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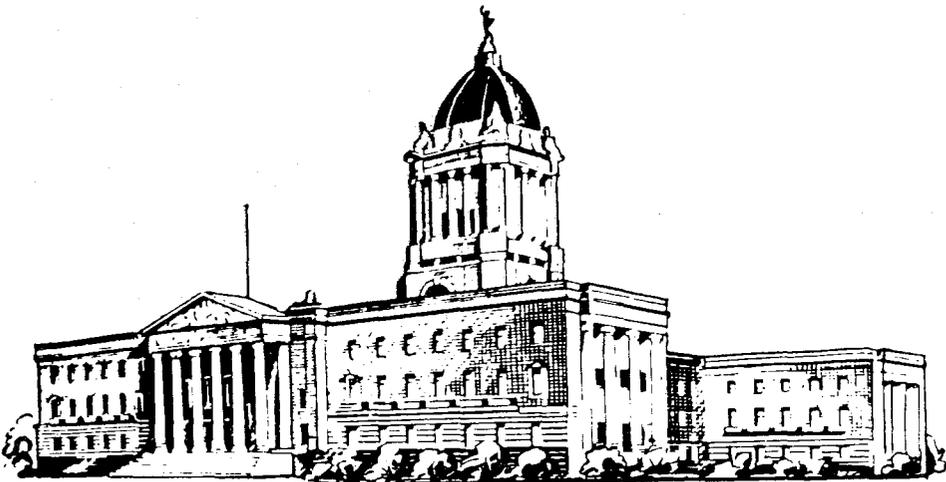


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXI No. 6 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 6th, 1974. First Session, 30th Legislature.

Printed by R. S. Evans — Queen's Printer for Province of Manitoba

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Wednesday, February 6, 1974

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. RON McBRYDE (Minister of Northern Affairs)(The Pas): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a brief statement on the winter road northern transportation system under the Department of Northern Affairs.

The majority of roads, Mr. Speaker, within the Northern Affairs winter road transportation network are nearing the completion stage.

Companies transporting supplies into Moose Lake, South Indian Lake, and York Landing are satisfied with the existing conditions of winter roads into these communities. The Pas-Moose Lake has been open since December 19 and is being maintained in very good condition by the contractor. The roads from South Bay to South Indian Lake and Ilford to York Landing have been supporting heavy truck traffic since approximately January 25. The road from Ilford to Split Lake is also essentially complete.

In approximately six to seven days, trucks will be able to haul heavy loads over the roads into Cross Lake, Norway House and from Ilford to Split Lake. At present these roads are in relatively good condition and are being used by light vehicles; however, road supervisors feel that another week of cold weather is necessary for frost to sufficiently penetrate the roads to make them suitable for heavy truck traffic.

The Ilford-Oxford House-God's Narrows road is behind schedule but progress has improved during the last few weeks. A report on February 5 stated that seventy miles of the road into the Oxford House is open for light traffic, ten additional miles are tractor-trailed and the remaining twenty miles are still under construction. The entire 100-mile route into the community of Oxford House should be open for light traffic by February 15. Because of problems encountered by the Contractor, on January 25 the Province commenced construction of the section of the road between Oxford House and God's Narrows. To date the crew has compacted approximately one-half or 30 miles of the distance towards God's Narrows.

The roadway between Hole River and Ste. Theresa Point has been broken by skidoo and Nodwell track equipment is ready for light traffic for a distance of 165 miles and open for heavy traffic to the Berens River crossroads. In addition, approximately three miles have been flooded from Ste. Theresa north to Island Lake. Progress on the three side roads branching out from the main north-south route are as follows: The eighteen-mile road into the community of Bloodvein is open for heavy trucks; the side road to Berens River is being used for light traffic and should be finished for heavy traffic by February 12. The Little Grand Rapids road has been broken for approximately seven miles east of the main road.

As a contingency measure, the Department of Northern Affairs is constructing an ice landing strip for aircraft at Red Sucker Lake that will be able to handle DC-3 aircraft, and is working on a tractor train road into Little Grand Rapids.

An information desk for winter road users has been established by the Department of Northern Affairs. The telephone number for this information desk is 947-3303.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Minister for making a statement at this time. We all realize the seriousness of the situation. I think much of it could have been avoided had contracts been let in proper time; instead the Minister is now attempting to put the blame on the contractors when I think much of the blame should rest on the Minister's shoulders.

A MEMBER: Hear. Hear.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Minister state his matter of privilege.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, there was nothing in my statement that indicated any blame was being put on contractors.

STATEMENT

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, the Minister in his statement is inferring that the contractors are primarily responsible for the problem of the winter roads in northern Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader. Order, please.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources & Environmental Management)(Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a point of order. I believe that Ministerial Statements are the occasion for a statement to be made which should attempt to be non-debate inspiring, and I noticed that nobody on the other side would have suggested that the Minister's statement was debate inspiring; that each representative of a party is then entitled to make a comment concerning the statement but which should not provoke debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Well at the same time there's nothing in the rules that says when opposition members are replying to statements by Ministers that it becomes mandatory that they sing paeons of praise to the government.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I continue now? With the winter roads system the essential point is that supplies must be put into the appropriate places in northern Manitoba before the frost breaks up and the winter roads break up in the spring. The Minister has not said in his statement how much freight has to be moved nor has he given any indication of the length of time that will be required to move the amount of freight that has to be moved, and I would hope that the Minister will supply us with that information in the next two or three days.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, this is the second year in a row now that the northern road network has been behind schedule and has cost taxpayers, which they don't know about - I'm told thousands of dollars - and has cost the people who live in the north directly costs for flying in goods that could have been brought in by road. Now may I say this, Mr. Speaker, that if government in their so-called superiority of knowledge decide to replace something that has existed before, surely they should plan and go about it in such a way that it doesn't become the mess that the winter road system has become for a second year in a row. --(Interjection)-- They're better than ever. The Premier says they're better than ever. Well I would like the Premier to take a heavy truck and head with a heavy load of supplies up those roads today - or tomorrow. The Minister can tell you, the Minister responsible for this bungling can tell you that in previous years these roads were in place, year after year, and long before this date. I think the Minister of Northern Affairs and his four colleagues from northern Manitoba have a hell of a lot of explaining to do to the people who are affected by his bungling last year and this year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Annual Report of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Reports or Statements? Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General)(Selkirk) introduced Bill No. 2, an Act to amend The Department of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Act; and Bill No. 3, an Act to amend The Local Government Districts Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

STATEMENT

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I have a matter to bring to the attention of the Legislature and I would ask leave to do so now. Unfortunately I haven't had an opportunity to give notice to honourable members opposite but I think they will

STATEMENT

(MR. SCHREYER Cont'd) agree that it is of a nature which hopefully can be readily agreed upon. It is simply this -- I'll read some of the germane paragraphs of the resolution.

WHEREAS it is deemed necessary that the legislators of the City of Winnipeg and the legislators of the Province co-operate in a Centennial project illustrating that the year 1974 should depict the spirit of brotherhood, and

WHEREAS ice hockey is the national sport of Canada and one in which all members of the Legislature and Council have been adequately trained--that is "adequately" Sir, not inadequately; and

WHEREAS the City Council has formed an ice hockey team of questionable stature; and
WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has formed an ice hockey team of international calibre and

WHEREAS His Worship the Mayor has agreed to participate in the event

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance)(St. Johns): What capacity?

MR. SCHREYER: And WHEREAS arrangements have been completed to stage this hockey match between the respective teams at the City of Winnipeg Arena on the 2nd day of March, 1974 at 8 o'clock;

Therefore the City of Winnipeg Council hereby challenges Members of the Assembly to an ice hockey contest.

Now what I would propose, if honourable members concur, is to arrange to have a roster placed somewhere conveniently at hand and have those honourable members who look forward to participation in this great event simply sign the roster and then the subsequent details can be worked out. So then, therefore, if we could have some indication of intent, if we could have some indication of intent from spokesmen on the other side, perhaps we could deal definitively with this challenge.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (Leader of the Opposition)(River Heights): Mr. Speaker, our response is one of enthusiasm for participation. We would only request, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Health and Social Development see that on that occasion there are enough emergency beds in the hospitals to take care of

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

MR. I. H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party)(Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Liberal Party we accept the challenge and say that we'll find it very interesting to be playing on the same team as the First Minister and the Leader of the Official Opposition and maybe get a lesson in stick handling and body checking in the process. But, Mr. Speaker, I say this with the only caveat that if they're going to be on the right wing and they're going to be on the left wing, we want the centre.

MR. SPEAKER: I can see there's enthusiasm for the project and I shall certainly try to co-operate with whatever endeavors are necessary in my capacity. Question period. --(Interjection)-- No thanks.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, in a more serious vein, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I wonder whether he can indicate whether in the City of Winnipeg last night there were any emergency hospital beds available?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Health and Social Development)(Seven Oaks): I have no knowledge of this, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder, to the Minister of Health and Social Development, whether he could indicate to the House as a result of representation made by the city hospitals to the Manitoba Health Services Commission in November there were any recommendations made by the Health Services Commission to the government to attempt to alleviate the situation that was apparent then with respect to emergency beds in the hospitals.

MR. MILLER: I am not aware of the submission referred to by the Leader of the Opposition, therefore I am not aware of any recommendations that may or may not have been made.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPIVAK: By way of supplementary, I wonder if the Minister could then indicate to the House that there has been no communication from the Manitoba Health Services Commission since November when an alleged meeting had taken place with respect to the problem of emergency beds in the city hospitals?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition likes to twist the words around. I said I had no knowledge, that doesn't mean that the Department doesn't have knowledge; I'm not aware of it. That's what I said.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, so I understand clearly - and I do this by way of a request for information. When the Minister says he has no knowledge he is indicating that the government, the cabinet have no knowledge of any request? Well, Mr. Speaker, in the event that he had no knowledge I wonder if he could determine whether the Department had any knowledge?

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister of Health. Has he been informed that in the past 35 days Misericordia Hospital has had its service closed for approximately 15 days whereby ambulance emergencies have not been accepted, because of overcrowding?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I read about this in the newspapers, I haven't been personally informed. I read about it in the newspapers and what the Leader of the Liberal Party says may be so, I only know from the newspaper reports.

MR. ASPER: And to the same Minister. Has the Minister been informed that as early as eleven o'clock this morning in the same hospital there were no emergency beds and 19 people were lying on stretchers waiting for emergency admission?

MR. MILLER: If the Leader of the Liberal Party is giving me information I am glad to accept it.

MR. ASPER: In view of the answers from the Minister of Health, does the Minister--yes, Mr. Speaker, there is a question. In view of his answer does he have any intention of getting his own information?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I am not accountable to the Leader of the Liberal Party as to how and when I get my information. He asked a question, if the question was simply made to score Brownie points he's welcome to them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I put the question to him in his former capacity really as chairman of HESP. As chairman of the sub-committee of Cabinet, was there no communication from the Manitoba Health Services Commission to the Cabinet of the necessity of solving a crisis in emergency beds in the City of Winnipeg in the past few months?

MR. MILLER: . . . capacities I am not aware of the references made by the Leader of the Official Opposition, I am really not aware of this.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. If the Honourable Minister of Health was suggesting, as I took him to suggest, that one is trying to score Brownie points by drawing it to the attention of the public that there exists a serious problem and people are suffering as a result of that problem, then I suggest his comment is wholly inappropriate and it be withdrawn.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, do I have the right to speak?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister proceed.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of withdrawing it. I said what I said because I believe that is the case.

MR. ASPER: To the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister confirm that in one hospital alone at this very moment that there are over 800 people waiting for admission for surgery?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm it; obviously the member has done a lot of seeking out of his own information so he knows more about it obviously than most other people. There is also an onus on the hospitals to see to it that their admission systems are such that they allow for peak periods as they are occurring apparently at the present time.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, if the question was too specific I'll generalize it. Is it a fact, Mr. Minister, that on an average admissions to hospital in Winnipeg for surgery at this stage are running at least a 90 day waiting period?

