

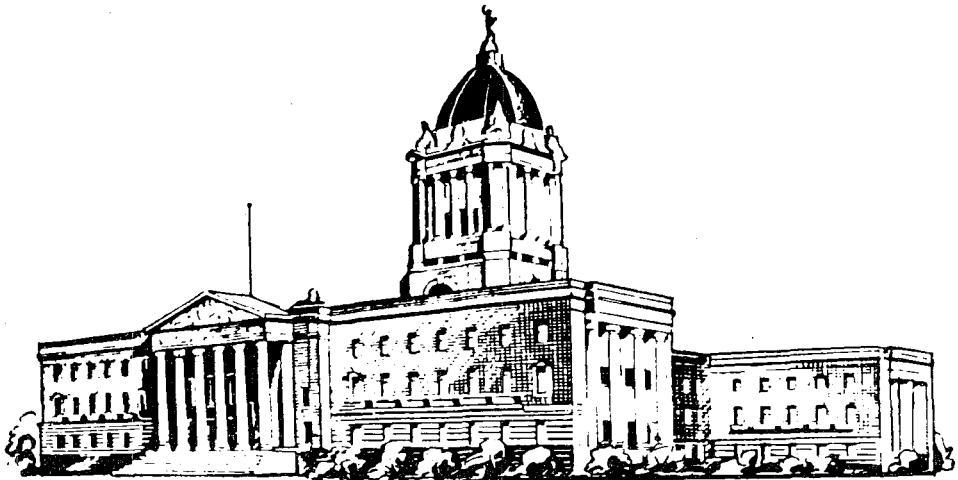


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable James H. Bilton



Vol. XV No. 14 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 12th, 1969. Third Session, 28th Legislature.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Wednesday, March 12, 1969

Opening prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present the petition of the Association d'Education des Canadiens Francais du Manitoba praying for the passing of an Act respecting Societé Franco-Manitobaine.

MR. SPEAKER: Reading and Receiving Petitions.

MR. CLERK: The petition of Manitoba Pool Elevators praying for the passing of An Act to amend and Consolidate an Act to incorporate Manitoba Pool Elevators.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

Notices of Motion.

Introduction of Bills.

The Honourable the Minister of Education.

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Minister of Youth and Education)(St. Vital) introduced Bill No. 22, an Act to amend The Public Schools Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. I beg your pardon. May I introduce our visitors.

We have with us today 50 students of Grade 11 standing of the Boissevain Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. Wark and Mr. Medd. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

We also have with us today 65 students of Grade 11 standing of the Garden City Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. Kirbyson. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks. On behalf of all the honourable members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you all here today.

Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. JOHN P. TANCHAK (Emerson): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture, I think it's in his department. As you have noticed by the headlines in the papers this afternoon that our American friends are very much concerned about the Red River flooding and they're forecasting a flood of record dimensions. Has the Minister got any further report on the situation in the Province of Manitoba?

HON. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Minister of Agriculture)(Arthur): No, Mr. Speaker, I have no further report.

MR. TANCHAK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary

HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources)(Rockwood-Iberville): If I may just help out. I know it may be somewhat confusing if the questions are directed with respect to the - our flood forecasting is Minister of Water Control - I would have the latest information. The honourable, my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture of course is heading up and concerned about the work being done here in Manitoba with respect to committees. On the matter of the question asked, I have been in touch with our flood forecasting people this morning as a result of the news and emanating from south of the line. We don't feel that it appreciably changes our flood forecast that was made several weeks ago which indicated a possible flood of 1966 proportions. I would inform the House that the next flood forecast will be made on March 20th, at which time of course we would have the latest information before you, and the House will be so informed, as will of course my colleague.

MR. TANCHAK: A subsequent question. Is the government taking any action as far as the grain, that's why I directed this question to the Minister of Agriculture, is concerned, moving the grain out of the area? Not too many farmers are aware of any assistance or any direction in this respect - in the areas that may be flooded, the grain movements.

MR. WATT: Well, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the House the other day, we did hold a meeting about - I forget the day - about 10 days ago with the grain companies and the railway companies, the Board of Grain Commissioners and the Canadian Wheat Board, and subsequently we held a meeting again in my office with the municipal people in that area who are presently making a survey of the total grain that is in the area and get as near as possible an indication of what the problem will be in respect toward grain.

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

MR. ELMAN GUTTORMSON (St. George): Could the Minister indicate when the survey regarding the grain stored in the Red River Valley will be completed?

MR. WATT: Well, I can't give you an exact time, but we have asked Mr. Muirhead, who

(MR. WATT cont'd.) is the key man from our Department, he's the Director of Extension Services, he is the key man in the survey that is being taken and we asked him to make that survey as quickly as possible, as of the day that he was appointed, which is some days ago. He hoped to have it completed in less than two weeks' time but I can't give an exact date.

MR. GUTTORMSON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the government planning to provide financial assistance to these farmers to move the grain and/or to locate storage facilities for the grain in this area?

MR. WATT: Well, there has been no discussion around this area, of what we might do until we find out what the problem is.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Is he aware that the management of Burns which recently took over the Pool Packers of Brandon, has indicated that there's going to be a layoff as a result of the takeover?

HON. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (Minister of Industry and Commerce)(River Heights): Mr. Speaker, I have already informed the House that we've been in touch and discussed this matter with both Pool Packers and with Burns.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Due to the fact that this is the second time that the employees of the packers have been disrupted, first the Brandon Packers and now the Pool Packers . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable gentleman has a supplementary question, would he -- I'm waiting to hear it.

MR. GUTTORMSON: I'm trying to phrase it so he'll know the question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I'm trying to avoid lengthy preambles also.

MR. GUTTORMSON: What provision is the department making to try to assist these employees that will be laid off?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, we have been in contact with the department, with the company, to the best of my knowledge we have also been in contact with the Federal department of Manpower Immigration, and they will be working I assume with any employees that will in fact be laid off.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, the Public Utility Board has ruled against allowing a reduced bus fare for the pensioners on the ground that it had no authority to do so. In the absence of the Minister of Transport, may I direct my question to the House Leader. Is it the intention of the government to introduce any legislation that would permit the Utility Board to look into this, the authority to do something about this?

HON. STERLING R. LYON, Q. C. (Attorney-General)(Fort Garry): Not that I'm aware of, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

MR. T. P. HILLHOUSE, Q. C. (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address this question to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, in respect of water conservation; and before putting my question, I must preface it with some explanation. When the Honourable George Hutton was the Minister of Agriculture and Conservation, at the time of the construction of the Greater Winnipeg Floodway, he advised this House, in answer to a question that I put to him regarding the effect the Greater Winnipeg Floodway would have upon the Town of Selkirk. And at that time he informed me that the flow of water through the Town of Selkirk would be lessened as a result of the construction of the Greater Winnipeg Floodway. What I would like to ask the Minister now is, do you confirm the advice that was then given to me by the Honourable George Hutton?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I have a tendency to suggest that any advice the Honourable George Hutton may have given my friend is probably pretty good advice. I'd have to accept the question as notice, and reconfirm it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Carillon. I beg your pardon - La Verendrye.

MR. ALBERT VIELFAURE (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Could the Minister of Agriculture inform us if it is true that while we have large stocks of potatoes in Manitoba, a large portion of our needs are imported at this time from other parts of Canada and the U. S. ?

MR. WATT: I believe there are some No. 1 potatoes coming into the province but I think I better take that question as notice.

MR. VIELFAURE: A supplementary question. My information is that about 75 percent

(MR. VIELFAURE cont'd.) . . . of our present needs are coming from outside the province. Could the Minister confirm or deny this percentage?

MR. WATT: I can neither confirm nor deny it. I'll take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. The Director-General of Economics Branch of the Federal Department of Agriculture is reported to have said that the farm population will decrease by 50 percent within the next 10 years. Do the research findings of the Honourable Minister's department concur with this statement?

MR. WATT: I think it's anybody's guess what might happen in the next 10 years, in the farming community. I'm not prepared to confirm any statements that have been made from Ottawa.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows has a supplementary, I believe.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes please, Mr. Speaker. Is the Honourable Minister's department studying this matter, as to population trends and the farming industry in general as to what direction it's going insofar as population is concerned?

MR. WATT: I don't know if the department are making any study on population trends in the rural area, but I can take the question as notice, Sir.

MR. MICHAEL KAWCHUK (Ethelbert Plains): Is the Department of Agriculture endeavoring to avert this trend?

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

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I haven't got anything to do with the distribution of pills in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member . . .

MR. HILLHOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that they introduce the same system here as they have in the Dominion Stores. You take numbers. I'd like to address a question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. Are you aware of investigations being made by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in certain farming communities in Manitoba, respecting deliveries to elevators in excess of quotas?

MR. WATT: No, I'm not aware of this.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Would you be kind enough to look into the matter and to ascertain how widespread it is.

MR. WATT: I think the question would be better directed to the Attorney-General.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Well, I'll put it to the Attorney-General, the same question as I put to you, but I feel it's a matter which affects the farming community of Manitoba, and I naturally thought your department would be the proper department to direct it to.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of it but I would presume that if any such investigation were going on, it would be under the authority of the federal authorities, and we would have no jurisdiction in the matter.

MR. HILLHOUSE: That is the reason Mr. Speaker, why I addressed my question to the Minister of Agriculture. I thought there would be some liaison between his department and the federal department.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Education. Apart from the classroom at Mulvey School, what others, if any, facilities are there for the hard of hearing children in Manitoba?

MR. CRAIK: Could you repeat the last part - which children, Sir?

MR. DESJARDINS: The deaf children in Manitoba.

MR. CRAIK: I'm sure the honourable member is aware of the facilities at the School for the Deaf, which are probably the best in Canada, the best physical facilities and probably the best staff in Canada. But if there is something other than this which he would like me to explore for him, look into, I'd be happy to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. TANCHAK: I think I'll direct this question to the Minister of Education, or anybody in the front benches who knows more about it could answer. We know that very soon the university students will be looking for temporary employment, and a few weeks later there will be some high school students who will be looking for temporary employment. What special effort is the government planning in order to help these students to get this temporary employment?

(MR. TANCHAK cont'd.) I understand the question - it's very serious.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the indications are, preliminary indications at this time of the year are that summer jobs are more difficult than they were last year. The direct responsibility for this, in terms of helping the students find summer employment lies with the Canada Manpower agency people, apart from the direct efforts that the students make themselves. In fact the indications are that most of the summer jobs for students do come through the private efforts of the students and their families and that any government role in this is a secondary one, to the efforts of families and the students directly. In terms of the provincial government's responsibility, we haven't undertaken any direct responsibility except within the services of the provincial government's various departments itself; in which case, we're combing through the departments to provide as many jobs as we possibly can for summer students in government service. I would also hope before the end of the session to present to you some information which the Department of Youth and Education has for youth programs, but I can't indicate any further information to you at this time.

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

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. There's been suggestions that 75 percent of the potatoes being sold in the Metro area are coming in from United States, although there are large stocks on hand in Manitoba. Is it correct that these potatoes coming in from United States are able to go direct to the wholesalers, while local potatoes must go through the commission?

MR. WATT: I'll just take that question as notice. I believe that quite a few of the imported potatoes do come through the commission but I believe that they can be direct to the distributors. I take the question as notice.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour.

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

MR. JACOB FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, I think it's his department that is handling this. Will there be any change in processing applications under the new department of regional expansion, that is Bill C-173 from the old data program; and does the province's department's role remain the same?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I can ask a question. The Honourable Jean Marchand has already indicated that the incentive program will be altered at the time of the placement before the house of either a White Paper or the legislation under which the new department will operate. This is to be expected to come in in the spring and at that time it is likely that there will be some changes in the incentive program, but what they will be we have no knowledge of.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Attorney-General. Is he aware of the fact that there is an announcement that the two young men involved in the Shaarey Zedek cemetery incident were severely beaten by inmates at Headingley and are being transferred to Brandon and does he have any comment on this?

