

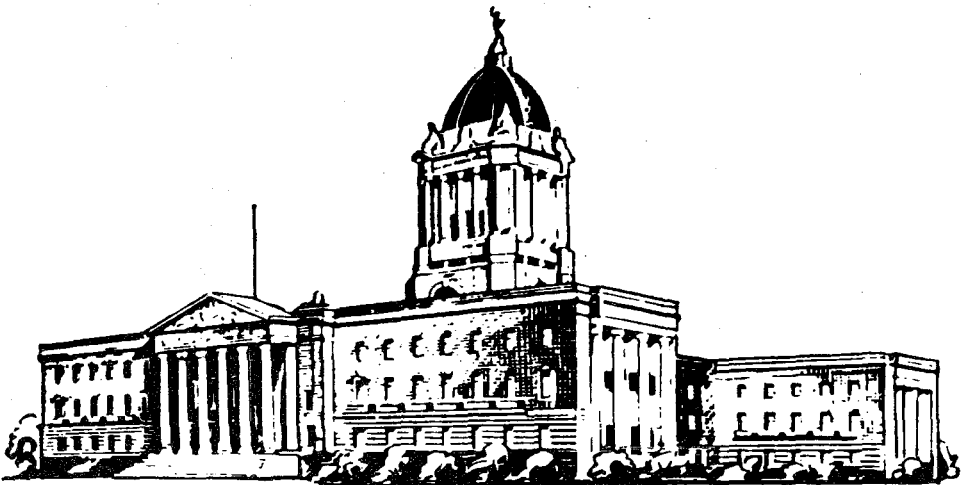


First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

37 Elizabeth II

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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fourth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIBERAL
ANGUS, John	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BURRELL, Parker	Swan River	PC
CARR, James	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIBERAL
CHARLES, Gwen	Selkirk	LIBERAL
CHEEMA, Gulzar	Kildonan	LIBERAL
CHORNOPYSKI, William	Burrows	LIBERAL
CONNERY, Edward Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
COWAN, Jay	Churchill	NDP
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNEY, James Hon.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Emerson	PC
DRIEDGER, Herold, L.	Niakwa	LIBERAL
DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	LIBERAL
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Laurie	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
EVANS, Leonard	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen Hon.	Virden	PC
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
GILLESHAMMER, Harold	Minnedosa	PC
GRAY, Avis	Ellice	LIBERAL
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupert Island	NDP
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HEMPHILL, Maureen	Logan	NDP
KOZAK, Richard, J.	Transcona	LIBERAL
LAMOUREUX, Kevin, M.	Inkster	LIBERAL
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MANDRAKE, Ed	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
MCCRAE, James Hon.	Brandon West	PC
MINENKO, Mark	Seven Oaks	LIBERAL
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
OLESON, Charlotte Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald Hon.	Pembina	PC
PANKRATZ, Helmut	La Verendrye	PC
PATTERSON, Allan	Radisson	LIBERAL
PENNER, Jack, Hon.	Rhineland	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
PRAZNIK, Darren	Lac du Bonnet	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Turtle Mountain	PC
ROCH, Gilles	Springfield	LIBERAL
ROSE, Bob	St. Vital	LIBERAL
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
TAYLOR, Harold	Wolseley	LIBERAL
URUSKI, Bill	Interlake	NDP
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
YEO, Iva	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Friday, November 25, 1988.

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Clerk, William Remnant: It is my duty to inform the House that Mr. Speaker is unavoidably absent and, therefore, in accordance with the Statutes, I would ask the Deputy Speaker (Mr. Minenko) to take the Chair.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Mr. Helmut Pankratz (La Verendrye): I would like to present the first report of the Committee on Industrial Relations.

Mr. Clerk, William Remnant: Your committee met on Thursday, November 24, 1988, at 10 a.m. in Room 254 of the Legislative Building. Your committee elected Mr. H. Pankratz as Chairman.

Your Committee considered:

Bill No. 37, The Crown Corporations Public Review and Accountability and Consequential Amendments Act; Loi sur L'Examen Public des activités des corporations de la Couronne, l'obligation redditionnelle de celles-ci et certaines modifications corrélatives.

And has agreed to report the same with certain amendments, all of which is respectfully submitted.

Mr. Pankratz: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Swan River (Mr. Burrell), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness).

Hon. Clayton Manness: I am waiting for your call to report. Your next order of business, please.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the spirit of Bill No. 37, The new Crown Accountability Act, I am tabling the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, Automobile Insurance Division, Estimated Financial Results for the year ended October 31, 1988. This is unaudited. This is being done in support of the information being made public by MPIC in its request for rate adjustments before the Public Utilities Board.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): I want to table the supplementary information for the Estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs.

* (1005)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Native Justice Inquiry Attorney-General Studies

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). The aboriginal inquiry is continuing to compile data and information regarding aboriginal experience in Manitoba's justice system. In order for this inquiry to effectively complete its work, it needs all studies of relevance, which are currently being conducted by the Department of the Attorney-General.

The Research and Planning Department of the Attorney-General's Department has been conducting a variety of research and studies projects which may be of assistance to this inquiry. Will the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) advise this House just what projects are ongoing in his department that have relevance to the aboriginal justice being delivered in the Province of Manitoba?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): The judges of the Inquiry have requested of the department one particular study regarding court appearances and timetables for court appearances. I suppose you could say this would be regarding a backlog and delays—but the time it takes up to the stage of the preliminary hearing. That is one study the judges have requested and the department is presently processing that request.

As for any other studies along the line the Honourable Leader of the Opposition refers to, I would have to check and find out.

Mrs. Carstairs: The understanding is there are a number of studies going on including such a variety of topics as sentencing and the length of sentencing which are going on. Can the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) tell the House today and assure the House today that any studies being conducted in the Attorney-General's Department that have relevance to the aboriginal inquiry will be delivered to the aboriginal inquiry before it is asked to submit its report?

Mr. McCrae: Every request made by the judges is being viewed in an atmosphere of attempting to work with them and to cooperate. We have let that be known to the judges. Every request the judges have made of us we have handled with all dispatch and done our very best to cooperate with the judges to ensure all information that is available is made available to the judges.

Mrs. Carstairs: With a supplementary question to the Attorney-General, it is my understanding there are studies that were initiated prior to the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry being established. Can the Minister inform the House today if those studies have been completed and if those studies will be submitted immediately to the

Aboriginal Justice Inquiry despite the fact they may not be requested because the commission may not know those studies are going on in this department?

Mr. McCrae: I believe I answered a few minutes ago to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) whatever studies have been undertaken or are being undertaken, I would look into and find out what studies those are.

Native Education Funding

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a new question to the Minister of Native Affairs (Mr. Downey), we welcomed the announcement earlier this week when he proclaimed this was Native Language Awareness Week. Essential of course to Native language awareness is training, and essential to training is educational curriculum. Can the Minister explain therefore why the curriculum development expenditures in Native Education have decreased from a high of \$202,600 in 1985-86 to \$185,000 in 1988-89?

Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for Native Affairs): As the Leader of the Opposition should be aware, that particular expenditure falls within the Department of Education, and I would take that question as notice for the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) so he could respond directly.

Curriculum Development

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): I did expect the Minister of Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) would take that question as notice, and therefore I ask him a supplementary to that question.

Will the Minister, in light of his earlier announcement this week that he wants to see on behalf of the Native people language awareness enhanced, now take on an advocacy role with the Department of Education in order to make sure proper curriculum development takes place in Native language training in the Province of Manitoba?

* (1010)

Hon. James Downey (Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. I think probably there will be some new initiatives that will be demonstrated and opportunities for the Native community, not only in education but in other areas that will enhance Native people in this province when we see a review of the Native Affairs Secretariat and some of the input that has coming from that review, as well as the work that is going to be done and is going to be started very shortly on the Urban Native Strategy. All those positive initiatives, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will have a major impact I believe on not only the educational factors but the total way of life for the Native people.

Winnipeg School Opening

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a final supplementary to the Minister of Native Affairs (Mr. Downey), throughout the discussions this weekend, indeed earlier, a proposal has been made for a Native school within the City of Winnipeg. Can the Minister tell us whether the Native Affairs Secretariat is recommending the establishment of such a school?

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): I would think that this type of discussion, this whole area of activity, would fall within discussions that will take place dealing with the Urban Native Strategy and further discussions with the Native community and how the development of those individuals should be carried out will be a part of it and I am sure discussed further in the Legislature and in society at large.

Water Policy Development Round Table Consultation

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner). Today he announced the water policy framework for the province. I think we all know that water policy development is a very important strategic area for the province, the citizens in all our communities.

My question to the Minister of Natural Resources is, given the fact that the Round Table was announced by the Premier (Mr. Filmon) some eight weeks ago, and the mandate of the Round Table was to look at sustainable development, and the press release issued today deals with the sustainable development objectives of the Government, did the Minister of Natural Resources review this full policy framework with the Round Table Committee before his releasing this framework to the public of Manitoba?

Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources): The framework for a water policy was announced by myself and the Premier (Mr. Filmon) of the province and it will be taken to the public for input by the public. We will finally arrive at a policy that rural and urban Manitoba needs and wants. The benefits that will be accrued to Manitoba by the development of the policy, the initiative that we announced, will certainly accrue to all Manitobans.

This was very, very welcomed, I should say, by the Union of Municipalities yesterday where we made the announcement. It was the kind of thing that rural Manitoba and urban Manitoba had asked for a long, long time. The previous administration had done studies on it but sat on those studies and took no action at all. What we are saying is that we are now going to proceed and take action to put in place policies that Manitobans have been asking for.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am to assume the answer to the question was no. There was no consultation on the policy framework issued on sustainable development with the Round Table and the press release issued by the Premier (Mr. Filmon) of some seven weeks ago, saying that there will be full

consultation with the environmental Round Table on sustainable development then is a sham. That is unfortunate in terms of the priorities of mixing our economic, agricultural and environmental priorities together.

Environmental Assessments

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): My question to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner), is the Minister contemplating environmental assessments of all the downstream effects of all the projects that will be contemplated in terms of the water policy framework unveiled by the Minister today?

