

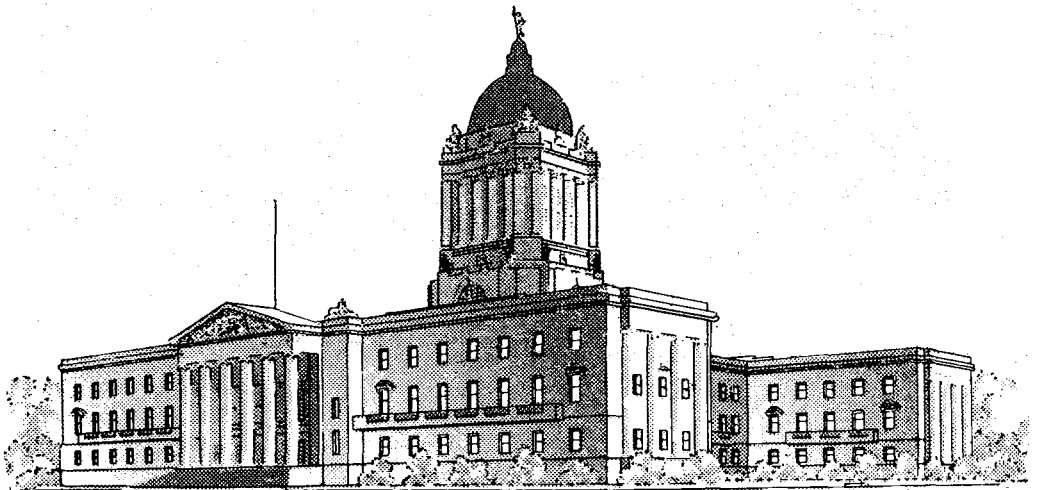


Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



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Thursday, July 16, 1959

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Thursday, July 16th, 1959.

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions.
Reading and Receiving Petitions.
Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees.

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Attorney-General) (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the third report of the Select Standing Committee on law amendments.

MR. CLERK: The Select Standing Committee on law amendments beg leave to present the following as their third report. The Committee has considered Bills No. 39 - An Act to amend The Education Department Act; No. 40 - An Act to amend the School Districts Debenture Interest Guarantee Act; No. 55 - An Act to amend The Hospital Service Insurance Act; No. 57 - An Act to amend The Teachers' Retirement Allowances Act; No. 78 - An Act to amend The Greater Winnipeg Sanitary District Act; No. 84 - An Act to amend The Tuberculosis Control Act, and it is agreed to report the same without amendments. Your Committee has also considered Bill No. 59 - An Act to amend An Act to Incorporate Manitoba Hospital Services Association and has agreed to report the same with certain amendments; all of which is respectfully submitted.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Labour, that the Report of the Committee be received.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Notice of Motion.
Introduction of Bills.

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources) (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Attorney-General, that leave be given to introduce a Bill, No. 89 - An Act to amend The Business Development Fund Act, and the same be now received and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Utilities.

HON. J.B. CARROLL (Minister of Public Utilities) (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Provincial Secretary, that leave be given to introduce a Bill, No. 53 - An Act to amend certain provisions of the Statute Law, and the same be now received and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

HON. STEWART E. McLEAN (Minister of Education) (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the proposed resolution standing on the order paper in the names of the Honourable the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Utilities and myself.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried. The Honourable Member for St. Matthews took the Chair.

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Chairman, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the proposed resolutions, recommends them to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 1 - That it is expedient to amend The Public Schools Act by providing, among other matters, (a) for the payment from Consolidated Fund of grants to school areas on a basis different from that presently in use; (b) for the establishment of Boards of Reference and payment of remuneration to, and reimbursement for expenses incurred by, members thereof.

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Chairman, the resolution indicates the nature of the Bill which it is proposed to bring down before the House, altering the basis upon which grants are paid to school areas; and also providing for the establishment of Boards of Reference in respect of school divisions. This is a matter which was before the House when we last met.

MR. W.C. MILLER (Rhineland): Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister could give the Committee much more information on the purpose of Item No. 1 and 2 at this stage because, if my supposition is correct, it will establish the same scale of grants for school areas as for the divisions. Now if he had an amendment there or an addition after the words "school areas" and "school districts" I wouldn't object too much. But I suggest, if my supposition is correct, that this is in direct negation to the avowed policy of the government in respect of restricting grants of this very generous nature to school divisions.

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Chairman, as the legislation and regulations are now, school areas are paid grants on the basis of the grants established plus 20%. And for every grant to which this particular rule is applicable, a school area receives the grant plus 20% by virtue of being a school area. Now, obviously such a rule as that could become somewhat expensive for the Province of Manitoba because every time the grant structure would be raised, as often happens, it means the raise, plus 20%. Our proposal is that the grants to school areas be made the same as the grants to school divisions, thereby bringing the two on a basis of parity and eliminating the possibility of the one getting out of step with the other. That is, I think, the sum and substance of what is proposed by the Bill and the detail of it, of course, will be discussed on second reading and also in law amendments committee.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I'm not too happy about the explanation given by the Minister because at the present time he correctly stated that the grants applicable to school areas of which there's one, is based on the ordinary school grants applicable to districts not in a division, plus 20% and so on. And certainly this would bring, and I suspect without a vote - without a vote, the people in the one school area would clearly define present grants, within the orbit of the secondary division. And my suggestion is that before that is done, the people in that area should be given the opportunity to vote whether they want the area continued or whether they want to come under the secondary division plan.

And with the second item, the Minister indicated that the job for the Board of Reference would be, among other things, to change and alter the boundaries of divisions. He also indicated that it was his intention, if I remember correctly, of appointing the personnel of the Boundaries Commission as members of the Board of Reference. And I suggest that is a very unwise thing to do because the members of the Boundaries Commission establish the present boundaries after listening to representations. And I suggest that it would be very difficult for them to change their opinion as to the new boundaries if any suggestion is made like that. Can the Minister give us the assurance that no members of the old Boundaries Commission will be appointed to the Board of Reference?

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Chairman, I can give no such assurance and I'm not prepared to do so. All that I said before and I was endeavouring to illustrate to the House what was meant by Board of Reference because, as you will recall, I was asked whether this meant the appointment of another new board, and I was simply explaining that it didn't mean that. That under the proposed legislation the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council could designate a board to be the Board of Reference. And I went one step further and gave the illustration and said, that as long as there was a Boundaries Commission, for example, it might be the Boundaries Commission that would be designated. I also said, it might be the Municipal Board that would be designated. There may be any number of boards that might be designated. All I was endeavouring to indicate to the House was that we were not proposing to establish a new board. However, may I just say this to the Honourable Member for Rhineland that I have every confidence - yes, every confidence that the members of the Boundaries Commission, even if they were to be designated for the purpose of this Act, are of such a high calibre and have the proper approach to their duties that they would be entirely capable of acting in such a capacity even though they were involved in establishing the original boundaries. They are men and women of good judgment and I have every confidence that they would have the confidence of this House and the confidence of the people of Manitoba and those directly concerned. However, that is not to say that the Boundaries Commission will be designated but I give no undertaking that they will not be designated.

Now then, with respect to the first part, the honourable member assumes that grants to school districts outside of school divisions will not be increased. He has no basis for making that assumption and the question of the vote so far as the one and only school area is concerned, I would now say, for I suppose the fiftieth time, that there will be a vote and they will have the

(Mr. McLean, cont'd.) . . . same opportunity of judging or deciding between continuing with the school area or adopting the school division as any other part of the Province of Manitoba. And this matter with respect to grants has no bearing on that issue and they will be, I'm sure, quite capable of making that decision based upon what they consider to be in their best interest.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I'm glad that the Minister clarified one point, namely, that there would be a vote. I'm rather amazed at the statement though -- (Interjection) -- Pardon?

MR. McLEAN: I've said that a number of times

MR. MILLER: Well, Oh, I think so - I think so. Because if it was the intention to have a vote why didn't they have a vote in February? I mean, let's not be too fussy about these re-statements. But I'm amazed that my honourable friend who is an eminent man learned in the law would suggest that the same board that set the original boundaries could be the same people to whom an appeal can be made from their own decisions. I'm not a lawyer - I nearly said, "Thank Heaven". But surely, my honourable friend would not suggest that the same court would hear the appeal from their own decisions. And I'm going to follow very, very carefully the Minister's explanation on second reading.

MR. M.N. HRYHORCZUK (Ethelbert Plains): Mr. Chairman, the remark I'm going to make is probably somewhat premature, but if it is, I wish the Minister would take it under consideration and we can discuss it on second reading of the Bill. As I understand the area, the grants to it are not only for secondary schools but also for elementary on the same 20% increase principle. Well, what is going to happen in any of these areas that come under the division? Is the change in the Act only going to affect the secondary portion of the area? Or is it going to give the secondary portion of the area the advantages of a division and still retain the 20% advantage for the elementary schools? Secondly, what about the structure of our Boards? Is the structure in the area going to be the same as it is in other divisions or will it have a secondary structure which will look after - or one board, let's put it this way - one board which will look after the elementary as well as the secondary schools as it does now in the area?

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Chairman, I think the honourable member is confusing the two kinds of areas. The first one that came into existence, that is, into the form of law, was a school area. As the Honourable Member for Rhineland has pointed out, there is only one such school area in the Province of Manitoba. The other type which is sometimes referred to as a school area refers to the secondary school area that dealt only with high school education. Now actually all of the secondary school areas that were formed have been absorbed by school divisions. And they are no longer in existence and there's no problem regarding the differential between elementary and high school education. This amendment only refers to the first type of school area that I speak of.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: My remarks may have led the Honourable the Minister to think that I was confused, but that's just the point that I raised. We only have the one area where both the elementary and the secondary schools have certain advantages that the other districts have not. Now, if you create a division there, in that one particular area, what is going to happen to your elementary schools? Are they going to come under the division? Are they going to have any advantages the other school districts in the province do not have?

MR. McLEAN: If the area becomes a division, then the schools, the elementary schools, will be operated exactly as elementary schools are operated under school divisions at the present time. If they remain as a school area, then they will continue to operate as the legislation provides for the operation of elementary schools and high schools. The distinction between a school division and a school area from a financial point of view and insofar as it relates to the elementary schools and high schools is simply that in a school area the area Board of Trustees has certain -- has the jurisdiction over all financial matters. Although the local school districts continue to exist, local school boards continue to exist and continue to exercise certain jurisdiction in their local school districts over essentially elementary education, although it's not stated in exactly those words. Part of this Bill, as we will see when we come, is to increase -- proposes to increase the authority of the local school trustees over the local schools within a school area. In other words, to bring their jurisdiction, not entirely into line with the position of local school districts in what we call a school division, but certainly to bring them somewhat closer to that position and to increase the authority that they have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall the resolution be adopted? Passed. Resolution No. 2 - Resolved that it is expedient to bring in a measure to provide for the establishment of a Municipal Board and for the payment of the salaries of the members thereof and the other costs and expenses thereof from the Consolidated Fund.

