

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Tuesday, March 5, 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 the gallery where we have 25 students of Grade 9 standing of the General Byng School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Holowka. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Osborne, the Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services.

We also have 25 students of Grade 9 standing of the Pinawa Junior High School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Reimer. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet, the Minister of Agriculture.

On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here today.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Questions. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Official Opposition) (River Heights): Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister and it deals with the Energy Conference or Premiers' Conference that was to be held, I believe, in the middle of the month. I wonder if he can indicate whether the Premier was one of those who agreed to this postponement?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, it wasn't a case of agreeing or disagreeing to a postponement. The way this unfolded was that the Prime Minister intimated at the closing of the January Energy Conference of First Ministers that there would in all probability be a follow-up conference convened sometime between mid March and the end of March and then, perhaps a couple of weeks after the January conference, a telegram was received by all Premiers indicating that March - I believe it was 15th and 16th were the days set - but then subsequent to that there was an indication from the producing provinces that they did not see any point in such a conference and accordingly we were advised by telegram from the Prime Minister's office that the proposed meeting was being deferred indefinitely. And that's about as accurately as I can relate the sequence of events to the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, I thank the First Minister for his answer. I wonder then on another question, I wonder if he would indicate to the House whether it's the position of the government that this conference should be held or should not be held.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, certainly it is our view that a conference as a sequel to, or a follow-up to the January conference is needed and we have so indicated to the Prime Minister's office. I am of the impression that such a conference will still be convened but possibly in April or May rather than in March.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, I would then indicate to the -- ask the First Minister then at least to indicate that if such a meeting was to be held in April or even later than that, in May, that would mean that the freeze will have been lifted and prices will have risen in Canada.

MR. SCHREYER: Well presumably, Mr. Speaker, the January Conference certainly closed on the note where all provinces, whether they liked it or not, were given notice that on a certain point in time, namely the 1st of April, that the price would in all probability, and virtual certainty, be adjusted upward and it was left to the some perhaps detailed consideration that was taking place at these bilateral conferences between the Prime Minister and the producing provinces premiers. But that's where it's at, and of course all those provinces that are in the position of being importers of oil product registered their concern and apprehension, but that having been done nevertheless these were the decisions taken.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, by way of supplementary. I wonder if the First Minister can indicate whether the government is essentially acquiescing in this policy so that the provincial revenues from oil, as small and minimal as they may be, will be increased.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I take that question as being sincerely put but I

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(MR. SCHREYER Cont'd) have to reply that it is certainly an extremely cynical view. The Province of Manitoba to be candid, it's no secret, the Province of Manitoba does have oil producing wells but in relation to the Canadian total oil production, in relation to our own provincial consumption, they're very small, very modest in size, and I can assure my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition that we would not predicate our position or policy on the basis of that consideration.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, to the First Minister. I wonder if he can indicate whether the gain to the Provincial Treasury as a result of price increases will be offset against the consumers increase of prices for goods, for oil in Manitoba.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, Manitoba and British Columbia are in a position of being producing provinces of a minor kind in relation to consumption, we are net importers. There will be some increase in oil royalty revenues -- I wouldn't say that they would be substantial; I would approximate that as being in the order of perhaps a few million dollars, very very approximately something in the order of 3 or 4 million dollars. As to what is done with that unexpected and undesired increment the context of oil price increases is something which is a matter of policy yet to be determined.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley, the Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. I.H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation. Will the Minister indicate or explain to this House what has happened to William Clare (Manitoba) Limited which has received some \$600,000 of MDC money, and which has now vacated its premises and is operating out of a private home with a part-time girl who answers the telephone.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): I'm intrigued at the intimate knowledge that the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party has with regards to the private home and the girl who operates the telephone. I claim no such knowledge on my own part, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Member will be able to get full detail of the involvement of the Manitoba Development Corporation with William Clare Limited, its projections, its operations, its connection with Rand McNally in the United States, when the committee meets to hear a report from the Chairman of the Development Corporation. The Chairman is presently out of town; I expect he'll be back next week, and as soon as he comes back next week, Mr. Speaker, I will try to schedule a date for the meeting.

MR. ASPER: Well, Mr. Speaker, will the Minister at least undertake to ascertain and indicate to the House whether this company that has the \$600,000 of MDC money has created any jobs in Manitoba other than the part-time girl who answers the telephone, and will he undertake to ascertain how many people are working for this company out of Manitoba in other parts of Canada and the United States, if any?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm aware that this particular investment of the Manitoba Development Corporation is not based on the creation of a great deal of employment in the Province of Manitoba, or at least has not resulted in that. It was based on trying to have the Development Corporation involved with a Canadian Publishing House, producing of a unique form of films and some text books, I believe. Some of it has worked out; some of it has not worked out. The honourable member will be able to get full particulars when it is before the committee. My recollection is that the amount that the Development Corporation has invested is considerably beyond \$600,000.00.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. In order to allow us to prepare for that discussion with the Chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation, could he undertake to provide us with information prior to that meeting, telling us what the William Clare (Manitoba) Limited has done with our money; what has it produced, what has it printed, what has it produced in terms of film other than give this girl employment who operates out of her house answering the phone.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have indicated, Mr. Speaker, that the activities of the Manitoba Development Corporation are conducted by a Board of Directors, each of whom I have great confidence in, each of whom has been very successful in the operation of their own businesses from time to time. They are the safeguards of the public interest in this connection; the government takes full responsibility for their appointment and for their actions, and the reporting job is to the Chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation, who

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) will give the Honourable Member, I'm sure, that information when he appears before committee.

MR. ASPER: Yes. A supplementary, and maybe the Minister would be willing to give us his estimate of what prospects exist that the people of Manitoba will recover from this investment of \$600,000.00. What are we going to get back?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, all I can say is that my information from the Manitoba Development Corporation is that the investment and the subsequent loan were based on their best judgement as to being able to recover it and at the same time be involved in creating a viable Canadian publishing house.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I must say, that with each of these particular ventures there is sometimes the possibility of success and sometimes the possibility of lack of success. I'd be willing, Mr. Speaker, and the Honourable Member can ask it, to get a list of many many many companies who have received money from the Manitoba Development Corporation, who have paid their loans, and who have operated successfully. But I suppose he wouldn't be interested.

MR. ASPER: Yes, I have a final supplementary. The question is, is it a fact that the people of Manitoba own equity in this company, and would he confirm, indicate to the House now the substantial amount of money that he referred to over and above the 600,000 that I had raised?

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't like to from memory indicate the amount of money that is involved, because I wouldn't trust my memory in that connection. But I can tell the Honourable Member that the figures that he has asked for have been made public in accordance with the policy of this Government in the Manitoba Gazette as distinct from what, let us say, the Liberal Government in Ottawa with the Industrial Development Bank, does, which does not make its loans public. --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the member says the information is a year old . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. We are not in a debating moment now. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that the Manitoba Human Relations Centre has a contract with the department to conduct interviews with various community centres up north. My direct question to the Minister is: is this group paying the individual persons involved coming to be interviewed by this group?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. RON McBRYDE (Minister of Northern Affairs): Mr. Chairman, I believe this matter was discussed in my estimates, but for the Honourable Member, the group that had contract for consultation with communities about proposed changes to the Northern Affairs Act, I believe that, not this group, but that the Department of Northern Affairs did in fact pay a per diem to people attending those meetings.

TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, while I'm on my feet and by leave, I would like to table today's winter road report.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question. Just for clarification then, the consultants interviewing the communities or people with respect to possible changes in the Northern Affairs Act, are in fact being paid by the government to offer their volunteer suggestions?

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. With this meeting and with some of the others that Northern Affairs holds in conjunction with a meeting, such as training sessions, there is a per diem rate paid to those people from the communities who attend.

MR. ENNS: One final supplementary question just for further clarification. The per diem rate the Minister refers to is being paid to people of the community. I'm not referring to the consultants that are hired under contract. These are the people of the community, and perhaps the Minister could indicate what that per diem rate is.

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MR. McBRYDE: The Speaker, I believe the Member understands correctly. I believe that they are paid \$5.00 a day, but I'm not 100 percent positive of that figure.

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

MR. J. PAUL MARION (St. Boniface): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Honourable the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation. Will the Minister confirm that the Manitoba Government has by-passed the normal tendering system in ordering more than \$600,000 worth of bus bodies from Scheller Globe in Ohio, the American firm that purchased the Morris Bus Assembly Plant from the M.D.C., so that Scheller Globe was in essence, the only company which received notice that the Government intended to buy 133 bus bodies?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, of course I'm not responsible for government purchasing, and the Development Corporation is not purchasing any buses. So that question would have to be directed to some government department that is involved in the purchasing of buses. I've no knowledge of that matter.

Before the Honourable member directs his question again, I would like to answer a question that was asked of me by the Honourable, the Member for Brandon East, Mr. Speaker, relative to --(Interjection)-- excuse me, Brandon West, relative to matters involving the engineering work done with respect to flood control, which I mentioned in the House some time ago, as storage in the south Shellmouth Reservoir is allocated so that between elevation 1391, storage is designated for conservation use between elevations 1391 and 1402 for dual, that is, conservation and flood control use, and above 1402.5 for flood control purposes. Flood waters can be stored up to elevation 1408.5 without uncontrolled spillage. The present release rate of 300 cubic feet per second will result in the reservoir being drawn down to elevation 1391 by March 31st. It would not be advisable to draw the reservoir below elevation 1391 since there is a possibility of not filling the reservoir to 1402.5. This could be the case if precipitation was below normal level to and during the breakup. It is important that the reservoir attain this level to ensure that downstream flow requirements are met during the ensuing summer and winter months. It should be noted that because of high antecedent moisture conditions and heavy snow in the Assiniboine River basin downstream of Shellmouth, run-off from this river could be heavy; thus even with storage of all flows originating above the Shellmouth Reservoir, it is possible that peak stages on the Assiniboine River from St. Lazare downstream, will be in excess of channel capacity. An accelerated drawn-down procedure has been considered by engineers in the department. At the present time indications are that with normal precipitation from now and throughout the snow-melt period, all run-off originating in the Assiniboine River basin upstream of the Shellmouth Reservoir could be stored. Therefore, at this time, an accelerated release is not being contemplated. The situation is being monitored closely and if adverse meteorological conditions occur, consideration will be given to accelerating releases from the reservoir prior to breakup.

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

MR. MARION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inasmuch as the Minister responsible for M.D.C. couldn't answer the question, I'd like to direct it to the Honourable the Minister of Education, or to the First Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, to simplify and shorten proceedings, I'll simply advise my Honourable friend the question will be taken as notice. The purchasing bureau operates under the aegis of Public Works.

