

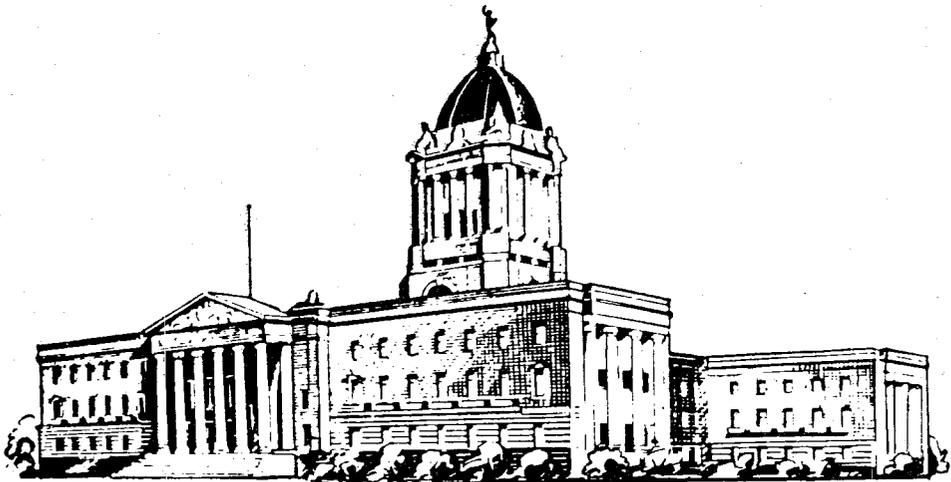


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXI No. 99 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 23rd, 1974. First Session, 30th Legislature.

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Electoral Division	Name	Political Affiliation	Address	Postal Code
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	P.C.	Reston, Man.	R0M 1X0
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	Lib.	10 Red Robin Pl., Winnipeg	R3J 3L8
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	P.C.	Binscarth, Man.	R0J 0G0
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	P.C.	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon	R7B 0H9
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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FORT ROUGE	Lloyd Axworthy	Lib.	132 Osborne St. S., Winnipeg	R3L 1Y5
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	NDP	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.	R0C 1B0
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INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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LA VERENDRYE	Bob Banman	P.C.	Steinbach, Man.	R0A 2A0
LOGAN	William Jenkins	NDP	1294 Erin St., Winnipeg	R3E 2S6
MINNEDOSA	David Blake	P.C.	Minnedosa, Man.	R0J 1E0
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	P.C.	Morris, Man.	R0G 1K0
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ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	P.C.	Inglis, Man.	R0J 0X0
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SOURIS KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	P.C.	Nesbitt, Man.	R0K 1P0
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
STURGEON CREEK	J. Frank Johnston	P.C.	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg	R3J 2G3
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	P.C.	Swan River, Man.	R0L 1Z0
THE PAS	Hon. Ron McBryde	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
THOMPSON	Ken Dillen	NDP	1171 Westwood Dr., Thompson	R8N 0G8
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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WINNIPEG CENTRE	J.R. (Bud) Boyce	NDP	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg	R3E 0R5
WOLSELEY	I.H. Asper	Lib.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Tuesday, April 23, 1974

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 30 students of Grade 11 standing of the Springfield Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. Smythe. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Springfield, the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

We also have 60 students, Grade 9 standing, of the Sisler School. These students are under the direction of Mr. J. Swerhun and Mrs. P. Peterson. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Inkster, the Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management.

On behalf of all the honourable members, I welcome you here to the Legislature.
(Applause)

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

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. RON McBRIDE (Minister of Northern Affairs) (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table an Order for Return, Order for Return No. 10.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements or Tabling of Reports? Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Questions. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. It is really for further clarification of statements made yesterday with respect to the compensation that would be offered to those who have been affected by the flood emergency in Manitoba. And I have before me the Order-in-Council of May 13, 1970, which I believe is the basis for the explanation given by the Premier yesterday of the amount of compensation that would be offered to individuals who have been affected by the emergency and who would be entitled to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. SPIVAK: . . . entitled to receive compensation. Mr. Speaker, my question to the First Minister is to determine whether it is the intention of the government to follow the same formula and to only provide by way of compensation amounts similar to that of 1970.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe I indicated yesterday that we are proceeding by way of Order-in-Council to establish, or perhaps I should say re-establish, the Flood Compensation Assessment Board, and when the board is established and activated, among other things it will be asked to advise us with respect to the magnitude of revision of the formula which was followed in 1970, and I intimated yesterday that in all probability there would be adjustments upwards, using this formula, however, as the base for revision. I don't believe I could be more explicit than that at this point in time.

MR. SPIVAK: I appreciate the answer of the First Minister but I wonder, then, if he could indicate whether the government will take as its minimum base the inflationary factors since 1970 to the present time.

MR. SCHREYER: Well precisely so, Mr. Speaker. That is the intent. The Flood Compensation Assessment Board will be able to advise in that respect as well. That may well be one of the terms of reference.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs. I

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd). . .ask this question at the request of Chief Gordon Lathlin. I wonder if the government will indicate whether it intends to lease office space in the proposed shopping complex to be constructed at The Pas by . . .

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

MR. SCHKEYEK: I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the rules of the House do not permit for the mere conveying of questions on behalf of persons outside this Assembly.

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

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'll rephrase the question. I wonder if the Minister of Northern Affairs can indicate whether the government intends to lease office space at the proposed shopping complex to be constructed at The Pas by The Pas Indian reserve?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBYDE: Mr. Speaker, the matter is under consideration and a decision will be made by the Department of Public Works as to which office space is leased to meet requirements of the government in The Pas.

MR. SPIVAK: Well then, I wonder if the Minister then can confirm that a decision has not been arrived at at this point in time.

MR. McBYDE: I'm not aware, Mr. Speaker, that a decision has been arrived at, although I'm reasonably certain that a decision will be arrived at and that space will eventually be rented in that complex.

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

MR. I. H. (IZZY) ASPEK: (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the First Minister - it relates to the flood warnings - perhaps if not to the First Minister, to the Minister responsible for flood control. Is it a fact that the government flood control people knew and advised certain municipal officials in southern Manitoba some time in the last two weeks of March, that the present flood could be anticipated and steps should be taken and that those steps were not taken?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHKEYEK: Well, Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. There have been meetings, not only the passing on of information, but meetings themselves as between certain persons from the Manitoba Water Control Branch and Emergency Measures Organization with municipal officials in a number of municipalities in southern Manitoba. I believe there was reasonable satisfaction that all due reasonable steps were being taken. I guess it's possible to pinpoint variations in terms of steps of preparedness that were taken as between some municipalities and others, but no dramatic difference I don't believe. And I might add further that, contrary to some suggestion that was made yesterday in the media, the flood forecasting people were really amazingly accurate in the extent to which they forecast the levels that could be anticipated this spring, and perhaps I could take this opportunity to give just an updated indication that as of this morning it is possible to indicate that there will be, if anything, a slight reduction in anticipated crest levels and with that, roughly a foot below 1966 levels in all stretches along the Red with the exception of the Turnbull Drive-St. Adolphe area, and therefore it is fully anticipated that the dike systems will provide the necessary protection.

MR. ASPEK: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Did the provincial officials, or this government, through any other means take any steps to directly inform the people who would be affected or see to it that the municipalities did that themselves in making people aware that what is happening now was about to happen?

MR. SCHKEYEK: Well, Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba flood-fighting plan is well understood. The imparting of information on the basis of the means available to the Water Control Branch and those who constitute the Flood Forecasting Committee, that information is then imparted to the municipal people in the various municipalities. This was done and there's no reason to have any less faith in local government today than there was a month ago.

MR. ASPEK: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. I wonder if he would indicate to us why the Government of Manitoba spent several hundred thousand dollars communicating to the people the benefit of the tax rebate system but doesn't spend five cents indicating to the people. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. That question is argumentative. It's out of order because. . . .

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. ASPEK: Well, Mr. Speaker, my question. . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ASPEK: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Honourable the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs. I wonder if the Minister would use the influences of his office to lift the suspension that was placed today on all Manitoba hogs marketed via an agency of this government in order to move, I suppose, the price of pork higher for the consumers of this province. As of today, no Manitoba farmer can market a hog for an indefinite period. Can the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs look into this matter and assure consumers in the province of Manitoba that pork will continue to come onto the supply tables?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, the problem raised by the Member for Lakeside with regard to pork prices is one that is of course of great concern to my department, and retail prices of pork, along with retail prices of all goods and commodities and services, are discussed between me and the Minister responsible for the administrative agency, in this case the Hog Marketing Board.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, my question to the same Minister - supplementary question. Would he condone a similar action by any private company if it wilfully withdrew its entire product off the market for an indefinite period in the hope that in such action. . . ?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Order please. That question, too, is argumentative. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. K. (Bud) SHELMAN (Fort Garry): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable the Minister of Labour and in his absence to the Honourable the First Minister. Can the First Minister advise the House whether it's correct that welfare recipients are being paid for the flood fighting work they're doing in the Greater Winnipeg area?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHMEYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, this has not been brought to my attention as being a problem at the present time. The Minister of Health and Social Development--I will take the question as notice and have it referred to the Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I've a question to the Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. I wonder can the Honourable Minister advise the House what stage the lodge is at being built at Childs Lake. What stage is it at today?

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

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, obviously I don't know. I'll check and find out and let the honourable member know. I hope it's not under water.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable the First Minister. Has the First Minister received a letter dated March 21st, 1974 from the United Paper Workers International Union Local 1403, The Pas, in which they state their grave concerns over the recent increases in the hydro rates for Northern Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHMEYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have no personal recollection of having received that letter. I will check. It may have been referred for a reply to someone on staff, for the drafting of a reply. I'll have to check that, but let me take this opportunity then to indicate that the rate adjustments referred to in the question are such as to be certainly not out of proportion with rate adjustments that were made elsewhere in the province, and in fact, as I've indicated before, hydro electric rates in our province compare very favourably with any other single jurisdiction in Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ASPEK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. Is he personally satisfied that the danger of flood was communicated directly to the victims of the flood as opposed to being directed to the municipalities representing them?

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, now, as in times past, the forecasting of flood probabilities is carried out in a certain way. The information is imparted to persons at the local municipal, local government level. In addition to that, reports are tabled in this House from time to time. In addition to that, via the news media, this information is made available, and insofar as dissemination is concerned, that is about as satisfactory a procedure as it's possible to arrive at. I might add further that there is something of a conundrum in the question since the question asks whether this information was provided to flood victims. Well, at least some of those who are incurring direct flood damage. There was no way of identifying in advance each individual that would be so affected, therefore how was one to arrive at some kind of a mailing list such as my honourable friend implies in his question?

MR. ASPER: To the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. If the information was disseminated to the municipalities, as he suggests, would he indicate why no diking was commenced until Friday evening in Carman, which is one of the hardest hit areas?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, it was in certainly one, and I believe more than one of the flood forecasts that were made available in this Assembly and to localities as well, that there was anticipated to be a very heavy runoff on the prairies and in western Manitoba, and that all those watersheds that were in the south central, southwestern parts of the province would be incurring heavier than normal runoff, and there was no secret of that fact. Insofar as the upper Red was concerned, it was deemed to be not nearly as likely to cause problems and that's why Red River levels not exceeding 1966 were forecast. And that's about the actuality that we'll be facing on Thursday or Friday—I think Thursday. It's been revised one day. That's about what we'll be facing, Sir.

MR. ASPER: To the same Minister a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Was one of the reasons that the municipalities did not commence sandbagging earlier attributed to the fact that the province of Manitoba was charging them 23 cents a sandbag?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, there's been no change in that respect. The Manitoba Flood Fighting Plan has been based on those premises. The province is not making money on sandbags. Municipalities were advised to procure sandbags or, if they wished, to obtain them directly from the province at cost. And that's the arrangement that was followed.

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

MR. J. PAUL MARION (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the First Minister in view of the absence of the Minister for Health and Social Development. Can the government confirm that in view of the impending strike at the Health Sciences Centre, plans are now being formulated to reduce the hospital beds from 1,100 to 300?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would merely question the description of an impending strike, and having registered that caveat, I'll take the balance of the question as notice.

MR. MARION: Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the First Minister could take under advisement my next question, which reads: What contingency plans are being developed to accommodate the 800 patients who will be removed from the Health Sciences Centre? Where will they be accommodated? And finally, Mr. Speaker, a third question to the same Minister. Can the First Minister confirm that some beds at the Health Sciences Centre presently are not being in use because of the nurse shortage which is now being felt and which apparently will become a great deal more acute some time this summer?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that we have received any representations alleging in any concrete way that there is a shortage of nurses, but insofar as the other part of the question is concerned I would indicate that contingency plans with respect to hospital accommodation are something that is dealt with in the normal course. There always ought to be contingency plans. But let it not be thought that the contingency plans that exist and which are revised from time to time, relate to some assumed strike, because we are not assuming that there will be a strike until the strike occurs. And to indicate that there is some specific course of action under way in advance of some probability of strike action, is merely to compound the probability of such and it is not in the public interest to feed that kind of anticipation unless, of course, one does not have the public interest in mind.