HON. JOHN THOMPSON (Acting Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Virden): Mr. Chairman, this Bill deals with the proposed division of the Municipal and Public Utility Board. The Bill establishes a Municipal Board which will have the authority and jurisdiction to deal with all matters related to municipal administration and finance. It will also include such matters as town planning. It will result in the abolition of the Equalization and Appeal Board, because the new Municipal Board will deal with appeals on equalization from the provincial municipal assessor and will deal with appeals on assessment from the Courts of Revision of the various municipalities of the province. The bulk of the Bill adopts administrative sections from the existing Municipal and Public Utility Board Act. The administrative sections are largely retained as no increase in powers is proposed in the Bill. In connection with the Municipal Board, the new Board will be comprised of not less than three nor more than five members. There will be a full time chairman and the additional members will be either full time or part time according to the discretion of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

MR. M.A. GRAY (Inkster): Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask two questions. One is whether the Board will be responsible to the Minister? Secondly, this Board, the other Board which is being appointed, is it for the purpose of relieving the hard work of the Ministers? The second question is whether the establishment of the Board, as so many are being established now, is it to relieve the responsibilities and the work of the Ministers?

A MEMBER: What work?

MR. GRAY: Anyway, the first question anyway I'd like to ask first question, and please, will the Committee be responsible to the Minister, or are they independent body?

MR. THOMPSON: The duties and responsibilities of this Board, Mr. Chairman, are given to the Board by statute. I would not say that the Minister has control over their operations or their decisions in any way. They are given the responsibility and the duty of making decisions on the matters which I've mentioned. I would not say that they are responsible to the Minister in that sense.

The second question regarding the relief of the duties of the government or the Minister. There's no association at all between the duties of the Minister and the duties of the Board. The establishment of this Board certainly will relieve the volume of duties which the existing Municipal and Public Utility Board have been called upon to perform, and they will become, we expect, more expert and proficient and have more time to devote to the duties and problems within the sphere of their activities, that is within the municipal sphere. And that is the reason there's a change in volume of duty that is in variety of case, but there's no association between the new duties of the Board and the existing duties of the Minister.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, I was told that I don't know a thing about farming. I don't know anything about these here Boards either, but I take it that you are transferring responsibility of the government to individuals. Then where is the responsibility of the government?

MR. THOMPSON: I believe I made it clear, Mr. Chairman, in introducing the subject, that there's no change in power in the new Municipal Board. They are carrying on the duties which have been given them for years which were in the hands of the Municipal and Public Utility Board. In this Bill we're making no change in the duties. We're dividing the two Boards.

MR. E. PREFONTAINE (Carillon): The Equalization Board had a staff and was working continuously to gather data with respect to making an equalized assessment of the Province of Manitoba. Do I understand that the Municipal Board will have a staff also or if they will only sit in appeal to, in case some municipal bodies object to this equalization made by the provincial municipal assessor. Now, there's quite a change of principle that will take place. Previously the Equalization Board was a semi-judicial board. It was instructed by the Act itself to make equalization as between municipalities in this province. Now, this job is going to be done by the provincial municipal assessor working directly under the Minister. I don't think there'll be this independent judgment there that there used to be. But I cannot see how the Municipal Board will be in a position to sit as an appeal board on assessment, on equalized assessment if it has no staff. And I would like to know that connection where Mr. Acthim will go,

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd.) . . . and will he work under the Municipal Board or will he be fired or will he work under Mr. Chappell, the Provincial Municipal Assessor. May I ask the Minister also if he will keep the Minister Advisory Committee or will this Committee disappear also?

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, in connection with the person you suggested would he be fired, who was that? I didn't get it.

MR. PREFONTAINE: The Secretary to the Municipal Assessment and Equalization Board.

MR. THOMPSON: Oh, I feel confident, in fact there's no doubt that what the Municipal Board will have adequate staff to deal with appeals on equalization and assessment. They will be provided with staff for that purpose. And in answer to the second question, will we dispense with the services of the Municipal Advisory Committee - the answer is "No". We hope to retain the services of that Committee.

MR. R. PAULLEY (Leader of the CCF Party) (Radisson): Mr. Chairman, I see a danger in this insofar as the municipalities are concerned, because as I understand it the intention of the government is to abolish the Municipal Assessment and Appeal Board. And if this municipal committee, which has been a part of the Municipal and Public Utility Board, will now take over the general functions that the former Municipal Assessment and Appeal Board had. Now, I see a danger this way in this, that as the Honourable Member for Carillon has pointed out, there were appeals before to the Assessment and Appeal Board and if anyone in any municipality had any differences of opinion with the Courts of Appeal, a Court of Revision in the municipality in respect of taxes, if they were not satisfied at the municipal level of the Court of Appeal - Court of Revision I should say, Mr. Chairman, then they have the alternative of going to the Assessment Appeal Board. Now then, under this proposed set up they will go apparently to the municipal division of what we now call the Municipal and Public Utility Board. But the danger that I see in this, Mr. Chairman, is this. That if the functions are going to be similar to what is being carried on at the present time by the Municipal and Public Utility Board, a number of our municipalities and school districts are under the direct control of the Municipal and Public Utility Board, that their budgets must be approved by the Municipal and Public Utility Board at the present time. And I would suggest that we might get into difficulties because if an ordinary citizen is not satisfied with the assessment on his particular body, particularly in these municipalities and school divisions under the control of the Municipal and Public Utility Board, they, having a direct interest in the municipal budgets of these particular municipalities and school boards, may be influenced as to whether or not, of the type of decision that they're going to make in their appeal insofar as assessments.

I'm speaking from experience to some degree in this, and I know, because my Town of Transcona, we could be out of it now if we so desired but thus far we have not, under the control of the Utility Board. But I can see, Mr. Chairman, difficulties arising. Had, in the tougher days, any of the citizens say, in the Town of Transcona who were not satisfied with the assessment that was placed on their property by the Courts of Revision of the town itself, were in a position where the only appeal from that assessment would be to the body that was setting their budget. And I'd seriously suggest to the Honourable the Minister, that if that is the intention of that, that the government give serious consideration to it, because I can see that there could be difficulties in that particular aspect of this. Mind you, as far as the general division is concerned, I have no objections to it because I realize that the present members of the Municipal and Public Utility Board have quite a lot of work, maybe more than they should be called upon to do. Now, it might be said that there is a further appeal, I believe to the Queen's Court in respect of any appeal from the equalization But I think that's only on a question of law. And I think that there could be difficulty in this and I suggest that the government should give consideration to the point that I'm raising on this. I think it is important.

MR. F. GROVES (St. Vital): I wonder if the honourable member might elaborate a little more on the point he was trying to make. I can't quite grasp what conflict there might be in the new Municipal Board where they would be sitting as a judge or Court of Appeal on an assessment of an individual in the municipality where their only other duty in connection with that municipality is the approval of their budget and the co-signing of the cheques. The reason I say that is that this type of situation exists at the present time. If council, for example, changes a zone, makes a zoning change in the municipality and the persons in that area object to that zoning change, they have an appeal to the Municipal and Public Utility Board. And the Municipal and

(Mr. Groves, cont'd.) Public Utility Board have been hearing those appeals for a good many years and there doesn't seem to be any conflict in that instance, between their position as a judge on these appeals against zoning, and their duty as a trustee or an over-all administrator of the municipality. And I can't see where under the new system the conflict would arise.

MR. PAULLEY: I would suggest to my honourable friend that he take another look at the Municipal Act and see what the setup is. Apparently, Mr. Chairman, since he left the municipal field he's forgotten what he may have known there, at that time, or else didn't know it during his term of office as a councillor out in St. Vital. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, there's a vast difference between the question of zoning by-laws and the question of an appeal in respect of assessment. The situation at the present time is, that if a court of revision of any municipality hears an applicant for a re-assessment or revision in the assessment, and the appellant is not satisfied with the decision of the court of revision - he has an appeal at the present time to the Equalization Assessment Appeal Board, who is an independent body not connected with the municipality in any way, shape or form, to hear his appeal and judge on the merits of the case. My suggestion is that if this is being done by the same body which approves of the budgets of the municipality and in some cases actually formulates a budget of some municipalities, we can get into trouble because they are going to be judges and have the - they are going to judge as to whether or not the appeal should be upheld or not, and then assess the amount of taxation which is to be collected, and I suggest that we can get into difficulty through that.

MR. GROVES: It is true I am familiar with the procedure now where a taxpayer wishes to appeal to the Equalization and Appeal Board and we are going to transfer the authority of that board now to the new municipal board. So what is the difference between a taxpayer, that is, an individual taxpayer now appealing to the municipal board, and the same taxpayer now appealing against a zoning regulation that affects his property, to that same board?

MR. PAULLEY: under this can be the board that sets the mill rate and will be interested in the assessment of the municipality, and the individuals therein.

MR. GROVES: Well, zoning affects the assessment as well. I was, I personally appeared before the Municipal and Public Utility Board in connection with a matter where a council had decided not to rezone a certain property and where the property owner concerned objected, and that was quite materially affecting the assessment.

MR. T.P. HILLHOUSE, Q.C. (Selkirk): I think the point of the Honourable Leader of the CCF is well taken, but I do think it is taken more in a theoretical sense than a practical sense. But at the same time it has often been stated in this House, that it is not only necessary that justice be done, but what is more important that it should have the appearance of having been done. And I think on that ground there should be another look taken at this, so that a board would not have to sit in on judgment in respect of a municipal corporation which is in its charge, or under its supervision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall the resolution be adopted? Resolution No. 3 - Resolved that it is expedient to bring in a measure to provide for the establishment of a Public Utilities Board and for the payment of the salaries of the members thereof, and the other costs and expenses thereof from the Consolidated Fund.

MR. CARROLL: Mr. Chairman, I think that a great deal of the explanation which was made on the previous resolution applies to this one. The Public Utilities Board in this case will have the control of public utilities and this will enable them to give much closer supervision to those utilities which come within their jurisdiction. We are thinking particularly of the new gas companies operating throughout the province. It is our intention that this board should keep very close supervision of these utilities. They also approve of franchises and approve rates for the various utilities. They have the administration of the Real Estate Agents' Act and The Securities Act and will perform those other duties and functions which may be transferred to it from time to time by the Legislature or by the Executive Council.

