

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
2:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, 1976

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 I'm informed we have some senior citizens of Winkler, Manitoba. These citizens are from the constituency of the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

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

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

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Leader of the Official Opposition)(Riel): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister in charge of Co-operatives can advise the House what the implications are of the change in the prices announced by the Freshwater Fish Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation, briefly I hope.

HON. RENE TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (Springfield): Well, Mr. Speaker, it will be brief in the sense that I'll take the question as notice and get back to the House.

But while I'm on my feet I'd like to answer a question posed of me by the Member for Rock Lake pertaining to the facilities that we have in his area. He was asking why the power was left on in the facility, and the indication that I get is that we have a fair amount of equipment in the building and in order to protect the equipment a minimum amount of heat was left on, and this is standard procedure. The relay switch as far as we're concerned could have been malfunctioning, and the Fire Commissioner is investigating that report. The replacement of the damage caused by the fire and caused by the flood will be investigated once the water level is down to a level that we can get on the grounds. We don't really know exactly what will be done pertaining to construction on the existing site or even possibly moving the buildings from the site that they were on then to a higher site in the Provincial Park. In regard to the approximate cost of flood damage, we estimate the cost to be between \$6,000 and \$10,000, and the rebuilding of same will depend on the study that is being conducted. We may not be able to reconstruct the facilities in time for the summer tourists.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, thank you. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation. Can the Minister confirm that a member of his department is being sent to Britain to study the English penal system?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Corrections.

HON. J.R. (Bud) BOYCE (Minister responsible for Corrections and Rehabilitation) (Winnipeg Centre): Mr. Speaker, I announced in the House during my Estimates that Mr. Cox was being seconded to the Home Office in England to work with them in co-operation with a program that we have with the Solicitor-General's office in Ottawa, and he will be returning to Manitoba a year from now.

MR. BILTON: I thank the Minister for his reply. I didn't hear the final word but I would like to ask him a supplementary question. How long will this study take in months or years?

MR. BOYCE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I thought I had covered that during my Estimates, perhaps I didn't. As I said he was seconded, actually it's more than a study, he's actually working for and with and through the Home Office in the British Correctional System in co-operation with the Federal Government and the Province of Manitoba, and

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(MR. BOYCE cont'd) . . . .will be returning to Manitoba a year from now. His secondment was from the first of the month '76 to '77, and in the interim, in the meantime his place has been filled by the Federal Government seconding to the Province of Manitoba the person of Mr. Doug Clark who is acting in the capacity of Assistant Deputy Minister or Director of Corrections.

MR. BILTON: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand the Minister to say that this junket is being paid for by the Canadian taxpayer? --(Interjection) Equally between the Federal Government and the Provincial Government, and how much will it cost?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Corrections.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, of course the Member for Swan River uses an unfortunate choice of words. It is not a junket. It is part of the ongoing attempt by this Ministry to rationalize the difference in the federal and provincial system relative to the two years, and in co-operation with the Federal Government we're trying to do this and make corrections more related to the community.

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 Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Can the Minister confirm the fact that people with the use of a small converter device can receive the transmission signal of the closed circuit system that the province has set up between St. Boniface Hospital and the Health Sciences Centre?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, in these days of electronic gadgetry and wizardry, there is really no way that a private operator can be prevented from tapping into the signal. It is my understanding that in the telecommunications link between the two hospitals one of the cable operators - that to my mind is hard to believe, but this is my understanding - one of the cable operators actually tapped into the cable, which I find really regrettable, and certainly we'll be looking at this apparent infringement of the privacy of the two hospitals.

MR. AXWORTHY: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister not indicate that the device used for such tapping is in fact an ordinary converter that is available to most of the general public and in many cases is built into ordinary or new television sets that are being sold today, and if such devices which are designed to convert into UHF are available, does this not constitute a requirement for the province to apply for a licence to CRTC for transmission that has general public application?

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, that question I will take as notice.

MR. AXWORTHY: As a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Considering that this transmission of broadcasts between the two hospitals can be available to the public, are there being any steps to ensure that such transmissions are within reasonable taste for public consumption?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. With reference to the possible involvement of people connected with the Mafia in Chemalloy, the Minister publicly stated yesterday...

MR. SPEAKER: Hypothetical.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's not hypothetical.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would suggest that when the Honourable Member says "with the possibility of," makes it hypothetical. I'm not going to argue the point. If the Honourable Member wishes to rephrase it, he's entitled to.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'll phrase the question to the Minister in another way. He made a public statement yesterday that Otto Lang is the least reliable person that this government has done business with, in answer to the possible involvement of the Mafia in Chemalloy. Does this mean that the Minister would prefer to do business with the Mafia, than with Otto Lang?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

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HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management)(Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that we have done business with the Mafia. I am not aware. I would venture to say that members, that many members of this House may have dealt with the Mafia people . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. GREEN: . . . without having been aware of it. I understand that the Mafia has infiltrated into the pillars of society. I am aware that I have dealt with Otto Lang, and I know how untrustworthy he is.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether the Tantalum Mining Corporation's financial statement for the year ending December 31st, 1975, has been completed and has been seen by himself and the members of his Cabinet?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I can't recall whether I have seen the detailed statement, although I've seen various statements of companies that will be available to Committee. I believe that there will be a statement that will be available to the Committee on Economic Development, this year. I can't recall whether I've seen the actual statement, but I do recall that there was a profit on the last statement of Tantalum Mining.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether the accountants for Tantalum Mine, who are the same accountants for Chemalloy, have indicated any variation in the statements that have been produced as a result of their withdrawal of certification of the statement of Chemalloy as of December 31st, 1973.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, all of that material will be available to the honourable member at the Committee when Mr. Parson appears, as has been done in the past, and was never done when the honourable member was responsible for the corporation.

MR. SPIVAK: To the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I wonder if he can indicate whether he has requested information concerning the financial statements of the past two years of Tantalum to be examined in the light of the withdrawal of certification by the accountants of the statement of Chemalloy of December 31st, 1973.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I have, and the Province of Manitoba has, acting for it on the Manitoba Development Corporation, probably one of the highest powered group of businessmen ever assembled to work at almost no return for the public. I feel that they are looking after this matter in the interest of all of the people of the Province of Manitoba, and I have perfect confidence in them.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister can confirm if the Manitoba Development Corporation were instructed to loan the money to Tantalum.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely false. This government when it has instructed a loan, has done it under Part II of the Manitoba Development Corporation Act, and may I say, Mr. Speaker, that I have spoken to many members of the Manitoba Development Corporation Board as it now exists and as it existed, and they regard our investment in Tantalum as one of the best investments that the Manitoba Development Corporation has ever made.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development. Can the Minister indicate to the House if he had any communication with anyone from the Federal Government or any member of the COJO Committee with the understanding that the Olympic Lottery will be operated after the Olympic Games are finished?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: No, Mr. Speaker, but I have heard rumours that there is a possibility that the Federal Government would allow COJO to keep on with the Olympic Lottery, will all revenue going to pay for the deficit of the Olympics. If this is the case this would be something - and I am told that this might be done without even a consent of the provinces where COJO could come in and set their retailers, and so on. If this was done, it would be done without the approval of all the provinces. There is a Task Force now composed of the Western Canada Lottery Foundation which represent the four western provinces, the Atlantic Group that represent the Maritimes and

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . . Newfoundland, Ontario and Quebec. Now Quebec of course would welcome receiving all the revenue from the lottery, but the other provinces unanimously were against this. They would like to keep on with a national or inter-provincial lottery after the Olympics where the marketing and the distribution of funds would be left to each province, and of course they'd have no objection if those tickets sold in Quebec, and so on, if that money was used to pay for the deficit. But this is something that Manitoba will resist very strongly and I hope everybody else. Because this would rob us of funds that we definitely need.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ROBERT G. WILSON (Wolseley): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Tourism. Can the Minister confirm that the restaurant facilities in provincial parks are tendered out?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

MR. TOUPIN: In most cases not all cases, in a sense that if we do have a good operator within the provincial park, we can extend or renew a contract.

MR. WILSON: In light of the statement, renew or extend a contract, could the Minister comment on why the facilities at Falcon Lake Golf Course were not tendered out?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, in that case we were dealing with an existent operator. We're satisfied, officials of my department, and the recommendation was to continue.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also to the Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. And I ask the Minister of Cultural Affairs if there is any plans to erect a statue or two statues on the Legislative grounds commemorating the memory of Dr. Kasser and the Hon. Otto Lang?

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

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, we'll wait till 1987 and let the Conservatives do it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the headlines in the paper today compared to the beef situation, I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether or not his department agree with this statement: "Test Shows Public Accepts Beef".

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. As the honourable member is well aware, reference to statements in the press and comments on them are out of order. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I'm not accustomed to really referring to press statements so I ask the Minister directly, whether or not his department agrees that the quality of grass-fed beef is better than grain-fed beef?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Asking for an opinion. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and ask him whether or not he and his department has had an opportunity to assess the difficulties that the dairy industry faces with the recent changes in national dairy policy announced by Mr. Whelan, the Federal Minister of Agriculture. Are we in fact losing any market-share of the national quota in Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, if the Government of Canada persists in the application of the market-share agreement, the answer to that would be, yes. However we have not completed our dialogue with the Government of Canada, and indeed with other provinces, on this subject, that is still something that is before a number of provinces and the Government of Canada.

MR. ENNS: Can the Minister indicate if, as he indicated, if the government, the Federal Government persists in its present course, what the percentage loss of market quota would be for Manitoba and Manitoba dairy farmers.

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MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, that would bring Manitoba down to around 13.9 million pounds of butterfat as compared to about 15 million pounds of current production.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I have another question. I have a question for the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, responsible for the Clean Environment Commission. Has the Clean Environment Commission ever rescinded its order that it placed on the processing plants throughout Manitoba giving them 12 months notice to cease and desist from polluting the environment in their disposition of whey?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would not think that I am aware of any such order. There may be a departmental indication that there is a problem with regard to the disposing of whey and I would seem to recall that there was a regulation passed with regard to disposal of whey within the last, perhaps two months.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister of Agriculture. Is it not the case that he and his department spent a considerable amount of time and public money in trying to respond to this Clean Environment Commission's order with respect to the pollution problem involved in the disposal of whey to develop one known plant, Crocus, in Selkirk.