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HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): They tried it with the police.

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

MR. MARION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A final supplementary to the Minister of Labour. In view of the First Minister's statement that there is no impending strike, can the Minister of Labour advise us at what point the conciliation is between the group and the hospital administration?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether this is a supplementary question or not posed by the Honourable the Member for St. Boniface. I think this is a repetition of the question that was asked at the time that there was a possibility of a police strike in the Unicity. It didn't materialize. The Department of Labour is doing everything within its power and within its authority to have parties meet to resolve their differences. The parties are meeting, and I hope that the Honourable Member for St. Boniface and other members opposite are not disappointed, as they were in the police strike, that there was not such a strike.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the First Minister pursuant to the questions that were asked by the Leader of the Liberal Party. I wonder if he could advise the House whether or not the Provincial Government or any of its agencies has the right or the authority to build flood-protecting structures, such as dikes, without the consent and advice of the local authorities?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is a question which I would not consider prudent to answer in terms of giving a legal opinion, but certainly it would seem, Mr. Speaker, that it would be extremely inadvisable, whatever the legalities may be, it would be extremely inadvisable for senior government to move into a community to construct certain works relating to the protection of that community without the prior advice knowledge and consent of the local government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that the licences to the technicians who supply the artificial insemination service to the province have expired on March 31st, I wonder if he could advise the House when their licences will be renewed?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any licences that have not been renewed or wherein anyone has refused to renew a licence. If the member has some information for me, I'd be glad to receive it.

MR. BLAKE: I understand, Mr. Speaker, the technicians in my area have not received the renewal of their licence. They've been told that they're on the Minister's desk. They're wondering if they will be renewed or if they're being held up.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I have not received any recommendation from any source, or any application for renewal of any licence--(Interjection)--I presume that if they're on

. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. USKIW: . . . they'll be on my desk in due course.

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

MR. A. R. ADAM (Ste. Rose): Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. In his statement yesterday he mentioned compensation for farm buildings, barns and granaries, and I'm wondering if this also, the compensation would also cover livestock and grain and damage to farm machinery. It has been quite extensive in my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is a matter which would be referred to the Flood Damage Assessment Board as well. We have no prior or previous guidelines with respect to possible compensation for damage or loss to livestock and grain, but only with respect to structural damage.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker I'd like to direct my question to the Attorney-General. Has the Attorney-General received a report from the RCMP in regards to the use of drugs and liquor in the detention centre there?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General, Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Selkirk): No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MOUG: Will his department be enquiring about the instance?

MR. PAWLEY: Well, I wonder if the honourable member could specify, or be specific as to the instance, either here or give me particulars later. I'm not quite certain, if he's referring to Corrections, that possibly the question should be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Development if it pertains to drugs within the Corrections Institute.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for LaVerendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Honourable, the Minister of Finance. Could the Minister confirm that people from the Revenue Tax Branch are driving around throughout rural Manitoba trying to pick up the remittances from the different vendors with regards to the five percent Provincial Sales Tax?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK Q. C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm any such statement, but I trust my department officials are doing their jobs as well as they can and that everyone else is trying to carry on as best they can under the adverse circumstances that exist today.

MR. BANMAN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister then confirm that vendors who have mailed their remittances and which are caught in the mail right now, are being asked to stop payment on the cheques in the mail and asked to remit a new cheque?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I have never heard that suggestion but it's not a bad one. I'll certainly refer it to our department for consideration. In that, I assume that the honourable member would support any opportunity the government has to receive payment and reinvest the moneys for the benefit of the people of Manitoba as quickly as possible.

MR. BANMAN: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does this action indicate that the government is hard-pressed for cash?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Member for La Verendrye, who is obviously really concerned, that we are constantly lending money at short term because we are able to take care of our financial needs in such a way that we are never strapped for cash but are able to manage the affairs of the province in the best manner possible. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Honourable Minister of Labour. I wonder if the Minister can indicate what specific steps the government or the Minister has taken to deal with the labour shortage that currently exists at the Port of Churchill and which the Port manager has termed as the worst crisis that he has ever experienced to get any labour.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, apparently I'm not privy to the same information that the Honourable Member for Assiniboia is. However, I do want to indicate to him and the House that I had a three-hour meeting yesterday morning with those engaged in construction in the Province of Manitoba. I intend to have meetings with the Canada Manpower and to have a proper and thorough and not speculative assessment of the situation prevailing in Manitoba in respect of presumed or speculated labour shortages.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Has the Minister any correspondence or communication with the secretary-treasurer of the Hudson Bay Route Association, who has indicated and promised the Port of Churchill people to recruit farmers in the Province of Saskatchewan to run the elevators in the Port of Churchill?

MR. PAULLEY: The answer is no, I have not received such a communication, but if there are available farmers in Saskatchewan, being Canadians, that can become engaged in

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd): . . . construction in the Port of Churchill, I would prefer those farmers to outsiders.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable, the Minister of Agriculture. Can he tell the House how long, or for how long a period the suspension now placed on the marketing of hogs in Manitoba will be in effect?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, what suspension is the honourable member talking about?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, it's against the rules to inform the Honourable Minister of something that he obviously is fully and totally aware of but for some reason or other he doesn't want to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. ENNS: . . . indicate in this House. Well, my question is: for how a period of time will the Minister of Agriculture permit a situation to exist in the Province of Manitoba where a farmer cannot market a single hog anywhere in the province? That exists today and will exist--(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. ENNS: . . . for we don't know how long. My question is, how long will he permit that situation to continue while 400 and 500 men stand idle in packing plants waiting to proceed with slaughter?

MR. USKIW: Well, I assume, Mr. Speaker, from the remarks of the Member for Lakeside, that there has been some interruption of sales of hogs in the marketplace today, and if that is so I suppose it will continue as long as there is no agreement between the seller and the buyer. That is a private matter between those two groups and not a matter of government intervention at this point in time. And furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I should also indicate to my honourable friend that we should resist intervention, at least as long as honourable members opposite accuse us of intervention.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question. Particularly in view of areas under current emergency situations where a farmer with his livestock or indeed his hogbarn, may find himself in difficulty, what is he supposed to do with his hogs as the water rises?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, following up in the same line of questioning like my honourable colleague from Lakeside is it not a fact that the province has full control over the marketing of hogs in Manitoba, and what is he going to do about the present situation?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the Member for Arthur that he too should know, because he was in charge of the administration of the Department of Agriculture, that marketing boards elected by producers fairly--they run their shops fairly well without government intervention. --(Interjection)--And government intervention is usually because of some violation of law. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please.

MR. USKIW: . . . on the request of the marketing board in question. --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Is it not a fact that we have a compulsory marketing board or commission in the Province of Manitoba controlled by the government now, and the government are responsible for the marketing of hogs in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: No, Mr. Speaker, that is not correct.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable the Minister of Northern Affairs. I wonder could the Honourable Minister advise the House if any office space studies have been conducted at The Pas with respect to the opening of a new Land Titles Office in northern Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. McKENZIE: . . . question to the Honourable Minister. I wonder, can the Honourable Minister advise the House if any office space studies have been conducted in Thompson with

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(MR. McKENZIE cont'd). . . respect to the establishment of a new Land Titles Office in northern Manitoba?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, the questions about Land Titles Office would be more appropriately directed to the Attorney-General.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, It's been determined for some little time now that there would be the construction of a Land Titles Office in northern Manitoba. The need is well proven in this respect and at present there is monitoring taking place as to the volume of work and practicality of such a Land Titles Office being located either in Thompson or in The Pas, and it will depend upon the volume of work and areas of convenience, keeping in mind the proximity of Flin Flon, etc., so that I expect prior to the end of this year that there will be a specific indication as to the location of a Land Titles Office in northern Manitoba.

MR. McKENZIE: A final question and I'll direct it to the Honourable, the Attorney-General. Could the Honourable Attorney-General advise the House if the people of northern Manitoba could expect it to be open, say early 1975--the new Land Titles Office?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: No, I don't think it would be wise for me to project to the people of northern Manitoba as to when such a Land Titles Office would be opened except to indicate that we're moving in that direction. I would not want to estimate the time period within which it would be opened.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the Minister of Health and Social Development, I would like to direct my question to the First Minister. When the Minister appoints a new Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development will he take into consideration that it's very important to appoint somebody who is well respected by the various providers of health care?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, when a Deputy Minister is appointed he will be appointed in accordance with long-standing tradition as to how, where, when, why and by whom such is appointed.

MR. BROWN: My question is to the same Minister. Is he aware that a strike by employees at the Health Sciences Centre would seriously affect all hospitals in Winnipeg because the central laundry is located there?

MR. SCHREYER: That is, Mr. Speaker, without again attempting to speculate as to the probability or otherwise of strike action, I would simply acknowledge the fact that the laundry facilities are located at the location my honourable friend mentioned.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Has he met with representatives of the Milk Producers Association in Manitoba in view of their threat to withhold milk supplies in the province, and can he tell us what steps he is planning to meet their demand?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I have had ongoing negotiations with the members of the various milk producers associations in Manitoba over the last three or four months. I have not had any contact from a group that is allegedly going to request a meeting with me. I have not had any formal contact with that particular group.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary. Could the Minister tell us what stock of milk supplies would be available in the province in the case of a withholding of milk supplies. How long in fact could we exist without it?

MR. USKIW: I would presume, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, is it? would appreciate that cows cannot withhold the supplies. They have to milk during their proper season.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. Has the Minister of Industry and Commerce had any communications recently with the federal Minister of Transport relative to the maintenance and overhaul work on the Boeing 727 being done in Winnipeg on the new ones that are ordered by Air Canada and that are owned by the Department of Defense?

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

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Well, Mr. Speaker, this has been a continuing concern of myself and the government, and the Premier in particular. I suppose the most recent exchange of information was via a meeting between Mr. Marchand, the Premier and myself in Ottawa just a matter of days ago - well I guess it was last week - at which time we discussed this matter at some length, not only with Mr. Marchand, but with some other federal Cabinet Ministers who have an interest in this matter as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. Is the Minister aware that Lodge 1751 at Dorval Air Base are opposed to any moves that would force the 727 be overhauled in Winnipeg, are at the present time lobbying. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface. Order please. The question is out of order, therefore there is no answer. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. PATRICK: I have one question more, Mr. Speaker. --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Since the honourable gentleman insists, let me inform him: how can you have a supplementary to something which is out of order? The Honourable Member for St. Boniface has no question? The Honourable Member for Assiniboia. The Honourable Member for Wolseley, Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The question out of which the supplementary arose was quite in order and you allowed that.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make my point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party state his point of order.

MR. ASPER: My point of order is that the question that the Honourable Member from Assiniboia was asking as a supplementary was a supplementary to a question that was in order. It was the first supplementary that you ruled out of order. Therefore, the second supplementary. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I am not going to debate the issue with the honourable member. If the Member for St. Boniface or Assiniboia or any other member has a question, they're entitled to ask it. But if a question is out of order you can't have a supplementary to that. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Question, my--(Laughter)--Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder if the Minister of Industry and Commerce would give consideration to calling a Manitoba Air Policy Committee meeting which would consist of the Mayor, of the City of Winnipeg Council and the Manitoba Federation of Labour, to bring to bear on the Federal Government that this move must take place?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe that action is required on the part of the people of Manitoba, and the Government of Manitoba at the present time is undertaking steps to bring forth our message to Ottawa loud and clear. In other words, this particular matter is under active consideration and planning at this time.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, last week the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party asked me a number of questions, a series of questions pertaining to the garment industry, with particular reference to the closing of a factory in Steinbach, Gemini Outerwear, which is owned, I believe, by a Mr. Ralph King. The same day Mr. Ralph King made reference to it in a newspaper article stating that I was responsible for the shut-down, Mr. Asper followed with a number of questions and mentioned a minimum wage of \$3-- , or a bottom wage of \$3.50, and I have since received a report on the situation there and I'd like to inform the members of the House that the company has had very great difficulties in retaining staff for two main reasons: 1, and I will be as brief as possible, 1. the way they treat their employees; and number 2, because of the particular pay system which was introduced by Mr. King and which lowered the morale and production levels of the employees. Mr. King, the owner or one of the owners, has approached Canada Manpower, I am informed, on a consistent basis over the years for training money. . .

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MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. The Honourable Member for Swan River state his matter of privilege.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): I believe the honourable gentleman had the opportunity of making this statement under the Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports rather than during question period.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. The Honourable Minister indicated it was a reply to a question. The Honourable Minister.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, very much to the point there were several questions asked of me on April 16th. To answer the question therefore right to the point, all of the people, the bulk of the people who start are untrained people who receive the minimum wage and after a training period, for which training moneys are received, they are then put on a piecework basis. I am informed by the Canada Manpower office at Steinbach that the bulk of the employees are paid the minimum wage or about the minimum wage of \$1.90. There is an exceptional few that receive a maximum of \$2.90 an hour, and this includes piecework bonuses.

