

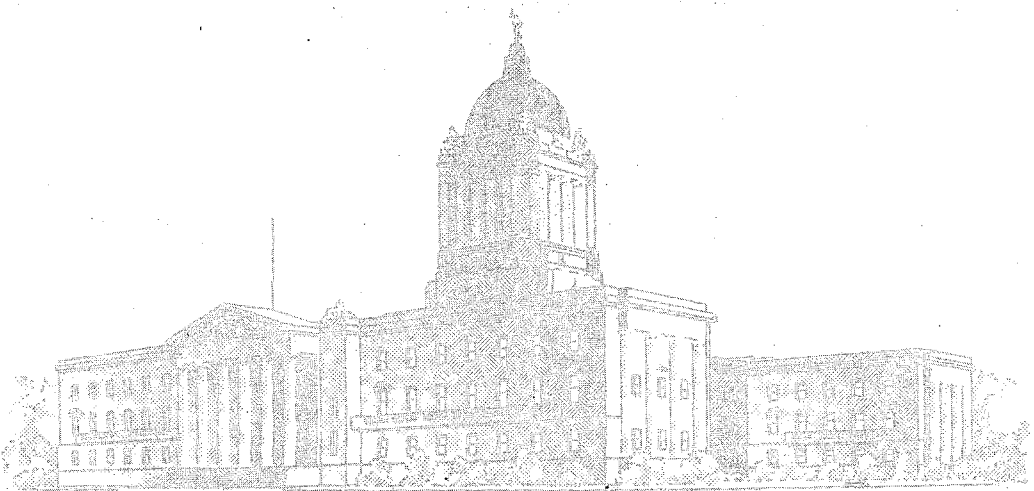


Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Friday, February 26th, 1960

Opening prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions
Reading and Receiving Petitions
Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees
Notice of Motion
Introduction of Bills
Orders of the Day

HON. STEWART E. McLEAN (Minister of Education) (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I should like to direct the attention of the members of the House to a group of eight students in the Speaker's gallery from the Manitoba Day School for the Deaf. The pupils are here with their teacher, Miss Grantham, and I am certain that the members of the House would wish me to extend to them a very hearty welcome and tell them how pleased we are that they have come to be with us today. (Hear! Hear!)

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

HON. C. H. WITNEY (Minister of Mines & Natural Resources) (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to lay on the table a Return to an Order of the House No. 21.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. W. G. MARTIN (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I would like to draw the attention of the members of the House to a group of children there on your left. Sometimes when groups of children have been introduced to this Assembly we have heard the felicitations offered in the French language, and that, of course, has drawn our attention to great events in the history of Canada and the very early history of Canada. When I mention the name of the school from which these boys and girls come it will draw our attention to another great event in the early history of Canada. I have much pleasure in presenting to you the 41 students from the Isaac Brock School, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that they are going to enjoy their visit with us this afternoon and enjoy the progress of debate and go away and say to one another, "Well, those battles that we heard of in the early days have nothing compared with the battle we witnessed this afternoon."

MR. F. GROVES (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the Honourable Member for St. Matthews in welcoming this group from Isaac Brock School. I attended Isaac Brock School from Grades I to IX and therefore I have a very special interest in that particular school and take particular pleasure in associating myself with the honourable member's welcome.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Attorney-General) (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day; yesterday in the course of debate on the estimates of my department, I had intended to bring to the attention of the House a computation error which appears in table 1 of the current, that is the 36th Annual Report of the Liquor Control Commission. This error was brought to my attention by the Commission. It results from the fact that in previous years the conversion rate, that is the conversion of cases of Canadian whiskey into gallons was done at the rate of two gallons per case, whereas in actual fact the more accurate conversion factor, so the Commission have advised me, is 1.875 gallons per case, and the figures which are shown in table 1 for '59-'60 are figures based on the 1.875 a gallon basis. The previous figures were, of course, based on the old system of two gallons per case which would give them a slightly higher amount than they actually should be. Now I have instructed the Commission to have this page reprinted and when that page is available I will have it distributed in the House, Mr. Speaker, but I thought this should be brought to the attention of the House at this time.

MR. T. P. HILLHOUSE, Q.C. (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, could the Attorney-General advise as to whether or not that is before the water is added?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the former Honourable Member from Iberville used to ask the same question and I can assure the Honourable Member from Selkirk that anything that is sold in Manitoba is not watered down at all. It is good healthy Canadian

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd) liquor just as good as it was when the honourable members across the way were purveying it.

MR. MORRIS A. GRAY (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a similar question. Will this explanation enable us to get a bottle of liquor for less money?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of Return. The Honourable the Leader of the CCF Party.

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of the CCF) (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move seconded by the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing (1) copies of all correspondence directed from the Public Utility Board and/or the Province of Manitoba to the National Energy Board in respect to the export of natural gas; (2) copies of all briefs presented to the Utility Board and/or the Province of Manitoba in respect of the above to the National Energy Board; (3) an answer to the question: was there any representation made to the National Energy Board regarding the export of natural gas by the Utility Board or the Province, and if not, why not.

Mr. Speaker put the question.

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Minister of Industry & Commerce) (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if it will be agreeable to the House if this order were allowed to stand for one day until my colleague the Minister of Public Utilities returns. The responsibility in this regard is divided between us, and while I can answer for myself that I see no objection to the questions or no points to be discussed, I cannot answer for him, and if it was agreeable I would welcome it if it stood.

MR. PAULLEY: I have no objection, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders for Return. The Honourable the Leader of the CCF Party.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move seconded by the Honourable Member for Fisher that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing: (1) what amounts of money were paid to Arthur D. Little & Co. of Boston in respect to surveys, reports, etc. for each of the years 1954 to 1959 inclusive; (2) what reports were received by the Government from the above firm in each year; how many of the major recommendations have been implemented; (3) Are tenders called for reports of the type submitted by Arthur D. Little? (4) Are there any Canadian firms capable of conducting such surveys, etcetera? If so are they given consideration in awarding of contracts?

Mr. Speaker put the question.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I see no objection to accepting this Order and I will do my best to furnish the information which I believe the Leader of the CCF Party is seeking. It will not be possible to give straight tabulation of some of the facts that he asks for, and if the return is not complete or satisfactory to him I suggest that he might be willing to take the question up again when they come to my estimates. I'll try to amplify it as far as possible but I do see some difficulties in answering the question in the form that they are asked. I don't know whether he would care to discuss it further now as to the factors involved or take this suggestion that we might have a fuller discussion on estimates.

MR. PAULLEY: I would be perfectly agreeable to that, Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce would undertake to attempt to give me as much or as many of the answers that he can at the present time, and then if they do not cover the points I'd discuss it with him under estimates or through some other method.

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

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

MR. E. GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Selkirk that a humble address be voted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor for a Return of (1) all the correspondence between the Government of the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada with respect to the Federal Government's Road to Resources program; (2) a copy of the agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Province of Manitoba with respect to the Federal Government's Road to Resources program; (3) a copy of the agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Province of Manitoba with respect to the financial arrangements between the two governments regarding the construction of the Gypsumville - Grand Rapids road.

Mr. Speaker put the question.

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier) (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, we'll be glad to accept the

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd). . . .question subject to the usual reservation.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain and the amendment thereto by the Honourable the Leader of the CCF, and the amendment to the amendment by the Honourable Member for Selkirk. I might say that I took this motion under advisement a day or so ago and I am now prepared to give a ruling on it, and the ruling is as follows: Last Tuesday, February 23rd, the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell made objections to the debate continuing on the original resolution moved by the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain and on the amendment to the motion moved by the Leader of the CCF Party and on the amendment to the amendment moved by the Honourable Member for Selkirk. The original motion and the several amendments have all been accepted by the Chair and have been debated by several honourable members of the Legislature. The motion and amendment are now the property and responsibility of the House and can only be disposed of in the following manner: (1) accepted by vote of the House; (2) rejected by a vote of the House; (3) withdrawn by the mover of the original motions and the several amendments by unanimous consent of the House; (4) remain on the Order Paper at prorogation. They cannot be ruled Out of Order by the Speaker once they have become the property and responsibility of the House. No Point of Order can be established by the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. Therefore no decision on the subject matter of the questions posed by the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell can be made by the Speaker.

The question before the House is the amendment to the amendment moved by the Honourable Member for Selkirk. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell has the right to speak as he only spoke on a point of order last night.

MR. R. G. SMELLIE (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, when this original legislation regarding school construction grants was introduced the matter received considerable study by a committee of this House, and it is my understanding that the grant schedule now in use was the recommendation of that committee. Since that time this matter has received continuing consideration by the Department of Education and particularly since the last session of this House, at which time the resolution was passed requesting the Minister to make a particular study of this problem and to report to this House. Now I know, Sir, of my own knowledge that the Minister has made a considerable study of this particular problem since that time, and I have every confidence that he will report to this House at this session. It is even within the realm of possibility that he will introduce legislation at this session which may change the grant schedule. If we accept the resolution as amended and sub-amended which is presently before the House, the Minister may be very seriously limited in the report which he can introduce to this House. It is quite possible that if he has legislation in mind that he would not be able to introduce the legislation that he wishes to introduce. With respect, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the mover of this resolution and the amendments to withdraw same until the Minister has made his report. If they will not do so, then I would ask the House to join with me in turning down this resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, does this not raise a point of order to this degree that if the Minister intended to do this, that had he have stood in his place and said this then the resolutions would not have been proceeded with. And I wonder whether or not if the suggestions adopted by the Honourable Member for Birtle Russell -- that even if the House does accept this suggestion of his and turns down these resolutions, whether it would be in order, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister to introduce it at this session because of the Rules of the House saying that a matter of which the subject matter has been decided by the House cannot be represented in the House at the same session. I wonder if the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell or yourself, Sir, on the point raised by my friend have taken this into consideration. Because even if we do defeat it, as I read the rules it would prevent the Minister from following through his, or at least as suggested by the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell of introducing it, and maybe the proper way in order to overcome the rules, and I can understand the objective that the Minister has, apparently, and also the Member for Birtle-Russell, that the better thing may be to have a conference with the parties concerned on this on that understanding and have it withdrawn. Because if it is voted on as suggested by my honourable friend

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd) I doubt whether the rules would permit it to be re-introduced this session by the Minister. I don't know if the First Minister has a comment on that point or

MR. SMELLIE: Mr. Speaker, if I may, on the point of order, there are two possibilities open at the moment; either the matter can be withdrawn in which case the House has reached no decision on the point, or the sub-amendment and the amendment could be voted down at which time there could be a new amendment to the original resolution introduced in line with any proposed legislation the Honourable Minister may have, and that was my suggestion to the House that either the sub-amendment and the amendment should be voted down or the movers of the resolution and the amendments may consider withdrawing their resolutions at this time.