MR. MARION: I have a supplementary, and perhaps the First Minister could take those under advisement as well. The supplementary is: if this contract was not part of the deal involving the sale of the Morris Plant, why was there no tendering? I guess this follows -- thus in effect, giving Scheller Globe exclusive supply rights in providing -- and providing no insurance or guarantee that Manitobans as bus purchasers will obtain . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member is aware he's making a speech? The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the rather lengthy supplementary will be taken as notice as well. I might point out however, that much of the assumption that is implicit in his supplementary is erroneous. But we'll reply and soon.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: On a point of order, the Honourable Member has said that the matter was not part of the agreement. I am unaware as to whether it was or whether it wasn't. I couldn't say that it was and I couldn't say that it wasn't

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

MR. MARION: No, the question is, was it part of the agreement?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, to the Honourable, the Minister of Mines and Resources, I'd like to thank him for the answers to questions which originated as a result of some concern about the flooding in the Assiniboine Valley; and I'd like to perhaps get his assurance that there is no compromise or trade-off of the primary function of the Shellmouth Dam as a flood control mechanism and its resource values. I would just like the assurance that there will be -- his policies will be such that the draw-down will be sufficient to get a maximum performance of the Shellmouth Basin and Dam in restraining runoffs this spring which appear to be -- likely to be very high.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, that implies of course, the suggestion that the Shellmouth Reservoir was designed solely for flood control purposes. I'd have to take the question as notice just to determine what the parameter is, when the project was designed. I can assure the Honourable Member that I have not directed any change in the way in which the Shellmouth is to be utilized.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye. The Honourable Member state his matter of privilege. The Member for Wolseley.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Point of Privilege arises, and I think it's appropriate to deal with it at this point, out of remarks made in the Legislature yesterday, Hansard Page 993 in the comments by the Minister of Mines and Natural Resource, in which he proposes or suggests that the position of myself or the Liberal Party vis-a-vis the Garrison River Diversion, was that we would seek compensation. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is an absolute incorrect statement. It is a diametric opposite position to that which the Liberal Party . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. That is not a matter of privilege. That is an explanation the Honourable Member is making, in effect, to debate. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. Would the Minister advise the House if he received a petition last September signed by about 50 farmers from East Braintree, Hadashville and Medika areas asking for financial assistance re crop loss because of the disastrous flooding of the Birch River?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I believe there was communication from one or more than one person in the area with respect to the problems arising from the weather conditions at that time. There is also discussions taking place at the present time. But no announcement of compensation has been made, or likely will be made, on crops that are insurable, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BANMAN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, then. In light of the heavy losses sustained by these farmers in this area, is the government considering providing special flood disaster, giving this special disaster consideration?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, obviously the Honourable Member is not aware of government policy and that is, that where a crop is insurable there is no further assistance provided, nor is it considered.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L.R. SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable the Minister of Labour. Did the government step in and ask the Federal Government to put a halt to a recruiting drive that was aimed at recruiting 1,000 or so, immigrant Philippine workers for the Manitoba garment industry?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, it was indicated to us

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) that the Federal authority under their immigration laws were inclined to recruit a considerable number of employees for the garment industry in the Province of Manitoba, somewhere in the neighborhood of 900 or 1,000. The request was made by the Minister of Industry and Commerce and myself to the Honourable Robert Andras to reconsider the position of the federal authority until such time as we had had an opportunity of ascertaining as to whether or not we would be able to recruit within the Province of Manitoba certain competent people to become employed in the garment industry. So my direct answer to the honourable member would be: Yes, we did make representations to the federal authority; they did recognize our legitimate complaint or representation, Mr. Speaker, and it's my understanding that while the Department of Immigration and Manpower had been in contact with some 250 Filipinos through the proper channels, that that ended at that particular number for the present time.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his information. Can the Minister advise the House as to the status of the quest for workers within the Manitoba labour force to fill that quota of requirements?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have indicated to the House on a number of occasions, possibly my honourable friend was not present at the time that I made the indication, that with the total number of unemployed that we have in the Province of Manitoba we are making every effort possible for those that are unemployed to become participants in the garment industry or any other industry in Manitoba, and that negotiations are going on at the present time between our Manpower Committee, of which I have the honour of being the Chairman of the Cabinet Sub-committee, and the federal authority to see what steps can be taken to utilize the unemployed in Manitoba first.

MR. SHERMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister's position be at variance with the public opinion expressed by the Chairman of the Fashion Institute of Manitoba to the effect that the potential of such workers, the potential supply of such workers for the garment industry is exhausted in this province.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, it could well be that there's a difference of opinion between the Minister of Labour and the Fashion Institute of the Province of Manitoba as to the availability of people to be involved in the garment industry, but notwithstanding any possible differences of opinion between the Fashion Institute and the employment of people I am convinced in my opinion, it may be erroneous, that we can find workers in Manitoba to fulfill the needs of the fashion and the garment industry in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. With the announcement that bread prices will increase by 4 cents in Montreal, can the Minister ensure that the price of bread in Manitoba will not increase by more than 2 cents, as he announced previously.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I do not recall making such an announcement previously, but I will say, Sir, that the government in the past, and I hope the government in the future, will continue to introduce and develop programs which will have a far more lasting and significant effect on lessening the impact of inflation than any control on bread prices.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. I wonder if the Minister is still intending to introduce legislation permitting the province to participate in Western Canadian Lotteries?

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

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (Springfield): Well, Mr. Speaker, this is definitely up to government policy to decide, but it is intended, and I've said this prior, to introduce permissive legislation in regards to Western Canadian Lotteries. I wish I could talk without hearing the chirpers here and there but unfortunately . . .

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Why are amendments to The Lotteries Act currently in the hands of persons outside this House when the House and the members of this House have not received the bill as yet?

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MR. TOUPIN: Well it's again, Mr. Speaker, very difficult to answer such a question because in some cases there may be employees, either within the department that have been employed by the Department of Tourism and Recreation and Cultural Affairs or by The Lotteries Commission, that have left some and copies could be circulating, draft copies of intended bills. You know, it's impossible for the Minister to gather all draft copies of intended bills. But I have, as I said in the previous question, Mr. Speaker, indicated that it was the intent of government to present permissive legislation in regards to a Western Canadian lottery.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Will this passage of enabling legislation on the Western Canadian lottery, will that spell the end to the Manitoba Golden Sweepstakes? --(Interjection)-- Will it spell the end for Manitoba Golden Sweepstakes . . . ?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, again this is impossible to predict at this time. Since we are talking of enabling legislation, we may or may not proceed with the Western Canadian lottery and if we don't, you know, necessarily, we will continue with our own lottery program in the Province of Manitoba; and if we do, hopefully that it will be done in the hope and expectation that this will be better for Manitobans and those associations involved in the sale of tickets.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Co-operative Development. I wonder if he is in a position now to answer the questions asked of him about the sale being negotiated by his department of the fishing co-operatives to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I thought I did answer that to the honourable member some time last week. I have since checked and the same answer applies.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder then by way of another question to the Minister, I wonder if he can indicate how many of the fishing co-operatives managed by his department are audited by external auditors rather than by internal auditors of his department?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that there are any that are specifically managed by the department. I think what the honourable member is talking about is the assistance that the department offers in the management of local co-operatives.

MR. SPIVAK: By way of another question to the Honourable Minister, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if he can indicate whether the officials of his department who provide this assistance have brought to his attention any misuse of trust funds by the co-operatives?

MR. USKIW: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if he could indicate to the House whether any officials of his department who provide assistance to co-operatives have brought to his attention any claims by the Federal Government for moneys owing to them not paid by the co-operatives?

MR. USKIW: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether any of the officials of his department who provide assistance to the co-operatives have brought to his attention any dispersement of dividends by the co-operatives paid out of capital rather than out of earnings.

MR. USKIW: No, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the First Minister: Is it the policy of the government or provincial departments to make purchases from corporations that the MDC has loaned money to or holds equity in rather than through the normal accepted public tendering?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, for the most part the practice is one of calling tenders, however, there are circumstances under which the Crown and the right of the Province of Manitoba, as in other provinces, does deviate from that practice. I might by way of example indicate that in the Province of Ontario for example that certain transit, urban transit vehicles are being made available to the city under a procedure which does not involve a tender. That's one example, there are others.

MR. MINAKER: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What guidelines are used by the department or the government when you have this deviation from the normal acceptance of meeting specifications at the lowest price? What kind of guidelines are used by the departments or the government when they do deviate?

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MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is something which - that very matter has been something under discussion among, for example, that prairie provinces at the Western Economic Council for at least the five years that I have been attending at these meetings - the extent to which local preference is to be supported, beyond which however it is not supported, and various percentage differential figures have been used but for the most part, for by far the greater amount of purchasing, almost all, it is one of reliance on the tender and bid system. The criteria in those few cases where it is deviated from is the criteria of the public, the general public interest as perceived by those who have the responsibility for administering the affairs of the province.

MR. MINAKER: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. When these guidelines are interpreted, or at least the deviation from normal tendering procedure is made, is the decision made by the Cabinet or is it made by the department official, say a deputy minister?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that too would vary with the quantum involved. If it is a significant order it would be a matter of Cabinet deliberation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. My question to the Minister is: I wonder if he is disposed today to tell us what the price of Manitoba pork is in Japan?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I haven't read the newspaper account of today's prices in the hog market.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I'll resist an editorial comment on the Minister's answer . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. ENNS: . . . but my supplementary question is: in view of the fact that the price of pork to the Manitoba producers has dropped by some 25 to 28 percent in the last three months, my question to the Minister is, just when does he expect to put the gears of his supply-management team into action to avert that kind of a fluctuation in price?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member knows full well that there is no supply-management program in hog production in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Could he confirm whether it is presently a condition of financial assistance to medical students under the Special Opportunities Bursary Program that they must after completing their internship serve in an area outside Metropolitan Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, the conditions are that they may repay the amounts made available to them if they so wish to do, or they may gain credits by serving in an area which is approved by the Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, another supplementary question to the Minister. Has the Minister at any time discussed with representatives of the Medical Students Association the need to revise or reassess both the incentive program that he talks about, or the form of financial assistance that's available to them?

MR. MILLER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have met over a year ago with the representative of the Medical Students - Fourth Year Medical Students' representative.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister then, does his department or does the Manitoba Health Services Commission presently consider revising or reviewing the present schedule of remuneration or assistance given to medical students in the province to give them incentives to continue in their profession?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure where the Manitoba Health Services Commission enters into it. The program I'm referring to is under College and Universities Affairs. It's a bursary loan medical-dental opportunity bursary. It's administered by the Department of Colleges and Universities, subject only to the final placing of students, or rather settlement of students within the province, and in that way for repayment of their obligation to the Province of Manitoba.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Public Insurance Corporation.

HON. BILLIE URUSKI (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation) (St. George): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some days ago the Honourable Member from Arthur asked me a question: have there been any adjusters employed recently or at any time since Autopac took over, adjusters who have had no experience either in the automobile business or in the auto body shop business? I might say that the Corporation attempts to recruit and employs only experienced adjusters in the adjuster categories. They were however unable to recruit sufficient numbers and therefore established an adjuster trainee position. Training of some personnel was done under the Canada Manpower Program combined with on-the-job training, and it should be clarified that the adjusters' role is not to evaluate vehicle damage it is to investigate the claim. The experience required is therefore primarily insurance and investigatory; and the Corporation specializes in the area of vehicle damage appraisals and it therefore employs only persons who were previously qualified auto body repair mechanics, most of whom have attained journeyman status to perform this type of function.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, my question was intended for the Honourable the Minister of Finance but I see that he has some difficulty there. I wonder if he could confirm to the House that he is the Minister responsible for the operations of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Company at Brandon and if so, would he indicate whether or not it is his intention to present to the House the financial report of that organization, as has been done in the past on a somewhat selective basis by the Minister of Industry and Commerce?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I believe under the Act I am the person who is the custodian or the trustee for the shares owned by the province of the company. The administration I believe is still under the Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, then my question would be to the Minister of Industry and Commerce and ask him if there will be an opportunity presented through one or other of the standing committees of the House to question in detail the management and chairman of the McKenzie Seed Company Limited, so that we may be apprised of the results being achieved by this company.

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

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, there is no requirement by law or by practice. The A.E. McKenzie Company Limited was bequeathed in effect to the Government of Manitoba back in 1945 by legislation, and I fail to see any reports submitted by a previous government of this province, both Liberal and Conservative, of the detailed operations of the A.E. McKenzie Company Limited.

MR. MCGILL: Yes, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Is it his intention to present the Annual Report for the year ending October 31st, 1973, in the manner that he has previously used to announce the results in this House?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the practice has been not to present a report to this House but rather an announcement by the company of its general financial situation. If the honourable member is interested the complex, the A.E. McKenzie Company, which has expanded considerably during the last few years, and which is about to bring more employment to the Province of Manitoba, has made a profit for the last fiscal year.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary. I wonder if the Minister could arrange to have this company appear at the Economic Development Committee or Public Utilities so that these beneficial results could be understood by all members of the Legislature.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, we'll take it under advisement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. In view of a fire that was unfortunate to the McKenzie Seed Company a number of months ago in Brandon, can the Minister indicate how much seed was completely destroyed and how much was saved?

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I don't have that information at my fingertips but I can advise honourable members, and particularly the Honourable Member from Rock Lake, that

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(MR. EVANS cont'd) the company, the building in question that did experience a serious fire was fully insured and that all damages were covered adequately by insurance.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I direct another question to the Minister. Was any of the seed that was -- if it was saved, if it was saved I say, sold to anybody in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta or B.C.?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the company following very good business practices would only sell top quality products.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Northern Affairs. I would like to ask him if his department has actively taken over the maintenance of any of the winter roads in northern Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the roads that the department was involved in constructing -- construction of, we're also involved in the maintenance of, and my offhand recollection is the road from Jenpeg to Cross Lake and the road from Oxford House to God's Narrows.