MR. LYON: I am not aware of it.

MR. DOERN: A supplementary question. If these men are moved to Brandon, can the Attorney-General guarantee that they will be given special protection to prevent a recurrence of this incident?

MR. LYON: It's all hypothetical Mr. Speaker. In any case, the Corrections Branch now comes under the direction of my esteemed colleague, the Minister of Health and Social Services.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Transport. The Federal Minister of Transport has announced that Canada is ready to open negotiations with any foreign country that wants to include Toronto in its international air route.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable gentleman realizes the Minister of Transport is not with us today?

MR. HANUSCHAK: In that event then, Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct this question to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce because it probably concerns his department too.

My question, Mr. Speaker: is Winnipeg included as one of the cities for an expansion of international air routes?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, on February 11th I met with the Honourable James Richardson and the Honourable Paul Hellyer in Ottawa, at which time I again reiterated the desire of

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.) Manitoba that Winnipeg be opened up as a gateway. I was informed at that time that the matter of Winnipeg becoming a gateway would be discussed when the I. A. T. A. organization meets sometime in March or the first of April and at that time the question of Winnipeg and other areas would be considered. Since that time we have had correspondence and discussions with the appropriate Federal officials as well as correspondence with the President of Air Canada and the President of Canadian Pacific airlines. We are working on this but the determination of whether Winnipeg will become a gateway will entirely depend on the effort put forth by the Federal Government to make this happen.

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

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Has the annual report of the Department of Labour been sent to the members or tabled?

HON. CHARLES H. WITNEY (Minister of Labour)(Flin Flon): No, Mr. Speaker, it will be tabled in a few days.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John's.

MR. SAUL M. CHERNIACK, Q. C. (St. John's): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. You will recall that yesterday my Honourable Leader asked him about any progress in the discussions dealing with the possible loss of work for CAE Western Divisions and the Honourable Minister indicated yesterday that the First Minister was to meet at 4:30 Ottawa time with various officials. Can he now indicate some satisfactory progress in connection with these discussions?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, to be accurate, I think I answered the question on Monday and indicated the First Minister would be meeting on Monday, and that as a result of his meeting another meeting was arranged for yesterday with the officials of Canadian Aviation Electronics. That meeting was held and as a result I believe there are other meetings that will be held today. I am not in a position to give any information to the House, but the position of Manitoba was presented by the Premier, the position of Canadian Aviation Electronics was presented by their officials to the appropriate department - the matter now is under consideration in Ottawa.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have an unrelated question to direct. I don't know if anybody wants to follow up . . . shall I proceed then? I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the House Leader. Could he indicate which Minister would be responsible to introduce a resolution establishing the committee on professional associations, the report of which had been approved on March 5th and includes in it a request for reconstitution of the committee?

MR. LYON: I'm not sure which Minister will be bringing that in. It will be on the Order Paper I understand in due course.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders are called I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Health. I had a call this morning from a doctor friend and constituent who is more than a little annoyed that he had not received any directive or explanation of his operation relating to Medicare. Is this true that doctors have not received any sort of directive concerning their participation in Medicare?

HON. GEORGE JOHNSON (Minister of Health and Social Services)(Gimli): Well, Mr. Speaker, the corporation have sent out a bulletin. The profession have kept their colleagues informed through numerous bulletins which have been distributed throughout the province to each doctor as they've been talking to the corporation, and I've received copies of these that are pretty current. I think probably he's referring to the actual schedule of benefits that should be going out almost any time now which gives the actual fee schedules. They are approximately 85% of the schedule he has in his hands now. That I think is about all I could say at the moment. If there is any particular detail this particular physician would require I'd be happy to try and speak to the honourable member and find out just what it is.

MR. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it my understanding of your statement that doctors will be receiving some specific directive from the corporation?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, the corporation have developed their own schedule of benefits which approximate a percentage of the fee schedule. This has been announced to them, physicians know pretty well what this means, but the actual schedule we hope will be distributed, and also the regulations concerning the schedule is also most important. These have been the hard nosed areas of crossing the t's and dotting the i's that have taken longer than had been anticipated, but

(MR. JOHNSON cont'd.) hopefully would be in their hands -- this was a little over a week ago -- they had hoped to have them out within two weeks then. I'll check on that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I wish to direct my question to the Honourable the Attorney-General. I believe there is a Bill before the House of Commons seeking legislation to legalize lotteries, or at least lotteries operated within the province. Is this now law, does the Honourable Minister know?

MR. LYON: My information, and it's only hearsay information, Mr. Speaker, is that the amending bill to the Criminal Code of Canada has received second reading in the House of Commons and is now being studied at the Committee stage after second reading.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Health and Public Services. In his laudatory endeavours to induce doctors to practice up north, is he able to tell doctors that they will be afforded hospital privileges in the Thompson hospital at the present time, if they go up north?

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter for the community. There are certain functions which are left to a local community; one of them is the operation of their hospitals by a public board, and the Board of that hospital, certainly I am sure, are cognizant of the situation and if they contact our Commission then no doubt the Commission would give them whatever advice or assistance they could, but they are in charge of that hospital. The Board of Governors operate the hospitals, the Board of Governors determine who shall have privileges in that hospital.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I understand that and I am asking the Minister whether he is able to tell doctors who wish to practice in the north, that they will be afforded hospital privileges? Is that information available to him?

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I have had no communication from the Thompson authorities requesting such information.

MR. TANCHAK: Before the Orders of the Day, Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct another question to the Minister of Health. He mentioned yesterday that there were some 35 doctors or so, over 30, who have opted out. Didn't the Minister receive any indication of the 40 optometrists in Winnipeg who, I have learned to date, have indicated that they are opting out? Has the Minister received that information?

MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, they're not in yet.

MR. TANCHAK: Not in yet?

MR. NELSON SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I would like to direct a question to my honourable friend the Minister of Agriculture. Did he say a few moments ago that he was not aware of any study that had been undertaken in respect to population trends in the province?

MR. WATT: I said I wasn't aware of a study made by the Department of Agriculture, but there could be.

MR. SHOEMAKER: repeat the question to my honourable friend I have to look and see what portfolios they have. The Minister of Public Works and Minister of Government Services, I think is quite aware that a study was conducted two or three or four years ago. The question is, was there a study made by Professor Tyler from Brandon, et al; and is he finished with the studies and has he tabled a report, and is the report available for the members of the House? And if not, why not?

HON. THELMA FORBES (Minister of Government Services)(Cypress): This report is with the Boundaries Commission and this question should be directed toward the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. DESJARDINS: Give up now, give up

MR. SHOEMAKER: I want to direct . . .

MR. SPEAKER: It is a little difficult for me to determine as to whether or not the Honourable Member for Gladstone is referring to a report on agriculture, or something else. He sort of generalized his question. I wonder in which direction he is going now because I am not going to let it leave agriculture.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Won't let me leave agriculture? Well, this report does seriously affect agriculture, but it is apparent that the Minister of Agriculture is not aware of the report. It is quite evident now that my honourable friend the Minister of Municipal Affairs knows all

(MR. SHOEMAKER cont'd.) about this secret report. Now -- (Interjection) -- It's not secret? Well then if it isn't secret, when can we have it tabled in the House? That's all I want to know. Professor Tyler finished his work months and months and months ago. Why can't we have the report?

HON. OBIE BAIZLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs)(Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I believe the honourable member is referring to research studies that were done on behalf and for the Boundaries Commission. I am not aware of the reports and have nothing to table in the House at this time.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Would my honourable friend kindly undertake to find out if there is a report and if it can be tabled in the House? Will you undertake to do that?

MR. BAIZLEY: No, Mr. Speaker. I am sure in due course when the report is filed the necessary information will be tabled with it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Minister of Education.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I had a question the other day from the Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains regarding the school plans for Grandview. I would like to inform him that the sketch plans from the School Board's architect were received by the Department of Education on March 4, 1969, and are presently being examined and then will be returned as soon as possible to the School Board.

While I'm on my feet I wonder if I might take the opportunity to lay on the table of the House, the annual reports of the University of Winnipeg for 1967-68 and the Brandon University Report for 1967-68.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains.

MR. KAWCHUK: Perhaps the Honourable the Minister of Education misunderstood my question. My question, if I recall it correctly was - why was there an undue delay in this approval of plans. I understand that initially the Intermountain School Division had requested a school be built there quite some time ago and there had been undue delay and the question arose as a result of the fact that it was inferred there had been a freeze on grants made available for the construction of schools and the Minister denied that at that time. So I would like him to explain why there had been an undue delay.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the school was approved August 1, 1968; plans were received March 4, 1969. During that period of time it was not in our hands.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Minister of Finance)(Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I would like to lay on the table of the House the report of the Board of Internal Economy Commission for the fiscal period ending the 31st day of March 1968.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to table with the House the annual departmental report of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources. I believe members have already received a copy of this report in the mail.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce. In some advertising that I presume comes from your department and was in the New York Times on December 15, 1968, there is a heading here "A great place" - and I presume they were talking about Manitoba - "A great place to do your thing". I would like to help sell Manitoba, and I'm getting a lot of queries, but I am sorry I don't know what he means by that? Would the Minister tell us what he means by "do your thing" and why Manitoba is such a good place to do it in?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest the Honourable Member for St. Boniface ask any university student or any student going to high school.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I don't think there is anybody here that qualifies for this and unfortunately this comes from this department and I wonder if he would give us the answer.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my purpose is not to educate the Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I think he has a duty to tell us, to give us an answer. I think you have an answer. Isn't this an answer -- if you're going to pay for this you can tell us what it means.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Lakeside yesterday asked me for two particulars with regard to the bond issue which I was not able to answer. The first is that

(MR. EVANS cont'd.) the term is 25 years; and with respect to the clauses about redeeming the bonds, the debentures are redeemable at the option of the province at redemption prices declining from 102.40% for those redeemed after April 1, 1984 and on or before April 1, 1987 to 100% for those redeemed after April 1, 1993, in each case together with accrued interest.

MR. DOUGLAS CAMPBELL (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for giving that further information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PETER FOX (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health. Is he aware that Manitobans are being accused of misappropriating the Manitoba Medical Fund before it is in operation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I'd like to answer a question. I believe it was from the Honourable Member for Rhineland the other day when he asked if I would be tabling a report of the Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission. Apparently the report of the Vegetable Marketing Commission has not customarily been tabled. I don't know whether it's required or not. However, their year ends June 30th, Mr. Speaker, and I would be happy to supply copies of the report for the year 1967-68 if required.

MR. FROESE: I'd appreciate getting a report. After all, the government is making substantial grants to this organization and I think we should have copies of their statements.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Address for Papers. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. JOHNSTON: I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Emerson, that an Humble address be voted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying for copies of all correspondence between the Government of Manitoba and the Manitoba Hydro with respect to the Nelson River hydro-electric power development.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General that the debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

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

MR. JOHNSTON: I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing: (1) The total original estimated cost of the Portage Diversion. (2) The present estimated cost of the Portage Diversion. (3) The present estimated federal share of the Portage Diversion.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Hamiota.

MR. VIELFAURE: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the honourable member, I would like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Carillon, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing: (1) The total original estimated cost of the Shellmouth Reservoir. (2) The present estimated cost of the Shellmouth Reservoir. (3) The present estimated federal share of the Shellmouth Reservoir.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Carillon, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing: (1) The total original estimated cost of the Greater Winnipeg Floodway. (2) The actual total cost of the Greater Winnipeg Floodway. (3) The federal share of the actual cost of the Greater Winnipeg Floodway.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate. . . .

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we could ask you now, Sir, to call the Supply Motion on Page 3 of the Order Paper?

MR. SPEAKER: Motion that the House do now resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to her Majesty.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Labour, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into committee to consider of the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, with the Honourable Member for Souris-Lansdowne in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN: Number X. Department of Labour. General Administration. Resolution 65. General Administration. \$255,873.00.