MR. PAULLEY: I suggest that the House be -- it be permitted by the House to allow this to stand at this particular time until we have an opportunity of checking all of the ramifications that may arise as a result of this.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether I can help in this matter at all, but I think the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell has very succinctly and accurately outlined the two courses that are open to us. And as far as we are concerned, either one would be perfectly agreeable to us. However, if there is any disposition to think that it would help clarify the matter in the minds of those who have moved these various motions and amendments thereto, we would have no objections to having the matter stand and the members could consult on the point. However, I think that either of the two solutions proposed would be acceptable and practical, but I leave it to the House if it is desired to have the matter stand it's very simple to have that done.

MR. D. L. CAMPBELL (Leader of the Opposition) (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, if I may speak on the point of order, I would suggest to the Honourable the First Minister that there is a much simpler way of doing it than either of the suggestions that have been made in my opinion, and that would be for the Minister or the First Minister to simply stand in place, in his place in the House and announce that this legislation is going to be introduced, at which time I'm sure that Mr. Speaker would agree that the resolution then automatically stands or disappears from the Order Paper until the legislation has come forward. However, if there is not a disposition to do that at the moment, I would agree with the suggestion of the Honourable the Leader of the CCF Party that it would be better for the whole issue to stand here while further consideration was given to it.

MR. SPEAKER: I might point also that on the original motion which is incorporated in all of the amendments you have the standard clause, "consider the advisability of rescinding," which is not entirely binding on the House regardless of what happens to the resolution. But if the House wishes the motion to stand we'll stand it. Motion stand.

MR. ROBLIN: stand, Sir, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Inkster and the proposed motion in amendment thereto of the Honourable Member for Rhineland. The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Speaker, our original motion reads "that this House request the government to petition the Federal Government for an increase for Old Age and Blind Pensioners in the Province from \$55 to \$75 per month." The proposed amendment, these are the words "from \$55 to \$75" in the last line be deleted. In other words, it's only a request. I want to congratulate very much the Leader of the Social Credit Party in this House for getting wise, clever, on the political -- I wouldn't say tricks but I haven't got another word -- habits of watering down something which another member suggests. I think that he has learned this very quickly. Apparently he does not believe in resurrection; his party was dead for a long time. There were hopes all over Canada that with his entrance in this House there may be some resurrection to his party. I could tell him right now that he drove the last nail in the coffin of ever reviewing his party again--(Interjection)--Well, this is my -- I'm a member of a prophetic people and this is my prophecy. It's absolutely -- I wouldn't say dishonest, it's not a good word -- it's absolutely wrong to come and take out everything of a resolution because it'll cost the government money. May I remind the Honourable Member of the Social Credit that his party for years have advocated destruction of the banks; have criticized the present financial structure in Canada; have offered \$100 a week or \$100 a month to everyone in Canada

(Mr. Gray, cont'd).....as long as they are elected. And what happened with them? Even Alberta now is not a Social Credit Government. It is in my opinion a-- what's the name of the Premier?--

A MEMBER:Manning

MR. GRAY: Manning Government. However, he made a mistake in my opinion; his judges are his constituency. I happened to work in his constituency in Plum Coulee. I know the people as good as he does although he was born there and raised there. I don't think they are to be classed among the very rich people in this province although they have good land, and I don't think they will approve of your action. I sincerely hope and pray they will remember this if and when you come up again for re-election. I don't think the honourable member deserves more criticism than this; he's still a young man, a recruit, and we have to be kind to people who perhaps have no political experience or have not gone through the hard life as many of us have.

I also wish to remind the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that he made a very regrettable statement when we were discussing the indemnity of the members, and he mentioned there, how can we get an increase of the indemnity when we're asking for an increase of the old age pensioners? I don't think this has anything to do with it. I think that this statement, I could have made it myself, become very popular, oppose the indemnity and still receive it and be a good boy. But let me tell the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition now, I as one, speaking for myself only, am still prepared to forego my indemnity, the extra indemnity, if this House, with his permission, with his support, accepts my original resolution.

Now as far as the Honourable Member from Winnipeg Centre, he has not said one word about the necessity of the old age pensioners; he has not mentioned a single word of the plight, of the hardships, but he came out with a scare that this will cost hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars. It's natural it scares the taxpayers. Whether his statements and figures were right I don't know. I don't say they were wrong. But he did try to do one thing and tell the public in the province, the people in this province and in this House that don't do it because it will cost hundreds and millions of dollars, and people get scared when it comes to an expenditure of money. I think that the main question is, Mr. Speaker, is \$75 per month sufficient for a pensioner? Can anyone exist on such allowance, never mind the hundreds of millions of dollars? That's the main question. Why did the Federal Government when the Liberals were in power, raise this pension by \$6? How did they know that they needed \$6? Had they made an investigation that \$6 is sufficient? And if it is not, if it's a question of hundreds of millions of dollars of additional expense, why did they give them this \$6? There must be a reason; and then the Conservatives later added another \$9 a month. Now there must be a reason for it. They either had to -- I wouldn't say buy the electorate, I wouldn't say this word -- but they either had to give something to the people before the election or they realized they needed more money. They weren't worrying about the hundreds of millions of dollars which it will cost the taxpayers. Why was the original \$20 raised to \$40? And in 1927, they raised it some more and today it's \$55 a month. How did they do it? The cost of living has increased more at the time they have raised the pension -- much more! And if they have considered it's necessary, then why worry where the money comes from? I still remember distinctly and vividly that one alderman on City Council years ago, when we asked at the time that they have handed out to families so many loaves of bread, so many potatoes, a half an ounce of salt, a quarter of an ounce of pepper, and when the people came along and asked for another dollar -- not a dollar, a loaf of bread; they had 12 loaves of bread a week, they wanted 13. What did he tell them? He says, "Where are we going to get the money?" At that time the budget was only \$10 million; today these people, they still say, "Where are we going to get the money?" This province, when I came in, had a budget of \$18 or \$20 million; today they have a \$135 million. Where did they get the money? Where did the -- billions of dollars has been spent on defence -- I'm not against it. I'll do anything to protect our way of life; spend every cent if possible. They don't ask us where are we going to get the money. And where are the people of the province getting \$50 million to spend on liquor? Where? Let me remind the members here that in 1927 a loaf of bread was five cents; now it's 15 or 16 cents. In 1927 meat was nine cents a pound; today the cheapest meat you can get is 50 cents a pound. They were getting \$20 a

(Mr. Gray, cont'd)...month then and \$55 now. It's more than the pension they get now. In other words the \$20 a month then was much more than the \$55 a month now. Then take sugar, coffee, breakfast food, eggs, potatoes, vegetables, butter, milk and the essentials of a necessary diet have increased four or five times. I'm not mentioning caviar or champagne. And the same thing with everything else.

Take the single men - pensioners, and I want the Honourable Leader of the Social Credit Party to listen to it, and this is a fact. I could prove it to you every morning if you wish -- and by the way, if my statement is not accepted as far as the facts are concerned 100%, I would respectfully suggest every member in this House to go down to the pension office and grab six files, two files, one file at random, don't pick it, and go down and see the people for yourselves, and find out whether I'm correct or not. Now here's a single man, an old age pensioner -- it's just an example. He comes in for breakfast; what does he get? A bowl of porridge and coffee, 25 cents. At lunch what does he eat? Soup, bread and coffee, 45 cents; and at night he buys the cheapest meal on the menu which is 65 cents, and they don't get any steaks on that I assure you. It's a daily total of \$1.25. Multiplied by 30 days, it's \$37.50. Now add \$20 a month rent for an unsuitable, unsanitary, fire hazard room without anything, it's \$20. So he's spending \$57.50 for food and room -- starvation food. A dietitian may say that this is enough to live, or maybe say the other way, this is too much to die, but not enough to live. So even on food alone, they are short \$2.50 a month. No fruit or vegetables, not mentioning their clothing. Wash it, repair of the clothing, a little tobacco, a tooth brush, paste, carfare, a show occasionally, a postage stamp; they haven't got a cent for all of this and they're still short \$2.50 per month in order to balance the \$55 a month budget. They probably have to go without a meal once or twice a month. I'm speaking, Mr. Speaker, for at least 25,000 of such people in this province who are definitely under the means test. I agree many may not need it. Talking about those who are receiving pension who don't need it, I've already mentioned that. In the first place the idea of eliminating and doing away with the means test is one of the greatest things that human dignity can expect. I will not recite to you now but I may -- but probably I should, is what it means, a means test. It's a torture, and no dignified man will come to an office unless he absolutely has to, stand on his knees and swear to God and man that he hasn't got a single piece of bread in the house, that he hasn't got any money, that he hasn't got any wealth. It's ridiculous when those statements are printed -- he says, "How many acres of land have you got? How many buildings have you got? How much real estate have you got? How much money have you got?" -- when the people that apply for it haven't got a dime to their name.

What about the family allowance? I think those -- that the government that has created or decided on the family plan, their name or the government name or that party, I don't care which, will remain as a shining light in the history of Canada -- because once and for all they realize that where a single man gets, say, a wage of \$200 a month, and a married man does the same job and gets \$200 but has to support four and five children, it's unfair but you can't do anything about it, the job pays just that much. The children were neglected, and the government of the day decided to have family allowances and I think it's the greatest social legislation that was ever made in Canada. It's a great thing because it gives the big family a chance. It's true that the capitalist also gets it who doesn't need it, but we can't help it. We can't let half of the people suffer because the other half of the people gain. And as I stated in introducing the bill, most of it goes back through the income tax. So we have to spend some money in order to protect others. What are we doing with -- a plane gets lost and we are spending thousands and thousands of dollars and we are sending out planes to search for them and for one individual, we spend thousands of dollars to rescue him. I think it's a very wonderful thing. I think it's one of the finest things -- if we should sell it to the dictators of the world, this idea, this ideal. But at the same time we do it, here is a chance to save children from undernourishment and the government was not afraid of the idea that those who don't need it, get it. I'm speaking for the information of the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre. The healthy have always had to pay and look after the sick. Would you be thy brother's keeper? The parents of normal, healthy children -- which I'm going to mention later on to the Honourable Minister of Health and Public Welfare -- have to pay for the crippled. People give to charity. Why? To help the underprivileged. So there is no logic in the argument, worrying about money,

(Mr. Gray, cont'd)...where the money comes from. Is the human being suffering? He has to be helped. If you have another way of helping him, it's perfectly all right, it's perfectly all right with me. When you mention an amount of \$55 to \$75, I had in mind just this very same thing when I suggested here a \$5 increase from \$20 to \$25. It's an arbitrary figure; if you want to make it \$25 go ahead; if you want to make it 10, if you think 10 is enough, go ahead. My point is that the basic pension should be a little higher than the \$55 a month, and I think those who feel that the old age pensioner deserves it, should support the resolution.

