementary question being, how soon? How soon can we know what the investigation is all about? That is the only answer the people of Manitoba are waiting for.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. ENNS: Not the result of the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Member for Lakeside, having been a Minister of the Crown at one time, knows that there are some questions to which a precise definitive date is not possible to give. I would only say that the Minister of Health has explained that a course of action is under way and that it will be concluded as expeditiously as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture which relates to an announcement by the Department of Agriculture federally giving insecticide warning. I would like to know if the Minister is taking any action within his department relating to this matter, namely the insecticide which is being re-classified, and the insecticide is carboryle.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the honourable member is alluding to. I don't know what actions he would expect. I would presume that if the Federal Department is concerned about the use of a certain chemical for which they have jurisdiction, I think we have to abide by their concerns and their directives.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a second question for the Minister of Agriculture and it relates to the agreement he signed with the Federal Government on consumer subsidy which amounted to five cents. My question is, Mr. Speaker: did he consult with the dairy producers of Manitoba before signing that agreement?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the agreement in question is between two levels of government and has nothing to do with the producers of milk in this province, or in any province of Canada for that matter.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, a second question. Do I understand from the answer the Minister gave me that he has no regard for the farmers of this province when he is dealing with problems?

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MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the understanding I have is that the honourable member has no regard for ethics in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Can he indicate what the impact will be on the price of gasoline in Manitoba April 1, if the increases go through as now appear imminent?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is hypothetical. The honourable member himself said, "If the prices go through." This is hypothetical. Do I have to teach grammar? The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, can I ask what impact the increased royalties have on the prices of gasoline for Manitoba as proposed by Alberta and Saskatchewan.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think we all understand that prices are going to rise but it's extremely difficult for me to get up on my feet and suggest off the top of my head exactly what that impact might be. We'll have to know what the changes at the crude level is, and then just see what impact is going to be at the refinery level and so on, what the distribution cost impact will be, etc. So eventually we'll be able to calculate this but it's impossible to say at this time.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister whether these figures he gave us the other night did not indicate that Manitoba would rely on its own production for a certain percentage of its supply, and if I recall it correctly did he not say about 32 percent for production of oil? Now my question really springs from his statement and statistics he gave as to whether or not a calculation has not been made about the impact on retail prices, if he has that information.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, as I understand, the bulk of the oil that is produced in Manitoba is actually shipped out of the province. It's a different level of viscosity from that which comes to us from Alberta and Saskatchewan. Most of the oil that we use in our refineries comes from beyond the provincial borders of Manitoba. And again I say it depends on exactly what happens to the crude prices. You can make various assumptions: you can say, you know, if the barrel price goes up by \$1.00 at the wellhead, you know, "X" cents change in the price of gasoline per gallon will occur at this end. You can make all kinds of hypotheses but we don't have any precise information to make precise calculations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, then might I ask the appropriate Minister, it's probably the Minister of Finance, as to whether or not there are proposals at this stage to increase the price of Manitoba's crude to that of Alberta and Saskatchewan come April 1.

MR. SPEAKER: Anticipatory. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q. C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, obviously the question is a matter of policy.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources in his capacity as Minister reporting for MDC. Is the corporation planning to "go back to the bargaining table" with striking Columbia Forest Products workers from Sprague.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker. I don't know what quote the honourable member is referring to but I would merely indicate to him that it would be a very difficult engagement to indulge in for the government to be involved in the collective bargaining procedures that are taken between one of the companies that is controlled by a board of directors, established under the Manitoba Development Corporation and its employees.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister advise the House who the workers can then negotiate with insofar as attempting to satisfy their concerns with regard to job security.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I think they would have to negotiate with their employer, who is now the receiver who is holding the assets and was operating the assets of the complex. I gather from my honourable friend's question that the workers want to know whether they are secure, and in this I can only answer that for some ten years the plants in the area have

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(MR. GREEN Cont'd) been kept in operation by provincial subsidies of one kind or another, either additional loans or making up of deficits which have been taking place in the last two years, and I know of no employees in Manitoba who have a better indication as to their security than that particular fact.

MR. SHERMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the workers assume that the plant is going to continue in operation?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe I answered that question with my previous reply. I can't know that anybody in Manitoba is guaranteed absolute security, therefore what we are dealing with is relative security and I think that those employees know or should know about the actions of the previous Conservative administration and this administration in maintaining security of employment in that plant although it has involved considerable public expense.

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

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and deals with the CFI expansion. The Minister in a statement the other day said that the final decision to proceed will be made by a special resource committee of his department. I wonder if the Minister would advise us who will make up the membership of this committee. Will they be all in-house employees or will there be any representation from the business community?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the decision will be made in the ultimate analysis by the Cabinet of the Province of Manitoba which represents all of the people of the Province of Manitoba including the business community.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would answer my question with regards to the makeup of the special resource committee of his department that he refers to will assist in preparing, I presume, the feasibility report, and will there be any representation on that particular committee or will it be all in-house employees?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the committee that the honourable member is referring to is not a committee of my department; there is a sub-committee of Cabinet which I believe was announced by Order-in-Council and therefore is on public record. It has available to it staff of various department.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON (Gladstone): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address my question to the Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management. In view of the statements that he made yesterday about the serious problem that exists with the jacklighting deer in the province, will the Minister be holding meetings with the new President of the Indian Brotherhood, and will the Federal Government be changing legislation with regard to the jacklighting situation in Manitoba?

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I did meet with the President of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, that is the previous president. I'll admit that that was some time ago; it was soon after I became Minister of Mines. It was early in 1970 -- in 1970 was when I met with Mr. Courchene, and at that time, Mr. Speaker, it was apparent to me that any change in the status of the Indian Act would have to be a matter between the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood and the Federal Government, but we're prepared to look at this again.

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

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Honourable Minister of Labour, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister and it's regarding the Powerview Arena. And I was wondering if the First Minister could inform the House whether any materials in that arena came from Dring Canada Laminated at Boissevain.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, while I'm not familiar with the details involved, I can assure my honourable friend that the operation at Boissevain that manufacturers laminated rafters for arenas has a good reputation and they certainly -- their product was not involved in the case of the Powerview Arena.

MR. McKELLAR: I have another question, it's for the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, and it's regarding the announcement today in the Free Press regarding a meeting that's going to take place here in the Legislative Building on Monday morning regarding Garrison Dam, and involves five governments - Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Government of

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(MR. MCKELLAR Cont'd) Canada, Government of United States and the North Dakota Government - and I was wondering if this will be open to the press and to members of the public.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that we will be meeting with the officials of the Government of North Dakota and other officials referred to, as a conference between the two groups, and that it is not intended to be a public conference.

MR. MCKELLAR: Mr. Speaker, because of the interest, the importance of this particular subject matter, if persons like myself and like the Member for Arthur and other members who are interested could attend that meeting as bystanders, not take part but I mean just as interested people.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, that can be given consideration too. I would have to deal with Governor Link who requested the meeting in that regard, but I did not take it that what was being requested was a conference, it was a meeting between the government and the Government of Manitoba.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I have a series of questions for the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, and I would ask that you give me the same leeway that you allowed the Leader of the Opposition in additional questioning.

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my first question is . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable First Minister state his point of order.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that the Leader of the Opposition proceeded by way of questions and supplementary questions which flow from the nature of the replies, and it would be bad precedence, Sir, in my humble opinion, for the Chair to allow a series of questions postulated as being a series in advance, which is not in accordance with the rules.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The honourable member proceed with his questions.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question is: Does the government have any issued guidelines or instructions to members of government staff and particularly the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, instructing them that they are not to invest or speculate in land in their personal capacities?

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't know why that question would be directed to me since I'm not -- Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the question is worded in such a way that I would be very very sensitive to how I answer. --(Interjection)-- No, I'll answer it all right. Certainly where staff is privy to information by virtue of the work they are doing, I know I would consider it a serious breach if that staff then took advantage of that information for private gain.

MR. ASPER: In view of the answer, does the Minister himself or has the Minister himself or is he aware of any other Minister, including the Attorney-General, who has ever instructed an employee of the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation that he would be fired if he did not stop certain land dealings?

MR. MILLER: Now, Mr. Chairman, now we're becoming specific. A company was incorporated or was trying to be incorporated, oh, I think about a year and a half ago. When I became aware of it when I took over the responsibility of the department, I did call that person in, we did have a discussion, it was agreed that the company would simply fold up and would not go into the business of buying land, although I must say to the House this: that the reason put forward was not for the buying and selling of land for speculation, but rather because, in this particular case, the reason was that there were lands owned for many years in the family and this was for tax purposes and estate purposes --(Interjection)-- tax avoidance -- that this was being done, and even though the purpose of it was quite legitimate, knowing members of the Opposition as I do, I recommended very strongly that it not be proceeded with.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, does the company that the Minister refers to not exist? And

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(MR. ASPER Cont'd) so that we can both be very specific, are we talking about Tarspan Limited?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I don't recall that name at all and if there's any specific matters which the member wants to put forward, then I'll deal with them very specifically. I spoke fairly specifically but in broad generalities. Now if there's a particular name of a company or a firm which I am now being advised of for the first time, I don't recall that name, it means nothing to me; but I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that rather than fishing expeditions and the possibility of making statements in this House which may damage somebody outside of this House, I think the honourable member owes it to everyone, the public and the individuals involved if they are individuals, to make the statement publicly, give the information to the Clerk of the House so we can look at it.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I accept the Minister's invitation and ask him before I proceed, has he received, has his department or he received any complaint or evidence that privileged information gained by people involved in the work of MHRC was used by those individuals to purchase land which is being expropriated by the City of Winnipeg for a park?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I've never been made aware of this, I never heard of it until this very moment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Is the Manitoba Government planning to follow British Columbia's plan to take over ambulance services?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, that's a matter of policy. There are many programs being viewed and discussed and that may be one of them.

MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the same Minister. Can the Minister tell me whether Winnipeg's plan for free dental care for the people, for needy people, will be a duplication of the plan outlined by the province?

MR. MILLER: No, Mr. Speaker. I believe the City of Winnipeg is simply expanding the services which it has been giving for years to include the old suburbs which were not within the old City of Winnipeg boundary.

MR. BROWN: Another question to the same Minister and I apologize for not providing him with notice and he may wish to take notice on this one, and that is, would the Minister provide the House with information as to the number of nutritionists employed by the Department of Health under its public health nutrition program?