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

MR. MARION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the First Minister in his capacity as Minister for Urban Affairs. What action is being planned by the government presently to assist the City of Winnipeg in obtaining the maximum amount of federal dollars available for the rail relocation program that is being contemplated for Winnipeg, due to the new legislation now being presented in the Federal House?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, as the Honourable Member for St. Boniface knows, we do have, quite regularly, meetings with the City of Winnipeg, representatives of the City of Winnipeg Council and Administration, and the matter of rail relocation has been discussed on a number of occasions. The particular reference in my honourable friend's question today, however, is with respect to some proposed new program and legislation which has not received approval in principle as yet, and as such it would be at least a little premature.

MR. MARION: To the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. Has the Provincial Government now decided the amounts of money or set aside amounts of money to assist in the rail relocation program and what are the magnitude of these amounts?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, we have certain grants which are payable to the City of Winnipeg. Many of those grants have been revised in accordance with that which was expressed in the Budget statement of this year. Other grants are in process of discussion for future years. And with respect to the general subject of funds for transportation improvements, which rail relocation comes under in a fashion there are funds available in the form of the announced \$5 million urban transportation innovation fund, and so we do not feel that funding is the main constraint but rather a determination of policy intent on the part of the City in bringing forward its case and its desire to senior government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. It relates to his last answer with respect to the minimum wage. I wonder if he can indicate whether his Department, through the Department of Statistics, are in a position to indicate the number of people or approximately the number of people who are on minimum wage in the Province of Manitoba.

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

MR. EVANS: Because of a little noise I'm not sure whether I heard the entire question, but I believe it was: how many people are at or on the minimum wage in Manitoba. Well, I believe that is information that perhaps could be forthcoming from the Department of Labour.

MR. SPIVAK: Is the Minister of Labour in a position to answer the question? To give an approximate figure of how many people are on minimum wage?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I believe the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition has been in the House on a few occasions, Mr. Speaker, where I've made reference to a . . . study on the effects of minimum wage. That is being considered at the present time. I'm sure if my honourable friend would be patient that the information he seeks will be revealed to him. This is one of the areas of activity within the Department of Labour as against that within the Department of Industry and Commerce.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister of Labour can confirm that a substantial number of people who make up those who are at or on the minimum wage in the province, are either government employees or Manitoba public employees of Crown corporations or affiliates.

MR. PAULLEY: If I am correct, Mr. Speaker, and I put a caveat on an actual answer to my honourable friend, it is my understanding that as a result of the negotiations that took place between the Manitoba Government Employees Association and the Government of Manitoba, there are relatively few, if any, employees within the Civil Service that are only receiving the present minimum wage of \$1.90 an hour, and I want to assure, Mr. Speaker, you and the members of this Assembly, not if, but when the minimum wages in the Province of Manitoba are increased, they will be forthcoming to all employees within the Civil Service if applicable.

MR. SPIVAK: Well by way of another question then, Mr. Speaker. I wonder, then, if the Minister can confirm that a substantial number of people who are Manitoba public employees, not civil servants but employees such as those in the hospitals and other Crown corporations, are in fact at or around the minimum wage in Manitoba?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to my honourable friend that there are no substantial number of employees in the public service, and I take it from the question raised or asked by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition he is referring to municipalities hospital boards, and the likes of that - which of course, Mr. Speaker, is not within the control of the Department of Labour. We're concerned that no one in Manitoba receives less than that that is authorized by the regulations pertaining to the minimum wage. It could well be, Mr. Speaker, that there are certain public corporations that only pay the minimum wage, but as far as we are concerned in the Department of Labour, we are very vigilant to see that no one except for exceptional permits such as the handicapped, receives less than the minimum wage in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry and Commerce and it relates to statements that he's made in the House with respect to supporting immigration requests by the garment industry whose average wage, I believe, is \$2.50. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. SPIVAK: Well I intend to do that, Mr. Speaker. Whose average wage is \$2.50. I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether his department has objected or raised objection to the Federal Government for immigration to be allowed for employees to enter into the Manitoba public service who in fact will be earning less. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. The question is argumentative in that context. There was too much information in it to begin with. Let me cite the \$2.50 which is debatable. There's a number of things that are debatable in that question. The honourable member wish to rephrase it?

MR. SPIVAK: The Minister has indicated that the government has--the Minister has indicated in answer. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. SPIVAK: . . .to us before that the government has objected to immigration to this province of people who would earn \$2.50 and less. I wonder whether the Minister, the government has raised objection with Ottawa for immigration for those. . .

MR. SPEAKER: The question is still the same. Order please.

MR. SPIVAK: . . .who may be asked to enter the public service in Manitoba. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. It's still the same question and it's still argumentative in that context. Now if the honourable member wishes to rephrase it and put it succinctly without creating an argument, he's entitled to do that. The Honourable. . .

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm trying to put it as succinctly as I can. I ask the Minister whether the government has raised objection with the Federal Government for immigration being allowed into Manitoba from outside of Canada for employees who enter the public service who will be earning \$2.50 or less, other than garment workers?

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, the province of Manitoba has little or no difficulty in recruiting people to work in the public service of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

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MR. BILTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the First Minister. In view of the impassioned promise of resignation by the Minister of Labour yesterday, can the First Minister advise as to whether or not he has a dramatic announcement to make in this direction?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as most reasonable people would agree that there is value in having on an executive board persons who have - at least some persons who have - the wisdom of years, greater numbers of years than average, and since the Member for Swan River has not offered to join our party and our Cabinet, then I am more than pleased with the services of the Minister of Labour, who brings the wisdom of a few more years of life to deliberations in the Executive Council.

MR. BILTON: I appreciate the opinion of the First Minister. If it'll help at all, I'll move over.

MR. SPEAKER: Question please. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question of the Honourable the Minister of Labour related to a question I asked earlier. When the Minister wasn't in his seat at that moment, I didn't have the opportunity. Can the Minister advise the House whether any economic responsibilities for welfare recipients engaged in flood fighting rests with the Department of Labour? Whether any economic responsibility rests with his department?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I suppose that it's incumbent on me to indicate why I was not present just at the start of the meeting this afternoon due to the innuendos that I'm receiving from the Member for Swan River and the Member for Fort Garry. I was trying to . . .--(Interjections)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . I was trying to resolve a strike. I was trying to resolve a strike that has been ongoing in Manitoba for some time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Order please. I wonder if all members would try to contain themselves. Those who must make outbursts, would they kindly tape it and send it some place else instead of to this Chamber. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Labour has been in this House and in politics long enough to know that he has no right to impute motives to others in this Chamber. There was no such motive in my question. As a matter of fact, I was acknowledging the fact that he wasn't here at that moment and I regretted that I didn't have the opportunity just at that moment. There was no suggestion, no innuendo, no motive, and it's scandalous of him to suggest that there was. Now--(Interjection)--

A MEMBER: Just plain ignorance, that's all.

MR. SHERMAN: May I ask him from the fount of his 21 years of wisdom, which is highly questionable in its demonstration in this House time and time again, whether his department has any economic responsibility, covers anything having to do with remuneration, pay or otherwise, for welfare recipients who are receiving welfare payments and who are working in flood-fighting activities?

A MEMBER: That kind of wisdom this House and this Province can do without.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Again I repeat, the honourable members that must make outbursts, will they tape it and ship it out someplace else? The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I want to concur with my honourable friend the Member for Fort Garry that he has no motives in this House other than his own ideosyncrasies. Apart from that, in direct answer to my honourable friend, there was some criticisms this morning on some stupid by-line program, which is conducted, I believe, by a friend of my honourable friend from Fort Garry, who loves to harass this government, insofar as the input of activities and work by people who are on welfare, and that there was a question directed to that very enlightening program by a councillor of the City of Winnipeg - who should have her head examined - as to whether or not recipients of welfare may receive some pittance in addition to their welfare cheques because they are involved in attempting to save some of our communities from flooding. The question was: will they receive any additional remuneration for that? I know my honourable friend the Member for Fort Garry hasn't got the time to check into the rules

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd). . .and regulations pertaining to the recipients of welfare, but there are provisions whereby recipients of welfare can use their energies and receive certain amounts of remuneration in addition to their welfare cheques, providing they are doing a service.

Now the answer to my honourable friend is, despite the idiot that is the head of this idiotic program which we listen to in the mornings, by one of our radio stations, the answer is that despite his criticisms apparently there are recipients of welfare who want to help save some of our communities from being inundated as the result of the flood, and as far as the Department of Labour is concerned, we welcome and we congratulate those who are on welfare because of their input, despite that character that is the organizer of that particular program over one of the radio stations in Manitoba.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, with considerable trepidation I thank the Minister for the rather ungenerous delivery of his information. I wish to assure him I was not referring to the radio program. I didn't hear it.

MR. SPEAKER: Question please. Question please.

MR. SHERMAN: May I ask the Minister of Labour whether the same rules of remuneration for participation under stress in emergency apply, in the view of this government, across the spectrum of our society, apply to those who give up working to go out and fight the floods, as well as those who are receiving welfare.

MR. PAULLEY: The only answer I can give in that regard, Mr. Speaker, I do believe that there are real good employers in the province of Manitoba that would suggest--Oh you wouldn't know who they were--that they would suggest to their employees that "if you will go out to Morris and raise the dikes at Morris, we are prepared not to deduct your wages." To that degree, I think there is involvement by the community in the crisis that we have, particularly in certain areas in the province of Manitoba, and I commend, I commend, Mr. Speaker, I commend the employers who are giving their employees decent wages for doing this. I condemn the approach of some councillors and some radio stations in the province of Manitoba.

MR. SHERMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister consider providing remuneration to the hundreds, if not thousands, of school students and high school students, and university students, who have gone out and volunteered to fight the floods?

MR. PAULLEY: I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the students at high school, our students at the University, who are going out and voluntarily using their efforts to assist in the present position, do not and are not - they are not mercenary - that they require or want to receive a monetary benefit. They are doing it, unlike some others, in their endeavours to assist humanity and the communities in the province of Manitoba and, Mr. Speaker, I think that you and the leaders of the three parties in this House should jointly issue a letter of commendation to the students and others for their efforts in order to ease the burden of the disaster that we're suffering at the present time.

MR. SHERMAN: One final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister suggesting that welfare recipients would not take a pride in working and fighting the floods voluntarily? Is he suggesting that welfare recipients are only doing what they're doing because they are mercenary?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, how typical of my honourable friend from Fort Garry to phrase a supplementary question as he has just done. I admire all of those who are on welfare, who are making a contribution, and I don't suggest, as apparently the Honourable Member for Fort Garry suggests, that they have mercenary objectives. I have greater trust, I have greater trust in the citizens of Manitoba than any cotton-pickin member of the Conservative Party represented in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please.

MR. PAULLEY: And Mr. Speaker, if I may, while I'm on my feet. And the very question that the Member for Fort Garry has raised reminds me of the importance--May I have the opportunity of the House to make reference to a very important day in the destiny of democratic government in the world. And that is, Mr. Speaker, today, April 23rd, is the day when we observe St. George's Day. I proudly wear today the rose of England. That great nation from whence my ancestors came, that great nation, when the world was at its lowest ebb, provided such leadership as Sir Winston Churchill, when we were able to listen to the songs of Gracie Fields, when we go back to the days when England stood alone, and I

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd). . .notice, Mr. Speaker, from the rabble opposite, that there isn't recognition there because they have lost sight of the basic principles of British democracy that were instigated in England, and I do suggest--(Interjections)--Ah shut up and sit down, you nincompoop. I do suggest, Mr. Speaker, --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Morris state his point of order.

MR. JORGENSON: Surely, Sir, if we're to be limited in the manner in which we ask questions, surely that rule applies as well to the manner in which the questions are answered. The Minister is not answering a question at all. He's engaging in another one of his tirades prompted by God knows what.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. ORDER PLEASE. Now that the House is settled down maybe I can even think a little. But let me assure the honourable members that the Honourable Minister asked for permission and no one objected. That's why he was carrying on after he had answered a question. And the Honourable Minister was discussing St. George's Day. Now those people who weren't listening it's their own fault. Now let me assure you that this Chair tries to do its best to maintain order and decorum, but it's not getting the co-operation of very many members and that is the unfortunate problem, that no one is paying attention and no one is listening. Now, the Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. WATT: Did you tell the House. . .Sir Winston Churchill a capital. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Does the Honourable Minister of Labour wish to finish his statement in respect to St. George's Day? The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, --(Interjection)--I did ask and it was granted.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Minister did ask and there was no objection. That's why he carried on.