Now, coming back to the amendment, Mr. Speaker, as much as it hurts me, and as much as it hurts our group, I want to say that we are almost, almost compelled to support it. Not because it comes out from that individual who does not understand, in my opinion, the whole situation, but if this \$55 and \$75 per month words are deleted, it still remains to petition the Federal Government for an increase of the old age. We are anxious to do something for them. I still vividly recollect the time that Mr. -- what's his name, the Justice of -- (Interjection) when Mr. Garson was Premier of this province, and I asked him -- he made the same argument as some of the honourable gentlemen here against this motion. When I told him, Mr. Premier, give something, give us a dollar, show that you are interested in it, he said "no". A month later after the House adjourned \$5 was given.

Honourable Members, I don't think that if I could speak another half an hour it will change your mind. I feel that I had to say what's in my heart. I happen to know the situation perhaps closer than anyone else. I happen to deal with this problem with this tragedy for many years. I tell you, please take my word that in spite of the social security legislation which we have now -- which is a very fine thing, and I commended the government for it at the time -- in spite of this, I say that the basic rate of old age pensions federally, not provincially, is not sufficient. The province at the moment does not have to contribute one single cent towards this increase. All we ask is go on record, telling the Federal Government in our opinion, the old age pensioners are not to be starved; that the old age pensioners are people, men and women who have contributed and helped to build our country. On account of the low wage, they could not save anything. They have to be helped in their "Golden Age" period -- and believe me, that "Golden Age" period is not too long. I hope that my appeal now will not be a voice in the wilderness.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Winnipeg Centre that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Fisher and the proposed motion in amendment thereto by the Honourable Member for Hamiota, and the proposed motion and amendment to the amendment by the Honourable Member for Carillon. The Honourable the Minister of Agriculture.

HON. GEORGE HUTTON (Minister of Agriculture) (Rockwood-Iberville): Mr. Speaker, I beg the indulgence of the House to let this matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain and the proposed motion by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface in amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. E. R. SCHREYER (Brokenhead): Mr. Speaker, when I adjourned this debate, it was more for the opportunity of having a longer period of time in which to consider the amendment and the ramifications of the amendment, and now that we in this group have had this opportunity, we have come to the conclusion that although the sentiment of the amendment might be, no doubt is, well meaning, that the total and concluding effect of the amendment would be to actually bring the financial picture back to the original motion itself. I feel that this amendment is actually an attempt to have us return to the original -- I don't know if I can explain it any better than that. I realize that the member for St. Boniface had some argument, some point of argument when he said that this consideration for the costs of land be given because it is true that in the built up, urban areas, school boards in purchasing land will have to pay considerable sums of money per acre to acquire the land. That is a point which should be considered of course, but we feel that the fact that \$15,000 grant per classroom is already being made that the school board should be in a position to acquire the land as it has in the past. As a matter of fact I cannot see why a school district existing in an urban area which has a

(Mr. Schreyer, cont'd) . . . high assessment should not be in a position to pay for the land to a better degree than could a school district in some rural area where the assessment is low. I must confess that it is not with any great amount of conviction that I rise to speak on this resolution. I merely do so, Mr. Speaker, to outline our stand on it; and I would merely say in closing that we cannot support the spirit of the amendment because it is nothing more than an attempt to bring into effect the original motion which we were opposed to from the beginning.

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

MR. CAMPBELL: The yeas and nays Mr. Speaker, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members. Order. The question before the House is the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface in amendment that the resolution be amended as follows: by adding after the word "for" in the third line the following words: "purchase of land and equipment" and by deleting the words, "\$ 20,000 per room" in the eighth line and substituting the following, "15,000 per room for construction and equipment only and an additional \$5,000 maximum grant for each room for the purchase of land only."

A standing vote was taken, the result being:

YEAS: Messrs. Campbell, Prefontaine, Hryhorczuk, Guttormson, Hillhouse, Tanchak, Desjardins, Roberts, Shoemaker, Dow, Froese.

NAYS: Messrs. Roblin, Johnson, McLean, Evans, Lyon, Thompson, Witney, Shewman, Hawryluk, Paulley, Gray, Ridley, Alexander, Hutton, Scarth, Mrs. Forbes, Messrs. Martin, Cowan, Groves, Corbett, Christianson, Wagner, Wright, Orlikow, Watt, Ingebrigtsen, Jeannotte, Stanes, Smellie, Strickland, McKellar, Weir, Seaborn, Johnson, Baizley, Bjornson, Klym, Schreyer, Peters, Harris.

CLERK: Yeas, 11; Nays 40.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion lost. The question before the House is the proposed resolution by the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

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

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, would this be an appropriate time to start the same division? If there is no objection I would be willing to suggest the same division.

MR. ROBLIN: No objection here, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PAULLEY: No objection here, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion lost under the same division as before.

Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye and the proposed motion in amendment thereto by the Honourable Member from Roblin. The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. O. F. BJORNSON (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, the hauling of pulpwood in Eastern Ontario is a matter that has been of prior concern in my constituency for many seasons. The Manitoba Paper Company is in that locale and many of my constituents, farmers, truckers, contractors, live in around the village which I reside in. I have been particularly concerned with their problem since early last fall. The matter has been discussed at the municipal level and has been of concern also to our reeve and the councillors. I have had delegations into this House to confer with the interested Ministers and the Transport Board, and I have spoken at length and sometimes too loudly possibly, on their behalf in our own caucuses. My sentiment is that there exists a feeling amongst many of the people that this is a concern to only a handful of truckers, and I would like to dispel this idea from the minds of anyone in this House. This subject has a direct bearing on many of the departments in this government -- the Department of Mines and Natural Resources, the Department of Public Utilities, the Department of Industry and Commerce, and the Department of Public Works; and other departments in a lesser degree. The people involved are farmers, truckers, contractors, pulpwood cutters, merchants, trucking equipment agencies to mention but a few who derive direct benefit from this operation of the harvesting of our wood products. We have been informed many times that in our specific area the income from our operations in our forests are tantamount to the income from agriculture in times when agriculture is at its highest production peak, and I would like you to consider the importance of the wood products to our farmers when we have had a disaster on our farms such as occurred this season.

Now the villain in this story, if there must be one and if this rambling talk can be

(Mr. Bjornson, cont'd)....classified as a story, is our Department of Public Works who installed the weighing apparatus on the road to Pine Falls and are checking to see if the trucks are overloaded and are licenced to the proper limits. Some of the workers I have talked with expect our government to take the role of Robinhood and his Merry Men to set things aright for them, and I can assure you that I relish a part in this fable as I think that this would-be story will have a happy ending. But I think however, that more than fiction is required to resolve this problem of such gravity. I would suggest that it can be solved to the satisfaction of all concerned if the problem receives the thought and the planning and the action from all concerned departments of our government. The thoughts that I have are that our roads when frozen during the winter months will not suffer if we permit reasonable overloads. I make this observation from speaking to truckers with many years of experience in their line of business and to men long experienced in building the roads. I understand our municipalities lift the restrictions on their roads during the winter months and that the Utopian province to the immediate west of ours makes allowances on its roads during the winter months for an addition to their load limits. I think too that we will be taking a progressive step to improve our transportation picture as a whole if measures are taken to extend our planning to all of Manitoba for all the products that are required to move over our roads during the winter months rather than only one segment of our winter operation. Surely consideration must be given to our bush operations, such as lumber, saw logs, telephone poles, ties, fence posts and of course, the moving of the end product of our pulpwood, the large and heavy rolls of newsprint. Consideration should also be given to many other products of farm and industry. I believe that all the benefits given in the past to the farmers such as the nominal fee for hauling his own products are concerned, should most definitely be retained. I think, however, that where a farmer becomes a trucker he should expect the same treatment as our general truckers, so that there will be no friction created in one competing against the other in the same type of operation.

I have set forth just a few of my considered opinions in connection with this matter. I am certain that there are more capable men in the government service than I am, who are capable of performing a much better job of the necessary planning to make this operation beneficial to all. I think the resolution as presented to this House by the Honourable Member from La Verendrye was a good one, and the remarks made by my friend, the Honourable Member from Gilbert Plains was a graphic picture of the trucker and his problems, but I do not think either one of these talks went far enough or emphasized the larger concepts of this subject. I realize that they were sincere in their endeavour in urging this government to immediate action on moving pulpwood, but I think anything that this government could do now in this limited scope and the time permitted would not be of the ultimate benefit that they seek for their constituents. They are concerned with thousands of cords of pulpwood being left in the forest for another season. We are also concerned with this. We have been in touch with the Pine Falls mill and are told that the delivery of pulpwood is progressing at about the same rate as in previous years, despite the restrictions. I can say though, that they think that due to the favourable weather they should have been better. I have talked with many truckers in the past weeks without any hinderance who have been over the scale and have been allowed without hinderance to carry on without being checked again. They tell me that the wonderful weather that we have enjoyed this winter, without storms or any heavy snowfalls, that they're able to operate profitably with less delays and breakdowns than in former winters where they had heavy snows to contend with. They still feel though, as far as the trucker is concerned, that the restrictions will cut into their paychecks and are hopeful something will be done to alleviate this either through permitting overloads, by raising the load limits, or a better deal with the paper company. I can suggest that you support the amendment to this resolution in good faith, that it is not a delaying action, but will give us time to do the important planning and take the necessary action for this very worthwhile resolution.

Now having said all this I would like to comment on the remarks of the Honourable Member from Fisher on the same subject. He seems to get more mileage out of his gas on subjects regarding the farmers in his constituency than any other rural member. I feel that I am just as much a champion of the farmers in my constituency as he is of his. He has mentioned, and I quote from his own speech, and quote, "This resolution doesn't need to have a lot of talk or discussion". In his house, and in his constituency, I agree, I really

(Mr. Bjornson, cont'd)...don't know why he talked on it at all, for I cannot see that they are greatly concerned. If there has been nothing taken away from the farmers there is no new restrictions being placed on anyone, and what effect it has on farmers hauling their own wood into boxcars to be shipped to the mill on the railroads is not the consideration. The scales are located on the road close to Pine Falls and are checking the trucks that come in with their loads on the highways. He must have a very conscientious bunch of farmers in his area if they are restricting their loads because they've heard of the scale at Pine Falls. He talks of the type of truck used in his area as small farm trucks and I know of no law enforcement bodies, be it forest rangers, RCMP officers or anyone else who makes a practice of stopping farm trucks and judging the weight carried on the axles of the farmer's truck; they just haven't got the equipment to do it and they cannot scale wood by measurement and get an accurate weight of a load. Therefore if it is of such little matter as he mentions, to him and his people, let me assure him that I do not. He says in his speech that the press quoted him that he has an astounding facility of misunderstanding ministerial explanations. Well by George! I think he has an astounding -- and I use his words again -- facility of misunderstanding this particular matter also.