MR. GRAHAM: A supplementary question. Could the Minister inform the House of what recommendations or what actions his department is taking to improve the maintenance of the Hole River-Garden Hill road, the Ilford-Split Lake road and the Ilford-Oxford House road?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal -- the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the Hole River-Ste. Theresa Point road is as it was last week, or the week before when it got warm, was closed during the daytime and opened again at nights and reopened fully once the weather turned colder. It was closed this afternoon and will probably reopen tonight and tomorrow if the weather turns colder again. That road is being maintained by the contractor.

On the other roads I know there was a couple of problems with the contractor and I'm not positive what action is being taken at this point, although the roads are open for traffic except for the York Landing road where the Beaver Dam is broken and there's water and slush on the road and that is being fixed at this time.

MR. GRAHAM: A final supplementary to the Minister. I would ask the Minister if the figures he has given in his report regarding the amount of goods still to be transported where he says, "these amounts could be increased by 10 percent." Is that 10 percent per day, 10 percent per week or 10 percent per month?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, the amount it -- the 10 percent is 10 percent.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. It relates to the answers he gave relative to reporting on McKenzie Seed. Can he confirm to the House that McKenzie Seed has taken further public money over the past couple of years from MDC or otherwise, to acquire Brett-Young Seeds and Steele-Briggs Seeds?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. It would seem to be a point of order, as to whether it's proper or necessary to ask questions, the specific kind of which are in -- the answers to which are in the Annual and Quarterly Reports of the MDC.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. I quite agree with the First Minister, and I raised the question because they aren't included. Now, Mr. Speaker, the question to the Minister is this:

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. ASPER: Will he now confirm that McKenzie Seed has acquired Steele-Briggs and Brett-Young Seeds?

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the question -- the honourable member is asking a non-question. He asked me whether we have acquired -- whether McKenzie Seeds has acquired Steele-Briggs and Brett-Young Seeds; he asks me that question. Mr. Speaker, the entire population of the Province of Manitoba knows that we've acquired those two companies -- it was in all the newspapers -- except the Honourable Member from Wolseley.

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MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for confirming what we all knew. Now in the light of that will he undertake to make public, will he undertake to make public the operating results, not take under advisement but undertake to make public, the operating results of those companies with which taxpayer money has been used to acquire?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, McKenzie Seeds has been supported by the Manitoba Government, or at least has been involved with the Manitoba Government, since 1945 by legislation. I have checked the records; I have found no public discussion, no information provided by the government about the operation of this particular company. It's only since we have come to power that we have made statements, or the company rather has made statements, has provided financial information on the operation of that company, and that company will continue to do so, and in spite, in spite of the ill wishes of the Member for Wolseley this company will continue to prosper and give jobs to the people of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Well, Mr. Speaker, I almost hesitate to ask a question of the belligerent Minister of Industry and Commerce today but since he was the Minister that got Manitoba taxpayers so deeply involved in Saunders Aircraft, I would ask this question: how many completed aircraft, Saunders aircraft are in stock at the present time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, because someone on the treasury bench was a Minister with a particular responsibility at one point in time, the rules are pretty clear, Sir that that question should be directed to whoever it is that has current responsibility, and that is my colleague the Minister reporting for the MDC.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I direct the question to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, that question will be asked when the Chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation appears before Committee. Mr. Speaker, in further elucidation since honourable members have not understood, there are numerous, I would say hundreds, of corporations in which the Development Corporation either has advanced money by loan or by equity capital. I do not remain current with the day-to-day commercial operations of those corporations and the type of question that's asked I believe will not be of great prejudice to the people of Manitoba if the answer is not awaited until the Chairman of the Corporation appears before committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Co-operative Development. I wonder if he can indicate whether the problem of the bankruptcy of the majority of the fishing co-operatives assisted by his department have been brought to his attention.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I should like to advise the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that since we came to office in 1969 we have had problems with bankrupt fish companies in northern Manitoba, and we have written many off over the years and we have created new ones. That is not a new eventuality, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPIVAK: I would like to put the question to the Minister: has the bankruptcy of the present fishing co-operatives now operating in Northern Manitoba been brought to his attention by the members of his department?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, we have been aware of the financial difficulties that many co-operatives are in in Northern Manitoba and the peculiar nature of those co-operatives, and we are currently dealing with those problems as best as we can. But we do not control, we do not have control of those co-operatives; they have local boards of directors whom we try to assist.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether he's had an opportunity of reviewing the balance sheets and financial statements of the co-operatives?

MR. USKIW: No, not the individual ones, Mr. Speaker, I have not seen lately, at least, any individual balance sheets, no.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek. --(Interjection)-- The honourable member has about ten questions on that particular subject already. The Honourable

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(MR. SPEAKER cont'd) Member for Sturgeon Creek. --(Interjection)-- The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek. The Honourable Leader will get another opportunity in a minute. --(Interjection)-- Would the Honourable Leader indicate his point of order?

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is not your function to tell me how many questions I can or cannot ask. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I believe as Leader of the Opposition I am entitled, as any member is entitled, to ask questions on a particular matter. Mr. Speaker, further I believe that I am entitled to ask supplementaries on the questions that have been asked. Mr. Speaker, and . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I do believe that the procedure and the conformity and the respect to parliament is that one has to catch the Speaker's eye. I believe the honourable member has caught my eye a number of times. It is the turn of the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister in charge of the Manitoba Development Corporation. Could he confirm that because the A.E. McKenzie Company has had \$2,300,000 worth of loans guaranteed by the fund, that we will at committee have the opportunity to completely go over the operations of the McKenzie Seed Company.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member will certainly have an opportunity to ask the Chairman of the Fund what the relationship of the Fund is to the advances relative to McKenzie Seed for the years concerned.

I believe I indicated that some two weeks ago the -- approximately two weeks ago -- that the Fund made an advance to McKenzie Seed on the basis that the government requested that the advance be made. Since the Manitoba Development Corporation is not directly involved in the supervision of McKenzie Seed in the same way as it is with other companies coming under its jurisdiction, the McKenzie Seed operation is something that predates the Manitoba Development Corporation and actually is handled on a different basis. But you would certainly be able to get from the Chairman the basis upon which the loans were made, yes. I believe that the Minister of Industry has indicated that the Chairman of the Corporation is also going to make a public statement vis-a-vis the finances of McKenzie Seed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Co-operative Development. I wonder if he can indicate whether his department is in the process of attempting to negotiate the sale of the fishing co-operatives to the Department of Indian Affairs, the federal department.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I think the Honourable Leader of the Opposition should know that the Department is involved in discussions which would bring about a greater realization of the responsibilities of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

MR. SPIVAK: By way of another question to the Minister, I wonder if he can indicate whether the managers of the fishing co-operative are in fact managers appointed and selected by the Department of Co-operative Development?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that one could generalize because we have many co-operatives in Northern Manitoba, many of which have been structured through their own initiative and many of which have been established through the initiatives of the Department of Co-operatives.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce as it relates to the Brett-Young Seed Company within the MDC that we've been discussing here this afternoon. Can he indicate how many acres have been contracted out to farmers to grow faba beans by Brett Young and at what price being paid to the farmers?

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, if the member has a burning desire to have that information we can undertake to inquire and provide the information for the members of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. In the light of the snow condition in the Duck Mountains, can he tell the House the total number of deer and elk thus far reported having died from starvation?

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: No, Mr. Speaker, I can't furnish the honourable member with that information. I gather he would like me to get it for him and I will undertake to do so, if it's available.

MR. BILTON: I wonder if the Minister has alerted his staff in that area with a view to tabulating the figures of the animals that may have thus died.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I can't say that I have alerted my staff in the area to tabulating those figures. If it has been their practice to do so, if they consider it a value to do so, I'm sure they would have done so, but I would have to tell my honourable friend that I did not alert my officials to count the number of dead deer in the area.

MR. BILTON: A second supplementary, Mr. -- for the information of the Minister I'd tell him that five have been reported dead in . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question, question. Order please. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. MARION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Health. Is the Department of Health presently supporting with public funds any programs that could be labelled, Abortion on Demand?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I'd have to make an inquiry from my department. I'm not aware of any such funds; obviously the member has information which he's not willing to share with me.

MR. MARION: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister please make that inquiry?

MR. MILLER: I said I would; I'll reaffirm if he didn't hear me.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable House Leader.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - SECOND READING - BILL NO. 7

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, could we now proceed to the debates, second reading debates, and then to the Department of Agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. Bill No. 7. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make one or two comments on the bill if it's agreeable to the House. I believe Mr. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. MOUG: I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this bill has been thoroughly debated and a good many hours have been spent on it, although I feel that I have one or two comments I would like to make in regard to certain civil servants that hold jobs that govern the lives of a good many in the province, and that is in the way of inspectors. I think if these people want to take these jobs and oversee certain rights that the government has put to us by way of legislation, certainly they're going to have to make one or two sacrifices. We in the legislature here as elected members, we've made our sacrifices. I can't as a contractor bid a road job or be awarded one. I have to give up that privilege. Certain inspectors that we have in the Civil Service staff may take a two months leave of absence and fail to get the nomination in the previous election, so now he's on the two month leave of absence, certainly he would stay and work for the party whether it was in the opposition or whether in the government side. It more than likely would be in the government side because they clearly know that he's an employee at the time and I don't imagine he'd be after a nomination to sit in the opposition.

Now let's suppose he's a liquor inspector, a senior liquor inspector, a chief liquor inspector, and there's 500 to 600 outlets in the Province of Manitoba that make the bulk of their living for that business, or the bulk of the business is by liquor, or 50 percent of it. Now if this man drops in casually after having dropped in every month for the previous three or four years, and he drops in casually during that election campaign with a receipt book in his hand, I don't know the hotelkeeper that would have the guts to say no. And supposing that - well we'll take the Premier's brother for instance. That man has been put in a real tough position just the fact that his brother became Premier of this province. He's a road contractor that takes half a million dollar contracts and certainly when the engineering department goes out on his contract, just so that they're not criticized for their job they have to be far more careful that Schreyer Construction does a good job than if the Premier wasn't his brother, and I'm sure that if you talk to Tony Schreyer today he'll tell you that.

BILL No. 7

(MR. MOUG Cont'd)

But now supposing another road contractor gets a half a million dollar job and the man that goes for the nomination and fails, still is on the two month leave of absence, and he goes around bagging money, if he drops in on that job - let's say that he was an engineer in the Department of Highways and he was in charge of seeing that that job was done correctly but after a month's work, and he started the job in May and the election comes along in June, and after inspecting that job for a month he's replaced because he's going to seek nomination, and he doesn't get it but he wanders around there about the middle of June with a receipt book in his hand, I often wonder what is that contractor going to say to that man. He's looking at a half a million dollars worth of work, and certainly a thousand dollars will get him off the hook and get him a far easier inspector for the balance of that half million dollars of work. As I say these sacrifices have to be made. There's certain things that we do, it doesn't matter what job you take, whether Civil Service or whether it's for Eaton's, or whoever, you're making a sacrifice right off the bat. You can't stay home with your wife and family all day. Now that's a sacrifice; and we coming in here, the Member for Swan River he comes in, he only sees his wife once a week, that's a sacrifice, and that's an infringement on his human rights equally as much --(Interjection)-- All right, I'll use that in generalities then, Jim.

So I say, Sir, there's conservation officers that look after oil field construction, look after several things in the way of our environment, and they certainly can treat oil field workers the same way, whoever they are involved with.

Supposing a purchasing agent of the Department of Public Works goes through this routine and fails to get the nomination and carries on and works for a party for two months and goes out bagging money. I wonder what he'd say when he went down to Dominion Motors or to some GM dealer or Chevy dealer or Chrysler dealer and said, look fellows we're going to be buying another 200 cars this year and certainly you're going to be considered if we can get a few dollars from you to get re-elected.