MR. HILLHOUSE: public utilities? My question is, are breweries going to be continued to be supervised at the price by the Public Utilities Board?

MR. CARROLL: Yes, I believe that's the intention.

MR. GRAY: Would this board be responsible to the Minister?

MR. CARROLL: I think the same explanation which was given by the Minister of Municipal Affairs will apply in this case.

MR. GRAY: Will they have a right to sell their Hydros and the electricity to some private corporation?

MR. CARROLL: Will they have the right to which?

MR. GRAY: Will they have the power to sell out all the hydros that are now operated by the province?

MR. CARROLL: No, no.

MR. GRAY: Why do they have to sell out their appliances, to go out of the appliances business?

MR. CARROLL: I think the Municipal and Public Utility Board, and eventually when this Act is passed the Public Utilities Board will certainly have no control over the Manitoba Power Commission with respect to these internal matters. They will certainly regulate with respect to service and wastes and things of that kind which does come under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall the resolution be adopted? Would the Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has adopted certain resolutions and asked me to report the same asking.....

MR. W.G. MARTIN (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Roblin, that the Report of the Committee be received.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, that leave be given to introduce a Bill, No. 14 - An Act to amend The Public Schools Act, No. 1, and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, that leave be given to introduce a Bill, No. 51, An Act to establish a Municipal Board, and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. CARROLL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Provincial Secretary, that leave be given to introduce a Bill, No. 52 - An Act to establish a Public Utilities Board, and that the same be now received and read a first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Honourable Minister name another seconder. The Provincial Secretary is not in the House.

MR. CARROLL: The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable the Minister of Education.

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement to the House concerning a news report which appeared yesterday in the Winnipeg Free Press final edition under the title of "Probe exam papers sold to students". Approximately three o'clock yesterday afternoon, the Deputy Minister of Education, who is also the Chairman of the High School Examination Board, received a telephone call from the newspaper reporter, who I presume wrote the story that appeared in the press, indicating the possibility of some irregularities with respect to examination papers in the City of Winnipeg. And immediate investigation was made and continued last night and this morning, and I wish to report to the House that the matter has been placed in the hands of the police since it does appear possible that there has been some irregularity with respect to these papers. This is a matter which of course concerns the High School Examination Board which is a sort of an independent organization, but in addition, of course, it concerns the government of Manitoba in that the further investigation by the police may reveal certain irregularities with respect to work which the Government of Manitoba has done insofar as examination papers are concerned. I note that the story refers to another case in which it says that the teacher had her teaching certificate cancelled as a result of an irregularity. I should just like to say that the "her" is a "him" and it is true that with respect to one teacher it was necessary to cancel a certificate as a result of an irregularity and there have been, I presume on occasions over the years, irregularities with respect to examination papers and this one occurred this year. And all irregularities that are brought to our attention are investigated in the usual manner.

MR. J. HAWRYLUK (Burrows): Just a follow-up on what the Minister of Education has said. I intended to bring up the matter this afternoon. What happens in the case of the students involved in the selling and buying of those papers? Because it does involve a number of students in the various schools. And what happens to the general papers that were written? For example, there is no question in my mind that if they

MR. SPEAKER: The statement is not debatable by the

MR. HAWRYLUK: I'm just asking a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Oh.

MR. HAWRYLUK: Could you tell me, Sir, then what happens in the case of students involved in buying and selling these papers and in regard to the students who have written some of these papers in these schools.

MR. McLEAN: Well, I'm not able to say what will happen in the case of students if it is shown that students have in fact been involved in selling papers. I would not care to express an opinion because it would seem to me to be a matter of law, whether they have been guilty of some breach of either a provincial statute or the Criminal Code. With respect to students who have written the papers, that is the students who have the examinations to write, they are required to write other papers; that is if it is found that there is any irregularity we simply wash out whatever they have done and require them to write additional papers which are quite different, and beyond that I am not aware that we have any authority to take any action with respect to the students who have written the papers.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable Minister would permit a question? Is it a fact then that the preliminary investigations carried on by and at the request of the High School Examination Board and that further investigation by the police is being carried on at the request of the High School Examination Board and not at the request of the Minister?

MR. McLEAN: No, it wouldn't be correct to say that. It is being carried on at the request of the High School Examination Board and at the request of the Minister because there are two of us involved in this matter: 1. The Examination Board, if it is found that there are, in fact, irregularities, because it is the High School Examination Board for example that imposes the condition that the students must re-write the papers concerned. On the other hand, I am, as Minister of Education, very vitally concerned in the results of this investigation because if certain facts are shown to be correct as a result of the investigation, there are certain steps that I, as a responsible Minister of the Crown, would have to take quite aside from the position of the High School Examination Board.

MR. MILLER: of the discipline committee.

MR. McLEAN: Not necessarily, it might be some matters that the government itself was concerned about.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, on a point of privilege we received this afternoon a notice to all MLA's respecting the forthcoming visit of Her Majesty to the Province of Manitoba. In the notice, Mr. Speaker, attention is drawn to the fact that the dress is formal for this occasion. This is the meeting of Her Majesty with MLA's and the notice says that for the benefit of the ladies attending this usually consists of an afternoon dress, a hat and gloves. I rise to protest, Mr. Speaker, that it will be necessary, according to this leaflet or statement laid on our desk this afternoon, that members of this Legislature will have to wear formal attire to meet Her Majesty that afternoon. I suggest to you, Sir, that many of the members of this House, I am sure, including a number of my own colleagues, are not possessors of formal attire and protest firstly, on that ground. And secondly

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier) (Wolseley): I could save my honourable friend a lot of trouble if he would allow me to answer.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, certainly. I would be glad to hear an explanation of this statement.

MR. ROBLIN: Well, the fact is, Mr. Speaker, that it's a misprint. The word should be "informal" and as soon as that caught my eye this afternoon I immediately made arrangement to have a correction issued because Her Majesty has expressly said that she wishes these receptions to be informal. I can save my honourable friend any worry that he has on that score and I apologize to the House for the misprint.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, the last remark of the First Minister, we're going to be -- my second point was that I was sure that Her Majesty and Prince Philip would rather meet the members of the Legislature somewhat similar to what they are attired now, and am very pleased to hear the statement of the First Minister.

MR. ROBLIN: If my honourable friend would have made a question instead of making a statement, he would have got his answer a lot quicker.

MR. GRAY: I'll have to cancel my order.

MR. PAULLEY: Oh, no (Interjection) --- Not on a point of privilege, and this was a point of privilege, because according to the statement that was laid on our table, Mr. Speaker, according to the statement that laid on our table, and I presume that it was laid on our table at the authority of the government. It then became a question of privilege and not a question.

MR. ROBLIN: I don't think it's a question of privilege.

MR. PAULLEY: Oh, definitely it is on the basis of this. Anyway we know where we're at now, so that's okay.

MR. S. ROBERTS (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health regarding the water situation in the area in St. Vital around the tunnel that is being constructed from St. Vital to Fort Garry across the river, the water district tunnel being constructed by the North American Construction Company, in which case the company has not sealed off the tunnel as it was though they would do. Instead they are pumping water out and by consequence the wells in the area have dried up for several miles, up and down the river, two or three miles. And this is expected to continue some weeks yet. There is no water supply to the homes in the area, and they have relied on their wells for many years for their water supply and have no other facilities to obtain water. Now what steps have been taken by the government to protect this area, particularly in the question of health, because there is a great health problem involved where there is no water.

HON. GEO. JOHNSON, M.D. (Minister of Health and Public Welfare) (Gimli): Sir, I will take this question as notice and I will be prepared to inform my honourable friend tomorrow concerning this matter.

MR. D. ORLIKOW (St. John's): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Labour. Yesterday I questioned him about the situation at Kelsey and the Honourable Minister replied, and I quote from page 955 - "It is true that McNamara may deny a permit to anyone other than an employee to use their rail line but no one can stop transportation by airline". Further he says - "The Manitoba Hydro and Electric Board control the dock and they will not prevent anyone from landing on the Nelson River and coming up and using that dock and going about their business". Mr. Speaker, my question to the Honourable Minister is - has he notified the McNamara people, because yesterday's Tribune has a story headed "Organizer will defy ban on Kelsey visit". Well, the question I want is this, Mr. Chairman, it says that the organizer got a telegram from E.S. Duncan, project manager for McNamara which said, "Be advised, no pass will be issued for you to enter the project either by rail or air". Now my question is, does he now have to walk in, Mr. Chairman?

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the government I'm sure has no objection if the honourable gentleman wishes to walk to Kelsey. He can, according to my understanding, fly in and land there. I have no obligation to either defend or prosecute the foreman of McNamara, Brown and Root who sent that telegram. I have no idea what prompted it or what their position is. I can only repeat what I said yesterday, that I know of no law which would prevent the union agent or anybody else from entering by air into Kelsey and landing and making contacts in the area outside the contractors' property and outside working hours. There is no law to my knowledge that would prevent him from doing that. I think I've made the position clear as far as our department is concerned. We are not opposed to access to Kelsey. It is our feeling that the right of access exists to that area. It is true that under the rail line agreement, the lease of which I have obtained a copy, the lease is purely a construction line, that is the rail line is purely a construction line. It's used according to the terms of the lease, in connection with the construction of the generating station at Kelsey. That's its purpose. It's used to haul freight and personnel who are working on that project. Otherwise, any other means of transportation are available. On foot, as my honourable friend suggested, and by air, by boat, or canoe, any other

(Mr. Thompson, cont'd.) method of transportation other than the construction line, construction rail line, is available to anyone. Therefore I cannot go further in explaining the telegram which the union agent received. We, as I say, have no responsibility in that connection with this statement. I have only stated our position that we are not intervening in the visit of the union agent or anyone else. There will be no intervention from the government in that respect.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question, because I think the Minister has added a very important reservation which he didn't mention yesterday. He says "in" but they can't get on to the company's property. In view of the fact that all the living facilities are on the company's property, how can they contact the people?

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the honourable member, I don't know of any restriction which prevents any person invited into the property of any company or person from going there. There is plenty of room in that area. There's lots of room and I am sure that a union agent could contact his friends there, the employees with whom he has a contact and association. He could readily advise them that he is arriving at the dock and landing at a certain date and hour. He could be met. He could arrange to meet everybody in the camp as long as he did not, I assume, I presume as long as he did not interfere with the working hours of the contractor which is a general custom and procedure, or as long as he did not enter property which is under the control of someone who had not extended to him an invitation.