I think the Honourable Member from La Verendrye brought in a worthwhile resolution on a matter that he understands which was I think, properly completed by the amendment proposed by the Honourable Member from Roblin. I think we've been hearing a lot of irrelevant words from those that spoke on this resolution. We are all trying to achieve the same object and that is, if the roads will not be damaged by overloading during the winter months then change the present law so that it will benefit equally all concerned with transport of all types of goods and materials for all concerned in Manitoba. We make the laws; we cannot see them broken without trying to fix them up; and while we're fiddling with the words the truckers are burning up the roads. Mind you, figuratively speaking, not actually, for last Monday afternoon I met in a distance of ten miles 11 trucks, 2 with semi-trailers and 9 conventional trucks, and if you could have loaded any more wood on any one of them you would have had to be about 9 feet tall. I think the pulpwood is getting to the mill in spite of all of us and very little, if any, will be left in the bush if the weather continues cold for the next two or three weeks.

Now Mr. Speaker, I made the comment about one member making mileage out of the gas he expended on certain subjects. I too would like to make a better showing on the gas that I've just given out and talk about employment. The pulpwood industry means much to the people of my constituency in the employment field but there is another project that will be of greater importance -- or of great importance, I shouldn't say greater -- also in employing our people who are seeking work. I would like to make a few short remarks about that subject that is of so much concern to so many of the people in my constituency, namely, the establishment of the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment in that area. I understand that there is a \$60 million 200,000-kilowatt atomic reactor to be erected in Kincardine on Lake Huron in Ontario. I suggest that it could possibly be moved to Elliot Lake if there is need as great as we are told they need it, and leave our Manitoba project in Lac du Bonnet constituency where we will be so happy to have it and where we need it so desperately. Thank you.

MR. PETER WAGNER (Fisher): Would the Honourable Member permit a question?

MR. BJORNSON: Yes.

MR. WAGNER: Does the honourable member only represent his constituency or Manitoba as a whole?

MR. BJORNSON: I am much like my friend from Fisher. I would like to represent all the farmers of Manitoba and decidedly my own along with it.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. STAN ROBERTS (La Verendrye): I would like to make a few remarks please, before we vote on this. I enjoyed the remarks of the Honourable Member from Lac du Bonnet. I don't necessarily agree with his opinion that we should support the amendment but I agreed with his general remarks and in fact his introductory remarks as to why he was in favour of the whole plan led me to believe that we should support the original motion rather than the amendment, because regardless of how you look at it, the amendment merely delays the decision on the original motion. Surely it doesn't take this long to make a decision on a matter

(Mr. Roberts, cont'd).....which is I am sure as routine as the decision, as to whether or not frost or frozen roads can be damaged by heavier loads, and if this is the case, and it is the case as the Honourable Member from Lac du Bonnet has said that in the Utopian province to the left of us or to the west of us, they do increase their load limits during the frozen periods of the year, then surely the experience that this province has gained could tell us immediately whether this has damaged their roads.

The Honourable Member from Roblin told us of some trucking problems in his area where they had to truck 15 miles before loading onto rails and shipping to the plant and he was suggesting that my original resolution was meant to be a local resolution, and of course it wasn't. There isn't any suggestion in it; because I understand the conditions best in the constituency of La Verendrye, these were the conditions that I was describing to the House, but this was meant to be a broad resolution and not just abridging those who happen to live in the southeast part of Manitoba. The pulp in the southeast part of Manitoba is hauled quite some distance to the Pine Falls Paper Mill. Large amounts of it come from 80, 85 or 90 miles away and this is a long haul if you have to haul small loads. I don't know why the trucks suddenly are carrying larger loads than they were a week ago, but if this is the case, well then, perhaps our problems have been solved without us really knowing about it. I don't think I have anything further to say except that I would urge the House to support the resolution rather than the amendment to the resolution because in my opinion the amendment only delays making a decision on this thing, and it would certainly be of no assistance to those who still wish to do considerable trucking yet this year.

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

MR. CAMPBELL: The yeas and nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members. The question before the House is the amendment submitted by the Honourable Member for Roblin to the motion submitted by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye. The amendment reads as follows: "That the resolution be amended by deleting all the words after the word "livelihood" in the fifth line, and adding, "and whereas the pulpwood industry is province-wide and whereas any special privileges granted to trucks hauling pulpwood should be granted to all trucks of the province, therefore be it resolved that the government study and consider all the factors concerned and see if it is in the public interest to raise weight limits when highways are frozen."

A standing vote was taken, the result being:

YEAS: Messrs. Roblin, Johnson, McLean, Evans, Lyon, Thompson, Witney, Shewman, Ridley, Alexander, Hutton, Scarth, Mrs. Forbes, Messrs. Martin, Cowan, Groves, Corbett, Christianson, Watt, Ingebrigtsen, Jeannotte, Stanes, Strickland, McKellar, Weir, Seaborn, Johnson, Baizley, Bjornson, Klym, Hamilton.

NAYS: Campbell, Prefontaine, Gray, Paulley, Hawryluk, Guttormson, Hillhouse, Tanchak, Orlikow, Wright, Wagner, Desjardins, Roberts, Shoemaker, Dow, Harris, Peters, Schreyer, Froese.

CLERK: Yeas, 31; Nays 19.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion carried. The question before the House is the proposed resolution for the Honourable Member for La Verendrye as amended.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Emerson. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. J. M. FROESE (Rhineland: Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on the matter pertaining to this resolution in this House before, I think on more than one occasion, and I would rise at this time to support this resolution.

The other day we heard the Minister of Agriculture's comments on the resolution and as far as I am concerned I thought they were rather weak because of his bringing in other matters than what was proposed in the resolution itself. I feel that when we ask for an increase in teachers' grants that it doesn't necessarily mean that we are also asking for transportation or construction grants. We know that the teachers in the non-division areas are left out in the cold. The districts engaging the teachers in these areas are not getting the grants they deserve and once more I would like to repeat that these teachers give the same type of service; they have the same qualifications and are doing a very good job in these

(Mr. Froese, cont'd)....non-division areas. And further to that, the teachers are not responsible for this plight or for the fact that these divisions are not receiving these increased grants. They had their own vote but that was strictly it. The majority in these divisions decided on this course. Further, I wish to reiterate once more that we today have actually no changes between the elementary classrooms in division areas and those in non-divisions. There is no difference - the same curriculum is being taught and the same qualified teachers, so why do we discriminate against these teachers. The matter of secondary classrooms might be different. I couldn't tell. I hardly think so though, because after all the same schools are carrying on. The only difference that would be, would be in transportation and which this resolution does not touch on at all. And we are also, as this resolution states, not even asking for consideration of transportation or construction grants. It is just instruction or teacher grants.

I would like to ask the Minister a question. Would these non-division areas receive the increased grants if they voted themselves into secondary areas? That would mean that the elementary education would be left as it is but the secondary education would then come under the supervision or jurisdiction of the secondary area board. This in my opinion would only be a similar thing as what happened in Dauphin-Ochre and I would feel that they would then also be entitled to the same grants. Further, I am surprised that the other honourable members who also happen to represent parts of these non-division areas have not made themselves known or heard of on this very question. Then just the other day a Bill was brought in legislating against hotel owners or other people who are in a position to accommodate certain people or all the people for that matter, that wish to stay over in hotels, and so on. We are legislating against discrimination of this type, yet our government is inconsistent when they are not giving the same grants to the teachers in elementary classes in non-divisions, yet giving them to the division areas. Once more I would ask the members of this House to support this resolution because I feel it is valid; it will bring the teachers in non-division areas on the same basis as those in division areas. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MRS. THELMA FORBES (Cypress): Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member from St. Matthews to adjourn the debate.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Brokenhead and the proposed motion in amendment thereto by the Honourable Member for St. Vital. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I beg the indulgence of this House in order that this matter be allowed to stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Elmwood. The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

.....Continued on next page.

MR. FRED GROVES (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I think that the first thing that we have to ask ourselves about this resolution is what does the resolution hope to accomplish? What does the resolution ask us to do? And I think the Honourable Member from Elmwood tells us on page 618 of Hansard. He says, "We're just asking for this government to get in touch with the Federal Government and call a meeting of the Ministers of Labour and see what they can do with this." I think that we should all keep that in mind, that that is the ultimate aim of this resolution.

The first whereas - "whereas the cost of living has been rising steadily since the end of World War II," I think that everybody will agree that the cost of living has been rising during that period. And then it goes on "whereas the average wages have been increased in order to keep in line with the cost of living." We cannot dispute that during the same period average wages have certainly increased. And then he goes on "whereas in many parts of Canada including Manitoba minimum wage rates have not kept pace with the increased cost of living." I also agree that minimum wages have not kept pace with the increased cost of living, but Manitoba in this respect has certainly done better than most other provinces, all except BC I think.

I certainly agree that minimum wages should be increased and so keen am I that minimum wages should be increased that in November of 1959 I appeared before the Minimum Wage Board of Manitoba and presented a personal brief. At that time I urged the board to recommend changes in the Minimum Wage Act to eliminate the present differential between men and women; to eliminate the discrimination that existed in the Act because of a person's place of residence in Manitoba; and also for the establishment of a minimum wage of \$1.00 an hour. At that time I used an example of a married with two children, aged eight and ten, and went on to point out that if this particular man was earning the minimum wage, he would earn \$4.80 per day - \$28.80 per week or \$124.80 a month. If the same man were to go on relief in the municipality of St. Vital he would receive \$138.16 a month which is \$13.56 more than he would working for the minimum wage. If the same man were to go on relief in the City of Winnipeg he would receive a total monthly sum of \$159.12 which is \$34.32 more than he would earn by working for somebody for the minimum wage. Now I don't intend to go through this brief, but I used that in my brief as an example to show how ridiculously low the minimum wage was in my opinion in Manitoba.

The Honourable Leader of the CCF should be happy to know that at that time I also urged that we must first take into consideration when considering these matters an individual's standard of living rather than the dollars and cents which he had paid per hour.

Going back to the resolution itself there are many good arguments for a national minimum wage, and surprisingly enough, we get quite a few of them from the Canadian Manufacturers Association. In the brief which the Canadian Manufacturers Association presented to the Minimum Wage Board, they give us, I think, four good reasons, unintentionally I presume, why there might well be a national minimum wage. The first is on page 1 of their brief "It may seem strange that we should seek an opportunity to present to you our views. The reason we do so, however, is that we recognize in this law a quite possibly undesirable influence on job opportunities for our citizens and on the prices to be paid by consumers here." They are referring then to job opportunities in Manitoba that may be lost through minimum wage laws and make Manitoba not competitive with other areas of this country. And again they say, and I'm quoting "It is our contention that if the law sets an unrealistic minimum level it threatens offers of jobs in Manitoba, and when arbitraries such as minimums are set too high by law, fewer job opportunities become available here. Especially is this so that it is the undesirable effect on the number of job offers among the younger and smaller firms in the smaller centres and in rural areas; especially so in such industries as work clothing where, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures actual earning run as low as 50¢ an hour in Quebec, food products where they are reported as low as 60¢ in Quebec and in Ontario . 65¢" Then they go on in their brief and on their final page "We submit that Manitoba law should not be more restrictive of employment in Manitoba than do the laws of Ontario and Quebec and those provinces. The competition for many of our industrial perils comes from the central provinces." I maintain that they were trying to point out in the brief that -- I shouldn't say that they were trying to point out in the brief, but they indirectly and unintentionally brought to

(Mr. Groves; cont'd.)....our attention in their brief the fact that such competition could be eliminated by having a minimum wage that applied throughout the whole of the country. The Honourable Member from Logan last session also gave us a good reason why there should be a national minimum wage, and I quote from his speech on June 19th, where he says, "One of the reasons for establishing a national minimum wage is to prevent unfair competition from employers in those parts of Canada where wages are low."