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I assume the member is speaking of elective surgery and what he's talking about may be the case. I am not sure that that isn't the same situation that prevailed in other years, at other times. Elective surgery is something that is in the control of the hospitals and the medical staffs of hospitals. I would like to point out to members that the Province of Ontario has closed or re-allocated 1,600 acute-care hospital beds in Ontario and our percentage - the ratio of beds per thousand in Manitoba is no less - our ratio of beds in Manitoba is no less than that of Ontario.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health. Would he describe for the House the character and the information being sought in the investigation that he's made reference to as having been going on for the last month or so into this question?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, that would take a half an hour and I don't think I could answer it in less than that.

MR. ASPER: Can the Minister tell us approximately when we can expect to have this report made public?

MR. MILLER: I'm not sure when members of the Legislature will have it. I know that I expect to have it in the next two to three weeks.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Attorney-General. I wonder if he can confirm or deny a report carried by a newscaster this morning that suggested that we were facing major changes in the Liquor Act in this session even though it wasn't mentioned in the Throne Speech; further liberalization of the Liquor Act?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am awaiting the response from Dr. Rae in respect to the various studies that he is presently undertaking in respect to Liquor Laws. At the present time it's not possible to have any indication of the scale of those proposals, except to indicate to the honourable member as I have previously, that I do not anticipate radical or far-reaching changes in the Liquor Laws of the Province of Manitoba this session.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. The study that he referred to that he is awaiting, does it also encompass any analysis of the sharp increases in highway accidents and highway deaths in this province, the possibility of any relationship to the recent lowering of the drinking age and general liberalization of our Liquor Laws in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, first to answer the honourable member's question would be to accept two premises which are not necessarily correct, but I would like to say to the honourable member that in general there may very well be reference to Dr. Rae of matters which relate to the need for increased maturity relating out of our liquor laws in the Province of Manitoba so that in general that area may be considered and may be part of an eventual report from Dr. Rae. But in respect to two premises that were included in the honourable member's question, there is no assumption such as he has made.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: One final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The Minister may have mentioned it but I didn't understand it. Did he indicate or can he indicate when he expects to receive that report from Mr. Rae.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, the report is being made at different times. First, I have requested along with the Liquor Control Commission that Dr. Rae examine a series of amendments that were proposed for changes to the Liquor Control Act last session and never dealt with. I now have those in my own possession for consideration prior to introducing further legislation this session. Other matters are still under study by Dr. Rae and I expect to receive further reports from him within the next four to six weeks.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Can he advise the House whether there have been any ramifications from the current U.S. Independent Truckers' strike for industry in Manitoba?

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

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Public Works)(Brandon East): I am not in a position to do so, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Are truckers in the employ or under contractual agreements with Manitoba industries able to transport their goods, their loads into the United States in the present situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. EVANS: Well, this is a relatively recent phenomenon, Mr. Speaker; we will be looking into the matter, and if we have something that is useful to report to the House we shall do so. I will be meeting with the trucking industry as a matter of fact on Friday.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has Columbia Forest Products at Sprague conveyed any concern to the Minister over the future of its shipments to the United States?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, there has been no communication from that company to me.

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

MR. J. PAUL MARION (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed at the Honourable the Minister for Industry and Commerce. I am in possession of a letter from His Worship, Mayor Juba, to the Honourable Jean Marchand, Minister of Transport, with respect to overhaul facilities and the possibility of having these facilities . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question, please.

MR. MARION: . . . reactivated in Winnipeg. Has the Minister followed up on the request and this letter from the Mayor of Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, we have not followed up on that particular letter, but the subject in question is one that has been worked upon very actively and intensively by myself, by the Premier and by members of my department. It is something that we have very great concern with. It's a subject which has involved us in discussions with Yves Pratt, Chairman of Air Canada and with the Minister of Transport. It's something that is very uppermost in our minds.

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

MR. MARION: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is it possible then that we might have a statement from the Honourable Minister forthwith regarding the possibility of reactivating this overhaul base?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a clarification. Which Minister are you referring to?

A MEMBER: The Honourable Minister .

MR. MARION: The Minister of Industry and Commerce of Manitoba.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I believe the question was that a statement be issued forthwith. Our rules call for questions and answers but not statements at this time. If the Minister has a brief answer, I'll entertain it.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I'll be very pleased to present good news to the Legislature if and when it comes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister in charge of Manitoba Development Corporation. It relates to the statement in the Manitoba Gazette of January 26, 1974. The statement indicates that loans receivable exclusive of the Churchill Forest Industry complex are \$50,900,000 and that losses exclusive of the Churchill Forestry Complex amount to \$26,783,000, 52 1/2 percent of the loans receivable. Can he indicate at this time in view of the size of the amount any particular thing that should be pointed out at this stage and can he undertake to provide the Legislature with documentary information that we can use before we reach committee stage?

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the honourable member must be referring to an accumulated loss, although I don't see the statement. However, I am well aware that the loss on the last financial statement is not \$24 million. It is not a loss that I can be cheerful about, nor is it a loss that is not expectable under the circumstances; but it's not the figure that the honourable member raised. I will be filing tomorrow or the next day the annual statement of the Manitoba Development Corporation so that my honourable friends will have it prior to the committee stage; in good time prior to the committee stage.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the second part of my question was whether or not he would undertake to provide us with the details of the losses apart from what's normally contained in the MDC report. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister would also consider filing those reports of those companies in which the MDC has equity. Mr. Speaker, I would follow that up by saying that we have asked the MDC for these reports and it's been indicated to us by them that under law they are not required to table them prior to the committee sitting. And to renew the question, Mr. Speaker, from last year, will he undertake to provide us with the annual reports of those companies in which the MDC has equity?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. GREEN: I'm not sure I will be able to remember the entire question. The annual statements of those companies in which we have equity positions will be given to the honourable members as they were last year. They will be given when committee opens so that the chairman in delivering his report will deal with them. We will also see to it that the committee has an additional meeting beyond the meeting at which the reports are received so that members can have an opportunity of looking at those statements and then asking questions to the Chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation.

I would like to emphasize that this is a procedure that we will follow this year. It is also the procedure that we followed last year, in addition to which honourable members will be able to ask questions of the Chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation on matters which took place between the date of the end of the statement and the date of the meeting of the Manitoba Development Corporation. In other words, they will be able to ask any questions regarding the current operations to the date of the meeting of any - not only of the associations in which we have share capital, but questions concerning private companies in which we have loan capital, because that is also money that we could lose.

Now, the chairman in answering the questions will do as he did last year. Where he feels that a question should not be answered because of the commercial operations of the corporation, he will so indicate and then it will be up to the committee to support him or not. Which by the way, Mr. Chairman, is more than is done for shareholders in a private corporation.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, then my question really is to the front benches and possibly the First Minister as to whether or not in view of the \$26 million indicated here, the members of the Legislature could not have at least the annual reports of these companies in advance of the committee sitting so that the work can be done in preparation for the Economic Development Committee meeting.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the - I'm not sure whether I should raise it as a point of order or address a question to the Minister, but I'll try it as a question to the Minister responsible for the MDC. Does the Minister know the shareholders of every private corporation under the Manitoba Companies Act . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. ASPER: . . . are required . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The knowledge of the Minister is not necessarily a procedure of this House. Would the honourable member rephrase his question.

MR. ASPER: Well, Mr. Speaker, then I'll do it as a point of order. The Minister said in this House something that is not correct, that is not in fact the law of Manitoba . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. That is not a point of order. If the honourable member has a point of order, I'm willing to hear it. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party may state his question if he has one.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I cite the precedent set by yourself last year in the Throne Speech debate, where you allowed a point of order by my honourable friend the Minister who now protests, to rise in his place and make a point of order. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. ASPER: . . . on exactly the same point of order I'm making today.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. Having reference to the First Minister's comments in this House last spring, can he now tell the House the present standing of the provincial TV coverage for northwestern Manitoba and northern Manitoba as promised for last fall?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't have obviously as precise a recollection of the exchange or the statement made at the time. I can only report to the Honourable Member for Swan River that there has indeed been progress made by the Manitoba Telephone System and Canadian Broadcasting Corporation working together in extending the area served by live television in Manitoba, most of this extension taking place in the more northerly parts of the province. I cannot ascertain at this time, or cannot confirm at this time rather as to whether any significant progress has been made to date with respect to the area in question that my honourable friend is referring to. I'd have to take the question as notice in that respect.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. In his capacity as the Minister responsible for sports, is he prepared to undertake representation to the Federal Minister of Health and Welfare concerning the need for restraining action against the entry of the World Football League into Canada, and the need to provide measures to support and sustain the operations of teams in the Canadian Football League?

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

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I'll take your question as notice and inform the House after I have an opportunity to review with some of my officials.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister also be prepared to meet with football officials in this city to determine how and in what way that kind of action and support could be sustained and those representations be made, as well as with his officials?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, yes, I'd be willing to meet with any interested group in Tourism, Recreation or Cultural Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the other day I took as notice two questions posed by the Honourable the Member for Riel. The first question as to whether or not the Government of Canada has provided the required licenses to Manitoba Hydro for the Churchill River diversion. The answer, I am advised by Manitoba Hydro offices that indeed approval for the diversion project pursuant to the Navigable Waters Protection Act has been received under covering letter from the Honourable Jean Marchand, dated the 1st of November last. There are a number of conditions in the approval document, the details of which are under continuing discussions.

The second question as to whether Manitoba Hydro was conducting any study of generating sites upstream of Southern Indian Lake, I intimated that I did not believe that this was the case, and I am advised by Manitoba Hydro offices that it is not conducting any study of generating sites upstream of Southern Indian Lake at this time.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Go ahead.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister would have the document

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. CRAIK Cont'd) tabled, the license requirements of the Federal Government issued to Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question under advisement. I as a general rule see no problem in so doing. On the other hand, I am not in a position to know what understanding prevails between the Federal Minister and the Manitoba Hydro insofar as working on some of the detail that I have just referred to.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I have two questions to direct to the Minister responsible for Autopac. Would the Minister give a commitment to the House that the General Manager of Autopac would appear before some appropriate committee such as the Public Utilities Committee this session?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. BILLIE URUSKI (Minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation; Minister responsible for Motor Vehicle Branch): I will take that under consideration, yes.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: My second question, Mr. Speaker, has to do with the issuance of Autopac insurance to individuals who drive company cars or use their cars for business. My question is, would any elected official such as a school board member or a councillor or a mayor, or an M.P. or an MLA who uses his car in the course of that business that he was elected to do, will that person be required to report their car as being for business use? The reason I pose the question is because in the pamphlet the onus lies on the person for making the decision in his application. Could the Minister inform the House on that matter?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: The onus is on the individual to relate as to whether or not he uses his car more than 15 percent of the time for business purposes. It is really up to the individual to . . .

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: . . . if I could ask another question to obtain some clarification. Do I understand the Minister to say then that the Mayor, say of the City of Winnipeg, or a Councillor or an MLA or an M.P. who spends more than 15 percent of his time on public business then should declare his car as being used for business purposes. Is that correct?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: If his time is spent - you know, I spend almost all my time as a Cabinet Minister but yet I may not spend that time in the vehicle.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I ask again the question. Then does that advice apply to a person in business who drives his car back and forth to work and may be a company car? You can't have one rule that applies differently to two sets of people.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: I will get further guidelines on this matter and I'll report back.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. I see he's not in his seat. I can pose the question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. What is the government or the Minister doing to ease the serious shortage of workers in the fashion industry in Winnipeg?

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

MR. EVANS: Well apparently, Mr. Speaker, I believe the industry itself has a certain responsibility in this matter. However, it is our view that there are - unfortunately there are many thousands of people in Manitoba who require jobs and I think it's incumbent upon any provincial government to ensure that the people who are unemployed, residents of Manitoba, are given every opportunity and every advantage to become employed in industries in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Minister is not aware that the wages that are paid I understand are above minimum wage, but again I would like to ask him,

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(MR. PATRICK Cont'd) has the government got any program at all to assist this industry or to save the industry. And my other question is, is he aware that there's at least 1,000 workers short in that industry, the fashion industry?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. EVANS: I might add to what I said previously, Mr. Speaker, by noting that the Canada Manpower Offices has some considerable responsibility in the question of location of manpower. We have over the years given considerable assistance to this particular industry and we will continue to do so, and I haven't really got the time to indicate all the ways that we have assisted, but there are many programs which we are examining which the staff has worked out with the industry to see whether, particularly whether we could get more of these facilities in rural Manitoba where there is a fair amount, a number of pockets of unemployment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia, last supplementary.