MR. JORGENSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, there was no objection because the Minister of Agriculture was over here asking me for permission to go out and view the floods with the Premier this afternoon and I never heard the Minister ask for leave. But I tell you right now he doesn't have it as far as I'm concerned. We've heard enough of him.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I regret that the honourable member wasn't paying attention but that is one of the unfortunate things. One cannot do three or four things at one time. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that if the Honourable Member for Morris

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . is not prepared to recognize the contribution that England has made to democracy, that is his opinion. I note now that he has left the House.

We in this House from time to time recognize the contribution that has been made by nations, small and large. We recognized on St. David's Day a contribution of the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce wherein he referred to St. David's contribution, that great nation called Wales. A former Lieutenant-Governor, the late Errick Willis, on St. Patrick's Day presented each and every one of us with a pot of shamrocks in recognition of the contribution to democracy of Ireland. We recognize St. Andrew's Day. We recognize Robbie Burns Day, and my purpose in standing today is to recognize the contribution of England to the well-being and destiny of the democratic governments that are prevailing--(Interjection)--Yes, my honourable friend from Swan River, who I believe comes from Yorkshire, would join with me in recognizing the contribution of the English people to the democratic process, in recognition of the Mother of Parliaments, Great Britain and England. And I only trust and hope that my honourable friend from Swan River who from time to time is wont to criticize me, will criticize his fellow member for Morris, who would deny me, as an ancestrally descendant from that great nation of England, an opportunity to be heard in this Chamber. And if, Mr. Speaker, members would just take a look around as they notice the Ensign of the Province of Manitoba, they would find there the cross of St. George. If they'd look at the Union Jack they'd find there the cross of St. George. And I could not, Mr. Speaker, as a descendant of a family that for generations were part of England, I could not help but today, April 23rd, to stand and pay tribute to the great contribution that the people of England have made. How well we recall in the darkest days of the Second World War that that little tight isle stood alone facing the horrors of oppression in the other parts of Europe.

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(MR. PAULLEY Cont'd) I am proud, Mr. Speaker, as a son of England, to be able to stand up here today and say, there'll always be an England, and thank God for their contribution, which makes it possible for us to meet and gather in this Assembly today.

MEMBERS: Hear, hear! (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

A MEMBER: What is the question?

MR. BILTON: . . . there's nothing left for me to say.

A MEMBER: Don't say it then.

MR. BILTON: Here they go with "don't say it". The Minister of Labour and I have locked horns for many years in this august Assembly, and I have nothing more to say, Mr. Speaker, but that I endorse every word he has said wholeheartedly. Thank you very much. (Applause)

ORDERS OF THE DAY - BILL No. 8 - CAPITAL SUPPLY

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

HON. SIDNEY GREEN Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources & Environmental Management) (Inkster): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if we would now proceed to the Adjourned Debates on Second Reading, starting with Bill No. 8, standing in the name of the Honourable the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Bill No. 8. The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, I adjourned this debate on behalf of my leader.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Minister of Labour will stay for the presentation that I am about to make, because much of what I have to say is germane to the whole question of the English parliamentary tradition which he spoke so highly of, because in dealing with the Capital Estimates today in the bill, it's my intention to deal with what I believe is another direct circumvention of the Legislature, another attempt by the government to, in fact, bypass the tradition or to permit itself to alter the tradition of the parliamentary system that developed in England. Mr. Speaker, I deal with this by way of the item on Capital Supply, the bill on Capital Supply, for the simple reason, Mr. Speaker, that my review of the way in which the Legislature operates and my discussions with the Provincial Auditor have brought to my attention or have confirmed my belief that those items that are approved for Capital Supply by this Legislature are really left subject to final determination by the Cabinet as to what Capital Supply really will be.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that when we deal with the Estimates in the Legislature, the Provincial Auditor who acts as the check and balance for this Legislature with respect to government spending, knows that there has been lawfully in this Legislature a permission given for an appropriation and that it is legal for expenditures to be undertaken by the government, and he acts accordingly when he audits to confirm that there is both legal authority for what is being done and that it conforms to the specifics of what has been approved in the Estimates. When we deal with Capital Supply, however, Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Auditor is not in that position, because it is up to the government to determine what is capital and, by its determination of what is capital and its allocation to capital, the Provincial Auditor only at that point basically confirms what the government has done and is not in the position to indicate specifically that what the government is doing is realistically capital or otherwise.

Now, Mr. Speaker, capital has always been assumed to be something that is undertaken which has some durable or lasting effect. Mr. Speaker, capital is something that has been assumed to be, that, and the allocation is assumed to be that, but in reality it is not. And why I want to deal at this time with the particular matter, deals with the announcement by the Premier on Friday that there was going to be provided to the people of Manitoba additional provincial assistance on property tax relief by increasing the education credit plan, and that the moneys for this were going to be found by the government from the Special Municipal Loan and Emergency Fund.

Now Mr. Speaker, the announcement by the Premier - and I have the press statement

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(MR. SPIVAK Cont'd) for the Minister of Finance, and he says that he did not say that - I'd like to, if I can, then, Mr. Speaker, read from the article in the newspaper in which it's . . . and I quote: "The Premier told the Provincial Legislature that the government is taking \$8 million out of its Special Loans and General Emergency Fund to increase both the minimum and maximum payments under the property tax credit plan." Now, Mr. Speaker, if the Premier did not make this statement, the ladies and gentlemen of the press are going to be in a position to know whether this is not so or is so. But my understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that he did make this statement and he indicated that. "The Premier told the Provincial Legislature that the government is taking \$8 million out of its Special Loans and General Emergency Fund to increase both the minimum and maximum payments under the property tax credit plan." And that would mean that the minimum credit would be \$150.00 rather than \$100.00.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when one examines the Act of the Municipal Loan and Emergency Fund, on Section 5 (1) we find the following paragraph: "Where, under any Act of the Legislature, moneys are authorized to be borrowed on the credit of the government for any purpose, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may authorize the moneys to be transferred to the fund for expenditure under authority of this Act, for the purposes for which the moneys were raised." Mr. Speaker, what the government is proposing is to by-pass the Legislature in a debate on what really is a supplementary estimate to an increase of expenditure that the government is undertaking as the result of increasing the tax credit minimum from \$100.00 to \$150.00.

A MEMBER: Right.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I say this because I think there is enough evidence to indicate that the government, in its deliberations has decided that where possible they would want to minimize the debate or the request that should be made lawfully, by tradition, in this Legislature with respect to the expenditure of money. The Minister of Finance can reiterate and he can speak on this debate, he can state it from his seat, that this is not so, but the fact is, Mr. Speaker, that if there is to be an increase in the education tax rebate, the government does not have slush funds all over the place to be able to simply say, "We're now going to increase it" and open the valve a little bit higher. They had a legal, a moral and a tradition to follow, which is to come to the Legislature for an appropriation to in fact allow any increase to take place; and they have the right, Mr. Speaker, to be subject to a debate on that particular item.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the question of course will arise as to whether the Premier did or did not say this. I'm satisfied that he did say it. I'm satisfied that the government did not, and does not intend to come to Legislature by way of supplementary estimates. . .

MR. CHERNIACK: What's your reason, Sid?

MR. SPIVAK: I'm satisfied that the statement was made, and I'm satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that it is consistent with an overview that the government has of its position vis-a-vis this Legislature. Now, Mr. Speaker, it is our concern and has been right from the very beginning, that the government has not been prepared to allow the Legislature to deal in a traditional way with the check and balance that the Legislature must undertake with respect to government spending, and one of our reasons for general disgust with the government has to do with the special warrant issued some weeks ago. And if the Honourable Minister of Labour is upset by the way in which we receive his remarks of parliamentary democracy, we say that he and his colleagues said, "To hell with parliamentary democracy," when they issued a special warrant which went against the basic tradition of responsible government and of the Queen and the Government of the Queen accounting to the people for the expenditure of money. It has never happened before, Mr. Speaker. It is significant because it represents what I consider the arrogance of the government. And, Mr. Speaker, this particular matter also represents, I believe, the arrogance of the government. They have no authority whatsoever to in any way suggest that they can borrow money to increase the education tax rebate. I don't care whether they consider that there is a legal basis within this Act --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, we then have got to a point where the Minister says he never said it. The Premier said it.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, would the honourable member . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Is not the honourable Member confusing a source for money which is

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(MR. CHERNIACK Cont'd) in a reserve and available, with a borrowing which is not required? And is he not doing that in the face of the fact that I'm sure the Premier's statement which he showed us that he has in his hand, doesn't even indicate how the money will be raised? But assuming it comes from a "reserve", does he believe that that reserve has to be borrowed when indeed it can be found to be in reserve funds now in Public Accounts?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to deal with that, and I will if the Honourable Minister of Finance will allow me to continue with my own presentation; and I will, for the simple reason that if in fact the reserve is applied as the First Minister indicates, they're then going to have to borrow to be able to bring the reserve up so that the reserve can in fact achieve the purposes for which it was developed. Because, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to refer to the purposes of the Act and there is nothing in the purposes of the Act which would indicate the ability of the First Minister to do this. Rather, I'm going to suggest to you, Sir, that what the government was concerned about is that they did not want a debate to take place on the rise that is going to occur in the mill rates in this province as the result of the increased escalation that has taken place in costs of services and in labour costs with respect to the municipalities and to the City of Winnipeg and the other cities in this province; that they were not going to try -- they wanted to avoid what would be debated as to whether the \$8 million is even sufficient to meet the needs and the rising costs the municipalities and cities are bearing.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are many, many points to this debate. There is the question as to whether the time has come for people to say and suggest that if the government is going to act as "Big Daddy" to everyone, that at least the municipal people should know in advance, when they try to strike their bills and strike their mill rates, what the government's intentions were. Mr. Speaker, I don't know how a government who had a \$52 million surplus and knowing full well the additional costs that were going to be borne by the cities and by the municipalities, could have allowed the situation to have come to this point when now all they are suggesting is that they are going to introduce \$8 million or a \$50 increase in the tax credit program -- the minimum tax credit program -- as a means to offset the actual taxation the taxpayers are going to have to pay in this province for real estate taxation. Now Mr. Speaker, I must tell you that what they are proposing to do is essentially to circumvent the Legislature and a legitimate debate, that must take place, on the government's policy, on its revenue-sharing with the municipalities and the cities, and with the general problem of the cost of Unicity, which also is part of this debate. Because what we really are seeing now, Mr. Speaker, is that the words of those people who opposed the Unicity Bill are coming true. Unicity taxes are going to rise phenomenally this year, and there is no additional services . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: . . . point of order.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to being able to debate the rising mill rates in municipal taxes, but I'm wondering if you will permit me to do so under a Capital Supply bill? May I assume that if you permit the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to continue on this tack, that then there will be no holds barred on the kind of debate that will ensue on the municipal tax rates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, the City of Winnipeg bill is going to rise phenomenally. The amount that is being allocated and proposed by the Premier is a very minor amount so . . . the cost.

Mr. Speaker, there are really no new services, no new undertakings of any substantial nature being undertaken in the City of Winnipeg, let alone in the municipalities and other cities of this province. There are things that must be done. There is a blighted area around the central business district of Greater Winnipeg which requires tremendous funding and additional costs must be born there. Nothing is being undertaken. And we have a phenomenal rise now, what will the rise be later on? And what does the government intend to do in this matter? The government intends to deal with a section of the Special Municipal Loan and General Emergency Fund Act to try and avoid accounting to the people in this Legislature in the tradition that the Honourable Minister of Labour spoke so highly before. You know, it really -- they have the gall, the Minister of Labour has the gall to stand up and talk about British parliamentary tradition. The Minister of Finance knows better. He knew that if in fact

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(MR. SPIVAK Cont'd) . . .there was to be an additional amount given on the education tax rebate program, it was necessary to come through it by way of supplementary estimates. He knew that for sure. He's enough of a parliamentarian to know that; he has brought supplementary estimates before; he knows that that should have been done. But they were prepared then, in this particular case, as before, to circumvent the Legislature. They were prepared to try and avoid it. They were prepared, Mr. Speaker, to try and use their power in a manner that has not been used before. And, Mr. Speaker, that reflects, I believe, on the insecurity of their position with respect to this matter and with respect to the other matters of government, and to the general arrogance that they have shown and disregard for this Legislature for the traditions and for the people of this province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate what the purposes of the Special Municipal Loan and General Emergency Fund Act are. The purpose and intent of the Act is: (a) To provide for the expenditures of moneys from and out of Consolidated Fund for the welfare and employment of the people of the province for unforeseen emergencies and for uncontrollable expenditures. Mr. Speaker, the rise that's going to occur in municipal tax rates in this province was neither an unforeseen emergency or an uncontrollable expenditure, so that purpose has not been met. The second purpose of the Act was to provide insurance against future loss of revenue. It doesn't meet that purpose, Mr. Speaker. And the last purpose, Mr. Speaker, is to provide a fund from which loans may be made to municipalities. It doesn't even meet that specification. There is nothing in the Special Municipal Loan and General Emergency Fund Act in terms of its purpose that are even being met by the government yet the Premier has the gall, and I say the gall, the unmitigated gall, to suggest that he will use that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied from the discussions that I've had with the Provincial Auditor that the Capital Supply funding has now become, in the government's terms, an essential slush fund for them to use as they see fit. And I'm satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that there are changes, fundamental changes that must occur for us to be able to have a proper accounting of borrowing by the government. We have to approve \$700 million worth of borrowing. The borrowing that we have to approve is almost equal to the total administrative budget and revenues coming from taxation. Mr. Speaker, there is no way that this government can justify the request for money and at the same time expect us to basically approve the expenditure without an alteration and change of the system and without some information being supplied by the Provincial Auditor of the ways in which changes should take place with respect to the dealing of appropriations on Capital Supply in this Legislature. It will be my suggestion, Mr. Speaker, that at the next meeting of Public Accounts a question will be put to the Provincial Auditor to provide for that Committee and for the Legislature the changes that should take place in the way in which the appropriations on Capital Supply should be undertaken so that in effect there will be some check and balance on the government in the way in which it handles money. To give this government \$700 million and to suggest to them that they now can spend it as they see fit and simply take it out of this pocket or that pocket or dip into this pocket or that pocket for whatever purpose, is not the way in which parliamentary democracy in the British tradition that the Honourable Minister of Labour talks so highly of was supposed to exist.