Now the last part of this resolution that we have before us calls for a conference. It asks that a conference be convened and I think that the convening of this conference is a good idea. Nothing but good could come of such a conference, so that up to this point I agree that the Honourable Member from Elmwood's resolution is a good one, but, there is a bad orange in the basket. The resolution, the final part of the resolution is not practical, nor possible at the present time. And I think that the Honourable Member from Elmwood probably realized this at the time that he presented the resolution. This resolution is typical of many of the resolutions that we consider from the CCF group. They incorporate many good thoughts but they then go on to elaborate on these good thoughts to the point where they make their resolution impractical.

I have since the day that the Honourable Member from Elmwood made his speech done some research work and accumulated some figures on minimum wages as they apply in the various provinces of this country. And most of this I will be quoting from a booklet which is in our Legislative Library called Provincial Labour Standards October 1958, and I'm using this material to show the members of this House what a vast difference there is between minimum wage regulations and minimum wage rates between the different provinces. These tables show that minimum rates for full time experienced workers in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, there are two Minimum Wage Acts, one applying to men and the other to women; but in Nova Scotia the male minimum wage act has not been proclaimed; in other provinces the Act applies to both men and women; in Ontario minimum rates have been fixed for women only; in New Brunswick only one order is in effect for men - that covering the canning industry; in Newfoundland the female minimum wage is 35¢ per hour, the male minimum wage is 50¢ per hour and these rates apply throughout the whole province. In Nova Scotia zone 1 which includes Halifax, Sydney and a number of the other larger centres, the minimum wage is \$21.60 per week; in zone 2 which includes Annapolis Royal, Antigonish, Berwick, Bridgetown and what you might call the secondary centres, the minimum wage is \$19.20 per week; in zone 3, the remainder of the province, the minimum wage is \$14.40 a week; and in addition there is a minimum rate of 45¢ per hour in the fish processing industry which applies anywhere throughout the province. In New Brunswick in factories the female minimum wage is 50¢ per hour; the male minimum wage is 65¢ per hour. This applies in addition to the factories to all canning or fish processing operations and the canning and processing of vegetables and fresh fruit. In shops and offices in New Brunswick there is no male minimum wage; there is a female minimum wage of 50¢ per hour; in hotels and restaurants in New Brunswick there is also no male minimum wage, the female wage is 45¢ per hour. In Quebec in factories, shops and offices, in zone 1 which is the city and island of Montreal, there is a minimum wage of 60¢ per hour. Quebec city and district and other places with 6,000 or more population, the minimum wage is 55¢ per hour; and in the remainder of the province, the minimum wage is 50¢ per hour; in hotels and restaurants for the same three zones the rates are 55¢, 50¢ and 45¢. In Ontario as I mentioned earlier there is no male minimum wage. The female minimum wage in zone 1, which is Toronto, Hamilton and the larger cities is \$22.00 per week. In zone 2 which includes places of 3,000 population and more the minimum wage is \$20.00 per week. In places with a population less than 3,000 the minimum wage is \$18.00 a week. In Manitoba for men the rate is 60¢ per hour; for women it is 50¢ per hour in the urban areas and 54¢ per hour in the rural areas, and we hope if the Honourable Leader of the CCF party will permit me to use that naughty word, we hope to see this increased "soon." In Saskatchewan there is a minimum wage of \$30.00 per week in the cities and in 15 of the larger towns; \$29.00 per week in the rest of the province; and I understand from recent newspaper reports that on April 1st this minimum wage will be increased to \$32.00 per week and will apply throughout the whole province. In Alberta the female minimum wage is \$28.00 per week in centres over 5,000 population, and \$24.00 per week in the rest of the province. The male minimum wage

(Mr. Groves, cont'd.) .. is \$30 per week in centres over 5,000 and \$26 per week throughout the rest of the province. In British Columbia in factories female minimum wage is 60¢ per hour and the male minimum is 75¢ per hour. In shops both minimum wage rates are 65¢; in offices both are 75¢; and in hotels and restaurants both are 65¢. I could not find any statistics on Prince Edward Island, so I have assumed that there is no minimum wage in that province.

So just imagine, Mr. Speaker, what a job it would be for a representative from Manitoba at a meeting of labour ministers of Canada to arrive at a national minimum wage from this hodge-podge of provincial legislation. This in itself, that is the arriving at a national minimum wage, could perhaps be tackled but just imagine what would happen if Manitoba's representative walked into this meeting with a resolution asking for a national minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour. I maintain that he would be laughed right out of the conference and that he would soon be left alone with his resolution, and no doubt, with some pretty specific instructions as to what he could do with it. This House I maintain, couldn't possibly vote for this resolution, because it is apparent that there is no possibility of it being accepted either by the Federal Government or any of the provinces. No other province in Canada, except BC has a minimum wage at the present time that is as high as Manitoba.

MR. S. PETERS (Elmwood): Saskatchewan's isn't as high as Manitoba.

MR. GROVES: It is higher. The resolution then in my opinion wouldn't because of the amount mentioned therein, ever accomplish the purpose of convening such a meeting regardless of how advantageous in other respects such a meeting might be. So I maintain, Mr. Speaker, that this House should vote against this resolution on the grounds that it couldn't possibly accomplish what it sets out to do.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. FRED T. KLYM (Springfield) Mr. Speaker, I beg to move seconded by the Honourable Member for Dufferin the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks. The Honourable Member for St. John's.

MR. D. ORLIKOW (St. John's): Mr. Speaker, I would crave the indulgence of the House to let this matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. The proposed resolution standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. J. E. INGEBRIGTSON (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move seconded by the Honourable Member for Rupertsland; whereas the district of Keewatin is rich in mineral and water resources; and, whereas modern transportation make these resources accessible to the Fort of Churchill; and, whereas Churchill is a deep sea port and terminus of the Canadian National Railway; and, whereas the Government of Canada and the district of Keewatin have not developed the natural resources of the district of Keewatin to any great extent; therefore be it resolved that the Government of the Province of Manitoba study the factors involved in giving consideration to the suggestion that the Government of Canada transfer the mainland portion of the district of Keewatin, including Boothia and Melville Peninsulas, to the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker put the question.

MR. INGEBRIGTSON: Mr. Speaker, the district of Keewatin which in Cree means The North Wind, was created a district separate from the Northwest Territories in 1876 by an Act of the Parliament of Canada. This district was administered by the Government of Manitoba until it was rejoined to the Northwest Territories in 1905. Now if you care to look at the map, we should define the boundaries of this area. The boundary runs west from Hudson Bay along the 60 degrees of latitude to 102 degrees west longitude; then north along this meridian to Queen Maud Gulf on the Arctic Ocean. From there the boundary runs northeast to Simpson Rae, James Ross, Franklin and Bellot Straits to the Gulf of Boothia. Following the coastline, we come to Pelly and Committee Bays, Fury and Hecla Straits, Foxe Basin, Frozen Straits, and along the western shore of Hudson Bay to 60 degrees of latitude. This will add over 218,460 square miles to the land surface and 9,700 square miles of fresh water to Manitoba. In other words, it will double our land area and increase our fresh water area by one quarter. Keewatin is divided into distinct portions--the interior plateau and the coastal plain. The interior plateau includes that part of the country lying above the highest ancient shoreline, either of Hudson Bay or of the

(Mr. Ingebrigtsen, cont'd.) . . Arctic Ocean with a mean elevation of 900 to 1,000 feet above sea level. The coastal plain lies between the highest ancient post-glacial sea beach and the present sea shore sloping gradually from 500 feet down to sea level.

Now on various maps of northern Canada you will see the word "Barren Lands". I for one cannot agree with this misnomer. How can you call a land barren that can support thousands of Caribou and Musk-ox. I would much prefer that we should call this land the Arctic Prairie. This Arctic Prairie begins at Churchill and at this point is roughly 50 miles wide. It extends northward and is 125 miles wide at the north end of Dubawnt Lake and reaching its maximum of over 300 miles north of Chesterfield Inlet. On this great prairie roam the musk-ox-- the only beef on the hoof we have in the Arctic. No doubt this hardy animal could be domesticated and made to run on ranges in the same manner as beef cattle on ranches in Manitoba. The musk-ox produces milk, delicious meat and beautiful wool. In fact, the wool is much better than cashmere. Some of the larger ones weigh up to 1,400 pounds dressed, and skins measure 15 feet from nose to rump. The average height is about 4 and a half feet.

Such lakes as Nueltin, Ennadia, North and South Henik, Dubawnt, Kaminuriak and Baker Lake are virgin lakes with excellent potential for commercial fishing. Lake trout weighing up to 25 pounds are not uncommon. White fish from six to ten pounds and tullbees average about five pounds. The principal rivers such as the Thelon, Back, Dubawnt, Maguse and Big River, have considerable water power potential and by far the largest water power potential is on the Kazan River, which is 455 miles long, and empties into Baker Lake. More than 800 miles navigable coast lines would become available and Manitoba would truly become a maritime province. Inlets such as Wager, Chesterfield and Rankin are important water routes into the interior. Chesterfield Inlet which is over 100 miles long, is the most important water route and coastal ships of considerable tonnage can sail to Baker Lake.

The development of the salmon fishing industry along this 800 miles of coastline should not be overlooked. The salmon run on the west shore of Hudson Bay, anywhere from one week to ten days longer than on the British Columbia coast. The white whale or Belugas are found in great numbers and they are very easy to harpoon. A small whaleing factory is at present operating at Churchill. It may be interesting to note that a shipment of whale oil and meat was made to England from Churchill in 1689.

The timber supply along the Thelon River system will no doubt be of great value to Canada some day. Wooded areas extend for a distance of about 170 miles below the forks of the Hanbury River. Trees can be found up to 12 and 15 inches in diameter. The average size would not be less than six inches. The only outlet for this timber to the markets would be through Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet.

The fur and mining industries are of immediate economic importance to the Province of Manitoba. North Rankin Nickel Mines have been in operation for the past two years and have shipped through the Port of Churchill over 65,000 tons of high-grade nickel concentrate to smelters at Fort Saskatchewan. Copper and platinum have also been found. Considerable exploration work has been carried out west of Eskimo Point and every indication would lead one to believe that gold and silver has been found in the area. A geological survey of the southern portion of the district of Keewatin was made by Mr. C. S. Lord in 1953 when 57,000 square miles were mapped. According to his report, 14,000 square miles of this area was to search for radioactive deposits. He also stated in his report that it is doubtful if any equally large and favourably-mapped area of the Canadian Shield has received as few man-hours of prospecting per square mile as has the southern portion of Keewatin.