* (1015)

Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I suppose the Leader of the New Democratic Party is again precluding things that he has not heard. Just because he has not heard, he assumes that he is the only one in the dark and there are others who have heard. We did, in fact, when the Round Table met the last time, lay out the broad issues facing Manitobans, and the Round Table did discuss initiatives that should be taken in this province. We are embarking on some of those initiatives now and I want to say to the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) that they, having been in Government for the past seven years, knew what kind of actions were needed and did not take the action.

What I am saying is that we will embark upon specific projects, and that the specific projects will have full public consultation before we embark on them. They will also have full environmental assessments done on them before we embark upon the construction of anything.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I applaud the Minister for guaranteeing Manitoba full environmental impact studies on downstream effects of these projects. I would ask the Minister how does he square this contradiction with his inability to push the federal Government and his refusal to press the federal Government for the downstream environmental impacts of the Rafferty-Alameda Project that is being developed and constructed in the Province of Saskatchewan?

Mr. Penner: Again it is somewhat with amusement that I listen to the questioning by the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party because he knows full well what the jurisdiction of the federal Government is. He knows full well what the jurisdiction of the American Government is. He knows full well what the jurisdiction of Manitoba's responsibility and our responsibility is. I am saying to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we are going to take initiatives in Manitoba that will drought proof Manitoba. Before we take any initiatives there will be full environmental impact studies done.

Rafferty-Alameda Project Environmental Impact Study

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for Concordia, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I applaud the Minister for environmental downstream impact studies on all the drought proofing that he is proposing, although his press release today has no costs, no specifics, and has not been consulted with the environmental Round Table.

My question to the Minister is why does he have one standard for projects in Manitoba and does not want that same standard applied by the federal Minister of Environment in terms of the downstream effects of the Rafferty-Alameda Dam, in terms of pushing the Minister after he issued the licence on June 17 without the required and legal environmental impact study on a national basis for the Province of Manitoba?

Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Natural Resources): Again, they were the Government, the NDP were the Government that was in power when the discussions on the construction of the Rafferty and Alameda Dam took place. I wonder where they were for the first three years of those discussions, because no action was taken by the previous administration that would cause me to believe that they were serious about doing an environmental impact study, the downstream effects of construction, that was taking place in Saskatchewan, I want to ask the Leader of the New Democratic Party whether they—

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): A point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please; order. The Honourable Member for Dauphin, on a point of order.

Mr. Plohman: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would ask this Minister to stop misleading this House with incorrect information. Clearly there was no licence issued and there was a commitment to have those studies when we were in Government. After that, when they issued this licence, that is when this Government has been negligent, not the former Government and he should quit misleading this House. Get your facts straight.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member does not have a point of order. The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, to conclude his comments.

* (1020)

Mr. Penner: Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I am saying to you is that I do not think that we do have the military power nor do we have the right to invade Saskatchewan and stop the project, and stop the very drought-proofing projects that Saskatchewan is embarking upon. If the previous Government were serious about drought proofing Manitoba—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

Group Homes Fe Eborá Case

Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital): Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment Services

and Economic Security (Mrs. Oleson). Following up questions I asked in the House October 18, I corresponded with this Minister concerning the ongoing saga of the Fe Eborra case in Tuxedo where Government officials cancelled the residential care facility licence for four persons requiring mental health care.

Government officials today continue to put road blocks in the way of reinstatement of the Letter of Approval, a need for 24-hour supervision among other reasons. Now the city is insisting that two of the residents leave the home because of the lack of such a letter of provincial approval.

Knowing that the Minister would like to right the wrong, has the Minister now intervened personally and uncovered why there is an insistence for 24-hour supervision when her own department acknowledged earlier these residents do not require same and, further, that such stipulations do not appear in the regulations?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): Mr. Deputy Speaker, yes, I am quite aware of the problem that the Member raises. I had my staff meet with the person in question yesterday and I am waiting for a report on it.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the same Minister, taking into account that her department acknowledged that this home is superior to other types of care and certainly less costly, why would her department now, in winter and during the upcoming festive season, put these individuals out onto the streets?

Mrs. Oleson: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sure that those individuals will not be put out on the street. As I indicated to the Member, my staff are working on it and I will be getting a report on that today.

Departmental Study

Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital): I might say that nobody has gone to the trouble to care for them up until this has been taken over by this side of the House, so I cannot say that anybody seemed to have any caring for them. On October 18, I requested the Minister investigate whether other valuable residential care facilities had met a similar fate and if they would be reviewed by the Minister with a view to reinstatement. Will the Minister table the results of their review of today and can we expect that this may be the end of such injustices in Manitoba?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): I see that the Member is taking on the aspect of the New Democratic Party in trying to let on that the Liberals are the only people who are interested in the care and concern of people. I would indicate that my staff is looking into the whole matter and I will be getting a report on it.

Crown Corporations Affirmative Action Natives

Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, there should be no disagreement in this House with

the statement that Manitoba Hydro is the flagship corporation of Manitoba's Crown corporations. As such, it behooves this corporation to demonstrate those aspects of our social policies that the people of Manitoba deem desirable. I refer particularly to the principle of affirmative action, not only for women but also for our aboriginal people. In this I am encouraged by the statements made by the chairperson of Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board, Mr. Brian Ransom, in that he said in committee the board had a policy which was supposed to be addressing this problem or this concern.

My question is for the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery). Will he clearly and unequivocally enunciate for this House today his Government's policy for affirmative action in Crown corporations for our Native people in areas such as targets, the short-term goals, what are some of the specific implementation strategies, the training programs that are in place, and some of the educational supports that are necessary?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour): Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have enunciated our policies for affirmative action in this House many, many times. Everybody knows that we are trying to make sure that all people in this province have a job and a fair opportunity to jobs. We recognize that there about 50 percent of the labour force are women, about 10 percent are Native. There are about 7 percent who are physically handicapped and about 6 percent are visible minorities. Within the Civil Service we have the program, as I have enunciated many times. We also have asked all of the Crown corporations to follow the same procedures, to ensure that all Manitobans have an opportunity to work for the Government and Crown corporation. We are looking at modes and ways to encourage those people in the private sector to also follow affirmative action programs.

* (1025)

Manitoba Hydro Affirmative Action Natives

Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa): I was trying to get a bit of information on specific implementation strategies. However, my supplementary question is for the Minister responsible for Hydro (Mr. Neufeld). In previous questioning, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) has indicated that he will ensure compliance and that he will ensure that certain targets are met, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But the Minister for Hydro (Mr. Neufeld) is on record as saying that he is against quotas, that he is against specifically using targets. Now that we know what he is against, I would like to know what he is for. How will he assist the implementation of affirmative action for aboriginal people in the Crown corporation for which he is responsible?

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister responsible for The Manitoba Hydro Act): The Member for Niakwa (Mr. Herold Driedger) well knows that there is a policy in place in Manitoba Hydro for the employment of aboriginal people. The Manitoba Hydro need not apologize for the way it has handled, the employment

of aboriginal people in their Limestone project for example. If he has a specific question with respect to the hiring of aboriginal people or any other minority group, let him ask and I will try to answer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for Niakwa, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Herold Driedger: I was not aware that I was taking umbrage or taking Manitoba Hydro to task. They have a program in place. I think it behooves Government to have implementation strategies in place which will actually endeavour to try and address or redress wrongs.

Native Representation

Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa): My question, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the Minister responsible for Hydro (Mr. Neufeld) is what implementation strategies is he going to put into place to assist greater proportionality for greater representation for aboriginal people in Manitoba Hydro, noting in the statistics there are no people represented at the administrative level or at the managerial level? How can we encourage the Native people's representation at the more responsible levels in that corporation?

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister responsible for The Manitoba Hydro Act): If the Member for Niakwa heard Mr. Ransom, the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro, enunciate the policy, he will also have heard Mr. Ransom state that in order to bring people into a management position from within, we have to have had them on staff for some 15 to 20 years. Inasmuch as the policy was not in effect at that time, it is impossible to bring them into the managerial positions at this time. We are following a policy, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of bringing in members into management from within. As time goes on, I am sure he will see that there is a greater representation from the groups that he is talking about.

Rural Depopulation Farm Mismanagement

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay). A recent report by the Economic Council of Canada has indicated that some 35,000 prairie farmers will disappear by the year 2000 across the Prairies. While this is terribly distressing news, it is not that surprising considering the fact that we have seen dropping commodity prices, high interest rates, the worse drought in over 50 years. We have also seen programs by Liberal and Conservative Governments at the national level that have been targeted for large farmers, not small farmers. We have seen even a transition program by the national Government that is designed to get farmers off the land rather than to keep them viable on the land.

In view of those facts, in view of the fact that this report now says that the majority of farmers have brought on their own demise through mismanagement, I ask this Minister whether he agrees with that assertion, supports that assertion that it is mismanagement by

farmers themselves that have caused this problem, and what action he intends to take to reverse this destructive de-escalation or escalation of depopulation of rural areas in this province? What action does this Minister intend to take to reverse that?

* (1030)

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a very difficult and time-consuming question to answer. The rural community certainly has suffered serious setbacks in the 1980s. We had the high interest rates, we had the low commodity prices, now we have had the drought, and by no means are the droughts over or are other problems not going to happen.

There has been a considerable effort on behalf of the federal Government in terms of addressing that in terms of Special Grains Program 1 and Special Grains Program 2 in 1987 and a Drought Payment Program this year. The Western Grain Stabilization has put a considerable amount of money into the pockets of farmers.

I believe very strongly in the desire to help farmers and to put in place risk-protection mechanisms like a good effective crop insurance program, like an effective stabilization program like Western Grain Stabilization, like a stabilization program for our red meat producers, programs that the previous Government did not effectively support because the statement in the Economic Council of Canada's report also says that Manitoba farmers, although well-diversified and well-positioned when they went into this problem area, suffered the greatest amount of detrimental effects because the Provincial Government in 1981-1987 was not responsive to the needs of the farm community in Manitoba. We are supporting them aggressively at this point in time.