MR. PATRICK: My question is to the First Minister. Has the government determined the series of power failures in Winnipeg during the last couple of months? And perhaps I can pose my second part too. Is the government taking any steps to at least eliminate some of those failures or determine what causes the failures?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member did not indicate if the area of occurrence of these failures was within the area serviced by Manitoba Hydro or City Hydro, or on different occasions in both, and in any case I am sure that as a matter of course the Hydro utilities, whether it be Manitoba Hydro or the City Hydro, do undertake to determine the probable cause of these failures that occur. I can only attempt to obtain a report in condensed fashion to relate to my honourable friend.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. I wonder can the honourable the Minister confirm the announcement of the Deputy Minister which I saw yesterday and again it's confirmed in today's paper, of a Tourism Administration Centre to be built on the border of the Province of Manitoba and Saskatchewan?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Minister was relating government policy.

MR. McKENZIE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder can the Minister confirm or deny the possibility of similar tourist information centres on the Ontario border and the U.S.A. border?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member will be informed of that decision of government during the Estimates of the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD McGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable the Minister of Education. Yesterday in reply to questions he twice described Mr. Campbell as the secretary of the Task Force on Post Secondary Education. My question is, could he name the research director for that task force?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education. Order, please.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education)(Burrows): Mr. Speaker, I must confess that the name doesn't readily come to mind. It was a very competent lady, that I do remember. Upon checking the report, I believe the name appears there, I think it's shown there.

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

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. What is the Government of Manitoba doing to protect the interests of the people of Manitoba with respect to the Garrison Diversion project presently under construction in North Dakota?

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, this is a subject which has received quite a bit of attention recently. It is something which has been a feature of North Dakota drainage planning for some 80 years. In 1970, January of 1970, about two weeks after I became Minister, I dispatched a letter to the Minister of External Affairs in Ottawa advising the Federal Government of the

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(MR. GREEN Cont'd) proposed difficulties that we could be faced with by this project. Since then we have worked through the Department of External Affairs which has sent a note to the American government concerning the project. I believe that the American government has just answered, I haven't had a chance to see what their answer is. As soon as I see what their answer is, I will be determining with the government what further action the Manitoba government should take.

MR. McKELLAR: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it the intention of the Minister to meet with the Governor of North Dakota or some other representation of North Dakota to express the view of the government?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I think that at the moment I cannot answer that question; not because I am not aware of the answer, it's just that I am unable to make an answer to that question which would be of great importance. We are working through the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Am I to take it from his reply to the Honourable Member from Souris-Killarney that the Provincial Government has no knowledge at the moment of the possible effects of that diversion on the lands and on the people in the towns and on the water supplies in Manitoba, and has not directed, say for instance, the Manitoba Water Commission or its own Water Control Departments to make appraisals of possible damages or consequences of this?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on the contrary, we do have indications as to possible adverse consequences both with regard to the Souris River, the water supply at Souris, the water supply at Portage and some possible consequences to Lake Winnipeg. It's on the basis of those consequences that the Canadian note to the American Department of State was directed.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary to the Minister. I am happy to understand it, it is precisely that what we'd like to know. Could the Minister advise the House of those consequences that he is aware of, and his department is aware of, of the Garrison project?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. You are asking for the total consequences, it may take an hour or more, unless the Minister can give a brief reply.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, those consequences which we are aware of, which I summarized very briefly in my last answer, I would be prepared to table in the House, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question on the same subject to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Does he agree with the reports that the construction of the Garrison Dam and the use of the Garrison Dam will turn the Souris River into the most polluted waterway in the North American continent?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what value there would be in confirming or denying the superlatives that have been used by my honourable friend. I will table in an unemotional way the statements that we have relative to these consequences.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. While the Minister is studying the threat posed by the world football league will he look into methods whereby the Canadian football league could be strengthened rather than whereby the world football league would be restrained?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, one would follow the other.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Northern Affairs. I wonder whether he can indicate to the House whether the government is committed or has committed to the moving of some of the department to the shopping centre to be built on The Pas Reserve?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Northern Affairs, of course, has a considerable number of offices throughout northern Manitoba. We are short of office space

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . within the town of The Pas. If we are still short of office space when the shopping centre is completed on the Reserve complex I am sure that we'd be more than willing to use those office spaces.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister could confirm whether the government has committed itself for space now on the shopping centre to be built?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, if there was a commitment to be made it would be made through the Minister of Public Works. I don't believe any such commitment has been made at this time.

MR. SPIVAK: Well to the Minister of Public Works. I wonder if he can indicate whether a commitment has been made to The Pas Reserve or is before him at the present time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. RUSSELL J. DOERN (Minister of Public Works) (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, we are looking into it but there is no commitment at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the First Minister regarding Urban Affairs. It is my understanding that after second reading of the City of Winnipeg on rezoning applications they are referred to the Minister in charge for approval or referral, and my question is in relation to the Village Canadia Housing Co-op in St. Vital which was commented on by the Minister of Agriculture on February 5th, this week Tuesday, seeing that it has proceeded with . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I believe this has been understood that we do not read . . . excerpts from newspapers and then try to verify and get questions on them. I'm sure the honourable member can phrase his question so it can be understood.

MR. CRAIK: I take your point. The statement has apparently been made by the Minister of Agriculture that the particular project has been approved and is under way and my question directed to the First Minister is, whether or not the people involved on both sides of the question of the location of this high density or medium density development are going to have an opportunity for representation before final government decision is made, or whether in fact, the decision as indicated by the Minister of Agriculture has already been made in advance of the zoning application coming to the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. E. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can only outline to my honourable friend the procedure that is followed with respect to the passing of a zoning by-law, by City of Winnipeg Council. If objection is raised then the matter comes before the Minister and in turn the Minister has the opportunity to refer it to the Municipal Board. Upon receipt of advice from the Municipal Board, the objection having been sustained or rejected, the Minister then is in a position to either uphold or to refrain from upholding or giving approval to the passing of the by-law, through third and final reading.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I just would like to obtain if I can the undertaking that the government is not going to ram this through without an opportunity for that to happen, in spite of the statement by the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how the term "ram through" gets raised in that context. If an objection is raised to a by-law that has passed second reading by City Council, then it comes to the attention of the Minister who may or may not, usually does, refer the matter to the Municipal Board for its consideration. I am not aware that there is any particular problem in this respect.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Northern Affairs and relates to his answers in connection with The Pas Reserve and the question of the possibility of government offices. Am I to take it from his remarks that if office space is to be taken in the shopping centre, it will be offices in addition to the present offices now held in The Pas by the government?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, we are short of office space in The Pas. You know it's a matter of allocating whether you move one section at a time or not one section at a time. It's a decision that has to be made internally, you know, by the staff of the Department of Northern Affairs as to where is the best location and whether in fact you can move two people

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . of a section or whether you have to move ten people at once. I don't see us letting go any office space we have now, we are usually continually adding office space.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege, arising from yesterday's debate. This is debate on the Speech from the Throne which was interrupted at page 64 of Hansard by the Honourable Minister of Finance and I made an undertaking to him at that point to furnish him and the House with the data to which I was referring. The words that are in issue, I said "And what happened to the NDP's pre-1969 denunciation of sales tax as being the cruelest and most regressive of all forms of taxation? What happened to those brave words of the present Minister of Finance when before achieving the office which empowers him to change all of that regressive tax being collected from those least able to pay, about \$100 million a year, he denounced the sales tax not only at 5 percent but even at three percent, and he said the NDP could countenance no sales tax at all?"

Then, Mr. Speaker, he rose on a point of privilege and he said, "I understand that the honourable member quoted me in relation to attacks of the nature that, may I ask that he--" and then the words "cruel, oppressive, regressive tax"--'could he give us the citation of that so that we could confirm his statement?" And I answered, Mr. Speaker, I was paraphrasing the Minister's remarks, I was paraphrasing the Minister's remarks, made I believe in 1967 at the time of the introduction of the sales tax. And inasmuch as I don't have the quotation here with me today, I will undertake to read it to the House at a later time. We will determine at that point who's misrepresenting.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to read into the record the following quotation from Hansard March 9, 1967, page 1504. It begins with the Honourable Minister of Finance, as he then was the Member from St. John's saying "Mr. Speaker, the sales tax that is proposed by this bill"--and by the way, Mr. Speaker, this is in debate on the bill to introduce the Retail Sales Tax. "The Sales Tax that is proposed by this bill"-- and I'm now quoting the Minister, "is at best a proportionate tax and has in it elements of regressiveness which are contrary to what are the pretty well accepted standards of taxation on the ability-to-pay." There is the reference to the term "regressive".

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, again on March 27, 1967 Hansard, same debate on the sales tax, page 1975, he says, "It should not have been assumed by anyone that in making constructive criticism that we in any way backed down from our basic position"-- and here he was speaking on behalf of his party as financial critic. "That is total opposition to this sales tax bill." Then three lines further down he says, "We deny, there is no word at this time, there are no words, Sir, at this time" and then he goes on to say, "We deny the principle, we oppose the principle and we oppose the bill." Then, Mr. Speaker, on page 2340 in the same debate, April 6 - three weeks later, 1967. The Liberal Party had then introduced a motion to reduce the rate of sales tax from five percent to three percent. The Minister then rose and said, "I want to repeat, Mr. Chairman, that our party is opposed to this sales tax and does not feel that this government should be entrusted with the administration of it. We don't accept the sales tax. We don't accept it at five percent, we are not willing to settle at three percent."

And finally, Mr. Speaker, finally, Mr. Speaker, on April 17, 1967 the Minister said, in the same debate, "We have claimed" speaking for his party, "all along that this is a regressive form of taxation which hits the low income group people where they cannot afford to be hit." Mr. Speaker, that is the basis so far, so far, of the remarks I made in which I characterized the Minister of Finance's opposition to sales tax in 1967 as being inconsistent with his government's position today.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Minister wish to speak to the point? Let me indicate first of all that it was neither a matter of point of order nor a matter of privilege. It was strictly an explanation. Therefore we really do not have anything before the House. Now if you wish to debate this I am entirely in your hands but I am saying that the point that the Honourable Member for Wolseley raised was not a matter of privilege and it was not a point of order, it's strictly an explanation and a difference of opinion will occur continually. The Honourable Minister --(Interjection)--on what point?

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MR. CHERNIACK: I appreciate your comments, I won't make a speech. May I however be permitted to ask a question of the member just in relation to what he said. I am still asking him to give the source of his quote or statement, "the cruelest and the most regressive form of all taxation".

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, the words I spoke are these and the Minister is attributing them to something else. The words I said were, "And what happened to the NDP's pre 1969 denunciation?" And, Mr. Speaker, if the question is: will I submit more evidence of what the NDP as opposed to what the Minister said in 1969? I give my undertaking to do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Orders of the day. The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister in charge of Autopac, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister advise whether any efforts are being made to get the lineups for the Autopac Claims Centres off the street and on to some other property?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: We realize that because of the heavy accident rates that there are large lineups in claims centres, and we are endeavouring to have this matter rectified - yes.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could offer some assistance to local residents who are complaining about the lineups, lining up in front of schools and across marked crosswalks and upon inquiry to the police the residents find that the police have no control over the lineups and in fact that anybody who passes a moving line is in violation.

MR. URUSKI: I might be prepared to hear what the member has to say if he wants to give me the details.

MR. CRAIK: I wonder if the Minister could at least take cognizance of the fact that when an Autopac lineup is on a street and anyone travelling down the street passes a moving line in the vicinity of a crosswalk, that he who passes the moving line is in violation but the moving line is not in violation.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. We are getting into legalities again which are contrary to the question period. Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, my question's for the Minister of Autopac. Can the Minister confirm that cars that are bought at their auction are allowed to go on the road without a road test?