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Chairman, I think that both you and I are kindred spirits today because we are rather new at our respective duties this afternoon and we face a House that is full of vim and vigour, as it usually is when the first department steps up to be considered during estimate time. We don't have the advantage of facing the torpor of the House as it continues to debate the estimates through the remaining weeks.

I might say, Mr. Chairman, before I have a few words to say about the Department of Labour, that I noted a question on the Annual Report today. The Annual Report is required to be tabled in the Legislature in the first 20 days after the Legislature sits. Because the report is an annual report, the statistics, etc. are compiled during the period of the months of January and February and the report is now in the hands of the printers. I regret that the report was not available before we started with the Department of Labour's Estimates today but I will endeavour to have one copy of the report for each caucus in the hands of the respective Leaders of the Opposition by tomorrow. That would be one copy of the report so that it would be available and the actual tabling to the members should take place some time within the next few days.

Before I start on the few remarks I'd like to make about the Department of Labour, Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring to the attention of the House an event of international significance and one of the greatest interest to all concerned with the betterment of working conditions throughout the world. I'm referring to the Fiftieth anniversary of the International Labour Organization which is being celebrated this year. Mr. Chairman, in a world which is still ridden with strife and dissension it is surprising that the ILO has managed to survive, let alone reach its fiftieth birthday, for the ILO has no power to impose its objectives or to coerce governments to follow its precepts; it relies entirely on the force of moral persuasion. That has been enough to enable it to have a great many of its standards adopted voluntarily by governments and it has been able to speak as a conscience of the civilized community.

The ILO, Mr. Chairman, is a unique institution. It is unique not only because it came into being at the insistence of trade unions, and all others interested in social progress, but also because it is the only inter-governmental organization where trade unions and employers' associations have a direct voice in its deliberations along with their government. Canadians have been associated with the ILO since its founding in 1919. Tri-partite delegations consisting of Canadian government, trade union and management delegates and advisors have attended every annual conference of the ILO and taken part in the work of its governing body. I'm pleased to say that over the years Manitoba has also had a part. One of the principal functions of the ILO continues to be the formulation of international labour standards in the form of international conventions and recommendations. The member countries of the ILO are required to submit conventions to their national authorities with a view to ratification. When a country ratifies a convention, it agrees to bring its laws into line with that convention. Recommendations do not require ratification but the member states are obliged to consider them with a view to giving effect to their provisions by legislation or other action. There have been more than 3,300 ratifications of ILO conventions, Mr. Chairman, but the influence of ILO standards is not limited to the countries that have ratified them. These standards also serve as an example to others.

Because Canada is a federal state with a divided jurisdiction, the number of international labour conventions which it has ratified is not as high as in some other countries. Nevertheless, it is still a respectable total, covering such subjects as hours of work, minimum age at sea, unemployment insurance, accident protection, employment service, abolition of forced labour and discrimination. Manitoba's own legislation in the various fields which fall within its own jurisdiction reflect favourably the general tenor of ILO conventions. We have been able to embody in our legislation many of the principles advocated by the ILO and to give expression in our own field to many of its standards. And it is fitting, Mr. Chairman, that Manitoba should join with Canada, in marking the fiftieth anniversary of this unique organization. I'm

(MR. WITNEY cont'd.) sure that the members of this House and all the people of Manitoba will give their fullest support to this most worthy undertaking. These conventions take place in Geneva, Mr. Chairman, and I doubt that I'll be there this year because it's rather a long way away.

And then now, in introducing the department's estimates, to review activities of the Department of Labour during the past year and in the course of review, to deal with a number of comments which fall within my interest as the Minister of Labour.

The conduct and effectiveness of my department's programs and policies can best be described in relation to development in the economy of this province and of other regions because this is the setting in which they function.

And briefly, during 1968 the rate of growth in the province's labour force exceeded the national average, and that in all but two other provinces. The average size of the labour force is 372,000, 14,000 or 4% more than in 1967. Contributing to the increase was a marked rise in the number of males in the labour force. A significant increase of 12,000 or 3.5 percent more than the previous year in the total numbers employed was the major cause of the labour force expansion, and there were only two other provinces which experienced a more rapid rate of growth in employment.

The other day the attention of the House was drawn to employment in the manufacturing sector during 1968 and it was pointed out that this sector in this province had been stabilizing in terms of employment but no mention was made of the increase in the total employment in all sectors in the province. Throughout the whole country there has been a tendency for employment in manufacturing to grow at a slower rate than other sectors. The sectors in which Manitoba made particularly large employment gains during 1968 were mining and construction. The average number of employed workers during the first eleven months of 1968 was greater than in the previous year by nearly 12% in mining, whereas Canada was 2% greater; and by approximately 7% in construction, whereas for Canada as a whole, average employment actually declined. Employment in other sectors of the province grew at varying rates and in one case declined relative to 1967.

It is normal for different sectors to show different growth rates; it is in fact indicative of changes going on in an economy. The point I wish particularly to make is that Manitoba's employment growth in 1968 was good, better than the impression given if one focuses on only one industrial sector.

The rate of growth in employment was less than the rate of growth in the total labour force and the unemployment rate in Manitoba rose in 1968 to an average of 3.5 percent, but that was just above the rate considered by the Economic Council of Canada to represent full employment. Manitoba's rate of unemployment remained below the national average.

The pattern of unemployment across Canada has shown consistency in three major respects for many years. Unemployment increases and decreases on a seasonal basis each year in every province, rates of unemployment vary considerably from one province to another at any given time, and perhaps most importantly they all tend to rise and fall together according to national economic trends. In the first respect, Manitoba's unemployment rate continued to rise and fall in 1968 on a seasonal basis, and to be realistic this will continue to be the case for some time in the future. In the second respect, Manitoba's unemployment rate continues to be one of the lowest in the country. This has been the situation for many years in the past and I expect it to be so in the future. In the third respect, 1967 and '68 were both years in which unemployment generally began to increase across the country. In fact in 1967 Manitoba was the only province not to experience an increase over the previous year's rate. In 1968 it began to rise as it had in other jurisdictions. The third aspect of unemployment in the province is the one which is of most concern because it reflects the direct connection between our unemployment rate and the performance of the national economy. There's no firm basis for expecting unemployment rates across the country to decline in the near future to what they were two years ago, the lowest in 13 years. And also there's no firm basis for expecting them to climb to the high rates which existed in the period 1960 to 1962. I am optimistic that they will not rise much above the rates of the last two years, and that will, in effect, give Manitoba virtually, full employment.

Now in this context, concern is expressed about the prospects for student employment this coming summer. Last year as unemployment began to increase, it was reported that many students had considerable difficulty in obtaining jobs and earning income to continue their

(MR. WITNEY cont'd.) education. As the unemployment situation so far is much the same this year as last, it may be difficult for some students to have jobs this summer. Several weeks ago I met with Canada Manpower representatives in this region to consider student employment. My department and the Department of Youth and Education have since appointed representatives to an Advisory Committee recently established to promote employment for students. Representation on the committee includes, in addition, Canada Manpower officials, business and labour representatives, a University faculty member and students. This committee and ones like it in other regions of Canada have begun at the local regional and national level to promote student employment. Advertising along these lines has been started in the media at national and regional levels and the committee has begun to complement the program at the local level by establishing contacts with business organizations. Students themselves will be taken on with Canada Manpower to undertake special placement work on behalf of their fellow students. At this time it is not possible for me to say how effective the work of the committee will be and the national promotion campaign will be. It will help matters greatly, and will do so if all employers will make their plans as soon as possible and let student applicants or Canada Manpower placement offices know about job opportunities. For our part the Provincial Government and its agencies intend to employ, again, more than 1,000 high school and post-secondary students to do productive work that needs to be carried out in the summer months. Students are to be employed, for example, in such work as highway construction, warehouse activities, provincial hospitals, surveying of mineral and forest resources, office statistical and research jobs, laboratory assistants and park attendants. This work needs to be undertaken; there's no question about its value, but in addition it provides employment experience to students and of course assists them to continue their education.

Turning briefly to wage trends during the past year. On an all industry basis, average wages in Manitoba increased more rapidly during the first 10 months of 1968 than in all other provinces and the country as a whole. They averaged 8.9 percent above the 1967 level. This rate of increase is in excess of the previous years rate, which was the provinces highest in the post war period. Average wages in all but two individual sectors increased more rapidly than the national average and in most cases, more rapidly than wages in those industries in all other provinces. The wage gains were significant in mining 12.2 percent, and construction 19.1 percent, where employment gains were also made as I have already mentioned.

In the growing economy of the province, in which I have briefly reviewed some of the department's progress, industrial relations and collective bargaining were conducted in a sound and effective way which complimented the developments in the economy. While union membership and the number of contract negotiations and the utilization of the department's conciliation and mediation services continued to grow, Manitoba experienced very few work stoppages and industrial disputes in contrast to the conflict occurring over the past several years in many jurisdictions. An estimated 400 agreements were negotiated during the twelve month period from November 1st, 1967 to October 31st, 1968 and nearly 200 of them drew upon the conciliation services of the department. Ninety-eight percent of the disputes taken to conciliation were settled without stoppage of work. There were four work stoppages, all of them in the private sector, in disputes over negotiations for revised agreements, and nine work stoppages during the term of an agreement. As a result, Manitoba's lost time from industrial disputes under the province's jurisdiction was the lowest in the last three years, and continued to be among the lowest in the country.

Collective bargaining has functioned very well in the province, as this record amply demonstrates, and it owes its success fundamentally to Manitoba's labour and to Manitoba's management. My predecessor has made this point in the past and I would like to repeat it. And at this time, I think I would like to give a measure of credit to the success of the people who provide conciliation and mediation services in the department, and the former minister, and to others, including the Woods Committee, who have been associated with the fostering of highly effective and streamlined conciliation procedures.

That, Mr. Chairman, are the brief remarks that I have to make with the Department of Labour. I regret that I was unable to simply stand up and make a speech, but being rather new in the business of labour I felt that I should have some guidance from the printed page. I admit that I am more interesting when I get lost with the English language, and get lost and have to try to find my way back at the beginning again, and sometimes get myself in a box which makes it very difficult to get out, nevertheless I felt that it was necessary to establish a stage

(MR. WITNEY cont'd.) upon which we can discuss the estimates of the Department of Labour. And I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the staff for the work they've done in the past and particularly for the work that they have done in helping me to prepare for the Estimates. They are sitting apprehensively in the gallery with their fingers crossed and wondering what this one is going to be like.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, at the outset I wish to thank the Honourable Minister for the very brief statement that they had to make on his estimates. At the same time I would also like to express my appreciation to the staff and the Deputy Ministers for the co-operation that I have received from them through the year, because at any time I requested any information, they were always available to me in short order and I certainly want to express my appreciation to them for this.

Mr. Chairman, I wish not to be so pleasant on another point and that is, I think it's most unsound, inefficient and unwise to discuss the estimates of this department before tabling the Annual Report of the Department of Labour. It makes it most difficult on this side to discuss this department properly without having the annual report. This is another illustration, Mr. Chairman, the way the Committees of the House operated during this last year, or when the session was not sitting. There's very little action and I certainly do want to condemn the government for the way they operate. I think it's not proper.

From his short statement, Mr. Chairman, I feel that the Minister would like everyone to believe that everything is roses in this province. It should be made abundantly clear that nothing is further from the truth. The workers in this province, and Winnipeg in particular, find themselves in the position of being the fourth highest cost of living centre, at some 147.7 D. B. S., of all major centres in Canada, while earning in Manitoba is reported by the D. B. S. to be the fourth lowest. For example, Calgary is 143.7; Edmonton 143.1; Saskatoon and Regina 142 and Vancouver 146. This is the cost of living index. These are last year's figures, Mr. Chairman, that's the latest I was able to get.