MR. USKIW: Well obviously, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Lakeside is quite correct. The department has for the last four years . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. USKIW: . . . research into the ways and means of disposing of a pollutant, namely whey. We have come up with a proposal and offered it to the industry, and of course the industry has decided not to proceed. Now the government has not decided to proceed in its own right in this connection, so that in essence what I am saying is that anyone who is responsible for a pollution problem pursuant to any regulations under the Health Act or Environmental Control Act, will have to deal with those on their own.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I asked the question of either Minister. The point that I'm trying to make is that the problem of that pollution problem has now been waived.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Order please. Let us understand something. This is a question period, this is not the time to make points, and the Honourable Member for Lakeside should know. I think I have given him much latitude in days past, but if he insists in transgressing in respect to the rules, he's going to have to abide by his own rules of three times rising before I shall recognize him. The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that there is a problem with regard to the disposal of whey from cheese plants. I think that anybody who operates a cheese plant would confirm that to the honourable member. It is a fact that our department is concerned with that problem, it is a fact that we have enacted regulations for how cheese plants are to comply with it.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister for Urban Affairs, and I believe he's the Minister responsible for the Planning Act. --(Interjection)-- Oh. Then I direct the question to the Attorney-General, his responsibility for administering the Planning Act. Is it correct to say that the Government already has the right to collect a Land Speculation Tax under the Planning Act?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General)(Selkirk): No, Mr. Speaker. Section 88 of the old Planning Act which was enacted in 1966 was not proclaimed with the balance of the new Planning Act last session. Section 88 only dealt with municipal authority to collect a tax as a result of the enhancement of value of land affected by zoning.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the First Minister who is the Minister for Finance, I direct the question to the appropriate Minister. Is it the intention of the government to have legislation this year in order to collect the Land Speculation Tax?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

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HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister for Urban Affairs)(Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, Legislation now does exist, as pointed out by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, whereby municipalities can if they so desire introduce such local taxes.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Then the Provincial Government administration will not be passing any special legislation so that they can collect a Land Speculation Tax.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone. Sorry. Order please. The Honourable Minister wish to say no?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I didn't indicate that it was proclaimed. It will be a tax, an avenue for taxation by the municipality, that's the purpose of it, not for the province, when it is proclaimed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone. Order please. The Honourable Attorney-General wish to supplement.

MR. PAWLEY: Yes. I'd indicated that Section 88 had not been proclaimed, but today there is distributed the amendments to the Planning Act which in fact provide for a method of levying a sum of money as against a subdivision either by way of land or by way of money in order to permit capital investment within a municipality.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. For clarification then to the Attorney-General; is it correct then to say that only municipalities will be able to collect a Land Speculation Tax and not the province.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, if we're dealing only with the Planning Act, yes, the authority rests only with the municipalities, there is no authority within the Planning Act for the province to so levy. That would be a matter that would come under Other Provisions if there were to be such taxation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON (Gladstone): Yes, okay, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Highways and ask him what method or formula is used to arrive at when the number of roads in the province are being maintained.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. PETER BURTNIAK (Minister of Highways)(Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, as far as maintenance is concerned the formula, as I pointed out earlier this week and I believe last week, that in most cases when we deal with maintenance of our roads the best formula that can be used I would think is that of common sense.

MR. FERGUSON: A supplementary then, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask then, who decides when common sense is necessary?

MR. BURTNIAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm surprised that the Honourable Member is not aware, or he should be if he isn't, that there are 12 districts in the Province of Manitoba and each district is headed by a District Engineer, and he has staff, and these are the people that look after their own districts, their own beats and make those decisions.

MR. FERGUSON: Then could I ask the Minister, has he consulted with his district engineers in his capacity of when common sense shall be used, up to this point maybe it hasn't been.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Can he indicate to the House that in the contracts that are being offered to the private cable operators whether there is a specified number of channels available to such users and are the total new networks that can use this channel space specified in those contracts?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, that question is really one that depends on the final form of the contract that will be negotiated, and I think that until that contract is final I shouldn't be responding to questions about what would be in the contract.

In relationship to a previous question the Member for Fort Rouge asked, and I did not have at that time the opportunity to answer today, I have to point out to him that signals between the two hospitals concerned with this telemedical link are a matter for

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd) . . . . the two hospitals, and there is no reason for me to know what that signal is, there is no statutory authority that would enable me to find out what it is and there is no reason for me to have statutory authority to find out what it is. Indeed, I believe that what is put over a cable, what signal goes over the cable, is clearly within the jurisdiction and responsibility of the Federal Government. So that is my answer to his previous question.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, considering the Minister's double answer, let me ask him then on the final part of his statement that if it was a provincial initiative to establish the short-circuit system between the hospitals under their jurisdiction and if that closed circuit system in fact is available to public use and public use of broadcasting is a federal matter, should not an application for licence be tendered toward the CRTC for the development of that closed-circuit system?

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, the signal that I refer to is entertainment signal, and the member's question earlier related to matters of taste; matters of taste seem to me to be matters related to entertainment signals. Now the member should know that I cannot be aware of what signal or what message goes over either the telephone lines, the cable or the microwave. Anyone who pirates the signal off, and clearly again I cannot be aware of that, and cable operators after all are engaged in acts of piracy, if that's what they're doing, in taking signals off a closed-circuit cable. Indeed the whole cable operation business is a matter of piracy because they take signals off the air and pay nothing to the producers of the program.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Could I ask the Minister then, who is aware what is being broadcast on the closed circuit systems and then be able to make some judgment, that if the transmission of such programs is not within a reasonable element of public acceptance but at the same time the public, including children, can plug into such a system, who is responsible for judging whether it is acceptable or not?

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, the member really is getting into the area that I regard as grey area between clear federal jurisdiction of signals that come off the air and are in the nature of entertainment broadcast signals, and the other extreme where the signal is, for example, such matter as data communication signals, and between those two extremes lies an area which I think is a grey area and which I believe is open to constitutional interpretation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of agriculture. Again I'd like to pursue the questions that my colleague from Lakeside was giving him and I would like to ask the Minister if he has received any complaints, either he or any officials of his department, in regard to the decisions made by the Manitoba Milk Producers Marketing Board as to where farmers will ship their cream or milk in this province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware as to the number of complaints of any that the Marketing Board has received, and if they had I would not be surprised. I am aware of one of a copy of a letter sent to the Marketing Board, I believe, which I received, one letter to date, that I am aware that there is some concern with respect to their most recent announcement with respect to deliveries and the places to where cream shipments could be received.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to a question, I believe put to me last week by the Member for Rock Lake, with respect to the incidence of brucellosis, and whether or not - at least it's my impression that he wanted to know whether there was a serious problem in Manitoba, I simply want to point out to him that it is more of a problem this year than it was a year ago, in that we have 105 herds affected this year compared to 70 a year ago. It is not a very serious problem however but it is one, it is a growing problem which has to be dealt with. The main areas of incidence emanate from the Wallace and Portage PFRA pastures, and of course as a result, these herds that were consigned to these pastures have been tested over the winter

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) . . . . months and they must test entirely free before they are re-entered into any pasture, any community pasture. In addition to the cattle consigned to other pastures, such as Ellice, Archie, Spy Hill, Langford, Turtle Mountain, McCreary, Westbourne, they also must allow entry on a test-free basis, so that there are procedures under way now to try and prevent the further spreading of the disease, and of course the member is aware that this is the responsibility of the Health of Animals Branch of the Government of Canada. Of the 114 municipalities which have brucellosis controlled areas in Manitoba, 85 hold brucellosis-free status at the moment. Eleven hold certified free status, 14 are currently under and nearing the end of periodic test and recertification, and 4 are due for retesting. It is anticipated that these efforts will bring about the eradication of the disease in a few years. We were close to eradication some time in the '60s but it seems to be a recurring problem and we're trying to deal with it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Public Works. Can the Minister advise the House the present location and operators of the expensive electric cars?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. RUSSELL DOERN (Minister of Public Works)(Elmwood): Well, Mr. Speaker, the vehicles have been driven by several dozen people, members of my department, and a number of Ministers. I believe that at present that the vehicles are being operated by members of my department.

MR. WILSON: Could the Minister advise the House, does the Minister intend to drive the electric car again this session?

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, the vehicle is being test driven now. I am waiting for the next step in our program which is a re-wiring to 220 volts, which means that the car will then be able to be charged in half the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to direct my question to the House Leader. I'd like to have directed it to the First Minister but he's not in the House, so I'll direct it to the House Leader. Can the Minister indicate to the House if the government is still supporting the Anti-Inflation legislation, or has the government now reversed its position and what should the other people do, the public and the private sector, should they still be supporting the guidelines, or what?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, to clarify, as I understand it the Government of Manitoba has indicated that it has accepted the fact that the Federal Government has embarked on an anti-inflation program, which it will not frustrate. The Federal Government had the power and the authority to enter into this program without the support of any of the provinces. It is a federal law. The only part of the program that the province has involved itself in, is with regard to the provincial public employees. Those things that were said and those things that were done have not changed. As to our opinion as to the efficacy of the program, that too was expressed rather clearly by the First Minister, that he was not certain as to whether it would work equitably but that he was willing as a premier of a province, responsible in a federation to see whether the Federal Government could do it. That position to my knowledge has not changed.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would not the Minister agree that the guidelines had a beneficial effect in wage settlement right across Canada?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it would be very very dangerous for me to answer that question as to my feelings with regard to the program and therefore I will not do so.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, and perhaps the Minister does not want to answer it; was the First Minister then incorrectly quoted when he said that the guidelines, the Anti-Inflation Guidelines are dead as a dodo?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, that is not what I read, but for once I would hope very much that the press accurately reported the Premier.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the House Leader regarding the Public Utilities Committee meeting tomorrow. Can he advise the House why the Manitoba Hydro was not called for what was presumably it's final meeting.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, when the honourable member wishes to guarantee me that any meeting will be final, I will consider calling the meeting. We, Mr. Speaker, are trying to give equal treatment to the many committees that we have to call, and we had I believe three meetings of Hydro; it's time for one of Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. But if the honourable member will tell me in advance that certain meetings will be final, it might expedite a great deal the meetings of the House.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Honourable Minister if you'll allow me on the question.

MR. SPEAKER: No. Question.

MR. CRAIK: The question, Mr. Speaker, did the government not last year deliberately not hear the final presentations and examinations of the Public Accounts, and did we not close down the House last year without having in fact approved the Public Accounts meeting?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would say that there were many years of the Legislature when we did not complete meetings with regard to various departments. When he asked me whether we deliberately closed before hearing the final meeting of Public Accounts I respond to him in the same way: I do not know that any meeting will ever be a final meeting, and the Manitoba Legislature proceeds on the basis that it tries to expedite its work. I can remember a year, Mr. Speaker, when the Legislature met and did not approve the Estimates of the government spending. The public didn't like that very much, didn't call them back.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, that may be an election announcement on behalf of the Minister, which was the previous case when that happened, but let me ask him if the government has any intention of closing the session without approving the reports of Manitoba Hydro and the Auditor's Report?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, we intend to proceed normally.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE (Minnedosa): Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Honourable Minister, the House Leader, might suggest to the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee when we should call the next meeting of that committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, we will call meetings normally.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Time for questions is up. Orders of the Day. The Honourable House Leader.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, we proceed with the adjourned debates on second readings as listed on the Orders.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Bill No. 37, proposed by the Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. (Stand)

GOVERNMENT BILLS - SECOND READINGBILL NO. 47 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 47, proposed by the Honourable Minister of Mines. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I adjourned that bill for my colleague, the Member for Pembina.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, I've been examining Bill 47 and I've sent it out to people who should be affected by this bill. I have not received any unfavourable remarks. I believe that it is sensible in its approach that if one member of the board dies that the other members can carry on and make a decision, and I

## BILL 47

(MR. HENDERSON cont'd) . . . . think it's possibly only sensible that they divide this . . . Highway Traffic and Motor Vehicle Board into two boards if they're having trouble administering the work, because I hear that it does take really two different types of meetings. However, it's the formation of another board with other members on it, and this is more expense and we wonder sometimes when they're forming more and more boards if one of these times they aren't going to run out of card-carrying members, because every time we see more boards formed, it's usually people that belong to the party that get the positions.