Every supply house, everybody is affected in some way or other when it comes to our tendering system, when it comes to carrying out that job that's awarded to them, when it comes to supplying those cars, and when it comes to making a living in hotels or other liquor outlets, where these inspectors, be they highway scale inspectors, they've all got a way back if you say no. As a free enterpriser, a man in business, I say that that, Sir, has got to go on record along with what else has been said about Bill 7. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The question shall remain in the name of the Honourable Member for Gladstone.

BILL No. 15

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 15. The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I adjourned this debate on behalf of my colleague the Honourable Member from Birtle-Russell who would like to speak on it.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, we have examined Bill No. 15 and while the comments that the Minister made when he was giving it second reading were indeed very brief there are one or two things that have caused me enough concern to try and take a deeper look at what is going on here, Mr. Speaker.

At the present time in the Province of Manitoba we have a County Court system and a Queen's Bench system, and we find that the distinction that occurred in the past has slowly been lessening between the two courts. And in the amendments that the Attorney-General has put forward in these amendments to the Queen's Bench Act he is really trying to differentiate and to, in a degree, further define the County Court and the Queen's Bench judges, and quite sincerely, Sir, I wonder whether we should not be thinking more in the line of a non-differentiation between them and in effect making County Court judges almost the same as Queen's Bench judges. I realize that there certainly would raise a few feathers with some in the Law Society; there would be some that would think it would severely tax the Law Society to provide sufficient judges of the calibre that they expect. But surely, Mr. Speaker, we can't really point our finger at judges and say, well this one is better than that one; I don't think that should be the case. So although some members of the Bar Association I know will deliberately remand cases until they can bring them up before certain judges, if we have the flexibility in the Queen's Bench that the Minister is proposing

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(MR. GRAHAM cont'd) . . . for the County Court judges I think you would have a better system of justice and then the distinctions between the County Court and the Queen's Bench would be lessened even further.

We find for instance in today's society that one of the largest court cases that this province has faced for some time, and I refer to the CFI case or cases, is being held before a County Court judge. So we can no longer distinguish the difference between County Court and Queen's Bench by the size of the case or the importance of the case. The differences that we have between the two are rather insignificant in my mind.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, if we gave County Court judges the right to handle divorce cases, then what would be the difference between a County Court judge and a Queen's Bench. We seem to find that divorce cases are fairly important in that respect because we do not give that authority to the County Court but keep it confined to the Queen's Bench. Other than that, Mr. Speaker, I just point these things out to the Minister and I would sincerely like to hear him give his comments when he's closing debate on this bill because I, in my own mind, believe that we are approaching the time when the difference between the County Court and the Queen's Bench will eventually disappear and then the distinction will be between provincial judges and the Bench as such.

With those few words, Mr. Speaker, I would commend my remarks to the Minister and invite his reply when he closes debate on this bill.

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

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): I wonder if I could suggest - unless somebody from the Liberal Party wants to speak on this - if I could suggest that the bill stand in the name of the Attorney-General so that he can close debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, it's obvious that members opposite do not wish to debate any further so I would move that the debate be adjourned. (Seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health)

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 16. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: May I have this matter stand, Mr. Speaker? (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 17. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: May I have this matter stand, Mr. Speaker? (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 18. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: May I have this matter stand, Mr. Speaker? (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 20. The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR (Virden): Mr. Speaker, may I have this matter stand? (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health, that the Speaker now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 7 (a) -- the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. The Honourable Minister has 24 minutes.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I think I did cover most of the items but I do want to touch on one or two other points that were alluded to by members opposite, and one in particular had to do with the future of Crocus Foods. I believe that question was put to me by the Leader of the Liberal Party. I simply want to point out to members opposite that Crocus Foods is in the very early stages of development and feasibility studies are still under way, and a final decision has not yet been made but it is hoped, Mr. Chairman, that Crocus Foods, if and when it is completed, constructed, that it will provide a very needed service to the dairy industry, namely, that they would solve once and for all the environmental problems emanating from the disposal of whey from the various cheese plants throughout the province. That is its primary purpose. It was not looked upon initially as being a facility that would generate huge amounts of profit and it was not looked upon as an area where private entrepreneurship would be very

(MR. USKIW cont'd) . . . much interested because of the marginal profits that were projected. But in the interests of the environment it was decided that we should take a good look as to whether that might not be the solution to that particular problem, and that if we make some money in the process that it will be money that will augur well for the industry, and indeed for the producers of manufactured milk in this province. So it's a bit early to be more definitive, Mr. Chairman, as to the future of Crocus Foods for the moment.

The dairy policy that we were discussing yesterday does require somewhat greater elaboration, Mr. Chairman. I believe I did not indicate that we are awaiting the announcement from Ottawa on April 1st or shortly thereafter, of their dairy policy for the next year. There is a great deal of discussion under way at the moment as between all levels of government as to what the dairy policy should be, and we are awaiting some decision to be made in Ottawa in order that we may make some decisions here in Manitoba. So I think we are at this point somewhere in a premature period to bring about any definitive position, although it's true that we probably would require a policy change that would result in greater production of butter since we are now nationally deficient for our own requirements.

The Member for Portage - no, not for Portage, I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Morris took issue with the fact that the departmental policies have been changed so as to take away from one particular group in favour of another group in the delivery of departmental services, and I should like to take a moment or two, Mr. Chairman, to point out to members opposite that we must be very judicious in our use of departmental personnel, that I'm sure the Member for Lakeside would appreciate what I am saying, having had the responsibility himself. It is very difficult on many occasions for farmers to try to get the services of the department because of the numbers of calls and demands that are made on the various branch offices, and quite often, Mr. Chairman, we find that people that are most sophisticated and are really well-to-do, quite often find it quite easy to approach the department for additional services, for free services, and quite often monopolize the time, the time of the extension agent or specialist or whatever, technician. And it is policy of the department, Mr. Chairman, to try to operate in such a way that we don't allow one or two or a few individuals to monopolize the time of our staff; that we try to allocate our time in accordance with the priorities of the department; that we have set certain objectives and that we want those objectives realized and all other things have to come secondary, Mr. Chairman, other than matters of emergency and things of that nature where the whole department tries to respond. But aside from that, we would want to make sure that the priorities of the department are adhered to at all levels throughout the staff system and that the goals that we have set, whether it be in farm diversification or other programs, veterinary clinic programs or whatever, that those goals be achieved before we give any emphasis to any other program.

And, Mr. Chairman, it's important to realize that it's very easy to get caught up in a situation where a handful of people in any community might prevail on the local ag office and use up much more time than is necessary for the kind of information that they are seeking. And so, where people have the ability to look after themselves and in fact where we have large companies, Mr. Chairman, who are able to hire their own specialists, who are large enough to do that, we think it is not a departmental priority to cater too much to those groups, that they can really afford to do some of this research by the hiring of their own staff. And so where it is not a matter of general provincial policy application, that we would want our staff to, on occasion, suggest to these people that they really should not be coming to the department for that kind of assistance. That is a matter of good housekeeping, Mr. Chairman, and I would hope that our staff is responding in that way.

The idea of giving emphasis to the income groups that have had a problem for many many decades - and I again mention the figure of 80 percent of our farm population is in that category, Mr. Chairman, where their incomes have been very very low - obviously we have to give a lot of attention to that particular group and in particular to the vast number of people in that group that could be made into viable farming units but which may not have been or may not be at the moment. And where there's a chance of success, we should bend all our efforts towards that possibility. Now that doesn't mean we should ignore the legitimate needs of other groups, but that we should be more judicious in the time allocation. That is all that we are talking about. It is true that we have not been able to add as much staff as would be required, new staff man years, to bring about full implementation of the ARDA program, the farm diversification effort, and we have decided to redirect some of the work hours of our ag reps in that connection where

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(MR. USKIW cont'd). . . some are assuming responsibility for X number of clients in the farm diversification program and so on. We have done a bit of that and I think that's just a matter of good management on the part of our staff resources, Mr. Chairman.

I think, Mr. Chairman, I have dealt with all of the points that were raised over the last number of days. If I have overlooked any, why perhaps, Mr. Chairman, someone may want to put a question again, but I think I'll let my honourable friend from La Verendrye, is it? take the floor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have several observations and several comments I would like to make on agriculture. Firstly, I would like to start off by mentioning something about transportation. I realize it does not fall under the Minister's jurisdiction but I would like to point out several things that I feel are very important to agriculture as related to transportation. I feel that transportation slowdown which we are experiencing now, and I mean lag time, is already being felt by agriculture and will deal agriculture a severe blow. It is my challenge to this Minister, in view of present rail abandonments and the like, that the Minister consult with his colleagues, namely the Minister of Highways and other members of the Cabinet, and appropriate proper moneys to help upgrade roads in the rural areas and create a better transportation system.

I would like to make several observations about the land-lease as a businessman and, I might add, as I've said before, I consider farmers nowadays businessmen and they have to be darned good ones to survive, that the land-lease program being undertaken by this government is on their part a move to grab the land out of the hands of the Manitoba farmers. During the last election I was called malicious for speaking out against this program, but let me state several of my opinions. When buying or selling something money must change hands, and people do not readily have cash available. Now this government, instead of aiding a younger farmer with regards to land purchase, is buying land away from these people. Another customer for any land drives up the price. Another customer for any product drives up the price.

What I would like to know is how many people have been turned down by MACC or a government lending agency and then received a letter several weeks later from the land-lease people offering to purchase this same land. I want to know where the land-lease people get these leads. I would also like the Minister to confirm or deny that the government has appropriated in its forthcoming budget in an excess of \$18 million which may be spent on land-lease purchases.

May I also point out another point. When a farm is transferred from father to son there is no capital gains applicable, but when government buys the land from the father and leases it back to the son, the father is forced to pay that capital gains tax. It leads one to question what the real motives are.

The younger farmer wants pride in ownership, an incentive, a proper standard of living, and he wants the benefit of our large inflationary trend. In light of the points and questions I have raised I honestly cannot say that my being skeptical about this land-lease program should cause members opposite to call me malicious. --(Interjection)-- Good.

I'd like to also make several observations of farm diversification. I would suggest that the Minister is turning, especially with this farm diversification scheme, some of the farmers and part of his agency into a social welfare program. To make my point I will cite several examples and draw the Minister's attention to a case of a young farmer by the name of Dennis KUPIAK, a young aggressive farmer in southeastern Manitoba. He applied to the Department of Agriculture to be qualified under the farm diversification program. After some correspondence he eventually found out that he was disqualified. He appealed, was once again turned down. Here is an aggressive young man, anxious to go ahead and was put down. For the record I would like to read several short excerpts from the correspondence between him and the Department of Agriculture and show how a project such as this is alienating our farming population. Just an excerpt out of one letter, "We appreciate that there are some bad feelings from the better farmers in the area as to their inability to take part in programs such as Farm Diversification, and it is our hope that farmers such as yourself would continue to use the regular departmental services. We appreciate there are some bad feelings from the better farmers."

A further letter dated some two weeks later, "As I mentioned to you in our recent telephone conversation, the committee voted unanimously at their recent meeting to uphold their earlier decision on your appeal to the Farm Diversification Program. As to your reaction of

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(MR. BANMAN cont'd). . . not wishing departmental employees to visit you in the future because of this decision, this is your privilege." I wonder if the Minister can truthfully say that this is the type of program that is helping our young person. . .

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the honourable member would table the letter that he's read?

MR. BANMAN: Yes, I would. I would also like dwell just shortly on the A.I. Program. Here's another example of how things are being muffed by this present Minister. And I would also like to read another little article written by another young dairy farmer from my area. A 30-year old farmer, who I might add is running a very good dairy operation. This letter appeared in the February 27th edition of the Carillon News, and I quote as follows: "On January 30th, a committee of the concerned users examined ballots under the supervision of an independent scrutineer. The results of the ballots cast were as follows: 568 opposed to government control and sole distribution rights of semen; 19 in favour of governmental control and sole distribution; one spoiled ballot; 96.8 percent against government promoting plan for sole distribution agencies." In addition to these ballots a letter was received earlier from the Winnipeg District Milk Producers Cooperative Association Limited, and we quote: "Resolved that the Winnipeg Milk District Producers Association give its full support to the Steering Committee concerned users of A.I. in Manitoba in their attempt to have Bill 120 amended so that the monopolistic parts in it be removed from provincial regulations set out in this bill. And further, that the word 'sole' be deleted from the legislation which gives the Manitoba Animal Breeders Co-op monopoly of distributing the livestock semen in the Province." He goes on to say, "With cattlemen demonstrating this kind of opposition to the monopolistic aspect of Bill 120, how can the Minister of Agriculture justify spending thousands of taxpayers dollars to give cattlemen something they don't want? I find it very, very, interesting that. . .