The Minister I know last year was telling us that the province increased its earnings by quite substantial percentage, and was I believe higher than any other centre in Canada, or above the national average. But, Mr. Chairman, the facts are that workers in this province are still hopelessly underpaid in comparison to those in other neighboring provinces; as a result we have a gradual migration of skilled workers to other provinces. And at this time I would like to quote some of the governments statistics, and their own material -- and this is just right off the press as late as yesterday. This is the TED Commission Report. Somehow it got leaked to the papers and I know the Minister has a Commission investigating how it leaked out but I will just quote from yesterday's Free Press what the TED Commission had to say. The preview of the report of the Target for Economic Development Commission indicates that the full report will be presented later and it's an encouraging one for Manitobans, and I'm certainly glad to hear this. The report also states, and I quote, Mr. Chairman: "Not everything in the report is optimistic. The economists place their fingers fully on one major weakness in greater Winnipeg's economy; a weakness that has often been referred to in the past - low wages. Sources say the report will be critical of wages paid in this area compared with those paid in other Canadian cities of similar size. The argument is that if wages and salaries were higher there would be a more positive attitude toward the quality of life here. Wages undoubtedly are lower here. That is one of the major reasons many skilled people leave Winnipeg to other cities". Mr. Chairman, this was in yesterday - and this is what the TED Commission has to report as far as wages are concerned in Manitoba.

Last year I had an opportunity to attend Manitoba's conference on technological change and this is also the government report and it has almost the same things to say in it. For instance, I'm quoting one of the speakers at that conference and this is what he had to say, "that Manitoba ranks sixth among provinces in average weekly wages and salaries; in growth and income, Manitoba increasingly resembles eastern Quebec and the Atlantic provinces, areas of stagnation and poverty. Indeed, the eastern areas show rather more signs of growth than Manitoba in an era during which major growth has been concentrated in cities and Winnipeg has the smallest rate growth of any city in the country." However, he said, "With the current low wages and salaries prevailing in Manitoba, Manitoba's average per capita salary and wages is trailing Quebec by more than 10 percent. There's no guarantee that the more highly skilled workers will not leave the province". He said "Manitoba's income position with per capita income is 20 percent lower than in Ontario, which makes it unattractive to investors.

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) . . . It means that higher tax rates in Manitoba will still produce less revenue per head; it means therefore, that expenditures to improve the situation are both necessary than elsewhere and harder to come by." Again, Mr. Chairman, this is the report of the government that I have taken my statement out of.

I have another report: "City places 48th in income survey". This was late last fall, a statistical study issued Thursday by the revenue department, and it's reporting all the cities -- taxpayers had an average earning of \$6,185.00 in that year -- and it lists all the cities and it places Winnipeg in the 48th position in the list of cities according to income. So, Mr. Chairman, I feel that the Minister does feel quite satisfied with the progress that we have made. It may have been progress but in comparison to the other centres in Canada, I feel that we have a great way to go to catch up.

Mr. Chairmen, our Party is committed to the principle that the working man can best improve and protect his interests through strong democratic responsible and self-regulating trade unions. I feel that government should encourage and facilitate certifications in Manitoba. The individual and his union, we recognize the right to any member of a professional group or trade union to a reasonable opportunity to participate in affairs thereof. This is part of the Liberal policy which was developed at our conferences, and I would like to say that in the 1966 session of the Legislature, the government passed legislation giving to the Labour Board and its officers powers to detect and to deal with unfair labour practices. I feel this was good legislation and I feel that at least our Party should take some credit for it, because in 1965 this is the legislation that I proposed to this House through a Resolution. I believe at first the government did not accept it but, however, wiser heads prevailed and I think towards the end of the session the Woods Committee made a recommendation along the same lines as our own, and the government did favour our proposal. So, I feel this is a good piece of legislation and I'm glad that the government does accept some of the ideas and recommendations that come from this side of the House.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal just briefly with the administration of the Department of Labour. In particular, the Manitoba Labour Board. I understand, however, I have no proof, that the Board is hopelessly attempting to cope with the heavy increasing work load, and hearings before the Board are quite often delayed for quite some time. I feel there is no reason why the government cannot appoint a full time labour board which sits every day and resolves the labour problems facing labour and management. I also understand that the government is under-staffed in the conciliation department; while Minister's appointment of conciliation officers is prompt, the fact remains these officers have too many assignments at one time. This poses a challenge on any union or management to get negotiations resumed and meetings held promptly for settlement of collective agreements. This leads quickly to work stoppages and I feel that in this area that we can improve to a great extent.

Mr. Chairman, I already prefaced my remarks, what I wanted to say on the minimum wage. I know that the increase to \$1.25 per hour is a substantial contribution to the income to many workers, but I feel that it should be made clear that labour at the present time does not accept \$1.25 as being realistic for anyone to live on in the province with the cost of living at the present time. Because \$1.25, if you relate it to a 40-hour week, it only gives you about \$50.00 per week, without any deductions. So, if you take some deductions out of \$50.00 a week, certainly this is a very very low wage. I think it would be more appropriate to say that we should be striving, and I would like to recommend to the government that \$1.50 per hour minimum wage would be more in line with the present cost of living conditions. I realize that the proper minimum wage will not solve all the problems of the worker and his family. He won't be able to save the money necessary for emergencies; it will not provide housing when low cost housing are scarce. It will not replace much needed social welfare, that at the present time may be inadequate in many fields. What the minimum wage should be able to do is eliminate the type of exploitation that is sometimes felt in the life of the daily worker, and which is not remedied by other legislation at the present time. I feel if the government is really serious about doing something to eliminate poverty in this province, then anyone can figure out that \$1.25 per hour is not a large wage. This is a wage that people are still living in poverty.

Mr. Chairman, the Manitoba Labour Management Committee, which I mentioned during the Manitoba conference on technological change, last spring I believe, also revealed that - and I would like to quote out of a report, and I'm quoting Mr. Chairman - "It seems clear that

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) in the early part of the 20th century Manitoba stood second among the provinces in per capita income behind British Columbia, but since 1945 Manitoba has also been falling behind Alberta, and has fallen behind Saskatchewan in the 1960's to rank fifth and last among the provinces west of the Ottawa River. So, again this is out of the records of the government, what I'm trying to illustrate here this afternoon. According to the D. B. S. figures, I understand that Winnipeg is in 48th place as far as per capita earnings are concerned in Canada. So, Mr. Chairman, a large number of adults in Manitoba have an incredibly low income.

I would also like to make some comments about the Workmen's Compensation Board and the Workmen's Compensation Act. I feel that under Section 31 of the Workmen's Compensation Act the wage ceiling should be increased so that the maximum annual payments for injured workers can be increased so that they can receive \$7,000 per annum. The present is \$6,600. You must realize that the worker only receives 75 percent of his income. I believe that all unions in Manitoba have urged the government to completely take this ceiling off, but I think that if we would increase it to \$7,000 per annum, Mr. Chairman, this would be in line with some of the other provinces out east and I believe Ontario has already done this.

Section 23, Mr. Chairman - monthly allowances to widows - I think these should be updated and the present \$100 allowance monthly pension to widows whose husbands are killed in industrial accidents should be increased to at least \$125 a month.

During the year, Mr. Chairman, if I get any complaints I would feel that more of them are in connection with the Workmen's Compensation Act than in any other field. I have no argument with the Board itself because I am not always aware of all the facts on both sides, but I would like to probably give some information to the Honourable Minister that I would like to see the Attorney-General, probably, appoint an independent advisor to assist workers in preparing and presenting appeals against decisions of the Board. It seems that this would help an awful lot to many of our people.

Mr. Chairman, I have two files here with me, and in both instances I am not totally satisfied that workers have received proper treatment. In one case we had an employee working in a grain elevator, and as a result of some 25 or 30 years employment in a dusty environment he had chest problems, and I know his own personal doctor attributed his sickness to the working conditions, dusty working conditions, and as a result he was unable to work in that place and he was sick. Now from all the evidence that I have seen, I have talked with this man, he should have received some compensation but he was unable to, and in that case I believe the Board ruled that he was not eligible for any compensation.

I have another case where -- there are many that I can mention, I just bring these that I remember quite well. One is very recent, where we had a student or a young person working for one of the companies downtown - and I would just like to give you some sources that have been submitted to the Board in respect as evidence in this case, and Mr. Chairman, I would like to quote: No. 1, it mentioned that the union representative revealed dates of employment with a certain company and we also have a family doctor letter stating that this certain individual was not returning to school because after he had taken the job in the summer holidays, and I think he was earning a fairly good income, he decided not to go back to school and he was going to stay with the company. There is further evidence to that that he joined the Union - and as a temporary employee I believe this does not take place - there was a receipt to that effect and there was also deductions from his pay for charitable donations which didn't take place from any one in temporary employment. He had an injury, and as a result the compensation only allowed him the very small percentage which it allows to any students who get hurt during the summer holidays because they are classified as students. Now I think there was sufficient evidence in this case to prove that he probably was hired during the summer holidays as a student; he was receiving a good salary; he changed his mind and decided to stay on working permanently; he joined the union; he had made donations or had donations made to the charitable organizations, which showed that he was a permanent employee of that certain company; and there was a further notice from the family doctor that he did intend to work permanently; and still this certain individual was classified as only a temporary employee under those circumstances.

So I feel that perhaps the Minister could check into some of these areas and maybe we'll have better understanding. As I say, I have no argument with the Board itself because sometimes you are not aware of all the facts, but these two, from the information that I have put

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) together, it seems that there should have been some compensation.

Mr. Chairman, I also wish to make a few points and mention the problems that confront the job seekers today who are 40 years of age or over. I think the most important factor is the fact that a mature man has psychological attractiveness; somebody wants him or he would be unemployed, but if we look at the other side of the coin, there is suspicion harboured by the personnel officials that a person over 40 must have some flaw if he is not employed or hasn't get a job. The other point is there also that more jobs are offered to sort of rank and file people, and you can classify them as probably sergeants. People in the 40 or over bracket probably would require higher incomes, and this is in many cases maybe they do not get hired because of higher experience and requirement of more salary. I believe in some other jurisdictions, and the Act in the United States, will prohibit want ads in the papers that include such phrases as "21 to 24, 25 to 35, young or middle-aged, girl or boy". These will be prohibited in their ads, which is designed to protect people in the 40 to 65 age group for employment and it would be illegal to specify these preferences for men or women. I am sure that the Minister of Government Services would be happy to hear this if she was in her seat, because this is the law in the States where the advertising editorials will not be able to classify men or women for certain job classifications, except that you will only be able to advertise on an occupational qualification, which I think is the proper thing to do. I wish the Minister would look into this and probably it would be a great assistance to the people in the higher age group.

Mr. Chairman, I have a few other points to make and that will probably be sufficient for the time being, but the first one is I would like to advise the members of the House, and the Honourable Minister, that this morning I submitted two resolutions to the Clerk of the House and one is in respect to the general holidays in the Province of Manitoba. The legislation in Manitoba does not entitle an employee to his pay if he is off on any seven statutory holidays. I know it is normal for most corporations or industries in the city or the province to pay its employees when they are off on any general holiday, but there is isolated cases - if I can use an example - if any employer wishes to deduct two days off anyone's week's salary or two holidays during that week he may do so. I know it is not practised extensively but this does take place. The law says he must be paid only if he would otherwise receive below minimum wage for the week. So, Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned, I submitted a resolution to the Legislature asking that the statutory holidays be increased from seven to nine. I asked for two more holidays, that Boxing Day and the first Monday in August be classified as a general holiday. It's classified as a general holiday now, and I think if we get it on our Statute books there would be less misunderstanding.

The second part of the resolution that I asked, Mr. Chairman, was that the government enact legislation providing for payment to employees for general holidays that they do not work, because, as I said, you may deduct this day when you are not working on the holiday and they would be paid at the rate of the regular daily wages. Some of the other provinces have this legislation and it has not caused any problems at all. I think it is forward looking and I feel that the Minister should certainly give consideration. I understand Saskatchewan has had it for many years and I think it would be good legislation. At the present time, the general holidays now are New Years Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, and generally speaking, everybody has Boxing Day as a holiday and everybody takes the first Monday in August, the civic holiday, so why not say so and make it uniform through the whole province. I would strongly recommend this to the House and to the Honourable Minister.