MR. URUSKI: If the vehicles are purchased by an auto wrecking shop or a used car dealer that has a resale certificate to sell used cars, then they must be accompanied by a safe vehicle certificate. If they are bought by individuals and restored they are not by our laws in Manitoba required to pass a safe vehicle certificate.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Labour I wonder if the Premier would accept this question, perhaps he may have to give notice, I don't know. But it has to do with the administration of the Equal Pay Act and directly it has to do with the provincial civil service where last year nurses' aids received an award and were paid equally with men doing the same type of work in the institutions. My question is: will the Equal Pay Act be applied in the same manner with respect to housekeeping aids who are doing the same work as institutional service men?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I'll obviously take that question as notice. There would be need in any case for some analysis to find out whether the allegation that it is precisely equal work is in fact correct, so the question is being taken as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister in charge of Autopac. 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?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: I'm sorry, I'll have to take that question as notice but employees apply for jobs as they appear.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Rupertsland; Amendment thereto by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and Amendment thereto by the Leader of the Liberal Party. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, La Verendrye is a constituency which runs from Niverville on the west and then 85 miles east to the Manitoba-Ontario border. It is 21 miles in width; it is an area rich in heritages and different cultures and exemplifies how many ethnic groups can work together for mutual benefit. It is these people's interests and needs I represent in this 30th Manitoba Legislature and I thank them for the opportunity of doing so. On behalf of the constituency of La Verendrye I would also like to thank Mr. Leonard Barkman, the former representative, for his eleven years of service to the people of La Verendrye.

Being a rural member who has towns, villages, rural municipalities and local government districts throughout the constituency I find different types of problems but we in La Verendrye face the many problems that are of mutual concern to all Manitobans. Because of the centralization trend our population is shifting. This means that educational problems arise in the less populated areas and that our communities cannot afford the basic public services required. Probably the most common and frequent complaint I receive is the one of roads. To develop southeastern Manitoba's full potential, both agriculturally and industrially, a program of upgrading and construction will have to be undertaken. Our farming population which is fairly diversified, dairy, poultry, hogs, etc. depends heavily on daily transportation of its products that they produce. Our towns and villages where secondary and service industries are located need better transportation facilities to help build trade and enable them to compete with large urban areas. A four-lane highway between Ste. Anne and Steinbach is just one of the projects that should be undertaken.

By 1980 it is projected that over 80 percent of the population in Canada will live in large urban areas. Since this means that our farming community is and will continue to dwindle, it will be the government's responsibility to see that our farming population gets a fair deal. The farmers' concern is that politicians worry about votes; there are many more consumers than farmers and the consumers have a legitimate interest but so do farmers and we need to make sure that the interests of this smaller group are not sacrificed for the larger because in the long run the consumer will pay for the neglect of the farmers.

Another problem facing the farming population is the recent trend of people moving to small farms or lots and then commuting back to work in the larger urban centres. The people moving in expect better roads and services things which municipalities under their present financial structure cannot afford. The property tax load on farmlands is already high enough.

Environmental problems also face the farmer. Take for example the family who moves out into the country to get away from it all; the people who want clean air, wide open spaces, and find to their horror and dismay that when the wind blows from the north there comes an aroma very much unlike the sweet fragrance of lilacs in the spring. The farmer on the other hand realizes that if the energy crisis continues that he may be selling his hog manure to Japan for more than he is selling his hogs at present, whatever that price may be.

The Clean Environment Commission and the Manitoba Planning Department that control both farm buildings and registered subdivisions state that a barn is not to be built within a two mile radius of a registered subdivision. This means that if there is a subdivision every four miles, the farmer is in real trouble. The question that has been asked of me by many farmers is, if I can't farm on my own farmland where can I farm?

The people of La Verendrye want both federal and provincial governments to be more responsible to local needs and place more responsibility in the hands of local governing bodies. To cite an example of government not being in touch with local conditions I would like to relate a small incident which happened in the Town of Steinbach. The Housing and Renewal Corporation when buying lots for the construction of low rental housing received the co-operation of the Town of Steinbach and the result was that these homes have been built like they should have throughout the town and blended in somewhat with the rest of the community with one exception. Everyone of these homes has a big brown fence around it. The local board complained bitterly to the Corporation but to no avail. Up went the big brown fences. As a result you can drive through the Town of Steinbach and pick out every single low rental house. I just can't see what purpose is served in spending that kind of money for identifying low income families that way.

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(MR. BANMAN Con't)

I am a believer in the old slogan, You get nothing for nothing, but the more I look around the more I begin to wonder and realize that this is not the case. If the present trend continues governments are going to make a nation of beggars out of us. That includes individuals as well as urban and rural municipalities. First the governments take the money from the people, then turn benevolent and give it back after taking out a good hefty chunk for administration. The way grants and social programs are being handed out the average person is wondering why work at all. Incentives have to be maintained and provided to keep our society as productive as possible. Individual freedom and pride must be maintained.

Empire building. Man throughout history has been a empire builder. We all have that tendency. The only difference between an individual and a government in this regard is that the private individual must know his limitations. If he doesn't he is forced into a difficult situation or faces bankruptcy. The government on the other hand has virtually no check valves - add another department, up the taxes and make the people pay. This system has been employed by governments for years and I suggest that government when having visions of grandeur, of opening a new department or adding staff, ask itself seriously how high the tower can be built before it falls or before the people pull it down.

We are in the age of consumerism. Certain restrictions and requirements have to be placed on industry and business. However when restrictions are put on a manufacturer, producer or retailer, it means an increased cost to that business and we all know who pays that additional cost. It's the average guy that gets it in the neck and I would like to point out that restrictions when it comes to consumerism are like an insurance policy and the consumer is paying the premium. A lot of common sense has to be exercised in this area of legislation.

The cost of living is of immediate concern to all Manitobans. Food prices rising, housing costs rising, everything on a general upward trend, including salaries. But what about the people on fixed incomes who receive a percentage raise yearly? When they get this money they find that instead of having gained that amount of money to help them combat inflation the government has taken out a goodly chunk. Take for example a man who has a wife and two children and is making a wage of \$500.00 a month. He receives an 8 percent raise bringing his salary up to \$540.00, but how much of that \$40.00 does he keep? \$28.59 - a 26 percent profit realized by the government from a man who is trying to make ends meet and combat inflation. This is what I call a real rip-off. Inflation is helping fill government coffers and putting a strain on the average Manitoban. Instead of rectifying the problem the government is constantly increasing its spending and implementing new policies.

As a Progressive Conservative caucus critic on industry and commerce it will be my intent to watch and scrutinize the activities of this department very closely. I will be watching to see if the department is helping our small business community which is having a particularly hard time in view of escalating costs. I shall also be watching the department's performance in the particular field of attracting new industry to Manitoba. The Manitoba Energy Council and the Manitoba Transportation Council which fall in the jurisdiction of the Minister of Industry and Commerce will also receive my attention. Being one of the members having the dubious distinction of being malicious during the last election, I would like to assure everybody in this Assembly that the people who know me say that not to be so. I have, however been known to, and intend to, stand up and fight for ideas and ideals worthy fighting for and will not be intimidated. I will represent the wants and needs of the people of La Verendrye in this forthcoming session and am determined to see that Manitoba provides a good standard of living, opportunity and development for its people.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. KEN DILLEN (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, let me first offer my congratulations to your elevation to the highest position in this Chamber. I am sure that your dedication and service to the labour movement for many many years has more than qualified you for this exalted position.

The Thompson constituency which I represent contains within its boundaries three reserves, Nelson House, Cross Lake and York Landing; two mining establishments, International Nickel at Thompson and Falconbridge, Manibridge, Manitoba; a logging operation at Sipiwest; the Lake Winnipeg regulation control site at Jenpeg and Kiscatoo, and also includes the communities Pikwitonei, Thicket Portage and Wabowden and, of course, the City of Thompson,

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(MR. DILLEN Con't). . . . which can best be described as a United Nations of the North since the population is made up of people from virtually every country in the world.

I want to express my appreciation to all of the people in the Thompson constituency who have entrusted to me the opportunity to represent them in this House for the next four years.

The constituency can best be described as a frontier, the people pioneers carving a way of life in the wilderness with determination, with strength and hope for a greater share of the natural resources with which we are so abundantly blessed, and also to build a better way of life for all of Manitoba.

There are in excess of 3,000 workers in the City of Thompson who are currently represented by the United Steelworkers of America, Locals 6166 and 7911, and is without doubt the highest number of organized workers in any city in Manitoba by population, and as a result of bargaining strength and good representation, the wages and benefits are among the highest in the North American Mining Industry.

But it was not always so. I can remember not too many years ago when the mining company was in cooperation with another union, had kept the workers in that community in virtual bondage since its inception; and for those of us who remember the early days, and just recently the campaign slogan of the Conservative Party which was the freedom of choice and opportunity, and the people of northern Manitoba didn't have the freedom to choose where they were going to be hired because that was dictated by the government of the day and International Nickel.

They could not have the freedom to choose where they were going to live. That was also dictated prior to 1969 by the Conservative Party, the Conservative government and International Nickel. The people did not have the freedom to choose the amount of rent or security deposits that they were going to pay, and in some cases, with full cooperation of the government, the people were required to pay three and four times the monthly rent to move into a suite if one were even available. I say, Mr. Speaker, that the freedom of choice and opportunity that was the slogan of the Conservative Party in the last election certainly has a hollow ring in northern Manitoba.

In 1964, the community of Thompson experienced its first and only labour dispute which resulted in a strike. The workers were, although very concerned about high wages and living conditions, were more concerned that in 1964 there were no roads to Thompson and, as a result of discussions between the Union, the International Nickel Company and the government of the day, an agreement was reached in which to provide two things: the completion of 391 to Thompson and the building of a recreation center in the city; and as a result of confirmation on those two points, the workers of Thompson agreed to return to work.

But isn't it strange that in 1969 it wasn't necessary and since 1969 it wasn't necessary for the workers to go on strike in Thompson in order to get the completion of No. 6 highway. It wasn't necessary for the workers in Thompson or the workers in Lynn Lake or Leaf Rapids to take that type of action in order to get 391 extended from Thompson to Leaf Rapids and Lynn Lake, and it wasn't necessary for anybody in Northern Manitoba to take drastic action in order to get a better remote northern road system. I might add that the No. 6 highway was a tremendously difficult area in which to build a road, and the people of my constituency are appreciative of the fact that this could be completed and paved in only one year, and I am pleased to announce that it was not necessary for the workers in Gillam or Churchill to take drastic action in order to have a commencement of the survey of the road to Gillam and Churchill.

These are the type of commitments that the people of the north appreciate from a government that cares about the welfare of the people in Northern Manitoba. Virtually every community in my constituency will be serviced by telephone and by television. The telephone and television service is now available in many of the communities.

I think it's necessary at this time to give some indication to this House of what the historical methods of making a living were for the native people in Northern Manitoba. There was an old system that existed at the time that the white man came to this country, when there existed in the remote communities and on the Indian Reserves of a balance of society, and at that time everybody in the community was employed. They were fishing, they were hunting, they were trapping, and along came the white man and he said, "It isn't necessary

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(MR. DILLEN Con't). . . for this to take place any longer. What we are going to do is move you into confinement of a reserve and reduce your ability to move where life will support you, and to replace that we are going to give you welfare," And this was the beginning of the downfall of the people. It was even necessary to say to the people that because there was no longer any trapping to take place, there was no longer any furs being brought to the community for processing, that even the women who held a very important position in the way of life of the remote community were also placed out of work.

I have heard it said so many times that the native people in Manitoba and throughout Canada are simply lazy and do not want to work, and yet some years past when the hiring procedure for the Nickel Company and their offices for hiring were in The Pas, the people of Nelson House, the Reserve of Nelson House, in order to bring their attention to government and to the people of Canada had to come in an armada of canoes to protest at the plant gates of International Nickel for the opportunity to be hired at that plant, and even today there is a process of employment which considers that the native people are capable only of the menial tasks of being boatmen, axmen, and other jobs that no one else will do. There seems to be a preconceived impression on behalf of the Liberal and the Conservative parties, which resulted in a lack of tradesmen of native ancestry in Northern Manitoba, a lack of anyone in a skilled or professional position. I don't know of one doctor, I don't know of one lawyer, of one engineer, and you have to look hard and far to find a qualified electrician, a qualified plumber, a qualified carpenter, and the whole situation is deplorable as a result of neglect for the last 100 years.

I would like to illustrate this position and the attitudes of the Liberal and the Conservative parties in real terms of what has taken place over the last 50 to 100 years, and the system still exists, or at least the idea still exists that the people of northern Manitoba in their native communities are not worthy to be in the same position as the other people of Manitoba, and I would like to correct at this time a statement attributed to the Leader of the Liberal Party who said, and it's quoted in the press, that all of the members who ran in the last election of Indian ancestry were defeated. That isn't so, because one of those people is standing before you today.