MR. J. CHRISTIANSON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the Fifth Annual Threshermen's Reunion presently being held at the Agricultural Museum in Austin. The members of the committee out there are to be congratulated on the very fine job they are doing and, as this event is being supported by the government, and as it is a very worthwhile project and of very great educational value. They have agricultural equipment there dating back well into the last century, some of it in working condition. I would strongly urge that all members of the House make an effort to be there because that runs through till Saturday afternoon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. D.L. CAMPBELL (Leader of the Opposition) (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Honourable Minister of Labour, before the Orders of the Day, as to what was the final result of the tests made on the steam engines at the Agricultural Museum?

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, at our request the Chief Inspector of the mechanical and engineering division, together with another inspector of the department, visited the Austin area and inspected further machines and I believe approved an additional four machines as I recall, so that in operation at the present time, in operation, I believe there are seven or eight steam machines in operation for the event.

MR. E.R. SCHREYER (Brokenhead): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to direct a question to the First Minister. There have been some rumors in the area in and around Beausejour that this government has commenced making compensation payments to those farmers who suffered damage about a month ago as a result of a small flash flood there. I would ask the First Minister if these reports or rumors have any foundation in fact?

MR. ROBLIN: No, Sir.

MR. A. CORBETT (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I will not ask any questions. I would like to inform the House that Manitoba's only duplicate of the Calgary Stampede, if a somewhat junior duplication, is being held at Swan River on July 20th, 21st and 22nd in conjunction with their fall fair. And any of the members of this House or their friends who wish to have a real good time and see a real good rodeo a fall fair, I would advise them to wend their way to Swan River on those days.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into Committee to consider the following Bills: No. 2 - An Act to facilitate the Economic Development of the Province.

No. 3 - An Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.

(Mr. Evans, cont'd.)

No. 11 - An Act to amend The Winter Employment Act.

No. 26 - An Act to amend The Health and Public Welfare Act.

No. 27 - An Act to amend The Vital Statistics Act.

No. 30 - An Act to amend The Anatomy Act.

No. 35 - An Act to amend The Treasury Act.

No. 45 - An Act to amend The Winnipeg Charter, 1956, and to validate By-laws No 17959 and 18073.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole House, and the Honourable Member for St. Matthews took the Chair.

Bill No. 2, Sec. 1 to Sec. 16 was read and passed.

Sec. 17

MR. EVANS: I believe there is an amendment that you have there, or I have another copy here somewhere, an additional Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, I was informed that the proposed amendment was going to be in your hands for this, I'll see if I can locate my copy. It might be preferable if I moved it as a motion Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. EVANS: I move that sub-section -- that the Bill be amended by adding a new section, Section 17 as follows: A report on the activities of the authorities shall be prepared yearly and laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly at the next ensuing session of the Legislature.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. New Section 17 - A report of the activities of the authorities shall be prepared yearly and laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly at the next ensuing session of the Legislature. Are you agreed?

Bill No. 2, Sec. 17 was read and passed. Section 17 now becomes 18.

Bill No. 2, Sec. 18, was read and passed.

Bill No. 3, Sec. 1 to Sec. 6, was read and passed.

Bill No. 11, Sec. 1 and Sec. 2, was read and passed.

Bill No. 26, Sec. 1 to Sec. 4, was read and passed.

Bill No. 27, Sec. 1 to Sec. 3, was read and passed.

Bill No. 30, Sec. 1 to Sec. 10, was read and passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bill No. 35 - An Act to amend The Treasury Act. Sec. 1 - 7 (a)

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, remarks on this Bill can be made just as well at one stage as another, but the Committee will be relieved to hear, I think, that I do not at this time intend to repeat once again what I've said in opposition to this Bill. I still am of the opinion that it's legislation that should not be proceeded with. I so moved in the Committee of Law Amendments. The decision there was adverse to my point of view. I have no hope that they would be any different here, so I do not propose at this stage to delay the work of the Committee, simply record once again that I do not approve of the Bill. I think it should not be proceeded with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7 (a), 7 (b),

Bill No. 35, Sec. 1 and Sec. 2 was read.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall the Bill be reported?

MR. CAMPBELL: No.

Bill No. 35 was passed.

Bill No. 45, Sec. 1 to Sec. 21, was read and passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will the committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has considered certain Bills and direct me to report as follows: No. 2 amended, and Nos. 3, 11, 26, 27, 30, 35 and 45 without amendment and the Committee desires to sit again.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre that the report of the Committee be received.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

Bill Nos. 2, 3, 11, 26, 27 and 30 were each read a third time and passed.

MR. SPEAKER: Third reading of Bill No. 35.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) ... Mines and Natural Resources, that Bill No. 35, An Act to amend The Treasury Act, be now read a third time and passed.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains, that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Third reading of Bill No. 45.

MR. J. COWAN (Winnipeg Centre): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Matthews, that Bill No. 45, An Act to amend The Winnipeg Charter, 1956, and to validate By-laws Nos. 17959 and 18073, be now read a third time and passed.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Speaker, City Police are policing for the province, perhaps for the population of the province. Shouldn't the Legislature have something to say in connection with the appointment of the two citizens? I think perhaps they should be interested, or consulted whom the city would appoint. It's just a suggestion to the First Minister, if he's satisfied, I am.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, the City Police, it's true, carry out the laws of the province as they carry out the laws of the Dominion of Canada under the Criminal Code, but they do this to no greater extent than do any other municipal police force in the Province of Manitoba. It is true that in some jurisdictions, I think in the Province of Ontario and in the Province of British Columbia, Police Commissions in the City of Vancouver and in the City of Toronto, the two that come to my mind, do have some appointees made by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. However, I'm rather surprised at this suggestion coming from my honourable friend opposite because only a few days ago he got up in the House, and was talking about home rule for the City of Winnipeg, and I think that by the provision that we have put into this Act, namely permitting the council by resolution to appoint two citizen members, we are giving a nod towards the City of Winnipeg and saying in effect, we think that you should be accorded this form of home rule and that you may appoint two citizen members to this Commission. And so I see nothing wrong with this system at all, in fact I think it is preferable to a system whereby the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council

MR. GRAY: just thirty seconds. I said, always said, give the City Hall a new charter meantime while the amendments are coming to us, it's my responsibility to deal with it. I don't think the Minister should throw this at me.

MR. LYON: I'm not throwing it at him, Mr. Speaker, I'm just reminding him of what he said last week. I don't throw it, I just let it float across the Chambers. That is the simple point, I think this is a good measure as proposed. We have -- the government, as I'm sure most members of the House have faith in the wisdom of the Council of the City of Winnipeg to appoint by resolution two members to this Commission and that is the way the Bill stands. That is the way I think it should stand.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Honourable the Attorney-General a question? Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Honourable the Attorney-General is he not of the opinion that it would have been a still greater nod in the direction of the City Council of Winnipeg toward home rule if, instead of us dictating that they should have two citizen members, that we had left the Bill open for them to present other alternatives to us.

MR. LYON: No, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that we have precluded the city from presenting other alternatives at all. In fact, I think that the position that the Legislature has adopted on this Bill is much preferable to that suggested by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, in that, the position he suggested would merely maintain the status quo. That is, whereby they would be forced to continue with the County Court Judge and the Magistrate on the Board. The position in which the Legislature now expresses in the Bill before the House is that the city may continue to appoint either those two men or two other men. In fact, we have made the position much more flexible for the city than were we to adopt the suggestion of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. And certainly there's nothing in this Bill to preclude the city from coming back next session or at future sessions and saying to us that in their wisdom they feel that this is not advisable and presenting to us some other alternative. In the meantime, I think we've given them the most flexible tool to work with and one which, I think, in the course of time they will find to be a very desirable method of meeting the problem which faces them.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, I disagree with the point of view of the Honourable the Attorney-General in thinking that this method gives the City Council greater flexibility than if we had adopted the other method. Because surely the City Council will have become informed through the discussion that took place in the Law Amendments Committee that the membership of this Legislative Assembly is almost unanimously opposed to the continuance indefinitely of the County Court Judge and legislate on the police commission. And they will be well aware of that situation so that it does not, in fact, give them any opportunity to -- it isn't likely to appeal to them that they will continue -- those two gentlemen -- on the police commission. And if we had allowed the status quo to remain for just a matter of six or seven or eight months until the House re-assembles, the City Council would have had the opportunity then to canvass the situation further and make representations to the Legislature at that time of what they considered as the best alternative. They would be aware, I'm sure, that there was no disposition to continue the two gentlemen that had been mentioned on the Commission. They would be aware that this House did not look favourably upon the Commission being composed wholly of members of council in addition to the Mayor, and they could have canvassed other alternatives. As it is now, the fate of the position that this Legislature has made it very plain to them that they do not approve of the County Court Judge and the Magistrate being on the Commission and that they do approve of citizen members.

Now if the City Council had the thought in mind of some alternative, aren't they circumscribed in their approach to that alternative by the fact that we have -- this Legislature has practically declared itself, without them, an opportunity to canvass alternatives. -- (Interjection) -- I'm not addressing that question to the Honourable the Attorney-General, Mr. Speaker, I'm simply making that as my own point of view on the subject.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

Bill No. 6 was presented for second reading.

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, I wish to say before speaking for a third time on the general principle involved in the new Social Allowances Bill, that I am just as pleased as members have expressed, in having the principle of this Bill enunciated or debated before we return to Welfare estimates. As a novice in this House I feel, Mr. Speaker, that in enunciating the principle of a Bill in this House, it can be likened to the delivering of a baby. It can be the easiest thing in the world or it can be the most difficult matter. But it always requires the co-operation of the patient, and I hope the same co-operation will be extended in Welfare as it was in Health, once members see the principle involved in this Bill.