Mr. Chairman, I also presented another resolution to the Clerk of the House and that's to do with the Vacation With Pay Act, where at the present time any employee that has worked a year must receive two weeks holiday pay, which is pretty good legislation, but it has been established by legislation that some other provinces now make provision for three weeks holiday after five years of service by one employer. It is also known that Collective Agreements now provide for three weeks holidays after five years of steady employment with the same employer, one employer. Mr. Chairman, it has been pointed out at the Labour-Management Committee Conference last spring that employees are leaving our province to work in areas where better wages and benefits can be obtained. For this reason I am proposing this resolution and asking the Minister to also give serious consideration to enact this legislation. I think that

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) the government can amend the Vacations with Pay Act providing employees with three weeks holidays after five years or more of service to their employer. As I say, this legislation does exist in other jurisdictions. I think it's good legislation and I hope that the Minister will give it serious consideration.

Mr. Chairman, probably this is all that I wish to say at the present time, but I think that it's very unfortunate that we did not have the Annual Report of the Department of Labour so that we can have discussed it and debated it more intelligently and with more knowledge, but I think through some of the government's own reports that I was able to quote out of, which was the Manitoba Conference and also the recent editorial in the paper which was taken out of the report of the TED Commission itself, I think it clearly illustrates that we have made progress as far as labour legislation is concerned in the last few years. I think the reason we have made the progress is because it was the prodding by the members of this side of the House asking the government to enact legislation. The government moved somewhat slowly but I don't think that everything is rosy insofar as many workers are concerned in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too would like to congratulate the Minister on obtaining his new office. I sincerely hope that we shall be able to co-operate; I know I will do my best. I know his department has been very sincere and helpful in this respect and the former Minister too was co-operative. The only problem was that he was not able to convince his colleagues in the cabinet to be as co-operative as well. In this regard I must also say, as the Member for Assiniboia did, I am disappointed that we did not receive the report because no doubt we would have been able to garner some information out of it as to where we are heading, or what has happened in the past. Of course I must say that in the past the reports have been very elaborate with a lot of white paper and white space in between but no real substance in some of them, and I do hope that this report that is coming will be a little more fruitful.

Mr. Chairman, I must say that this government is well aware that labour has made representation to it annually. There are a number of topics it has brought up continually, and one other thing it has said, that just because a Management and Labour Review Committee has been set up, they did not feel that a moratorium should be set on labour legislation. Nevertheless, this seems to be the pattern because very little of essence has come out of the Department of Labour in regard to legislation.

Certification procedures have been brought up time and time again by the Federation of Labour so that it would be more appropriate, more easily facilitated to organize people and to get certification adopted, but this department has continually refused to hear what is being said in this regard. One of the things under the certification is the time that is required in which to have the cards in. This has been repeatedly asked for, that it be extended, yet nothing has been done, Mr. Chairman.

There has also been a request that the procedural problem be simplified. This is supposed to be a Board that is supposed to have a hearing where people are making presentations to be represented. If you gum it up with a lot of gobbledygook and legal problems, it becomes almost impossible for most of these people to try and get their message across, yet this is what seems to be the practice continually, and I suggest that the Minister of Labour, now that he has acquired this position, should have a good look at this problem; it is a very serious one.

Injunctions have been brought up before, Mr. Chairman, and especially ex parte injunctions should not be used in labour disputes. Now I think that almost everyone has talked about this and yet this government has done very little about recognizing the problem.

We spoke about the minimum wage on a number of occasions, the criteria and also the amount. Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to quote the same figures as the Member for Assiniboia did but I will say this, that in the last issue of the Labour Gazette, Manitoba was the lowest of the prairie regions, and as was indicated, outside of the Atlantic region it was at the bottom of the ladder when it came to weekly average wages and salaries. Now this includes top salaries, low salaries and wages as well, and if we are in an industrial age where our economy is supposed to be moving ahead, how come we're at the bottom of the ladder? When it comes to urban areas, out of 39 areas Winnipeg, which is one of the largest centres in the nation, is again at the bottom; out of 39 it's 32nd. We're really making progress! And of course the areas that are lower than us are St. John's, Halifax, Sidney, Moncton, Quebec and

(MR. FOX cont'd) Sherbrooke, all in the Maritimes again. That's a low area too, Mr. Chairman.

It's been brought before this government that the legal entities clause should be removed from the Labour Relations Act. Again a deaf ear has been turned on that request.

In respect to the employment standards, Mr. Chairman, many years ago it was brought up that we should have a 40 hour week, not only by the labour sector but even by the newspapers and by very many other media. Nevertheless, this province insists on having 44 hours for males and 48 for women, and of course in some areas they even extend this to more than that.

Now, as I said, it's true we have a Labour-Management Review Committee, but this does not give this government the right to sit back and do nothing; it does not give it a right to call a moratorium on labour legislation that is requested. Who best knows what is necessary in regard to labour if it isn't labour itself, yet apparently when they make their representations they get no ear.

I would like to touch on the Workmen's Compensation Board, Mr. Chairman, because this is an area which of late has been coming to my attention quite frequently, and of course I thought possibly it was just myself that was receiving this so I made some inquiries, and I find that the trend has been for the Board to really become real niggardly in the way it is applying this statute. This is supposed to be to give the workman protection, and in exchange he has given up certain privileges of suing and receiving damages for injury, but in essence it is slowly being utilized with the same policies that this government has been formulating of hold the line, retrench, be niggardly, and the workmen have been going short. Now when a workman gets injured, the best he can hope for under Workmen's Compensation payment is 75 per cent of his salary, but even that has been chopped down because there's a ceiling of \$6,600, but on top of that the Board has been utilizing every little trick in the book to make it impossible for an employee to get a fair and just claim.

To begin with, just one instance that I can cite of how ridiculous it can get, one employee while at work, during coffee break, had an injury. The Board ruled he wasn't eligible because he was on coffee break. Now he was on the employer's premises, it was part of his duties to be present, the fact that he was taking a 10 minute break didn't mean to say that he wasn't any more with the employer, but this is the kind of things that happen, Mr. Chairman.

The other thing about the Workmen's Compensation Board, Mr. Chairman, is that it has not been keeping up with the times. Cost of living has been increasing continually yet the Board keeps on paying at the rate of prior injuries and at what the going rate was at that time, even though some of the employees have come back, come back due to a recurrence caused by the original injury. I believe that this should be looked at and should be upgraded so that when an employee has an injury which is from a previous one, which is caused by a recurrence of a previous injury, that he should be compensated at the present going rate for whatever partial disability he gets.

There's one other area, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to touch on at the moment and that is the Employment Standards Act and the application of unfair labour practices. I'm certain that a number of members probably have seen it occasionally in the papers where an employer has been ordered by the Labour Board to make restitution of wages which he underpaid, which he didn't deem necessary, etc. But this is only part of the problem, Mr. Chairman. The problem here involved is that the workman has to lodge a complaint, he has loss of time while he's doing this, he has to appear before the Board to verify what the problem is; then when he gets the award, quite often he finds that the management just doesn't get around to paying him for it, then he has to go before a court of law at his own cost again and make another appeal in order to get his own money. I think this should be taken by the Department of Labour and pursued so that an employee does not lose money twice, is not in double jeopardy because of an unfair labour practice.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we had a committee -- or a two-day session, a conference on automation. It was well attended; we had a number of excellent speakers and so on, but nothing has come out of this except the report. The Labour Department has not said it is going to proceed with any of the recommendations that were involved in there. We are continually moving into new technological areas yet we are not being recognizant of them at all. I think that we should, if we are going to have good industrial relations, look at some of the issues that I've just mentioned. I shall be looking at the estimates in detail later on and I'll have some more

(MR. FOX cont'd) to say then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. LEMUEL HARRIS (Logan): Mr. Chairman, Manitoba has the lowest wage in the garment industry in the west. I saw a report in the paper the other day saying about some of the contracts they had got and saying how good the industry went, but it said that the reason why they got these contracts was the wages that they paid were so low they could outbid the competitors from outside. Now what is this doing to the workers there? It gives them no incentive at all, and I would say that the people in there have no ambition to work for an industry like that and they are pushed and pushed around. Now there is no protection from this government for them people, and I would like to see that these people are protected by our Labour Department.

Now on compensation, I see various departments or industries that are high in injuries, and the reason of this, in my estimation, is that the work is being rushed through and these people haven't sufficient time to look out for the various machines they are working on so you have a re-occurrence of accidents all the while. This is being brought up, but again I say that there is nothing being done about it as far as I can see.

On holidays, I would say with regard to myself that we are more or less protected in a sense, but in these other industries that they should come up to about nine holidays for these people.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I don't think that I will say any more on this subject. My partner has covered it very well but I thought I would bring in these few things to show to you what I believe should be done, and I will bring some more recommendations in as we go along. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. John's.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to start by wishing the Honourable Minister well in his new department. I know that he has a staff which is dedicated to its work and which is competent to advise him, and yet I welcome the fact that there is a change in Ministry, not that I have anything adverse to say about his predecessor but rather that a new view and a new look on matters in a department is of great value, and really a Minister should not be a man who works through the administrative details but should be one who sits back -- and I think as the former Premier used to say -- the best Minister is one who sits with his feet on the desk and nothing else on the desk so he can think about policy and think about problems and come to conclusions about the welfare of the people of Manitoba in his own department. Therefore, I think it is always a good thing when there is a change of ministry for a new look to be given to the aspects of the department.

I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister a philosophical approach to so many of the problems he deals with, but one in specific which is one that has troubled me a great deal and I'm sure many others, where as a member of a board of arbitration in the past or a conciliation board or as a counsel appearing before such a board, the question of management rights frequently comes up and the problem is discussed as to whether management has exclusive rights in making certain decisions involving employment or whether these rights are negotiable or arbitrable, or, in effect, matters that should be discussed with the representatives of the labour force. I would like to point out that there is a deficiency in our law in clarifying management rights, and I claim it a deficiency because laws are developing through case history and through both arbitration board findings and through the courts, but I think that it is the government that must take the lead in deciding factors such as this which change with advances in social and technological -- well, I mean in social and technological advances as they are made and which affect the people involved much more greatly than they did on former occasions. And I thought, Mr. Chairman, that I could refer, as an example, to the present problem that is taking place across the country with the Post Office strike, where we find a case where the employer has made certain decisions which are considered by many to be management decisions, but which affect the labour force and which were made unilaterally and which were made without consultation with the labour force involved. And I want to point out to the Minister that this is a problem which occurs not only on the large scale such as the Post Office or indeed the railways, but in small scales, with small companies with a small work force, where technological change can be brought in which adversely affects or at least disrupts the routine of the working force.

I would like the Minister to explore -- and I don't mean now and I don't expect that he is

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) ready at any time to discuss this entire problem which I pose as a philosophical one but which is very real - by referring to the report of the Industrial Inquiry Commission on the Canadian National Railways run-throughs which was given by the Commissioner, the sole commissioner and eminent judge in Canada, and indeed highly regarded everywhere where his words are heard or read, the Honourable Mr. Justice Samuel Freedman of our Court of Appeal who sat in 1965 as a Commissioner appointed by the federal government considering the problem that was created by the Canadian National Railways decision to run-through certain points which had up to then been considered - what do you call them? --(Interjection)-- divisional points -- thank you. The Commissioner recognized that when you eliminated a divisional point you are in effect disrupting peoples' lives. People who lived in a divisional point and were accustomed to travel a certain route, on the elimination of that divisional point had to move, had to have costs involved, had a disruption in their whole family life, and you will recall there were wildcat strikes started and there was a great deal of commotion at the time.