Canada has over half a million square miles of muskeg and this of course, gives northern Manitoba and the Arctic Prairie vast resources of peat and peat moss which could be utilized. Because most bogs contain both peat moss and fuel peat, economic working of a bog would require complete utilization of both these constituents. Peat moss has a high cellulose content and its use has been suggested for the manufacturing of textiles, explosives, paper and cardboard. Due to its low thermal conductivity, it could be used for the manufacturing of insulating board. Peat tar or plastics prepared from peat might be used as a binding material. It may prove profitable to investigate the fermentation of peat for the production of organic chemicals other than alcohol. Peat gas generators could be used as a source of power in a processing plant and peat tar which is similar to coal tar, would be produced as a by-product. The humic

(Mr. Ingebrigtson, cont'd.) .. acid fraction of peat offers an interesting field for research and some fundamental work has already been done on the composition of peat and the nature of the humic acid extracted from it. The most promising products that can be prepared from humic acid are resins and tanning extracts.

The National Research Council has carried out research on muskeg for the past five years, along the line of determining engineering properties of muskeg. They have been chiefly concerned with muskeg as an obstacle to progress, a formidable type of terrain over which to build roads and to gain access by off-road vehicles. Consequently, they have not carried out any particular research to date on the use of this material commercially as this did not come within their terms of reference. This new science of terradynamics is of course, very important, but I would respectfully suggest that these terms of reference be changed and that we should consider the economic possibility of muskeg. Control of muskeg would give northern residents the use of enormously rich soil which muskeg produces. An example is the famous vegetable-producing Holland Marshes of Ontario.

The key to our northern development is, of course, transportation and the seaport of Churchill with its marine and aircraft communication centre. Considerable scientific research is carried out in Churchill area also. It would become an important administrative and trade centre for the north with a population, I dare say, of 40 to 50 thousand people before the turn of the century.

The nuclear submarine freighter would make it possible to operate under the Arctic ice during the winter months. A technical design investigation and economic studies have been conducted by the Mitchell Engineering Limited of London, England, and considerable credit must be given to Mr. Mitchell for his interest and faith in the development of the Canadian Arctic. These studies prove that it is possible to operate a bulk carrier of ore, oil and grain.

And, Sir, I would like to say to this Chamber and to the people of Manitoba that we should all join together and work to make Manitoba great. Our economic future lies to the north.

MR. W. G. MARTIN (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cypress that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable the Leader of the CCF Party. The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. A. E. WRIGHT (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak to this resolution, I realize that much has been said in this House on previous occasions in regard to compulsory insurance. It would be very indiscreet for me to argue the actuarial aspects of insurance with trained insurance people, nor would I choose to argue the legal aspect of insurance with my very good friend the member for Selkirk. But I do have a few observations and I would like to pass them on to the House.

First there is a matter of principle, Mr. Speaker. We have seen quite recently, editorials appearing in the papers. In fact, I remember one appearing in The Toronto Star about a year ago, discussing the need for compulsory car insurance and my leader, I believe, quoted from this one of the Tribune, February the 15th--an editorial backing compulsory insurance. I would like to just quote again one little section. "Motorists should not be issued licence plates until they show proof of financial responsibility. The underlying assumption of the present safety responsibility law is that a motorist must be involved in an accident before authorities ask for proof of financial responsibility; before he is required to show that he can pay for the physical damage he had done." This newspaper feels that this should be changed and all motorists be asked to show proof of financial responsibility before they get their licence plates. This would not be difficult or impose a hardship on car owners. All they would have would be to show pink insurance cards or liability bonds.

Now we have, of course, two types of compulsory insurance. That recommended by the Tribune and the one that we are advocating which is government controlled. Now we believe that it is better for the state to administer this insurance fund because in the first place it's a good business. It's good business for the government to get into this field. Now I would like to quote from a book recently issued in Saskatchewan--and this has to do with low cost insurance protection, Mr. Speaker--and this--I am referring now to Saskatchewan Government insurance office. Now I should say at the outset that this not only involves the handling of automobile insurance,

(Mr. Wright, cont'd.) . . . but fire insurance as well. The 1958 surplus of this government insurance office was \$427,000, or the highest ever recorded. The premiums in that year reached a total of 6.5 million--almost ten percent higher than 1957, with the largest rise being 21% in fire insurance and 17% in automobile. The government insurance office writes all types of insurance except life, hail and sickness. The Saskatchewan Government insurance office has been an outstanding success, not only in the provision of low cost insurance, but also as a business venture for the people of Saskatchewan. Financial surpluses of almost \$3 million have been turned over to the Provincial Government since the office was established and assets of the office have now risen to a total of almost \$15 million. So I think that it would be safe to assume that as a business venture, it is certainly quite sound. Now as I said before, there are two parts to this Saskatchewan insurance office and under the Automobile Accident Insurance Act, any surplus or premiums, overpayments and administrative costs is used to provide motorists with wider benefits, to permit reduction of premiums or to absorb during periods of high accident frequency. In 1959, the \$200 deductible on property damage was removed, thus increasing benefits to Saskatchewan motorists by an estimated \$750,000 to \$1 million per year, with no increase in premium rates. And in addition, a fund of \$100,000 was set up this year to provide for a high school driver training program to be conducted by the Highway Safety Council. Since this Automobile Accident Insurance Act went into effect in 1946, about \$34 million has been paid in benefits and the accumulated surplus in the fund was 4.4 million as of December 31st, 1958.

The Honourable Member for Selkirk stressed safety, and I think he is to be commended for that because after all, I think that is the main thing that we're all after is safety on our highways. And we sometimes use insurance as a means to an end. Under safety, Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up what I said about Saskatchewan setting aside \$100,000 for highway safety for the purpose of instituting a driver-education and training program for high school students in the province. Funds were made available to Saskatchewan Highway Safety Council and were set aside out of premiums received by the Automobile Insurance Act, and it is hoped that approved programs of a continuous nature will be set up in all communities. Then it goes on to list the various high schools and the enrollment from them for this course.

Another achievement, Mr. Speaker, of last year was the successful conclusion of negotiations with Manitoba, British Columbia and Alberta to accept a licence plate certificate--this is the first or primary part of the automobile insurance--the licence plate certificate as evidence of financial responsibility of Saskatchewan motorists travelling in these provinces, that is the western provinces--only in Nova Scotia, where it is no longer necessary to carry the so-called pink card when travelling across Canada. In other words, they will accept this certificate of purchase of licence as evidence of financial responsibility.

Now during 1959, \$5,491,000 was paid out in benefits to motorists. This was an increase of over \$1,200,000 from 1958. The additional amount paid in benefits this year is mainly a result of removing the \$200 deductible on property damage coverage. And because of increased registration and more late model cars the premiums contributed to the fund by motorists increased over last year by \$827,300. The excess of income, including the interest earnings over claims and administration costs brought the surplus for the year \$364,275. The accumulated surplus in the Automobile Accident Insurance Act Fund of December 31st, 1959, is \$4,778,000, and this amount is being held for the benefit of motorists and other persons suffering losses in automobile accidents.

Now as I said before, there are two phases of this Automobile Accident Insurance; first is the primary one, where you buy your licence and you receive the basic coverage. Then you have the option to purchase additional coverage; the two together is called a package deal. Now in my travels in Saskatchewan, I asked a lot of questions about what they thought of different things there. One of the most--I should say exuberant responses that I got in asking questions about their government was in regard to this automobile insurance. And I think, Mr. Speaker, it's very significant to note that in the last few years, or should I say since the inception of it, not one of the three political parties has dared to suggest that this insurance coverage by the Government of Saskatchewan should be removed, because that now that they have seen and enjoyed the benefits of it, that it would be impossible to suggest that it be removed.

MR. W. B. SCARTH, Q. C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, under the same motion, it

(Mr. Scarth, cont'd.) . . is noted that the operative part of the resolution reads as follows: "Therefore be it resolved that in the opinion of this House the government should give consideration to the advisability of establishment of compulsory motor vehicle insurance in Manitoba, with the government as the insurer".

As pointed out, Sir, by the last speaker, the Member from Seven Oaks, this type of a question does excite certain comment in the paper, and if I may deviate for just a moment from the strict subject matter, I would like to bring the attention of the House to an article which appeared "Under the Dome", under date of February 25th--yesterday: "The Conservative, Will Scarth, early in the session acquired a vivid green eye-shade and has looked ever since like Hollywood's conception of a small town editor". Well, Mr. Speaker, we all like these, but I'll make one comment. We do not need to go very far from here to get a small town paper. For example, on Carlton Street in our lovely City of Winnipeg, there is a daily small-town paper in circulation with a surprisingly large circulation. You know I like this eye shade. It's a good one, and if it will qualify me, Sir, as editor of that paper, I might accept the job. And even though I've had no experience in the newspaper world whatsoever, I believe I could make just a little better job than is being done of some of the items which appear on the editorial sheet from time to time.

Now, Sir, on this resolution; the Honourable the Leader of the CCF has spoken most ably, but I do not need to congratulate him. He did that most emphatically and effectively himself on the 23rd. The Honourable Leader of the CCF admitted to all and sundry present that he had made a good speech the time before and he told us a smart man. Now first thing you know, we will start to believe that if he will just keep on pressing--As for the Honourable Member for Selkirk, who is not here, you may always rely upon a very effective speech coming from him, because he has an exhaustive knowledge of the subject matter and has that peculiar ability to put across in concise terms, just exactly what he means to say.

Then, Sir, in speaking against this resolution as it stands, it is only fair for me at the same time to point out that we have weaknesses in the administration under our present system with the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund. And I realize that the Minister who is now absent from the House, has under consideration some reforms to make. But I would like here to record just a few of the irksome details that the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund brings up, and I hope that there will be reforms. First of all, an injured motorist must recover a judgment in one of the courts for the amount of his injury. Then if it is found that the judgment debtor has no property or insurance or assets with which to satisfy the judgment, an application--that is a second application must be made to the court in which the Provincial Treasurer is a party to the application. And the process is roughly this; an execution is handed to the Sheriff who, after he makes a nulla bona or no return--as he generally does--after that process takes place, the judgment debtor must be examined to ascertain that he has no assets or insurance of affidavits must be sometimes obtained from residents in the area who knew the judgment debtor and so forth. And, Sir, the present process is irksome, unwieldy and technical, and I do suggest, while believing thoroughly in the scheme that we have at present, I do suggest reforms in the administrative part. I might here say that in British Columbia and in one of the Maritime Provinces, the governments have appointed agents or agencies to administer the plan and to recommend to the Provincial Treasurer payment from the fund if it seen that there is no prospect of collecting from the wrong-doer--that is the judgment debtor. And, Sir, I suggest that consideration be given by this government to a somewhat similar means in the early future, and I further suggest that where a party is injured, the head of a family or so forth, and cannot work, that we might go as far as to make interim payments to the injured person where the circumstances so warrant. But my objections to the resolution are firstly, that Manitoba is not ripe or ready for socialism. This province should not lightly create a government monopoly which will have the effect of depriving many insurance men who have spent their adult lives in automobile insurance--of depriving them of their livelihood or a substantial portion of their livelihood. Now we may say, yes, government insurance is cheaper. Well, I will show later that it is not. But these insurance men aren't only busy in selling insurance; they're busy in servicing the insured people. They give a grand service and for the most part, they're ethical; they know their business, and their word is good. Now, Sir, let me make it clear that I'm neither counsel for nor a director of any insurance company. And I have no axe to grind. But I would just like to

(Mr. Scarth, cont'd.) . . give the House one little instance which came to my notice.