MR. MILLER: I'll take that as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AX WORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister. Because of the statement made by the First Minister in this House one week ago on Thursday, February 7th, to the effect that signs concerning the increase of housing starts in the City of Winnipeg look positive and we can look forward to positive . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well in view, then, of the report issued this morning by the firm of Underwood McLennan which indicates that . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I'm telling you the question. In view of the estimates, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I would like to indicate to the honourable member -- Order please -- that question is -- I would suggest to the honourable member that he do take a look at Beauchesne's Citation 171 in respect to questions. They are to be brief and terse and to the point. The honourable member rephrase his question.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I'll rephrase the question then. In view of this morning's report which indicates that there is going to be a serious shortage of building lots in the City of Winnipeg, is the Minister's statement of last week still considered to be a positive one or is the government now prepared to take immediate action to meet that crisis?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm still in a optimistic and positive mood and

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(MR. SCHREYER Cont'd) attitude relative to the prospects of the bringing forward of a greater number of serviced lots for construction, for housing, and as a matter of fact I might add in answer to this question that my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition's concern at my being late, five minutes late this afternoon, was because we were meeting on precisely the matter of land assembly and land servicing, with certain officials and representatives of the City of Winnipeg.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to hear that that is taking place. Considering that the City of Winnipeg has also indicated it's prepared to meet with industry officials, will the province issue the same invitation to members of the housing industry to meet on this problem and to find a solution to it?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, a general invitation is always "nice" and I put that in quotation marks. I can't be more specific in reply to my honourable friend until I'm able to ascertain in what particular context he is referring to a meeting with industry.

MR. AXWORTHY: Perhaps I may specify, Mr. Speaker. Would the Premier consider issuing an invitation to members of the house building industry to discuss changes in the City of Winnipeg Act to improve the approval process of the City of Winnipeg and to bring more housebuilding lots on stream for the building season of 1974?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there is a common misconception that the factors that my honourable friend refers to are the principal reason for a relative scarcity of building lots. It is also possible that one of the problems has to do with a longstanding practice of alienating too much land from the public domain in the first place.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. I wonder if he can indicate whether the Manitoba Government will be entering into a Western Canada lottery.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, certainly there are discussions that have taken place over the course of several months. I believe that my colleague, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, has scheduled further discussions with his western counterparts and I believe there is some consensus that there is room for cooperation.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the First Minister could indicate whether the government has made an assessment of what the losses would mean for Manitoba for both the province and for the agencies involved if such a Western Canadian lottery did come into effect.

MR. SPEAKER: The question's hypothetical.

MR. SPIVAK: I'll frame it again, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the government's in a position to present information at this time of what losses would be anticipated if in fact such an agreement was entered into, losses for the province and for the agencies involved.

MR. SPEAKER: Again it's hypothetical. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Can he advise the House whether prior to his resignation as Director of the government's Advertising Audit Bureau, did Mr. John Vandeweer submit a report containing recommendations on the Bureau's operation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, last summer I asked Mr. Vandeweer as Director of the Advertising Audit Office, not a bureau, to respond to five administrative questions that I asked him so that we could make the Advertising Audit Office more functional and improve its operational efficiency. He did respond to that memorandum of mine, and since then I think that we have got the Advertising Audit Office into an operational position.

I might say, Sir, that in response to the member's question that there was a report in the Free Press which as usual appeared to be inaccurate, and it referred to a report written by Mr. Vandeweer which was critical of Mr. Vandeweer's own actions, and I can't imagine, Sir, that any report would be written of that nature, and I would like to point out again while I have the opportunity, that Mr. Vandeweer's departure from the government is one that he takes for personal reasons, that he has had no difference with me, that his operation as the Director of the Advertising Audit Office has been satisfactory.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question

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(MR. BANMAN Cont'd) to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Will the Minister inform the House what the status on the bilateral air agreement is with United States as it affects Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, a longstanding complaint of the western Ministers concerned with transportation matters is that the Federal Government does not take the provinces into its confidence in negotiations. However, we have always made our views known that we wish to be involved more closely in these matters. As far as I understand, the latest information we have is that the agreement has still not been signed and there are certain undue delays. I will be meeting with Mr. Marchand, or at least it is anticipated that the four western Ministers concerned with transport matters will be meeting with Mr. Marchand, the federal Minister, on March 1st in Saskatoon, and this will be one matter which will be discussed at that time.

MR. BANMAN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can Manitobans expect an additional direct air flight to U.S. cities such as Chicago?

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, the Winnipeg-Chicago route was mentioned in the bilateral announcement made so many months ago, but unfortunately the preference is being given to an American carrier and it will be many years before, as I understand the agreement, before a Canadian carrier can get into this particular route. We are very unhappy about this and I made our views known, the government's views known, about those proposed bilateral arrangements some months ago when it was first announced in Ottawa.

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

MR. J. PAUL MARION (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question at the Honourable the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Est-ce que votre Département entend proposer des facilités récréatives dans la circonscription de St. Boniface, Monsieur le Ministre?

(Does your Department intend to propose recreation facilities in the St. Boniface constituency, Mr. Minister?)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (Springfield): Monsieur le Président, comme l'Honorable député de St. Boniface est au courant, nous avons déjà à St. Boniface des facilités récréatives. Nous avons l'intention d'entrer en dialogue avec beaucoup de groupes dans le Comté de St. Boniface et tout spécialement la Société Franco-Manitobaine pour voir à leurs désirs en ce qui regarde les services qui seront possibles, non seulement qu'en ce qui regarde la récréation, la culture, mais également pour les services d'autres ministères que nous avons la responsabilité du gouvernement.

(Mr. President, as the Honourable M. L. A. for St. Boniface is aware, we have already in St. Boniface recreation facilities. We intend to enter in a dialogue with many groups in St. Boniface County and especially with the Franco-Manitoban Society to see to their wishes with regard to the services which will be made possible, not only regarding recreation, culture, but also services of other Departments of which we have the responsibility of the government.)

MR. MARION: A follow-up question, Mr. Speaker. What nature of facility really is contemplated in the recreational area?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, like I indicated to my colleague in both our mother languages, there are a lot of facilities now existing in St. Boniface. It would be my intention, as the Minister responsible for Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, to discuss priorities that we may have as a department and to enter into a meaningful dialogue with a lot of groups in St. Boniface and more specifically with the Society of Franco-Manitobans to see what they have in priorities so we can discuss and plan together.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. Is he or his department familiar with and working in conjunction with the City of Winnipeg for the purpose of creating a public park to be known as Assiniboine Forest Park? Is he familiar with the details of that?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MILLER: No, I'm not, Mr. Speaker, but I'll take it as notice and I'll enquire from

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(MR. MILLER cont'd). . . the Corporation.

MR. ASPER: Would the Minister also take as notice this question? How long has the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation or members of its staff been familiar with this project if the answer to that is yes; and would he consider it an act of impropriety if members of his staff were to acquire land. . . ?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The question is hypothetical.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, they're not hypothetical, they're fact.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member place them in that context then?

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, the question is - and it relates to the answers given earlier by the Minister as to his instructions to his staff or what he considers improper - would he enquire to determine whether or not members of his staff or a member of that staff has acquired -- and if you like I'll give you the details of the land: lots 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, lots 83, 84, 35 and 14 in Blocks 9, 18, 29 and 119 registered on Plan 1742, 1646 and 1876 in the Winnipeg Land Titles Office, whether that land is part of the Assiniboine Forest Park which is being expropriated by the City of Winnipeg for a park and is owned by members of his staff.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for finally reading into Hansard the descriptions, and now that it's in Hansard and when Hansard is published, I'll certainly refer it to my staff to examine.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. I wonder if the Honourable Minister can advise the House, will the Manitoba Golden Lotteries be phased out and replaced by West-Can Lotteries?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Roblin is quite aware that this would definitely be a matter for government policy and I'm sure that the honourable member will be forewarned of what decision is taken by this government in conjunction with other provincial, at least western, provinces involved.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question for the Honourable the Minister. I wonder if the Minister can advise the House which of the three western provinces initiated the discussions on the WestCan Lotteries.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, when there is a marriage we don't ask who was willing; they probably all were willing. Once an agreement is signed, Mr. Speaker, it is understood that there is a consensus and I don't believe -- I'm not knowledgeable as far as the province that initiated the move. All I know is that there are now three provinces willing to enter such an agreement.

MR. McKENZIE: A further supplementary question to the Honourable the Minister, Mr. Speaker. I wonder will the Minister advise the House, will the present selling agencies be phased out when WestCan takes over?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, if that was the case I for one would be completely against it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD McGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the Minister of Mines and Resources. With reference to the report of the Flood Forecast Committee which he has tabled today in the House, and the information that there is a probability of moderate flooding in the Assiniboine Valley upstream of Brandon, could the Minister tell the House what steps are being taken to provide adequate reservoir capacity in the Shellmouth Dam area to minimize the effect of a high runoff?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid I can't give the kind of engineering expertise that my honourable friend desires, but I'll certainly take it up with the Department and take the question as notice.

MR. McGILL: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Has there been any discussion in his department with his engineers that would indicate that some accelerated drawdown procedure would be adopted in order to provide additional capacity.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the members of my department are of course involved in the Flood Forecasting Committee and I would have sufficient confidence in them to feel that, having given the warnings, that they would also be considering appropriate action, but I respect

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(MR. GREEN cont'd). . . my honourable friend for making assurance doubly sure and I will take that up with them. I have not been privy to any discussions of that kind.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. Could he inform the House whether any meetings have been held of the Energy Advisory Committee that he set up last fall?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. RUSSELL DOERN (Minister of Public Works) (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, the committee meets weekly.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us whether he plans to file with this House or any of its committees reports of those meetings or conclusions they reach?

MR. DOERN: In general no, Mr. Speaker, but some of the information will be made available.

MR. AXWORTHY: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister of Labour tell us whether his Committee on Energy has met with the Minister of Industry and Commerce's Energy Council to exchange notes or comments?

MR. DOERN: I am not the Minister of Labour but I might point out that both of these committees have, I think, separate and useful functions and there is a minor amount of overlap.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. I wonder if he could indicate to the House what particular advantage there would be for Manitoba to enter into an agreement for a Western Canadian lottery.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I believe the question is just asking for an opinion.