Mr. Plohman: Empty words are not action and this Government has not outlined any action that it intends to take to reverse that terrible escalation of rural depopulation in this province.

Drought Assistance Provincial Funding

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Now I ask this Minister, if he is prepared to take action, will he now commit the Province of Manitoba to participate in the Drought Assistance Program that was announced by the federal Government so indeed farmers in Manitoba can benefit additionally from the provincial assistance and not just federal assistance? What this Minister is saying is that the federal Government is doing small amounts of patchwork after the fact. What does he intend to do? That is what the question was.

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): I find it deplorable that the Member will say "empty words." We have said time and again, and he has not been listening obviously, that we are aggressively working as hard as we can to improve the Crop Insurance Program as a safety net to protect producers who want

it to be a voluntary program that has a higher level of coverage for producers to enrol in the future. He well knows that we have been aggressively pursuing entry into the Tripartite Stabilization Program so that livestock producers, the red meat producers, are adequately protected in this province.

We are promoting and aggressively pursuing conservation initiatives to stabilize the land base and to make it productive for the farmers in Manitoba in the future. Those initiatives are ongoing. We are working with the farm organizations and the farm community at large to effectively put in place the kind of programs that are needed to protect producers from the risks that are obviously apparent and they have seen in the past.

Mr. Plohan: Mr. Deputy Speaker, empty words stated twice are still empty words. There is no action there that this Minister is prepared to take.

Education Tax Amendments

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for Dauphin, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. John Plohan (Dauphin): I ask the Minister, in view of this revelation that some 35,000 farmers will be off the land, in view of that destructive depopulation of rural areas, I ask this Minister whether he is prepared now to change his School Tax Rebate Program that sees millions of dollars going out of the province to absentee landowners and seeing less benefits to family farmers here in this province, whether he is prepared to change that program, to cap it and to target it to the small farmers to assist them to stay on the land and farm in this province?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): I do not think the Member was listening yesterday when we told him that our support to the Education Tax Relief Program increased 33 percent over their program, increased 33 percent to the—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have put in place a program that is equitable to the landowners of Manitoba and it has been strongly supported by the Keystone Agricultural Producers, the Union of Manitoba Municipalities and several other farm organizations in this province.

We have to look to the future towards making our farmers viable and competitive in the marketplace around the world. We have to increase production in crops for which there is a market around the world. As well as increasing the production, we have to find those markets and we are aggressively pursuing it. We are well-positioned as a country to meet the future needs of the farm community in Manitoba and Canada and we will work as well as we can to achieve those ends.

Maintenance Enforcement Hours of Service

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): My question is for the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). This Attorney-General has talked extensively about access to the justice system in Manitoba. He has referenced this and made a commitment to it on numerous occasions and spoken about increasing legal services to Manitobans, but in fact the trend since this Attorney-General took office has been the opposite.

The Maintenance Enforcement Program is an important part of the Family Law system in this province. It serves women in crisis who have difficulty collecting maintenance. It has come to my attention that they are available for phone calls only between 8:30 and 12 noon these days. They get a recording after 12 noon. You get a recording that says "Call back tomorrow morning or you can write a letter." These are women in crisis, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

My question is this is an intolerable and unacceptable lack of service for vulnerable people in a crisis situation. Will the Attorney-General immediately investigate this and immediately restore eight-hour-a-day service to women in crisis in Manitoba?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): I will deal with the Honourable Member's question extremely cautiously in view of information brought to this House in the past by the Honourable Member and by his Leader which has been patently incorrect, but I would take the question quite seriously and make inquiries in my department.

Mr. Edwards: The information has always been correct. That explains the caution of the Attorney-General.

Access Assistance Program Deadline

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for St. James, with a supplementary question.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): The Attorney-General has promised that the Access Assistance Program will be in place and in effect as of February 1, 1989. Can the Attorney-General today confirm that that will be the case, the deadline will be met, and can he tell the House what the duration of the project will be?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): The last time I spoke about the Access Assistance Program, I believe I said that the beginning of the staffing would start on February 1 and that the program would not be up and running till March or perhaps April. I believe if the Honourable Member checks back, he will find that is what I said.

The other part of his question as to the duration of the program, I would have to check for the Honourable Member, but I believe it was for three years or for two years, one or the other. I remember saying that after the pilot project was complete, it was my hope that it would indeed be a successful project and that we would

like very much to extend this service across the province.

The Honourable Member earlier this week raised questions about services provided by my department in rural Manitoba and I could not help but think at the time that it would be good if the Honourable Member would speak to the gentleman who sits just in front of him, the Honourable Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), who would turn his back on 2,300 people in my area of the province who require psychiatric service.

RCMP Protection Winnipeg Beach Study

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for St. James, with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Well, let us talk about rural services. The former MLA for St. Norbert promised the restoration of RCMP services to Winnipeg Beach. The present Member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer) has indicated that he will be looking into it. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) has presided over the withdrawal of RCMP living quarters from Winnipeg Beach. He promised months ago that there would be a study—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the Honourable Member have a question?

Mr. Edwards: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question is has the report, the study that the Attorney-General said was going to be taking place this fall into the Winnipeg Beach situation, been completed? What are the results? Will the Attorney-General table it preferably before the 1989 summer season? Thank you.

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): I am pleased to tell the Honourable Member what has been happening with respect to Winnipeg Beach since last we discussed this matter. Indeed, the study or the survey that was being discussed was discussed at a meeting on November 10 between the mayor and council of Winnipeg Beach. Also in attendance at that meeting were Assistant Commissioner Henry and the Honourable Member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer). The statistical analysis of offences reported was presented at that meeting and after the presentations, the mayor and the council of Winnipeg Beach acknowledged that since the detachment at Winnipeg Beach closed, total criminal cases were down, break, enter and thefts were down, response times from Gimli were adequate, the hours of police coverage were increased by four hours per day.

I hear Honourable Members saying "Oh!"

* (1040)

An Honourable Member: They are oohing and ahhhing over there.

Mr. McCrae: The mayor and council acknowledged these facts so the Honourable Member seemed to know

better than the people who live in the area, and I suggest that they do not.

While we are on that topic, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Members in the New Democratic Party want to get into this. I am pleased to respond to them. Their Budget last March called for the cutback of 23 positions in the RCMP. This Government refused to allow those cutbacks to go forward and those positions were restored to law enforcement in rural Manitoba, in this province, by this Government.

An Honourable Member: They are against law and order.

Mr. McCrae: In addition, the—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

An Honourable Member: No order, just chaos with an NDP Government.

Free Trade Agreement Job Loss Study

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): We are now stuck with free trade in Manitoba whether we like it or not. Many Manitobans are quite concerned about the negative impacts of free trade. Yesterday in committee, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) confirmed that this Government, despite its support of the free trade deal, has done no studies whatsoever into the impact, particularly negative impact, in terms of job losses in a number of sectors in this province.

In view of the fact that there will be job losses, that people will lose their jobs, that we are already seeing announcements in other areas of the country that could very well be related to free trade, I would like to ask the Minister of Labour whether he will now conduct a study into how many jobs will be lost, how many people in Manitoba will be laid off because of the free trade deal?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour): The Member knows very well the discussion we had in the Estimates yesterday. The Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) is trying to lay once again misinformation on the table. He was informed yesterday in the Estimates process that the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism is doing the study to see if there are going to be negative impacts because of free trade. That study is being done and is being conducted by the department. Our department will work with adjustments for workers. That is the role of the Department of Labour.

We have had discussions with our department as to what role we will play and what efforts we will make, along with Employment Services, to ensure that anybody that maybe loses a job through free trade—but keep in mind that there will be so many extra new jobs made, there will be more than ample room for anybody that does lose, and for those who are unemployed now, we think free trade will create a lot of net benefit jobs for Manitoba.

Retraining Programs

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): In view of the fact that the study that the Minister is referring to was a study into the business impacts and in view of the fact that this Government which has supported free trade has not yet even got any idea of how many Manitobans, whether they be in the garment industry or the furniture industry or many other industries, will lose their jobs, will the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connerly) take the lead, conduct the study, determine how many people will lose their jobs, and further, bring in programs to provide training and adjustment mechanisms for those workers, because it is no consolation to them if there are any extra jobs elsewhere? There will be Manitobans who will lose their jobs because of free trade and they want action.

Hon. Edward Connerly (Minister of Labour): Free trade is a window of opportunity.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Connerly: Members opposite maybe laugh, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because they do not have the vision. When you do not have the vision, the window has blinds on it.

There is a window for opportunity for Manitobans to trade with the Americans and to create jobs. Our department, along with other departments that are responsible, will make available retraining, as the Apprenticeship and Trades Program that we have in our department, that will be available to train workers for other jobs. We do not know where jobs will be impacted until the free trade deal goes through. I ask the Members opposite who try to make the scare tactic to tell us where those jobs are going to be lost. They cannot because they do not know.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for Thompson, with a final supplementary question.

Layoff Protection

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): I am asking a question on behalf of the workers who will lose their jobs. Whether it be in terms of textiles or furniture, there are many sectors where there will be job losses in Manitoba. That has been documented by every economist. It has been confirmed by the federal Government. I am asking the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connerly), will he, now that we are going to be stuck with free trade, determine how many jobs will be lost, and will he bring in a comprehensive program of improved layoff protection, adjustment mechanisms and training to deal with the concerns of those laid-off workers?

Hon. Edward Connerly (Minister of Labour): Mr. Deputy Speaker, once again we have the scare tactics of the NDP.— (Interjection)— Manitoba—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Order. The Honourable Minister of Labour has the floor. I am having some difficulty in hearing him.

Mr. Connerly: When you have control, I will get up, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Connerly: The Members opposite are afraid of free trade. Manitoba is the one province that has the most to gain in free trade. Within 500 miles we have—I do not know the exact number, but anywhere from 3 million to 5 million people that we can trade with, and on the Prairies we only have 2 million within that same distance.

The Members opposite say, let us sell to the East and let us sell to the West. Manitoba is a landlocked province. By the time we ship most of our material to the East Coast —(Interjection)— now, that shows the intelligence of the people, of Members opposite when they say Churchill, which has a very short shipping season, so they only want to have a very short manufacturing season.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I am once again having extreme difficulty in hearing the answer of the Minister of Labour. The Minister of Labour, to conclude his answer.