A MEMBER: Who's it signed by?

MR. BANMAN: Zig Peters. I find it very interesting that the Minister with a referendum such as this would not listen to the A.I. users, for it is on the same democratic principle that he sits in the House elected today. He was voted in by a majority. The majority of A.I. users in this instance were against it, and still the Bill has been implemented. I feel that the Minister should review some of these policies and give serious consideration to what they are doing to the farming population and possibly get his ear down to the ground and listen to what the farming population is saying today.

. . . . Continued on next page.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE (Minnedosa): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to add one or two comments being from a rural constituency also. And I know the Minister is very familiar with the constituency of Minnedosa having made many trips through there in the months of May and June last. I want just to make a few brief comments, I hope that the Minister will be as brief in his remarks. We don't want to provoke a 30-minute speech each time we get up and ask him a few questions. But I would like him when he replies to comment on the leasing policy of Crown land adjacent to the Riding Mountain National Park. And I would mention in the outset without belabouring the point, the concern of the dairy people in my area. There is a considerable amount of dairying in the Minnedosa constituency and the Member for La Verendrye has covered most of the points on the A. I. concern that I was going into, although I do want to just elaborate on them to some extent.

I have the article that he quoted from in a letter that outlined the vote that was held by the concerned A. I. users, and in addition to that I know of the 568 opposed to government control as to 19 in favour of government control, with one spoiled ballot, I have learned that on these ballots they were signed by two, and in many cases three farmers, where there were a father and two sons engaged in dairying, so it represented a fairly large segment of the dairy and the cattle industry; as did the meeting that was held in Portage la Prairie last fall, attended by an excess of 300 concerned users of A. I. and successful cattlemen throughout the province.

I don't really see how the Minister can ignore such a concentrated opposition to a Bill that has created this much interest among the dairymen and the cattle people of the province. I have a copy of a letter that I understand was sent to the Minister and other members of the Party from a strong supporter of his Party outlining his objections to the Bill and wondering how the Minister can bring in legislation like this in the face of such strong opposition and really justify it. He goes on to mention the comments from this survey as well as public comments indicate there are certain aspects in the agricultural field that the government should not intervene in. I can only agree wholeheartedly with that comment.

But not to belabour the point that's been covered by many of my colleagues, Mr. Chairman, I'll move on to one or two other points that I just want to mention to the Minister, and before that to urge him to consider Bill 120 once again and maybe for this time take into consideration the actual interests of the farmers and not the interests of himself and maybe some of his advisers. While I am on the A. I. problems, I know the A. I. licensing renewals will be up for renewal on March 31st and I assume that all will be renewed. I would like the Minister to comment on any change in renewal practises. But I know that under the existing program there are going to be very many, many farmers in my area that are going to be purchasing their own bulls and leaving the A. I. breeding program, and I just wonder how many technicians that that will leave without sufficient income to maintain their families.

I would want to mention at the same time the whey plant that has been announced for Selkirk, Manitoba, and I would like the Minister to comment on this and indicate if this plant will be capable of manufacturing cheese, and if so, if it is planned to manufacture cheese there which may be detrimental to the existing cheese plants in the province. I know there are many problems confronting agriculture today and the Minister as well as other people are looking for solutions. The farmers are also looking for some concrete help and they're not looking for lectures such as they receive from the Minister of Agriculture at the Outlook Conference in Brandon. They were looking for some real direction and all they got was a lecture on how members of the Conservative Party had been alarming the farmers. Well, I wonder who alarmed them on the A. I. situation? It certainly wasn't the Conservative Party.

I would also mention the problem with the hog producers in the province. I won't ask him what price pork in Japan is today, but I know there are many farmers coming to me and asking me what price the pork was sold for and I don't see how the Minister can escape that particular problem too much longer. I think the demand from the hog producers is going to become greater and greater and I think he's going to have to come up with some real good answers as to why this particular contract has been shrouded in such secrecy. So I would urge the Minister to stand back and listen to some of the people who are engaged in agriculture and who have been successful in agriculture.

I know that the stay option has been a catchy phrase for him during the election, and there's certainly nothing wrong with many aspects of it. We know the problems of the rural

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(MR. BLAKE cont'd). . . . area, but I have always maintained that the young people will stay on the farms as long as they can make money. They didn't leave farming because they didn't like farming. They left farming because it wasn't a sufficient income for two and three people on the farm to sustain a normal standard of living. So they left and went to the cities and obtained a better job. I think rural industry, industrializing the rural areas is vital to any chance of having the stay option survive or become meaningful at all. We're fortunate in my area to have some small industry and I know that that has been of considerable benefit to the smaller farmers who are able to work and still enjoy rural life on a small acreage.

Just before I close I should comment on the remarks of the Member from Ste. Rose when he spoke the other evening. He had me shaking in my place when he said he was going to get me and I shouldn't let that pass without comment. He mentioned how expensive it was for him to borrow money to feed his starving cattle and blamed the bank for it. Well, he knows full well that the prime rate is set in Ottawa by the federal agency and it has nothing to do with the provincial agencies or with the banks themselves. I'm sure he'll agree with me that he can't borrow money any cheaper at the Credit Union which doesn't operate under such restrictions. In fact, he might borrow money a little cheaper at the bank, providing his credit is satisfactory. He certainly can borrow cheaper under Farm Improvement loans there, I know that.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would urge the Minister of Agriculture to consider the voices of strenuous objection that he has heard on Bill 120. They're asking for a very small amendment; they're asking for a very small amendment and the voice will become stronger and stronger if he continues to ignore such a large number of the successful dairy and beef raisers of this province.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I listened with a great deal of interest to the members opposite, because so often throughout the debate they find themselves at cross purposes with each other, and with statements made in the past by members of the Conservative Party. The Member for La Verendrye indulged in something which I think is, to say the least, premature, for consideration, and that is the idea that the province should accept--should take it for granted that the role of transportation must be removed from the railway system and placed on the shoulders of the taxpayers of Manitoba through the building of new and extensions of existing roads. That's really what he said, Mr. Chairman. And we've had a long series of discussions, negotiations, federal-provincial committees, the Grains Commission, or the Grains group, we had a whole host of various groups studying the whole problem of transportation, in particular for the movement of grain. And there were many serious discussions on what kind of financial assistance would be provided to the provinces who would have to convert from rail to road transport. That is, financial assistance from the Government of Canada, and so on, because of the added financial load that they will be placing on the Provincial Governments, and indeed, on the highway system, if we move away from rail transport.

Without all of those points fully considered and decisions made on, I fail to understand how the Member for La Verendrye could now advocate that we take it for granted that that is what we must do regardless of any compensation or adjustment from the Government of Canada, because they are indeed responsible for the massive transportation system which delivers our products right across this country from one point to another. I think it's premature to say the least; and somewhat, Mr. Chairman, somewhat irresponsible.

The second point that the member raises has to do with the land-lease program, and he used the term, "grab", the government is grabbing the land from the farmers. What hypocrisy Mr. Chairman. The member stands here and lies in this House, Mr. Chairman. The government is "grabbing" the land from the farmers. That's what he said, Mr. Chairman, and I want him to show--I want him and members opposite, to show how the government is grabbing the land from the farmers? They are unwilling participants but we're taking it away from them, Mr. Chairman. That's the inference my honourable friend has left in this Chamber, Mr. Chairman. The continuation of the big lie, Mr. Chairman. And it is a lie and my honourable friend knows it's a lie.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I really don't want to interrupt the Honourable Minister, but we do seem to be relaxing rather with some regularity, long established traditions in this Chamber. Mr. Chairman, if that tradition is to be relaxed and changed, I for one, won't particularly object; but that's a question for the Rules Committee to decide. But it is a matter

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) of standing rules of this Chamber that we do not call each other liars in this Chamber. And if that takes place then a formal request for withdrawal is expected. I think the Honourable Member for St. Matthews knows what I'm talking about, as I think does the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party knows what I'm talking about. So I just draw that to your attention, Mr. Chairman, if not necessarily to anybody else's attention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The unparliamentary expression, the one dealing with lying, is found in Beauchesne Fourth Edition, Section 155 (4) but the charges of uttering deliberate falsehood or calling another member by name I must confess I was not, perhaps not observant. I don't know exactly what the Honourable Minister said. Perhaps if I could have an opportunity to see Hansard.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Chairman, by way of help to you, Sir, I appreciate that you have ongoing responsibilities, you know, and not always being able to follow some of the devious routes of our own debates, but the simple question is that the Minister insisted and repeatedly called the Honourable Member for La Verendrye a liar, and accused him of lying in this Chamber. And I would suggest that there are other expressions that have been used by different members from time to time. I think the expression chosen by the Leader of the Liberal Party was that the Honourable Member for La Verendrye perhaps had some difficulty distinguishing the truth, or was a stranger to the truth. I suggest that to the Honourable Minister if he so wants to describe the accurate statements made by the member, my colleague the Member from La Verendrye, but the assistance that I'm trying to give you, Sir, is that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, not once but several times, accused the Honourable Member for La Verendrye of lying in this Chamber.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I think until I can rule on this I'll have to wait until-- and I'll ask the recorder if I can have a copy of the proceedings as soon as possible and at that point I . . .

MR. PAULLEY: If I may, Mr. Chairman, on this point I think we can get along very well this afternoon. I'm sure that my colleague the Minister of Agriculture, if inadvertently he may have indicated something in reference to the honourable member being a liar, I'm sure that my colleague is gracious enough to say that he didn't mean it in the normal literal sense and that he would be prepared to qualify it. It may be a perversion of the truth or something of that nature, which I understand is in accordance with Beauchesne, and then in the interim, Mr. Chairman, may I respectfully suggest to you that you may be able to observe Hansard for some future occasion to indicate more precisely. I think if that would be acceptable to the House, then we can go on with consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture in a spirit of harmonious relationship, which normally is the basis on which we consider the estimates. So let's get on with the job of the consideration of the estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I couldn't repeat the words that I used because I wouldn't recall them precisely, and I think it will have to await your review, Sir, tomorrow. But I think I couched it in the terms of the big lie campaign that we witnessed during the election, and that indeed the members opposite were indulging in a similar activity. I believe it was in that context that I couched my remarks, but I think it will bear some watching in Hansard to determine whether that is correct or not, and I could not recall precisely the way in which the words were arranged, Mr. Chairman. But I would suggest to members opposite that it would be helpful if they stuck closer to the truth indeed, and that if the Member for La Verendrye, if the Member for La Verendrye could show me one instance where the government went out through extraordinary procedure and grabbed somebody's farm, then I would take all of those comments back, Mr. Chairman, all of them. I would hope that the Member for La Verendrye would show me how we are grabbing the land from the farmers in this province.

I should like to point out to him that the member suggests--or I shouldn't put it that way, Mr. Chairman. I should like to put a question to the member: how he can assume that government and its policy should ignore the fact that people who have no access to capital, for that reason should be denied the right to choose their role in life; simply by the magic of having no money or no basis of borrowing money, or no basis of borrowing money, that they should not have an opportunity to land use, land use, Mr. Chairman, that we believe should be made possible to all citizens of this province. And so that is the purpose of the land-lease program, to give people an opportunity who couldn't have that opportunity under the policies of the previous

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) government. Because you have to have money to borrow money, and if you had no money you couldn't borrow any money, and therefore we witnessed, Mr. Chairman, the rejection of 40 and 50 and 60 percent of our applications by the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation, by the federal Farm Credit Corporation, simply because they said there wasn't enough equity. There wasn't enough equity. And therefore, for that reason, while they may be fully qualified entrepreneurs, fully knowledgeable in the field, in the agricultural industry, they would be denied because the Member for Minnedosa in his banking business would say, "But, Sir, as much as I think you could do it, you don't have enough equity." And that's the way the banks operate, and that's the way MACC operated, and that's the way FCC operates, and therefore notwithstanding your expertise, Mr. Chairman, we're sorry we can't let you buy that farm that you want to buy. Therefore you should go to Winnipeg and see if you can work for some factory or maybe you should be a milkman, notwithstanding the fact that you have expertise in agriculture. And so we have expelled, we have expelled from the industry very capable people over the years because of that kind of attitude to farm transfers and land tenure.