Mr. Speaker, I want to put this particular aspect in the perspective of what has happened and what is being proposed by this government in this session. And in the main I'm going to deal with what at this point appears to be their main thrust as far as legislation is concerned.

The New Democratic Party in this legislation has proposed: First; to give the power to alter the composition of the Civil Service Commission to the Cabinet. Secondly; Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party Government proposes to give the power to rule on appeals on civil service appointments to a member of the Cabinet. Third; Mr. Speaker, the NDP Government proposes to give the power to reorganize, reassign and reclassify the civil servants to the Cabinet. Fourthly; Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party Government proposes to give the power to determine the rate of buying taxes in this province to the Cabinet. Fifthly; Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party Government proposes to give the power to . . .

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

MR. CHERNIACK: I'd like to know which bill the honourable member is speaking to.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm speaking to the Capital Supply Bill. I have indicated my intention is to put this into the perspective of what legislation has been proposed and to indicate that what the government is preparing to do is to basically provide almost full and

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(MR. SPIVAK Cont'd) complete power in the Cabinet without any ability for this Legislature to be able to provide its function in the British tradition that the Honourable Minister of Labour talked about.

The New Democratic Party Government proposes, fifthly, to give the power to increase or decrease the size of the City of Winnipeg Council to the Cabinet. Sixthly, the New Democratic Party Government proposes to give the power to change any and all community boundaries in Winnipeg to the Cabinet. Seventhly, the New Democratic Party Government proposes to give the power to establish or abolish community committees in Winnipeg to the Cabinet. And eighthly, the New Democratic Party Government proposes to by-pass the legislative process by borrowing \$8 million or taking \$8 million from the Special Emergency Loan and Fund Act to increase the tax credit program for homeowners by order of the Cabinet.

Now these are eight instances of its major legislation and major economic thrust, all of which, Mr. Speaker, is to take away from this Legislature and from the Opposition the opportunity for the kind of scrutiny that should be undertaken and for they as Cabinet to have more authority and, Mr. Speaker, we have to fight this with everything we have. We cannot allow this to continue. (Applause) For the first time in the history of Manitoba and so far as I know in the history of Canada the government used a Special Warrant to raise money by order of the Cabinet and I have to ask you, Mr. Speaker, is this really what free and responsible government is to mean? Is this really the tradition that we are supposed to honour on St. George's Day as the Honourable Minister of Labour suggested?

Mr. Speaker, it must weigh heavily on some of the members opposite who consider themselves parliamentarians and who consider that they want to follow the British parliamentary tradition to understand what is really taking place. I have indicated with respect to the Civil Service Act that it's my opinion that very few members on the opposite side even read the Act or the amendments to the Act before it was introduced. I don't even think the members of the Cabinet did, I don't think the First Minister did, I don't think many of the backbenchers did. I don't think they realize the power that was being given to the Cabinet or the really destruction and alteration that has taken place to the tradition that I referred to.

With respect to mining taxes we don't even know what they will be but we know that it's the government's proposal that it be given to Cabinet. That seems to be all right to the members opposite but it still must weigh heavily on those who believe that the Legislature and that parliament have a responsibility to deal with the public purse and the way in which government spends its money and there must be final approval given for expenditures by the Legislatures. It must weigh heavily on some who understand and who have read the proposals to The City of Winnipeg Act. And I doubt whether very many of the members opposite have even read that. But to give the power to the Cabinet for the alteration of boundaries, to give it the power of being able to in effect determine the size, to be able to in fact abolish or establish community committees, which really means that the Legislature might as well fold up with respect to this particular item, surely, Mr. Speaker, surely, Mr. Speaker, for those who believe in the parliamentary tradition there must be some concern of what is now another breach, another authority being given to the Cabinet. And for those who may not think that there is anything significant to the fact that the Premier says we are going to put another \$8 million into the pot and we are now going to try and assist and help those people who will be having increases in their municipal taxation by increasing the minimum base of the tax credit base program, and who think that that's an eminently satisfying and sensible proposition, for any of them who believe in the parliamentary tradition, who recognize that we're in the Legislature now when we're dealing - we're half way through dealing with the Estimates - who recognize that all the Minister has to do is bring in a supplementary estimate for that amount, that's all he has to do. And we debate it and it'll be passed, they have a majority. They should recognize that what really has happened is that there has been another example by those people who are responsible for governing this province and for heading this party to abuse, essentially abuse the power and the trust that's been given to them. Just as, Mr. Speaker, they abuse and they know they have abused the trust that was given to them in dealing with a Special Warrant in a fit of temper on their part with respect to the way in which the proceedings were taking place in the House. They didn't like what was taking place in the House. Well that's too damned bad. That fact is, Mr. Speaker, that it's not up to them to make that decision. The rules and the procedures that were set up here were set up following the tradition of the British parliamentary

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(MR. SPIVAK Cont'd) system to allow for the extensive debate and the Opposition have a right to be able to exercise that and the question at all points is a test of reasonableness of what has happened.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unreasonable for any suggestion to be made by the government that an amount of \$8 million should be taken out of any reserve or special fund, Mr. Speaker, without coming directly to the Legislature for a supplementary estimate so the matter could be debated. And I suggest to you that the motivation entirely was that they did not want the debate to occur, as it must and will in any case, on the rise that is going to take place in municipal taxes in this province, on the meager way in which the Provincial Government is assisting the municipalities and on the sham of the municipal and city revenue-sharing that's been proposed.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to read the Minister of Finance's statements when he's attended the Dominion-Provincial conferences and talked about the need for increased revenues to be forthcoming from the Federal Government. In that presentation he has always said - and I can quote with some authority although I do not have the specifics - that we know that the biggest burden that will have to be borne will have to be borne by municipalities. In asking the Federal Government for more money he has said our municipalities and cities will require more money; we require assistance and help; we need more revenues. They are the ones who have to ultimately bear a great additional burden and they do not have the tax base within which to do it. They then have a \$52 million surplus and they originally provided minimum revenue sharing; now they're providing an additional amount, not to the municipalities, but they're going to give it directly to the taxpayer to try and indicate that they have been doing something worthwhile and that they are not the culprits, and in order to do that they're not even going to follow the normal legislative process.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it is on their heads and it's on their shoulders, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the parliamentary tradition, you know, and the sham of the presentation, the emotion of the Minister of Labour, who may not even have understood what was really happening with respect to this is almost uncontrollable, it almost makes one want to vomit. Because, Mr. Speaker, I must tell you that the New Democratic Party are demonstrating in this session and there has been you know - a feeling on their part is that they cannot understand why the bitterness. They cannot understand the tone. They are upset because of the criticism. They are demonstrating, Mr. Speaker, their complete disregard for tradition, their complete disregard for the parliamentary process, their complete disregard for following the procedures and trying to handle their duties in a responsible manner. They clearly have demonstrated their insecurity; they have demonstrated their arrogance and they continually operate as an affront to the Legislature and to the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way that we on this side having listed all of the requirements in the various Acts that they are trying to undertake giving authority to the Cabinet can in any way sit by and allow this to happen. Because, Mr. Speaker, we might as well close up shop. We might as well go home. We might as well say to them that they are in fact in control. We might as well give them the authority that they're asking which is the authority of a authoritarian state that can in fact implement its will as they see fit, because they believe, Mr. Speaker, that they know better than the people.

The tradition that the Honourable Minister of Labour has talked about is a tradition that has stood us well, and that tradition has meant that the government has to account in everything that I've suggested, whether it be the Civil Service Commission, whether it be the City of Winnipeg, whether it be the mining tax that will be forthcoming, whether it be this particular amount to be taken out of the special municipal and general emergency fund, whether it be the Special Warrant, in every case they have not been prepared to account. And until they change their tone, Mr. Speaker, this House will continue to be bitter, because what they are doing is they are doing something that is against the very tradition that the Honourable Minister of Labour spoke so highly of and the very tradition on which most of us were elected and a tradition which we followed in government when we were government and which we are prepared to follow in opposition, and I plead with them to change their ways and to try and bring some common sense to their colleagues before they disrupt the system completely and before they bring about in this province a greater division than already exists by their actions and by their authoritarianism.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, we've listened intently to the comments by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition during the past few moments but I think that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is working under a misconception, a complete and total misconception as to the process by which this Legislature will be working in respect to the expenditures of the \$8 million in regard to the increases in the minimum and the maximums in respect to the tax advances.

There never has been any suggestion to my knowledge by any of my colleagues, by the First Minister or the Minister of Finance, that there will not be introduced to this Legislature a request for authority to spend these moneys. There will be legislation it is my understanding that will be introduced requesting - there will be legislative authority requested which will in fact request the approval of this Legislature for the expenditure of these moneys. So that for one to suggest that there is a circumvention of the members of this House, for one to suggest that there is a betrayal of the British principles of parliamentary involvement, for one to suggest that this government is doing something in an authoritarian manner is in fact a complete total absolute distortion of the truth in this Legislature.

A MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. PAWLEY: The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that this government has in fact followed scrupulously an attempt to ensure that the people of this province receive back whatever funds it is possible to return to the people in this province for their own use moneys that are forthcoming. I wonder when under the many years of Conservative governments were there so many programs developed, so many moneys returned to Manitobans in general for their expenditures? I wonder, Mr. Speaker, when despite the introduction of taxes by the former Roblin Government, the introduction of the sales tax, five percent, I wonder when despite the fact that revenues increased rapidly when oh when did the Conservative Government of those years return funds to the extent that this government has returned to the pockets of Manitobans?

And all that I need refer to, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that during this session . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. PAWLEY: During this session this government has seen fit to ensure that all Manitobans regardless of age and location and status receive a complete and full pharmacare program. What is this, Mr. Speaker, but returning moneys to the people of Manitoba for a worthwhile program? When did, for instance, Mr. Speaker, any former government return to the public of Manitoba the type of program that we introduced last year and again this year to provide credits to Manitoba taxpayers in substantial amounts? No, Mr. Speaker, what we heard from the former Conservative Government in Manitoba was increased taxes without return, just as in the Province of Ontario when their Conservative cousins in the Province of Ontario - and by the way the wealthiest province in Canada with so much of Canada's resources - saw fit to increase sales tax from five percent to seven percent. This government has followed a deliberate program, election year and non-election year, to return to Manitobans large sums of money either by tax credit programs to those in the greatest need or to develop programs such as the universal Pharmacare Program which we've witnessed the introduction of during this Legislative Session.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition refers to the City of Winnipeg and the rapid escalation of taxes in the City of Winnipeg. Let me say this, Mr. Speaker, that all that the City of Winnipeg should do, ought to want to do, is to accept the challenge of this government to introduce a tax on speculative land holdings; and from that sort of source the City of Winnipeg would be able to realize significant sums of moneys which would be used to defray rising taxes. I only trust and hope that the municipal people in the City of Winnipeg will recognize their responsibility to Winnipeggers in general by taking the lead in this direction. And here I would like to commend the progressive actions by the Ontario Government in developing a speculative tax on land that is being held for speculation. Surely it would not be too much to expect that the City of Winnipeg would want to follow the lead of developing and introducing a tax along these lines in order to ease the burden of rising taxation off the shoulders of Winnipeg taxpayers. But instead of that Mr. Speaker, the City of Winnipeg seems to be intent on following only one course of action - we spend the money, we ask you to give it to us. To give it to us. Without for a moment attempting to find, to develop and

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(MR. PAWLEY Cont'd) undertake alternative means of taxation such as I suggest this form of taxation would provide.