I also see in reading the Minister's remarks that they speak about having one of the members from this board to be able to represent the complete board when they have joint hearings with other boards or . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I wonder if all the little caucuses could take off some place so that I can hear what's going on. The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Speaker, I notice in the bill that it says one single member from this board will represent the whole board when they have joint meetings with other committees in other jurisdictions, and in looking the bill over I don't see where this is, although it's in the notes, but other than this I think probably that the bill's all right. It's just that, as I was saying, that it's a little concern to some of us all the time that there seems to be more and more boards being appointed, not an amalgamation of boards but more and more boards being appointed and more and more jobs for relatives and card-carrying NDP members.

MR. SPEAKER: Pleasure of the House, the Honourable Minister of Highways will be closing debate.

MR. BURTNIAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Pembina in his remarks did not indicate that he was in disagreement to any extent with the bill. I think he pretty well approved it except he mentioned the number of boards and the likes. I want to make it clear, Mr. Speaker, that there are two boards now, the Motor Transport Board and the Highway Traffic Board, except they're one pretty well and the same. They only have their different functions, but yet they sat on these various hearings together as one board which is not in the best interest. It doesn't mean that there are more boards being formed or more people being appointed to these boards. They will stay exactly as they are, except they will have their duties pretty well spelled out so that they will not have to spend time in the various hearings, say, the Traffic Board dealing with matters on the Transport Board and vice versa. So they would have their duties spelled out. But that does not mean that there will be an increased number of boards or an increased number of members.

One other point that the honourable member mentioned is quite correct, where you state that wherever there is a meeting or a hearing which involves other jurisdictions, that only one member of the board would be sitting at this meeting or this hearing, like other provinces do. Unfortunately that part somehow was omitted when the bill was being drafted. However, that, I can assure the honourable members will be brought in under the second part of our Highway Traffic Act, under this bill which will be coming before the House in the next matter of a few days.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 51. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Stand, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 52. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Stand, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: 53. Stand. The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Attorney-General, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

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

SUPPLY - EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 49, External Support Services (a) Field Services Branch (l) Salaries - \$589,900. The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Chairman, last night during the consideration of this particular appropriation, the Minister in my view established a new high for his incredibility rating when he denied that the department was dismantling the Field Services Branch. A question was put to him about the reason for the request for an appropriation approximately equal to that for the previous year when the department had been announced to be in the process of being dismantled, and he denied that that had been announced.

Mr. Chairman, I find this a completely incredible kind of a position for the Minister to take, particularly in view of statements that have been made and reported. I refer to one made by his Deputy Minister which was reported on the front page of the Tribune of January 24th of this year, and the headline was: "No More School Inspectors". "Economic restraints have forced the Department of Education to cut spending, and one of the sacrifices will be its 23 school inspectors, or field officers as they are known today. This will leave Manitoba's 47 school divisions without field officers come September. The move will save the department \$750,000."

Mr. Chairman, the Deputy Minister has said that there'll be no more school inspectors and that they are phasing out the department and they're going to save \$750,000. The Minister of the department says, that's not so, and he is proposing that we vote to him for Field Services an appropriation of \$724,800. That's down \$8,500 from last year. Mr. Chairman, how can we possibly accept as a serious statement the position taken by the Minister last night.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that there is a complete lack of candor by the Minister of Education in his position and his explanations to this House. Now whether he is deliberately presenting misinformation to the House is for him to say. I am not saying that he is doing it deliberately but I am saying that he is giving us different information than those people who sit beside him at the desk, and who are his deputies, are giving to the Province of Manitoba, and I think, Mr. Chairman, this committee deserves an explanation of this contradiction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education)(Burrows): Mr. Chairman, at the risk of being repetitious, because I will have to be if I would want to, and I do want to, reply to the Honourable Member for Brandon West.

He continues using expressions such as "dismantling", and synonyms of that word, "dismantling of the Field Services Branch". But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, that the need for a Field Services function always was there, is, and will continue to be. The nature of the Field Services' function may change as it has changed over the past years, it's in the process of change now and will continue to change, Mr. Chairman. And hence, with the change of the needs in the field, there must be a change in the nature of the service that we provide. And really it's as simple as all that.

Now the Honourable Member for Brandon West seems to suggest that there is some contradiction between a statement reported by the press as quoted by the honourable member in the House whether - and I cannot comment on the absolute accuracy of that statement, neither one way nor the other. I can neither comment on the accuracy of the quote by the press nor can I comment on the accuracy of the honourable member's quoting that statement from the press to the House. And I'm really not concerned about that all that much. But insofar as the general content of the statement is concerned, I would suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that there is no contradiction at all.

When the reference was made that there is no further need for school inspectors, of course not, not in the traditional sense, not to perform the function which they had been performing for many years, and which function had changed over the years - and not commencing in 1969, but commencing much before that. And the honourable member knows that.

When the statement was made by my department that this move will save the department \$750,000 - and I agree - whether it's exactly \$750,000 or more or less, I cannot

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MR. HANUSCHAK (cont'd). . . .say exactly, but it probably will be somewhere in that order. And what was really said, Mr. Chairman, is that it would be a saving of \$750,000 in the sense that those previously employed as school inspectors performing the traditional function of school inspectors, if they were to continue performing that function, then we would have to have additional staff to meet the needs which have been requested of us by the school divisions.

Now the Honourable Member for Lakeside speaking from his seat is saying that I am now fishing, whatever he means by that. But the fact of the matter is, it's very simple, Mr. Chairman, that if you're going to employ X number of persons doing one certain job, performing the function that had been performed all through the years, and there are also needs for other services to be provided, then naturally you're going to have to hire additional staff to meet those needs, which will increase the expenditure. So therefore, through via a redefinition and a reassignment of duties, there is the saving. So Mr. Chairman, I listened to the honourable member very carefully, I must admit that I came very close to rising on a matter of privilege but I did not. There was no need to rise on a matter of privilege. The honourable member said that he doesn't know whether I am deliberately presenting misinformation to the committee. Well, he said he doesn't know that, and that's for me to say. True, that is for me to say. But he did state that he feels that what I have been saying has been contradictory to what others of my department have been saying. Well Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the explanation which I have just offered over the past few minutes would dispell those concerns of the honourable member.

Now, if I just may add a comment or two. Traditionally over the years, I suppose the basic function of the Field Services' staff, known as school inspectors at one time, more recently known as field officers, was one of performing to the best of their ability an evaluation function of a kind, and also that was the means that was used at that time to report back to the Department of Education via the department to Cabinet and to the Legislature on the state of affairs in the education community in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Chairman, I did indicate yesterday on a number of occasions that this has changed. And perhaps one of the major changes which has come about within our education system is the formation of the unitary school divisions, the employment of school superintendents who today perform many of the functions which previously were the responsibility of the school inspectors. And not only that, Mr. Chairman, but with that change, with the superintendents assuming many of those functions, and coupled with the fact that our school divisions are more actively involved in the identification of their own educational needs, in the planning and design of programs to meet those needs, then it becomes increasingly difficult to separate the evaluation function from the planning and programing function, Mr. Chairman. So hence another reason for the change in the function of the Field Services Branch. And this is why I had indicated yesterday, Mr. Chairman, that the majority of those who up to this point in time were functioning in a traditional sense as school inspectors or field officers are now going to be more closely involved with the school divisions either directly with the school divisions or working in closer liaison with various program development areas within my department; and also in close consultation with the school divisions in the determination and identification of local needs and the planning and design of education programs to meet those needs. And to do that, one cannot just wipe out the evaluation function entirely, because as one plans, as one designs, as one proceeds to implement, one must evaluate as he goes along. And any teacher worth his salt, any school superintendent worth his salt, any Board of Trustees worth their salt will do that sort of thing as any program takes root.

As I've been listening to the Honourable Member for Brandon West, who I believe, and I haven't heard anything to the contrary, I believe that he is speaking for his party and not just expressing personal views in this committee, I've tried my best, Mr. Chairman, to determine just what it is that the Honourable Member for Brandon West, what it is that his party means by "evaluation". What are the criteria that his party would want to establish, which it would use in measuring and evaluating the education program in our province

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) . . . . And I could only come to one conclusion, Mr. Chairman, from listening to the honourable member and to others from his party who participated in the debate, I can only come to one conclusion, and that is that the standards that they would prescribe or that they would reinstitute, are the standards of some decades ago, at which time all of us know that our public education program was essentially an academic program essentially designed for the post-secondary university-bound students with a sprinkling, and really it was a sprinkling, of vocational courses in a few communities, in a few of the larger communities really. But very few, if any, of the rural communities were able to take advantage of such a program, with no provision for integration of the two programs, no provision for transferability from one type of program to another. But there were a few who were given the option at Grade 9 to choose a vocational business education route, and that was the route that they pursued. And, like I said, that route was only open to very few, the majority had to pursue an academic program. And the standards were established as they were applied in evaluating such programs, in evaluating the performance of such students, were the standards that were expected for university admission, for university admission and none other. Mr. Chairman, even in today's day and age, something in the order of between 10 and 15 percent of our high school graduates find their way into a university, the vast majority either for some period of time into a community college, a technical school, a technological program, or directly into the world of work, but only a small percentage find their way into university. In those days even a lesser percentage found their way into university. But, Mr. Chairman, those are the standards that they would want to see reinstated to evaluate our programs, to evaluate the performance of our students, the measurement criteria that was established for a very very elite group of students, a very select group of students, those capable of handling an academic program with a view to pursuing a university education. And those are the standards, Mr. Chairman, that I hear the Official Opposition saying today that they would apply in measuring and evaluating the performance of each and every student in this province.

Well, Mr. Chairman, let's just take a moment or two and attempt to conceptualize what the results would be of the application of such standards in many of our communities, in many of our schools today. Let's attempt to apply such standards in many of the communities, in Frontier School Division, in the core city area of the City of Winnipeg, in many of the rural areas of the province, and let's follow this through to see what the end result would be. Let's take Frontier School Division as an example. Very well, according to the Honourable Member from Brandon West, what should be administered is a type of measuring instrument that may have been administered a decade two or three ago, that was a reliable instrument, that really told us how well children learned to read, how well they learned to master the basic skills. The problem is, Mr. Chairman, that most standardized tests, many standardized tests are culturally biased, they are designed for a certain segment of our society and not for the entire cross section of it. It may be a test that --(Interjection)-- Yes, Mr. Chairman, and one that I well would have failed, having enrolled in a public school not knowing a word of English, yes, of course I would have failed it, and I'm not ashamed to say that I would have failed it. Tests which are designed for children living in urban middle class communities can handle quite well, but many of the concepts contained within them may be quite strange and foreign to a child living in northern Manitoba, and because the nature of the subject material of the test, strange and foreign to the child, therefore the child does poorly on the test. But the Honourable Member for Brandon West would say, but we must have some standard measuring instrument for all children, and that's what we're going to use for all children and if they don't measure up to these standards that the children in River Heights and Tuxedo and West Kildonan and wherever else can measure up to, therefore that child in the Frontier School Division must fail.