MR. SPIVAK: No, Mr. Speaker. I want . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, to the extent that I'm asking the government to give the reasons for an agreement that obviously is going to be entered into because -- (Interjection) -- Well, the Minister indicated that in effect he didn't know who initiated it but . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. SPIVAK: . . . on coming together in some form of a marriage, which I would assume was an agreement, again I wonder if the First Minister is in a position to inform the people of Manitoba the advantage for Manitoba to enter into a Western Canadian lottery.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, there would be, in the event that we did proceed and perhaps even in the event that we had not yet made a policy decision, there might still be the introduction of enabling legislation which I believe would be required, and at that time it would be most appropriate for the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to debate the matter. There are obviously conflicting speculative evaluations as to whether it would be in Manitoba's better interest to proceed alone with the Golden Sweepstakes or to proceed in concert with the other Western Canadian provinces. In the event that the other Western Canadian provinces eventually did establish their own lotteries on a scale comparable to ours, then it could be argued, it could be argued, Sir, that there would be a very substantial diminution in the opportunity for sales of the Golden Sweepstakes.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the First Minister is in a position to give an undertaking to the people who are involved in the lottery that nothing will happen in this calendar year.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, as has been indicated there are further discussions scheduled. The Minister of Tourism might be in a position to report more definitively in a matter of some time from now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Labour. The Minister is not in his seat. Perhaps I can direct this question to the First Minister. In view of the increased cost of living, particularly basic necessities, is the government giving consideration to increasing the minimum wage?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

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MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the other day the Member for Morris - I notice he's not in his seat now - the Member for Morris asked a number of questions with respect to the milk problems in this province and specifically wanted to know whether or not we were not producing a sufficient amount of milk for the fluid milk market. I should like to report that yes we are, but that we are not producing sufficient quantities of fluid milk for the total plant needs and are somewhere in the order of eight percent short of total plant requirements. That includes the fluid milk that goes into home consumption through the bottles and cartons as well as the by-products of milk. The procedure that has been used for many years and continues to be used is one which reconstitutes powder milk and where we allow that to be sold to the people in the form of bottle milk or carton milk as whole milk. That is a matter of concern to us and the Milk Control Board, as you will recall, has been reorganized a few years ago with the object of trying to rationalize the dairy industry and bring about the necessary reforms so that we don't have these kinds of anomalies. The answer, the methodology of dealing with that one lies, of course, in greater integration of the milk industry, and I think members opposite would be familiar with what I am talking about. We are currently having discussions and have had for some time, discussions with people in the industry, producer level and the processing level, to bring about that kind of rationalization so that we can make a bit of sense out of the milk industry in this province, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I take the occasion to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture who in the last few days told the dairy industry, dairy producers . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. ENNS: . . . in no uncertain terms . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. ENNS: . . . what he desired, my question to the Honourable Minister is: will he allow the dairy producers to tell him what they desire by means of a vote on the question of a marketing plant?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: We have had a very good round of discussions with a number of producer groups producing fluid milk and milk for manufacturing purposes, and we are continuing those discussions in good faith, and I'm optimistic that an agreement as to the way in which the industry should proceed into the future will be arrived at.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. Will the round of discussions held in good faith conclude with an acceptance of approval by means of a vote by the milk producers as to their expression of how they think their product should be marketed?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the discussions that we have had to date have not indulged in that question. There has never been a proposition put to me that we should have a referendum of any kind, only that specific proposals have been provided for the government to consider in a way which would help to cope with our present problems in the dairy industry.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the First Minister. I ask him then in view of the actions of late by his Minister of Agriculture, is his government and the New Democratic Party, generally, abandoning the concept of producer controlled marketing boards brought into existence on the strength of referendums and votes; the subject matter that he felt quite strongly about some time ago? Is his government abandoning the concept of bringing into being producer marketing boards by means of a vote?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, in this particular case I would answer the question by simply posing the thought with my honourable friend that whether he thinks it is a normal practice or desirable practice to ask one Minister of the Crown for information and then to double-check it with another Minister of the Crown.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney-General. Can he advise the House whether discussions are being held by his department with the Federal Government with respect to the construction of a new federal medium security penitentiary here in Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

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HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General) (Selkirk): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney-General. Has the Attorney-General received a petition or complaints from residents of Vimy Road surrounding the government liquor store about spillage of parking on private driveways and private parking lots?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: No I haven't. I believe I heard something by way of a news forecast that I would be receiving one.

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed to Orders of the Day, I'd like to draw the attention of the honourable members to my loge on the right where we have a former member and the MP for Winnipeg North, Mr. David Orlikow as a guest. On behalf of the honourable members I welcome you here today.

The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would now proceed to the second reading of bills standing in the names of the Honourable members and following completion of those second readings we will want to move into Supply.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 12. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

BILL No. 12

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry that the Minister of Agriculture is not in his seat. Yesterday at the conclusion of our time period I was still not finished speaking and since that time I have been in personal touch with the Minister and at that time he assured me that the province would be matching dollar for dollar with the municipalities in the operating costs of the veterinary clinics, and I can only wonder then, Mr. Speaker, if that is the case why he then puts the \$5,000 maximum for veterinarians into the bill. He did give me the assurance that they would be matching dollar for dollar and if their costs exceeded that there was another means he said to continue matching their contributions. I have to accept the Minister's explanation for it and on that basis then I suppose my concern that the province is limiting their contribution while in effect the contribution from the local municipality can be constantly increasing, becomes one that is hypothetical. Having had the assurance from the Minister then my concern in this bill is not as great as it was previous to his private explanation.

MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 4, The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

BILL No. 4

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the House for their indulgence in having me stand this bill for several days as the Minister did explain when he presented this bill it's one that there's a lot of cross referencing to be done and it's back and forth from the original Act to the amendments to this Act and I, too, would have liked to have the help of the gentleman that he referred to when he started because they can become very complicated.

It's very obvious, Mr. Speaker, that the bill is not what you'd call housekeeping, it's making some very common sense changes to many sections of the bill. There are some questions that we would ask in Law Amendments concerning some of the sections and I'm sure that the government and ourselves will be interested to have any opinions from people in municipalities or in municipal councils come forward if they have any questions that they would like to ask on the bill.

There is one area where there's speak of personal property, the insurance money that would be paid to the government if there was money owing to the government on personal properties and I think we have to have a little better definition of real property and personal

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(MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON cont'd). . . property in this respect. It would seem by this bill that, at least in my opinion anyway, if somebody's car burnt up and he owed money to the government on his real property he might have to pay the money he'd get from the insurance company through his car to the government. I just would have to have that cleared up much better than it is. In fact, Mr. Speaker, reading from Hansard I think the Minister might want to check it too; it is not now clear that insurance moneys must be applied to taxes owing on personal property destroyed by fire. The previous Municipal Act did not make this provision - owing on personal property destroyed by fire - and that has to be a little better defined I would say.

Mr. Speaker, there is also in the bill the reference to Leaf Rapids and we will certainly have some questions on the Leaf Rapids paying grants in lieu of taxes to the Town of Leaf Rapids, or it would be, I imagine it would allow Leaf Rapids Corporation to pay grants in lieu of taxes to any town where they might have holdings.

There's only one thing, Mr. Speaker, in this respect certainly the Manitoba Telephone and the Hydro all pay grants in lieu of taxes to different municipalities but there is a case where the business centre of Leaf Rapids is not what you might call a subsidiary or a power station or a power plant or a building such as Hydro or Telephones would have in the communities. This is going to be a shopping centre being rented probably to businesses or where businesses buy space, so now we're looking at the businesses paying the grants in lieu of taxes instead of the government corporation. It's a very touchy subject and I think that we would like to question that. And of course, Mr. Speaker, we all know that Grand Rapids was supposed to cost \$7 million and now getting nearer to \$20 million; we would like to make sure of all the procedures that are going to happen in that town.

So, Mr. Speaker, we would certainly pass this bill and look for representation from the municipal people; I'm sure we're all interested to hear from them and have some questions on the specific items when they come up in Law Amendments. Thank you.

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

MR. MARION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems that we've had an opportunity to peruse the amendments that are brought forth, and it would seem to us also that a great deal of common sense is being applied in the amendments that are being proposed. I think that by and large it's evident that a much greater responsibility is given to the municipal government over their specific sphere of action. This latitude I would suppose is one that shows confidence in them being able to take care of their own affairs, and one that we strongly commend.

It seems that in some instances, however, where clarification is the intent, we are afraid that perhaps - and we shall explore this in Law Amendments Committee - we're afraid that perhaps there might be ambiguity created in two specific cases rather than the clarification that's intended. And we'll have the opportunity, as I say, to making that specific comment in Law Amendments.

Latitude with respect to money by-laws is one that really is interesting in both the money by-laws and another section with respect to board sanction, municipal board sanction. We felt that local improvement was the second case - and we both felt that the fact that a municipality was given the option to alter right up until the last moment, or to even withdraw because of changes occurring between the time application was made and the time prior to the hearing by the board, we feel that this is rather intelligent, a good innovation. We certainly subscribe to it.

It seems however that again board discretion on granting whether or not an application should or should not be withdrawn is perhaps here stopping short of what the total intent was and we wonder - and we shall explore this also in law amendments - whether or not the municipality the moment that it makes an application to withdraw either the money by-law or the local improvement by-law should not be given that privilege and there should not be a discretion on the board's part of allowing the application or not. The fact that the delay between the second and third reading is done away with as the Minister explained in his summation on Bill 4, is one that we readily approve and it makes a great deal of sense to us that there need not be any period of delay after all of the steps have been taken right up to the Municipal Board.

Deficit financing is one that is precluded and we wondered why this was the case inasmuch as a municipality is given the options of borrowing from its reserves, or using reserve funds in financing and this we felt was a sort of a deficit financing in itself. The fact that one

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(MR. MARION cont'd). . . municipality might not have reserve funds or surplus cash should not penalize it from deficit financing because there might be some circumstances where they would like to spread over two years, certainly not three, but over two years, a special project, a special money by-law.

Personal responsibility of employees is now completely done away with and this of course is an innovation that again we readily accept and can endorse, inasmuch as in the private sector this is the case and we're applying in municipal administration the same sort of reasoning. It would seem that we would not at this time have any objections therefore, Mr. Speaker, that Bill No. 4 be proceeded with. Further comments will be made at the appropriate time at Law Amendments. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister will be closing debate. The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments that have been made and most of the questions raised I think can be better dealt with at the stage of Law Amendments; and I think most of the technical questions could better be dealt with at that point.