And just to carry this a little further, Mr. Chairman--it's rather an amusing situation --the reserve of Nelson House on election day, of course, had the normal number of people who were there in order to carry the people to the polls, and there's nothing wrong with that; I think that's a great idea; but the Liberal Party organization in Thompson didn't think it necessary or didn't think the people were deserving of at least a decent car in which to drive them to the polls. Let me describe this car to you, Mr. Speaker. It was a 1950 Chevrolet that came out of somewhere in Ontario, and the floor boards were eaten out with salt. And the people, when they got out of the car, were brushing themselves off from the dust, which indicates the contempt which these parties have for the native people.

The Conservative Party felt that all that was needed to win an election in northern Manitoba was the distribution of hot dogs to the native people provided by a local packing plant as a promotional gimmick with no charge. As a result, as a result, the native people dubbed the Liberal and the Conservative candidates as Hot Dog Annie. The Liberals resorted in desperation to bubble gum and, as a result of that, their candidate was dubbed Bubble Gum Blaine. There was not only a rejection of this method of campaigning, which is described by the Thompson Citizen as razzmatazz, the entire platform and policy of the Liberals and the Conservative parties was interpreted as razzmatazz and similarly rejected by the majority of northern Manitobans.

I have heard an expression in this House in the last couple of days about the concern for the environment of northern Manitoba, and not one person who arose from the members opposite have once mentioned the mining companies and the amount of pollution they are placing in the atmosphere by high level. . .

I would like to describe to you the operations of the International Nickel Company in Thompson. We have a high level dispersion stack which is pouring literally thousands of tons into the atmosphere daily of sulphur dioxide and other particles. The tailing area encompasses some hundreds of acres which is turning the land into a virtual wasteland and the excess from this area is finding its way into the Burntwood River. The entire lake known as Thompson Lake, which is in the boundaries or adjacent to the boundaries of the

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(MR. DILLEN Con't) . . . City of Thompson, is a virtual stinking, chemical mass, and if the overflow from there at high water time is finding its way also to the Burntwood River, along with it it's a holding pool for the amounts of human waste that are rejected by that plant. --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. DILLEN: We are going to be introducing, we will be introducing and I will be introducing measures which will bring about corrective measures to correct this situation, but I am not soliciting the support of the Liberal and the Conservative Parties even though it may -- my party I am sure are going to support me. I have no reason to believe that they will not. I am requesting your support even though it may result in massive expenditures for their friends in the mining industry.

The question of royalties was also raised in the Speech from the Throne and, you know, it's not uncommon for natural resources, to have some form of payment for natural resources. I think in the case of trees we have set an excellent example that the royalties or fees that are paid to the province are paid for on the basis of the number of trees that are cut in the form of stumpage fees. And as a personal opinion I see no reason why the same system of royalties shouldn't apply to the mining companies and that they should pay on the basis of the tonnage removed from the ground.

Mr. Speaker, like my colleague the Honourable Member from Rupertsland and unlike the Member from Rock Lake I know when to quit. I would like to conclude my remarks by saying I am proud and honoured to be a member of a government with a leader and a cabinet who combine responsibility and compassion and understanding to the many disparities prevailing in the north and in my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: I recognize the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. Does the Honourable Liberal Leader wish to ask a question?

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I understood that the member would yield to a question when he was finished. My question relates to his comments about the shabby car lift treatment that the Liberal Party apparently in Nelson House Reserve used to carry people to the polls and assist in the election. I wonder if he might tell us which of the parties carried that reserve?

MR. DILLEN: There was some dispute in about three ballots and the three ballots that were in dispute placed the Liberal Party leading in that constituency, in that poll.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to add to the already long list of compliments to yourself at your election to office. Unlike other members however my compliments are tinged with one note of regret. It goes back to the early days when I looked at the first seating plan and noticed that I would have expected the pleasure of your company back here in these back benches and I feel that your election, while it is to your benefit and to the benefit of this House, is certainly to my detriment and I am at some loss at not being able to share the wisdom and experience of a senior member of this House and I feel therefore some regret at your own elevation - election to that office.

I would also, Mr. Speaker, like to pay my respects to the mover and seconder of the Throne Speech. I think that they set a standard of quality for the incoming class, or the freshmen of '73, which all of us will do hard to emulate and I think it is, I hope, a standard of common sense and intelligence that the rest of us will be able to display, so I thank them for having set the pathway and set us in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to provide a special word of thanks and although the Minister isn't here I expect the First Minister would pass it on to him at the first occasion - it's the Minister of Public Works for his solicitude and concern that he expressed last evening. I didn't realize that it was a tradition of this House that incoming members were to have their past accomplishments scrutinized and honored so carefully, and I think it was extremely kind of the Minister of Public Works to bring to the attention of this House some of my earlier achievements and exploits. I would hope that this is simply a matter of friendship on his part and not a general practice. I would hate to think that the plumbers division of the Department of Public Works does anything more than look after leaky faucets and pipes, so I would hope that this is simply a matter of -- a simple matter of courtesy on the part of the Minister of Public Works. --(Interjection)--Yes, I've heard of them from time to time.

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(MR. AXWORTHY Con't)

I also noticed in the debates thus far, Mr. Speaker, that members are very careful to make sure that the record is straight concerning the actual description of those accomplishments and therefore I would like to provide some correction of the Minister's remarks last evening. I also do by the way out of concern for my own constituents because I take note that the Minister is responsible for the building and construction of that new office building in my constituency by the way, across the corner, and it is my hope, my sincere hope, that the foundation and base upon which that building is built is far more sound and firm than the Minister's facts and statements that he makes in the House. I think that therefore I'd like to if I may provide some clarification of those remarks.

During the course of it he mentioned my association or membership in a group called the Students for Democratic Society and expressed some concern that that organization was radical and anarchistic. I'd like to provide to this House a definition of the founding principles of that charter where it says, "We seek the establishment of a democracy of individual participation with two central aims - that the individual share in those social decisions determining the quality and direction of his life in a society to be organized to encourage independence and participation in the democratic way of life." Now I realize, Mr. Speaker, that there's some members of this side of the House whose principles would appear to be radical and anarchistic, but I would certainly hope that that's not the case of the Minister and I would like to point out that at the time I was a member that organization was basically involved in the Civil Rights Movement in the United States which was seeking to improve the rights and equality of certain disadvantaged groups in that country, and I would certainly hope that the Minister wouldn't think that those kinds of activities were in any way radical or anarchistic.

I'd like to also point out, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister commented that he had surmised from some source that on some occasion in my life I had worked for Mr. David Lewis. Well I realize that Mr. David Lewis is now working for Liberals in Ottawa and giving them all the support he can, and I suppose it would only be right, Mr. Speaker, that that compliment be returned but I would say for myself I never had the opportunity nor the inclination to undertake that particular activity. I would like to comment though that the concern of the Minister that about one's political philosophy is well taken and he concerns some regret that I might be moving right in my philosophy. I would only point out to his concern that if he looks at the reply to the Speech from the Throne that was expressed on behalf of this party by our Leader and then compared to the Speech from the Throne he may find in fact that his own political philosophy has become topsy turvy and in fact he has become sort of far to the right of anyone on this side of the House.

But be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Public Works did strike at least at some point a serious note, and it's that serious note which prompted me to reply to it in this my first opportunity to speak to this House in any kind of extended way. He said that it was very imperative in the forthcoming sessions of this Legislature that we begin to seriously look at the problems of urban growth and how we can manage to shape and control the dynamics of change that are occurring in the City of Winnipeg. And that particular comment, Mr. Speaker, struck a note of real concern to me because of the nature of the constituency which I represent and because of the concerns of the people in that constituency. As many of you know Fort Rouge is a constituency that surrounds this Legislature, at least on three sides, is in the downtown centre of this city and it bears a historic name, Fort Rouge, it describes one of the original pioneer settlements and organizations and I would like to suggest that the kind of

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre state his point of privilege?

MR. J. R. (BUD) BOYCE (Winnipeg Centre): It's a matter of privilege and I think the member would like me to correct him. The Legislative Building is entirely within the constituency of Winnipeg Centre.

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I suppose if the Member for Winnipeg Centre wants to engage in sort of picayune geographical arguments that's his concern; my point is, as I said, that this Legislative Buildings is surrounded as it is on Edmonton Street and as it is on the west side of the river, as it is further up towards Portage Avenue, by the constituency of Fort Rouge. Now I think it's too bad that the Member from Winnipeg Centre doesn't

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(MR. AXWORTHY Con't). . . know where his own constituency is but that perhaps he will - I'll have the opportunity to show him the exact boundaries at a later time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when I continue the point I was trying to make was not to concern myself with the boundaries - Winnipeg Centre specifically or Fort Rouge - but to point out the fact that the historical importance of Fort Rouge is as important today as it was a hundred years ago when that first settlement was founded because the residents of my constituency in fact are involved in a different kind of pioneering activity because they are very much at the forefront, or in the front line, of what is probably one of the most dramatic, difficult, and in my cases, complex kind of new frontiers to deal with and that is trying to shape a decent and encouraging life inside the urban frontier. And it's this particular question which concerns me this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, because I think that at the very centre of this city we are beginning to feel the intense pressures of a city which itself is undergoing a high degree of change, that well over 90 percent of the growth that occurs in the Province of Manitoba, basically occurs, in terms of population in the City of Winnipeg itself, that we add to our boundaries close to 10 or 12,000 people a year. And it is that pressure of people of new economics which begins to focus in to the downtown centre because it is the centre which begins to feel the pressure of growth for new buildings, for new high rises, for new expressways. And that particular pressure, that concentration of growth, that demand for change, provides a tremendous strain and stress upon the institutions and the practices and procedures that we have traditionally or conventionally used to govern ourselves, to manage our cities and to manage our communities. And unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, when I looked at the Throne Speech I didn't find the kind of response that I think was necessary to provide for a revision, or an upgrading, or a change in those institutions and procedures and policies to enable us to respond effectively to that problem of growth.

And I'd like to point, Mr. Speaker, specifically to two areas where I think the growth is having its most severe effects and that is in the field of land and in the field of housing. It has been said in many places throughout the last two years that Winnipeg is engaged or feeling the consequences of major rise in land costs, and that is certainly true, it is a fact that according to figures that I have been able to develop we find that land costs within the City of Winnipeg itself and its inner periphery have doubled since 1972; that the average cost of a 50 square foot or 50 foot frontage lot has gone in many cases from an average somewhere in the area of \$4,000 to upwards of 7 and \$8,000.00.

But even more importantly than that fact alone is that the increase in cost is not simply restricted to the boundaries of the perimeter of the City of Winnipeg. The same increase in costs is now beginning to reach far out into the rural areas of this province and that in municipalities within a 30 and 40 mile range of the City of Winnipeg the same kind of escalation, the same kind of increase in costs begin to occur. In the rural municipality of St. Andrew costs since 1971 have almost doubled in land; in the municipality of Ritchot, which some of the members on this side of the House represent, the costs have also doubled; which simply points that the pressure of growth is not simply a problem confined or restricted to the residents of Winnipeg, it's a problem which is completely and totally within the compass of this whole province. It is not something that is simply or should be the concern or rural members of this -- of urban members of this House, it is a problem that encompasses the total interests of the members of this House.

Now the problem of land itself has many causes. It has as a result--there is no simple solution or easy panacea to it. In many cases it's a breakdown in the market system; in some cases it's the breakdown in the machinery of local government which is unable to process and supply proper land for development. I think in a recent study done by house builders and by other groups, point out that the available lots for the supply of housing in the City of Winnipeg are 2,000 lots less than to just keep up with the normal demand for housing lots in the City of Winnipeg simply because the machinery isn't there to process, to provide to the subdivisions.