The Member for La Verendrye wanted to know the amount of capital supply that we will be asking for to finance this year's program, or next year's program, and I should like to point out to him that that information will be made available to him when the Minister of Finance introduces his Capital Supply bill and where we will have an opportunity to debate most fully.

The Member for La Verendrye questions the benefit--in fact he opposes the farm diversification program in its entirety; he calls it social welfare. And again he follows in the footsteps of the Member for Morris who alleges that it is indeed an unnecessary program and that therefore we must revert back to the previous policies of the 1960s as administered by the Conservative Government up till 1969, wherein they advocated the wiping out of 50 percent of our farmers at that time. My honourable friend now wishes to wipe out about 80 percent through his philosophy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . has been raised by the Honourable Member for . . .

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege. I attempt not to pay too much attention to the Honourable Minister but I do, on a point of privilege, have to refute the kind of generalized misrepresentation of facts that he is putting on to the public record. The statements made by the Minister throughout his discourse, as has been the case every time he gets on his feet, are simply not true.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please . . . unfortunately not a point of privilege. There are no privileges of the House being abused. There just seems to be a difference of opinion between two honourable members.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, it is a matter of privilege if a constant repetition of deliberate misrepresentation of facts is being attributed to honourable members in this Chamber. That is what the Honourable Minister is doing, particularly to those members who had something to do with the previous administration and those members who now represent the party of that previous administration. For him to suggest that we had a deliberate policy to expel farmers, 50 percent of the farmers I think was his term, is simply not true. Whether or not 50 percent of the farmers left during a ten-year period of time is another question, Mr. Chairman. One has to examine the reasons why they left. Perhaps it was the efforts of people like the Honourable Member for Crescentwood, who in organized labour was able to attract a better way of life and better living standards and better wages than farming returns. Perhaps it was for these other reasons. But no, the point of order is your bald statement, Mr. Minister, that we had a deliberate policy to expel 50 percent of the farmers during our tenure of office.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I draw the member's attention - the Member for Lakeside - to the fact that the TED Commission recommended exactly that, that there was room for 20,000 farm units in this province. So let not him deny, Mr. Chairman, that a Commission . . .

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, let me again interrupt the Honourable Minister for deliberate misrepresentation of facts. Since when - and this government would be the first government to suggest that every report commissioned or done for them, such as the Kierans Report or other reports, do not necessarily represent administration policy as of the day they were printed or rolled off the press. The TED Commission was precisely, it was a prophetic outlook of things that may come to pass, it was an assessment of things desirable or undesirable

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) that they thought were going to come to pass - far from representing the policy of the administration of the day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate very much why the Member for Lakeside now wants to disassociate himself from the TED Report. I can appreciate it very much. But I want to remind him, I want to remind him that . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the point the honourable member . . . ?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I will continue to raise when the Minister deliberately misrepresents facts. I have never been associated with the TED Commission; I have never been associated with the writing of that report and I have never had any input into the writing of that report. So there was nothing for me to disassociate myself from.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank the honourable member for his . . . There is not a point of privilege before the House. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Those remarks, Mr. Chairman, would have been most welcome in 1969 when that report was tabled, but it's somewhat late, Mr. Chairman, for the Member for Lakeside to come in here and say that now, five years later, he no longer has anything to do with a report commissioned by his own government, Mr. Chairman, giving them guidelines, economic guidelines, wherein it was suggested that the farm numbers should be reduced to 20,000 from about 40,000 at that time. So let not the Member for Lakeside try to skirt the issue.

The Leader of the Opposition in the election campaign suggested that he would revise that figure to 30,000. That was during the election campaign six months ago, Mr. Chairman. Of course it required a great deal of rethinking on the part of members opposite, but then, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Morris only a day or so ago reiterated that philosophy, where he said that all of these programs that we have introduced to raise the economic level of 80 percent of our farm community who have had very low incomes, are undesirable, that it's a social welfare program, and that we should cater to the 20 percent that have already made it. That's really what he said, Mr. Chairman. So the evidence is in Hansard, Mr. Chairman, the philosophy of the members opposite as to what should happen in the Department of Agriculture.

I want to point out to members opposite that we have enrolled thousands of people in the farm diversification program in the last three or four years, thousands of people, wherein some three to four million dollars of grants have been paid out and many tens of millions of dollars have been loaned, and the program is indeed received very well by a vast number of people throughout the countryside. Farm diversification clients alone, which is a new program entered into in partnership with the Government of Canada, is now adding up to about 818 clients; a very new program.

Fortunately, Mr. Chairman, I have some interesting figures for members opposite. There were 3,379 loans involving livestock since that program was launched; 3,379 farm units have been assisted through that program and members opposite are calling it social welfare, Mr. Chairman, a program that they would want to disassociate themselves with. So I leave that on the record because that is the kind of nonsense that we have been hearing from those members, Mr. Chairman, when they were on this side. And I can recall many occasions when I drew to their attention the inadequate philosophy and policies for rural Manitoba that they were pursuing, and I want to reiterate that point now, Mr. Chairman.

The Member for La Verendrye alleges that when you have a new buyer for land that that should push up the price. That's what he is saying. So he would rather say or trade off in favour of having no option, no option for the individual that doesn't have financial resources of his own.

Now the Member for La Verendrye alleges also that certain people have been denied access to the program, and in fact he read part of a letter for the record, a letter that was received by one of those constituents of his who has been denied entry into the farm diversification program, and I should like to point out to him that there are many people that have been denied access to that program for a various number of reasons. I should like to point out to him that not all farmers understand the nature of the program, the ARDA program. I should like him to understand that that program is a joint effort between two levels of government where the criteria is arrived at jointly, the rules of the program are arrived at jointly, and that it is only those categories of people that fit in within the criteria that would qualify. And the main emphasis of the program, Mr. Chairman, is farm management, training, education.

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) The main emphasis is in that area. And if we have an applicant that really doesn't require that kind of assistance, they are indeed rejected and referred to the Department's regular programs whether it's credit or whatever other programs that are desirable for the situation. Many people have assumed that they would want to get into the program just for the sake of the grant that is attached to it, and that is the least important part of the program, Mr. Chairman. It's farm management education that is emphasized in that program.

MR. BLAKE: Would the Minister submit to a question?

MR. USKIW: Yes.

MR. BLAKE: Where is the training centre for the farmers in the Scaterbury area?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the member opposite should not indulge in that kind of thing. I think the member should appreciate that we have a problem there that is now before the courts, and until that is resolved I don't think that he should pursue that matter in the House. But the farm diversification advisers are indeed located throughout various parts of the province and who have a responsibility to relate to an X number amount of clients, and they have some responsibility not only to the clients but to the Department as well, in the kind of assistance and the advice that is given to those people.

I should now like to remind members opposite that they also are not consistent on A. I. Not very long ago - and I should tell this to members that are newly elected because not all of the members that were here five or six years ago are here today, we have several new ones - but I should like the new ones to know that the Member for Rock Lake, the Member for Souris-Killarney, among others were rushing me on that bill and that's Bill 120, Mr. Chairman, establishing the Co-operative A. I. system for this province. I can recall on more than one occasion where the Member for Rock Lake came to me and said, when are you going to introduce the bill.

A MEMBER: What's wrong with that?

MR. USKIW: Not a thing wrong with that, Mr. Chairman. And I appreciate his support of that legislation, Mr. Chairman. But I can recall when the vote came and the Member for Lakeside spoke against it, I can recall certain members walking out because they didn't want to vote with the Member for Lakeside so they chose not to vote at all, and that's hypocrisy, Mr. Chairman. That's wanting your cake and eating it too.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, merely on a point of order. Is the Minister aware of the amendment that was made by my colleague from Gladstone to have the word "sole" taken out?

MR. USKIW: Now we get to the key point, Mr. Chairman. We want the legislation but then let's remove the main part of it so that it doesn't mean anything. That's really what the honourable member is suggesting. If you remove that one word out of that Act, Mr. Chairman, you don't need the bill itself because that's the purpose of the bill, Mr. Chairman, is to separate--the purpose of the legislation is to separate the distribution system from the supplier so that the distributor is a neutral body. That's the whole purpose of it. It's to separate the technician from his supplier. That's the purpose of the legislation and members opposite know full well why that was introduced after many years of controversy in this Legislature and outside wherein we were involved in committee hearings and a special committee dealing with that particular problem. And of course the Member for Minnedosa was not here at the time and he doesn't know the mess that the Member for Lakeside got himself into on that issue.

Now I know it is a difficult thing, Mr. Chairman, for a new government to pick up the pieces of a shambled industry, and that's what we had, and that's where A. I. was in 1969, Mr. Chairman, where the then Minister was unable to cope with his problems, he had problems within his own caucus - the Member for Rock Lake, the Member for Souris-Killarney were saying, but, Mr. Minister, you're wrong; we want some kind of legislation in A. I., but the Minister having made his decision would not backtrack, Mr. Chairman, would not backtrack. He had made a decision and that was the end of the matter. And when the new government came in, who were making representations to do something about A. I.? The Member for Rock Lake, the Member for Souris-Killarney and a few others. So let not members opposite practice hypocrisy in this House, Mr. Chairman. And indeed it is not government control as has been alleged here this afternoon. It is not government control. The Act provides for a co-operative to be set up and for a board to be elected to run the affairs of the co-operative. It's a users co-operative in fact and that is the direction that the Act takes us and that is what will happen

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) and the users of the product will have complete control.

The Member for La Verendrye, and I believe the Member for Minnedosa, wanted to know, Mr. Chairman, why I would ignore a referendum, a referendum on that question. And I ask my friend, what referendum? Did the honourable member set up a referendum on which he has some results? I certainly didn't nor did the department. Who, Mr. Chairman, conducted a referendum? One hears comments about a referendum, Mr. Chairman, as if there was a government sponsored referendum where there was degree of neutrality, as if there was some degree of neutrality by the sponsoring group, a referendum without a sponsor, Mr. Chairman, wherein some 500 people out of 20, 000 or 15, 000, whatever cattle producers we have, where 500 people out of 20, 000 decided to take a position. And the 500 were the ones that were blocking the legislation, Mr. Chairman. And my honourable friend wants to refer to a referendum. Most incredible performance, Mr. Chairman, to say the least.

The fact of the matter is that we have very knowledgeable people on that particular board who want to see the success of the new legislation, who want to see A. I. get on the tracks in this province, to utilize, Mr. Chairman, the modern method of genetic improvement for the livestock industry across the province.

The Member for Minnedosa wishes to know whether the Crocus Food Plant is going to produce cheese. I should like to advise him that that is not the intent. The intent is to deal with the whey problem which would indeed facilitate the existing cheese plants throughout the province in the disposal of cheese whey.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, for clarification of the Minister. It's not the intention of the plant to produce cheese, but is that plant capable of producing cheese?

MR. USKIW: No, Mr. Chairman, it is not designed for that purpose.