An Honourable Member: Quickly.

Mr. Connerly: She says quickly. My gosh, that would be something if she was ever quick.

We think, for Manitoba, free trade is going to create the jobs that this province needs to put to work the over 40,000 unemployed—

An Honourable Member: 47,000.

Mr. Connerly: 47,000 the Member says—that we inherited from the NDP Government. We are going to go to put them to work.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The time for Question Period has expired.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before we proceed, I would like to draw the attention of Honourable Members to the gallery, where we have quite a number of students from O.V. Jewitt School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Hicks and this school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema).

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here today.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): With respect, may I have leave of the House for a non-political statement?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the Honourable Member have leave? (Agreed)

Mr. Angus: Manitoba is proudly represented on the Canadian National Freestyle Ski Team by a young lady from Winnipeg, Miss Nancy Wankling. Today Nancy leaves for Europe and the first stop on a hectic World Cup circuit beginning in Tignes, France.

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I take this opportunity to wish Nancy every success in the upcoming ski season on the national tour. Thank you.

* (1050)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): With the concurrence of the Opposition Parties, we would request that we call the Supply Motion and go into Interim Supply to a point where second reading is done and then, if time is permitting, that we come out of Supply and go to the Bills in some certain order which will be indicated at that time.

If there is agreement then, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld), that Mr. Deputy Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, with the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: I would call the Committee of Supply to order to consider the following resolution:

RESOLVED that a sum not exceeding \$3,073,358,100, being 75 percent of the total amount to be voted as set out in the Main Estimates, be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Chairman, what the Government is proposing at this point in time is to bring in another month of supply authority.

Given that Interim Supply Bill No. 1, granted authority for the Government to spend monies up until the end of November, as the end of November is drawing close, we have to come to the Legislature for additional authority. That is what we are doing at this time.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the will of the committee to adopt the resolution? (Agreed) Committee rise.

Call in the Deputy Speaker.

IN SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Harold Gilleshammer (Chairman of the Committee of Supply): The Committee of Supply has adopted a certain resolution and directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), that Mr. Deputy Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider Ways and Means of raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of Ways and Means for raising of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, with the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS SUPPLY—INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: The committee will come to order to consider the following resolution:

RESOLVED that towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenditures of the Public Service for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989, the sum of \$3,073,358,100, being 75 percent of the total amount be voted as set out in the Main Estimates for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989, laid before the House at the present Session of the Legislature, be granted out of the Consolidated Funds.

Mr. Jay Cowan (Second Opposition House Leader): Mr. Chairperson, I have one direct question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness). The process involving Interim Supply and the approval of Interim Supply by this Legislature historically in the past has been a process of negotiation to a large extent between the Opposition Parties and the Government who requires Interim Supply. That is required because a lot of parties outside of this House and this Chamber are awaiting the speedy passage of Interim Supply so the Government has the authority to pay for the Bills that are outstanding. So Interim Supply sometimes goes right up to the date where that authority is required, and in the past has even gone beyond the date on which that authority was required, and it created quite a controversy in this House.

Given that general circumstance, negotiations are an extremely important part of the process of moving the Interim Supply Bill through the House. I would ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), because there has been some commentary involving the process outside

of this House, or respecting the process of the maneuvering of certain resolutions and Bills through the House, if he is satisfied with the negotiation process that has been undertaken between the Opposition Parties and the Government Party to ensure Interim Supply has been brought through the House in an effective way and in a way that allows for its speedy passage.

I would ask him directly to comment on the fact that while we have not always agreed on the exact process and the extent of the Interim Supply Bill, we have been able to negotiate satisfactorily the resolution of any differences so this Bill was not obstructed or held up in any manner by Opposition Members.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Chairman, I will use this then as my occasion to address that point and indicate to the MLA for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) that to this point discussions between the various Parties have been cordial and although we have not always agreed on the amount that maybe should have been brought forward or the timing, let it be said we can only come forward with the judgment we have at the time but the Government is ultimately responsible for putting some figure within the Bill.

The situation has not changed at all from when I used to be in the Opposition and when my predecessor, Mr. Kostyra, used to come to me and we would try to negotiate back and forth the figure. Ultimately he on behalf of the Government of the Day would—and it happened, I can think of at least on one occasion, he would say, well, we cannot accommodate your request and therefore we are going to put in our figure. That happened at least once and I suppose if this is what the Member is referring to, it may have happened on Interim Supply Bill No. 1 in this case. Certainly to this point in time there has been good negotiation back and forth. I am thankful and I say so publicly to the Finance critics of both Parties and, indeed, the House Leader of the NDP (Mr. Cowan) for their presence in this attempt to move in an orderly way the spending authority required.

* (1100)

Mr. Cowan: No, I was not attempting to be critical of the amount that was put in. I may have some comments on that during second reading, but the point I wanted to make is that negotiations is a two-way process and there is give and take. I do not think the Minister should be thankful to any particular Members for the negotiations, that is not working so well, that is not what I am seeking from him, that sort of compliment. I am trying to make a statement that there are occasions when negotiations are entered into in a productive fashion and when people are willing to listen to each other and willing to discuss things back and forth, that this House does move very well.

I want to reinforce that point and use this as an example and give credit to the Minister, as well as to all Members of the House, but to make that point so people do not always dwell on the negative aspects of this House, but sometimes see the very positive things

that happen here. I think all Members deserve credit equally and no single Member deserves credit, but we should make that point from time to time.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the will of the committee to pass the resolution? (Agreed) Committee rise.

Call in the Deputy Speaker.

IN SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mark Minenko: Order, please.

Mr. Harold Gilleshammer (Chairman of Committee of Supply): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Committee of Ways and Means has adopted a certain resolution, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kirkfield Park (Mrs. Hammond), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL BILL NO. 43—THE INTERIM APPROPRIATION ACT, 1988 (2)

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance) introduced, by leave, Bill No. 43, The Interim Appropriation Act, 1988 (2), for first reading.

We would like the Bill ordered for second reading, immediately.

SECOND READING BILL NO. 43—THE INTERIM APPROPRIATION ACT, 1988 (2)

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance) presented Bill No. 43, The Interim Appropriation Act, 1988 (2), for second reading.

MOTION presented.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Through an oversight, the Bill passing should not have been agreed to as I had initially proposed.

Mr. Manness: I realize my error too. Bill No. 43, The Interim Appropriation Act, 1988 (2) is required to provide additional interim spending and commitment authority for the '88-89 fiscal year pending approval of The Appropriation Act, 1988. Bill No. 43 will replace The Interim Appropriation Act, 1988 except for a Section 11 of that Act which provided authority to borrow \$300 million in which authority does not lapse.

The amount of spending authority requested is \$3,073,358,100, being 75 percent of the total amount to be voted excluding statutory items as set forth in the main Estimates of the Expenditure as follows: total

general statutory appropriations \$492,731,000, total sums to be voted \$4,097,810,800 for a total main Estimates of Expenditure of \$4,590,541,800.00.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in essence, Interim Appropriation Act No. 2, that being Bill 43, subsumes everything we did under Interim Supply, Bill No. 1. The Interim Supply calculation is 75 percent of the \$4.97 billion sums to be voted which equals \$3,073,358,100.00. This amount is estimated to last approximately until the end of December 1988. The initial Interim Supply was estimated to last approximately until late November. Since The Appropriation Act, 1988 (2) has not been passed, it becomes necessary to secure additional spending and commitment authority by way of a second Interim Supply Bill to provide for the ongoing requirements of Government.

The amount of future commitment authority has been increased in this second Interim Supply Bill to \$255 million, an increase of \$10 million from the initial Interim Supply Bill and represents 85 percent of the total forward commitment authority to be included in The Appropriation Act 1988. The total '88-89 forward commitment authority to be included in the main Supply Bill is estimated at \$300 million. Bill No. 43 is required to provide additional Interim spending and commitment authority to assure the continued operation of Government.

I would like to request the cooperation of the Opposition in expediting the passing of Bill No. 43 through all stages of consideration, debate and approval including Royal Assent. To that end, I might add that has been the case, certainly up to this point in time. When Bill No. 43 reaches the committee stage, I can provide Members with a section-by-section explanation.

Mr. Richard Kozak (Transcona): I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux), that debate on this Bill now be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

* (1110)

HOUSE BUSINESS

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): I am announcing today that on Tuesday morning, 10 a.m. the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources will sit to continue consideration of the Annual Report for Manitoba Hydro.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, would you be so kind as to call the Bills in the following order: Bill No. 40, Bill No. 18, Bill No. 24, Bill No. 21, Bill No. 28, Bill No. 29, and all the others in the order as listed on today's Order Paper?

SECOND READINGS

BILL NO. 40—THE CITY OF WINNIPEG AMENDMENT ACT (2)

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Housing) presented Bill No. 40, The City of Winnipeg Amendment Act (2), for second reading.

MOTION presented.

Mr. Ducharme: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I start, I would like to circulate to the New Democratic Party critic and the Liberal critic some speaking notes.

First of all, I will cover specifics in the Bill. I am sure I will have an opportunity later to discuss and maybe answer some of the questions as we go through the process of the Bill. We can just wait a moment and—I will try to stay pretty close to the script of the speaking notes. I am pleased to introduce the second reading of Bill No. 40. The Bill contains three very important amendments for consideration by the Legislative Assembly. These are as follows: (1) provisions to reduce the number of wards in the City of Winnipeg; (2) provisions to enable the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to determine the number of city wards per community committee; and (3) provisions to provide the City of Winnipeg Council with the authority to establish a single business tax rate by-law, and to delete the classes of rates of business tax presently prescribed in the Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me now provide you with the rationale for and the nature of each of these very important amendments. The Province of Manitoba is responsible for providing legislative framework for political administrative organization of the City of Winnipeg. The Government proposes to reduce the number of city wards and councillors from the present 29 to 23. It is hoped this amendment will provide Winnipeggers with a more efficient and effective local Government.