Mr. Speaker, I can't help but be amazed at the constant hypocrisy across the way when they speak in terms of this government spending millions of dollars without supposedly obtaining authority, when one need only cast one's mind back a few years ago to the authority to spend millions of dollars in the Churchill Forest Industries Complex when questions were not asked in the Legislature, when there was complete secrecy insofar as the expenditures of millions of dollars are concerned. And I say the nerve of the Official Opposition in this House to suggest that this government, this government is acting in an authoritarian and top-heavy manner when that is the example that can be related to the people of Manitoba from only a few years back as to the demonstration, the conduct of the former Conservative government in Manitoba prior to 1969.

Mr. Speaker, I think that one area emphasizes the concern of this government since its election in 1969. And that is where it is possible, ultimately possible to return to the Manitobans the maximum resources to the fullest use of those in the greatest need. And if we had the time this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, one could list one after another of the social programs that have been developed and advanced by this government and returned to Manitobans. And this session as I indicate, Mr. Speaker, with the surplus that this government was embarking upon was only one clear example of where we saw fit to ensure that Manitobans in general would receive the benefits, the complete and full benefits of economic growth in Manitoba over the past year and ensured that in return to Manitobans social programs were developed such as the universal Pharmacare Program, the Tax Credit Programs to provide the greatest economic and social benefit to Manitobans. We make no apologies for that which we have done. We are but proud of the actions that we have undertaken.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I cannot resist the temptation to rise in order to draw attention to the pitiful weakness of the Attorney-General's argument, in attempting to create the impression that through its egalitarian and wealth distribution programs, that they're creating a better quality of life for the people of this province. If that were the case, Sir, there wouldn't be a greater disparity between those who have and those who have not as there is today and has been created by the very policies that the Minister lauds so forcefully now. There wouldn't be the problems of unemployment, problems of welfare and the myriad of other problems that the country is faced with today, were it not for the stupidity and the, perhaps well-meaning but misguided efforts on the part of the likes of honourable gentlemen opposite. Policies that have literally destroyed the economy of this country. The Minister made a great deal about how they're returning money to the people. Why take it from them in the first place? All the Minister is doing is saying we tax you to the limit, we take away from you the bulk of which you earn, but look how kind we are when we give some of it back to you. It reminds me of the story of the Scotchman on his deathbed, which I won't tell in this place, but I think some of my friends know what the story is, but it typifies the kind of attitude toward the economics and the views held by honourable gentlemen opposite.

Who created the problem? Who created the problem that we're faced with today if it wasn't the likes of my friends opposite? Not only those in this province but the whole kit and kaboodle of them in Ottawa, those who purport to be the government and those 31 barnacles that have attached themselves to the ship of state and who are actually running the government in Ottawa. Who are guiding the destiny of the government in Ottawa. My honourable friends you know from time to time--(Interjection)--That's a real good question. Why don't they bring them down? From time to time they stand up in this House, as indeed the Leader of the NDP party does and say "Now is the time", "Now we're going to oust them". But what happens, what happens. They look at the polls, they check their popularity across the country and they chicken out every time. I tell you, Sir, the main reason, everybody knows the main reason why the delay. The pension plan comes into effect on the 25th of June and there's no way they're going to disturb that. And secondly, they don't want an election until the 15th of July because that's when the new Elections Act takes effect and each one of them will receive about \$10,000 with which to conduct their election campaign. No secret as to the reason why they're delaying the election in Ottawa.

A MEMBER: Has nothing to do with principle?

MR. JORGENSON: Nothing to do with principle is right. I'm always grateful for the assistance provided by the Honourable Member for Lakeside whose contribution adds to the debate at any time, whether it's mine or his.

The Attorney-General talks about when did he say, when did a government ever contribute so much, did a government ever do so much to help people. I'll tell you when. When the Honourable Duff Roblin was the Premier of this province. The relative ease and calm with which this city goes about its business today is a result of \$68 million spent by the government at that time, use a little foresight, to do those things - not those things that people can do for themselves, but to do those things that people cannot do for themselves.--(Interjection)--That, Mr. Speaker, is the role of government. I draw attention to the schools that were built. I draw attention to the roads that were constructed in this province. And I draw attention to the superstructure or the infrastructure that was created in this province so that people could help themselves. What these people opposite have done, Sir, is to take away the drive and the initiative and the desire of those people to create a better world and a better life for themselves. And they have the stupid audacity to stand up in this House here and say they're doing great things for this province. What poppycock, to quote the Minister of Labour. Every policy, every program that is ever carried out by this government has one purpose in mind, one purpose only. Politics and control. The people of this province and their welfare are the last thing to be considered, and honourable gentlemen opposite know it.

Sir, I rose primarily to deal with two subjects but I couldn't resist the temptation to draw attention to the Attorney-General some of the statements that he made and how ridiculous they sound to people who know better.

I want to deal, Sir, with two items that appear in this bill, one dealing with the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation and the other dealing with the Manitoba Development

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(MR. JORGENSON cont'd) Corporation, at some time attempting to focus attention on the problem that I want to deal with insofar as the Manitoba Development Corporation is concerned during the question period. And since the rules of the House prevented me from dealing with it during the question period in the manner in which I would like to I am going to take this opportunity of doing so. And I am referring specifically, and I want to draw attention to a statement that was made this afternoon by the Minister of Industry and Commerce when he gratuitously suggested that if the garment industry in this province were to treat their workers fairly they wouldn't have any trouble attracting workers. Well, Mr. Speaker, I tell the government "physician heal thyself".

I draw attention to two letters that were written to the Premier. One from a group of workers in - a number of people who sign themselves a group of concerned workers in the Flyer Coach Industries plant at Fort Garry, in which they drew attention to the kind of treatment that they're getting from management at that plant. And let me remind honourable gentlemen opposite that it's their plant, they own it. They control the management. They determine who will be managing that plant and who won't. They control its destiny. And I want to also mention, Sir, that two years ago on the request of the Premier I wrote a letter to him, he asked for my opinions about Flyer Coach Industries. I gave them to him and I pointed out at that time it was an operation that could become viable. It was an industry that could survive, it could compete. But it could only do so if the government would have a careful examination of the methods by which management conducted and ran that plant. That under the present management at that time it was doomed to failure and doomed to do nothing more than to continue to extract money out of the pockets of the taxpayer. Well I asked for an investigation at that time. None was carried out. Nothing was done to ensure that that operation was carried out in a way that it could make a profit. And the Attorney-General has the audacity to talk about - they have a lot of fun talking about CFI. Look at themselves. Look at the way they run Saunders. Look at the way they run Flyer Coach Industries. There's \$30 million down the drain there right now and it'll never be recovered.

A MEMBER: They're doing it wilfully, they weren't conned into it.

MR. JORGENSON: Then one gets a letter such as this. Since when have workers in a plant been treated to the extent that they have to write the Premier of the province to draw attention to the kind of management that they are suffering under. I just draw attention to the two items. An absenteeism rate that we estimate to be close to ten percent. Unheard of.

A MEMBER: Where? Flyer Industries?

MR. JORGENSON: Flyer Coach Industries in Fort Garry. A high rate of industrial accidents. A lot of people on compensation and a lot more who go to hospital but don't end up missing work beyond that. A high turnover rate. At the Fort Garry plant we think it might be as high as 25 percent since January 1, 1974. And an unbelievably high rate of waste. Sir, a number of people who work at that plant or worked at the Morris plant which has now been foolishly and unnecessarily transferred to Transcona, come from Morris. Sir, there is a deliberate program on the part of the management in Transcona plant to get rid of the Morris workers.

A MEMBER: Right.

MR. JORGENSON: Everyone of them. And one by one they're doing exactly that. Sir, under what circumstances, in any other free enterprise plant, would the manager of that plant announce over the loudspeaker to ask one person to report to him and hand him his severance pay and tell him not to come back. Give him no reason why he's fired. Give him no opportunity to appeal. No other place. And honourable gentlemen opposite have the stupid audacity to say that the garment industry don't treat their workers as they should.

Then there's the very next day another letter. The Minister of Labour when I raised it to his attention complained that the letter wasn't signed so therefore he's going to do nothing about it. Didn't matter that there were some grave charges raised in that letter. That doesn't matter. Oh no he had to have a letter signed. Well he got one signed the next day, and this one was by the Regional Vice President of the Canadian Association of Industrial, Mechanical and Allied Workers. And what did he have to say? I'm just going to summarize the last paragraph, and this letter obviously was written after the Minister of Labour made his useless contribution in the House on Wednesday. "Contrary to Mr. Paulley's statement that he does not interfere in a plant where a union is formed, he is ignoring the situation in which the government itself is the employer, and perhaps it is in his own interest to ignore the plight of the employees."

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(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) Since when would a union representative and under what circumstances would a union representative write that to a Minister of Labour? Only if he felt that there were some very serious breaches of management procedures going on; only if he felt there were some terrible things being done to the people who are employed in that plant, and the government are condoning it. But since I raised this matter the other day, not one word, not one word has been uttered by honourable gentlemen opposite as to whether or not an investigation is being carried out.

MR. ENNS: Not a word.

MR. JORGENSEN: Not a single thing has been done, and I'm willing to bet, Sir, that nothing will be done. They, Sir, are the people who continue to talk about other people, about free enterprise, how they treat your workers. Then there's a paragraph in the letter that says never . . .

A MEMBER: This is from a union man.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . never in their experience have they ever attempted to--have they ever known of a situation where a free enterprise company ever treated their employees in a way that this company treats their employees.

A MEMBER: Unbelievable.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, Sir, the government sits. I doubt very much if anything is ever going to be done. For some reason--and I challenge honourable gentlemen opposite--for some reason, management of that plant has got that government over a barrel somehow, and I would sure like to know just what it is he has on him that he is hosing to the taxpayer in the way he is, in the way he is without the government doing something to intervene, without the government carrying on some kind of an investigation to determine what the cause of the problem is in that plant. I challenge them. I challenge them to take some action. I challenge them to do something about a situation which they destroyed, and if it were carried on by a free enterprise company they wouldn't tolerate for one minute--wouldn't tolerate for one minute. What a bunch of sanctimonious hypocrites, Sir, talking out of both sides of their mouth, attempting to create the impression that they are the, oh, they're the great supporters of the workers. But when they have an opportunity to look into the grievances drawn to their attention, drawn to the Premier's attention, they sit and they do nothing. That's the kind of action that we get from this government, Sir.

Now, Sir, the other matter that I want to raise at this time is contained in the report of the Ombudsman and deals with a subject that I raised in this House again through the question period but, knowing full well that it could not be explored during that particular time of day, I decided to leave it until an opportunity would provide itself. It has, on the second reading of this particular bill. I'm referring, Sir, to a loan that had been made to a company in Dauphin, the Dauphin Hog Farms, and without referring to any of the correspondence - one does not have to do that because it's all contained, or at least the relevant parts are contained in the report of the Ombudsman - I draw your attention, Sir, to Page 28 of the Ombudsman's Report in which he is describing the contents of a letter that was sent to the applicants for the loan, in which they said in part: "We are pleased to advise that your application for a loan has been submitted to our Board of Directors and, after full consideration of the information available, the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation, referred to in this letter as the Corporation, is prepared to grant you a loan of \$164,000 and a guarantee on an additional line of credit of \$15,000 at the bank or credit union of our choice, subject to compliance with the Corporation's regulations and requirements which we are endeavouring to summarize in this letter. As you will see, there are a great many points to be covered in this respect, and you should carefully consider your ability to comply with all conditions. No loan funds can be advanced until all conditions are complied with to the satisfaction of the Corporation." That, Sir, as referred to by the Ombudsman, was a Letter of Commitment.

Now, there were some legal technicalities that had to be cleared up before the loan could be granted pursuant to the conditions set forth in the letter, and in order to do that, the applicants had to apply to a bank to clear off other debts, which they did in compliance with the Letter of Acceptance by the Farm Credit Corporation. The bank paid off three creditors previously named. In one case, the Industrial Development Bank was paid off \$49,000 plus a prepayment of \$2,310. A total of \$117,000 plus the \$2,310 penalty was paid off on behalf of the borrowers. They borrowed that money on the strength of the letter received from the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation.

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(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd)

Subsequent to that, Sir, on February--the original letter came to them on September 17th, 1971. Subsequent to that, February 11th, 1972--and I draw your attention, Sir, and it may not be a coincidence to many people in this House, that in the intervening period a certain Max Hofford was appointed as Chairman of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation, and I assure you, Sir, that perhaps there is nothing more than a coincidence here, but it's a coincidence that I could not overlook--on February 11th, 1972, the owners of the Hog Farm received a letter from the MACC, in which it was advised that owing to the short duration of the Clean Environment Commission licence and the uncertainties thereafter, the Board of Directors withdrew approval of the loan. One of the conditions that were set forth, one of the twenty conditions that were set forth in the letter, the original letter sent out by the MACC, was that a licence must be obtained from the Clean Environment Commission.