I would just like to mention that insofar as personal property is concerned that of course takes in equipment, chattels, etc., movable tangibles which are used in a business and in that way they are distinguished from real property which is immovable such as land and buildings. So the chattels would be equipment and things of that nature. And the effort here of course is to ensure security to the municipality insofar as realizing tax arrears from any insurance proceeds.

Insofar as the other questions that have been raised, I would prefer to leave it to Law Amendments because I feel that it can be more profitably dealt with at that point.

MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 5. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

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MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I just have a few comments to make in connection with the bill. We will be approving the bill and allowing it to go to Committee but there is a principle involved, Mr. Speaker, which I think is important to discuss. And that deals generally with the additional recognition by the government of the necessity for legislation for added responsibility and security for the growing number of women who find themselves separated from their husbands and really have to rely on the support of the state where the husband himself is the one who should be concerned with that support.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have mentioned before that this requires a new initiative by the state further than the bill proposes. The bill deals with the garnishment aspect as an extension of what the law was before in the hope that this will provide additional benefits but it does not really fundamentally deal with what we consider is a new initiative that should be taken by governments generally. And it's surprising, Mr. Speaker, that the government on the other side have not accepted this responsibility and have not been progressive enough to understand what I consider is a new area of responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, the Barber Report produced by the government on Page 40 refers to a particular matter and that is the question of mothers whose husbands are absent for reasons of desertion, divorce or imprisonment, and points out the fact that this has had an important effect on the increase of welfare costs in this province.

Now unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the statistics in the Barber Commission do not jibe with the statistics furnished by the Manitoba Health and Social Development Report filed in this House this last little while. There has been always a question raised as to whether the statistics in the Barber Commission were correct in the first place and the variation is fairly substantial, so I am not going to refer to the numbers but to indicate to the government that somebody in their Statistical Department better get together to try and give us some accuracy on the information so that at least we can when we're talking about it deal with it in some general and specific way that at least will have consistency. But having said that, it does show a significant increase as a result of legislative changes in which the welfare load, the load paid by the government is higher as a result of the necessity of providing support for women whose husbands have not paid their obligations as they should have under maintenance orders given by the courts.

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd)

We propose that there be a new and significant change, that in effect there be a responsibility on the part of the state that where a maintenance order is given that that be paid out by the state to the wife. And further, that the state take the responsibility of realizing the money committed by the court from the husband, from the husband himself - so the husband's responsibility is not to the wife but to the state. And the husband's responsibility, Mr. Speaker, will be to pay the state, pay the province and if the husband leaves this jurisdiction to go to another jurisdiction such as Ontario it will be the action of the government that will realize the funds from the husband and not the unsuccessful action of the wife who will try through the court procedures to try and realize the maintenance order that's been given and then falls into the only alternative and that is to go to the state and go to the province and ask for welfare support.

Mr. Speaker, we do this for a number of reasons. One, we think this is initiative that the government should undertake as a progressive move to assist those women who are put in difficult positions and to see to it that the people who rightfully have a responsibility do pay for it. And secondly, for a very simple reason, that this will lower welfare costs in this province substantially. Now there is an administrative cost to what I'm suggesting; but the administrative cost is minor, this is not something that has not been tried in other jurisdictions in North America and it has been tried and it has been successful, and I point out, Mr. Speaker, the necessity of some new initiative rather than accepting that this change in the Garnishment Act in itself is going to provide really significant benefit.

I don't have to recount to the Minister, the Attorney-General, who I think is familiar with the procedures that have to be followed by a woman who has to try and enforce a maintenance order, or a separation, where it's been impossible to get the husband who one way or another is trying to maneuver around paying, and the problem at this point is that that becomes then the obligation of the state to support the wife and family if she's unsuccessful. And I'm suggesting that the kind of procedure which would have that responsibility be the responsibility of the husband to the state because the state is obligating itself to pay would (a) realize from the husbands the amount of money because their obligation would be to the state and the actions and criminal actions that would be taken would be that of the state and not of the wife, and it would be the power of the state rather than the wife, and it would provide in the ultimate a far greater reduction in welfare costs in the province with respect to mothers' allowance than it now shows.

Now I mentioned the statistical data without indicating, you know, that this is accurate because there are problems. But you know we have I think in dollars \$18 million or \$44 million shown in '72 as the amount for mothers' allowance, and I recognize it includes other groups. That's a significant amount of money. We have 7,000 cases reported here more or less and that's a significant number of cases. And it would seem to me that the time has come for that kind of initiative to be taken by government, and while there can be some consideration that what we are now doing is of some advantage I don't think that the government nor this Legislature should feel that what is being proposed really meets the need in contemporary society for a process which would insure that the responsibility ordered by court is undertaken by the husband for the wife whom he has left, separated or divorced. So I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that while the Attorney-General will consider this as one bill that the time has come for the government to act in the way that I've suggested, for the state and the province to become responsible, for it to be responsible for the payment once the order is given and for the collection. I don't believe the collection will be that difficult, because I think once the husband knows that in fact he owes it to the state and the state will be after him he won't try the maneuvering that occurs right today in Manitoba nor will he attempt to go into another jurisdiction to avoid the payment. And further, in the long run it will cost the people of Manitoba less because the welfare load will be less.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General shall be closing debate. The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I again appreciate the comments that have been made in respect to this bill. I would like to first mention insofar as the remarks by the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell that there is some validity in the criticism that the \$100 exemption is not adequate considering today's costs. It was a sum which was inserted into the legislation some time back and I would think that when we reach committee stage we would want to be open

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(MR. PAWLEY cont'd). . . to possible changes in that respect.

Insofar as the comments by the Leader of the Liberal Party, I appreciate the sentiments of support and certainly it is correct to say that one of the greatest problems that mothers, wives deserted, face today is the fact that husbands will skip from one province to another and in fact from one country to another. I can recall in particular one incident in which I was attempting to collect moneys on regard to a particular judgment that had been obtained in a Manitoba Court under Wives and Family Maintenance Act, and the husband had slipped out of Manitoba to British Columbia, and then going through the Reciprocal Enforcement Act proceedings which were quite lengthy, not only at our end, the Manitoba end, but then at the British Columbia end and requiring the husband to come forward and give evidence out there, weeks and in fact several months went by and the husband in that case just in the nick of time from his point of view managed to skip out to Australia. So that these are some of the practical problems that one faces in dealing with the reciprocal enforcement of family court orders and I certainly appreciate the suggestion that increased efforts must be made in order to attempt to persuade the federal authorities in coordination with the provinces to attempt to simplify, streamline and develop more effective means of securing the fruits from orders that are obtained in various provincial courts across Canada.

Insofar as the remarks by the Leader of the Opposition are concerned I want to simply say this, that this bill in itself of course does fall short of any utopia insofar as deserted wives and mothers are concerned. We accept this, it's a step. There are many different steps that could be examined. One of course is the development of a uniform family court structure to avoid the fragmentation which presently exists among three different courts, each court having within its area of responsibility certain responsibilities, so that a wife or her dependents under present provisions unfortunately sometimes, some occasions, have to move from court to court in order to obtain their redress. This is an area we'd want to look at.

Insofar as the suggestions that the debt ought to be owed to the state, it's certainly one that I would not push aside immediately except to say this that I am a little concerned that a husband ought to feel that those payments that he is making are payments that are being made for his children, his offspring. I think we ought not to strip the husband of that feeling that there is a moral responsibility on his part, that is part of his soul that he ought to contribute to the support of his children. I can recall just a short time ago conversing with a husband that was very adamant about the fact that under no conditions was he going to permit any of his salary to go toward support of his wife because after all despite the fact the court had not recognized it he was at right and the wife was wrong, and he was going to do what he could to manoeuvre out of making his payments. And it wasn't until he realized that the payments were really to be directed towards maintaining and assisting the children, the innocent parties to the conflict, did he really then feel I think some degree of responsibility.

So I want to say this, Mr. Speaker, my only reservation then to the comments by the Leader of the Opposition is that the husband might feel that if his responsibility is to make payments to the state then in fact he might reduce whatever moral feelings of responsibility that he has to insure those payments are kept up on a repeated basis.

I think that the state does have a responsibility though certainly to increase the enforcement personnel that it has available to it and this the department has done in the past several months. The hiring of an additional enforcement officer, for instance, in Brandon, hiring of additional personnel here in Winnipeg in order to better enforce the payments that are made. So that I think there is area for a meeting with the responsibility of the husband to his wife and to his family but with the state taking a more active role, more vigorous role, a more insistent role in support of the wife and her children, a more automatic role in collecting the payments in default. This is going to be a problem that is not going to diminish. It will unfortunately probably increase with the unfortunate erosion in our society of the family concept in some quarters and I think that we would want to ensure that we do what we can in order to develop better techniques to ensure that those that are often the hardest hit by friction and disagreement in the family between the husband and wife do not suffer, and this I refer to as the children of the marriage. So with those few words, Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the further discussions at Committee stage.

MOTION carried.

BILL 7

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 7. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, Bill 7 has a number of major amendments that really can't be embodied in one principle when one discusses the principle on second reading, so I will have to refer to a number of important sections of the Act to make my point.

The first thing I notice is there's probably going to be another NDP stalwart appointed when this commission is set up because it makes provision for the paying of a member of the commission who is not a civil servant. So I suppose there'll be a few on the opposite side wondering if they're in line for that appointment.

Section 44 strikes me rather oddly in the fact that it says that "nothing in this Act or any other act of the legislature prohibits an employee of the civil service or under any other agency of government", and then it goes on to say what they can do. That over in section 44 (4), 44 (5) rather, it says that "if a person is elected he shall immediately resign his position whether in government or for an agency." So by passage of this bill I'd expect that the three or four members of the NDP who are on the Water Board and the Telephone Board and the Hydro Board will automatically be forced to resign when this Act passes.

I'm sorry that the Minister who's introduced the bill is not here to hear my remarks. Perhaps some of his colleagues would pay enough attention that they could draw the matter to his attention that I'm bringing up. And I mention again that's the way I see this bill, upon the passage of this bill, immediately the three or four NDP MLAs who are members of boards or agencies will have to resign because they're elected and the minute they're elected they have to resign from any agency that they're in. --(Interjection)--It's in the bill. --(Interjection)--Agencies. Well isn't the Hydro Board an agency of government? --(Interjection)--Well any board appointed by government is an agency of government surely.