A reduced council will streamline the decision-making process at City Hall and will save the City of Winnipeg taxpayers' monies and councillors' remuneration, pension and social benefits. The reason for this particular Bill to come forward is because unless it is proposed at this time it would be somewhere—the Boundaries Commission is meeting now and it would be somewhere before 1997 before they would meet again. It is very important this part of the Bill be brought forward now.

There have been some critics of this amendment argue this amendment would dilute the degree of representation currently enjoyed by Winnipeg residents. Others argue the number of wards and councillors should be decreased further. To the former, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would point out 23 Councillors for the City of Winnipeg is not out of line per capita in municipal representation in other comparable urban centres in Canada.

In the package I have distributed to you are statistics on the municipal representation in Canadian cities. With regard to those we would like to see a dozen councillors at City Hall. I would like to underline such a proposal would mean the reduction or almost the abolition of community and standing committees of council. Both mechanisms provide city councillors with a vehicle to be informed of and advise council on local and city-wide matters.

A further reduction in council would necessitate either consultation or dilution of these committees, thereby creating havoc with the present administrative structure

of the City of Winnipeg. We do see citizen involvement in local affairs and weakening Council's input in policy making at City Hall.

I believe that with the 23, and not a further reduction, allows people from many walks of life to not have to give up their life-long occupations to serve at City Hall. A reduction down to a lesser amount would probably at some time, I believe, we would end up with just professional bureaucrats at City Hall. I think that most people who go into political life at Council do like to carry on with their occupation. That way they have I think a better feel and a better touch with their community.

The Government proposes a major change to Subsection 21 of The City of Winnipeg Act to enable the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to determine the number of wards for each community. Presently, Section 21 sets out the number of wards for each community. The amendment is required because 1987 amendments to The City of Winnipeg Act established the principle that the variation in population requirement of any ward—and I repeat, of any ward—cannot exceed 10 percent more or 10 percent less than the average ward population for the city.

When we were comparing the 23 to the 29 and comparing other numbers, we found that when you are comparing them that the 10 percent item variation would probably, if you are just saying that per ward in per community committee, there was no problem, but when we are trying to stress it out throughout the city and trying to keep with the historic boundaries that we know today and that is dealing with the community committees that we know, the Works and Operations that we know, the different departments that seem to run on community committee system.

So the number was not just selected from an arbitrary figure. We did go through the boundary changes from within the communities. We did look at the boundary changes for instance without, say, within the whole city. It would be easier if the Act read sometimes that, hey, take a community committee system and have them distribute the population in there. That is if we were going to keep up with the historic boundaries that we know today. It is just something that I am just casting down that we did look at and it did cause a problem.

(The Acting Speaker, Mr. Edward Helwer, in the Chair.)

The application of this principle used in '86 statistics will cause a major shift in the boundaries of four community committees. Present boundaries reflect established historical community groupings and the communication barrier of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. Many of the City of Winnipeg's departments, as I mentioned earlier, the Works and Operations, Parks and Rec, Environmental and Planning departments are organized and operated along community committee lines. It seems to be the basis of what the people of City of Winnipeg have been used to.

To avoid such upheaval, the Government requests the flexibility of determining the number of wards per community, following the report of the Wards Boundaries Commission or upon request from Council.

That is why I have added that last part because that would probably be a plus factor when we get to determine, or finally when we decide whether it is 23 or 29. Because as you have to remember, there are some wards or some community committees, like in St. James, where if you stay with four then it shifts over in the city centre quite drastically.

So whatever number we determine at this Legislature that maybe at that time when the Opposition is considering amendments or somewhere along the line, take that into consideration that we could maybe not stay or have an automatic stay with that 10 percent between the wards totally throughout the city.

The third proposed amendment in this Bill would replace the existing cumbersome and outdated legislative provisions on business assessment. Mr. Acting Speaker, if the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie)—I know he probably has no apparent reason to worry about The City of Winnipeg Act. I would like—(Interjection)—maybe he could—

* (1120)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Helwer): Can we have some order here? Order, order.

Mr. Ducharme: Mr. Acting Speaker, outdated legislative provisions on business assessment and taxation in Winnipeg with provisions that enable the city to establish by by-law an annual business tax rate. Winnipeg City Council has formally requested the province to make this amendment.

Under the current system provided for in The City of Winnipeg Act, there are 16 classes and numerous subclasses of business properties identified for business tax purposes. Moreover, there are varying rates of taxation ranging from 6 percent to 20 percent, depending on the type of business and on the range of assessment with certain classifications.

Other more serious limitations of the existing provisions prevail because the legislation dates back to the year 1938. For instance, the Act lists some types of business which no longer exist, conversely does not include some types of business that have been developed in more recent times.

As well, the present provisions severely restrict the city's ability to control business tax revenues and the distribution of the tax burden. This situation is the result of entrenching in the statute business classes, and attaching to each class a range of business tax rates.

The tax rates no longer reflect the relative profitability of these business classes. Consequently, the city's business tax revenue yield has been increasing at a rate which is less than the rate of inflation.

Normally, provincial statutes specify a minimum number of restrictions on the ability of local Governments to levy business taxes. Details on procedures, classes, and rates are typically determined by each municipality in a by-law. In fact, our own Municipal Act enables all municipalities in Manitoba, except Winnipeg, to determine by by-law an annual single rate of business tax.

With respect to the specific nature of the amendments being proposed, the essential feature will be to do away with the classification system and the multitude of different tax rates and to give Winnipeg City Council the authority to determine on an annual basis a single business tax rate.

The only restriction on the tax rate is that it not exceed 15 percent of the assessment on a business premises. The ceiling on the business tax rate also exists in The Municipal Act.

The advantage of this new system is that all businesses will be treated equally by paying the same annual rate of tax based on the value of their business assessment. The Act will also be amended to provide that premises used for purposes of keeping or operating taxicabs will be assessed and taxed in the same manner as other businesses.

Mr. Acting Speaker, currently the Act provides that taxicab operators are to be charged a fee in lieu of business tax which varies according to the number of taxicabs operated. There is no particular rationale for taxing the vehicles rather than the business premises and it is inequitable that taxicab companies should be treated differently than other businesses in this respect.

The existing legislative provisions allowing the business assessment roll to be completed in parts will be deleted. The legislative provision for delivering the roll in parts is not used and therefore its deletion will not affect the assessor's ability to deliver the roll as required.

Even though the issue has never arisen in this context, the continuing existence of this provision could bring about criticism from the community which is similar to that experience with the realty rolls, namely, that the completion of the roll in part does not permit citizens to be able to compare their assessments with those in other locations across the city.

As for the present system of determining business assessment, the legislation will remain the same. However, wording modifications have been made throughout, along with the reorganization of various sections in order to eliminate redundancies and to make the legislation clear and easier to read.

In short, the existing method of determining business assessment shall not change. Business assessment will continue to be established on the basis of the annual rental value of the premises occupied.

In the tenant-occupied premises, the annual rental value is based on rent paid, while in the owner-occupied premises the annual rental value is based, in general, upon the rents being paid by similar premises. Similarly, the uses which are presently exempt under the Act from business assessment shall continue being exempt; for example, the hospitals, the universities and the charitable organizations.

Likewise, provisions for the right to appeal a business assessment to the Board of Revision and the Municipal Board will remain in effect.

In order to give the City of Winnipeg time to implement the new system, the proposed amendments include a

provision for continuing effect of the existing business classification and tax rates until they are replaced by the business tax rate by-law.

Overall then, the amendments of business assessment and taxation will make the administration of business tax far less complex and will increase the city's local autonomy over strictly local tax while preserving council's accountability for its annual decision on the business tax rate.

In order that all Members of the Legislative Assembly are familiar with the provisions contained in Bill 40, I have distributed to you a document which briefly describes the intent of each proposed amendment.

In addition to the proposed amendments relating to city wards and business assessment and tax, Bill 40 contains three minor amendments. In the last 18 months, the City of Winnipeg has formally requested amendments to sections 459, 532, 560 and 561. Because of the change in Government—and I am not saying that the previous Government had not decided to put them on their legislation, some of them, or maybe it had been posed at the time—I feel that these are further amendments because of the city's agreement and the city's proposal to have us put them on. There had been discussions with the previous administration and there has been discussions with the present administration that these housekeeping amendments be put on.

The City of Winnipeg Act sets fines and penalties for the breach of city regulations and by-laws. Sections 459, 532, 560 and 561 set out a \$50 fine for water- and sewer-related offences. The city argues that a \$50 fine is not a detriment and has requested that the amount be increased to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment up to six months for individuals and \$5,000 for corporations. These amounts are similar to those set under section 138 of the Act which relate to offences which no other penalty is provided within the Act.

Mr. Acting Speaker, the city has also advised the province that several owners of animals, which are the subject of destruction hearings, have argued that the court has jurisdiction to hear such a matter only if hearing notice has been served upon the owner within the city limits. Under the amendment proposed to Subsection 532(3), the city would be permitted to serve a notice to animal owners located outside the city limits if the owner is known. This amendment is required as we know a substantial number of guard dog rental services are based just outside the city limits.

To assist the city in ensuring that public funds be given to external agencies as spent as intended—and there has been some controversy at the start of this particular Session in regard to different agencies having some problems internally—the city did propose that we look into some way of dealing with it. As you know, in the present Act, they can only bring in an auditor on boards and commissions. This Government proposes an amendment to section 66 to enable the city auditor to examine and audit the accounts of any person or agency to which the city makes a financial contribution.

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Acting Speaker, perhaps you could direct the Minister of Housing (Mr.

Ducharme) to quit provoking debate in the way he is. This is inflaming, I think, the passions of the Chamber, and I would ask him to contain his remarks more soberly to the Bill.

Mr. Ducharme: It is unfortunate that we do have a joker in every Assembly. However, I will be finished . . .

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): On a point of order. I would rise in defence of the Minister's presentation in a very factual, informative method of addressing this House with a logical approach to explaining his legislation without theatrics. Thank you.

* (1130)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Helwer): The Member for St. Norbert does not have a point of order.