The licence was applied for and approved. But strangely, the Clean Environment Commission--and this is a rather strange part about this whole episode--although the Clean Environment Commission provided the licence, it provided the licence only on the basis of a year's duration. And here we have one branch of government saying we're going to grant you the loan for \$164,000, and another branch of government, after the loan has been granted, effectively denying them the right to use that money.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Ombudsman. It was also brought to the attention of legal counsel for the applicants, and I want to now read a portion of the Ombudsman's report in which he dealt with this particular objection on the part of the MACC to proceed with the loan. He said: "After further reflection and consultation with my own legal counsel, legal counsel for the complainants, and the local solicitor for the MACC, I was of the opinion that the September 17, 1971 letter from the MACC to the owners of the hog farm was a Letter of Commitment, such a letter being regarded as a serious statement by the lender outlining the conditions under which the loan shall be made and to be relied upon by the borrowers and those who provide interim financing pending finalizing of the loan. If it is accepted the said letter was a Letter of Commitment, it then logically follows it was a commitment upon which the Board of Directors (meaning the Board of Directors of the MACC) was reneged." These are the words of the Ombudsman. He claims that the Board of Directors of the MACC had reneged on a commitment that they had made.

Well, then he goes on a little further in his report, and we come to a curious but not surprising comment that was made by the Chairman of the Board, in which he said: "The Chairman advised that the matter would be placed before the Board of Directors" (meaning the Chairman of the MACC) "at its next meeting, but, the Chairman stated that so far as he was concerned, the hog farm applicants would never get a loan."

MR. ENNS: Oh, that's . . . facts.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, then, Sir, what begins to reveal itself again is the mentality of the Chairman of the MACC. Although he's going to refer it to his Board and he makes that noble gesture, he says in the same breath, as far as he's concerned the applicants are never going to get a loan. That's the kind of justice, Sir, that we find in a government agency in which there is an appointee of the government running. It's the same kind of attitude that we see being demonstrated in this House time after time, the use of the special warrants, the manner in which estimates are dealt with, the manner in which the business of this House is conducted. In almost every instance we see the heavy hand of totalitarian tendency. (Hear, Hear).

Sir, it wasn't long after that that the so-called objection that was raised by the MACC, a short duration of the licence was dealt with by an amendment to the Clean Environment Act of February 24th, 1973. And here is what it says: "Livestock . . ."--and it's under the heading "General Requirements" - it's on Volume 102, No. 8, Manitoba Regulation 3473. This is "General Requirements". "Livestock production operations are exempt from the requirements of subsections (1) to (4) of Section 14 as provided in the Clean Environment Act." Well, Section 1 to 4, or subsections (1) to (4) Section 14 of the Clean Environment Act deal with the prescribing of limits, the consideration of proposals, prescribing limits where no regulations have been enforced and the applications to respect the existing operations. What the regulation says, in effect, and what it does in effect, is waive the limitation of one year's licence duration. So the objection that was raised by the Chairman of the MACC as to the reasons why he could

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(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) not proceed with the loan were removed--were removed by the Clean Environment Commission themselves. Subsequently, it would follow that there would not be any objections, or one would conclude that, if one had not taken literally the statement issued by the Chairman of the MACC to the effect that as long as he had anything to do about it, there would be no loan granted to this firm.

So what has happened, Sir, is that the operators of Dauphin Hog Farms have been penalized because the MACC reneged on a loan that it had made; because the Chairman of the Agricultural Credit Corporation - in his own peculiar way decided that the loan would not be granted and for his own reasons--and I've long stopped trying to figure out what motivates the thinking of the Chairman of the Agricultural Credit Corporation, or the Minister for that matter. The fact is that the matter was brought to the attention of the government.

And then in the final paragraph there is a report. The Ombudsman says this to the government: "In accordance with Section 36 (2) (c) of the Ombudsman Act, I recommend to the Minister of Agriculture that the decision of the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation to withhold approval of the loan be cancelled, and that the loan be approved. No action was taken that would seem to me to be adequate and appropriate. Therefore, in accordance with Section 37 (2) of the Ombudsman Act, I reported the matter to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. I so advised the Complainant as required in Section 38 of the Ombudsman Act."

I don't know why they set up the Ombudsman in the first place. Gave him the authority to investigate a matter that comes within his purview. He submitted a recommendation, and notwithstanding--and this is the key to the whole thing--notwithstanding the fact that the original objection to the loan being the short duration of the licence provided by the Clean Environment Commission, notwithstanding the fact that that objection had been removed by a regulation of the Clean Environment Commission, still refused to honour the Letter of Commitment that was sent out to the applicants as early as 1971. It's an indication, Sir, and it's a reason why throughout this province there is mistrust, because people are beginning to learn, as we learned long ago, that the words of this government cannot be relied upon; answers to questions that are asked in this House cannot be depended upon to be accurate, indeed if you get answers at all. It's not difficult to understand why the people of this province, as this session progresses, are having less and less confidence in the ability of this government to govern this province, let alone carry on the bare minimum of administration without tangling their feet up into every possible mess that you can imagine.

Sir, I conclude my remarks by going back to the statement that was made by the Attorney-General when he suggested that the City of Winnipeg--and they're the ones that created the City of Winnipeg. Heaven only knows that on this side of the House we pointed out the problems that we're going to be facing. Many of the things that we pointed out at that time are beginning to reveal themselves now, belatedly, to honourable gentlemen opposite. But do they take that responsibility? Oh, no. Oh, no. Now honourable gentlemen opposite, as indicated by the Attorney-General, blame it on the City Councillors. It's their fault. Why, said the Minister of Public Works, they should tax the people more. It's their answer to everything. Put on a bed tax, he said. And I one day would like him to outline the proposals for his bed tax. Would he be putting parking meters at the foot of each bed? And if he did would they be single or double meters? It's difficult to know just what they mean by the bed tax. I'm hopeful that some day, Sir, the Minister of Public Works will come back into this House and he will present a more detailed proposal because he has aroused the curiosity of a good many members on this side of the House as to how he would relieve the City of Winnipeg from some of its financing problems.

The fact is, Sir, the fact is, Sir, as the government knows, or if they don't they should know, the municipalities of this province have a limited and inflexible source of revenue. They are not the beneficiaries of inflation as my honourable friends opposite are. Inflation makes no difference to the amount that they can tax property. And so when my honourable friends opposite in their spendthrift way create and contribute to inflation they in effect are the ones that are creating the problems for the municipalities. They create the problems on the one hand and then have the audacity to come back to this House and say they are the ones that create the problem. No, Sir, it will not wash. This government, the government at Ottawa increasing spending the way they're increasing it are the ones that are contributing to inflation, ones that

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(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) are creating the problems that are so difficult to solve by our municipalities. The government should recognize that, should accept that and do something to alleviate that problem instead of creating more as they seem to be prepared to do.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance will be closing debate.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well firstly I do want to thank honourable members opposite and members on this side for the contributions they've made to the debate. I think the debate on this bill to a large extent did come to the roots of the differences in program and policy between us. I think there was a little less abuse and less wild accusations in this debate than there have been in other debates that we have been subject to.

I don't want to give too much time or consideration to the contribution of the Leader of the Liberal Party who I'm glad is present with us at this time, because I do want to deal in some respects with his attitude on matters such as the bill before us. I harken back to the time when he was not able to grace our presence at this level but rather looked down from above and was able to make statements to the media from outside the Chamber. Of course he still looks down from a figurative above in his mind and pontificates. He has never as I can recall in this House made really worthwhile positive recommendations dealing with financial administration or the dealing of money but rather has been wont to make general broad statements which date back to the time when he would say that the - and I'm paraphrasing - the Provincial Auditor is under the thumb of the government, he is a servant of the . . . as a matter of fact he suggested that the government by giving him an inferior automobile thus was able to influence a Provincial Auditor.

From that he progressed to other occasions in this House where apparently what he would do, as far as I can read the record, he would start by saying there is not enough time allowed to debate this or the other issue and therefore I will not debate it, when he knew full well that there were hours and hours within which he could have chosen to debate but would rather say, because there is a time limitation we cannot debate and how can we deal with all this money. I remember him coming in here after others had debated for some time and saying, we cannot debate an issue of such importance because there is a time limit.

I want to tell him, and in a sort of a friendly way, that the party that sits to his right somehow has managed to participate in the debate on probably every subject before us and taken quite a bit of time in which to make their points. Of course they don't try to cover everything in one session and maybe they're smarter in the way they plan their tactics so that they don't try to cover everything and therefore are able to husband their time in a better way than the Leader of the Liberal Party. Of course he's also limited in that he only has five voices. And I must congratulate him that his own personal contribution has not yet deteriorated to the extent that his and mine on occasion have done in the past. Nevertheless with five voices he should learn to be a little more effective and a little more selective in the way he deals with a subject because with five voices you have to of course husband your energies more. At the same time you are therefore able to cut out all the extraneous guff that a 22 voice group can participate in.

So again in some sense of friendliness, although it's a long time since I've felt that way disposed towards him, I would suggest that he should study his own tactics and see if he couldn't make a better contribution firstly, to the government parliamentary process; secondly, to his own party which no doubt would benefit if he were able to - as the other member of his party present now would say, to orchestrate his operations in a better way. Of course I would like him to spend a little time in his own party checking on the mess in the books to make sure that they who criticize a government which cannot handle a \$700 million budget and poses as the expert who could, should at least be able to straighten out a mess in his own party, the magnitude of which is not clear but which can't be so much since they are only some \$38,000 in the hole. But it must be quite shocking for a person who would like to lead the government to have to have his own auditor say that the books are in such a mess that he's unable to verify them, that because of general lack of internal control it's impossible to verify receipts and this must be painful to the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party who apparently finds it necessary--(Interjection)--if it is a question and not a speech I will accept it.

MR. ASPER: I thank the Honourable Minister for yielding the floor. The question is: Does he not make any distinction between people who handle private money such as a party and those who handle public money where there's a higher sense of responsibility?

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MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I do and I was just going to point out how necessary it was for the Leader of the Liberal Party the day after the first story to say, and I can tell him it's already underlined in the story, that the Leader of the Liberal Party stressed there is an important difference between party funds and public funds. That's not private funds, that's a little different from what he just said a moment ago. A moment ago he said private funds. Let me tell him that if I am spendthrift or careless with my own personal moneys I have only to account to my wife and even my wife will say I understand, by all means carry on the way you do. But the Leader of the Liberal Party is suggesting that funds that are raised for the purposes of the Liberal Party are private in some way where there is a lesser responsibility on that party or on him to manage it than there would be in public funds. Let me tell him that the people who contribute to the Liberal Party I am certain are not different than others who contribute to a party and who expect that there shall be a proper accounting and a proper use and a proper control of the moneys which they contribute which up to now have been tax paid moneys which have been voluntary - I hope they were voluntary, I hope there was no other pressure - and therefore since they've made a contribution in the interests of a political party why then - let me on their behalf, not being one of them let me point out that they do have a right, an absolute right to know that their funds are being properly managed.

Well the Leader of the Liberal Party is wiping tears from his eyes, and so he should, because it is not the interests of the donors, the contributors that I really want to concern myself with, it is the audacity, if I may borrow a word used by the Member for Morris half an hour ago, the audacity of the Leader of the Liberal Party to speak of not trusting the government with the management of money when he himself as leader of a party has to apologize in some peculiar way for the fact that his own party's funds cannot properly be reported.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I don't believe the problems of the Liberal Party has anything to do with Bill No. 8.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I accept that statement. The problems of the Liberal Party are . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party on a point of privilege.

MR. ASPER: The point of privilege is that the strong implication of your statement is that the Liberal Party has problems and I categorically deny that the Liberal Party has any problems.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of privilege. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that those who look in a mirror are often unable to see. The biggest problem of the Liberal Party is the one he sees probably every time he shaves and therefore he would be the last to recognize it as such.

Mr. Speaker, I want to deal with some of the other comments that were made today. I don't want to deal with comments made by other members who participated because they have been dealt with by other members of our party. I don't want to spend much time on the posturing of the Member for Morris. He talked about two specific matters. One was the accusation of improper management or improper acts by the management of Flyer Industries. I for one am satisfied that the accusations are being looked into and I would expect that if it is warranted that there will be a public report on that, it will be done. Otherwise that it will be checked out just like any other management operation should be.

He mentioned the Ombudsman's comments and let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is --(Interjection)--Well I won't wait but do come back. The other comment was in relation to the Ombudsman and I must say that the Ombudsman's Report, which I haven't looked at in any extensive way, makes it clear that the Ombudsman is fully justified as an office that has been created by this Legislature, that the Ombudsman is doing a job, and I believe he's doing a good job; that he's bringing matters to the attention of not only the persons involved such as the people in government and also to the public. But that does not mean, nor was it ever expected that it would mean that every time the Ombudsman has a criticism that it is accepted and that his recommendation is followed. He doesn't expect it and I don't think any member of the Legislature expected that every recommendation of the Ombudsman would be followed. Indeed as you will recall, Mr. Speaker, this government had the honour of presenting the bill dealing with the Ombudsman but the fact is that the previous government after a great deal of

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) debate, over ten or twelve years I believe, were ready to bring in the legislation on the Ombudsman at the time they precipitously lost their heads and ran off in all directions looking for support that they failed to get. But I am certain that they themselves did not believe after drafting the Ombudsman's Act that every recommendation would be followed. So this is one that wasn't. Many, the vast majority were and when the Ombudsman comes to report to Committee, as he's doing I believe next week, I'm sure the debate can be continued and this specific case could be dealt with. I'm sure if the Minister of Agriculture were present this afternoon he would have dealt with it already before the time that I would have been able to speak.