Now I don't think the Honourable Member for Brandon West is all that cruel and ruthless, and no doubt he would want to give those children a second chance. And I suppose that he would then attempt to seek out and employ the most highly trained, professionally trained teachers in the province, from wherever he could find them, teachers with

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) . . . .Ph.Ds and Masters' degrees. Mr. Chairman, at the present time he will not find them in the local community because his government did not develop programs to enable local people to become trained as teachers, so therefore he would have to go once again into an environment quite strange and different and foreign to northern Manitoba in search of such teachers, who in turn - and let's assume that he succeeds in hiring teachers of that kind - who will go to northern Manitoba and to attempt to teach the children of that kind, bringing with them their cultural background, again which is entirely strange and foreign to the children whom they are teaching. And those teachers, Mr. Chairman, are going to throw up their hands in desperation and say to the Member for Brandon West, we're sorry but we cannot make any progress, any headway with these children. So then I suppose the Honourable Member for Brandon West would say, well, let's administer an IQ test to these children, let's determine the learning ability of the children. And here again, Mr. Chairman, relying on standardized tests and not taking into account cultural differences from community to community, from region to region, applying a standardized test - and every psychologist will tell you that psychological tests do contain within them a cultural bias, that it's absolutely impossible to devise a psychological test entirely free of a cultural bias, and so - the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell does not wish to hear this, so he needn't. Mr. Chairman, he knows as well as I do that that's his privilege, and if he chooses not to listen he doesn't have to. And if other members choose not to listen, neither do they have to, but, Mr. Chairman, this issue was raised and the honourable members did indicate to me that they wished some answers.

So, Mr. Chairman, the honourable member would then administer such a psychological test, on which, once again, the children will not do all that well and will not measure up to the standards of children elsewhere. So then I suppose the Member for Brandon West would say, well, the children in these communities, it's just absolutely impossible to teach them, so he will then just simply scrap the program and do absolutely nothing, do absolutely nothing for the children in the core city area, do absolutely nothing for the children in a northern community - with the exception of those few, Mr. Chairman, who can measure up to the standards that he will have established for a middle class society elsewhere, but the hell with everybody else. And that, Mr. Chairman, is what comes across to me, of the approach that the Honourable Member for Brandon West would take to our education program today. And not only that, Mr. Chairman, but he also stresses the importance of the need for an evaluation of our education program, because after all we're spending public funds, No. 1, and hence you must be accountable, and there's no denying of that; No. 2, there's need for the type of evaluation process that has been going on for the past, goodness knows how many decades, because we're dealing with human lives, that our schools, they mold and shape the generation of the future.

Mr. Chairman, it raises a question in my mind, why then, if that's his rationale, if that's his rationale for the revival of the type of evaluation process which had been in existence a decade ago or so, if that was his rationale, then why is he limiting this evaluation process only to teachers? Is he suggesting that our teachers are incompetent? Is he suggesting that the local school boards are incompetent? Is he suggesting the school boards have no way of determining and don't know and don't care whether the teachers are delivering the type of program that they, the elected representatives who are accountable to their constituents, that they are incapable of determining whether or not the teachers are delivering an adequate program, is that what he's suggesting? It certainly makes it sound that way, Mr. Chairman.

So it really makes one wonder why he is singling out teachers and trustees as being incompetent, as being incapable of doing the job which the first group of teachers were either hired to do, or the trustees elected to do. And then, Mr. Chairman, it raises the other question in my mind, you know, I really wonder whether he would want to limit the evaluation process or, carrying his reasoning through to conclusion, why he should limit it only to teachers. Because if he's going to be concerned about those programs which deal with human development and the expenditure of public funds, then it would seem to me that evaluation of other groups must be just around the corner. That

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) . . . .he would also advocate the sending of inspectors into doctors' offices and into hospitals and evaluate the performance of doctors in their offices, because after all they're dealing with human beings also, and they're spending public funds, the vast majority of our doctors are under our Medicare plan; and even those that are not, the consumers of medical services are entitled to their proper degree of coverage under the Medicare plan, so as a consumer one is entitled to that protection. So it would seem to me that that is one step removed from also inspecting the performance of doctors and our hospitals, never mind the hospital boards; never mind the professional competence of doctors, we're going to send inspectors into their offices, we're going to inspect their performance because they're spending public funds and they're dealing with human lives. Also the inspection of lawyers, because after all there's a Legal Aid Program, and much of what lawyers do has to do with human lives, so we must send inspectors into the law offices to see to it that they're practicing law in accordance with his standards. And social workers - and I suppose, getting closer to teachers, I really don't know, Mr. Chairman, how on the basis of his rationale he would exclude teachers in our universities, I presume, Mr. Chairman, that he would be the first to stand up to repeal the University of Manitoba Act, the repeal of the Universities Establishment Act, and remove the independence and autonomy that the university faculties have enjoyed over the years. Because after all, they're dealing with the development of human minds, and they're spending public funds, and each year they're spending increasing amounts, both in terms of total amounts and in terms of proportion of public funds, so therefore we must have inspectors inspecting them too. Because really, Mr. Chairman, I don't know on what basis he can limit the inspection function that he is proposing only to one segment of our society, to the exclusion of all others. By definition, Mr. Chairman, he will have to include all. Well, Mr. Chairman, I doubt very very much whether that is the type of a police state that the people of the Province of Manitoba would want to buy today.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, so much for the diversionary tactics of the Minister of Education. The question needs to be asked after listening to that dramatic monologue, is this the man who is in charge of our educational program? I can understand why he would much prefer to discuss the alleged evaluation programs that we would put into effect, rather than those which he is supposed to be providing but hasn't, I can understand why he would do that. I can also understand why he would like very much to divert this discussion away from the basic question that I asked him about half an hour ago, and that was the question of his inconsistency in respect to his answers on the question of the Field Service Branch. — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate it very much if you would let him again answer the question which I put last night, has his department terminated the Field Services Branch?

MR. HANUSCHAK: For the umpteenth time, Mr. Chairman, no. And at the outset of my remarks, I did indicate the nature of the function of the Field Services Branch has been occurring over the years and is still occurring.

MR. MCGILL: Then the question needs to be put to the Minister, and I ask him again, is he deliberately misleading this committee? And I put to him a quotation from a letter written by his Assistant Deputy Minister who is sitting right beside him, and this went out to a good number of the Field Service Officers, and it says, "I must at this time give you official notification of dissolution of the Field Service Branch, effective March 31, 1976." Mr. Chairman, I demand to know what is going on, is this Minister deliberately misleading this committee?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, once again I'll attempt to make an effort to penetrate my words through the honourable member's skull. Yes, that letter was sent, and the reference to the Field Services Branch was as the Field Services Branch formerly existed and not to the Field Services Branch as it presently exists, Mr. Chairman. And where there is a change of function, change of duty of any particular branch and hence any change that may necessitate any reorganization of staff, the provisions of the Civil Service Act make it mandatory that notice to the employees be given. So notice was given, the role and function of the Field Services Branch as it now operates was discussed with those affected and they are continuing to operate in the manner in which I had outlined last night.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 49(a)(1), the Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, this letter, signed by Mr. Campbell, went out to a number of the Field Service Officers. It was subsequently amended to retract the part about the lay-off, but the dissolution of the Branch part was not retracted. Mr. Chairman, I think that the explanation of the Minister is inadequate, either he doesn't know what's going on in his department or he is not being candid with this House, and we cannot support this kind of an appropriation which is being asked for for a department that has been dissolved as of March 31st, according to the official notification of his department.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, again I repeat, that the traditional function of the Field Services Branch has been in the process of dissolution for many many years, long before we became the government, Mr. Chairman. And the honourable member knows it. And if it wasn't, then --- (Interjection) -- Well that doesn't surprise me, Mr. Chairman, because that's indicative of their style of operation. Somebody came up with a bright idea that it's fashionable to establish unitary school divisions and did that without giving any thought as to the change in the role and function that may be necessitated within the Department of Education to meet the changing needs. So the changes had been gradually coming over the years and it reached the point this year where some very significant changes have had to be made, and particularly, as I pointed out to the honourable member, which the honourable member either did not hear for his inability to hear, does not remember for his inability to remember, or for his deliberateness not to hear, and not to remember, I do not know, Mr. Chairman. The honourable member is a better judge of that than I am, what the explanation for that may be. But the fact of the matter is, as I have mentioned earlier, that today, and this has been proceeding and coming over the years, that it has become very obvious, very apparent over the past year, that there is a need for co-operative effort on the part of the Department of Education and the school divisions, a very close liaison between an evaluated function and a program identification of needs, and a program developmental function, which the field officers are very very capable and competent of delivering that type of service, and hence the present arrangements.

So the Field Services Branch as it may have been defined, as it may have been traditionally referred to over the years, yes, Mr. Chairman, that has come to an end, that particular function. But a field services function, the need for the Department of Education to maintain a presence and deliver a service in the field has not come to an end, Mr. Chairman. The nature of the service, the manner in which it is delivered may have changed, but the need for it has not changed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 49(a)(1). The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, we support the function that is being provided by the Field Service Branch, but we have documented evidence to show that the Field Service Branch has been terminated so we cannot support this appropriation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 49(a)(1)--pass.

A MEMBER: Division.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Division? Call in the members.

The motion before the House is Resolution 49(a)(1), Field Services Branch Salaries, \$589,900.

A COUNTED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows: Yeas 26; Nays 19.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I declare the motion carried.

The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I was paired with the Member for Emerson. If I had voted, I would have voted against the government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 49(b)(2)--pass; 49(b)(1) - Native Education Branch Salaries - (1). The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I just thought that under this particular appropriation the Minister would seem to have some explanation considering the disruption that that particular branch went through during the past year where the director of the branch resigned in protest and so did staff members of the branch. The rationale that was given

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . at that time by those particular members of the staff was that the government had not in any way consulted or worked with native people in the development of the program, and if that charge in fact is true then it is a fairly serious charge, and it seems somewhat of an anomaly that the Department of Native Education would have gone ahead and planned programs without involving the full consultation and partnership with native tribes and the communities throughout the Province of Manitoba. In fact, if I recall, Mr. Chairman. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The honourable member.