Mr. Speaker, it's also a problem of the environmental protection that while the City of Winnipeg with all the best intentions in the world attempts to limit the growth in the peripheral surrounding of the city, the end result is that it shoots land costs up higher because it limits supply while it's doing it. So the point, Mr. Speaker, I am trying to make is in the field of land, the causes are coming from every direction. It's a multiple set of causes and therefore requires a multiple set of solutions; and therefore I think that one of the first priorities of this

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(MR. AXWORTHY Con't). . . . House and of this government should be the establishment of a serious land policy, a land policy that would include principles of taxation to change and provide for the control of speculative activities in the field of land. It should provide for changes in the planning act so that we can begin to control the size of subdivisions, the nature of zoning, the kind of regulations that are applied to the development of land both inside the City of Winnipeg and its outer boundaries. It should include, Mr. Speaker, a serious consideration of the problem of new communities. The Federal Government in its wisdom has provided the country with an important proposal for new communities where it provides up to 90 percent loans with very generous forgiveness features, yet there is no mention of that in the Throne Speech. And yet, Mr. Speaker, that ability to provide new communities is one way of diluting growth, of shaping it, and I'm sure that other members of this House who represent areas like Selkirk or Steinbach, and so on would be interested in engaging in a debate in consideration and discussion about the possibilities of establishing a policy of new communities in this province to provide both as an answer to the pressures of urban growth, which people in my constituency feel, the same time provide another option for maintaining and preserving the rural communities and small town communities within the larger hinterland of Winnipeg.

So what we need, Mr. Speaker, first and foremost is a major land-use policy which has components of taxation and regulation and zoning, and all the other kinds of elements that can provide for a proper balance and a proper attack, and that particular kind of policy is something that cannot be done solely by this House or by the provincial jurisdiction, it must be worked out in combination with municipal authorities and with federal authorities.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the question of land is also closely tied up with the question of transportation. I looked with interest at the proposal in the Throne Speech that this government is prepared to introduce proposals for public transportation, and I support and I encourage those proposals as vague as they may be at this stage.

But I would like to point out one fact to this House, Mr. Speaker, and that is that you can't divorce transportation policy and land policy, that it is dangerous and sometimes highly tragic if you try to implement or introduce policies of transportation which are not closely tied in with the ability and some concept of priority and objectives in the nature of the growth that you want. And therefore I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, to those Ministers responsible for the planning of a transportation policy that they give strong consideration for a land-use policy to accompany that, otherwise their transportation policy may fall into serious consequences and have serious dualitary impact upon the total question because transportation is the life-blood and artery of our urban community, where the highway goes, where the public transit goes, that's where the housing goes, that's where the recreation goes, that's where the growth goes and therefore public transportation is a major tool in shaping and directing the nature of our urban growth and it should be considered in that light.

I would like also, Mr. Speaker, to spend a moment on the question of housing because that is also one of the major elements and components in urban growth policy which I think this province needs. On the one hand, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech promised us a \$300.00 grant along with some interest subsidy along the way, or a subsidy of some form. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that that grant is already too late, that the amounts that are being predicted are already . . . in any way compensating for the increased cost in housing. It has been estimated, Mr. Speaker, by my own computations, that an average thousand square foot bungalow available in the City of Winnipeg in 1972 would require on average an income of \$7,000, that has now gone up to ten or eleven, and therefore the kind of grant that we're suggesting is not any way near a beginning in terms of providing for some form of assistance for home ownership.

But more than that question of home subsidy, Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise the question about low income housing in this community. A few years ago this government had very brave words about its commitment to public housing and I think that there were many in this community that applauded their efforts and their initiative in trying to meet the serious and often times desperate housing plight of low income and underprivileged people, both in Winnipeg and without. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, those very words have now fallen highly short, that even as short a time ago as June of 1973 the Minister then responsible for housing - and I have a source if someone would like it, I believe it's the Winnipeg Free Press of June - pardon

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(MR. AXWORTHY Con't). . . me, the Winnipeg Tribune of June 1, 1973 - estimated that we would build at least 1,600 units in the City of Winnipeg and 1,400 in rural areas. Well, Mr. Speaker, from my calculation, based upon CMHC statistics, is that the actual construction of low income public housing units in Winnipeg as of last December is closer to 400, not 1,400, and that is a serious drop in the ability to provide for basic housing needs. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, it creates, as the leader has pointed out, as our leader has pointed out in his speech, that that is a loss of capital to this province, it's a loss of jobs, because for every million dollars spent on the construction of housing it provides innumerable numbers of new jobs for people; and I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, if I may, cite some statistics in this respect, that if you were to provide for the kind of housing that was according to the agenda, or according to the blueprint laid out by the government, we would have created an additional 2,000, or - pardon me, 2,700 units. That would have provided close to 4,200 new construction jobs; it would have provided close to \$50 million worth of new production within the economy of Manitoba. So when we talk about the lack of economic growth one of the reasons for it can be traced to the dereliction and the failure of this government to live up to its commitments.

Now, I listened to the Leader of the Opposition charge the government with diabolic political machinations of its advisors. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that at least in the field of housing, it has nothing to do with diabolic, machiavelian politics, I think it's more like the Keystone Cops or the Katzenjammer Kids; it's more like playing games, not the serious attempt to do as required. And if there is a failure, Mr. Speaker, in public housing, the question is, what's the alternative being offered? Well at this stage there is no alternative being offered; there is no alternative being offered in the field of non profit housing, of co-op housing, of providing for the kind of requirements to provide the sponsorship of Section 15 housing under the National Housing Act. At this stage there is no real offer, at this stage, to provide for a comprehensive housing program which again would encourage and introduce and combine the efforts of the house builders, of the municipalities, and of the different kinds of citizen groups within the city who are now presently interested to become engaged in the field of housing. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the question of urban growth can't be simply looked at in terms of its physical dimensions, that we can talk about housing units and talk about public transportation.

But there is one other very important facet about the problem of urban growth which I'd like to bring to the attention of this House, and that is really the human side of urban growth. I listened with interest to the Throne Speech which complimented the development and construction of the new convention centre, and it was quite right in its analysis that it had stimulated large scale building growth in downtown Winnipeg. But that is only part of the picture, Mr. Speaker. What that Throne Speech did not talk about was the kind of things that I hear from my constituents who live in the downtown close to or abounding that downtown development. It said nothing about the senior citizens who have no place to walk after the high rise goes up on Smith Street; it said nothing about the young families who are trying to find a place to play tennis, an open space in the Fort Rouge area which, by the way, has less open space than any other community in the City of Winnipeg even though it has the highest density. It said -- (Interjection)--I'm sorry but that's just not true. It has said nothing, Mr. Speaker, about the young working mothers who are desperately looking for a place to find - a place to keep their children while they work during the day. It said nothing about the social workers who had their grants stopped in their family care program trying to search out new social facilities. It said nothing about the developer who said that I know that in my apartment blocks I would like to provide a place for people to meet, a recreation area, but the taxation system, Sir, penalizes me for doing it. It said nothing, Mr. Speaker, about the Minister who spoke to me about the numbers of lonely young people in the downtown area who are suffering from the drugs or various kinds of psychiatric disturbances because there is no such thing as a community in that downtown area. Now that is also part and parcel of what we talked about when we look at urban growth. It's simply not a matter of numbers of housing, or units of housing, or tax revenue that's increased; it's a human problem, it has a human dimension and that Mr. Speaker, must be also the kind of concern and consideration that this House gives; how in fact can this House and this government over the next two or three years provide for that dimension of human growth which affects individuals and in the way they live.

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(MR. AXWORTHY Con't)

I think, Mr. Speaker, there are things that this government can do and that this House can do. They can provide answers to those kinds of questions that are being raised by my constituents in the downtown area of Fort Rouge.

It's interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that in a major survey of an American city taken recently, when they were asked what - and this is close to 2,000 people were asked, - what is your basic need, what do you think is the biggest concern that you have as urban dwellers? It was not, Mr. Speaker, transportation or even housing, or anything like the kind, it was, they wanted a sense of community; they wanted to feel that they belonged to something, that they shared in some way being part of a physical location, that they could share aspirations, they could share problems, they could share a sense of belonging to some place that has stability, and some place that has meaning in their own lives.

Mr. Speaker, I personally envy other members of this House who come from communities which are, have a longer tradition in history and don't suffer the same kind of high degree of mobility and high degree of instability that we now feel in my area, Fort Rouge; that there is an important intangible thing called community which must also be the concern of government in its own way, and there are things that we can do about trying to develop them. One of the first things that can be done, Mr. Speaker, is to simply look at the way that you can build in the elements of community - and I must confess to a great admiration back in the early days of this government when the now Minister of Finance brought in his plan for the reorganization of the City of Winnipeg, when he talked in very eloquent terms about the concept of community committees, and resident advisor groups as the machinery and instruments by which people in the city could develop their own community institutions, so they could share in the making of decisions. As I've watched the progress of those institutions and watched their bereftment by this government, the fact that they have become orphaned and forgotten and treated with indifference then it makes me wonder, Mr. Speaker, if perhaps at this session we will have the opportunity when we look at the amendments to the City of Winnipeg Act to once again question, is there a way of strengthening the concept of the community committee to give it more powers to enable people in those communities to do things on their own?

And one of the things that encourages me as I look into my own constituency is the high degree of initiative and the high degree of interest of ordinary people to take responsibility for their own decisions. I think of the merchants along Osborne Street who are now trying to think of ways of turning that into a square, a village square concept. I think of young planners and young residents along Stradbroke and River who are presently trying to come up with a plan for the area which will preserve their trees and preserve their way of life. I think of the residents who are trying to fight against the imposition of truck routes in their high rise areas, and I think of the residents of the River Osborne Community Centre who are demanding more space for the kids to play. And I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, how this House and this government can provide encouragement to those people. Well, the first thing they can do is to provide that area and areas throughout the city with a capacity to make real decisions, because, Mr. Speaker, the City of Winnipeg Act is not working that way now. It's a hybrid organization, no-one knows who makes what decision; the Community Committee makes it, it goes to Environment Committee, it goes to the Minister, it goes to the Municipal Board, it comes back up and down the line, and before you know it the costs have gone up, confusion has reigned and no one knows who's on first base any more. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to see us make some real improvements in that City of Winnipeg Act to create the institutions of community within our city, by using the framework that was provided us in the City of Winnipeg Act, but building upon it and improving it.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)

I'd also, Mr. Speaker, like to propose to this House the institution of a form of urban development agency, an agency which would have as its basic function a banking function, which would provide loans, perhaps of soft loans and hard loans to those merchants I talked about who want to rebuild their own area; who would provide loans for that group who want to start a Day Care Centre; who would provide for ways of opening up some open spaces along our river banks, Mr. Speaker, right now there is neither municipal or provincial or federal legislation, the kind of assistance and encouragement to those kinds of community improvements, those small scale block improvements, to enable people to do things for themselves or to enable the municipality to fit in between the larger scale neighborhood improvement plan and the small scale building of the units. I'd like to see us provide into that urban development agency the ability of senior citizens who just don't want a building to live in but would like to provide a park that they could walk in, or a skating rink within that park, or some other kind of recreational facility. I'd like to see an agency which would be able to exercise its public powers from time to time to assemble land for a group that would like to build itself a park or some kind of new recreation area.

And, Mr. Speaker, we have had molds in the past of such agencies. This House several years ago created a Centennial Development Corporation which it used public powers for the sake of building a concert hall and a city hall. Well, I'd like to see us use exactly the same powers and the same kind of agency which could in terms of its organization be set up by this House. It could be organized and directed by representatives of municipalities of the Federal Government and of public citizens, and provide direction, provide loans, provide some use of public powers, provide technical assistance and managerial assistance for those groups in our community who are trying to better themselves and try to create a new community. Those are the kinds of initiatives, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to see us take.

I think this province, Mr. Speaker, could take further steps. Around this area itself, the Provincial Government has a responsibility simply not to build new office buildings but to create a capitol centre which would give pride and distinction to this area, and rather than simply putting more parking lots on the residents of Kennedy and Edmonton and Carlton and Hargrave, they should be looking at how they could provide walkways so they can provide a place where people can enjoy . . . and not simply have to look at civil servants' cars.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to sort of--so I think that there's an opportunity for the Provincial Government to look at its own activity in this central area and see how its activity can be directed toward this the improvement of this downtown environment. It's simply not enough to stop with the convention centre; it has to take several steps further.