The most important, as I've said before - it is the most important piece of legislation before this House at this session, I believe that. And members of this government as we've said here before, are of the opinion that pensioners have needs. That these needs should be met. And they should be met as effectively as possible within the resources of the province. Prior to, and following the unanimous resolution regarding the needs of pensioners at the last Legislature - at the special session I should say - this government has given this their fullest consideration and consulted as widely as possible with those in the field nationally, locally and municipally. The result is that this Bill is a basic change in thinking. A change of policy from the previous administration. What is this thinking or what is this policy behind this Bill? The principle of this Bill is designed to bring at least a minimum standard of living to every citizen of Manitoba who because of age or because of physical or mental incapacity is in need. And in the case of children where neglect, desertion or death of the father creates that need. The Bill is - the Act is meant to recognize the greater necessity of Provincial responsibility in the field of public welfare. And the Social Allowances' Act, we believe, based on needs, as I reiterate, is the socially desirable and feasible way of doing this. It is designed to provide 100% Provincial responsibility for types of cases which I will mention, where minimum standards of living conditions demand that these needs be met. For instance, (1) - The care of the aged and infirm in institutions. Neglected children committed by the courts to the director or to a Children's Aid Society. Social allowance to the aged, blind or disabled by way of cash allowance and/or health services. Social allowances to the Mother's allowance type of case. Now under this category - this means that we will assume complete provincial responsibility on the basis of need for all widowed mothers with children, unmarried mothers with two or more children, mothers and children where husbands deserted over one year, mothers and children where the husband's in

(Mr. Johnson, cont'd.) . . . gaol over one year, mothers and children where due to disability of the breadwinner through say, physical or mental incapacity after 90 days we will assume responsibility. (5) Indian people, Indian people are either citizens of Manitoba or they are not. We believe they are. Immigrants to our province. And it provides appeal provisions through the Public Welfare Advisory Committee to find out how well our needs be met besides just acting as an appeal body. We hope with the lay representation on this Board to underline the problem of welfare in this province. It gives the people, as I say, an opportunity to appeal the decision of the director. Now, Mr. Speaker, this leaves the municipalities with only three major categories of assistance. (1) Cases where the father is in gaol up to one year. Cases of desertion up to one year. And the unemployment assistance type of case as I refer to, the employable adult. Now you may say, what question - what standards of need does the Bill contemplate? The standards of need are based on the current standards of Mothers' Allowance. These are set by regulation and can be changed from year to year. I point out to the Committee that the rates, the regulations in the Child Welfare Act contain the allowable minimums - maximums I should say - of such things as rent, shelter, heat, clothing, food, etc. And these regulations are very realistic by present day standards. (6) I wish to point out to the House that the Federal Government will share in this total program. But for child welfare which was traditionally a provincial problem, the traditional mothers' allowance case load which is in this province 1,100 cases - 3,200 cases I should say, involving about 1,100 families. This is a traditional load, which each province has. Medical relief - they won't share in medical aid which is given by the province -- and administration at this time. Now, Mr. Speaker, in summary, this Bill will make provision for cash allowances and medical and related services to pensioners in need. It will transfer responsibility for placement and maintenance of the aged and infirm in institutions from the municipalities to the province. It abolishes Mothers' Allowances as such but, at the same time, brings under one provincial administration all long term family assistance cases as a provincial responsibility. It will provide aid for Indians and immigrants. It will along with amendments to the Child Welfare Act transfer responsibility for maintenance of neglected children from the municipalities to the province. Finally as I've said, by its Appeal Board, it will try to guarantee equal and fair treatment among all our citizens in need.

This Act I am certain as I've said before is the most forward progressive looking legislation in this province since the establishment of Mothers' Allowance in 1916. I submit that this Bill, Mr. Speaker, is the only one of its kind in Canada which says, and I ask members to look at section 3 of the Bill - "Subject as herein provided" and I'm quoting, "the Government of Manitoba and each of the several municipalities in the province may take such measures as are necessary for the purpose of ensuring that no resident of Manitoba including an Indian, as defined in the Indian Act, lacks (a) such things, goods and services as are essential to his health and well-being including food, clothing, shelter and essential surgical, medical, optical, mental and other remedial care and attention, and (b) an adequate funeral upon his death". I would say, Mr. Speaker, that the important thing here today is that this Legislature should approve this Bill in principle, and by so doing, they're merely saying that this should be done. I think we should - this Legislature should approve this Bill and the important thing at this particular reading of the Bill at this time is not how the Government is going to do it but does the Government intend to do it? I'm telling you that we, Mr. Speaker, are going to do it. We have appropriated \$2,000,000.00 in the estimates this year for the initiation of this program I humbly submit. I can say no more except to try and answer those questions which I expect the honourable members wish to ask.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I rise not to oppose the Bill but to support the Bill and to compliment the Honourable Minister in the objectives which he's trying to achieve.

Now there is one thing which makes it hard for use to give this Bill the same thoughtful consideration as we would like to give it and, that is, the fact that the standards of need and the minimum standards are going to be fixed by regulation. Now the Honourable Minister has told us in his opening remarks that the standards of need are going to be those set by the Mother's Allowance Act and Regulations.

Now the suggestion which I am going to make to the Government is this; I'm not going to oppose this Bill on second reading, I'm going to support it. But I do think that whenever any

(Mr. Hillhouse, cont'd.) . . . future legislation of a similar nature is brought down in this House particularly in a case such as this where you know what these minimum standards are going to be, why the regulations themselves are not made a schedule to the Bill, so that the House can give intelligent consideration and determine whether or no, in the opinion of the various members, adequate provision is being made. Now I realize that in any act such as this, there are going to be great difficulties in administration. And rather than see the Department or the person responsible for the administration of this Act being hamstrung by the regulations which are enacted as a schedule to the Act, I would go as far as giving the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council power to amend or abridge or enlarge these regulations as the circumstances and the exigencies of the situation would dictate. Subject however to this proviso, that any amendment or enlargement or abridgement of the regulations enacted as schedule to the Act would only remain valid until the next session of the Legislature. Now I make that suggestion in all sincerity. I think that most of the members on this side of the House are definitely in favour of the principle of this Bill, but I do feel that it would have enabled us to give the matter much more thorough and thoughtful consideration had there been enacted as a schedule to the Act, the regulations which you intend to follow for fixing the minimum standards and fixing the amount that would be payable under the provisions of the Act.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Speaker, . . . similar to the one of the last speaker, particularly in connection with the old age pensioners seeing that you are not naming a definite amount then why go by regulations, instead by the Board - Old Age Pension Board or other board that you may establish and by need instead of by regulations? If you are going to do it by regulations, might as well increase immediately the Old Age Pension allowances and the Mothers' Allowances.

MR. A. E. WRIGHT (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I rise not to oppose second reading of the Bill but to make a few brief observations. I would like to tell the Honourable the Minister that he shouldn't feel like a novice - we don't regard him in that light at all because of the courtesy he has extended to us and we think that he is adequately trained for such a post.

But although we agree with the principle, Mr. Speaker, and until -- we haven't had a chance to look at the regulations, it's pretty difficult to assess the depth of the assistance to be given. In looking at the Bill that was before us in the fall session and which died on the Order Paper - (Interjection) - spring session then, excuse me, Mr. Speaker, I noticed that as dependants it now states that under the age of 18 years whereas in the spring session it had 19 years. If the Minister would accept my few brief observations on this question, Mr. Speaker, perhaps he would be kind enough to make some brief answer later - that was one thing that struck me. It goes on to say that in the Bill of the spring session a dependant could be 19 years of age or older. Now it's limited - the discretion of the director to include any such dependent child who is over the age of 18. I'm just wondering, Mr. Speaker, whether or not this would limit the opportunity for some to get their child to receive higher education.

We are very pleased to see this clause in here about an adequate funeral upon his death.

To me it's a little hard to understand why in the case of an unmarried mother, she has to have two or more children before she becomes eligible under this Act. I would like to have that explained. I don't know whether it's because of desire to have the child adopted or not. There's another case here where written notice, should a request for assistance be denied, the applicant has the right to appeal. But it says that it is by written notice stating that he desires to appeal against an order of the director. I'm just wondering whether or not there may be people who would find it difficult to do that in writing. Then after having notified the director of the intention to appeal, it says the meeting should be held as soon as practicable but no later than 90 days. To me it seems a long time to wait to find out whether or not your application for social allowance will be received. Three months seem a long time. These are just a few brief observations, Mr. Speaker. In principle, we will agree to the second reading of the Bill, but I would be very happy if the Honourable Minister could throw some light on these few brief points.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make just a few comments and say that to my mind, this Bill is not so earth shattering as the Minister wants to make it appear. I believe that in the past no one in this province needed to suffer unduly because he did not have what he or she needed. Because we had in this province a system whereby either the municipalities or the Provincial Government had the responsibility to look after the needy people in this province. Now some might say, well either the municipalities or the government did not do a proper job

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd.) . . . in the past. Well, to my mind, this has not been proven. The government has been looking after the needy persons in the unorganized districts and the municipalities in their own municipalities. The government assisted the municipalities by paying an amount up to 80%, when they decided on their own accord, of their own free will by virtue of the fact that they were responsible for, and had full power and duty to look after their people, the government provided 80% assistance that they would get in supplies.

Now we have before us the other day a very important Bill - an amendment to the Municipal Act. It contained a section which is closely related to the Bill before us today. A section whereby the municipalities will not be masters in their own municipality from now on; whereby they will be instructed to give additional relief if a person has succeeded in an appeal to the Welfare Advisory Board in order to get more assistance from the municipality. And with that principle, I object most strenuously. The two are very closely correlated - the amendment and the Municipal Act, and the desire of the government to see that every needy person secures assistance going to the point, of course, in the municipalities to provide assistance maybe against their own will. Now that's all that I want to say at the present time, but I say that in the past, the municipalities generally speaking have done a good job, and the government has done a good job. And not many people have gone without assistance when it was really needed.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Speaker, before I ask a question, can I say a word here now please. Have I spoken already?

MR. SPEAKER: I thought that you did.

MR. GRAY: Oh, it won't take one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: You shouldn't have to speak twice.

MR. GRAY: No, I haven't spoken before, I asked a question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

MR. GRAY: If the Bill has done nothing else but taken away the reason of supplementary health for the needy from the municipalities, this in itself I consider a step forward. As I have already mentioned here, on several occasions, that very few living in a small village will go to the municipality and ask for help. And the application for help of the allowance, throughout the district in three or four minutes, with the telephone lines open all the time. I realize that the Bill has not -- the Minister of Health and Public Welfare with this Bill has not discovered America. But, on the other hand, seeing that the resolution will increase the Old Age Pension and the Mothers' Allowance was not granted, then this is a step forward. But I'm worrying very much about the appeal board. First of all, I think the regulations should be definitely assessed now and the schedule should be given to the Pension Board for their own consideration and grant whatever help is necessary according to the need. I don't think there would be one single case who would go and get say, five or ten dollars cash as supplementary allowance of an old age pensioner, to one maybe five enough, the other one maybe need ten or fifteen to keep their body and soul together. These people will never go and appeal against the regulations. So I think the regulations should be more or less be made definitely without an appeal to anyone. It isn't such an easy thing for an old man or a widowed mother to go on begging in one place, and then go back to the appeal board and complain and tell her tragic story about her economic conditions to another body. I don't think this is a good thing. If the government wants to do something and -- the Bill is a step forward, there's no doubt about that - the best we could get anyway - we couldn't get anything better at this time - then let them do it right and take away the stigma, that's the main thing, the stigma from those recipients. Don't make it hard on them. I mentioned here before today that an old age pensioner can get along without a meal but he does not want to lower his dignity and beg one, or two, or three bodies for any additional help. I think we should make this Bill . . . and put all the humane elements there, realizing that the ones that need relief are just as good as we are; but they are unfortunate - they've lost their husbands, or they got along without any help from anyone. We are dealing with human beings, tragic incidents and this should not be - and that particular person should not be thrown around from one place to the other. I think that the Department of Health and Public Welfare should perhaps investigate the cost of living, of putting a meal on the table, and put this in regulations. If the cost of living now of giving someone three meals a day, even one meal and two half meals a day, costs so much and additional incidental so much, put it in the regulations. And please do away with the Appeal Board because this is not dignified for those who apply for it.