MR. AXWORTHY: If I can recall, Mr. Chairman, that the charges made by the director when he did resign was that it went much further, and that it was not the Department of Education but that there was a general failure of the government itself to undertake full consultation. So I think, Mr. Chairman, that this area of program development in the particular branch that we're dealing with is in the front line of one of the most sensitive areas of public policy in the province, it's dealing with one of the most difficult and intractable problems and one that requires a great deal of very careful caution in the treatment of it, and it's disturbing to say the least that it appears that that treatment has not been given if it resulted in a fairly major disruption in the branch over the past year. So I would like to hear the Minister's explanations both as to the reasons for the dismissal of the director, the resignation of the staff, and what in fact the branch has been doing or not been doing in terms of consultation and work with native groups in the province to develop proper programs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, in response to the first question, the reasons for dismissal, here again we're entering into a debate related to particular individuals, their personalities, and the answer which I gave yesterday in response to similar queries with respect to others on my staff also applies in this case, and I don't know whether the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge was in the House at that time or not, but in brief my response is this: When we're elected government of this province we were not elected to hire or fire or promote or demote any individuals. We ran on a program wherein we committed ourselves to the delivery of certain programs, and it is for the delivery of programs of this government of which I consider myself to be accountable for to the people of the Province of Manitoba and certainly by this Legislative Assembly and by the Committee of the House, within which we are meeting at this present time. So, if the honourable member wishes to discuss the program its effectiveness or lack of effectiveness, or disruption, if he has observed any - questions of that kind - I'd be quite happy to answer and it is on that level within those parameters that I would debate this particular item in my Estimates.

Now, firstly, I would want to assure the honourable member that there was no disruption and that brings me, and I think that that will become apparent as I proceed to answer the other question posed by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, his concern about what appears to him, or what he had heard others say that there was lack of consultation between the Native Education Branch of my department and the clientele, the consumers of program which they were charged with the responsibility of developing and delivering.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Native Education Branch came into being about a year, eight or nine months ago, in August of 1974, and it was given the responsibility for those aspects of the department's functions that concern the education of Indian and Metis children in Manitoba. The balance of that fiscal year was devoted to structuring the branch and establishing programs, and the structure that evolved consisted of four main areas of program responsibility under the director's office. The four areas of responsibility were: (1) the field section; (2) curriculum; (3) special projects; and (4) administration.

And this structure continued into the present fiscal year until July of 1975 when responsibility for the Headstart Program was transferred from Planning and Research, to which I'd made brief reference previously and will again. And then effective October of last year the Traditional Individual Education Program was begun, and this I will explain in a minute or two and I hope I will have an opportunity to do so this afternoon. The

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) . . . . Traditional Individual Education Program was begun in response to community requests and as a result of program researching within the branch.

Now, the curriculum section, and I will deal with each of these four sections, Mr. Chairman, it's prepared up to this point in time, two bibliographies related to native peoples in Manitoba and Canada, and these will be made available to teachers. Native language testing was carried on by the Branch at a number of schools within Winnipeg and outside it, eleven schools in total: Gordon Bell, Laura Secord, Elmwood High School, Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary, Frontier Collegiate in Cranberry Portage, Louis Riel Collegiate, R. D. Parker Collegiate in Thompson, Margaret Barber Collegiate of The Pas, Hapnot Collegiate at Flin Flon, Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School and River East Collegiate. Native language committees composed almost entirely of native peoples were established.

Here is example number one, Mr. Chairman, of consultation with the native people. Let me continue. Curriculum committees involved a majority of native teachers. People from the community and the teachers, native teachers who were involved in teaching native peoples were part of these committees, a further example of consultation. And these committees were established in the hopes of promoting native studies as an integrated project within the Social Studies Programs from Grades 1 to 3, next level 4 to 6, and the third 7 to 12. Film strips, slide sets, study cards have been developed and will be made available to schools for the fall term. The content of them deals with native peoples. The curriculum people in the Branch have also worked with the Social Studies Revision Committee and the Special Education Committees within the department to integrate the Social Studies Program designed for the native people with the regular ongoing Social Studies Program offered in the province at large.

The Native Education Branch input into such committees was for exchange of information and to see to it that both programs are developed on much the same track - well, one already developed, and the Native Education Program was developed along similar lines. The committees involved the Branch participation with the hopes of implementing some native content within their respective curriculum guides. So there's a spinoff benefit, not only to the native communities but also to others by enriching the Social Studies Program in general in the province via the contribution of the Native Education Branch and thereby enriching our Social Studies Program by developing a greater awareness and appreciation of the contribution of the native people to our society, their history, background and heritage.

Teaching English as a second language, workshops for pilot project teachers were held along with the development of native bilingual materials. Branch personnel were used for inservices in school divisions. And, Mr. Chairman, as an example of consultation, when you get to the level where you're working, where there's interaction with teachers, how much closer or greater consultation can one have than working with the native teachers involved in the delivery of these programs - and with other teachers, and in the schools, not in Winnipeg, not at some location removed from where the education program is offered, but in places like Grand Rapids, Fort Alexander, Nelson House, Island Lake, Berens River, The Pas and Pelican Rapids.

Mr. Chairman, a very brief and quick rundown of what the curriculum section of the Branch has done, is doing, has developed a mechanism for doing: Testing native language credits in the high schools, language committees in three of the native tongues, Dakota, Cree and Ojibway; consultative services to communities, Bands, schools, teachers and school boards, again an example of close liaison consultation; native studies curriculum committees to which I've referred; Manitoba Native Bilingual Program, I've mentioned that; a pilot project of the Native Education Branch operational in six communities, Berens River, Cross Lake, Nelson House, Pelican Rapids, St. Theresa Point and Wassagamach; a native bilingual conference, film strips, slide sets that I've mentioned for native studies. It's presently dealing with six school divisions with the hope of introducing native studies as an interdisciplinary course of study, and to date the divisions have been working at ways and means of the implementation of such a program.

In-services work with BUTEP, IMPACT and BUNTEP projects, which I'll be able

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) . . . .to explain in greater detail when we get to the Estimates of Colleges and Universities Affairs which department those programs are under. I've mentioned the part of the Social Studies and Special Education Revision Committees. They met regionally with native groups during field staff meetings, with the community, Mr. Chairman - again consultation. A committee working with the Francaise section in a development of a Francaise student history book at the Grade 6 level, Native Education Branch contribution was the Metis; publication of resource book, An Indian Metis in Inuit; development of native bilingual materials; publication of resource book on Native People of Manitoba in the Special Projects Section, and within this area, Mr. Chairman, you will find even greater evidence of consultation.

At Camperville, in response to cross-cultural problems within the Duck Mountain schools, a liaison function was established effective December 16th of '74, in fact a year and a half ago, at the Camperville School, with the provision of a Metis school councillor. And the person occupying this position is now in his second year functioning in this capacity.

And representatives from the Camperville community and the Duck Mountain School Division collaborated with the Native Education Branch in drawing up the job specifications in identifying the problems and needs that had to be met, and then in turn defining ways and means of dealing with the problems, with the issues of concern to the people in the Camperville community as they may relate to the Camperville School.

A group, the Manitoba Indian Travelling College as it's known, the group dedicated to illustrating the cultural and religious heritage of the Indian people of this province, it has applications from both native and non-native schools. In the former, it's an awareness technique leading toward curriculum revision, and in the latter it's curriculum enrichment. And the following schools have been visited to this point in time: Of the Indian schools, Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Cross Lake, Norway House. Really it's a package of material designed to develop this type of an awareness within the native people, their own culture and background, and also in other communities an awareness within the non-native community of the existence of the native peoples and of the richness of the contribution of their culture.

The non-Indian schools that were visited: David Livingstone School in Winnipeg, Tuxedo Shaftesbury High School in Winnipeg, in Assiniboine South School Division, Clifton School in Winnipeg, St. Francais Xavier School, Ross L. Gray School in Sprague. I could add, Mr. Chairman, that from a number of these schools, I personally have received very very complimentary letters from the principals and the school boards expressing their appreciation of the value of such a program and what it did to them. One that comes to mind in particular is from the Sprague community, Ross L. Gray School, the value that they saw within a program of this sort.

Conferences and workshops were held, Youth Elders workshop, Manitoba Indian Travelling College, Indian-Metis Student Conference, the Morley Ecumenical Conference - all of these designed to provide for that type of consultation.

I had mentioned a couple of other programs, Mr. Chairman, which are under way. The Traditional Individualized Education Program, or the TIE Program as it's known. This is operating in ten northern Manitoba communities and its intent is to promote the transmission of traditional cultural values, utilizing local resources, I would think, in the communities where this program is operating, where we call upon local trappers who take students out on the trapline for extended periods of time and the trappers teach the students trapping, hunting skills and traditional methods of survival in the wilderness, and in addition to that attempt to relate that which may have been inherited from the culture of the past to the culture of this day and age. The Headstart Program operates in eight native communities providing a learning situation for children who have none of the urban resources at their disposal, and to date requests keep coming in for more centres. Headstart is a preschool program designed to provide an early childhood enrichment program in the form of a drop-in centre for children, ages 2-7, in northern and isolated communities. Presently the Headstart Program is located in Vogar, Berens River, Amaranth, Manigotogan, Fisher River, Split Lake and Churchill, and there are plans to establish a

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) . . . .program in Riverton early this spring - the planning has commenced for the establishment of a program.

The Native Education Branch has also been meeting with school boards on a fact-finding mission with respect to native education in the province. I'm glad and proud to say, Mr. Chairman, that the reception of the Branch personnel has been excellent, and from such meetings, from such consultations, the Branch has been able to identify school division needs and issues with respect to native peoples.

In the Field Section, the staff has met with the communities within the province to discuss such items as local control, curriculum, truancy and drop-out rate. Regional conferences were held on the theme of native education where native peoples would expound their needs and their criticisms with respect to education. Again, Mr. Chairman, I want to impress upon you evidence of consultation having taken place.

The Field Section also assisted other Branch programs at the field level, such as the TIE Program and Cross-Cultural Workshops. So, in brief, Mr. Chairman, that is an outline of the programs and projects being undertaken by the Native Education Branch, and I would hope a reply to the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge about his concern about lack of consultation. Again, I want to repeat, Mr. Chairman, that I am satisfied that there has been, every step of the way, ample consultation with those affected by the program, with the users of the program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister provided us with an exhaustive number of words concerning the description of what the Branch is supposed to be doing. I still think he misses the point. And that is he tries to sidestep the responsibility of a Minister for the operation of a department. That operation does not just include programs, it includes the personnel who provide the programs, and as we have been lectured many times about the concept of ministerial responsibility it means, particularly under our system of government, every action or lack of action. People in the department is a ministerial responsibility for which he is answerable, and to say that he is not simply is to evade his responsibility. Now that's exactly what he said. He said he's not here to discuss matters dealing with hiring of people or the dismissal of people or the administration of people, he's here to talk simply about programs. But the fact of the matter is that the public explanation given by the person who was dismissed had nothing to do with the competence of running the program, it had more to do with the fact that that individual spoke out against government practices and was therefore dismissed, that seems to me a very legitimate rightful area of discussion of Estimates, that if in fact the Minister feels that he is going to restrain or muzzle the statements of members of his department in areas of direct concern to them, native problems, then in fact it is his responsibility, he's answerable to this committee for. And to say that he isn't, I think, really is a sidestep of a basic principle that this House has always held to. Because the situation as it was reported and subsequently confirmed in other discussions, was that the individual responsible for the operation of this program said in a public way that he felt the Provincial Government did not adequately consult with native organizations' groups with whom it was dealing and in fact was paternalistic in its outlook, that it may have been doing things but it was doing things for people, not with them. It was doing things that they would decide to do, not something that they would decide to do jointly. It was doing things that they felt was a priority, not that the groups that were supposed to be helped or assisted felt was a priority. Now that seems to me a fairly serious criticism and a legitimate one, one that should be made, otherwise there would be no way for the public or members of this House to realize what was going on. And therefore, it seems to me that that is an obvious subject of examination under this particular Branch.