Mr. Speaker, one thing I note that is not in the bill, and there's been a lot of talk about how fair the government would be in allowing individuals to take an active part in politics and not have cause to have their promotions denied or have cause to be embarrassed if they didn't win or if they weren't on the government of the day's side. But there's not one thing in the bill, Mr. Speaker, which protects people who do not wish to take any part. There's nothing to protect a person who says I want to be a-political; I do not wish to be openly political for anyone. Well, Mr. Speaker, what is to stop a person in power to request in a very polite way that a civil servant do something and the civil servant who is below the gentleman in rank who made the request, says no I don't want to do that. There's no protection for that man. --(Interjection)--What protection is there? --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well I'm glad that the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources said that there's an arbitration board that looks after the rights of a civil servant who has done that, because I have two cases that I'm going to draw to his attention shortly where the exact opposite has happened.

Now I do really find it strange that the government would say that an employee can take leave of absence to go out and raise money for his party, or for a candidate. Why that's put in there I can't understand because it almost sounds as if they're trying to get ready for a situation. For example, we can have some very key people in government here who are dealing with suppliers in the order of hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars, so these key people can take a leave of absence just before an election, go around all these key suppliers and say "look I'm collecting for the party" and that's all he has to say. I don't think that's right at all. I don't think that's right at all that a person - and obviously it's going to be very key people who will be taking time off work without pay. The average civil servant is not going to be able to take off 35 days or 60 days or whatever to go and raise money for his party on a leave of absence without pay. That section to me smells, it really does.

Also, it's going to legalize the fact that a civil servant or anyone who works for an agency - and we have a lot of appointments recently who are in agencies which are sort of at arm's length from the government but they're not really because they are appointed by government - so now these people are going to be able to, are going to--while they're on the payroll they can do the following whether it's on their own time or not. They can prepare an advertising campaign, they can collect money, they can print up material, anything that is needed to prepare for an election. In other words, we can have 50 organizers in the Civil Service all being paid by public moneys but being entitled under law to prepare advertising material, to speak for a

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(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd) candidate, to write--(Interjection)--No, no--Section 44--nothing. 44 (1)--(Interjection)--Well, no. Section 44 (1) does not state that. It says, "Nothing in this Act or any other act of the Legislature shall prohibit an employee in the Civil Service or under any agency of government from" - and then they got three things they can do. --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister state his point of order.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I think that this is one of the problems that we get to when we are dealing with specific sections on second reading of the bill, and therefore we should stay away from it. I appreciate the points the honourable member is making but the section that he refers to, 44 (4), which deals with the soliciting of funds, relates to a candidate under 44 (3), but I am not now wanting it debated. The honourable member may have a good point but he is not supposed to be dealing with specific sections on second reading.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I know that one is only supposed to discuss the principle of the bill but the bill has contained so many different proposals that there hardly is any heart to the bill that you can just take on the one item. But anyways, the way I read the bill is that a person can stay in the Civil Service and do those three things that I drew to their attention. It doesn't say he has to resign before he can do it.--(Interjection)--No, it doesn't.

Now yesterday, I believe it was, the Member for Winnipeg Centre made a flowery speech in which he said in effect that the civil servants of the province, if they couldn't find it in their hearts to follow the philosophical leanings of the government in power, then they should go. --(Interjection)--Yes, that was what he said, that if they couldn't really work with conscience within the Civil Service then they should get out. He said it. Maybe not in those exact words but that's what he meant. And when I asked for clarification he sort of skated around it but that's exactly what he meant.

Now here's what happens when that thought prevails. When the very thought is there, that if someone isn't doing what the government wants them to do within the Civil Service, then--well in the two cases I'm going to quote to you, they weren't put out of the Civil Service but they were pushed to one side; they were pushed to one side.--(Interjection)--Yes. Now at the Manitoba School for Mental Retardates at Portage la Prairie, there's about 700-odd permanent or temporary employees, and of course there's all kinds of classifications and from time to time there's opportunities for promotion, and usually what has happened, not in the recent past but in the past, what has happened, the job when the promotion opens up, it goes by, first of all the people who are interested apply for the job.

The next thing is that a selection committee of their superiors screen the applicants and then make a recommendation, and the recommendation has to be--usually it's a formality to forward the recommendations of the Minister to the Department and have it signed, accepted, and along with the sole or the one recommendation if there's only one job, there may be one or two others in case something happens to the first applicant. He may fall ill or he may move or he may change his mind, so there's always a couple of other recommendations after the first one. And I want to give a case of one where a bulletin was called.

This bulletin is Bulletin 110 and this was called in May and June of last year and there were six positions to fill, Mr. Speaker, from Nurse I to Nurse II, and this is where in that particular type of work, psychiatric work, the promotion steps of the ladder begin. If you don't make that step you're never going to go anywhere. So there were six positions to fill. One of the applicants was a Mrs. Pidhirny and when the Selection Committee reviewed the list of applicants and their qualifications they listed Mrs. Pidhirny as fourth on the list of persons who should have got the sixth position. Well what happened was that Mrs. Pidhirny was removed and a Mrs. Lapointe, who ranked eighth on the list, got the job. Mrs. Pidhirny had ten years service, Mrs. Lapointe two years service. It's interesting to note that the husband of Mrs. Lapointe was very prominent in the NDP campaign in the last election. This case was appealed by the MGEA and the decision was reversed, and the reason for the reversal was that the qualifications were equal, that seniority prevailed.

Here is another case, bulletined--(Interjection)--Well wait till you hear this one if you think they've got protection any more. Bulletin 987, November of 1973; a W. O. Anderson recommended by the Selection Committee with four years seniority to go from Nurse I to Nurse II was supplanted by a Mrs. Barbara Eshelby with nine months seniority. This is a clear

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(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd) violation of Section 13 (1) of the Civil Service Act, and it's interesting to note here that Mrs. Eshelby was prominent in the NDP campaign in the last election.

Since a Mr. Duncan was appointed to the Civil Service Commission there's not very much hope of any fair type of appeal getting a hearing any more.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. The honourable member has now, for some reason best known to himself, proceeded to slander the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission on the basis that he will not make a fair decision. There's been no indication that an appeal was taken or what occurred; he merely said that the man being there indicates that nobody else but a New Democratic can get a job, and I think, Mr. Speaker, that that is a very unfair allegation against a civil servant.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, this case was appealed and it was turned back. I have a suggestion to make to my honourable friends opposite if they feel that this is that important to them. And I would suggest this, that the Labour Relations Committee be called, and one of the reasons that it would be called, that it call the Civil Service Commission before them and the Appeal Group of the MGEA and let us review every appeal in the last two years, and we'll see whether this is true or not, because I can get more cases for my honourable friends, more cases. You know, I can't understand some political people who would think that by this kind of an action in a huge institution where there's 700 or 800 people being employed, where for political reasons they pick out their friends. Do you think you're going to gain any votes among the people who work in that institution and their friends for acting like that? Never, because the morale of that institution is being undermined by this kind of action, and I'm surprised that the Minister, the former Minister of Health, would be so stupid as to do a thing like that because it's not helping his party, that's for sure. It's certainly not helping his party. And, Mr. Speaker, when the Minister, and I know he's not here but I'm sure he'll hear my suggestion from his colleagues, I hope he replies and I hope he brings this out in the open, and I hope that we see where civil servants really do get some fair treatment, and I don't really like just taking empty promises like we have had, "Don't worry, nothing like that will ever happen." Well, I tell my honourable friends opposite I can produce many more of these, documented, documented, and I suggest again that the Labour Relation Committee have the opportunity to examine the Civil Service Commission and their practices, and also be able to hear from groups who represent employees, provincial employees, in the province.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the loge on my left where we have a former member, Mr. Homer Hamilton.

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

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Swan River, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 11

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 11. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Bill No. 11, we can see no reason to prevent the bill from passing on into committee where it can be questioned further. It looks like a housekeeping bill and we're aware that many of the amendments have been requested by the Superintendent of Insurance, so we see no reason why the bill should not pass along into the committee and we will be going over it point by point at that time.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Northern Affairs, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair.

SUPPLY - NORTHERN AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 98 (a) (1)--pass? The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister. He indicated, I think, at the last meeting that there was something like \$500,000 spent by his department last year which was chargeable to his department for the Government Air Service, and I think if I'm right in general figures that was the amount, and it may very well be, Mr. Chairman, that I'm wrong, it's \$500,000 that's estimated this year, it's either \$500,000 or higher, and I wonder if he can indicate in what way this is chargeable. In other words, what appropriations? Does this come under Other Expenditures that are included in the Local Services Division, Northern Manpower Division - Extension Service, is this where those charges are to be found or are they contained within the vote that we are now dealing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. RON McBRYDE (Minister of Northern Affairs) (The Pas): Mr. Chairman, the various departments of government, the Manitoba Government Air Services for the service rendered, and the sections in the budget book that shows Other Expenditures would include cost of air travel by those sections of the Department of Northern Affairs.

MR. SPIVAK: . . . am I correct? It's a round \$500,000 that was shown. Am I right in that respect?

MR. McBRYDE: I'll have to double check that figure, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, again, the difficulty we have in dealing with the Public Accounts and they're realistically a year late, in dealing with at that time the Commissioner of Northern Affairs' Office, there's an expense account shown of \$137,000 for travelling, and I would assume, Mr. Speaker, that because that amount does not relate to anything like \$500,000 or anything like that amount, that that's in addition to the amounts that are charged as chargeable back to the Government Air Division.

MR. McBRYDE: I don't have my Public Accounts in front of me so I can't jump back and forth.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, I don't have the Government Air Service red book that the Minister has in front of him, but if I'm correct it would show in that red book the amount of mileage and therefore you can compute the charge-back from Northern Affairs to the Government Air Division. Yet I have the Public Accounts of 1972-73, Mr. Chairman, and they only show an amount of \$150,000 - I was wrong in my amount - but \$150,000 for travel. Now I wonder in Other Expenditures where he can indicate the charge-back is shown from Northern Affairs back to the Government Air Division for the Air Division itself.

MR. McBRYDE: Could the member . . . where in Public Accounts or where in the Estimates Book in front of us those figures are located?