Mr. Ducharme: I, as well as all Members in this House, know that we come into this Assembly with various opinions and we do not expect everybody to have the same opinion.

We have 57 people in this Legislature that have their views. I think that I have put them as concrete on the paper as I could. I will have my chance to express my political—and my philosophy at a later date. I will finish, and in conclusion, and I am sure glad the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), brought it up before I got to the last line.

In conclusion, I would recommend Bill 40 to the Honourable Members of the Legislature for their consideration and adoption. I look forward to the comments of the other Members. I am sure that between all 57 Members and all three Parties that we will bring forward legislation that ought to be good for the City of Winnipeg because that is our role.

Mr. Angus: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr), that debate be adjourned on this Bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Helwer): Does the Member for St. Norbert have leave to allow this Bill to stand in his name? (Agreed)

DEBATE ON THIRD READINGS

BILL NO. 18—AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE MANITOBA MOTOR LEAGUE

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Helwer): On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), Bill No. 18, An Act to amend An Act to Incorporate the Manitoba Motor League, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for the Interlake (Mr. Uruski). Does the House have leave to leave it standing in the name of the Member for Interlake? (Agreed)

Mr. Ed Mandrake (Assiniboia): I would like to take this opportunity to speak to this Bill. As the Official Opposition in this House we agree with the amendments

as proposed in Bill No. 18. The Manitoba Motor League serves our society and especially the female sector. It provides free extrication services, free credit card registry, auto repairs, battery boosts and, of course, the replacing of tires on vehicles.

I am a little bit distraught that this Bill was passed in committee on November 3 of this year. Today is November the 25, 22 days later and it still has not received Royal Assent. I would urge the New Democratic Party to join us in passing this Bill for Royal Assent as quickly as possible. This is a very important Bill. I would strongly urge, again, the New Democratic Party to pass this Bill for Royal Assent. Thank you very much.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): You may want to canvass the House again as to whether or not this Bill might be allowed to pass even though it is standing in the name of the Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski).

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Mr. Acting Speaker, we are prepared to have this Bill pass.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

BILL NO. 24—AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE DAUPHIN GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), Bill No. 24, An Act to Incorporate The Dauphin General Hospital Foundation, standing in the name of the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), the Honourable Member for Inkster.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), I would like to express that we in the Official Opposition have expressed our concerns on this particular Bill and we would be more than happy to have it passed here today for Royal Assent.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS

BILL NO. 21—THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger), Bill No. 21, The Highway Traffic Amendment Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Mandrake). (Stand)

BILL NO. 28—THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS' ORGANIZATION FUNDING ACT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), Bill No. 28, The Agricultural Producers' Organization

Funding Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey). (Stand)

Bill No. 29, on the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister—

An Honourable Member: Go back one.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Do we have leave to go back to Bill No. 28, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs? (Agreed)

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): I am pleased to conclude my remarks dealing with the Bill and I do thank the House for giving me a minute to catch my breath. In fact, I was just out doing a little bit of important Government business.

The Bill that we are dealing with, of course, is one which the farm community has been desirous of having for many, many years. I know how the former New Democratic Party felt about the organization and, of course, the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) gives us that liberal sign of kind of in the middle of the road.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Downey: But the point I am making is that the farm community has for years been desirous of having an organization of which they can contribute to, to do the kind of policy development work, research work, that will enhance their way of life and their position in the farm business as it relates not only to Government action in all cases, but particularly there are some actions that may have to be taken on behalf of the farm community, whether it is dealing with lobbying chemical companies or dealing with fertilizer companies or some of the larger businesses that have a direct relationship to what goes on in the farm community.

* (1140)

You, Mr. Deputy Speaker, being very familiar with that kind of activity, and I am sure a support from a farm organization, such as the Bill here is going to allow to happen could not only enhance the farm community but some of the smaller dealer representatives in certain situations.

I, as I indicated in my earlier remarks on this particular Bill, felt the whole position the farmers are in in society has changed with the tough economic times and the loss of some of our family farm operators, the fact their voice in society has become somewhat less listened to as we become more of an industrialized country. It is just straightforward common sense that they should be given the same rights and privileges to speak on behalf of the collective body through legislative support.

All farmers, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and one would be naive to think so, are not totally and absolutely supportive of this type of legislation. After all, we have to look at the farm community as traditionally and basically being free enterprise, free-thinking people who when the imposition of having to participate in an organization through any form of legislation, they find somewhat repulsive. I think the current Minister of

Agriculture and the Government of the Day have built into the legislation the opportunity for those individuals who feel that way to quite easily not be a part of it. Through the mechanism that is built in, it makes it somewhat more administratively acceptable and easier to operate so there is not too much of an entanglement for either getting in or getting out of the organization.

So I think that will be received by those individuals who are those free-thinking people who do not want to have the imposition of any organization on them, unlike, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my colleagues from the New Democratic Party, who for some reason feel it is their right as legislators, to impose on the labour movement in this country compulsory participation in labour unions. I do not think in the long run, when legislation is struck that causes or imposes or forces something upon any group or organization in society, an unfair pressure to participate, that in the long term it does either the organization, the group of individuals who are being represented or society at large any good. It takes time, but whatever time it takes, those individuals or those injustices will be corrected.

My colleague, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery), is certainly very cognizant of that as the public pressure and the election said on April 26, there had to be changes in the labour legislation in this province. The public democracy is in action and working, the same as it is in action and working when it comes to the putting in place of a farm Bill which farm people can have representation for them, as I said, whether it is dealing with Government, whether it is dealing with farm businesses or just speaking on behalf of the farm community as a whole.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, for some reason I have a flashing red light here. Does that mean leave I can continue to go or stop and go or what does that—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That means your time is up, I believe.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I only want to spend a few minutes addressing Bill No. 28, but I think it is a very important Bill, and as such, those of us certainly who represent rural ridings could use the opportunity we have to at least say something with respect to Bill No. 28.

I am very proud that our Government has initiated the bringing in of the legislation that provides a the farm organization. Indeed one is not named under this particular Act. Although I must say in all honesty, as I said to the Keystone group, I guess I would have preferred quite frankly that maybe there had been a named organization. I would have preferred that, rather than coming through the system of a group of I guess eminent people from the Ag community, sort of deciding on some basis who should be the named organization.

Nevertheless, I want to say for the record, I have been very much impressed with the activities of those people from the farm community who over the last number of years have attempted to build and rebuild a farm organization out of shambles. As most of us can remember, the Crow rate debate was very divisive.

Amongst other things, it caused the Manitoba Farm Bureau to break into pieces. That did not prevent, I would say, a progressive faction amongst the farm community for realizing the importance of having a farm organization at that point, trying to set aside to the extent possible all politics and try to work towards a farm organization that would serve all within the farm community.

I honestly believe that the Keystone organization, to name it specifically, has certainly passed the test of time and shown all that want to look at it that it has not only matured but it has developed a great degree of credibility and, as such, should have available to it an opportunity to bring forward greater involvement by the farm community.

There is a major voluntary aspect to this Bill. I can say that I would not support it if there was not a voluntary aspect to this Bill. There still are people out in the farm community who do not want to be part of a formal organization. Their rights have to be respected. Again, what I like about it, it is not necessary for a farm or indeed a farmer to jump through 25 hoops to get through or to have his or her name removed or not be part of the activity. Indeed, the opportunity to withdraw is actually quite simple.

So with those few remarks, I certainly am glad to state for the record that I support the intent of Bill 28. I wish the farm community well in trying to have a voice, an association that will work to the betterment of all within the farm community, come forward by way of this vehicle. As part of the Government, I am glad to be associated with it. Thank you.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I want to put a couple of words on the record regarding this Bill mainly for personal reasons.

While I have not all of my life been involved in farm organizations, I very quickly came to the realization, during the late Seventies, that the farmers of this province needed a strong organizational voice that could speak on their behalf, speak not only to provincial Governments, but speak on their behalf and as part of national organizations.

* (1150)

While I am reluctant to talk about a farm organization in particular, I think it has to be indicated that the flexibility that is allowed and the membership of an organization to represent farmers is the important part of this Bill in terms of getting acceptance across rural Manitoba. As a member of a farm lobby group that has spoken out strongly on behalf of the farmers in this province, I also recognize that throughout the farm community there is not necessarily unanimity on all issues or on all concerns. There has to be an ability for those farmers who choose not to be part of an organization to simply and quickly indicate that and not be forced and coerced in any particular manner. I believe that the success of this is that the organization that purports to speak on behalf of agricultural producers in this province has to have their cooperation and their support and it will never be a strong voice if that is not an earned result or an earned reputation.

So my support and my comments to this Bill without talking about many of the various parts of the Bill are related to the fact that I recognize, and I realize that there are significant numbers of farmers out there who would not want to be part of one particular lobby group. They may for religious reasons, they may for business reasons, and they may for reasons of principle or differences in policy, not want to be part of an organization such as this.

At the same time our farm organization workers and organizers are expending far too much of their energy in annual reorganization of their structure and they need to have an opportunity to have that done in a prearranged and virtually preorganized manner so that their energies can be expanded for the job that they are expected to do and that is to speak out clearly on behalf of the agricultural community.

As a Member of Government, as all of us as Members of Government, I think we should support the principle that those farmers who work together—(Interjection)—and who unite—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Cummings: —to bring forward policies and ideas to the Government of the Day are not only doing themselves a service, they are in fact doing a service to the Government of the Day, no matter what that Government may be. Because very often it is difficult for a Government to fully appreciate the diversity of opinion that there is particularly in the agricultural sector. There needs to be a forum whereby those people who wish to actively participate and present various policy options and directions that they wish to see their industry move. They need a forum in which to thrash out the details and then bring forward with a united voice their concerns to the Government of the Day and certainly any Government that wants to actively consider the concerns of what is, I feel, the most important industry in this province.