So let's get back. To begin with, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has a responsibility to answer those particular charges, and particularly the charges as to whether in fact the individual was dismissed for saying them. And if that was the rationale, was it in fact that an individual spoke out or was critical in part of government behaviour in relation to native people in the province and expressed this so publicly. And so that becomes an issue of some concern.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)

Now taking that into account, I wonder if the Minister really understands that reading from a text full of words saying that this is what we're doing, does not necessarily provide members of this House with information as to how well it's working, what the effect is and what the performance is. I mean you can run down a shopping list of items saying, this is what we're going to do, this is what we're doing, and so on, but it doesn't say really, is it helping in developing an educational program for native people that makes sense? And maybe again comes back to the unexamined life that we're always warned about against in education. There's no point in running around the province doing all kinds of things unless there's some adequate demonstration of the effect of those programs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hour for Private Members' Hour having arrived, committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, your Committee of Supply directs me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

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

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Matthews that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

PRIVATE MEMBERS HOUR - RESOLUTION NO. 19

MR. SPEAKER: First item, Wednesday, is resolutions. Resolution 19. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. ENARSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek, that

WHEREAS the cost of building materials, building insulation and maintenance for rural and urban private dwellings, apartments, farm and industrial buildings in Manitoba continue to escalate due to the inflation and other economic factors; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has reduced the sales tax on building materials from 11 to 5 percent; and

WHEREAS citizens across Manitoba should be encouraged to take immediate steps to improve insulation in all heated buildings to conserve energy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Manitoba consider the advisability of removing the 5 percent sales tax levy on building materials, building insulation and building maintenance supplies.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. ENARSON: Mr. Speaker, now having introduced this resolution, I think back over recent months when the First Minister has spoken extensively about conserving our energy which in turn concerns our natural resources. Also when I think of one of our natural resources, one which is renewable, I feel that because of the increase in the costs of producing this renewable natural resource in recent years has given me some concern as to how we can help the people of this province when we talk about conserving our energy.

As I state in this resolution, the Federal Government has reduced their sales tax from 11 to 5 percent, and I am aware, Mr. Speaker, that they have not taken it all off, but I think that they have made a step in the right direction. You know, when we bring up such matters as this, and we sort of are telling the government to try to cut down costs, they invariably say, well, the Federal Government are not doing the kind of thing that we are recommending. But I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I think that while I would like to see the 11 percent taken off completely, I believe the Federal Government have taken a step in the right direction insofar as the sales tax on building materials were concerned.

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd)

Mr. Speaker, before I pursue any further into my remarks, I would like to read for the record comments that have come from the News Service of this government, and I quote, Mr. Speaker: "The Energy Conservation Office for Manitoba. The opening of a Manitoba Energy Conservation Office designed to serve as an information clearing house and to promote more efficient and wiser use of energy among Manitobans has been announced by Industry and Commerce Minister, Len Evans. Mr. Evans, who chairs the Manitoba Industry Council, said the office is the first provincial centre of its kind in Canada and will welcome expression to public concern as well as disseminate information on energy matters." And it goes on to indicate the location. "Mr. Evans described the new Conservation Office as a vehicle to determine and respond to public concerns on energy matters as well as information feedback mechanism for the Manitoba Energy Council. Initially the office will seek answers to questions by referring them to appropriate experts. In this connection it will be able to call upon the resources of the Energy Branch of the Manitoba Department of Industry and Commerce which acts as the secretariat of the Manitoba Energy Council. As well as the expertise of the various utilities and a technical advisory committee that is being formed, it will also work closely with the Federal office of energy conservation. The main office, said Mr. Evans, is to encourage energy conservation and improve efficiency in use of energy, including all fuels and involving any end use sector such as residential, commercial, industrial and transportation. We must accept the position, said the Minister, that energy is a valuable resource that is not available in unlimited quantities, and that to squander it will deprive Manitobans of its use for more valuable purposes.

"The second objective of the office, said Mr. Evans, is to respond to public concerns for energy conservation and to make available information that can assist people in identifying areas where any savings can be achieved in terms of money spent on fuel and electricity and quantities used. The Minister said the office's awareness of public opinion should prove valuable in government promotion of wise use of energy. There is a great responsibility, he said, for government and consumers in the marketplace to practice energy conservation in all behaviour, whether it is on the road, at home or at work."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I commend the Minister for putting out a new Service Bulletin such as this. You know, Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned electricity as being a renewable resource, and also I have emphasized the fact that this government has talked about conserving our energy and our natural resources which are becoming more costly as each day and each month goes by in this day and age. And, you know, Mr. Speaker, when we think of all the people who have and who are contemplating building a new home, or building any buildings in the industrial field whereby we have to depend on a source of heat, I can think of Manitoba Hydro that have regulations which apply to anyone who wants to build a home safe. They are regulations that are in the interests of the person who is going to construct that home because they tell people that if you want to build the kind of home that is going to be less costly in maintaining it insofar as heat is concerned, there are certain regulations that we suggest that you follow and this, Mr. Speaker, entails the use of a considerably more number of materials in the way of insulation. I think, Mr. Speaker, that's good business insofar as anyone who is going to build himself a new home, or build an industrial building which they are going to use for the purpose of running their business, where employees are housed to operate that business. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that this resolution which we are suggesting is one way of creating an incentive for people to use the kind of insulating materials which would not only be of benefit to the user, but also I think will be an adherence to and a recognition of the message that this government is trying to convey to the people of this province, that message that I have just read into the record from the Minister of Industry and Commerce.

I know, Mr. Speaker, I was visiting a new home in my constituency the other night and the gentleman who had built this home was telling me about the help he received from Manitoba Hydro when it came to giving advice in the way he should use the insulating materials. And the amount was about \$3,000 more in the cost of putting up that building

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) . . . . with the extra insulation material he had to use, but over a long period of time, or maybe not all that long, Mr. Speaker, it was a savings to him because he was conserving electric energy, that I think we need. And possibly if it is done in a way that this government I feel should do, in developing our electrical resources in this province, which is a renewable resource, I think that we have a future industry in this province that can be utilized and we can have more of that kind of energy to probably export and sell to our neighbours to the south, to our neighbours to the east, and to our neighbours to the west. And may I add, Mr. Speaker, I hope that we won't be continuing to do that in the way we're doing right now, namely, subsidizing our American friends with our renewable resource such as electricity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to go on a little further and read into the record another News Service Bulletin, which I think, Mr. Speaker, is important. I am using my own comments in between but I believe the comments made by this government have a relevance and have importance, and I would like to read one further item, Mr. Speaker: "Let's take a new look at energy consumption. One factor which has made a major contribution to the economic growth of the North American economy is a plentiful supply of low cost energy, oil and its products. Gas and electricity have been abundant and society has made use of those resources almost like air and water as though they are limitless, but within the last two years a significant shift has occurred in the pricing and relative availability of the major energy resources. Limitless economic growth thinking which until recently was unquestioned assumed that technology would provide substitutes as any of our resources became scarce, and that scarce resources would inflate their prices causing strong incentives to find new substitutes. Now for the first time that attitude is in question. With remarkable suddenness we have come to realize that the oil and gas which we depend for so many aspects of our lifestyle can no longer be regarded as unlimited. Demand is beginning to outstrip supply. It even seems possible that we may run out of oil and gas, so what is to be done?"

Mr. Speaker, I feel that my answer is only a partial answer in the recommendation and the resolution that I submit to the honourable members before this Chamber, that in one small way we can make a contribution by eliminating that 5 percent sales tax on materials. Here again, and we don't all use electrical energy to heat our homes, to heat our places of business, but we also use natural gas, we also use oil, and this article and this government and this Minister - the First Minister particularly, Mr. Speaker, has become very conscious of our natural resources, something we have to be very concerned about. I think, Mr. Speaker, that by taking off the 5 percent sales tax of those kind of materials that I consider essential - and I don't know whether I am anticipating here, Mr. Speaker, but it seems as though when we make comments like this, that my colleagues opposite are going to say, well, you were a part of government that brought in the sales tax in the first place, and I hope they won't use that, Mr. Speaker -- (Interjection) -- But maybe I'm anticipating, maybe I'm anticipating, Mr. Speaker. But, you know, things have changed in the past seven to ten years, things have changed, Mr. Speaker, in the past seven to ten years, so I don't think I'm really anticipating, I think I was reading the minds fairly accurately of those members opposite this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, we have an inflationary situation today. We also have somewhat of a crisis in our energy resources. Ten years ago we never would have thought that the shiiks of Arabia would have come to realize that their natural oil resources have suddenly become so valuable in the world. That wasn't the case 10 years ago, and so I think this plus many other factors have changed the situation to the present day. I think, Mr. Speaker, that I feel justified, and I know my colleagues go along with me, that while I'm not advocating the 5 percent sales tax be removed from all things, but I think that in view - and I put it back to the side of the government, the fact that the First Minister himself has stressed so much on the fact that we should be conserving our energy and electrical energy is one source. I think he would do a great service to the people of Manitoba in conserving that energy by removing the 5 percent sales tax on materials that are used for insulation purposes as I've described.