The Member for Minnedosa also, notwithstanding all of the debate and the discussion wants to know when we are going to know something about the hog prices and so on, and really, Mr. Chairman, when are we going to get away from that kind of nonsense in this House. We have, Mr. Chairman, just about a dozen boards, just about a dozen boards in this province and I don't hear members opposite asking how much the Potato Board is charging for potatoes that they're shipping to Grand Forks or how much they're going to charge for potatoes shipped to eastern Canada or western Canada or how much the turkey people are going to charge for the shipment of turkey products. You know, somehow pork has to be singled out as being somewhat different than milk and vegetables and potatoes, somewhat different, in the way in which a marketing board would function. --(Interjection)--Well of course we know what it is, but, Mr. Chairman, let's appreciate the fact that all of these boards are operating autonomous from government, they make their own decisions. And therefore the members opposite, the members opposite are misleading, Mr. Chairman, the people of Manitoba, are misleading the people of Manitoba. --(Interjection)--Well I have no idea, I've not been there, not only lately but I've never been there, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the Member for --(Interjection)--The Minister of Finance says that I missed out by not going. The Member for Lakeside perhaps knows something that I know nothing about, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I rise just briefly to acknowledge the Minister's reply to two questions I asked earlier in the debate on his salary and I've had an opportunity to examine in detail the answer given to one of the questions, that referring to his participation in the Outlook Conference at the Agricultural Centre at Brandon, and I really am not sure, Mr. Chairman, whether I do understand his explanation there. I'd just like to read his comment. He says, "I should like to in this connection now draw the attention of the Member for Brandon West because the Member for Brandon West was unhappy with the comments that were made at the Brandon Conference which he attended and so were a lot of other people and I don't blame them one bit, Mr. Chairman, I don't blame them, and I didn't particularly enjoy having to relate to those people in that way. But, Mr. Chairman, I tried to point out to the people at that conference that there was a degree, a massive degree of degeneration in the political process of the province." Well, Mr. Chairman, you know, I really am now wondering whether the Minister was demonstrating the extent to which this degeneration had taken place when he did use the Outlook Conference on the Agricultural Centre for this political attack, but indeed does leave the impression that he feels that the political process has degenerated and having been at the conference, Mr. Chairman, I would have to agree with him that

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(MR. McGILL cont'd) there has been a massive degree of degeneration in this.

Mr. Chairman, I hope the Minister will in the other opportunities he has in this debate perhaps deal with the second question which he so far hasn't got around to, and that was the one concerning the participation of the Department of Agriculture in the influencing of the referendum on rapeseed marketing, and I trust that there will be some reference to that further.

But, Mr. Chairman, I really rose at this time to concern myself and the Minister I hope with the remarks that have been made up to this point about Simplot Fertilizer, Simplot Chemical Company in Brandon and I note that on the same day, March 1st, in reply to a question from this side as to whether or not Simplot was in arrears on their financing arrangements, their loans from MDC, the Minister undertook to comment on that and I cannot tell from his answer whether or not they are in fact in arrears, but during that comment he ends with the sentence, "It is because of the mismanagement and the misuse of funds." This is in the same paragraph he is replying. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister to comment on that, whether there was a mismanagement and misuse of funds in respect to Simplot Chemical Company. And I think, too, the Minister is now replying that he meant MDC funds were mismanaged. There is an impression that this plant was built at public expense, I think the Minister made that statement here. And I'd like him to perhaps explain because I don't think he would want any misunderstandings to exist, that these were in the nature of loans I would think from the Province of Manitoba and that there were no payments made by the province to this extent. I think this should be clearly brought out because there apparently is some misunderstanding on that score.

I would also want him to know whether if there were in fact any grants applicable in this case whether they came from provincial or federal sources and if they were federal grants whether they also were gained by other fertilizer companies who built plants in western Canada and Alberta, so that these things might be known by the public. It is also indicative, I think, Mr. Chairman, of the degree of misinformation that has occurred in the matter of fertilizer marketing that there should be in the Winnipeg Tribune the other day a cartoon inferring that the price of fertilizer in the United States was much less than it is in Manitoba. Now, I would think that the Minister would want to correct that impression, that he would want to explain to the people of Manitoba that that does not exist. That that might have been the case a year ago but that the market has turned around and that the price of fertilizer in the United States, when it's obtainable, is very much higher than it is in the Province of Manitoba. So these things I think are important.

And, Mr. Chairman, if there have been misunderstandings, if the report by the consultants has led to this because it cut off a year ago, and if there are things about the report that the industry itself would like to comment on then it's of great importance and I think the Minister in his fairness would want it to occur that his special committee would be drawn relatively soon, appointed, and that the industry would have a chance to place their case on the record without our taking any particular side in this. It is our idea of the legal process that the defendants have an opportunity to place their evidence and to explain or contradict or agree with the evidence that has been produced by way of a report.

So, Mr. Chairman, these are the matters that concern me. Perhaps the Minister can tell us before his Estimates are fully completed when his special committee will be appointed, when they will meet and if the Simplot people will have an opportunity to present their side of the case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a few comments. After hearing so much discussion on the portfolio of agriculture and the comments that have been made by the Minister in replying to my colleagues on this side of the House, I have really become concerned at some of the replies that he has given to those of us on this side.

I led off on this department, Mr. Chairman, and I indicated that I want to make some comments in regards to the Outlook Conference in Brandon; however the time did not permit me and I did not get on to that particular subject. But I do want to say, Mr. Chairman, that I don't think it's ever been recalled in Manitoba's history where the Minister of Agriculture chose to use that platform as a political grandstand performance as he did that day. I know he used myself and three other of my colleagues when he was speaking that particular day; I don't know, he mentioned my name, he wasn't sure whether I was there but he probably was aware

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) of it before he was through speaking.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that this government and this Minister of Agriculture particularly can't seem to forget that the election is over. I don't know why they keep persisting on going back to the election campaign last summer and referring to the big lies that we were using so often.--(Interjection)--Well, Mr. Chairman, I can see that our whole exercise here, Mr. Chairman, is an utter futility, it's an utter futility, when we try to stand up - and I think we have made some constructive criticisms, questions have been posed, no answers forthcoming other than a 30-minute speech to continue his political grandstanding in this Legislature, Mr. Chairman. That's about the size of it.

I want to say, Mr. Chairman, because he used my colleagues around me here, the Member for Lakeside, the Member for Morris and my colleague from Birtle-Russell, personally vindictive comments that he was charging the three of them with, and only because he took that position, Mr. Chairman, I want to use one particular case that I'm going to remind the Minister of. When he was in my constituency last fall to open up a Veterinary Clinic in Notre Dame, after the ceremonies were all over, Mr. Chairman, we got into a friendly discussion I think with a number of my constituents, and you know the very thing that my colleagues have been trying to tell the Minister in this House, my constituents were referring to him in regards to the Coarse Grains Commission, because the way I explained it was exactly as they interpreted it about that time. They said, Mr. Minister, you are wrong in the way you are using the Coarse Grains Commission because the program that was established three years ago on trying to help 3,370 farmers in this province get into cattle producing, hog producing, you are now destroying with the Coarse Grains Commission policy that you're doing. And you know the reply that the Minister gave those constituents of mine, Mr. Chairman? He says, have the farmers forgot what's gone on for the past 20 years, and he says, Sir, looks like we've got to crank up that propaganda machine again. Now who's talking about propaganda on this side, Mr. Chairman. I felt that this had to be placed for the record and I challenge the Minister to deny that he ever said that. I would never use it, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe in that kind of politics, but the way he has treated my colleagues in the last few days I felt that it had to be said.

I want to make one comment in regards to our A. I. program, Mr. Chairman. The Minister if he'd have been accepting his responsibilities would have been in Portage la Prairie last November to attend a packed house of farmers . . .

A MEMBER: He chickened out.

MR. EINARSON: . . . who were mighty concerned and, Mr. Chairman, when farmers drive all the way from Swan River down to Portage la Prairie to attend a meeting of that kind, there had to be some concern.--(Interjection)--That's exactly it. The Minister says, I wouldn't waste my time. The Minister says, I wouldn't waste my time to a packed hall of A. I. users, dairy producers of the Province of Manitoba that are a vital concern to his department.

A MEMBER: Don't confuse me with the facts, my head is made up. That's the Minister's attitude.

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, this is most alarming. Now we know the truth, and the Minister is accusing us of lies on this side of the House every time we stand up to make our comments and make constructive criticism towards this department. And in his comments just a few minutes ago when he was relating to myself, before he got into power in regards to the A. I. program if he'd of been at Portage la Prairie last fall he would have heard from one of the members of the Interim Board, who stood up and made a public statement and read the complete terms of reference that we had already established when we were government. He read out though that complete term of reference and went on to comment, to say to the Chairman, through the Chairman to the delegation there, had this government followed those terms of reference they wouldn't be in the mess they're in in the A. I. program today. And I think that if the Minister had accepted his responsibility and attended that meeting he would not have stood up and chastised myself and my colleagues for the mess that the A. I. program is in today.

A MEMBER: It wouldn't have made any difference.

MR. EINARSON: There's one other comment, Mr. Speaker, I want to make in regards to the Farm Machinery bill, and the way in which we felt that we were being responsible in the one section of the Act where it talked about warranties. The main machine companies indicated to the Minister - and they gave him fair warning and I think it was reasonable - that if he would agree to a two-year warranty instead of a three-year, there would be no increase in prices,

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) that they would co-operate to the fullest. I made amendments in Committee, Mr. Chairman, to change that from three to two years but the government out-voted us and as a result, Mr. Chairman, and I can say from my own experience, to get machinery in Manitoba, new machinery, secondhand machinery, it's just about impossible today.

I can give him an example of my own personal experience, Mr. Chairman. Last fall I was in the market for a forage harvester, and that's not necessarily a new one; I wanted a secondhand one, if I could get one. I couldn't get one in the Province of Manitoba, International, New Holland, which are companies that make them, but I went into Saskatchewan and I went up into Alberta last November, and you know, Mr. Chairman, there was forage harvesters in both provinces, in both provinces, Sir. And the companies that are making machines today, if the Minister of Agriculture thinks that he can control them, and tell them that they've got to give an equal supply of machinery into this province as opposed to Saskatchewan and Alberta, he is sadly mistaken. This is one area, Mr. Chairman, where he has caused a great deal of grief to the farmers of this province.

The other thing I want to comment on the Farm Machinery bill, Mr. Chairman, is the bond that the dealers are required to put up. It's a penal bond, Mr. Chairman. It's a penal bond, Mr. Chairman, and I want to read a small excerpt that I have here. "A penal bond as we understand it is a guarantee that the person under bond will appear in court for trial and is required in all cases in which a person is charged with a felony, that is grand larceny, theft, etc." - and at least some of the applications, the early ones used following introduction of this requirement, there appears the question, "What is the nature of your crime?" This is regarded by dealers who have been in business for more years than they care to remember as an insult to their integrity. Mr. Chairman, is the Minister of Agriculture aware of . . .

MR. CHERNACK: Point of order. The honourable member mentioned he was reading from a document. Would he elucidate on what he is reading from?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was just going to bring that to the honourable member's attention.

MR. EINARSON: Yes, it's a reply, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister from the Chamber of Commerce from Kenton. From Kenton.

A MEMBER: That's another world capital, Saul.

MR. EINARSON: But this is a concern, Mr. Chairman, and I think that the Minister of Finance should be well aware of this being a legal mind, supposedly. We found out - we wonder after him talking about the Mineral Tax Act last night. But, Mr. Chairman, this is another area that has become very important insofar as the implement business is concerned in Manitoba. Our dealers are of vital importance to the farmers and if we lose them, then we are in serious trouble.

These are a few of the comments, Mr. Chairman, that I want to make in regards to the Farm Machinery bill, the A. I. program and the political grandstanding that this Minister of Agriculture has chosen to set the stage for his entire Agriculture Estimates.

And I want to make one more comment, Mr. Chairman. I want to challenge the Minister of Agriculture to reconstitute the Standing Committee on Agriculture and go out into the country and, I suggest, bring his deputy minister with him and we'll listen to the farmers and see what they have to say. I'm prepared to challenge him on that, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM (Ste. Rose): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Before we leave the Minister's salary I want to draw to his attention a few of my concerns. Before I do that I should perhaps comment on the remarks made by the Member for Minnedosa when he mentioned that the prime interest rates were decided in Ottawa - that is quite correct. Perhaps that is not what I suggested to him the other day. I suggested to him that rather than waste his time on the Autopac, the small increases in Autopac, that he would probably better to lend his efforts to talk about the high, the high increases in interest that have taken place over the last couple of years. And I wish he would do that because he's right close to the situation, and that's what he should be talking about is the increase in interest rates by 150 percent in the last couple of years.

But what I wanted to talk about was the fact that there are - this has come up in the question periods - but there are many cattle now coming into Manitoba from the United States, and it's my understanding that dia-stilbestral has been banned in Canada, and I understand that there were in the last couple of weeks 30 semi-truck loads of livestock came in from the

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(MR. ADAM cont'd) United States, and these cattle are being marketed in Manitoba, and there is a possibility that there is residue in the meat from these animals which according to the Food and Drug Act is banned in Canada. I think perhaps I would ask the Minister if there is something that we can do to draw this to the attention of the federal authorities to see if we can't ban these animals.