The Commissioner considered this problem and I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister certain excerpts from the consideration he gave, and ask him to think of them in relation to problems that arise in industry, as I say, in large plants, in small plants, in the Province of Manitoba, where technological change brings about necessary but nevertheless . . . damaging changes in the structure of the operation of whatever plant it is. Now I'll read first from Page 132 where he deals with the question of technological change, and says, "Taking a broad national and long range view and looking at employment in its totality, the economist may be justified in contending that technology does not cause unemployment. Within the total picture, however, technology may bring about individual cases of difficulty and hardship, cases which will be multiplied if the general demand for labour is slack. Moreover, when a job becomes redundant the impact of the change may extend beyond those who seem immediately affected by it, not just the worker at his lathe or at his appointed place of work but others are affected. A wise and benevolent employer may protect the present job holder either by retaining him in it until his retirement or by assigning him to another job, but what of the new entrants in the industry? For him the former job no longer exists - 'silent firing' is what this state of affairs is sometimes called." Therefore, dealing with his recommendations, he points out that a matter such as the run-throughs may well be considered managerial rights. He points out that "although an employer is by the Act" -- and he speaks of the federal Act but I assure the Minister it is also in our Labour Relations Act in Manitoba -- "an employer is expressly prohibited from altering conditions of employment during the open period when a contract is being negotiated, no similar prohibition is to be found in the Act for the closed period when a contract has been signed and is current.

"On the basis of the law as it exists today," he says -- I believe it is still correct -- "the company does have the right to institute run-throughs." But he poses the question which I pose to the Minister - and I don't expect an immediate answer although he may surprise me by giving me one - he poses the question: "Should it continue to have that right? The question here raised lies at the heart of this enquiry. The Commission is satisfied that it must be answered only in one way. The institution of run-throughs should be a matter for negotiation. To treat it as an unfettered management prerogative will only promote unrest, undermine morale and drive the parties farther and farther apart. In that direction lies disorder and danger. By placing run-throughs, on the other hand, within the realm of negotiation, a long step will be taken towards the goal of industrial peace. More than that, such a course will help to provide safeguards against the undue dislocation and hardship that often results from technological change."

Mr. Justice Freedman states that he believes that its answer is rooted in fundamental fairness. A run-through program, he points out, cannot be developed overnight; there is much prior planning required. And he suggests the possibility that whilst this planning is taking place there may be negotiations taking place between labour and management, but there is no reference made of the plans of management during these negotiations until negotiations are concluded and the agreement is signed, and then changes may be made by management without discussion with the employees or their representatives, and they are now in that closed period that he referred to. He says the plan may have the effect of causing very material changes in working conditions, which is exactly what we are going to do now in the post office, and I'm not stating an opinion as to the rights or wrongs of the contentions of the postmen, I do not

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) pose as an expert on the problem, but I am pointing out that the problem is there and may well have been avoided had there been discussions with the employees representatives on this very question of the planned changes that were to be brought about by management.

He points out that a manoeuver such as bringing in these changes after negotiations had been completed, this is not forbidden by law provided the collective agreement itself is not violated. "The result for the men is that they must suffer such a change in their working conditions, and this without recourse, for in the closed period strike action is forbidden" -- which is exactly what the Honourable the Postmaster General is now saying. "Their contract was made on the basis of one set of circumstances; now it must be performed on the basis of another set of circumstances devised by management alone and to which they have given no consent. There is a manifest inequity here which clamours for attention and correction."

As I read this and thought about it, Mr. Chairman, I felt that too often do documents such as this, produced by a great deal of study and research by the brains of our country, lie dormant once they have been published and put on a shelf. I think there are occasions when they should be brought out and considered in the light of other days, and today might be as well a time as any, and of course I have brought it out, brought it to light, and I did it because it seems to me that it being a type of philosophic approach, one must have some forum in which one can discuss this, not just management and labour discussing this type of problem but government and people who represent the people of the province who are affected by such happenings. Therefore, I have taken it upon myself to assert my right to speak by inviting the Minister, not to discuss it now, because, as I say, he may not be prepared to do so, but to take it into his consideration as being one of those matters which as a head of a department, which is so important, should be thinking about as part of the changes of government attitude that should come about in relation to changes in technological advancement and changes in relationships between the person who makes decisions - management, and the person who is affected by the decisions, which is the employee and his family.

And in passing - and this is not directly related to the Department of Labour - one will take the same analogy to communities and Mr. Justice Freedman does, and speaks about the impact on communities of this type of unilateral decision. And of course we have the prime example, which he doesn't refer to, of Bissett and of other ghost towns that were created by a decision of management that it can not carry on, and to me this is just the same kind of problem which government must face, knowing in advance the probability - and I'm speaking to a former Minister of Mines and Resources so he'll understand what I'm saying - the probability that when you exhaust a non-renewable resource there will be a ghost town and preparation must be made, the community must be aware of it, and the community must make plans for it.

Now I have gone a little further, but not too far from my original invitation to the Minister to dig deep into all the problems affecting labour and labour-management in his department and to think of it in terms of the general good and welfare of the people. And I bring this question of management rights to his attention so that I would hope that in the future, and in the fair appraisal which I know he will give to problems that occur in his department, he will look at the broader effect of the day-to-day routine things which happen and which are very important and which other members on this side of the House have mentioned, but that at all times he will look at overall problems and attempt to adopt a view which is progressive and not conservative, which is considerate of the needs of the people as times change and as the impact of life and its acceleration affect the individuals whose concern it is in his department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable the Minister of Labour.

MR. WITNEY: I think perhaps there are times when politicians should not say any more and they should just sit still and let things take their course, but I feel that I should have one or two observations to make from what has come to date in the debate. I think I understand what the last speaker was getting at and I just make this observation that, since I got into the Department of Labour, I've never known any one department to have so many reports. There are reports and reports and reports over the years. Every jurisdiction seems to have a major report of some type and all of the material is voluble, and much of the material - nearly all of it - deals with some philosophic content in some way or another. I have endeavoured to follow, in the short period of time that I have been Minister, what all these reports are saying. I often come back to some fundamentals, that in dealing with labour and dealing with management and dealing with my role as a Minister, that some of the best philosophy that you can use is the philosophy of common sense, the philosophy of understanding and the philosophy of concentration and the philosophy of negotiation.

I don't wish to brush off these reports lightly because I have lots to learn in the Department of Labour and these reports can teach me a great deal. That is one philosophy that I have, I guess, engendered as I have gone through the Department of Labour, and perhaps it's come home to me more so than any other department that I have been associated with in government. I noted that when I moved out of Health and I was dealing with millions and millions of dollars, when I moved out of Health and I had been dealing with thousands of people, and then I came down to a department which, in money terms and in numbers of people, is much smaller, that the effect of what the Department of Labour has on both labour and management and on the general public in so many ways is very fundamental and often very deep, and in trying to find out what you are to do and trying to make the proper decision, in trying to read and learn from all that material, the philosophy, you come back to those four points that I think are fundamental for any Minister of Labour to have in mind.

This particular report that you are speaking about is one that I haven't gotten around to as yet, because of some of the other reports that have originated from one province or another in the past month that I have been in the department. I might just comment in general and say to the Honourable the Member for Assiniboia when he heaped condemnation upon us about the report, I suppose you realize that I don't accept the condemnation for myself nor do I accept it for the government, because the report is going to come down as it has in the past year in the normal space of time and it's no later now than it was in any year before. It was my understanding, although I am not privy to the consultations that take place, that there was agreement that the Department of Labour would be heard first and of course the estimates came up at this time, and I found an interesting dichotomy that took place, because the Honourable the Member for Kildonan doesn't think much of the report and the Honourable the Member for Assiniboia bases a great deal on the report. So there is a division of opinion which is quite fundamental.

There also seems to be a question of statistics - I used some statistics and you're using statistics that we've got for the whole of the province, and from what I heard from both my critics I heard statistics which were based primarily upon Winnipeg. Now I would like to draw to your attention - there was something in these remarks that I had that I didn't read because I didn't think this matter would come up, and you will forgive me if I read a little bit more. It says that only recently the surveys and the statistics you gave were from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and only recently, and because of special research the Bureau undertook, it was able to publish some retail price comparisons and these were for last May in the cities of Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton, Regina, Vancouver and Winnipeg - this is a special study for that period of time. The normal price indexes which the Bureau publishes each month cannot be used to make a valid comparison between cities.

Now let's examine this study they did in May and this is what they say. They say, "In all inter-city price comparisons, comparisons are drawn for commodities and services comprising nearly three quarters of the budget on which the consumer price index for Canada is currently based. Major omissions are shelter, rented and owned, domestic utilities and restaurant meals, and while recognizing the importance of shelter differentials in any over-all comparisons of the general price level in different centers, the problems inherent in drawing valid comparisons require a good deal more research. Meanwhile it is considered that publication of retail price comparisons for other elements will go some distance towards serving the varied needs of users."

(MR. WITNEY cont'd)

Well, some of us may be familiar with the rent and housing costs particular in other cities, Edmonton and Vancouver for instance, and recognize that the omission of housing costs and rent makes any on-average comparison impossible. Now if these were included in the statistics, Winnipeg would not compare unfavourably with the rest of Canada. The study of May makes it clear that general or on-average comparisons are not valid, given the data that they so far have been able to produce. General comparisons cannot be made, but what happens when we see what a study reveals about the comparative price levels regarding the items measured?

Now if you want to term it an "in depth" study, retail prices were surveyed relating to seven categories of expenditure: food, household operation, clothing, transportation, health and personal care, recreation and reading, tobacco and alcohol. Prices for a variety of items were surveyed in each of these categories. In the food category, nearly one quarter of budget expenditures, the data indicated that Winnipeg had lower prices than Halifax, Regina and Vancouver, higher prices than Montreal, Toronto and Edmonton, and was tied with Ottawa. In household operation Winnipeg had prices lower than all cities except Edmonton, which was one percent lower. Winnipeg was lower than all the cities in the transportation category, and was tied with Edmonton as the city having the lowest prices in recreation and reading. In health and personal care, Winnipeg had prices lower than all the cities except Montreal, which was one percent lower. Winnipeg's prices were the highest among those cities in the case of clothing and tobacco and alcohol, and to recapitulate, Winnipeg prices for these categories were lower compared to other cities, including the western Canadian cities, in more cases than not. The very important items of rent and housing costs are excluded which makes on-average comparisons invalid.

I couldn't help note, when you were discussing about the wage situation that there was an emphasis placed on the city of Winnipeg, and yet here were the statistics which I was using, which show on an all-industry basis the average wages in Manitoba increased more rapidly during the first 10 months of 1968 than in all other provinces in the country as a whole. They averaged 8.9 percent above the 1967 level. Well, these are wages that apart from Winnipeg are paid elsewhere; they are wages that have not been set by government decree of any type. The only government-decreed wage is the minimum wage. And they have been done and raised when union and management have negotiated or an employer and an employee have got together, and I think that process has brought the statistics that I used, and if Winnipeg is lower from the statistics that you used, that same process can be used to bring those wages up rather than some overt move by a department of labour or a government of a province.

I couldn't help note the statement of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia who said "hopelessly underpaid." Now, if I walk around with you around Loblaws, if I go down to the picture houses, if I walk through the Hudson's Bay or Eatons and you see what people are buying, you see the types of people that are buying, all categories of people in all areas of income, I wonder whether you would want to reconsider the adjective "hopelessly." And of course this "areas of stagnation" one. I'm getting used to hearing you fellows across the way always having something in stagnation. And I wonder whether you haven't realized yet, and I guess it just hasn't come across to you even though I made a great speech the other day, which nobody paid any attention to, pointing out to you what had happened in the province, particularly in the north. I'll show you areas where there's no stagnation and I'll show you growth that is aiding depressed areas to a degree that they have never had before. Yes, Sir.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable minister would permit a question.

MR. WITNEY: That's what I'm here for.