They need an organization of this nature to be able to have a response from the community itself and have an opportunity to test various legislation and directions that Government may want to move in in relationship to agriculture.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hold this Bill very, very dearly in terms of my personal commitment. I could speak at great length in support of this Bill but I simply wanted to take a couple of minutes to put on the public record that I believe this is a positive step. It is not a step that is intended to denigrate those organizations who are not part of a potential single largest organization. They certainly still will be able to operate and I would anticipate that any organization that would acquire the ability to have this ability to represent the farmers in this province would also be of broad enough base that even those who object to some policy directions will still see this as a forum where they can come in and be heard and use it as an attempt to direct the representations that would come forward to various levels of Government and other discussions across this great country of ours.

So to that end, I would recommend this Bill to all Members.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): I move, seconded by the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman), that debate on Bill No. 28 be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 29—THE CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), Bill No. 29, The Cattle Producers Association Amendment Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak).

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): I am pleased to stand and speak on Bill No. 29, The Cattle Producers Association Amendment Act and I guess, representing a constituency which has probably the most productive farm land anywhere in Manitoba, I would be remiss if I did not get up and speak on this very important Bill.

I know there are many people who are not familiar with the constituency of The Pas, the farming area in The Pas. I know the former Minister of Agriculture, the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) toured that area quite extensively and made a lot of promises to the farmers in that area of what he would do when he got in, when he won the election in 1981. They promised to build a bridge across to the Saskeram so the farmers could go across to—(Interjection)—The present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) wants to know who built it. It was the New Democratic Government of 1981 who built that bridge across—(Interjection)—The access to the Saskeram was in place last year. There was no further access required.

(Interjection)—Oh yes, the Minister of Agriculture refers to a crossing across the Birch River and I have to give him credit for it. There was cooperation between the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Agriculture to allow the farmers to go across to this very valuable piece of land where a large amount of hay was available. It was in a wildlife management area and in past times there was some hesitancy to let people on to that area to take the hay off because of the effect it may have on the wildlife in the area but I think they took a very responsible stand and I have to give him credit for that. They did cooperate and put two culverts across the Birch River so the farmers were able to get across there. There was a lot of hay taken off that area so I have to give the Minister of Agriculture credit.

As they said at last night's MAUM meeting, their Cabinet is made up of a large number of farmers, so I am sure farm issues will receive consideration when they are brought forward.

It is unfortunate they did not take the same consideration when they were discussing the Farm Rebate Program because the way it was set up under the previous administration it was much, much fairer for Manitobans. I recognize there is more money into it now but where is that money going? It is leaving the

province, about \$2 million worth is going outside the province.

I am sure the Member for Kirkfield Park (Mrs. Hammond) says, to women. I am sure some of that money—(Interjection)—I am sure there are some women who are landowners who are getting advantage of that but I am sure the majority—(Interjection)—There are women who are receiving that tax and I am sure there are many of them who are in need of it but by and large the majority of them are professional people who are speculating in land, and those are the people who are getting the tax breaks for that education tax.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I first started speaking on this Bill we talked about some of the goals that are set out in the Cattle Producers Association Amendment Act. They previously had this, the cattle producers had this in place but when the New Democrats came into power they removed it and now it is trying to be put back in place.

Some of the objectives and goals of the association are very laudable, I think especially in this time when we are going through a period of crisis in the agricultural industry. This is one of the areas that there is some stability. Some of the people who were involved in mixed operations in agriculture are the ones who are surviving this period of time when there was a very heavy drought situation.

* (1200)

In many of the areas the water situation is terrible so there was a real shortage of grass, not so much in Manitoba as in Saskatchewan. I know there were many producers in Saskatchewan who were looking for pasture land in Manitoba so they could move their livestock down to Manitoba so they could carry on and maintain their herd while they went through this period of crisis. I know there were several herds relocated to Manitoba and I am glad to see that cooperation went on between the Province of Saskatchewan and the Province of Manitoba and I am sure the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) was involved in some of this information back and forth to see where pasture was available. I know that he was involved in making sure that some of the feed that was accessed to Manitoba farmers was able to be distributed to the farmers in Saskatchewan who were in need of hay.

I think once again we have to give him credit for coming forward with a program of that type which helped move the feed from Manitoba to Saskatchewan, where there was excessive feed in that area. It talks about the need for research and I know that there has been a lot of research carried out in the Douglas farms of Manitoba. There has been a real improvement in the type of cattle that exist in Manitoba at this time.

I can think back to 40 years ago when I was—well, I was not that young at that time, on a farm in northern Manitoba. Most of the cattle at that time were not of a high quality and the Department of Agriculture was involved in an upgrading program where they supplied bulls for breeding purposes to a farm community. I know that program was very instrumental in upgrading the type of cattle that were available or that were stocks

in that part of the province. Since that time there has been much greater growth in the quality of the livestock in Manitoba. I know most of the farmers in that area, their herds have grown and they now have moved to getting their own breeding stocks for it and most of them in that area have gone into the Hereford variety.

I guess a few years ago there were many people who were going into the exotic breeds and I guess the people at the markets were looking for some of the markings from Simmental and Charolais cattle and they were bringing much higher prices at that time. So I guess you could not blame the people for moving into that type of breeding because it was certainly having positive results when they brought them to the auction marts. People were looking at those colourings and features of those cattle which would show they would finish off much better than others. So I guess one of the other breeds that was quite popular in some part of the province is the Black Angus. They were quite popular, and I guess one of the main reasons that people went into the Black Angus is because of the fact that calves are much smaller when they are born, so therefore there were—(Interjection)—There are Black Anguses and there are John Anguses and there are Red Anguses—but it appears the Black Anguses were the most popular of all the Anguses.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I can understand that all Honourable Members on all sides of the House would be interested in participating in the debate on this Bill, but the Honourable Member for The Pas does have the floor.

Mr. Harapiak: I know there was some concern about the lack of research dollars that are going into the whole area of Agriculture and I think this is one of the areas that there needs to be some additional research dollars put in. So now with the large number of members of the farming community sitting around the Cabinet table I am sure there will be a lot of dollars flowing forth for the whole area of research, but I think we have known all along that the agricultural economy is the backbone of this province and it is a very big generator. I think if you look at any of the economies in the province that Agriculture is probably one of the biggest generators there is if they take into consideration all of the transportation industry, the manufacturing industry, the petroleum industry, and fertilizer—I think there are a lot of dollars generated out of this whole industry so research is needed and I think there is some added support required from the federal level, so we can get on and bring the research up to the level that is required in this whole field.

When we talked previously about Bill No. 28, and the people talked very positively about the whole area of representation by the agricultural community, I think it is great they would look to have representation from the farm organizations. I know it is important they have a strong voice because, as was raised previously by a previous speaker, there is a need for a strong voice. Unfortunately, it is difficult to organize farmers because it appears they are, because of the type of occupation it is, very strong individualists. When things are going quite well they do not see the need for organizing. I

think the whole agricultural industry has moved to the point where we are being squeezed by subsidies, which the American farmers are getting, but they do not recognize them as subsidies.

Although the general public feels the farmers in Canada are subsidized to too great a degree, if we compare it to some of the subsidies received by the farmers in, not only the United States but in Europe, we will find the Canadian farmers are nowhere near as heavily subsidized as some of the other communities are. It still does not take away from the point that we want to have a strong voice. I have always advocated a strong voice for the farming community, but I do not think we should be imposing and picking from the Legislature here, picking who would be representing the farming community. We live in a democracy and they just exercised the other day, how strong a democracy we have in Canada, when there were many discussions on the whole free trade debate. After all was said and done the voice of the people was heard.

There were many discussions on the pros and cons of the whole Free Trade Agreement. I think the agricultural industry will be hurt because of the Free Trade Agreement. If you look into the area of poultry and egg production, it is quite clear that the net debt area, they can produce the eggs at a much cheaper rate in the United States than they can in Canada. We will find the people who are involved in egg production in Manitoba are going to be hurt to a great degree once those borders are opened up. So there are pros and cons to every side of this whole free trade. I think there is probably going to be some benefit to the beef industry, because there has been a growing market over the last several years of cattle flowing from Manitoba to the United States. I think there probably will be a further growth in that industry in that whole area, but I guess time will tell.

As I was saying earlier debate has been held. We placed our opinions on public record, and worked against the free trade going through. As I mentioned earlier, the election was held at the federal level, the majority of the people who voted, voted for the Progressive Conservatives, so we are going to have to accept as a fact they voted for free trade to go through. I guess people will have an opportunity to judge that after four years to see if it was a right decision or not. I am sure for the first four years, both the federal Government of Canada and the United States, will work at bringing out the positive points of the free trade, and it will take many years before we see some of the negatives come through.

Although there were some people who are trying to tie the closing of the Gillette plants in both Quebec and Ontario to free trade, I guess from what I have heard on that issue there are the people who have looked at the information that is available. They say it was started way back in early '86 when the whole transfer was being started, so it is something that I do not think that they can be blaming the closing of those two factories on the free trade. I do not think there has been time for it to take effect yet so anyone who tries to blame that on the free trade, I think is misleading the public.

* (1210)

An Honourable Member: I give you credit for your analysis.

Mr. Harapiak: I guess some of the other areas on the whole cattle industry—because of the drought year we have to look at some of the practices that the farmers have used in utilizing the pastures, because I think that in many areas, because of the drought, the grasses were not as lush as they had been in previous years. Some farmers did not have the choice of taking the livestock off their farm so they could replenish it for the fall of the year because they were so short of grass that they had to keep the cattle on as long as possible.

So I think they are going to have to be looking at fertilizing to a much greater degree than they have had to in the past. They are also going to have to look at keeping their cattle off in the spring of the year, because if they turn the cattle on too early in the spring of the year when that grass is probably in a depressed state already, a lot of grass will be killed if they do not take that into consideration.

I know that in the whole area of feeding there are many different feeds that the cattle producers can be utilizing. I know when we farmed in the Cowan area that in those days there were threshing machines. So we had a luxury that you do not have today. They saved all their straw and there was much more value to that straw because some of the grains were—some of the grain was gone—(Interjection)- the Agriculture critic from the Liberal Party has some advice for me I guess, but I think that straw, many people who were involved in raising cattle nowadays would like to have that strawstack in their back yard because I know it would be—

An Honourable Member: It is round bales.