MR. GROVES: Mr. Speaker, I feel that I should say something on this field of welfare because it's something that I have been interested in as an individual for a long time, and in which I was particularly interested when I served on municipal council. When I first heard the term "Social Allowances" I rather shuddered, as I envisioned sort of a political sop, a vast pot into which the taxpayers were going to pour their money and out of which a large army of civil servants were going to ladle this money into the hands of all who came to the government for a hand-out. And I don't think that we should encourage people to work as little as possible and to depend on the government solely for their needs in their later life. A study of this new plan, however, reveals that it is one of the more forward looking that I've seen. A plan that is tailored to meet needs and a plan that's fitted for the job that it's to do. That fits welfare and social allowances and payments to the individual circumstances of the recipients. The recipients being unable, due to the reasons that the Honourable Minister outlined, to fully care for themselves. This was a plan that in my opinion didn't discourage personal initiative but still made it worth while for a large majority of the people to provide for their own security, and a plan that would not encourage all and sundry to come flocking to the doors of the government. This is a plan that meets need where need exists and yet, protects the taxpayers dollar to the fullest extent possible. In my opinion, such a plan must be individualized. It mustn't treat everybody alike and that's where I differ with the honourable gentlemen opposite that claim that these regulations should be in the Act. That if these regulations were in the Act, then you've got a standard plan for everybody and you take away from your social worker or those that are administrating the Act, the right or the abilities to tailor this plan to meet the needs of the individual recipient. I still think, Mr. Speaker, that despite many repeated protests to the contrary, that the CCF still thinks that they're sent here by some heavenly authority with an exclusive mandate to have compassion on their fellow men. They are in this House in favour of unrestricted hand-outs, across the board increases in these pensions, even, although, their bed fellows in other jurisdictions have seen the error of such ways. Let us have a look for a minute at what some of our respected business leaders say about this matter of welfare. And these are the tycoons, the heartless monsters and the unscrupulous employers that the CCF are so fond of referring to whenever it meets their political convenience. And I'd like to quote just very briefly from a statement that was made by Mr. Ian S. McRae president of the Canadian Manufacturers Association. "I am no reactionary who has been dragged into the 20th century. I'm as concerned as the next man to help the weak and the needy and those who for reasons over which they have no control, cannot feed themselves; fend for themselves", pardon me. "Of course, such people should not be left in difficulty. Of course, as Canadians they have a right to a decent standard of living. But this is not the something as believing in holus-bolus hand-outs distributed by Ottawa. Not only can we not afford this thing, but such misguided prodigality does nothing for the character and independence of our people. The social philosophy we should be fostering in Canada is a positive one. One of belief in the opportunity state based on reward for effort rather than the negative pursuit of the welfare state with its inevitable connotation in the eyes of many as something for nothing." And again from a statement....

MR. GRAY: question please. Is this gentleman that wrote article, is he under the Minister from the Old Age Pension?

MR. GROVES: No Sir, I am thankful to God that I'm not. Now, a statement from the president of Dominion Electrohome Industries Limited, dealing with welfare plans. "High on the list of men's interest in the easing of their minds concerning problems of security and survival, government unemployment and welfare plans are helpful but tend to be abused and used as a political football. It has been truly said that if government is big enough to give us all we want, it is big enough to take away all we have. Governments have gone far and will go further in these fields unless we in industry make our own plans to assist our people to insure their freedom of enterprise by helping themselves. Greater recognition of the need for personal self reliance will help insure more freedom of enterprise for business." Both of these are in my opinion a very sensible and a very practical point of view to a very serious problem. The crux of this whole Bill, as the Minister has mentioned in his address, is schedule for Subsection No. 3. Now, I won't bother to read it because the Minister in his remarks did read it, but it would bear repeating.

The honourable members opposite seem to think that this Bill is a bluff, that it's a fake,

(Mr. Groves, cont'd.) . . . and I don't really think that they really believe that the government intends to do this; that it intends to do what it says. It doesn't believe, or they don't believe that the needs of our poorer fellows are going to be looked after in a fair, efficient and prudent manner by this Bill and the regulations that will be made to complement this Bill. The Honourable Member from Inkster I believe says that this Bill didn't discover America, but we do have in this Act, the only Act in Canada that makes the bold and progressive statement that's made in section No. 3 of the Bill before this House. For sixteen years CCF resolutions and speeches on this subject have been debated in this House, and this in my opinion is a plan that will do a lot more and be a lot better than anything suggested in any of these resolutions. The other day the Honourable Member from Inkster urged the government to make haste and bring this plan into effect. I urge the government not to hurry with this plan; to take time to make the necessary arrangements to do a good job. The honourable member, as I said earlier, urged that the government make haste to give pensioners a dollar or a dollar bill or an expression along those lines, I say go slow, and meet need adequately. The government hasn't even got the money yet to put this plan into effect. We haven't passed the welfare estimates. What are they doing in this field in the other provinces in Canada? In Saskatchewan supplementary allowances up to \$10.00 per month are paid only to old age security and blind pensioners with income ceilings of \$720.00 for a single person and \$1,200.00 for a married person. Approximately 1,700 are recipients at an average of \$5.56 per month. Alberta supplementary allowances are given of \$15.00 per month for old age assistance, old age security recipients with income ceilings of \$1,140.00 single and \$1,800.00 per couple and \$1,860.00 if both are over 70. British Columbia grants supplementary assistance to a maximum of \$20.00 per month for all four groups, old age security, old age assistance, disabled allowances and blind allowances. And again they have income ceilings of \$1,020.00 for a single person, \$1,800.00 for a couple. In B.C. under this plan approximately 25,000 persons are receiving aid at an annual cost to the province of some \$7,800,000.00. One of the real virtues of this plan in my opinion is that it's going to treat the people of Manitoba as Manitoba citizens, not citizens of this municipality or the next municipality.

And I find myself in agreement with the Honourable Member from Inkster in this regard...

A MEMBER: Watch out.

MR. GROVES: . . . particularly in the matter raised by the Honourable Member from Carillon. For what was the policy when this government took office? The previous administration believe that the needs of pensioners would be best met by the municipalities. The province undertook to reimburse the municipalities by 80% and the province in return was reimbursed by the Federal Government 50%. But the simple fact is that by and large very few municipalities in our province availed themselves of this plan to grant supplementary allowances to old age pensioners in need. And the reason that they didn't do that, is because they couldn't afford to. In fact Winnipeg, the largest municipality of all, refused to do it as a matter of principle. They felt that this matter was entirely a responsibility, and I agree with them. What were the choices of this government? They could have continued the policy of the former government knowing that the needs of pensioners and people in need were not being met. They could have instituted a flat allowance, that is across the board cost of living bonus, knowing that we would have to go this ourselves without Federal aid. Or they could have used their heads, which I'm glad to see that they did, to try and provide a provincial plan that was going to meet need, and that was based on individual need of the pensioners, and which would receive Federal sharing of the cost. We believe that this latter - I believe that the government took this latter course because they felt it was the right thing to do, that it was going to meet need where need existed with federal help. Many of our municipalities at the present time are burdened with welfare costs they just can't afford. As a result these people that are receiving relief or welfare payments from the municipalities, are still in need. By making long term high cost welfare cases a provincial responsibility, everyone gets equal treatment. And I maintain that by the province taking over this large portion of responsibility in connection with welfare, that it is to a large extent removing this stigma which the Honourable Member from Inkster refers to. Municipal control and municipal administration of welfare is in my opinion a Liberal bogymen. It's the most ridiculous -- the most ridiculous and unjust aspect of this course is that right now we have as many means tests in the province as we have municipalities. So it depends on where you live what treatment you get.

(Mr. Groves, cont'd.) Now, in connection with the Appeal Board, I believe that this Appeal Board will give to every person in the province an opportunity to air their complaints and to bring before this Board any alleged injustices. It will also help to avoid abuses. And I disagree with the Honourable Member from Inkster in this regard, if for no other reason but for this. The Appeal Board will give to the administration of this plan a wealth of practical, down to earth information for the guidance of those responsible for operating the plan. This is what has happened since the inception of the Income Tax Appeal Board which now gives to a taxpayer the right to make an appeal from his assessment without going to the expense of going to a proper court. This appeal Board in the case of the Income Tax Act has produced since it came into effect, a great wealth of information that is benefiting, not only the taxpayers, but the government that administers the Act and those of us who make our living, or part of our living interpreting it. And I feel that this same effect will be forthcoming from the setting up of an Appeal Board under this new welfare plan.

The Honourable Member from Seven Oaks brings up a very interesting question. The former Honourable Member from Assiniboia I believe it was, during the last campaign practically accused the Minister of Health in this province of promoting promiscuity. He said that in view of the fact that provincial responsibility in the case of unmarried mothers would only apply to those who had more than one child, that this would encourage promiscuity. An unmarried mother with one child in most cases has made a mistake that she will not make again (Interjection) This doesn't often produce a long term welfare problem. (Interjection) However, once this mother has had her second child then there are indications that this is beginning to become a serious long-term (Interjection) Well let me tell you - now to go back where I was - once this mother has had her second child then there are indications that she's going to become a long term serious social problem; and a problem perhaps of long duration. And this is one of the things that this plan-- I better watch myself, I'm going to get into trouble - it's going to take away from the municipalities a long term, high cost welfare case. Promiscuity is a very dangerous word- it's a very dangerous word for honourable members of this House or anybody to play with. (Interjection) I think it was Winston Churchill who said (Interjection) that this is one aspect of free enterprise that nobody can (Interjection)

Under this plan there will be no means test as such. For the benefit of honourable members opposite we have now left the subject of promiscuity. Only the need for social allowance will be required. One of the best ways to understand the application of the means test, and I think I'll read this, is "to contrast this approach with a means test approach to the problem. Did I say "Means test" at the beginning? I meant " Needs test ". One could use as an example the Means test adopted in the three western provinces for supplementary assistance, or cost of living bonus of the pension group. Here the administration is in no way directed to be concerned with the individual needs of the pensioner. The person qualifies, or they do not qualify for assistance of cost of living bonus solely on the basis of their income. If, for example, in Saskatchewan the old age security case has less than \$1,840.00 of income including the federal cheque of \$55.00 a month and no other actual income or competed income based on the value of any property, the Saskatchewan Department could automatically give a supplementary allowance or a flat allowance of \$5.00 for a single person or \$10.00 for a couple. This is no guarantee whatsoever that the needs of the individual pensioner will be met. On one hand the pensioner may have no need whatsoever and may be able to get along quite easily on the \$55.00 per month. For example he may own his own house and pay taxes of less than \$100.00 a year so that his rent does not average out to more than \$15.00 a month at the most. He therefore has \$40.00 left over for food and clothing. In another case the needs of the pensioner might be for an income of \$64.00 or \$65.00 but all he would get under the Saskatchewan plan would be \$55.00 per month. He would get what he needed. The Bill itself guarantees to meet need; and I think that answers quite thoroughly the question just asked by the Honourable Member from St. John's.