Mr. Speaker, I also think this Provincial Government could, in its construction of its new housing units once, I hope, the construction starts again, provide for different kinds of amenities, to experiment, to look at ways that those kinds of public housing units and kinds of sponsored non-profit organizations can find different ways of providing housing in the downtown. I'd like to see us have family housing in the downtown. I don't think we simply need all high rises for young people and old people. I think there are ways of building for families who can also live on Carlton and Edmonton and Kennedy and Stradbroke. There is no reason why we should force them into the suburbs, and I think with the encouragement and stimulation of the housing corporation, those kinds of experiments could be undertaken, and I compliment in many cases, those experiments have started, and I'd like to see them on a larger scale.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I think in terms of the creation of community in the downtown, we as members can do a great deal by providing that linkage and identification within our own areas. I've had the opportunity to open an office, Mr. Speaker, in the last three or four months, and found out that it provides an important link between people who have problems with government, they need assistance, and I would like to compliment this government, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, to say that many of the civil servants of this government are most helpful and most cooperative, and I have found nothing but assistance in any effort I have made to get sort of information or data. But the point I'd like to make is that we need help in doing that. They think it's wrong for an MLA who tries to represent in a constituency in a downtown centre not to have an opportunity to get some assistance for telephones or mailing or for an office so he can provide that service and provide part of that network of community services so the people have something to relate to.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)

So Mr. Speaker, I think there's a number of things that this House and that this government can do to provide for a way of managing and dealing with the problem of urban growth, in the kinds of pressures that we feel, those of us who live in this downtown part of the city. I suggested along the way legislation; I suggested putting more finance to work; I suggested different kinds of planning instruments. Well, Mr. Speaker, more than anything else what we need at this stage is a form of leadership, leadership that simply doesn't react to events but takes the initiative, a kind of leadership which simply doesn't, say, wait for someone to come to them with a problem, but begins to seek out new directions and guidelines; that talks about, in this House and elsewhere, the concept of building new communities; that brings into the fore the debate of the kind of city that we want to have; that simply doesn't sort of hide and deal in an offhand way. And Mr. Speaker, you can't have leadership from a portfolio that changes every three months. You can't have leadership by people who play musical chairs. You can't have leadership by Ministers who hardly get their seat warm and find out who their Deputy Minister is before they're off to another task. And so if we're to take seriously the problems of the city, we must take seriously the question of who is providing leadership in the Urban Affairs portfolio, and I am pleased that they have graced that office with the presence of the First Minister. I hope the First Minister will also grace the office with his presence for longer than three or four months, and I would hope that we could get a commitment from the Minister on that account so that we can provide a leadership that we are required.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that if we are going to do our job as a Legislature in providing leadership to manage and shape the nature of urban growth in this province, then we are going to require a number of changes in a number of ways and I would encourage this House to begin thinking seriously about how we can spend our time over the next three or four months, and not--as I look at the debates of the last session, we spent far more time sort of talking about sort of the Hog Marketing Board than we talked about the half a million people in the City of Winnipeg. And I don't denigrate the importance of the Hog Marketing Board but I also don't want to denigrate the importance of a half a million people who live in the City of Winnipeg.

So in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would only say this, that I look forward to the company and fellowship of the members outside this Chamber, I look forward to the exchange of ideas and opinions within it, and I would hope that all of us can combine the best of our intellects and our efforts to provide for a new direction for the City of Winnipeg in the years ahead.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to add my congratulations to the list of other members who have congratulated you on your appointment again for this first session of the 30th Legislature as Speaker of this exalted Chamber, and I can promise you that I shall endeavour to try and help you in my capacity as Deputy Speaker but also as a Member of this Assembly, to maintain the decorum in this House.

I'd also at this time, Mr. Speaker, like to extend my congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the Speech from the Throne and commend him on a job well done.

I would also at this time, Mr. Speaker, like to welcome the new members to this Assembly, especially as my new seat mate is one of the new members, the Member for Churchill, the Member for Crescentwood, the Member for Emerson, the Member for Fort Rouge who has just spoken, the Member for La Verendrye who has already spoken today, the new Member for Rhineland and the mover of the Speech from the Throne, the Member for Rupertsland, the Member for St. James who we have yet to hear from, and the Member for Thompson who has already spoken today. I wish them well in their endeavours in this House and I'm sure that they are going to make their presence felt and represent their constituents in the manner and fashion befitting a member of this Assembly.

I would also at this time like to offer my thanks to the First Minister and to the members of this House for the privilege that you have given me for again to be the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of House Committees, and I hope that I can prove equal to the task. I ask for your co-operation in this carrying out of my duties and I am sure that you will give me the same fair consideration that you have in the past.

This being the 100th year of the existence as a chartered city for the City of Winnipeg, I would like to add my congratulations to those that have already been extended by members of this House to the citizens of Winnipeg and to the City Council, in fact, to all members of Manitoba on the centennial of our capital city; and I hope that the next 100 years will be just

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(MR. JENKINS cont'd) . . . as productive as the preceding 100 years.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the contributions by the two leaders of the opposition parties in the House, while I don't feel that they are up to the standard they have been in past years, I feel that the Leader of the Official Opposition certainly doesn't seem to have the vim and vigor that he had prior to the election in 1973. I wish to congratulate him, I see he's not here, on his retention for the next two years of the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba and I wish him well in his task and duties as the leader of that party and as the leader of the official opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition made a fairly strong attack on the Throne Speech and he seems to be echoing the words of his leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in Canada that inflation is indeed one of the major problems that is facing the citizens of Canada, of Manitoba. But, Mr. Speaker, true though that may be, it is not just a problem peculiar to Manitoba or to the citizens of Canada. It is a problem that has been accelerating for a number of years now, Mr. Speaker; it is a problem that the Prime Minister of Great Britain is facing today. It's a problem and a slogan that he went to the people and the housewives of Britain four years ago, "How much can you put in your shopping basket today?" I wonder if he'll use that same slogan if an election is called? We hear much of dogma and determination and people of an inflexibility, but I think that the stand that has been taken by the Leader of the Conservative Party, the Prime Minister of Britain, who seems to be saying damn to the country and ruination, he will not meet with the fair and just demands of organized labour in that country. To say that these people--and I have had the opportunity of being a visitor in mines in the British Isles, in Yorkshire in particular, and I would suggest to some of the members before you condemn these people, we seem to get a lot of condemnation in this country and other parts of the world of the coal miners of Britain, and I would ask you members how you would like to work in drifts that are less than 30 inches high, crawling around on your hands and knees, and for wages that are less than what an office worker receives in the city of London.

A MEMBER: It's been owned by the people for the last ten years. Why haven't they done something about it?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. JENKINS: I welcome the comment from the Honourable Member for Lakeside and I'm not condoning or am I praising the efforts of the British Labour Party for not doing more than they did, but after all, you can't take a run-down derelict, defunct industry such as it was and build it up in a short while.

The inflationary trends that we have in this country are in many cases beyond the control of any provincial government and in many cases beyond the control of any federal government. We have an inflationary trend, Sir, not just here, we have it all over. I think that we have to look into the costs of food, we have to look into the costs of energy, and I was quite amused by the Leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party. He said, "I think we should have an informal inquiry into the oil profits of the oil companies of Canada," and what does he mean by an informal inquiry?

When we have been treated to, what is it, Exxon in the United States, profits last year for 1973 of over or approaching 60 percent higher than they were in 1972, I think the lowest one was about 28 percent over the profits of 1972, well above the inflationary rate that has been existing in the United States. I am sure that Shell of Canada, Imperial Oil of Canada, are having profits, when they'll be declared, that will be close or matching those in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, we hear much about government being the cause of inflation, or one of the causes, and perhaps we are, but to state that government and government alone is the one that is responsible, is not only foolish but it doesn't make much sense. I think, Mr. Speaker, that there has been created artificial shortages in many products that have appeared on the shelves. You know, just last year we had quite a run on prices within the food industry, especially in beef, and at the time that this House was sitting we heard - I think it was one of the local commentators on our local radio station was urging people to boycott to bring the prices down. I am glad that the people of Manitoba and the people of the City of Winnipeg, and in the main, I would say, the members of this House, rejected, rejected that, but lo and behold, once the import restrictions were taken off we find that--well it's very confusing.

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(MR. JENKINS cont'd) First of all, we seemed to be exporting beef to the United States and then we were importing it back, and I don't know, I don't profess to be any expert on international trade. I never have professed that and perhaps it's beyond my ken, but it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that whatever the powers that be--and they are not the powers that be that are in this chamber, that's the unfortunate part--the powers that be that are outside decide that they wish to create a shortage, they can create a shortage. Workers have been able through their trade associations, their trade union associations, been able to in many cases improve their lot. It now seems to be the lot of the manufacturing section of society that they are going to get their fair share back and more besides.

And so perhaps we do need an inquiry, an inquiry into--not just an official or informal, I think we should have a real inquiry into the cost of living, and I don't mean on the Plumptre basis that we have had in Ottawa but I think that we need a real inquiry into the cost of living.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I'll leave the inflationary section and I'm sure that the new Minister--and I wish to offer my congratulations at this time to the Minister of Consumer Affairs and also to the Minister in charge of the responsibility for Autopac, and I am sure that they will both do a good job. But, Mr. Speaker, we've had attacks on Crown corporations by members of the opposition and I know they don't like Crown corporations; they never have and I don't suppose that they ever will. But to say that Crown corporations cannot operate at a profit or to operate for the good of the public at large, and I think--I'm glad that the Member for Lakeside mentioned Telephones because that's a very interesting topic. We are very fortunate and I'll give credit to the Conservative Party of that day who did nationalize and made a Crown corporation of the Manitoba Telephone System, and I think they have done an excellent job. And when we look at Bell Telephone, or Mother Bell as it is referred to in Quebec and Ontario, I was very interested the other morning - I don't know if any of the members ever get up and listen and watch Canada AM; it appears on one of the local television stations - there was a gentleman on there and he was speaking about Bell's new gimmick to extort money out of the average person. This is if you make a phone call and you can't find it in the phone book - you know, we all do have that problem; there are times we want to make a telephone call or wish to call a number, we can't find it, so you make a call and ask for Directory Assistance. Lo and behold, do you know what Bell Telephone is going to do now? They are going to charge you 25 cents. Good corporate private enterprise system in Canada.

What are the rates in Ontario and Quebec? You know, I always thought that if you had a large distribution area, and I know that there are more facilities required, but the rate of return is much greater if you are servicing two urban areas, which I guess if you took the cities of Montreal and Toronto and combined them would be approaching close to 5-1/2 million, and we look at the telephone rates for those two cities and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and compare them to the rates that we have enjoyed here in Manitoba, I think that our Crown corporation the Manitoba Telephone System has done an excellent job.

With respect to the Speech from the Throne I, Sir, welcome the announcement that there will be amendments and changes to the Workmen's Compensation Act. True we made some changes, was it two years ago I believe? We had hearings. But I certainly while we made some improvements, and I have said so on other occasions before this, I don't think that we've gone far enough. I think that we require far more improvement in the Workmen's Compensation Act to make it something that we can be proud of, something that can be a model for North America, and it's my hope that we will work towards that end.

I wish to, while I'm here, also give my congratulations to the Workmen's Compensation Board for initiating some of the advertising that they have been doing. While it's not quite what I had in mind when I spoke about it, I think a year ago, I think it's well done. I think safety is an important factor; an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. But I would say this again to the board and I would hope that they will seriously consider it, that one of the problems that we have, when a worker is injured, is the inability sometimes for him to understand the right procedures that he must go through, and I know that there are lots of times on television that there is sometimes a three or four or five minute area that seems to fall free.