Mr. Harapiak: Well, it is round bales but it does not have the quality that the straw had in those days. I really think that some of that quality would be missing because a lot of that quality has been lost on the hay field when the combining was being done.

An Honourable Member: Have you heard of rotary combines—putting the chaff in with the straw and you bale it up?

Mr. Harapiak: The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) has some of the more advanced equipment in the agricultural field I guess and he has been catching his straw as combining goes along. So he is able to salvage all of that feed that we had when we were—I guess some of the training that he has received at the university level is paying off and he is trying to apply it to his farm. It is good to see that it has not all been wasted because I know that some of the people who have received agricultural degrees and then they go back to apply it, they seem to tend to go back to the methods that they knew before they went into university to get educated.

So I know that is a frustration. I have a brother who is an agronomist. He works with Co-op Fertilizers—

(Interjection)- Well, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) says he supports a good Party. I would like to inform the Minister of Agriculture that he does not support any Party. He is non-political and I can tell you that honestly.

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Let me tell you the truth, Harry.

Mr. Harapiak: That one is.

Mr. Findlay: What about the other brother, Harry?

Mr. Harapiak: I have one that does support the Conservative Party. He is the black sheep of the family and we wonder where he went astray but you are allowed some mistakes in every family.

Getting back to this Bill, we talk about some of the organizations that are qualified to represent Manitoba farmers and I know there is one organization that is qualified and has been very active in the whole area of cattle producers and that is the National Farmers' Union. They have been very active in the whole area of the cattle producers and that is the National Farmers Union. I think they have been very active in the whole area of the agricultural community and I know they have made some good presentations to us as a Government, and I am sure they have been meeting with the present Government on some of the things that they see as detrimental to farming.

I am sure they have come forward with some suggestions as to some changes the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) should be making in the whole field of agriculture. I am sure they will be listened to as well, but it makes you wonder if there should be room for more than one organization representing the farmers. There is room for more than one union out there in the whole labour field when we have a different union representing railroad workers, different unions representing steelworkers, and I think that is the same in here. We should not limit it to one organization, although there is room later on for different commodities. I think that there should be room for more than one organization representing the farm.—(Interjection)-

Certainly I am going back to Bill 28 but it is so closely related, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I may have lapsed back into Bill 28, but I think that Bill 28 is also very important, that we need to address that as well.

I am sure that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) will be receiving many presentations from the present organizations which will encourage him to do more information and educating on the whole area of marketing, in the marketing of cattle, because I think that is one of the areas that needs some improvement. Most people do not go out of their way to try and market their cattle. They just take them to the auction mart and deal them off. But I think that there are many different options. But the whole cattle industry is also very important to our meat packers in Manitoba.—(Interjection)-

They talk about what meat packing, and I know there is a small processor that is starting up in The Pas. I

know that they have often talked about the concept of the North feeding the North, but when the Conservatives were in Government previously, they had a very strong initiative in that area of the North feeding the North. But they did not get beyond their philosophy of having the North feeding the North. I think that can be—

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health): How did the potato place go, Harry, the North feeding the North?

Mr. Harapiak: The Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery) wants to know how the potato farmer made out in The Pas. I think that is a good concept and the fellow from The Pas had developed a farming operation dealing with potatoes.

But the Minister of Environment, the Member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Connery), should talk to his federal counterparts because they are the ones that put the money into it, so when they come forward with that amount of money to support an industry I think they should also come forward with some of the other supports that they need. Because I think that the business end of any operation is very important and quite often that it is overlooked. I think the Northern Development Agreement, the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) should maybe take this under consideration, because the Northern Development Agreement was involved in that at the federal level but there is a discussion between the federal and provincial levels. I think that is one area that they should put more effort into because many of the operators who come forward have good ideas on what they could have in their operation.

I think that potato farm was a good idea. They could have supplied potatoes for northern Manitoba, but unfortunately some of the practices were not there. If the Northern Development Agreement had taken the time to support them for a short period of time, maybe it is a matter of practice, maybe it is a matter of bookkeeping, or whatever his shortcoming is, and I think that many people starting up a business do not have all the gifts that are necessary to run a successful business. I think that we have to be aware that there are some shortcomings in anybody's knowledge and therefore we should be more supportive of those people when they do start up a business, when they put that amount of money into a project which has some good principles.

I think that once again, the North feeding the North concept is one that we should be supporting. There is a small producer at this time, a processor who is setting up a slaughtering house—(Interjection)—is going to be—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) does have the floor and I am having some difficulty hearing him. Perhaps those Honourable Members wishing to engage in private conversations could do so outside the Chamber.

I do recognize that indeed it is Friday. With only a few minutes remaining, the Honourable Member for The Pas.

* (1220)

Mr. Harapiak: I know it is Friday and that people have a difficult time concentrating on carrying out their tasks. I would hope that the Minister of Environment, who is an agriculturalist, would be a little more attentive. It seems that he is more attentive in having meetings all around the room rather than listening to somebody speak. Maybe he does not feel that it is that important what other people are saying. He has once again reverted to another meeting. He is once again probably not hearing my comments. He is involved in another meeting. I think the Deputy Speaker should get his attention once more. If he wants to have meetings, he does have an office and he could go out and have meetings in his office. The Minister of Environment is usually busy.

I would like to talk a little further on the Bill.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern Affairs): A point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Northern and Native Affairs on a point of order.

Mr. Downey: We are dealing with a serious Bill in the Legislature. I know the Member wants to put his comments dealing with that Bill on the record. The point of order is one of relevance. The other is I do not think it is up to any Member to direct whether anyone in this Chamber has to listen to what he is saying. I do not think that is a rule of this Assembly. I think the Member should apologize to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member for The Pas, to the point of order.

Mr. Harapiak: I know that I was asking the Minister of Environment to listen to me but I was not asking you to make a ruling on it. I just said it would be nice if he was listening instead of conducting meetings around the room.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I believe that it would be once again helpful to the House if I were to remind all Honourable Members on all sides of the House that on second reading it is the principle of the Bill under consideration which is debatable.

Mr. Harapiak: The Minister of Environment has made a suggestion. He suggested that we call it 12:30. I am wondering if it is the will of the House to call it.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Municipal Affairs): If the Member is worried about whether or not the next five minutes could be usefully taken up, there are one or two of us who would like to put some comments on the record regarding this Bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Minister does not have a point of order.

Mr. Harapiak: I know that the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings) wants to make some comments

because he is one of the people who was at the conference yesterday where the Premier spoke very glowingly about his whole concept of sustainable development. I spoke to several people after the supper and they were very disappointed in the lack of detail that the First Minister had at the supper meeting.

Getting back to the supper last night, there was a great deal made about the organization not being a Tory organization. He says we can tell you that the media is trying to paint us into a corner in saying that we are a Tory organization but we are not, even though the Premier got up and made some comments that I do not think were fitting for a meeting of that sort. Then he said the president of the organization gets up and says, gee it is great to hear a non-partisan speech. If that is a non-partisan speech, I would not want him to be getting partisan. The Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) wants me to keep digging.

I really support, I want you to know that everyone on this side supports the whole concept of sustainable development. I think sustainable development goes along with this Bill 29. If sustainable development is practiced in the rural part of the province then I think all the cattle producers in this province will benefit. I think one of the areas that they are hurting at this time is because of the fact that some of our water resources are getting down to the level where they are. I think it is because of some of the practices that have been carried out.

I think that we have to look at repriorizing some of the uses of our water. There has to be water available for human consumption before there is water used for irrigation. I am not saying that there should not be water for irrigation but I think we have to repriorize. There is an example in the Minister of Agriculture's (Mr. Findlay) constituency where there are people who are thinking that water that is in their area was for their use alone. They are not willing to share it with their neighbours where at this time there is a shortage of water.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, on a point of order.

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to remind the Member for the Pas (Mr. Harapiak) that Carberry is not in my constituency. I am from Virden. That is on the west side of the province. If he checks his geography he will figure that out.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Minister does not have a point of order. A dispute over the facts is not a point of order.

Mr. Harapiak: I know that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) has a deep interest in that subject because he was invited down to a meeting there and he chose not to attend that meeting that I am referring to, because of the controversy surrounding it. I guess I can understand why he would not attend because his staff did attend and they gave very good information

as to why that water should be piped to an area that was not in need of water. I think the whole concept of sustainable development goes hand in hand with good water management. I think some of the areas that we need to discuss when you are talking about sustainable development is the Rafferty-Alameda dam.—(Interjection)—We do not politicize subjects in this House. We handle it the way we did last night at the municipal supper where you are completely—

An Honourable Member: A standing ovation was it, Harry?

Mr. Harapiak: If that is a standing ovation, it was very slow in building. It took several minutes. I think it had to be encouraged from many quarters because it was very slow in building. It looked like it was going to die and then I think finally enough Ministers stood up and I guess other people around caught on that we have got to stand. We have got to stand up, this is the Premier of our province who is speaking so we had better give him an organization, especially a Tory organization like we are a part of here. They finally did catch on and they stood up.

An Honourable Member: All of the MLAs did not do that. The Member for Wolseley, he did not stand up.

Mr. Harapiak: He said some of the Liberal Members did not stand up. I guess maybe they felt that there was not enough substance to the speech so it was not worth standing up for. I wondered if that speech was worth standing up for but I guess . . .

An Honourable Member: Did you stand up, Harry?

Mr. Harapiak: Well, I am a polite person so I did not want to embarrass some of the people around me so I thought I had better stand up. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that this Bill should not be coming forward. I think that this organization could fall under Bill 28 if and when—the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) does not realize I am not the Premier of the province. If I felt that I could give a speech where I could get a standing ovation, I would run for the leadership of the Party, but as you understand I did not run for the leadership of any Party so there are differences for people speaking. I am sure the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) has been around long enough to understand that.

An Honourable Member: I think I know why, Harry.

Mr. Harapiak: I know why too, and at least I recognize that but you do not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. When next this matter is before the House the Honourable Member for the Pas (Mr. Harapiak) will have five minutes remaining.

The time being 12:30 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Monday.