This Bill will, I predict, be a model for the rest of Canada. To meet need where need exists. This Bill is action, not pious resolutions or empty words. Thank you.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the honourable member a question? I would like to ask the honourable member why he supports a bill which leaves on the municipalities the responsibility for supplying welfare to the mothers who have had one accident, to mothers whose husbands have deserted them for one year or less, for supplying welfare to mothers whose husbands have been in gaol less than one year and all those other cases where municipalities will have to supply welfare?

MR. GROVES: I thought that I'd answered that, Mr. Speaker, in my remarks that one is a short term welfare problem or a possible short term welfare problem, and the other is a long term welfare problem. And what this bill. (Interjection) . . . I beg your pardon?

MR. PREFONTAINE: That's a load on the municipalities that can't afford

MR. ORLIKOW: A famous religious leader once said that there was nobody more active in protestations of his religion than the new convert. And I was reminded of that as I listened to the Honourable Member from St. Vital. We have never said nor do we say today that we are the only ones who believe in looking after the needs of the people who are in need. We do say, and I can take all the time necessary, but it's been done so often in the House I don't propose to do it today, to prove to the honourable member that we have always supported the needs of the old people and the people who are sick and require help. We certainly have no intention of opposing this Bill. I would suggest to the honourable member, however, that if he wants to get support for this Bill or for any other proposal to look after the old age pension or the people in need that the last people he should look to for support, the last people who he should quote, are the people who represent The Canadian Manufacturers Association. Because the record in Canada is a clear one. The record in Canada is a plain one. There is not a piece of social legislation, Mr. Speaker, which has been enacted in Canada; whether it be on a federal basis; or on a provincial basis; whether it be by a Conservative Government; or a Liberal Government; or a CCF Government; or a Social Credit Government; I think those are all the only -- pardon me, there's the Union National in Quebec. I suggest to the Honourable Member for St. Vital that he will not find a single welfare proposal enacted by any government - federal or provincial, which had in advance of its enactment the support of the Manufacturer's Association, nationally or provincially.

Now, let's look at some of the legislation which we have enacted in Canada. We have old age pensions. When they were proposed, and I'm not going to go into the history of who proposed it and who enacted it, when they were proposed, they were opposed and consistently opposed by The Manufacturer's Association. It was suggested and is still being suggested by The Manufacturer's Association that old age pensions, if put too high, will discourage people from saving and so on and so on and so on. Unemployment insurance was opposed by The Manufacturer's on the ground that if people could get payment while they were not working it would discourage them from working. Family allowances were opposed by The Manufacturer's Association. Mothers' Allowances were opposed. It is often suggested, and I'm sure that if you look at the representations made to the Turgeon Committee on Workmen's Compensation you will find The Manufacturer's Association had very definite reservations about increasing the payments paid to people who can't work because they're hurt, because if you paid them too much they wouldn't be in any hurry to go back to work. So if the honourable member supports this Bill, and really believes in the principle of it, I would advise him to stay away from The Manufacturer's Association as he would from the plague. Now, Mr. Chairman, -- yes, he supports the Bill but he advises the government to go slow. Well, if they go much slower than they've gone they'll be like our friends to the right of us and they won't do very much at all.

Now, the honourable member talked about Section 3 of this Act; and I must admit and I have no hesitation in admitting that as a statement of principle Section 3 looks very good. Of course, it says that it will provide that no resident of Manitoba lacks, and then he enumerates things which no resident of Manitoba will lack. And this is fine as a statement of principle. We have no complaints about that. But I want to suggest to the honourable member, and I said before and I'll continue to say it, that a statement of principle doesn't mean very much, it doesn't put very much money into the pocket of the people who need it; and I'm not saying that this Bill won't do it, that the regulations won't do it, but the statement doesn't mean very much until we see actually what the regulation provides for, how much the people will be entitled to and until we see who the regulations include, and who the regulations may exclude. Now, the honourable member goes on, and I think justifiably, to talk about what is being done in other provinces. And

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd.) . . . one may take each form of need and compare what each province is doing and the honourable member has talked about what Saskatchewan is doing; he talked about the fact that British Columbia spent seven and a half million dollars, as I remember he said, for supplementary old age pensions. He could have talked about what Ontario does -- this is legitimate. We don't know whether this bill will do as well for the people of Manitoba as those provinces do, will do better or will do worse. And I suggest to the honourable member that until we do know this, that while we give general support to this bill, we'll have to continue to ask questions and to make suggestions.

Now the honourable member says that the CCF believes and has proposed 'holus-bolus' handouts. Now I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is sheer and utter nonsense. It's true that we proposed in this session a resolution that all old age pensioners be entitled to a minimum of \$75.00 a month. I said then and I repeat today that there's no magic formula, \$55.00 which is paid today is not a law written into the bible and \$75.00 which we propose is no fixed and final formula either. What we said then, what we say today, what we will continue to say, is that not only is a proper allowances bill required but that what is required in this country is on a national basis something bigger than an allowances bill, and not a handout from the Government. What is required is a comprehensive insurance plan to which people will contribute a certain percentage of their income as they work; so that when they retire they will be able to retire and live in decency. If they have to retire before the age of 65 or 70 or whatever we think at the time is the proper age to retire, if they have to retire because of illness that they will be able to draw an adequate amount. This is what we believe, not in 'holus-bolus' handouts. This is what we propose and this is what we will continue to propose until the people of Canada will support this kind or proposal. Now, Mr. -- , well, they will eventually, the things that you are now supporting and which you used to oppose, the people are supporting. You were opposed to hospital insurance, you put it in when you thought the people were ready for it. You opposed it for years and now you support this kind of thing

Mr. Chairman, I have one question which I would like the Minister to give me some information on. The Minister has spoken a number of times and so has the member from St. Vital today about the fact that this bill, he is proud of the fact that this bill does not include a means test, that it's based on the 'need' of the people. Well I just stepped out to the library and I have here the concise Oxford dictionary and here is what the Oxford dictionary says for 'need' -- and I'll only quote part of it. 'Need' - destitution, lack of necessity, poverty needy, etc. Now there may be a difference between means and needs test. I'm inclined to think that the reason that the Minister doesn't use the word 'needs' test is that because of the historical background -- the 'means test' -- pardon me -- the reason he doesn't use the phrase 'means test' is because it's come to have a somewhat dirty connotation as a result of the history of this kind of action in the old country. But frankly I see very little difference if any between 'need' and a 'means test.' In my way of thinking they are, except in a technical way one and the same phrase.

Mr. Speaker, in finishing I just want to say this that we on this side of the House, at least in this group, have no objection in principle to this bill. We hardly could have in view of our record of supporting this kind of proposal for the last 20 or 30 years. As to the details we certainly reserve the right to look at them as we go into them clause by clause.

MR. N. SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Speaker, I rise not to oppose the bill as most of the other members have said, but I'm going to go a little further than that. I'm going to help them give their money away. Now I'm wondering if it is the intention of the government to make application forms available to the various municipalities and to the members. Because we as members will certainly probably be asked on numerous occasions to help assist in filling the application forms out, and I would be interested to know if application forms will be available to the members.

Another question is this, as regards persons presently in nursing homes and elderly housing units, where their pension is probably paying 50% of the cost; does this bill intend to pay the other 50% of it? And in cases where they are in a more or less of a high standard elderly housing unit where the cost could be \$100. per month and where the son or daughter is presently paying 50% of the cost or 75% of the cost; does this bill provide for all of the cost there? And will it mean that a means test will have to be passed by all persons presently in nursing homes and elderly housing units; because apparently that is not so today in certain cases. I suggest that

(Mr. Shoemaker, cont'd.) . . . all the publicity that this bill has received today, and will receive in the future, will leave the people of this province with the impression that all they have to do now is holler and they'll get some more money. And I suggest that as it was handled in the past by the municipalities that it was a lot less costly than this will prove to be; because I think that there is no governing body that has such control over their local problems as does the local municipal council. But I will agree as some members of the CCF have suggested, that there are cases where people are reluctant to ask the municipal government for additional help. I have seen it at times - not too often - but occasionally while I served on the town council in Neepawa. But I do suggest that when I get back home I will have numerous people enquiring as to how they make application for the assistance available, and I hope that I will have some application forms to take with me.

MR. E. GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Speaker, before closing the debate I would just like to have some point clarified. Does Section 3 of the bill apply to all ages? I am referring to persons who have applied for disability pensions and have been turned down. Or persons who have, women for instance, who have been married to men who were drawing old age assistance and died and were under 65 and over sixty for instance. Do those people qualify for assistance under this section?

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, . . . can answer some of these questions, but I covered the whole field of social welfare from the cradle to the grave. However, I do feel that . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister is closing the debate.

MR. JOHNSON: I wish to answer the question from the Honourable Member from Neepawa. The Honourable Member from Neepawa stood up in this House when we voted unanimously in favour of meeting the needs of the people of this province and we are saying in this bill, we are going to meet the needs. That answers the Honourable Member from St. George. Disability allowance, old age assistance in itself does not disqualify a patient from extra cash allowance if in need. I would inform the Honourable Member from Neepawa to follow up this previous argument that before he goes back and talks to those people in his constituency as he did with the hospital bill, pointing out the difference in per diem rates between city and country hospitals which was very misleading to the public — but before he goes back and tells them that this government is giving everybody everything and any type of accommodation at any price, that he come and see me personally. I will be only too glad to point out the differences to him.