Mr. Speaker, I have another letter here that I think was sent to a colleague of

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(MR. ENARSON cont'd) . . . . mine and it was intended for this government. It's the Triple E Canada Limited who produce mobile homes and, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read into the record where these people are indicating and it's sort of self-explanatory, it's sort of self-explanatory insofar as the sales tax is concerned. And to quote, Mr. Speaker: "Dear Mr. Schreyer: Re Manitoba Sales Tax. This submission is made on behalf of the Manitoba based members of the Canadian Mobile Home Association. CMHA is a national trade association representing more than 95 percent of all Canadian manufacturers of mobile homes. We respectfully wish to draw your attention to the inequities which exist with regard to the Manitoba sales tax in its application to the sale of mobile homes as compared to built-on-site conventional housing. According to the Manitoba Sales Tax Act mobile homes are considered tangible personal property and as such are taxed at the point of retail sale. In the case of conventional housing, the sales tax is applicable only to the material used by the builder in the construction and only that portion is passed on to the consumer. In view of the above, the purchaser of a mobile home is penalized to the extent that he must pay sales tax on the manufacturers overhead and profit in addition to the dealers overhead markup. As we understand it, the Manitoba sales tax is collected by the mobile home dealer when he sells the mobile home directly off his lot with no setup for connections to utilities involved, even though he delivers the home to the consumers' site. Under these conditions the dealer must collect tax on the gross selling price. In the case of the conventional built-on-site home, the Manitoba sales tax applies only on the material purchased by the builder and incorporated in the home. No sales tax applies to the end price of the conventional home as in the case of the mobile home site, in the foregoing paragraph where the dealer acts as the retailer. Our estimate is that in mobile homes the cost of material used in the manufacture equals approximately 65 percent of the price of a mobile home to the dealer; therefore, to clarify matters and put the citizen who purchased the mobile home on an equitable basis as the citizen who purchases a conventional built-on-site home, we suggest that all mobile home dealers in Manitoba be required to account for the Manitoba sales tax on the basis of 65 percent of their purchase price. The Federal National Revenue has long recognized the discrepancy in this matter and now permits the mobile home Manufacturer to pay federal sales tax on a taxing basis as his materials for manufacturing are purchased. In order to put the mobile home owner on an equal footing with the conventional home owner, the Audain Inquiry in B.C. presented a summary of more than 40 recommendations to the B.C. Department of Housing. Recommendation No. 1 of the Audain Report is attached hereto as Appendix A. This provides a remedy for the mobile home buyer by suggesting that the social service sales tax be amended to treat the mobile home buyer in the same manner as the conventional home buyer."

My time is running out I see, Mr. Speaker, but I think that this is one item that I wanted to bring to the attention of this government, to add one further reason why I think that that sales tax should be removed insofar as building material is concerned, in this case to create a more equitable situation insofar as mobile home owners are concerned and those who build on site. With those comments, Mr. Speaker, I recommend it to the government, hopefully that they will support the resolution.

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

MR. WALLY JOHANNSON (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, the honourable member said that times have changed and this was the reason why his group is now supporting the exemption of a number of items from the sales tax, insulation materials, building materials and building maintenance materials, and he cited inflation today and an energy crisis. But really the main reason why times have changed for the honourable member and his colleagues is that they're not in the government now, they're not in the government now, we are, they are in opposition and therefore they propose a resolution like this. This resolution, Mr. Speaker, is stupid, stupid, and it is wrong in principle and we intend to vote against it.

I still think, Mr. Speaker, that it is worthwhile reminding the honourable members opposite of history. This is the journals of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba 1966-1967 and when we check the journals we find, Mr. Speaker, that there was a Bill 56 being debated by the Legislative Assembly, --(Interjection)-- who was in power then? The Progressive Conservative Party was in power. And this Bill 56 was not the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Bill, it was an Act to provide for the imposition of a tax on purchases of tangible personal property and certain services. And, Mr. Speaker, because the Honourable Member for Rock Lake has been a member of this House for some time, I thought it might be wise to look back at the journals and see if he would be acquainted with this matter, and I find when I check the votes that were taken at that time, I find that the yeas who voted for Bill 56, this is the Sales Tax Bill, not the Autopac Bill, were Messrs. Craik, Einarson, Enns, Lyon, McGregor, McKenzie, Spivak, Watt and --(Interjection)-- certainly you anticipated it. Mr. Speaker, the honourable member anticipated what I was going to say, but Mr. Speaker, I still wish to remind the honourable member that he was a member of the government which brought in the sales tax, he was a member of the government which brought in the sales tax that applied to building materials, to insulation materials, to building maintenance supplies, and let him not try to forget that fact. Now he proposes that we exempt these from the sales tax. And, Mr. Speaker, what would be the effect of this? What would be the effect? One of the effects would be that the largest savings of all would be provided not to the poor "working stiffs" as the honourable members usually talk about, their concern for the poor working stiff, the biggest savings would be for big business.

Mr. Speaker, all one has to do is look at a bit of arithmetic. When the Richardson Building is constructed there is one hell of a lot more building materials in that structure than there is in the average home that is constructed, and consequently it is a matter of simple arithmetic to calculate that invariably the savings are going to be the greatest for those who spend the most in building structures. Now this resolution includes apartment blocks, it would include an apartment block like 55 Nassau, it includes industrial buildings, Mr. Speaker, so the biggest savings would be for large businesses. When one looks at building starts in Manitoba, building starts today are primarily urban, the majority of building starts are urban, the majority of these are done not by the small individual, but the houses are being built by developers, so the savings would go to the developers not necessarily the individual. The developers, the businesses who are going to get these savings, already have a savings, because the expenses of construction, the expenses of insulation material, building maintenance materials, are a business expense and they're tax deductible on corporation tax, so they already have a tax deduction for these particular items. And, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member didn't really argue the point, the only point he really argued was the point of energy conservation, but the resolution deals with far more than simply energy conservation, it presumably provides some savings, and, Mr. Speaker, I tried to figure out what the savings would be.

Now the average house today is selling for roughly \$45,000, the average new house, and the Member for Assiniboia could correct me, is selling for roughly \$45,000, little higher, well then my figures, Mr. Speaker, are conservative and I'm like the Minister of Mines I like to use conservative figures, I like to be moderate in putting my case. So let's take roughly a \$45,000 to \$50,000 house. The mortgage on that would probably be \$40,000. The usual term is 25 years, 12 percent roughly, 12 percent interest, compounded semi-annually. The pay out for that house over that period of 25 years, the

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(MR. JOHANNSON cont'd) . . . . actual outlay in cash by the purchaser would be \$123,827.94; 123,000, in other words over triple, about triple the initial cost of the house is the actual cash outlay by the consumer over a period of time that he purchases the house. Two-thirds of that cost is interest, two-thirds of the cost is interest, of the initial list price, roughly half, well if one talks about the cost of the house roughly half is material half labour, and when you calculate it out and calculate the savings on a removal of the 5 percent in building materials, you're talking about a saving, a potential saving of roughly \$1,000. You're talking about a "potential" saving and, Mr. Speaker, I stress potential saving, of roughly a \$1,000. The total outlay for that house is \$123,000. You are talking of a saving for the consumer of less than 1 percent, which is not very much. And I say, Mr. Speaker, that that is a potential saving not a provable saving.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that the Conservative Party is now prepared to support this resolution in one way makes me happy, because a party that recommends resolutions like this, recommends that we start doing away with taxes, is a party that doesn't expect to be in government in the near future. It is a party, Mr. Speaker, that does not expect to be in government in the near future, therefore they are willing to attack the revenue sources of the government because they won't have to worry about the consequences. And they're right, Mr. Speaker, they don't have to worry about that, and they are simply reinforcing the probability that they won't have to worry about that, they won't be in government for a long time. --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, the democratic system inevitably means that governments go, and it's a good system. But they won't be in power for a long time. They are now, because they are in opposition and they don't expect to be government, they are now prepared to attack the principle of the sales tax, which they brought in, they will attack the principle of the sales tax which they brought in. And the honourable member proved the fact that he was trying to attack the principle, or at least if he wasn't trying to, he was inadvertently doing it, when he talked about giving a savings to the mobile home builders, removing the sales tax from them, too.

When the honourable members opposite introduced the tax - and one must always remember that they introduced it - it was a tax on tangible, personal property. Basically it was a tax on items that you can pick up and move. It didn't apply to homes which are permanent fixtures, it applied to items that you can pick up and move, the basic exemption, of course, was on food and there was an exemption on childrens' clothing which is in effect a partial violation of the principle of the bill. The honourable member pointed out that the Federal Government has reduced the sales tax on building materials from 11 to 5 percent. But all they've done is they've reduced their tax to our level. We have the same level of tax as they have, so that's no argument for our proceeding to remove entirely our sales tax. The member is continuing a Tory position which has been stated many times over the past 7 years and that is, he is continuing to state the position that we should go in for tax incentives, that if we bring in tax incentives, that if we bring in tax incentives people will do the right thing, if we bring in tax incentives for mining companies, they'll come into Manitoba and they'll explore, find minerals and they'll make Manitoba prosperous. Well, Mr. Speaker, that is an old and discredited system of taxation, it is a myth, the provinces of Canada have finally wised up to it and I think they're now starting to follow - the Mines Minister can correct me - I think they're now starting to follow the lead of Manitoba, and they realize that this is a path which only makes suckers of the province because they sell their resources and get nothing in return, and it is a system that ultimately penalizes the people of this province and gives away their resources for nothing. And we, Mr. Speaker, we are not going to go that path.

The honourable member talked about the need for energy conservation and applied this to the argument that we should exempt insulation materials from sales tax. Well, Mr. Speaker, if there are savings to be made in energy from improving insulation, surely one can give the people of Manitoba credit for enough intelligence that they will put in better insulation if they can make savings in terms of heat loss, because if energy costs are rising, and they certainly are, the costs, for example, of heating my home went up very greatly the last winter, and I heat my home with gas which is provided by

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(MR. JOHANNSSON cont'd) . . . . . a private company not by the public, it is provided by a private company which must justify its rates to the Public Utilities Board, but nevertheless the rate did rise substantially and the cost of heating my house rose substantially, and consequently, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be looking very carefully at the question of improving the insulation in my house, because it may pay me to improve the insulation. And I think the majority of Manitobans think the same way, if they can make savings, they will -- (Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, I think I am being consistent.

Now the honourable member - how much time do I have, Mr. Speaker? Five minutes. Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is proposing to do away with a very substantial revenue source. And he's doing that because he doesn't have any hope for being in government for a long time. The revenue loss will be very substantial, he is talking about giving away a revenue of tens of millions of dollars; tens of millions of dollars. He will give away this revenue that the province now collects, that it collected when he was the government, and that's the problem, give it to who? --(Interjection)-- To whom, pardon my grammar, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there is no proof that if we eliminated that 5 percent sales tax on building materials, insulation materials, building maintenance supplies, there's no proof that it will be passed on to the consumer. And in fact we know that in New Brunswick when they did away with the sales tax on building materials the studies that were done indicated that there was no proof that it was passed on to the consumers. In fact the study that was done indicated that that saving was simply absorbed by the contractors. This conclusion is stated in a report published in 1972, Programs in Search of a Policy, Low Income Housing in Canada. Mr. Speaker, there is no evidence that the Federal reduction in the tax on building material has resulted in any lower housing costs. We know that housing costs are continuing to rise. There is no evidence that that saving was passed on to the consumer.

Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member has as one of his intentions in this resolution to promote the renovation of housing, and he didn't mention this in his speech, but it is an implication of his resolution, then I think that is the wrong way to go about achieving renovation of housing. I think that this government in it's Pensioner Home Repair Program and it's present Critical Home Repair Program, has a far far wiser policy in the area of housing renovation. Mr. Speaker, with a Pensioner Home Repair Program this government succeeded in renovating to greater and less degrees 20,000 homes in this province; 20,000 homes. That is the most successful renovation program in the history of this country, the most successful. And it was the proper way of proceeding rather than trying to bring in tax incentives which will never achieve any results in that area.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, we're going to vote against this resolution because there is no proof that the savings would be passed on to the consumer, no proof at all that the savings would be passed on to the consumer, but there is proof that we would suffer a very very substantial revenue loss, perhaps a revenue loss that would equal 1 percent on the sales tax. For that reason we are going to vote against this resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): I really don't intend to get excited at all, Mr. Speaker. The member has said that he is conscious of the energy within his own home, or the cost of heating, and I would say that if the person building the house had had the opportunity to buy materials at less money and he had put more insulation, etc., in his home he would probably have it now, but the reason it isn't done is because it costs more to put it in and somebody comes along and he's got one house sitting here without it, you know, costing a little bit less and next door they've got a house where it costs a little bit more and I bet the member would say, Well I don't need that insulation too much, he'd buy the cheap house anyway. That's what happens.