I never had a chance to read the report on the fertilizer, I've only read a few pages. However we are told that the Manitoba fertilizer produced in Manitoba has been exported to the United States and sold for a lower price than it is sold in Manitoba. I think this is unfair, and I'm sure all members will agree to that, and I am sure hopeful that the Minister will forthwith have a committee appointed to investigate the solutions to this problem, and I would like to make a suggestion that if this is correct that the parent company in the United States is compelling their subsidiary here in Manitoba to export fertilizer to the United States at a lower price than it is sold on the Canadian market, or the Manitoba market, that I would like to suggest that we impose a surtax on the--a tonnage surtax on exports to the United States.--(Interjection)--That could be used either as direct subsidies back to the purchasers here in Manitoba or could be used for other programs. It seems to me that if oil producing provinces are able to impose a wellhead tax on oil, I think we should be able to do the same thing here insofar as fertilizer is concerned.

I would like to ask the Minister what the program is for the development of Crown lands to increase forage production. We are facing a very serious problem this year, and I know that the program is one that's been long awaited for; I would like to know what the program is going to be, the cost of opening, developing land now is escalated greatly, and I understand now it costs at least \$45.00 an acre just for clearing, and I would like to know just whether our program is going to be effective or do we have to go a little further?

I would like to know also if the farmers in the event of a fuel shortage - perhaps I'm being a little unfair in this question, it's probably a national problem, but I would like to know whether the farmers are going to have the highest, the first priority on oil and fuel for the production of food. I think this is going to be one of the very crucial problems that this country is going to face within the next decade, and I think we should be prepared to set our priorities, and I think food should have the highest priority.

I want to comment on the ad that appeared in the Co-operator last week, or this week rather, and I want my people to know in my constituency that the names that appeared on that ad with the exception of three members on the opposite side, the Member for La Verendrye, and St. James, and Rhineland, with the exception of those three names the balance of the names are the same names that stood up in this House and voted against the property tax bill that was shifting \$40 million away from property tax. These are the same people, almost identical.

A MEMBER: Terrible isn't it?

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, I don't think it - you know when we take a close look at agriculture today we haven't moved that far away from the 14th century.

A MEMBER: Oh come on.

MR. ADAM: We haven't moved that far away. I'm sure perhaps some of you will know that in those days they were operating under the corvee and the boon system, and we haven't moved that far away. It wasn't until the 15th century that the lords and the nobles and the churches divested themselves of some of their large holdings and allowed the peons or the serfs, who were operating under bondage, to have the land of their own, but what happened was, Mr. Chairman, was that there was so much pressure and so much insurrection over the land policies that they said, okay take the land and we'll just take the product. And that's the only difference between bondage and what we have today is that if the nobles and the lords of those days said, well okay you can have the land and we'll take the product, and we'll handle the product, and they have controlled it ever since. Now under the corvee system the lords controlled the land and they would give a small plot to the peasants--(Interjection)--and that's where they landed mostly, they ended three by six. But under the corvee system they had to do their own harvesting and also do the harvesting for the lords and the landowner. Then they had the boon system which said that in the event of inclement weather or whether they had very poor harvesting weather, the peasant should leave his crops and he would have to take the crops off of the lord first before he could do his own. So he ended up in most cases without harvesting his own.

I want to - with the indulgence of the House I would like to perhaps comment on this in the 14th century . . .

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A MEMBER: Agreed, go ahead.

MR. ADAM: Perhaps the honourable members opposite will get something from this because, Mr. Chairman, there was a priest, an itinerant priest by the name of John Ball in the 14th century and he travelled . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I speak on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Point of order.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I enjoy the Member for Ste. Rose's stories of the 14th and 15th century but since we have 90 hours to examine the Estimates, we have 90 hours to examine the Estimates, that I wish that the member would at least speak to the Minister's salary instead of using the 90 hours for something that has nothing to do with the Department of Agriculture whatsoever.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please. That is not a point of order. I think I have allowed a lot of the members a lot of latitude in the Minister's salary, and hopefully with the indulgence of the House that is the way that we will continue. If the honourable member wishes to speak about a certain subject as long as it falls within the general purview of the--of land, and land is part of agriculture, then I think the honourable member is in order. The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did ask for indulgence of the House and I thought I had it. I seem to be--I thought I had been given the indulgence of the House . . .

A MEMBER: . . . the indulgence and he's asking me.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, I was trying to say that we hadn't moved that far from the 14th century where the same struggles in those days are still going on today. I wanted to mention about John Ball, the itinerant priest who had travelled the length and breadth of England for 20 years because he saw the injustices of those days. He was opposed to the order of things as they were because certainly we're all agreed that there was extreme exploitation in those days . . .

A MEMBER: So that's why I am on this side.

MR. ADAM: One of the poems, one of the sayings that he did write was, "Help Truth and Truth Will Help You." "Now reigneth pride in price and covetize is counted wise, and lechery withouten shame, and gluttony withouten blame." And that was the order of things in those days, and it's still the order today. Those words apply today, and it applies very well to some of the people on the opposite side of this House. And these teachings prompted William Morris to write this poem. And he called it, "The Dream of John Ball"--(Interjection)--Eventually John Ball was eventually hung--he was eventually hung by the--he was hung and he was . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

MR. ADAM: He was drawn and he was quartered for his teachings--(Interjection)--

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I'm having difficulty in hearing the Honourable Member.

MR. ADAM: This is what William Morris wrote. It prompted him to write about this priest that was hanged--eventually hanged. "What else shall ye lack when ye lack masters? Ye shall not lack for the fields you have tilled, nor the houses you have built, nor the cloth you have woven. All these shall be yours, and what so ye will of all that the earth beareth. Then shall no man mow the deep grass of another while his own kind lack cow meat. And he that soweth shall reap, and the reaper shall eat in fellowship the harvest, that in fellowship he hath won. And he that buildeth a house shall dwell in it. With those he bid it of his free will. And the tythe barn shall garner the wheat for all men to eat when the seasons are untowards and the rain drips hideth the sheaves in August. And all shall be without money and without price. Faithfully and merrily shall all men keep the holidays of the Church in peace of body and joy of heart. And man shall help man and the Saints in Heaven shall be glad, because men no longer fear each other. And the churl shall be ashamed and shall hide his churlishness till it be gone and he no more a churl. And fellowship shall be established in Heaven and on earth." I think this was a very good . . .

MR. ENNS: Would the Member yield to a short question? My question is simply this, I wonder if he could tell me whether the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources is recommending reading for him as he is in some other instances to other Members of the House?

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MR. ADAM: I would say that the last part of this poem that I just wrote this fantasy, where it talks about a churl. You know, I think that fits some of you fellows up there.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I . . . because I would want to respond to him. He did want to get some additional information. I thought I had conveyed that to him the other day and Hansard would have satisfied him, with respect to the arrangements that were entered into with the Simplot Chemical Company. I simply want to make clear that there is nothing wrong with the corporate citizenship of Simplot in Manitoba. I don't think he should allege from my comments that we are questioning the integrity of the company. I'm not prepared to do that, Mr. Chairman, because I have no reason at this point to take that position.

But what I was questioning, Mr. Chairman, was the policy of the previous Government of Manitoba, the Government of 1958 to 1969, wherein they used public funds, where they used public funds to build a fertilizer plant in Brandon--(Interjection)--Yes, they financed Simplot through the MDC, and those finances were arrived through the public purse, and that between the loan and the grant, Mr. Chairman, the plant was paid for - between the loan and the grant. It is all public money, Mr. Chairman, all public money. Of course we expect the loan portion to be repaid. But I put the question to my honourable friends opposite, since the entrepreneur himself didn't put up any money, they had the choice of putting up the plant without private entrepreneurship, and they had the choice of making the fertilizer industry a utility industry that would have provided services to the agricultural community of this province at cost--at no profit, Mr. Chairman, for anyone.--(Interjection)--And I think that Members opposite misused public funds.--(Interjection)--Misused public funds when they made those funds available to a private entrepreneur without at least getting a commitment by way of contract, for the provision of (a) adequate supplies of fertilizer for the needs of Manitobans and (b) a reasonable price arrangement. Those two conditions could have been entered into in that particular contract. But that is not the philosophy of my honourable friends. It isn't today; it wasn't yesterday, Mr. Chairman.--(Interjection)--Well, the Leader of the Liberal Party says "distinguish" and I believe he's right. I should refer to the Conservative Party and indeed the Conservative Government up to 1969.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, may I just interrupt for a question for clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Is the Minister saying that because the previous government did not include a clause in the agreement which he thinks should have been there, that they then therefore misused the funds? This is what I take him to be saying.

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I do say, that where public funds have been used, where public funds have been used, where any public authority had the choice of doing something for Manitoba, beyond just the creation of a few jobs, where it could have had a multiple benefit, that that was a misuse of funds. If the private entrepreneur had advanced his own money, Mr. Chairman; if the private entrepreneur was only dipping into the public trough partially, I would have a different point of view. But here you have a situation where 100 per cent of the funds were public, Mr. Chairman, and no obligation on the part of the private entrepreneur to provide a service, to provide a service to the people of Manitoba. Theoretically, Mr. Chairman, all of the fertilizer production could have been sold outside of Manitoba, even if Manitoba were short.

No obligation whatever was placed on that company. So I say, Mr. Chairman, that that is indeed a misuse of public funds in the development of Manitoba's economy, in the development of Manitoba's industry.

A MEMBER: It's all hindsight and you know it.

MR. USKIW: And it's not hindsight. And it's not hindsight. That was a choice open to the Manitoba Development Fund at that time. But not open only because it would be a violation of the then government policy, where they believe in providing funds for the private sector, to allow the private sector to gamble, Mr. Chairman, and if the dice rolled in their favour and they made a profit, the private sector would retain the profit; and if there was a loss, the public sector would suffer the loss. That is the game that they were involved in.--(Interjection)--And that is the most honest description of the Simplot deal that I can make, Mr. Chairman. It's heads I win, tails you lose.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Lakeside would like to talk about public investment through the MDC and other ventures. And I agree that there are many risks, and we

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) know them in advance. But if there are any benefits, Mr. Chairman, the people of Manitoba will share equally. And that is quite a difference.--(Interjection)--Mr. Chairman, the point that my honourable friend for Lakeside doesn't want to accept is the fact that if the public is gambling, the public should share in the benefit. That's what he is not prepared to accept. He only wants to accept the idea of subsidizing somebody else's losses through the public purse, and that policy has been changed, Mr. Chairman.

So, for the benefit for the Member for Brandon, let him know that if I was to build that plant over again, if that was to be a new decision, then we would build a plant as a utility . . . --(Interjection)--as a utility, Mr. Chairman, so that the Province of Manitoba would have (a) an adequate supply of fertilizer, and (b) at a utility price, Mr. Chairman. We didn't have to go the route that we went.

I should like to now relate to the comments made by the Member for Rock Lake.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, may I ask just one more question of the Minister? Before he concludes on Simplot, if he would perhaps tell us when this special committee will meet; and also in respect to MDC as a lender of last resort. Now, you're suggesting that they shouldn't--they mismanage by giving out a contract that didn't have some stipulation as to where the product would go. Would a bank do that? Had they been able to get the money from a bank, would they require a stipulation that the bank be provided with any special part of the product? Is this some special kind of restriction that the lender of last resort, you think should apply on all contracts of this type?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, obviously I don't expect the Manitoba Development Corporation or the fund to operate like a bank. I don't expect that. I think that they have to operate in accordance with public policy as established by the government of the day, Mr. Chairman - and I'm only drawing attention to the fact that we had bad policy during those years in the economic development of this province.

The Member for Rock Lake, Mr. Chairman, was complaining about the warranty legislation with respect to farm machinery. I should like to remind him that only a few weeks ago - I don't know if it's that long, it's about a week ago - before Premiers undertook to ask their respective Ministers of Agriculture to set up a review committee and to ask the companies to appear before that Committee to justify it, (a) their prices and their trade packages . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The hour being 5:30, I'm leaving the Chair to return at 8:00 p.m. this evening.