Some years ago, a lawyer came into my office. He had had the misfortune to lose a member of his family, with the result that being upset, he stayed away from his office for a matter of three weeks. And while he was absent, unfortunately the year expired in which he should have commenced action under an automobile claim. When he did not commence action within the year, then the person who was injured had no claim in the world against anybody. The year had expired and that's mandatory. I went to the gentleman who managed that insurance company and when I say gentleman I mean just that word. I explained what had happened; how the policy had been allowed to elapse. The manager said to me, "Scarth, I will draw the file; look it over. If I come to the conclusion that our insured was at fault, then I will make you an offer of the amount which I think it is due, and my thinking will be in no way influenced by the fact that you have no claim against us." Some three or four days later, that insurance manager phoned up and he said, "We find our man was at fault. We offer you so much money"--which was very acceptable. It was a fair offer and it was not an insignificant one. But I say that that is the courtesy and the ethics of a great many of our insurers today. So let us just not throw them out on the street.

My second point, Sir, is this; if a government agency operated this insurance company, and if the claims against that government agency were, say one million dollars in any year or a period of time, then that government agency must collect one million dollars as premiums or else be subsidized by the province. There is no mystery in government insurance. They can't stop accidents and so hundreds of accidents will happen in Manitoba in the next 12 months, whether we like it or not, and there'll be so many claims. Again I would point out that insurance is a highly competitive field and the profits are certainly not exorbitant. I happen to know that in 1956 and 1957, most of the insurance companies operating in Manitoba lost substantial monies. I understand that the situation slightly improved in 1958, but I do not know the figures for 1959. So, Sir, while some may say that in Saskatchewan they have low rates and so forth and so on, I would say that that province is no yardstick. They only have, as the Honourable Member for Selkirk pointed out, one larger city of perhaps 100,000--nothing like our Winnipeg--and rates will be smaller--less in Saskatchewan than they will be in Manitoba--much less than they will be in Ontario and Quebec and very much less than they will be in the congested areas of the eastern states. There's a third point that I would like to bring out, and that is that this province should be very cautious about jumping into compulsory state insurance when only two other jurisdictions on the North American continent have adopted that system. One is Saskatchewan and the other is the State of Massachusetts. It is true that in two other states in the union, there's compulsory insurance, but not compulsory state insurance. Now I know that in Saskatchewan, if you get their little red book or whatever it is, you get glowing reports of how they have conducted the company. And in fact, they're just as modest about their ability to carry on that insurance, as the Honourable the Member of the CCF is about his speaking. But, Sir, let us hear from the State of Massachusetts, the only other jurisdiction on the North American continent of which I am aware where compulsory government insurance is in effect. I take--I read from the Insurance Law Journal--

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder if the honourable member would permit a question? Is Massachusetts' compulsory insurance--does it have the state as the insurer and collect and pay out from the premiums? Or is it not a compulsory system under private ownership of the insurance?

MR. SCARTH: I would advise the honourable member that it is a--as far as I'm informed--compulsory state insurance, which is as I understand it, the only state in the union which has state insurance. If I am to be corrected--but however, this will not affect what I'm going to say, Sir, and I would like to read from a photostatic copy of an extract from the Insurance Law Journal, July 27th, 1959 issue. This is what a commission of ten men had to say about compulsory state insurance: "The commission found the following; over the three-year period that Massachusetts' claim frequently was 94% higher than Connecticut; 106% higher than Rhode Island; 133% higher than New Hampshire; 137% higher than New Jersey; 156% higher than Pennsylvania; 220% higher than Maine; and 220% higher than Vermont; (c) there could be no question but that the inducement to file a claim on the slightest provocation or even on no grounds at all is inherent under a compulsory insurance system, and this statement should not be construed

(Mr. Scarth, cont'd.) . . as an unfair reflection on the morals of Massachusetts people; (d) there always has been a tendency to file a personal injury claim regardless of liability for the accident, obviously, on a misguided theory that anyone sustaining injury is automatically entitled to indemnification".

Now the last point, Sir, is that automobile insurance is the most difficult and the last type of insurance that any government should go into. It has been said that automobile insurance on the part of the insurer is buying law suits, and perhaps that is a very sound definition, and is all the more reason why a government should avoid it like poison ivy. But I would like--the Honourable Member for Selkirk referred to the Manitoba Commission held in 1944; the last Royal Commission held on automobile insurance in Canada I believe was in Nova Scotia in 1957 and I read from the report brought down on September 30th of 1957. Incidentally, Sir, this report was--or the commission was not a political one in that Mr. Justice Parker of Nova Scotia was the first chairman of that commission. And I might further say that the commission travelled to Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and the State of Maine and Massachusetts, and here is the conclusion to be found on page 238 of the report: "The answer to the question of whether legislation to provide for provincially-owned and operated automobile insurance department or bureau in Nova Scotia is practical and desirable, depends on whether any saving that it might effect for motor vehicles owned in the premium cost would outweigh the increased cost of government and the inevitable economic dislocations that would result for the people of the province as a whole. These costs and dislocations would include several, if not all of the following; (a) expansion of the administrative branch of the government by creating and financing a government insurance office; (b) use of funds raised by taxation to ensure solvency of an automobile insurance plan; (c) direct loss to the provincial treasury of the funds now being received from automobile insurance premiums under the premiums tax act; "--In Manitoba, they are at present 2%. --"(d) invasion by government of a field that is now occupied by private enterprise and creation therein of a government monopoly; (e) elimination of a private agency system insofar as automobile insurance is concerned; and (f) taking the business of adjusting automobile insurance claims out of private hands and placing them in the hands of government employees or appointees; (g) virtually complete displacement of private insurers from the automobile insurance business, despite their apparent adherence to high ethical standards in the matter of rate-making; and (h) departing from the established principle of providing compensation for persons who have been injured regardless of fault". And so, Sir, in closing, we have I think, a very adequate system in effect in Manitoba. It has its faults and I suggest again that simplification be sought to recover from the fund. But with that reservation, Sir, I submit that the Civil Service, under Mr. Baillie's direction, is making a wonderful job of educating people in Manitoba. Perhaps he is responsible for saving of numerous accidents. I suggest that this good work carry on. It should be borne in mind that only 3.2% of the motorists in Manitoba are at present uninsured, and I say, Sir, let us meticulously avoid this very contentious form of insurance which is sought by the resolution.

Mr. Speaker put the question.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: I might point out that this motion is originally the Leader of the Opposition's motion and when he adjourns the debate, he's closing the debate.

MR. PAULLEY: I understand that if the House understands that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Proposed resolution standing--

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, in that case, I would suggest though that the Honourable the Leader of the CCF Party, when it comes up again, would still give anyone else the opportunity of speaking if they wish to do it.

MR. SPEAKER: No, he wouldn't have--

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman--Mr. Speaker, we can't have it both ways, can we? If he's closing the debate then he's closing the debate.

MR. PAULLEY: A propos of that, the only reason I moved the adjournment of it because it appeared to me as though you were going to put the question, and I'm prepared with the agreement of the House to withdraw my motion if anybody else desires to take the adjournment. But

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) . . it was only because it appeared to me that the vote was going to be taken that I adjourned the debate. Again I say that if the Honourable Leader of the Opposition wishes to take the adjournment and providing the House will agree to me withdrawing my motion, I'd be perfectly happy to do that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, I don't wish the adjournment, and I have no knowledge of anyone wanting to speak on it, and I certainly wasn't--and I'm speaking on a point of order, Mr. Speaker--I wasn't suggesting that at all, that if the honourable member speaks that he wouldn't close the debate. Of course, it would. I was only suggesting that even though he takes the adjournment at this time that when it comes up again, if somebody who is not in the House at present wanted to go--(interjection)--No, it's no more out of order. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that in the case of a good many--it happens quite regularly here--of somebody saying I adjourn the debate on behalf of somebody else, and then somebody else speaks. He simply adjourns it. --(interjection)--I'm not wanting--

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Logan. The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. PETERS: the House that this matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. John's. The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. E. HARRIS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, my colleague the Honourable Member from St. John's made a strong case in support of this resolution on Tuesday of this week and I thought that someone from the other parties would have taken up this challenge that the province should take an interest in this problem of housing. But no one did. It is understandable that the Liberal group would leave it alone because in all the years that they have been in power in Manitoba, they paid no attention whatsoever to housing. But I thought that this new government which has been trying to show that it has the interests of the people at heart would have something to say on this subject. Perhaps they will yet. I hope so. Since 1945, much money, planning and experience has been poured into construction of super-markets, warehouses, bank buildings and insurance offices, but our housing--one of the key ingredients of health and happiness--has lagged far behind. Here are just some of the problems yet to be solved--yet to be faced for that matter, by those in authority: A vast backlog of housing needs from prewar days, with a growing population and rapid deterioration of existing dwellings; a shortage of housing for low and middle class income groups. Rents and mortgages are far beyond the reasonable reach of the majority of Canadian families. Old age pensioners particularly have difficulty in finding good accommodation. Some empires exist in most of our major cities, breeding high profits for a few and social problems for many. The centre of Canadian cities are decaying eyesores that clash with our so-called prosperity. The social consequences of bad housing are well known. Everyone agrees that something must be done. But between 1950 and 1958 only 5,587 low-rental accommodation units were completed. This represents less than one-half of one percent of all units constructed during this period. Yet this is probably the major need in Canada today. From 1945 to the end of 1958, 1,266,816 housing units were built in Canada. Of these, 459,334 units were completed under the National Housing Act. This may sound like a lot of housing, but it has not even kept pace with the number of new families in need of housing. Where does the responsibility fall? The primary duty lies with the provinces and municipalities, but because of larger financial resources and its national scope, the Federal Government is certainly in a position to provide guidance, encouragement and financial support in the fields of planning and housing. The provinces should assist the municipalities, and provide for vital regional planning. Leadership is now missing. Now I want to turn briefly to a little pamphlet put out by Citizens' Forum on the subject "We need more subsidized housing". This is right up to date, being published in February, 1960. We need more subsidized public housing. It would seem that housing problems like the poor--we always have them with us. Along with the tide of emigration which began into Canada in the early decades of this century, there arose the complaints of inadequate housing which have persisted in varying degrees until the present time. By 1944, pressure of the Federal Government led to enactment of the National Housing Act, which opened the way to deal with the problem on a national basis. It was not, however, until 1949 that amendments were passed introducing the principle of subsidy for the first time. It is worthy of note that Canada was the last major industrialized nation to adopt subsidized public housing

(Mr. Harris, cont'd.) .. as a national measure. How are the costs of housing projects met in Canada? Projects met in Canada legislation for '49 provides for Federal Government to supply 75% of the capital investment and annual operating loss, if any, and the Provincial Government to supply the remaining 25%. The latter may share its 25% with the municipalities in any way it sees fit. Under the terms of legislation, some nine to ten thousand units have been approved throughout the country. Of this number a total of 6, 225 units have been completed, of which 968 were completed in incompleting projects. These figures issued September 30th, 1959, break-down by provinces as follows: Newfoundland, 407; New Brunswick, 488; Nova Scotia, 161; Quebec, 125; Ontario, 4, 446; Saskatchewan, 155; British Columbia, 443. And I'm afraid, my dear friends, there's nothing in Manitoba. Now isn't that a fine state of affairs for such a province as this? Here we have a government in here that's supposed to be progressive--let's get on with the business of Manitoba. Well here is one thing that we can get on, Sir.