MR. PATRICK: You must dispute, then, the TED Commission report which is -- we have just a preview of the report of the Targets of the Economic Development Commission, and I quoted to you just a couple of minutes ago and this is what it had to say. If you wish, Mr. Minister, I'll repeat it to you, because this is just fresh off the press and this is what it had to say: "Not everything in the report is optimistic. The economists placed their fingers squarely on one major weakness in Greater Winnipeg's economy, a weakness that has often been referred to in the past - low wages. Sources say the report will be critical of wages paid in this area compared with those paid in other Canadian cities of similar size. The argument is that if wages and salaries were higher there would be more positive attitude toward the quality of life

(MR. PATRICK cont'd) here. Wages undoubtedly are lower here and that is one of the major reasons many skilled people leave Winnipeg." This is your report. This is the report of the TED Commission.

MR. WITNEY: This is just a newspaper clipping which has come up. This is some working papers. I haven't seen any report of a TED Commission, and if the TED Commission is going to speak in such disparaging terms of the province, I'm going to reject the TED Commission report, because the Province of Manitoba is moving ahead solidly and has done for the last ten years and will continue to do so for the next ten. So when you talk about this exodus of the people, there has been an influx. Who do you think is building dams, etc. ? Who do you think is pouring cement, doing carpentry work, doing steel work? It had to come in. You just can't have those jobs without having labour that's well trained to do the job, and if some left we must have got some in. And right today I don't think that the statement that you're making over there is at all valid.

I notice that you mentioned about delay in hearings for the Labour Board. We are not aware of undue delay in the Labour Board. If there has been delay in some cases it is often because the parties themselves have requested a delay. The Labour Board has been able to handle the applications that have been made before it expeditiously and I can't quite agree with the suggestion that we have a full-time Labour Board.

And then the reference was made to Conciliation being understaffed. I suppose if I were to go across to the Conciliation Branch and speak to men who often work for many hours right through the night in conciliation procedures, particularly if they came off of one, they would say they were understaffed, but I don't think that this matter of conciliation or indeed a Labour Board is to be used as a crutch. The free collective bargaining of management and union is the best way of maintaining labour peace in this province and good labour relations. If there is someone always to run to, you have to ask yourself whether or not that condition will remain. I think there's a happy medium here, from "not enough" and "too much." And I would say that, at the moment, we're just about on the middle line.

I noticed also from the two members that there were criticisms of the Workmen's Compensation Board and I must draw this to the attention of the Legislature. The Workmen's Compensation Board deals with thousands of cases in a year. Thousands of them. And a large percentage of them are settled to the satisfaction of all concerned. Well, certainly. You can bring down a case from out here, and you can bring down a case from out here, and ignore all the cases in the middle where there has been satisfaction, and it's quite possible that the case that you mentioned, and the cases that you mentioned are cases where there might not have, out of the thousands of cases, been a satisfactory settlement. But let's not forget that the Workmen's Compensation Board and the Workmen's Compensation staff - and I'm not here particularly to butter up staff - let's face facts, that they have concluded thousands of cases in one year, and they have done so to the satisfaction of many people concerned. Of course we always have had this criticism about the moratorium on labour legislation because of the Woods Committee. I can't really go along with the fact that there has been a moratorium on it because over the period of the last two or three years, Mr. Chairman, I'm not that familiar with labour to go back and recite chapter and verse of what has been done, but I know that there have been changes made, been changes made based on recommendations of the Woods Committee. I think it would be a lot better if aldermen continue to dwell on a so-called moratorium of legislation, that we recognize that the management and the union members and the chairman of that committee have actually established a forum where there can be discussion, where there can be an airing of problems that has benefitted the industrial peace, and of course, as a result of that, the people of this province. And I think it's rather significant to note that the concept is now being adopted in other jurisdictions.

I'd like to make one last comment and then I'll sit down, and that's about the technological report. I can recall when this technological report was up before this Legislature, and I've read it; I got lost in it, along with many of the other things that you are supposed to read, because it is rather substantive and it's not light reading by any means at all, Mr. Chairman. But there was, I think, one thing which came out of this which has been of value to labour and which has been of value to management, and that was the realization that we need not be afraid of technological change; that technological change is going to happen - we can't stop it; and that if we accept the fact that it is going to happen, and that if we are not afraid of technological change, we will find, as we are finding, the ways and means of adopting or changing the patterns

(MR. WITNEY cont'd) of employment and providing opportunity for labour, and for management who need labour in order to be management.

We have such matters as the Canada Manpower. We have such matters now as re-training, and there is more of it being done over these past few years than ever before. We have such matters as mobility grants. We have unions who have recognized it as an all-including sum provision to cope with it in union negotiations, and if anything - and I'm sure the Honourable Member for Kildonan won't dispute this, but he said, "What's the government going to do about it?" I don't think the government particularly has to do anything about it any more than labour and management has, in recognizing what the report says. And that recognition is being shown; it's being shown, to repeat, in those agreements. It's being shown by management, and it's being shown by government in these matters of retraining, in the matters of mobility grants - not particularly this province but the Federal Government as well - and this had a significant impact. I think it reduced some of the misapprehensions and showed an area that can be taken to offset the effects.

I was up in Flin Flon and going through the mill. The mill is changing drastically up there but I don't find in the labour and I don't find in management, a particular fear of it any more. I find acceptance of it and I find that things are being done to overcome the effects of it and still provide an avenue of employment for people who want to work. And with a country such as this one with so much to do, such a large country, and so far to go, there will always be work for people who want to work, irrespective of technological change, no matter how traumatic it might be. If you think back ten years when we were worried about something taking place, when - somebody mentioned to me today - when we lost the horses and we started to move into diesels, when people began to become a little bit frightened about the impact of the aeroplane; all these things, they've gone by and we've overcome them and we've moved forward. And I think this report here has had action from the recognition that labour and management and government took, that we don't have to be worried about the effect of technological change.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask a general question and perhaps make a point here to the Minister concerning the Workmen's Compensation Board. I spoke to them recently about a case that was drawn to my attention and this raises a kind of larger principle. My question to the Minister basically is whether or not in fact there's been a change in policy towards the payment of money to someone who is permanently disabled. For example, I understand at one time some kind of lump sum payment or some sort of larger grant was made to someone who was permanently disabled, whereas nowadays they're taking a different approach and they're tending to pay an amount of money based on the differential of wages that were paid before the accident and wages paid after.

To get more specific and to ask the question, a gentleman in my constituency was injured in an accident where he badly injured one hand, losing some fingers and the use of his hand to any real extent. He was given very good treatment at the time he was hospitalized, full compensation, then he was given partial compensation, then he returned to his job. Before he was injured he was earning something like \$2.12 an hour. When he returned he was making \$2.04. So the Compensation Board apparently granted him a payment of 75 percent of the differential, which comes to \$10.40 a month.

Now, I have no quarrel with the way he was treated when he was hospitalized or when he was given a partial 30 percent compensation for a short period thereafter, but what we're coming up to right now is this. This man has returned to his job; he is now receiving a payment of \$10.40 a month, and this apparently will go on for some time. But there's only one catch, and that is that this man has in effect lost a hand, and although there's a slight adjustment payment made between salary basis before the accident and the salary after, he's really receiving very little from the Compensation Board. I don't know what the responsibility of the Board should be in this matter. It seems that at one time, up until recently, they were making some sort of larger payment and that they now appear to be in some kind of a policy shift of from making larger grants, giving larger amounts of money, to now working on this 75 percent differential. So, I would like to ask the Minister whether there has been a change in attitude or a change in policy in regard to payments, and I'd also like to ask him whether he thinks this is a satisfactory thing. The difference between the man's salary before and after, there's practically no difference. He's being paid a pittance. The question is, he has lost his hand and

(MR. DOERN cont'd) should anything more be done for him ?

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Chairman, there has been an experimentation with the policy of payment of the permanent partial disability, and before I go any further in answering this question, I should say to the honourable member that I might have to make some changes in what I'm saying to you now, on the basis of being given the exact facts from department officials because I, in trying to deal with this matter, have found it very complex. I think the policy in the past has been that if there had been a permanent partial disability and a man received an award, he got that award no matter what salary he might be earning. He might be earning -- he might have, despite the disability, achieved \$10,000 a year that he still got; if the disability was \$100.00 a month, he still got that. But from that policy there were some men who, because of the disability, could not earn \$10,000 a year and were tied to the disability which might have been not that severe, tied to that pension for the period of, say, of life. So there has been an effort to establish an equity in dealing with the matter so that the man that is tied to it and can't earn greater money and is still on that low pension, that there would be some flexibility where consideration could be given to what he might have been able to earn over the period of time. Now, I must say that it's in an experimental stage and I have had discussion with union people and with management about it. It's come up in times when I have travelled from Flin Flon to Lynn Lake and to Thompson, discussing matters with union and with labour, and there are definitely pros and cons to the matter, to the original policy, to the new experimental policy, and it's a matter which has yet to be decided. When he has asked what my opinion of it is, at the moment I think that I would want to hear more from what's taking place on the basis of the experimentation and the endeavour to bring about an equity in the pension payment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, I guess I should congratulate you, my friend, on nearly completing your first day's work in this new department and I take it that you haven't used up much red or blue ink this afternoon. And then I want to congratulate my honourable friend the new Minister of Labour, who has some glowing reports from the north. The thing that always confuses me is that he tells a different kind of a story altogether to what Gordon Beard used to tell us. A different one altogether. Gordon Beard had sounded as if he should be sitting and speaking on this side of the House because he did have some unkind things to say about the administration.

However, Mr. Chairman, I want to know whether or not the figures given in the Workmen's Compensation Act, Manitoba, Report of the Workmen's Compensation Board for 1968 - the pages do not appear to be numbered, but it is a balance sheet - the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ending December 31, 1968, Exhibit 6 - no page number on here at all. Have you found it yet, my friend? Exhibit 6. You have found it? Well, the question then is that it appears to me as if the total benefits paid out are just about half of the receipts that were taken in. Now there may be a good reason for that but you will see that the receipts total \$12,139,000 - odd and the total benefits paid, Exhibit 2 it says, nearly \$7 million. Now I realize that down, two-thirds down the page there's funds invested of \$3,700,000, but this seems to me to be a substantial reserve, if that in fact is a reserve, on total premiums or assessments, if you want to call it that, of \$9 million, so I wonder if there is an explanation for this apparent calculation here because, if it is so, it would seem to me that the assessments could be reduced substantially this coming year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, first of all let me congratulate you on your position as Chairman of the Committee of the House, and also the Minister in the administration of the new portfolio, that of Labour. My remarks will be very brief this afternoon and will be more or less just a few questions in connection with certain matters that have already been raised.

I am interested in connection with the Workmen's Compensation. I imagine all members of the House got copies of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce Statement of Policy and Resolutions, and in their brief we find Resolution No. 44 on Page 30 headed "Workmen's Compensation". I will read the resolution in order to get the drift of it and also so that I can then question the part that I want. It reads this way: "Whereas the total cost of benefits provided under The Workmen's Compensation Act, as well as all the costs of administration of the Act are provided by the employers; Whereas employers have always looked on Workmen's Compensation as a form of insurance for their employees for which the employer pays the premium; and Whereas several recent amendments to the Act are more in the nature of welfare payments

(MR. FROESE cont'd) than insurance benefits; and Whereas employers believe that all welfare benefits should be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the province rather than being a direct charge on employers; Therefore Be It Resolved that the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, in convention assembled, urge individual Chambers of Commerce and businessmen throughout the province to impress on the government and on their local MLA's their strong belief that not only should the insurance principles be maintained but also that The Workmen's Compensation Act should not become a vehicle for welfare payments."

I would like to have the Honourable Minister tell us just what the problem is. No doubt the brief was presented by the executive members of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce to him, and most likely explained the problem, but is this really a fact that our employers in this province are subsidizing people, or people who are on welfare, or people that obtain welfare payments in this way through the Workmen's Compensation Act? And if this is the case I certainly would like to know because I feel that that is not the purpose of the Act and the reason it was set up for, and therefore I would certainly like to know the line of demarcation between welfare payments and insurance benefits that are accruing from this Act.