MR. SPIVAK: If I'm correct, the Minister indicated approximately \$500,000 incurred for travel by his department for the Government Air Service - that's charged back. Now, unfortunately, the only Public Accounts I can deal with are 1972-73 and I have to assume there is \$500,000 that was passed here, that there will be an amount, if not \$500,000, but a substantial amount for the previous year. Yet in examining Other Expenditures in the Department of Mines and Natural Resources dealing with Air, Radio and Technical Services, or dealing with Northern Affairs, I do not see the charge-back of the amount of money that the Minister indicates would be forthcoming from the Department. You know, I appreciate the fact that he may not be in a position to necessarily reconcile it immediately without his officials, but I wonder if there is any way in which he can undertake to furnish that information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 98 (a), (b), (c)--passed.) Resolution (d)--

MR. SPIVAK: Before we pass this because I'm now dealing with the appropriation, I'm assuming the Minister, I think he acknowledged that he would do it but I would like, you know, some official acknowledgment that he would be able to furnish this information. I think he is.

MR. McBRYDE: He'll get that information, Mr. Chairman.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: (d)--passed. Resolution 98. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$377, 900 for Northern Affairs. (Passed)

Resolution 99 (a) (1)--pass? The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, again so that I understand, because I don't want to get involved in the departmental activity that's not included in this vote, I wonder if the Minister very briefly can indicate what Local Services Division would mean and what departmental activity we are now talking about.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the section that is called Local Services Division is basically, I think, very simply that section that used to be the Commission of Northern Affairs which includes the co-ordinators who work with the community councils and community committees in the various communities, and includes the engineering services which provide technical assistance to those communities in terms of infrastructure planning, and added to that has been the--into the engineering services section, the operation, maintenance and construction of air strips and the building of winter roads.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Resolution 99 (a) (1)--passed.) Resolution 99 (b) (1)--pass; (2)--pass; (3)--pass, (4)--the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder in dealing in the Engineering Services generally, I wonder if I can put a question now to the Minister before we get into Winter Roads with anything specific. One of the complaints, Mr. Chairman, that the people in the remote communities have made in the last little while with respect to the government listening to their concerns, has been the problem of water purification in some of the remote communities. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I think that it can be said that there have been requests made of the Department for assistance in this area rather than in other areas on the basis of the community itself determining what its priorities were. And, Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that there is a problem, a health problem in some of the communities, because of the pollution aspect of water that is available, and that in effect there have been approaches made to try and see whether the government in its services that are to be provided, would consider this as a priority. And I wonder if the Minister is in a position to indicate the requests that have been made and whether the government is prepared to undertake in terms of capital works program, a program that would provide for the water purification of the remote communities where it does not exist, to be able to relieve what appears to be substantially a health problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, this was certainly I think--maybe the Member for Swan River had the same experience I did when the Northern Task Force travelled in northern Manitoba and into the area of clean air and clean water, that in many of the small remote communities that are sitting off in the bush there is a real problem with their own sewage and its running into the water surrounding their communities, and the water system had certainly been a concern at that time and is still a concern in those communities that come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Northern Affairs. I think it would be quite fair to say to the member opposite that this is certainly a priority in terms of the Department of Northern Affairs, although it's a very expensive, when you get into sewage disposal and water treatment, certainly a very, you know, expensive kind of program to get into.

So we have been involved with the community councils, you know, in the very basic things such as ensuring that there are wells and that the wells are working, to in some communities getting into a running water or a tap, a community tap sort of in the various communities, to in some communities a very limited water distribution system in those communities, and some of the communities that come to mind that have a water distribution facility is the community of Camperville for one. There are some pilot studies under way in consultation with northern communities. We have the assistance now in a number of communities of the Water Services Board to look at and to come up with proposals for those communities in terms of water distribution and a sewage collection and treatment system.

The member is probably aware that in the case of the town center plan at Southern Indian Lake that what we have in that proposal is that there be a sewer and water system for the immediate town center facilities and that there will be a water delivery and sewage pickup system that uses that facility for the entire community. Now this is one way to provide the service, the very necessary service without having of course the extremely high expense of water lines and sewer lines in the community.

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd)

The other problem, of course, is that in these communities it is very difficult because the residents seem to prefer in most of the communities to live far apart from each other, spread along the rivers or spread along the lake or wherever they happen to be located, and with people living in that kind of situation the cost of putting in a sewer and water system is just prohibitive. You just can't do it. And sometimes when the community sort of has a choice of whether they would like to move closer together, to have this kind of service that is common in southern Manitoba, they would prefer to find another method of dealing with the problem rather than moving quite close together. I think, Mr. Chairman, it might be helpful in this regard to show that it is a concern in the community that they plan their own budget. For example, within the proposed budget of the community of Dauphin River-Anama Bay, one of their priorities is a water supply and what they want is just a ground well water supply, and they want pumps put in to their community and they have budgeted, in discussion with the Northern Affairs co-ordinator, an amount of \$1, 300 to put in those kind of pumps. And as I look through the list, Mr. Chairman, almost every community has funds set aside for water systems in their community but these are what I would say for an improvement of their water sewage systems, or water systems or sewage systems as the case may be. But certainly not the kind of standard that we would like to see where they would have the kind of water and sewer services that are generally available to those of us in the more urban communities. For example, Berens River has budgeted for repairs to the water supply pump house. Black River has put in their budget two wells. Bissett has put in their budget to replace 50 feet of water line. They have an experimental program with the plastic pipe underground system that they installed themselves, with some problems, but they're making it work.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister would be prepared to table the budgets and the requests in the Committee so that we can have them at this point. He obviously has the budgets of the various communities and I wonder if we could be in a position to have that information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I don't think it would be a problem to get that information, but when I was answering the question for the Member for Roblin the other day - and I know that the Member for Swan River understands this - that the preliminary discussions are held with the communities in terms of their priorities with the funds that may be available. I wouldn't like to publish these projects because when the funds are available to them the community might change their priorities. They might say we've decided we want only one well and we want to use some of that money for this other project. So if we published their sort of tentative budget then people in the communities would say, well how come that other well didn't come when in fact it was the council that decided to change that priority. So I would be hesitant to--I could sort of give the accumulative totals, what the community will have to generally work with, to honourable members and then the communities will be deciding themselves if they're going to stick with that original tentative budget they set out or whether they are going to adjust that budget in light of new developments in their area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just before we proceed here--(Interjection)--No, I just want to clarify a point here. It's becoming very difficult for the Chair to follow where we're going and perhaps this is my fault because when I have been reading the resolution out - but the item that we're on right now happens to be winter roads.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, just on a point of order. I think I indicated to you that rather than--this was a matter I - we had passed the Engineering Services and I realized this was a matter to be brought up then and I indicated that I think in my remarks to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I realized that before but I didn't realize at that time that this. . .

MR. SPIVAK: I think it's appropriately under (1), (2) or (3) of . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're on (4) right now.

MR. SPIVAK: Oh excuse me. (1), (2) of the--Yes I appreciate it but on the other hand it was a question of your recognition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's difficult for the Chair to try and keep track of where we're going. So perhaps in future when I call the resolution out and I refer you to the certain section that we're under, so it makes it more easy for me to be able to maintain order within the House because I can't have you wandering all over the book back and forth.

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MR. SPIVAK: Just on the point of order. That wasn't intended. I think I referred to the fact that you had called that and I was going back to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Do I have your permission then, Sir, to speak to the few remarks that the Minister made under their engineering? Am I to understand that in the remote communities insofar as water and sewerage is concerned that wells for all these communities are the order of the day, or are they drawing from the beautiful lakes and the marvelous water? Is that being used rather than going to the expense of putting wells in communities that are spread around the north?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the fact is they're been drawing from the beautiful waters as we found out on the Northern Task Force has been part of the problem because in the immediate vicinity of their communities the water isn't that beautiful, you know, especially in the wintertime when they chop a hole very close to the shoreline and pull out water from close to the shoreline when in fact sewage has been running into that area during the summer. This has been one of the big problems. So most of the communities are at least going for a minimum of wells where they can get clean water from. The Department of Health and Social Development and the Northern Health Services also is involved with these communities and making sure that they have a clean water supply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Well with respect to what the Minister says and for the purpose of placing on the record a point of view that may be a bit different than the government's, let me say this: I wonder if the government is really in a position to indicate the nature of chronic illness, the question of longevity with respect to the remote communities, with respect to the particular problem that we are talking about. It would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that if we talk in terms of priorities we then think in terms of a long period of time before people will receive essential services that we consider necessary in our modern society. Now we have to recognize I think that we're talking about communities who do not have the available base, tax base, economic base, to be able to support the essential services that we consider just basic to a reasonable human condition, yet we're faced with the reality that because of the problems of budget - and I'm going to now come back to this in one second - that we have to make choices, and we ask the community to make their choices and they make their choices based on what appears to be their need at the time as they understand it. But surely the problem if it's going to be solved goes beyond that because the recognition has to occur that because there will never be that economic base or available tax base in years to come, and because there really is a charge on our society for what has been a neglect of the past, that the time has come for the kind of capital investment to be made by the province for those people who live in the remote communities to be in a position to bring them up to a reasonable standard, recognizing that that may very well be chargeable against the whole community in Manitoba, and for that matter in Canada, so that what we are talking about is not just the staging of priority items to be able to bring them along over a period of time but rather in a very realistic way to meet a problem that is there, that is only being partially solved by this kind of program.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we're talking about massive sums of money and that's the problem; massive sums of money that must come either from the taxes raised in the province or, on the other hand, Mr. Chairman, from the borrowing capability of the province. Because surely if we borrow the amount of moneys that are required, and they'll be substantial, to do what is necessary and amortize that over 20 or 25 years as a charge to the province and to the people we are in effect going to be providing for them something that is required and essential which they are not going to be capable of providing for themselves and which is only going to be handed out on a piecemeal basis. And without knowing what the records are, but based on my own observations and my own understanding of the situation, and my own reading on it, it would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that realistically what we really are talking about is longevity in the sense of the length, extending the life of many people, and of solving many of the health problems that ultimately have to be dealt with by the province as far as the provincial Medicare and hospital program is concerned, and at the same time providing for them something that has not been provided in the past.