Finally, I would like to place before you some thoughts regarding the cost of public housing taken from the Winnipeg Free Press of January 14th, 1960. The writer of this well-documented article shows that the costs of housing are high, but generally beneficial to all concerned, including the taxpayers. Here are some of the financial facts as contained in this article. What is the price? For the sake of illustration, it may be assumed that Greater Winnipeg needs at least 1, 000 rental housing units to accommodate families who live in the deplorable slums. This figure and all others to follow may be taken to be conservative estimates. The first problem is to clear the land needed for rehousing. It has been estimated by housing officials that the cost of demolition would be roughly \$500 to \$750 a unit. Compromise would be \$600. The cost of clearance would therefore total \$600,000. The Federal Government pays 50% of these costs; the remainder is shared by the participating municipalities and the Provincial Government, usually on a 50-50 basis. A typical row-housing project which is the most likely endeavour in Winnipeg would cost from \$10, 000 to \$12, 000 a unit. Once again a compromise may be made at \$11, 000. The capital cost of the housing would be \$11 million. The Federal Government will assume 75% of this cost, leaving the municipality and the Provincial Government to share the remainder. At this point, the cost of construction for a thousand-unit housing project would be \$11, 600, 000, of which the municipality and the province must pay \$3, 050, 000. The economic rent for such a project is estimated at roughly \$80 per unit, but it is generally conceded that the majority of families could not pay so high a figure. An average subsidy of \$20 a month per unit is not an over-estimation; this makes an annual subsidy of \$240, 000, of which the Federal Government would pay 75%. This leaves the city an annual bill for subsidizing of \$60, 000. It would be unfair of course to imply that this is the total balance sheet. Against these costs must be weighed many intangibilities such as reduction of welfare costs for the families involved; the probable decrease in crime; and the stimulation that better living conditions might give to families who otherwise remain destitute. On a more concrete basis, such slum clearance stabilizes and increases property values in surrounding areas, and since the municipality includes full taxation in the cost of amortizing the project, it may be argued that the city's share of rental subsidy is more than balanced by the higher tax revenue from the improved property. Therefore, we urge this government to establish a division of housing so that the cities and municipalities and various interested voluntary organizations who are interested in improved housing for the citizens would be encouraged to proceed with a program of housing development under the terms of the National Housing Act. The machinery has already been set up for this purpose. It is up to the Government of Manitoba to take the lead in this matter in this part of Canada. I thank you gentlemen.

MR. D. M. STANES (St. James): I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Hamiota that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, might I ask for the indulgence of this House to insert three or four words in the resolution as I read it?

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have the unanimous consent of the House to do this?

MR. ROBLIN: I think we should hear them first, Sir.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, in the third paragraph--second line of the third

(Mr. Schreyer, cont'd.) . . . paragraph, I would insert the word "tax" before the word "exemption". In the fourth and final paragraph--the fourth line of the final paragraph, I would insert the three words after the word "land"--I would insert these three words, "pension income excluded". And the final insert, Mr. Speaker, in the same line--the fourth line, I would insert the word "farm" before the word "buildings". I wish to thank the House for this privilege, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Elmwood the following resolution; whereas in the province of Manitoba there are many farms and market gardens where the land is not contiguous; and whereas such parcels of land, although not contiguous, are very often in near proximity; and whereas under section 1011 in subsection 2 of the Municipal Act, tax exemptions on farm buildings apply only to those cases where there are 40 or more contiguous acres of farmland, and four or more contiguous acres of market garden land, therefore be it resolved that this government give consideration to the advisability of amending section 1011 of the Municipal Act so that all farmers and market gardeners whose chief source of income is from the land be exempt from taxation on their farm buildings. --(interjection)--yes, I'm sorry, pension income excluded--be exempt from taxation on their farm buildings, irrespective of acreage.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. PAULLEY: There's the three words following "land" there.

MR. SPEAKER: Oh, yes.

MR. PAULLEY: "Pension income excluded" from the source of income.

MR. SPEAKER: Whose chief source of income is from farm land, pension income excluded, be exempt from taxation on their farm buildings, irrespective of acreage. Are you ready for the question?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, first I should apologize for the rather clumsy manner in which I presented this resolution. I suppose no one can accuse me of being pedantic after this. This resolution as most of us here will recall, is quite similar in the principle it's trying to achieve as the resolution which was presented in this Chamber last March by the now-Minister of Municipal Affairs. I listened to the Member for Manitou--or Pembina rather, the now-Minister of Municipal Affairs with great interest at that time and I not only sympathized with what he was saying but came to realize that the situation was such that some action should be taken in this Chamber to help remedy a rather undesirable state of affairs as respects municipal taxation. I cannot see any justification for the present municipal tax act as it applies to people who have more than the required number of acres in order to exempt, but because the land happens to be in two blocks or three blocks all within a very near proximity, one block to the other. But because it's not contiguous, they must--they do not qualify for the tax exemption. I feel that there isn't--there is something rather unfair here, or unequitable perhaps. Because why should one individual who happens to have his land in one block be exempt from taxation, while his neighbour perhaps who happens to have an equal number of acres and who depends just as exclusively on agriculture, whether they be special crops is not the point here--who depends just as much on the land for his living; but who happens to have it--his land in two or three blocks, must pay tax on his farm buildings? And I cannot see any reason for this being allowed to continue. The Minister of Municipal Affairs, when he was speaking at that time, said this--I would just like to quote one sentence--"Now I think it seems unfair that because that word "contiguous" is in the Act, it does cause trouble, because possibly that's the only buildings they have, and if they were on the 40 acres, they would not have to pay". And I think the word "contiguous" is very severe in here because there have been cases where a farmer has bought a strip of land a few yards wide from somebody else, just so it would be contiguous. Well, he's got a point there and allied to that I would like to mention to the House that along the Red River, especially on the east side of the Red, there are quite a number of market gardeners. Now almost every one of them has more than the minimum requirement of 40 acres to qualify for the exemption, but they do not happen to have it in one block. Most of them happen to have their land split--not very far apart but split nevertheless. And because of that situation, they do not qualify for this exemption.

How can you justify that, Mr. Speaker? It seems rather difficult. I mentioned that this resolution is very similar in principle to that which was introduced last session by the now-Minister. There is, however, one aspect which differs, and that is the operative paragraph. I don't know whether this means too much, but the resolution at that time called for this House to

(Mr. Schreyer, cont'd.) . . . instruct the Minister--I am not asking for that here. I am merely asking this government to consider the advisability of amending this certain section of the Municipal Act and because it differs in this one respect. I hope that this resolution will be able to receive the support of friends in the Liberal benches. I'm not sure, but it seems to me that they have rather objected to that operative section of the former resolution. Perhaps this one is more acceptable. Then too, I would like, Mr. Speaker, to raise the matter of pension income as it affects section 1011. This has been raised in the House at least three or four times since I have been here and I don't know how many times before I came to this Assembly. It is a question which deserves our attention because it seems rather odd--if not ridiculous--that people who upon coming of age in order to receive old age pension, also at that time become liable for the payment of tax on their farm buildings. I think that it's rather important that I did include--insert those three words "pension income excluded", because I do not feel that pensioners should have to start paying a tax on their buildings when they start to receive their pension, which would exceed in some cases their income from the land. Well, I don't know how much more I can say on this resolution, Mr. Speaker, except to say that the government, I believe, promised to take this matter of pension income as it affects municipal taxes--promised to take this under advisement. At least I have here--I did not bother, Mr. Speaker to check this. However, I take the word of the Honourable Member for Selkirk, when he was speaking last year on the resolution of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Member for Selkirk said this, "Now"--and I quote--"Now the government at last session promised to take the matter--that matter"--and he's referring to the matter of pension income--"take that matter under advisement". And I hope that they have taken it under advisement, and I hope they are going to do something about it. Now that was almost a year ago, Mr. Speaker, and I think that the time is opportune for me to ask the Ministers opposite if they really have taken this matter under advisement. And if so, what has their decision been? I think that they can inform us on this question when speaking to this resolution. Oh, before I sit down, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that this resolution should be acceptable to most in this Chamber. I realize that it might have--I realize that it has some imperfections. No doubt some changes or amendments will come forth, and quite frankly I for one would welcome any amendment as long as that amendment does not emasculate the thought of this resolution.

MR. HILLHOUSE: I'm going to speak. I will make it very short, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the honourable member's resolution. There is only one thing that I would like to add to it and that is this: I think that there is another situation which causes a hardship to a farmer or to a market gardener, and it is something over which he has no control, and I refer to the cases where a man has the minimum of 40 acres of land; he has a portion of that land expropriated either by municipality or by the Crown for road purposes or drainage ditch purposes, and the acreage is reduced below the 40 acres. Now I think that that matter too should be taken into consideration by the government when considering this resolution. That's all that I wish to add, but I do support the Honourable Member for Brokenhead. There is one other point though that I'd like to raise, and that is this, that we have in my constituency a number of farmers who have been forced to supplement their income by working in Selkirk at the Manitoba Rolling Mills or Manitoba Steel Foundry and as a result of working there, their chief source of livelihood is not from the farm, but from their employment. Now under the Municipal Act, the buildings of these men on their farms--and they are actual farmers--are not exempt from taxation, and I think that the Minister, if he's going to give this resolution consideration, he should take into consideration that situation which I have just mentioned.

MR. K. ALEXANDER (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Arthur that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: I would now call it 5:30 and return to the Chair at 8:00 o'clock.

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