The other comments from the Member for Morris were generalizations which I don't think really need to be responded to. So let me deal somewhat with the comments made by the Leader of the Official Opposition who had several things to say.

One of the things that I do want to deal with is his attack on our dealing with Interim Supply, in letting it go through the normal passage of the Legislature but at the time when it was necessary to have an authority for a brief period of time we brought in a Special Warrant and reported on it immediately. I spoke earlier about the legislation drawn by the previous government and passed by this government. One of the bills was The Financial Administration Act and if I would have known that the debate would have taken the turn it did today I would have had my notes with me, which I had earlier and which I will have again, which are the notes prepared for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Gurney Evans, in 1969 for presentation to the House with Financial Administration Act bill. And the note opposite the section under which we passed the Special Warrant says - I'm paraphrasing now but of course I'll bring it actually here to read it in its entirety at a time when we'll be debating this question again - it reads something to the effect that, this section provides that Special Warrants may be passed at any time in the year and not necessarily only when the House is not in session. It's a very clear intente, clearly understood, couldn't have been any sort of an accident.

What I find amusing is that the Conservative Party which used a technique for which they were not strongly attacked, used a technique probably for the first time in over 100 years in this province, of delaying Interim Supply beyond the time when it became impossible for government to honour the commitments of this government and of any government; that in the past, Interim Supply normally was brought in the 28th, 29th of March, a couple of days before the end of the fiscal year, and I sat through six, seven years in opposition when I remember the question that would be asked could be: Is that one sixth or one quarter or one third of the Main Supply that you are asking for? And I don't think it ever went beyond that. I don't think it ever took more than 20 minutes, 25 minutes. It seems to me usually Mr. Molgat, the then Leader of the Liberal Party, would ask the kind of question I've just posed, would say, "Well, we want to make sure that whatever government is in power pays the Civil Service, whatever government has the responsibility of government pays the bills that need to be paid." And it went through, because the real issue, Mr. Speaker, was Main Supply, is it justified? What are the programs? What is the government asking for? What is it that the government wants to deal with under its mandate for the year?

But the Conservative Party used a different technique. When I brought in Interim Supply this year, I was not really aware that last year, the time when I was not Minister of Finance, the Premier acting as the Minister of Finance brought in Interim Supply around the 21st of March. I was not really aware that it took about five different days before Interim Supply passed. And when I brought it in this year I expected that it would go through in the normal, usual way. But I did bring it in around the 10th of March. And the reason I brought it in the 10th of March, really, was that I had Interim Supply, I had Supplementary Supply for the previous fiscal year, I had planned to bring in the Budget but I'd been asked by the Leader of the Liberal Party when I was expecting to bring it in because he wanted to design his own plans around my expectation, and I was informed by the Leader of the Conservative Party that because of the planned Conservative, National Conservative Convention, that the dating of my bringing in the Budget would have some effect on his plans and that of other members. I did not make promises to either of them just how it would be done but said I appreciated their concern and I would try to make decisions that would not adversely affect their own personal requirements. And my decision was, for reasons that are not really important, to bring in the Budget when I did, towards the end of the month. But I did bring in Interim Supply because

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) I now had some time, so I brought it in - I think it was the 10th of March - and then it proceeded on its merry way. And then it became clear, as time went on, what the tactics of the Conservative Party were. That really didn't come clear until a few days before the end of the month.

Now, the Conservatives had the peculiar idea that they wanted that closure be brought in. That would be fine, Mr. Speaker, if they were forced to vote - that's all right, that's parliamentary - but if the Act which was passed in 1969 permitting a Special Warrant were used, that would not be satisfactory. That was their peculiar reasoning, and they're entitled to the peculiar reasoning they would want to have, but really that's what it was. As a matter of fact the research assistant to the Leader, I don't know what his formal title is, I guess he hasn't got one. But Dr. Bill Neville who is the advisor in some way to the Conservative caucus or the Leader, is reported to have stated that he consulted an authority. I think it was referred to in the House that the authority, a present Senator Eugene Forsey, said "This is not the means they should have used. They should have either brought in closure or as a second choice they should have adjourned the House for a day." Or I suppose he really meant prorogue the House, I don't know. "For a day. Bring in the Special Warrant exactly as it was, and then bring the House back into Session the next day." That would have been all right. The third alternative was a Special Warrant, as we did it.

Now at the time it was pointed out that Dr. Forsey, Senator Forsey, was the one who gave that advice, I did respond at the time that we showed that he was already faltering somewhat in his clear thinking when he left the NDP to join the Liberal Party, so already I had a problem recognizing his clarity of thought along these lines. But, Mr. Speaker, he said, quoted as an authority by the Leader of the Official Opposition. One, closure; two, prorogue the House for one day only, pass the Special Warrant, and call the House back into Session; and thirdly, do as we did, Special Warrant. Well so it's a question of timing. He had a different - well the fourth one may have been maybe, well I won't suggest what the Member for Lakeside would have done but I suppose with 31 people having just received the confirmation of support by the electorate, he would have gone back to the electorate and would have said to the electorate, "Do you think we did the right thing?"--(Interjection)--No, he wouldn't have done that. Well I'm glad he says that. The fact is . . .

MR. PAULLEY: And the result would have been worse than it is.

MR. CHERNIACK: But the Member for Lakeside did suggest, he pleaded, he was practically on his knees, pleading for closure. He kept saying, "You know what to do. You could have the vote today." He said that. "You could have the vote today," he said. I'm sure it's in Hansard. And the House Leader sitting on my right kept saying. "Please sit down so we could vote today." And he said it more than once. He said, "If you'd only sit down, then we could have the vote today." And that was the day that we announced that we had passed the Special Warrant and the House Leader made the point, which to me was so obvious, that the best way to find out if our action was acceptable or not was to stop talking and act. And that act was to vote. But the Conservative Party denied us the opportunity to put the question to the House as to whether or not we had the confidence of the House when we passed a Special Warrant in direct line with legislation which enabled us so to do. So I can't really be impressed with the protestations of members opposite or of their Leader who spoke today along these lines.

Now, Mr. Speaker, do you recall that he started his speech and gave us a little bit of a statement of what capital is. Capital is a long-range, an expenditure for a long-range purpose. And I called out to him, but of course you didn't respond to me and he didn't have to; why should he, I called out from my seat. I wanted to remind him that about four years ago he said out in public, and he said it often, and I think he said it again in this House, that we ought to go out and borrow long-range \$25 million, over long-term I mean, and pay it to increase old age pensions; and he said borrow for that purpose. And I told him, and I recall that, I didn't quarrel with that idea because I said that when I had been in that seat opposite, and when we were dealing with sales tax, and when I was saying that I didn't trust the government of the time, at the time it was doing it with a sales tax, it was because the Carter Commission Report had not yet come in and we were hoping for much greater changes. But at that time I said, if you need money for education borrow, borrow it long-term; pay it out for educational purposes and at least you have an investment in the education and the advancement of the children of the province. I found that much more justifiable than his concept of borrowing for old age pensions.

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) But today he told us, gave us a lecture, that capital is long-range.

But you know he misled us, Mr. Speaker, or tried to, he misled us when he started to talk about our plans in relation to the property tax credit plan because he doesn't know yet, and I don't criticize him because he's never been in this House for a long enough period of time to learn the procedures that we work under, he confused the source of supply with the expenditure of supply. Really he was confused. He doesn't realize that a government needs authority to spend and authority to raise the money to spend. Those are two separate mechanical things and if he had thought about it he would have realized, we go into Committee of Supply, that's authority to spend; we come out of Committee of Supply, we go into Committee of Ways and Means, that's to provide the means whereby we are able to carry out the program authorized in Supply. Now when the--(Interjection)--I didn't hear it exactly but I think the Leader of the Liberal Party said, "Even I knew that." I think he said that and if he did, then surely the Leader of the Opposition, the Official Opposition, should have known that. But he didn't because he quoted, and misquoted, and I don't blame him; I do blame him. You know, Mr. Speaker, he said the Premier said it was coming out of the Emergency Reserve Fund, and I said, "No he didn't." And he said, "Yes," and he pulled out two sheets of paper, which I'm sure are the announcement of the Premier. I didn't see it, but I'm sure they were. And he said, "I will," and he started to look for that statement. He didn't find it because he then picked up a newspaper report and he said if the newspapers heard him correctly, then he said that, and he quoted from the newspaper, which did indeed say it.

But I recall what the Premier said. He said there are various means of finding the money for that purpose. And one of those means was and is, the Reserve Fund; but that's to find the money. But then the Leader of the Opposition concluded that meant that the House cannot debate and has not the opportunity to say aye or nay to the expenditure, and that's where he's all wet. Because we must, the least we must do is change our Legislation. The least we must do is to provide in our Income Tax Act the Legislation which will raise the minimum by \$50.00 and raise the maximum by \$50.00. That's the least we have to do. And the next thing we have to do is to get the authority to spend it, either in Legislation, which means either in an Act as we've done in the past, or through Supplementary Supply as we've done in the past, and he should have known that we've got to do it in such a way that the House approves of it. And that he didn't know and therefore he was all wrong, and that's why I really appreciate the fact that the Conservative Party did complete their contributions today so that I could close debate at the same day that the Leader of the Opposition spoke, so I could at least make that clear.

--(Interjection)--Surely.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: I'm reading from a statement issued on April 19, 1974 under the name of the Honourable Edward Schreyer and right at the bottom of the page it said, "Increased Tax Credit Benefits for 1974 will be financed through the Special Loans and General Emergency Fund." If that doesn't mean that the money's going to be taken from that fund, what does it mean?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, if that's all it says, then I withdraw my statement because my recollection was that this is one way in which the money could be provided. And if that statement makes it appear as if that's the only way, then I do withdraw my remark that the Leader of the Opposition couldn't find the statement - well he couldn't find it it was obvious because he had to go to the newspaper to find it. But I didn't believe he would have found it, and I'm wrong.

A MEMBER: Back in your chair.

MR. CHERNIACK: I accept the statement of the Member for Morris that that's all it says and if it does, then I'm wrong, and I accept that.

MR. JORGENSEN: Let me make it clear, Mr. Speaker, that's not all it says. That's the last paragraph of the statement. The other just goes on to outline what he's going to do. The last paragraph just deals with how he's going to do it.

MR. CHERNIACK: I appreciate that. If all it says as to the source of funds is what was read by the Member for Morris, then I can understand that, but that does not excuse the Leader of the Opposition not knowing that all that deals with is where the money comes from

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) The authority for the expenditure, which incidentally is in that Act if we want to use that means, but it does not in any way relieve the government from having to obtain authority to spend the money. That I don't excuse the Leader of the Opposition for not knowing. He should have known that, and I suppose, too, at this moment he still doesn't know the procedure of the House in that respect.

Mr. Speaker, he spoke about Capital Supply as a - and I wrote it down - a Slush Fund uncontrolled, and that his discussion with the Provincial Auditor convinced him to that effect. Mr. Speaker, that's all he said about that. He said there is no control over borrowing. He said that we borrow for emergency supply, emergency for that Act - I'm sorry, the Municipal Fund, an emergency fund, as if we borrow for that, and he ought to know it is not in the list of the borrowing authority we've asked for. That fund was created by, well I don't know whether it may have been by Stuart Garson, but members opposite no doubt know that it was used by Duff Roblin to finance the building of the Art Centre, of the Centennial Centre; and it was used there because there was money there that had been put in by previous governments, maybe including his own, from other sources mainly from surplus. And that money that's there is money that isn't borrowed. Now he'll try to wiggle out of that by saying, well if they don't have the ready cash then they have to borrow it, but nevertheless it is not borrowed under any authority such as that Act, it is borrowed when it is required under authorities passed by this House. And the only flexibility that is created is in line with the general purposes, which is fully accountable, which is fully audited, which the Provincial Auditor has complete access to, and which can only be spent in accordance with the Financial Administration Act through the requirements of the auditor.

So I could drag this on, Mr. Speaker. I see no purpose in doing that. Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude now by just repeating that the Leader of the Opposition was wrong in almost every statement he made, that to him was a great dramatic accusation. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry, it is 5:30. I'll conclude at 8, then we can . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Minister will be able to continue at 8:00 o'clock. I am now leaving the Chair to return at 8.