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd)

Now, Mr. Chairman, I must say that if one goes back to the '60's and looks at whatever government was in power anywhere the general attitude would be as the attitude is now and it would be a question of priorities, and a question of money, and a question of how sensitive a government was to the needs of the people, and I think what we are doing really is extending that kind of thinking to the '70's and to a time in our society in Canada where based on our income level and on our capability we have to look at those people who are in the disadvantaged position, recognizing that many other things would have to happen, but surely the essential kind of services of sewer and water, and the ability for them to be able to provide sort of minimum standards, now becomes a responsibility that goes beyond far more than the kind of approach which sort of limits the priorities that are available. And surely we must reach a degree of maturity as far as government is concerned in recognizing that for those people much more than what we are doing has to be done, and it's not good enough to talk in the terms and in the language really of the past even if one government can say over another, we've done more in terms of dollars because what we're still doing is limiting their ability and limiting their opportunity for what we consider a minimum kind of standard for our society in Canada.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I thank the honourable member for his comments and I certainly can't argue with his statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 98 (99) (b) (4)--Winter Roads. The Honourable . . .

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the Minister will also be as complimentary when I finish with my few remarks on winter roads, and I must say, Mr. Chairman, I am not intending to deal in the basic argument as to what has happened before but only on peripheral matter because I want to deal with the problem and what the government's attempted to do. We've asked for a legislative inquiry. I don't think that that legislative inquiry is inappropriate at this time. Our purpose is to determine whether the kind of money that's being spent by the government for the purpose of winter roads is accomplishing the objective which realistically is to provide for the people in the remote communities a reduction in their cost of living and the cost of food essentially. And I don't think, Mr. Chairman, that that is an inappropriate consideration by the Legislature.

Now there is controversy with respect to the winter roads. I believe Mr. Kip Thompson asked the Minister to come up and ride the roads with him and maybe that's what the Legislature should do for a day to see it, to judge it. I know my Executive Assistant has and I have some idea of what it really is like, but at the same time, Mr. Chairman, having said that I now go back to the whole object of the exercise, and that is whether in fact what the government is doing is realistically, because of the lateness in time and because of their own difficulty in administration, not defeating the very purpose for which the objective was undertaken in the first place. Because it would seem to me that maybe the consideration that should be given should have been for a subsidy directly to the families involved who are going to be receiving the benefit of the increase or the reduction that was supposed to take place in the road cost. And maybe, Mr. Chairman, what should have happened is that the government should have undertaken as a result of the payments that are made, to directly subsidize the people in the remote communities so that their cost of living in terms of their necessities would have gone down. And I say that to you because I don't think there's any evidence that indicates that the money that's being poured in now and the money that's going to have to be poured in because of the lateness of the roads being completed, will in fact in any way affect their cost of living. And had we had an opportunity for a legislative inquiry we would have had the opportunity for the people themselves to make their presentations and for the members of the Legislature to understand the nature of the costs that are borne by the people.

Now the Minister furnished, I think a document by Gardewine which was produced, and you know we go back and forth as to really how and in what way we're going to accomplish the objective we set. Mr. Speaker, I would refer the Minister to a study done at the University of Manitoba by James R. Seldon called, A Note on the Cost of Living in the North, Food Prices in Small Northern Manitoba Settlements. Now it was completed in September 1972. Now as far as I know this is the latest study that's been undertaken and this is unlike the monitoring that's being done by the Minister of Consumer Affairs; I don't know whether he's monitoring himself or some of the department is putting down the schedule. This happens to be a study and

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) I would like to read the conclusion, Mr. Chairman, because I think the conclusion is important.

"This study provides", and I'm quoting now from the study. "This study provides evidence that northern prices are higher than those of Winnipeg for reasons other than transportation costs and whatever the northern consumption patterns may be it is unlikely that this general observation will be modified by the use of different ways." Now, Mr. Chairman, I think, and I'm placing it on the record because I think the Minister is in an area of controversy which at this point has not been settled, that there has to be now some consideration as to whether there is a more direct way of providing, on food costs, the benefits to the families in the remote communities that the government indirectly is trying to accomplish by getting into the road business itself, or by disrupting what existed before without really essentially changing the rules of the game in a way that would have provided for any of the inadequacies or inequities that may have existed.

Now I say that to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Minister because although there has been a rejection of a legislative inquiry, I think it would be important to take the advantage of a legislative inquiry to get the opportunity to hear not only the people of the north but people who have in fact studied this matter and whose conclusions are very different than the conclusions that have been expressed by the government at this point. Because I think that what is required, Mr. Chairman, is the recognition that if we're going to be spending public moneys to accomplish an objective and it appears that for one reason or another that objective isn't being accomplished, then I think there has to be some reassessment of the program and judgment that maybe there are other ways in which to do it. And I put on the table, Mr. Chairman, as a consideration, would be the direct subsidy to those people in the remote communities of the kinds of money that the government is spending. And the kinds of money we're talking about, Mr. Chairman, are not just the money that's visible on this vote but are the moneys that are spent in a variety of different ways that are not seen but are contained within the overall budget of the government, because in effect because of the inability to complete the road there is going to be a tremendous amount of additional cost absorbed by someone, maybe the private people will be doing it, but my suspicion is that the government will be doing it in order to be able to provide their needs. And in the course of doing this what I think will really happen is that we will try to, on the part of the government, will try to more or less correct some problems that they have now and in the whole process defeat the purpose which is really essentially to help the people in the remote communities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure I recollect that study, I can't recall for sure if it's one of the ones that I had gone over or staff had gone over, but certainly the member is correct that we are trying to deal with the problem of high prices in Northern Manitoba and for the first time having a systematic effort to understand exactly the causes and which sections of the delivery system of goods is contributing to the high cost of goods in Northern Manitoba. The alternative proposed by the member, you know, is one that has been considered and I suppose that when you look at a proposal for a new program or a new policy you have to look at how it can be done and the kinds of problems that would be encountered in trying to use that particular approach and method; and I think there are a lot of problems in the kind of approach and method suggested by the Leader of the Opposition. In fact if that method had been carried out without changes in the winter delivery of goods in Northern Manitoba then only one person or one company would have benefitted from any subsidization that might have been provided to the people in northern Manitoba. So certainly we're willing to look at the various ways of doing that but there are some problems with the suggestion by the member opposite.

While we're on the subject of winter roads I might add that the winter road from Ilford to Oxford House was open last evening for heavy traffic, and that the road from Hole River to Island Lake is open at night only until the weather cools down a bit, so the trucks are able to drive that one at night and in the early morning, but when it gets quite warm out and the sun gets quite hot the road is closed down until it cools down again in order that the road may remain usable for some considerable time.

The member mentioned the fact again that there is some controversy and some concern and mentions specifically the concerns expressed by Mr. Kip Thompson. It's sort of amusing to read in today's paper the concern expressed by Mr. Thompson about whether the road was

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) as fast and as good as it could be, that was open for heavy traffic last evening, when Mr. Thompson in fact had the sub-contract last year himself and the road was not even in 'til the middle of March. And at that time of course because of the lateness of the season it was only a night haul and the road was in bad shape, Mr. Chairman; last spring, last March when the road was finally opened by him as a sub-contractor because of the lateness of the season for one reason that it was a very difficult drive and the truckers had quite a hard time getting in and out of Oxford House sometimes taking two days to do that.

If the member would look at another section of the newspaper there is a comment by one of Gardewine's people that compared to last year's winter road, this year's road is like a highway; and it is possible, Mr. Chairman, for a number of these roads to reach a pretty high quality in terms of compactness and smoothness and the ability for freight trucks to move over them and to move over them at a reasonable rate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I wonder what we are spending this year under this item something in the neighborhood of \$540,000; I wonder if the Minister would be a little more explicit as to why he requires a million more next year. Has he got some plans that the House may not know anything of at the moment?

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

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you. While the Minister is thinking about that - I noticed that he said that these roads were open. Well, Mr. Chairman, it's fine to say that the road is open but is anybody using it? I asked the Minister before to give me the tonnages and the amount of traffic that was going over these roads; to my knowledge he may say the road is open but who's using it? Is anything moving? Can the Minister tell us how many trucks went out last night on these roads? Does he know? We'd like to know. He says the roads are open but the information I get is that nothing is moving.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I believe that I explained to the members opposite, including the Member for Birtle-Russell who sometimes has difficulty understanding, the responsibility that we have undertaken and I have explained in considerable detail why, but if someone hollers out again I'll go through it once more. The responsibility that we have undertaken is the responsibility for putting the winter roads into certain communities. The people who will be hauling goods are made aware of which communities we'll be putting the roads into, what the contractor is for that road and as work progresses the anticipated date of opening. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, when we are fairly certain within a week or so that that road will be open we make an effort to notify all freighters, all truckers that have contracts on those roads to get ready and get their loads ready to go.

Now I understand that there is some problem that we are attempting to assist the truckers with in terms of getting their piggybacks into the community of Ilford. But, Mr. Chairman, we cannot force the truckers to put their trucks on the road and haul goods. I mean they have a contract to deliver goods; they know that the season doesn't last forever, and they have that responsibility to get their goods moving, to get their trucks on the road and get the goods hauled into the communities. And we certainly have some idea of how many trucks are moving and how fast they're progressing, but no matter how hard the Member for Birtle-Russell hollers at us I'm sure he wouldn't want us to - or we cannot in any way force them to get busy and do the job they're contracted to do.

They have to figure out their schedule, get their equipment into place and get the goods hauled in that they're contracted to haul in. We've carried out our responsibility in ensuring that the roads are there and open and notifying them of the opening dates and the condition of those roads and providing a supervisor as to giving them permits to allow them to travel on the roads, but it is the responsibility of the shippers to actually do the shipping.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, what the Minister says is partially correct but when his department says the roads are open and a trucker goes out and spends three days being towed by a cat, I don't consider that to be an open road by no stretch of the imagination. And the information that the Minister is giving to the trucking industry isn't correct, nor is the information he's giving to the House correct, and I would think it is time, long overdue that something be done about these winter roads. Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the Minister can give us an up-to-date report tomorrow on the number of trucks that have used the roads; the amount

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(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) of goods that have been moved and everything else. I asked him ten days ago approximately. I haven't got it yet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Mr. Chairman, I was just wondering if the Minister could inform the House who the principals are in Me-Ke-Si Construction and what capital funding the government has put in and funding toward operation, if any, and basically the capital funding is what I'm more interested in knowing.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the Department of Northern Affairs has a contract with Me-Ke-Si Construction which is - I think he asked the question about principals - which is basically an attachment of the--economic development attachment of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood. Our contract with them and the member's leader has a copy of that contract is for \$295,000 for a number of roads to be built. It is my understanding that Me-Ke-Si Company has received assistance from the Federal Government, and it is my understanding that they have received assistance from the Communities Economic Development Fund, but I'm not sure of the exact total of those figures although in the Fund's book it shows a number of loans that were in fact made to Me-Ke-Si, and the member has a copy of that particular book.