And he talks about 1 percent. You know what it would mean if you dropped 1 percent in the interest rates in construction? Do you know what it would mean to the expansion of building? I assure you it would mean an awful lot to people in the construction business. Do you ever think of more building, more work for people, more jobs?

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(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd) . . . . The reason they aren't building is because the cost of operating the building is high, because energy is high at the present time. So lower the cost of the building and they will keep building, to take care of putting in more materials to keep energy costs down.

Now I assure you, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is a great historian, I've always said that, he's a great historian. There is no question in my mind that that happens, and the Honourable Member for Rock Lake anticipated the answer we would get. We knew that very clearly when the resolution was presented, but mind you, you know, back in those days we did not have an energy problem. We did not have an energy problem at that time. We did not have a situation where it was costing more money to put in better materials in a building to save energy and operating costs of that building, those did not apply at that time. So now we have a government which is strictly true to their philosophy, strictly true to their philosophy that never take a look at anything that could change for the best; once you got their money don't give it away and don't change it for the better. You know that's really the basis of the philosophy of this government. You're not taking a look at what is happening today as far as energy is concerned and, you know, I keep saying will you stop talking in the past. You know, that's rule number one as you fellas want to call it. Stop talking in the past. As I said, I'm not going to get excited, I just really can't understand why this government will not realize that the energy problem was not there six years ago, it's here now, and the way you're going to encourage people to build a building is you lower the cost of the materials that will keep their maintenance down. Now if you don't do it, you're not going to get buildings and the houses you were speaking of that cost \$45,000, that cost - oh, as the member said much more to heat right now . . . I'll tell you, well the house should probably still cost \$45,000 and would if you'd cut that insulation and material cost down, and the man would save money while he was heating a house.

A MEMBER: But he's saying what's a thousand?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: We don't think about that, what's a thousand? So, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing wrong with presenting something to this House that is relevant to now.

MR. BARROW: Well why don't you?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: We did.

MR. BARROW: Why don't you?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: We did accept it. Why don't we, Mr. Speaker, vote for it? I don't think the member was in the House when the other member was speaking. --(Interjection)-- Well I assure you, he wasn't listening when he says that. So, Mr. Speaker, again I say, we didn't have a problem then, we have it now, and you're not recognizing it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Speaker, I think the resolution proposed by the Member from Rock Lake was a very good one, and I think his remarks were very appropriate at a time when we have an energy shortage and are probably heading even for an energy crisis.

I have to say that I think the remarks from the Member for St. Matthews were nothing but stupid. They were just plain stupid and his comparisons were not proper comparisons at all. Just because the Conservatives brought in the sales tax at that time, now when we have an energy crisis is there anything wrong with eliminating it on something which may help the energy crisis? Is there anything wrong with doing that now when we're talking about an energy crisis, and it looks like we're in, is there anything wrong with making a change? To use the line of talk he did was just stupid as far as I'm concerned.

And these people that are building the buildings one moment he says the big buildings are the ones that it will affect the most and so you're saving them; but the next time he's up talking he's always saying that the large corporations pass it on to the other people in any case, so it is the consumers that's affected by the way he talks the next time. So one time he says you're just saving it for the big corporations and the next time he says the big corporations pass it on anyway. So I say why not save the energy,

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(MR. HENDERSON cont'd) . . . . . allow them to build and then possibly if you believe in it there will be less passed on to the consumers. Why don't you look at it like that for a change if you believe in that sort of an idea.

These days now when we're talking about a shortage of houses and we're bringing in a rent stabilization bill and we hear from the people that are in the housing industry, there isn't enough bucks in building and they can't raise their rents to where they're receiving a good return on their dollar, what would be wrong with allowing them to put the insulation into these houses without paying the sales tax on it? Then their costs wouldn't be so much and maybe you'd get a little bit more private capital going into it. It's not only just people that are building apartments, but people that are building houses. I just can't follow his line of reasoning, I can't see as his comparisons are right and I think a lot of the remarks he made are really, well I'd say they're really just stupid.

It just seems that, you know, this government when it's bringing out things has got something against anybody who is building a house or a company that's large. It just seems they're obsessed with some sort of a notion that he's a bad guy or that they're crooks. It just seems to be that you have no faith in anybody who is doing things in this country, or who has shown initiative and going ahead. You're always out to nail him, and not only to nail him a little bit, but you seem like Scrooge, that you're out for your last pound of flesh in every case, you're out for your last pound of flesh on every occasion you get. I don't see why these people who are really doing things for our province and really doing things for society that you're always out to get them. I think that probably you became obsessed with that idea, a certain amount of it might be all right, but it's become an obsession the way you're carried away with it.

Why don't you give some of these people a chance in our society and not be discouraging them all the time, because you don't make a better country by tearing down the good people all the time, you try to bring in things that will help the other people. You don't always have to tear the other fellow down. So I just wish that some of the times when some of the members over there when they're speaking that they'd quit trying to tear down anybody who does anything, or the people that make things happen in this province. I think it's a real good idea if they would cut that sales tax out on all the building materials as well as insulation, and if you got more and more homes built and you got a lot of these people out of some of the government housing I'd be darned happy about it because I think that's a stupid thing anyhow, because it's not a good thing anyways as far as I'm concerned. I say if you just keep going after the big fellow like you seem to, I said the big fellow, I don't mean it in the sense that he's really that big, I mean any individual that's building a house . . . .

A MEMBER: Anybody that earns over \$8,200 is a big fellow nowadays George, it seems that anybody earning over \$8,200 is a big fellow.

MR. HENDERSON: Well, it all depends what you call a big fellow, but you know, the ordinary citizen is the fellow I'm referring to, and a lot of your policies do go after the ordinary citizen that's trying to build his own home and trying to pay for it and trying to conserve the energy and trying to save a few dollars to do something else with. I think that the government takes a very backward look at that, I don't see why you can't see a type of society where you could let these people go ahead and work with them and I'm sure that in the long run it would work out for the benefit of the others. --(Interjection)-- It hasn't worked yet. Well it's worked a darn sight better than what they do in a lot of those other countries where they have socialism anyway. It may not have worked perfect but it's worked a darn sight better than it has in the other countries that haven't had it this way. So what's so much wrong with the type of society we have in Canada and in Manitoba, it's not that bad at all, and the way you people talk about it you'd think that we're all a bunch of crooks and had a heck of a government. We've had a good government, I don't care whether it's been Liberals or Conservatives say it. Some of you people that talk like that I wish you'd go to some of those countries and stay there. You're always out to tear the country down. It's been a good country. It just gets to me when I hear people going on like that, then I hear a member who is supposed to be intelligent, all sorts of research work and he comes out with such stupid remarks. Get

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(MR. HENDERSON cont'd) . . . . some of those professors and the like, that's where you'll get them, that's where you get the stupid remarks from, they haven't got any common sense at all.

A MEMBER: Who paid for their education? You did.

MR. HENDERSON: Yes, you could say that. Who paid for their education? The workers and the doers. And then they criticize you. That's about the way they do. I wouldn't want you to think that I'm one of those persons that seems to favour big corporations in the sense where they really are . . . I'm talking about --(Interjection)-- No, I'm not that sort of a fellow at all, but I do believe that you do need these people who work and who save and do things for the country, who employ others, who pay taxes and do things like this, and I'm just sick and tired of hearing people like that get up and say that whoever does this is a crook, he's taking advantage of everybody else.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Matthews have a question?

MR. JOHANNSON: Yes. I'd ask the honourable member if he can point to a single passage in Hansard where I have said what he is claiming I said, point to a single passage in Hansard where I said that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I think if you went through most of the remarks that the Honourable Member for St. Matthews makes most of the time you can see it in darn near all of them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I just have a couple of moments, but I'm trying to follow the logic of the Member for St. Matthews in this resolution. He said, Mr. Speaker, that the reason he couldn't support this legislation was because the Tories brought in a Sales Tax Act in 1966. Now if I open up the Revenue Tax Act, there's an Act here, an Act to provide for the imposition of a tax on purchasers of certain products and for the reduction of part of the school taxes payable in respect to real property was brought in by the New Democratic Party, a sales tax. And we'll slip over and we'll get into some of the other Acts that this government brought in, Mr. Chairman, and here is the revisions to the Retail Sales Act that was brought in by this government.

A MEMBER: . . . NDP brought in the sales tax, let that not be denied.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, this regressive type of taxation that is known to that group over there who figure sales tax is regressive, was brought in by them in 1974 and certain changes are made to the Act. The Member for St. Matthews says the reason he can't support the Member for Rock Lake's resolution is because they brought in the sales tax in '66. Now we have evidence that the New Democratic Party, the socialists brought in sales tax legislation and it was passed in this Chamber in 1974. Now what kind of logic do we get from that kind of reasoning, as the reason that he can't support this resolution, Mr. Speaker. It somehow just doesn't add up to me. Or if we want to get into the field of energy and conserve energy, who put the sales tax on the energy in this province? Was that the Conservative Government of the days of the Member for Rock Lake, or in the resolution that he was reading from, which government, Mr. Speaker, put the sales tax on the energy in this province? That government? Right, Mr. Speaker, that government sitting over there, they are the ones. And now in a simple resolution that we ask them, during a period of high inflation, high building costs to take it off for a little while, just remove it for a little while so that people can conserve the energy, can build maybe better homes, and the member says we can't take it off because it's costing too much money.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let's take a look and see what happened in that year 1974 when they put the new sales tax on the people of this province. Mr. Speaker, the year before that legislation was brought forth the sales tax revenue in the province was around \$47 million, but this government, when they added their sales tax, the next year it jumped up to 78, enormous. So, Mr. Speaker, there is the reason why they are not supporting this resolution. It's because they want to grab more money from the taxpayer of this province. They took the money away from them and no way . . . just hold out the bag and let's fill it up and take every cent that we can from the taxpayers.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am supporting the Member for Rock Lake's resolution and

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(MR. MCKENZIE cont'd) . . . . . I think anybody that has any compassion for his fellow taxpayer in this province will support this resolution, Mr. Speaker, because I don't think there's a more timely resolution that's come into this Chamber during this session than this one. That at this time in our history due to the period of high inflation, due to the high cost of energy, we take some of the tax off the building materials, the insulation and the maintenance fees of the buildings in this province. (Hear, hear)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia. . . Call it 5:30. The hour being 5:30 the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon. (Thursday).