You take your Thursday night evening, I believe now the CBC has a play that is completely Canadian author content and it's quite good. I recommend it to some of the members if they haven't seen it that when they get out of the House or if they get an opportunity to

(MR. JENKINS cont'd) watch those programs because they are quite good, and especially that they don't have any advertising, but there usually winds up four or five sometimes six minutes at the end and then they play some very nice music or whatnot. Perhaps that time the Board--and I'm talking about the Workmen's Compensation Board--if they could pick up some of this time, and surely with the facilities that we have now that we could set up a bit of a procedure to show people exactly what you should do if you're injured. I know that we have, and I have had copies of the new booklet "What I should Do" - I just forget what it's called, and it's an improvement on what we did have but it doesn't go far enough. You know, there are people regardless of how many pamphlets you give them or booklets, you know, they just don't keep them and then the first thing, you know, the worker is injured and then he doesn't know what to do. It's not too bad if the worker is in a plant that is organized, he has his shop steward, he has his union representatives and they can advise him, but unfortunately not all our plants are organized and there are many times that workers in these plants are injured; they don't know their rights. They are afraid to report injuries because they figure they might suffer some penalty by the employer. So I think that if perhaps just a bit of that time that the Board could pick up, and I'm sure that the cost of it wouldn't be too prohibitive. But if we could prevent accidents that is well and good and I hope that our record is improving, but the fact is that workers and people do become injured in many cases, and I'm sure that honourable members here have had many pathetic cases of people who have been injured, and the unfortunate part is, Mr. Speaker, that they seem to exhaust all forms and methods before they sometimes even turn to their MLA to find out what they should do. --(Interjection)-- Well, I can't speak for rural Manitoba and I don't profess to be able to speak for rural Manitoba. I'm sure that if the Honourable Member for Swan River has problems that I'm sure that he will look after them to the best of his ability; I don't doubt that whatsoever. But I think that people should be made aware of what are their rights and privileges, and if we can do that--and again I say I'm not knocking the board, in fact I congratulate them on their safety programs that they are advertising now, and it's very clever advertising and it's something that is eye-catching and will get people's attention. I think it's good. But I would like to see them go a bit further, and so I say, Mr. Speaker, that I welcome the changes in the Workmen's Compensation Act. I think that they're good, that they will be good, or that they will be better, I'm sure they will be better because I intend to try and make it my business that they are better than what we've had.

I want to congratulate particularly the Member for Fort Rouge; I think he did an excellent job. And I don't want to singularly pick him out just because he's a new member but I welcome the contribution that the Member for Fort Rouge made to this Legislature. I think he did an excellent job. I think he hit on some of the problems and the frustrations of people, especially in the downtown area, that their lack of identity I think is something that is good. I would just wish that he would use some of the influence that I'm sure that he must have, with some of the members of the City Council when he attacks this government for its inability to produce the 1, 600 low cost housing units, because if there is a problem why we can't produce those houses, it lies in the doors of the City Council. And they have the right of veto in some cases. I wish that he would deliver that same speech to them some time - to the ICEC or whatever they call themselves, or triple G's or whatever, but I welcome the speech that he made and I think that sometimes the government needs lecturing and I think he gave us a good lecture.

I would also say to him and I hope to the other members of the City Council, that they are now engaged in some sort of study or process of going ahead with an overpass over the CPR mainline tracks. I don't know whether the bylaw has passed yet or not, but there seems to be a system of acquiring land by the City Council that kind of sticks in my craw. You know, it's fine and dandy if you have a bylaw and you come out and you expropriate, but there seems to be a devious method of buying property under cover some way or other. People are not getting the proper land value and proper replacement value, and I have this in both the east end of my riding and in the west end of my riding, where there is a proposed sewage pond or ponding effect for storm sewage system. The people in the western part are being bought out sort of silently, and I know that we've made changes in the laws of expropriation and sometimes I wonder if they've gone really far enough.

You know, when you start talking fair market value and in today's rising costs of housing

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(MR. JENKINS cont'd) . . . I really think that we should be really thinking about a fair replacement to try and put that person in as close to an identical situation as what we take him out of. You know, some of the people in that area, Mr. Speaker, are people who are retired or nearing retirement age, and I can think of houses in the area of what was the former town of Brooklands north of the CPR tracks, bounded on the north by Selkirk Avenue and on the south by the CPR mainline, and in this area this pond is going in, and there are some very nice homes in there; there are some older homes that have been well kept. When this bylaw - and I have no doubt that this bylaw will not pass - these people are going to be faced with expropriation. Sure, the law says that they can appeal and they can do other things and that the expropriating authority has to bear the cost of the legal fees and whatnot, but when it all boils down, that a house that is maybe 12 years old sitting on a 75 or 100 foot lot, at fair market value they'll probably get maybe \$22,000, \$23,000. They won't be able to get that same sort of similar situation for that type of money, and when you're talking to people who are in their late 50s or early 60s, sometimes people who are retired, now they're living in an older type of housing, well kept, you're going to give them maybe \$10,000, \$12,000. Where is that person going to go and get housing for that similar type of money?

And so perhaps we as a government should be thinking of looking again at the laws of expropriation in this province and try to bring in something of a fair replacement value, a fair replacement, property for property. I know it's something that, maybe it's too idealistic. I realize that there are a lot of obstacles in the way of this but, you know, when you use the full majesty of the law, whether it be this provincial government, the federal government, the City of Winnipeg or any municipal government or even a school board, they have tremendous power; they have the full majesty of the law against John Doe private citizen. And fair market value today in many cases for the property that these people are living in, they're quite satisfied, they're quite happy, but they are not going to be put in a similar circumstance. They're going to be forced in many cases; they're either retired or near the age of retirement where they're going to have to take out mortgages. Their houses are clear now. They owe nothing to the world except their realty taxes. And so I think that we have a responsibility to try and see that these people, not only this Legislature but I say all elected officials in this Province of Manitoba have that responsibility, to see that we cushion to the best of our ability the forceful - and that's what it amounts to in the long run - the forceful removal of John Doe from position A to position B because we wish to use that in the public good. And while I don't argue that the public good sometimes must take precedence over the private citizen, at least if we're going to move the private citizen let's move him into a situation and a circumstance as close as possible to the one that he left.

I see, Mr. Speaker--I don't know how much time I have left. Fine, thank you. Perhaps I went too long on that portion but I feel very strongly on that point, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the members for their kind attention.

We've heard quite a bit in this past while about energy, the lack of it or the lack of proper control or consumption of it, and I think that it's a problem that is going to face not only this Legislature, the government of this country, but the government of many countries. And I think that the Member for Ste. Rose the other day hit it on the head, you know, when he said perhaps it was a blessing in disguise that it has been forcibly brought to our attention that we have been using the natural resources especially the non-renewable fossil fuel resources that we possess, not only in this country but throughout the whole of the world, and I think that we're looking at the day when it will be perhaps the responsibility for government to come up with a total energy package, which means that we will have to say to the oil companies that this is a public utility just as necessary to us as telephones and hydro and other forms of energy, and that it has to come under the public domain. I think that we have to look at a real total energy package for Canada and for our province in particular.

We are particularly blessed, Mr. Speaker and members of this Assembly, because we have a great renewable resource in our water power. I think that perhaps many of our citizens, maybe many of us not here, don't realize and appreciate just what a tremendous asset we really do possess. --(Interjection)-- Well, I thank the Honourable Member for Lakeside, I'm sure that he realizes that we have a tremendous asset and I don't doubt him on that whatsoever.

I would also like to throw out the idea that perhaps we are overlooking other forms of

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(MR. JENKINS cont'd) . . . energy that we could use, and I'm not talking about nuclear fission or anything like that, but there are tremendous wastages going on in production of the plastics and the whole field that we have today. They're using an energy resource, that perhaps we should be looking at this field and looking to exclusively try and channel our energy resources into energy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I won't be very long. I'll shortly come to the conclusion.

I don't profess to know very much about the farm industry. I'm not like my fellow rail-roader from Crescentwood who said that if he had had the stay option that he would have been a farmer perhaps today. But I do know some of the problems that the farm people have had, and I welcome the news that they are now going to receive a greater benefit for their share of labour that they have done: I think it's something that is well deserved. I think that they're getting a fair price for their products and I think that their rate of return is pretty good, and when I hear sometimes that perhaps wheat will be selling for \$10.00 a bushel, you know that's a pretty fair rate of return. --(Interjection)-- Well maybe it's idle gossip; we've heard so many prices being thrown around with the various things; but I think that some research should be done. I think of an energy source on the prairies here, and a renewable one. I don't know how many metric tons of straw are available every year and perhaps this can be turned into some type of fossil fuel. Now I don't say that the farmers should bundle it up and do it at a loss. I think if we're looking at the total energy package we should be looking. Perhaps there's some way of carbonizing this down into a fossil fuel that can be used, and it would be a renewable fossil fuel, something that we grow every year. Farmers, you see, you drive out into the country now, many of them have no other option but to do with it but in some cases to burn it, but there is a source of energy and perhaps that is one that we should be thinking about.

I haven't too much more to say, Mr. Speaker, except I want to once again say to the new members I welcome you to the proceedings and the deliberations of this House and I wish you well in your endeavours, and say to you, Sir, that I'm sure that you'll do the good job that you have as Speaker of this House, and thank the members for their kind attention. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris. I wonder if the honourable member would like to proceed possibly tomorrow if I call it 5:30, if it's agreeable.

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to proceed. I've got about 10 minutes of kind things to say and I'd like to do that tonight so I don't mix it up with the other things I'll say tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, after listening to the Member for Logan who covered the waterfront and wound up on energy, I got the feeling that perhaps he is aspiring to leadership. He wanted to make sure that he touched base all over the province and he left no one out, and perhaps it was an afterthought but he finally came to roost on the farm and spent his last few moments dealing with farm problems, and I want to tell him that he doesn't want to get too enthusiastic about the possibility that \$5.00 and \$10.00 wheat is going to bring that many great returns. I want to remind him that a tractor that cost \$10,000 two years ago is now costing \$30,000, so the profits have a way of dissipating and he doesn't want to get the impression that the high prices necessarily mean high profits. It's the same in agriculture as it is in almost any other industry.

But, Sir, I would like to follow the tradition of this House by offering to you, Sir the congratulations that are due you in accepting the onerous responsibility that you have for another legislature. Perhaps I should be the first one to admit that the difficulties that you faced in the past few sessions have been generated to a large extent by my activities and for that, Sir, I apologize. I hope that during the coming sessions of the Legislature that we can maintain that kind of decorum, that kind of debate - and I don't want for a minute to leave the impression that it's not going to be hard hitting. I don't want for a minute to give the impression to anybody that in any way should there not be that free exchange of views and opinions across the floor of the House, because it is that kind of expression of opinion that makes for a lively debate and makes this place the useful Legislature that it is meant to be.

I would also like to, Sir, congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address in Reply for their contributions. The Member for Rupertsland who has given early indication of some ability as a parliamentarian, and I look forward to his future contributions, I want to caution

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) him, however, that all of those high hopes that he expressed, and the possibility that this government is going to solve all the problems of the world, are doomed to be unrealized. I offered that same suggestion to the Minister of the Public Insurance Corporation a few years ago when he moved the Address in Reply, and I think he will be able to tell you that the problems that they faced when they came to power, they still face, and indeed, Sir, the problems are being faced in increasing numbers and in increasing gravity.

The Member for Crescentwood who entertained, and that's perhaps the only word that can be used to describe his contribution to this Chamber, he entertained this Chamber for the full 40 minutes, which is a mark of an aspiring politician, I must confess - you never let a minute go by that you can't use in debate. I got the feeling though, Sir, that his speech was delivered as though it was going to be his one and only speech in this Chamber because he covered so many subjects; I got the feeling that he wanted to say everything that he could possibly say in that one speech to make sure that it didn't remain unsaid, even to acupuncture, and I wish him well on that subject.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to those new members who have finally reached the pinnacle, and the Member for St. George who takes on the responsibility at a very critical time in the operations of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. It is difficult having so recently received his appointment to saddle him with the responsibility and the problems that that insurance corporation now faces. But we look forward to him guiding the Public Insurance Corporation out of its present difficulties, and pray to heaven that when those cars are lined up along the street, as was described here earlier today, that they won't become the victims of hail storms in the middle of the winter, because that, as I understand it, Sir, is the main reason attributed by the government for their heavy losses in the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. One almost got the impression in listening to that explanation that private insurance companies throughout the years had never had a hail storm and that there were no hail storms in this country until this poor government took power and started to insure cars.

A MEMBER: Come to think of it, I think that's true.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, that probably is true. The Member for Osborne who has also been elevated to a position in the Cabinet and now takes his place with those who make the decisions, we hope that he has good success, and that he displays the kind of energy throughout the time that he will be Minister in that portfolio that he displayed in the early days. He gave the impression of one who was serious about his job and had every intention of making a success of it, and I want him to know that we will co-operate with him to make sure that the responsibilities of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs will not be deterred by the actions of the Opposition.

Sir, I can't think of another kind thing to say, so I wonder, so I wonder if I may call it 5:30.

MR. SPEAKER: Just a brief reminder before I adjourn the House for those who are interested in the brief orientation period tomorrow morning at 10:30, Room 254.

The House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 Thursday afternoon.