Yes, we are going to meet the extra care of old age assistance or recipients or residents in homes for the aged where there is need. If there is need for assistance for that patient in extra allowance, we will meet that need. We are taking over the care of aged and infirm in institutions; where the municipalities got back 80¢ on the dollar before, they will now get back a dollar on the dollar. Before we pay these per diem rates in these homes for elderly persons, we are going to license them; we are going to look at them; we are going to inspect them; and we are going to have a set of standards in these homes. That's what I mean when I say we're going to underline the care of the aged and infirm. It's imperative with the hospital plan as the Honourable Member from Neepawa said here himself in this House. But, he better understand that we're meeting need. We're not getting these crazy ideas that is being insinuated in this House. That irritates me to no end.

Having spoken, I will still speak to the Honourable Member, having spoken, I do feel that the Honourable Member from Inkster in speaking to 'why this appeal board?' I don't think that is fair for him to say that. With all my respect that I have for him, I don't think he really understood what I mean by the Public Welfare Appeal Board. If the pensioner believes his needs are not being met, this is the opportunity for him to go and find out. We're not going to belittle him. Our Chairman would travel around the country and pick up his regional board members in the area concerned — we hope within the ninety days. It's a challenge to the administration but either we measure up provincially to meeting needs or we go without, our pensioner will suffer. We don't want that. That's why we have the Appeal Board, and I have spoken to many municipal men who are friends of mine in the last few days and asked them what they think of it and they think it is a dandy idea.

The Honourable Member, Mr. Speaker, from Carillon in stating that we are leaving the municipalities, leaving the municipalities with desertion and jail cases to a year and employable adults. Sir, the municipalities of this province think we're great, and I think they'll keep on

(Mr. Johnson, cont'd.) . . . thinking so. We're taking the long term relief cases off their hands. In this past nine months in office I have had municipal men after municipal men in my office. One small municipality with two welfare cases costing \$4,500. and they could not possibly meet that need in the manner they wished, and they felt this was unfair burden to their taxpayers. He asked what can the province do about this? Even on the 80/20 reimbursement they were going broke. This is what we are trying to do - equalization of socialized services to the people of this province. We say it's fine for education. I say it's fine for health. I want my pensioners' needs met and we're going to meet it. And this Appeal Board, I would inform the Honourable Member is optional in the case of the municipalities. They can pass a by-law to come under that Appeal Board or not. I would tell him of a case in my own constituency where I had a woman with four children deserted by her husband living in the town. She asked for assistance from the town; municipal men were reluctant to give her that assistance. She moved finally to the municipality. Now the municipality was reluctant to give her assistance because they felt she was a town responsibility; the legal residence came up, and what happened? Who suffers? The kids suffer. Under this act after a year she can apply if she feels she has not been getting the proper assistance from the Public Health and Welfare Appeal Board. The municipal men that were involved in this case were embarrassed. They felt that they couldn't handle this case. They weren't prepared to spend the taxpayers money to the degree that she needed aid. I was reluctant as Minister of this Department and in charge of the director of Public Welfare to see those children apprehended as neglected children and taken from that mother. By my hands were tied unless I did so. This is what I mean by long term high cost assistance. And, Sir, the best argument I can give you for not leaving it with the municipal administration, are you going to have 205 means test, every municipality with their own means test. No, Sir. The municipalities, the record shows in the last year don't feel it's their responsibility to give cash assistance. The City of Winnipeg ruled it out themselves. The City of Winnipeg said "It is not up to us to give cash assistance" -- by resolution. And so our records show the rest of the province, the rest of the municipalities do not feel it's their responsibility either. I could go on for a long time. I'm not at all critical of municipalities -- that's why we're writing this legislation down. We're out to spell out and equalize socialized opportunities throughout the province.

The principle of the bill, says the honourable member, means little. The principle of the bill, I submit to him, means a great deal. The principle of this bill as enunciated here has not been enunciated so this way and this properly in any province in the Dominion of Canada. What's the difference between a 'needs test' and a 'means test?' I didn't go to the dictionary to look up 'need.' I've seen need -- lots of need in rural Manitoba. . . .

MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. JOHNSON: And I'll tell my honourable friend, and he has real concern for those in need. I know him personally, and I don't think he meant that. But I do say this. A means test - I'll give him an example. We have a man on disability allowance, Mr. Speaker, getting \$55.00 a month. His wife worked in the corner drugstore for \$26.00 a week. She had two teen-age sons. As soon as that woman and her husband's income exceeded \$1,620. that man's disability allowance was deducted -- by law. This disability allowance is 50% a federal matter. What did we do? We cleared this with Ottawa. We said we're out to meet the needs of the people of this province but we feel we need your assistance and that you should share in this program with us. Last year that man's pension was deducted down to a point where they kept him at \$1,620. Even though she got a \$10.00 raise at her work, her husband was just penalized all the more. But there's no great big "E" for effort here, Mr. Speaker, there is just despondency and disgust. And that man who felt -- he was totally disabled; we said he was disabled -- he was entitled to that pension without having deductions made. But, no Sir, we had to deduct them according to the law. That's the means test, that's what the mean's test is. What is the needs test? I'll tell you what the needs test is - we go out there, we underline their needs, these teenage boys and that mother. We take her income, and we take his income, their assets, and we say - what are their needs? And if they need \$30.00 a month, we'll give them \$30.00 a month and Ottawa will share 50%. And that's the difference between a means test and a needs test and I do avoid the word "means" test.

Now we get into the subject -- where are we? Now when we get back here into regulations - all right, the principle of the bill is before this House. They've got to vote on whether they are

(Mr. Johnson cont'd.) . . . going to meet need or they're not going to meet need. The intent of this bill is clear, Mr. Speaker; and the groups or individuals covered is clear. The intent is to meet it on a fair and equal basis throughout the province. The regulations will be similar in many respects to the Mothers' Allowance regulations which have been in effect, as I have said, for over 20 years and are now up to a very good level. The government does set policy in the act and this is clear. The government is working on these regulations and they will take considerably more time before they are ready. In proposing draft regulations to this act, and here is where I want to make the point, Mr. Speaker, and in thinking about the problems involved in this, I believe the most important statement in the regulation themselves will be directions to the director and staff to measure need and to measure the resources of the person to meet need as against the price items in the regulation. Our main idea in the regulations should be to make provision for sufficient leeway that the social worker could individualize the allowance to meet the needs of the pensioner with indefinite maxima rather than to require that an allowance must be paid if the income, real or computed, of the pensioner is less than a certain amount. This is there for flexibility, for elasticity and for administration, and because we want to meet need. That's why we did this. I could go on for a long time bringing down just as many for leaving with municipalities as against. Very few members of this legislature have not contacted this office or this department in the last year with cases which absolutely do make us a little discouraged and make us say "How can we meet this need?" It's here, the people of Manitoba are ready to accept this legislation, Mr. Speaker. They want this legislation, and they are going to get it.

Now, any more questions. Oh yes, dependents. Mr. Speaker, in the Act he mentions, "Why do we make the distinction between 16 and 18?" It was our feeling -- in the Child Welfare Act we have the 18-year old limit. That's the definition in the Act. A neglected child is a child under the care of the director or under care of one of the Childrens' Aid Societies, and the directors required, if no adoption occurs, until the child is adopted, he must look after that child until he is 21 years old, or see to him just like a parent would see to him, to make sure his needs are met. On the other hand a dependent is a son or child of dependents or dependent as we know it. The director is not responsible for these dependents nor does he pay allowance directly to them. The director has discretion in paying allowance to their parents for these dependents between the ages of 16 and 18. The reason for this is, if the child is in school and is 16 years old, we are going to continue allowance. But that's why we amplified this from 16 to 18 because if we don't make that amplification, it means that we have to go through the administrative red tape of re-registering that person on welfare between 16 and 18. But under this act the way it is written, the director at his discretion, if the child is doing well at school is to keep him on. As far back as 1951 the Minister in this department from the age of 14 on gave bursaries to get around this very point. Now we're underlining it, to the age of 16. But between 16 and 18 if a child is at home or doesn't go to school then he can come off the welfare; he can contribute to the home; the total needs will be looked at and he will contribute to the home. But should he for instance in the middle of winter be 16 1/2 years old and not able to get work, he would come back on social allowance at the discretion of the director. We think this made the act more flexible and I hope it answers the Honourable Members question.

The Honourable Member from St. George has asked a question in view of Section 3. Section 3 means exactly what it says: if we have a person between 60 and 65 or we have someone in need lacking the basic necessities, we'll meet that need. If we have a pensioner out in rural Manitoba, who only gets \$55.00 a month, for instance, and he has no rent -- he doesn't need rent, he's got his own home but he does need, heat, fuel, clothing and shelter, and he has a drug bill because he has got bad arthritis and it costs him \$6.00 a month. If his needs are for \$59.00 or \$68.00 we are better to meet that need and get it shared by Ottawa than to disturb that man. But we take these things into account.

Now as the Honourable Member from St. Vital pointed out in Saskatchewan it's a straight \$5.00 to \$10.00 a month based on income level. It doesn't meet need. Now, again, a City of Winnipeg - a pensioner of \$55.00 a month paying \$25.00 a month rent, the regulations may say this man should have \$23.00 a month for food. That's what our educational experts on nutrition tells us is the average cost of food for an adult in the province today. If his rent is \$25.00 and his food is \$23.00, and he has drugs or some personal needs of some \$10.00 or \$12.00, we'll meet that need. And this, Mr. Chairman, is what the bill means. And I wish to thank you for . . .

MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

Mr. Speaker put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, may we have a recorded vote on this?

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

MR. ROBLIN: Well done, we'll see how the municipal men operate

MR. SPEAKER: The question before the House is Bill No. 6 an Act respecting Social Security for Residents of Manitoba be now read a second time.

A standing vote recorded and the results were as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Alexander, Baizley, Bjornson, Boulic, Campbell, Carroll, Christianson, Cobb, Corbett, Cowan, Desjardins, Evans, Gray, Groves, Guttormson, Hamilton, Harris, Hawryluk, Hillhouse, Hryhorczuk, Hutton, Jeannotte, Johnson (Assiniboia), Johnson (Gimli), Klym, Lissaman, Lyon, McKellar, McLean, Martin, Miller, Orlikow, Paulley, Prefontaine, Reid, Ridley, Roblin, Roberts, Scarth, Schreyer, Seaborn, Shewman, Shoemaker, Smellie, Stanes, Strickland, Tanchak, Thompson, Wagner, Weir, Willis, Witney, Wright.

YEAS: 53.

NAYS: Nil.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion carried. I declare it 5:30 and I leave the Chair until 8:00 o'clock this evening.