Mr. Chairman, we all have the Report of Automation and the Individual. These are proceedings of the Manitoba Conference on Technological Change and this was a conference that was held a year ago. I sat in on some of the discussions and I thought that it was a worthwhile conference. I also took special note of what Mr. Scott Bateman said in his part of the report. After all, he claims that he is putting forth more or less government policy. And I would like to know from the Minister, the way things are today, that many of our young people are rather in a quandary because they hear so much about the various changes that are going to take place, and as a result some of these high school students are unable to make up their mind. If it's really a fact that some of those jobs will not be there any longer a few years hence, what should they do? What should they go in for? And I think we should be able to tell them, as departments of government, what the score is and whether these jobs will be done away with in a matter of a few years.

We know that the farm industry as such, the number of farmers is decreasing every year, and that many of them have to give up farming because they just can't make ends meet. Here again, I feel that if this keeps on, that eventually, probably in the not too distant future, we will be crying for farmers; we'll need people who have the experience of the farmers of today, and if we do not have young people coming into the industry that learn the trade and learn the occupation and know to be a jack-of-all-trades, as is commonly said, that they have to be able to make repairs of their own and so on, that we will be needing these very people in the not too distant future and that we will be short of them, and I think it is time that this government took note of that and look into the future and see what can be done. For one thing, we know that the income of the farming industry is much too low to attract young people. They want a steady income; they want a pay cheque every month; and this is what they can't get presently as a farmer from the farm industry. And sure enough, we know that we need some of the better people of this province to stay in that particular industry, that they not all go to other industries because of the monthly pay cheque. I would certainly like to know from the Minister what is being done, what are they intending to do to attract and keep a good number of qualified young people on the farm. I think it is very essential because we need these people and we definitely must maintain the industry so that we can provide food for the people of this world. What has the Minister to say in this regard?

MR. WITNEY: I didn't expect to be in farming today, Mr. Chairman. There are all sorts of courses available for people who want to learn about machinery and want to learn about how to keep things repaired, etc. There are apprenticeship courses at the Manitoba Institute of Technology; there are various technical courses; and of course at the University there are various professional courses that are being offered to young people. And in nearly all of these institutions, I think you will find in most of the larger ones now that there are also counselling services available, so there are courses available to these people who want to stay with agriculture or who want to go to some other area of activity.

As to what are we going to do to keep them down on the farm, I would suggest that perhaps the parents would have a fair amount of responsibility to encouraging the young people to stay on the farm. I'm not sure whether we can rush out in the country and say to everybody, "Now stay on the farm," when there are so many things available to young people today -- a vast array of technologies and professions and skills of one type and another that they can

(MR. WITNEY cont'd) engage in and that are needed. So I feel that my answer to the Honourable Member for Rhineland - and the Minister of Education is not here - that it might be just a simple matter of a family discussion, because the courses are available if they want to leave, either in the technical level or in the professional level.

There's no welfare associated with Workmen's Compensation. The Workmen's Compensation principle is quite clear in the Act, where the employer takes on a responsibility to pay compensation to a workman who is injured on the job or, if he is killed on the job, to the workman and to his dependents. I think what the Chamber of Commerce were getting at are some of their concerns about matters such as the Canada Pension Plan and Medicare and other schemes of a social context, but as far as the Workmen's Compensation Act and the administration of its funds today, it works on that simple principle and it continues to work that way, and I think if you read in the Chamber of Commerce, it's implicit that they are saying that that's the way they think it ought to be.

In dealing with the comment of the Honourable the Member for Gladstone-Neepawa, if he will note on the disbursements, you have the receipts at 12 million, then you have the disbursements, and those disbursements are labelled In Compensation 3 million, medical aid, etc., coming down to a total benefit which he gives as 6.9 million. I'm not sure what this subsidy to group No. 66 is - I'm lost on that one. The administration and the general expenses are there in Exhibit 3 - that accounts for about \$1 million. This Advances to Employees re sundry accounts - that's a very small amount. But the Funds Invested - it's my understanding that on some of the temporary, partial disabilities which might flair up again, that there's a capital account set aside for a workman in order to pay a compensation to him if the disability does flair up again at some time in the future, and that this \$3.7 million represents that capital account, which of course is invested. Now, I may be wrong there but I think that that is generally what is involved.

MR. SHOEMAKER: I agree with my honourable friend, Mr. Chairman, that it is apparently a reserve of \$3,700,000 that's being set up to take care of contingencies, but the point that I was trying to make was that it seems like a substantial figure in light of the total benefits paid; that is, the reserve being set up is slightly more than half of all benefits paid and I was questioning that part of it.

Now I would like to know whether or not our agricultural sector of the economy is taking advantage of the Workmen's Compensation that has been made available to them. I understand, Mr. Chairman, that it is only in the last three or four years that the farmers have been able to make contributions to the Fund and, in turn, receive benefits from it. That is, their employees, farm employees. Are they making use of it, Mr. Minister? Have we any figures on that?

MR. WITNEY: With respect to the latter question, yes, they are making use, and while I am sorry at this moment I can't give you any statistical information, it is my understanding that they are using it to a greater extent than they had before.

On the basis of the fund which you find so large, if you take a look at Table No. 1 -- and again, as you say, there are no pages being numbered here -- it shows that the total of the temporary disabilities is 12,171, that it is in these temporary disabilities that these capital funds have to be set up. You note that the permanent disabilities are 428 in relation to that, and of course the deaths were listed as 39.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)--passed; (b)--passed; (c)--passed; Resolution 65--passed. Resolution 66. Mechanical Engineering Services.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, I think in the past the Minister, in making the initial statement on his estimates, gave us the number of employees, did he not, in every department? Now, it's true that in the Department of Labour the total estimates are not up to any great extent. They're up, what? Some 40,000 or something like that; but does my honourable friend intend to tell the Assembly the number of employees in each one of the departments? That is, under General Administration, Mechanical and Engineering Services and so on?

MR. WITNEY: No, I hadn't intended to do it but I can do it, Mr. Chairman.

Administration 19; Mechanical and Engineering 31; Employment Standard 21; Apprenticeship Training 14; Labour Relations 9; Fire Prevention 9; Labour Research 9; for a total of 112. The figures are pretty well comparable, and as a matter of fact, I don't think there is any change from last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 66, Mechanical Engineering Services \$302,198.00. (a)--passed; (b)--passed; (c)--passed; Resolution 66 passed. Resolution 67, Employment Standards \$204,510.00. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Under Employment Standards, I would like to know if the Minister contemplates any revision of the 40-hour week, is one question. The other one is in regard to the maintenance of the employment standards. Did the Honourable the Attorney-General wish to make a statement?

MR. LYON: I was not referring to my honourable friend. I was . . .

MR. FOX: Sorry, I thought you were. In regard to the employment standards, the other aspect that I mentioned at the beginning was in regard to a workman who is deprived of his rightful remuneration, has to take it before the Labour Board and gets an award and finds that afterwards he still has to go to court in order to collect, this being a double cost to him, loss of pay as well as expenses, and I do think that we could tighten up the standards in that regard. I wonder if the Minister could comment on that.

MR. WITNEY: I think the general answer to both questions is yes, it is being considered right now.

MR. FOX: Do we have a bill before us?

MR. WITNEY: That's a good question, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PHILIP PETURSSON (Wellington): Mr. Chairman, may I pose a problem that has been presented to me. It has to do with compensation. I don't know whether it comes under this particular item or not, but I was approached by a man who is on the maximum compensation because of injuries received - they incapacitated him, made it impossible for him to continue to work. He had been on a salary plus, under certain conditions that arose in the . . . (this was a garage), plus a commission which was paid at a certain point, after a certain amount of work had been brought in and reached a top figure, then beyond that he was paid a commission for the work. He was a foreman in the repair shop in the garage. He was that seriously injured that he is incapable of continuing to carry on that work or any other work. In computing the compensation paid to him, would not that commission, averaged over whatever length of time may be necessary, would that not be considered as part of his earnings in arriving at a figure for compensation? Could the Minister answer that for me, please?

MR. WITNEY: No Mr. Speaker. Compensation is computed from the accident at the time, and the earnings at the time of the accident.

MR. PETURSSON: This man had worked for this firm for over 20 years or more. I don't remember the exact -- quite some length of time over the years in his capacity as foreman of this particular department. He had been receiving salary plus commission and this was being collected annually. It varied from \$25.00 to \$100.00 perhaps a week. Now this is the situation and I wondered whether this would not enter into the category of earnings for determining what the amount would be that he would receive in compensation.

MR. WITNEY: Subject to clarification, Mr. Chairman, I think the answer is no. He is paid his compensation on the basis of the job that he had when he was injured.

MR. PETURSSON: Mr. Chairman, if I may carry on, this was his job. He was foreman of this department. When a certain amount of work had come in, if it exceeded a set amount -- it was figured out, I'm not too sure exactly, it was on a monetary basis -- over and above that, then he received commission. This was his job, and it was recognized that beyond a certain amount he was getting a commission. When the company - it was a Carter Motors - when the company was receiving a certain amount of work, then over and above that amount he would be paid commission for extra work that was brought in. I don't know whether I can make it any clearer than that, but . . .

MR. WITNEY: I think the honourable member could if he would be kind enough to give me the details of the individual case and I'll have them checked out with the Workmen's Compensation Board.

MR. PETURSSON: Thank you very much. I can put it in the form of a letter; get the information. Thank you.

MR. FOX: Mr. Chairman, there is one other question I would like to pose to the Minister and that is in regard to the employment standard of safety aspect when the inspection takes place. Quite often the inspector that comes around goes around with management. I think that it should be suggested that the people involved, the employees, too, have a participant when the inspection is made. The other aspect of this, Mr. Chairman, which is of

(MR. FOX cont'd) contention, is that quite often -- in fact all the time -- the reports that are made by the inspector are not made public to anyone except to the Department of Labour, and whether the inspection was properly conducted or not is not the question in dispute, but whether the evidence that was available was all seen by the inspector, and I think that we should consider this point and I wonder if the Minister could comment on it.

MR. WITNEY: In response to the first one, Mr. Chairman, I think our inspectors, that the practice has been that they attempt to be as neutral as possible in dealing with an inspection. I don't know whether there's some specific incidents that he has in mind but, generally speaking, I would say that our inspectors endeavour to just make their own assessment of what the situation is. They might, out of courtesy, ask management if they can look at something, but if they didn't want to do that I would imagine they've got the authority to go ahead and take a look.

On the basis of the reports I'd have some reservations about that. I think that that question of revealing of an inspector's report, which would be an internal document, would first of all put the inspector in a difficult position. It would affect his neutral assessment because the report is going to become a public document and probably debated, so I would have reservations about that suggestion.

MR. FOX: Well, the point I'm trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is that the inspection department notifies the employer that they are coming, but the employees do not get this notification. This is the first aspect. In regards to the inspectors being neutral, I would agree that in most cases they are. There might be the odd time when they just can't be because of the circumstances, but if they are neutral then there should be no hesitation in revealing what they have to report so that the employees will get the satisfaction of knowing that the correct report was made and that action will be taken to remedy the safety or any other feature that happens to be involved. If they do not know what is reported, and nothing is done, then they have achieved no redress for the grievance that originated the inspection to begin with.

MR. WITNEY: Briefly, Mr. Chairman, we are a department that's affected with labour and with management, and I think possibly that the point well taken about notification of one may be notification of the other, is something that ought to be done and it will be considered.

MR. LYON: Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply wishes to report certain resolutions were adopted and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. M. E. McKELLAR (Souris-Lansdowne): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre, that the report of the committee be received.

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

MR. SPEAKER: It is now 5:30. The House is adjourned and will stand adjourned until 2:30 tomorrow afternoon.