MR. MOUG: Well, Mr. Chairman, what I was more concerned than anything, has there been any MDC loans made to them or any direct Province of Manitoba money into their corporation?

MR. McBRYDE: Well, Mr. Chairman, the money that goes from the people of Manitoba is a contract for work done through the Department of Northern Affairs and where the work is completed to our satisfaction - the total of the contract this year is \$295,000. But as I said to the honourable member the CEDF which is the - I don't know how to legally define it, it's not under the Department of Northern Affairs - is a section of MDC or is a part of MDC, has in fact made a loan to Me-Ke-Si Construction and that is in their report that I believe you now have before you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution--The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I wonder if the Minister would care to reply to my question a few moments ago. Why he needs a million dollars more over and above this year.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, that's something I had meant to point out to members and I'm pleased the member has asked that question. The figure on the left hand side of the page of \$540,000 is in fact the amount within our budget last year for winter roads but in fact we have added to that through the winter works, Accelerated Winter Works Program, and by special warrant so the sum total for this year will be in the area of \$1.1 million. That includes not only the actual cost of the construction of winter roads, that includes all our administrative costs associated with winter roads, that includes the studies that are under way in terms of better routes for the winter - we have some engineering studies under way to a number of communities as to the alternate routes that are available, and in fact it would be fair to say that we are also looking at: is the winter road route the best winter road route very similar to the best all-weather road route? And in fact one study that has just been completed shows that for a slight more cost the winter road could follow the best all weather road route so we'll do it that way and then maybe over the years that will be built into an all-weather road.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister telling us then that over and above the \$540,000 of last year that included in this million dollars is a considerable amount of money for work that's already been done and been covered by the money issued by the warrant? Is that right?

MR. McBRYDE: Well, I'm sorry I believe that the honourable member misunderstood me. The figure shown here, the 540,000 is the figure that was budgeted for winter roads. We have added to that figure, but it doesn't appear in this book, and that has been added to through the Accelerated Winter Works Program and through the special warrant, and the total amount expected to be spent on all matters related to winter roads is \$1.1 million this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether there are any charges for the winter roads that are charged to the Department of Highways?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: I don't believe so, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Can the Minister indicate if any of the costs of winter roads are charged to Hydro?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I think that we have had cost-sharing from two sources. During last year's winter roads season Churchill Forest Industry as it was then known wanted a wider and better quality road into the area of the Community of Moose Lake and paid for that additional work that had to be done, and this year we have two projects cost-sharing from the Department of Indian Affairs of the Federal Government on the light traffic road or from Cross Lake to Oxford House, and on the new road from the Community of Garden Hill to Red Sucker Lake. At this time those are the only external sources or cost-sharing sources. I think the member was probably here when I mentioned that it is our hope to get cost-sharing on winter roads since the majority of persons, communities served the majority are Indian Reserves or Treaty Indian Communities. We are quite hopeful that we'll be able to get cost-sharing on the winter roads through the Federal Department of Indian Affairs for the next season, but we have no guarantee of that at this time.

MR. GRAHAM: I wonder if the Minister can indicate if there has been any of the cost of winter roads that has been borne by Hydro?

MR. McBRYDE: Well, Mr. Chairman, in the Winter Roads Program that we have been discussing the answer is no, but highways in terms of survey work build their own winter roads. Hydro in terms of some of its own work I understand build their own winter roads, as do other contractors. I know that BACM and Abitibi are big winter road builders in Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether there is any amounts recoverable from the Federal Government with respect to the winter roads?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I just answered that question to the honourable member. This year on contracts that go beyond this 540,000 shown here we do have cost-sharing with the Federal Department of Indian Affairs on a proposal that came from the Cross Lake and the Oxford House Indian bands, a joint proposal to build a road in an area that we were going to survey this summer and hopefully go in next winter. We did cost-share with the Federal Government sort of on an experimental road or putting a light traffic road in there, and we put up \$25,000 and the Federal Government put up \$25,000.00. That to be the total amount put in by both levels of government although the communities, I believe, contributed up to about \$10,000 themselves.

We have a contract with Me-Ke-Si Construction to build a road across the ice from Garden Hill to Red Sucker Lake, and that's included in the Me-Ke-Si contract that I quoted figures for. Me-Ke-Si has been able to get the Federal Government to put up \$50,000.00. I believe the amount of our contract is \$49,000 to put the road across the ice. The Federal Government has agreed to contribute, and I don't know if we have that confirmed in writing yet but we have it by Telex or by phone, has agreed to put in \$50,000 to put a road on land into Red Sucker Lake. That is to build a new route. So I agreed with them that we would be willing to transfer our \$49,000 contract to the new route and that we would have no objection to doing that in order to match 50/50 we'd put in that one more thousand that would enable us to match 50/50 with the anticipated price of construction of a new road theoretically for completion, hopefully for completion for this season.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether in the past the Federal Government did participate going back four years ago? With respect to the Provincial Government.

MR. McBRYDE: No, Mr. Chairman, we weren't able to get federal participation in the Winter Road Program. We were a number of years ago able to get participation in the Airstrip Program and that participation hasn't been forthcoming, and that's the other matter that's under negotiation with the Federal Government.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, one of the problems and I understand the dimension of the amount of money that's being actually spent with winter roads, the question has to be answered, or asked, and have to be answered in the way that, today, and I'm not sure that we even have the total amounts when we look at both governments with respect to what is happening. And as I say, there are other costs that will not be even shown in this particular vote. But again I put it to the Minister, and I put it on the basis of what I've said before with respect to the, you

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) know, the alternatives that are open to government, and the fact that if the government's position is as strong as the Minister's maintained, there should be no problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I wonder if the members could just keep the tone of conversation down. It's very difficult. I know I'm getting very close to the honourable member that's speaking now but I'm having difficulty hearing him. I'm sure that other members are who want to hear--Order, please. Now if you want to have a conversation and it's going to carry loud, I would ask the honourable members to go out of the Chamber, go somewhere else, but at least when honourable members are on the floor trying to participate in the debate, at least try and keep your tone of conversation down. Thank you. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, again on the basis of what the Minister has said and in view of the fact that the government feels strong with respect to its position, and on the basis of the fact that there are alternatives I think to be considered in connection with what's happening, and because I don't think that the Minister can simply answer the request by saying this is another enquiry. Would the government possibly reconsider the position and have a legislative enquiry so that the alternatives can be dealt with and the determination to be made as to what the cost really is and as to what the real benefit is, so that the kind of analysis can be undertaken to be able to know whether this recommendation for the kind of money that is being shown here is realistically the answer to the problem area and the objectives that the government is trying to achieve.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, what the Leader of the Opposition is asking for is an enquiry on a matter that is normally a matter of policy review and examination of alternatives available. And certainly he will recall that last winter season we looked seriously at the air transportation alternative and, in fact, in the northern transportation system there is still a number of communities served solely by air transportation; and those air strips are maintained throughout the winter in good condition with radio beacons, etc., because that is their only source of supply. And that would be the communities of Shamattawa and Brochet. But the kind of enquiry that the Leader of the Opposition proposes although it sounds very dramatic, I can't see that it's going to be that useful in fact if that kind of policy determination is made by normal review programs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River, or - pardon me. . .

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In view of the Minister's answer to the question posed by my leader, and in view of the fact that he has now told us that last year the 540,000 that we voted actually doubled and it was 1,100,000 approximately - are those the figures you quoted? - can the Minister then give us an assurance that the 1.3 million that we are presently voting on will not double before the end of this year?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I'm optimistic that our estimate for this year will exceed the accuracy of the estimates for last year. As a matter of fact I'm hopeful, Mr. Chairman, however, that I might have to come back and report to the House that the amount has been reduced, if in fact the Federal Government will agree to cost-share with the Provincial Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 99 (b) (4) - Passed; (5) Canada-Manitoba--The Pas Special Agreement - The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, under (c) (4) . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're on (b) (4) - (5) pardon me. (b) (5)--passed. (c) (1) Salaries and Wages--passed. (2) Other Expenditures - the Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I know the Minister's aware of the fact that I would like to ask a few questions on this information community program. Does that come under this item or . . . you did . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: (2)--passed. (3) Shared Community Projects - The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister would furnish us with a list of the Shared Community Program for this year? I appreciate that he may not be able to do this in one meeting but I wonder if we could have as a matter of record the projects?

MR. McBRYDE: The discussion that we had in relation to water supply in the communities would have--you know this probably would have been the section that that discussion would

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) have come under; this is where the community sets its budget and the Department of Northern Affairs shares with the community in the costs on a formula basis of different items in their community from a quarter to 100 percent of the cost of different projects. So that list is available in terms of what the communities have set out as a tentative budget, and this is the question you asked before.

MR. SPIVAK: The only difference, Mr. Chairman, from what was said before is that you now have a specific vote for a specific amount of money so that the commitment will be made as a result of this request and the support by the Legislature for the projects. This isn't speculation; we're being asked to vote on \$862,000, and once that's authorized we have to assume that it'll be used for the projects that it's been requested for, so that at a given time, you know, that determination has to be made, unless the Minister is indicating that this vote is only a vote which gives him the right temporarily to, or gives him the right, not temporarily, but gives him the right to agree or disagree on the request that still is subject to negotiation.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman I hope that the member opposite understands the situation in remote communities as some of his colleagues I believe do, well enough to realize that it would be, it would be a very difficult thing to force the communities to stay with their estimate of earlier this fall of what projects they would like to go ahead with, because if the community comes back with a very good reason and says, instead of four miles of road we want to do two miles of road, and use part of this towards our arena, and use part of it towards our wells, then, Mr. Chairman, I think that to give them that kind of flexibility is something that we have to do. I don't think that on the basis of their estimates last fall that I can force them to stick with what they thought they wanted to do then when a new year comes around and their priorities might have to be adjusted somewhat. And I think the members opposite, at least some of them, would understand that situation.

MR. SPIVAK: Well I wonder if the Minister then would furnish with the projects that were already completed and were already awarded, which is into the \$1,326,000 vote.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I couldn't do it immediately but I can give him that information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 99 (c) (3)--passed. (4) Airport and Airstrip Operation and Maintenance. The Honourable Member for. . . I wonder if we could, since there is only about 20 seconds, if we could call it 5:30. The Hour being 5:30 I'm leaving the Chair to return at 8:00 p. m. this evening.