

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
o'clock, Wednesday, September 10, 1969

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Notices of Motion.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere) introduced Bill No. 38, an Act to amend The Election Act. (Recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.)

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona), on behalf of the Honourable the Minister of Health and Social Services, introduced Bill No. 37, an Act to amend The Social Allowances Act; and

Bill No. 36, an Act to amend The Health Services Insurance Act.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At this point, I would like to introduce to the members of this Assembly, in my loge to the right, Mr. John Burton, Member of Parliament for Regina East.

Also, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery on my right where we have 75 students of Grade 11 standing, of the Charleswood Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Messrs. Hall, Hood and Posaluko. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Charleswood.

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 Assiniboia.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable First Minister. Can the First Minister advise whether Professor Melville Watkins has been hired by the government and in what capacity?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, no decision has been taken.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I wonder if I could address a question to the First Minister. I wonder if he could indicate to the House how many additional bills are yet to be tabled in the House for first reading.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, possibly I could answer that. It appears to me, as House Leader, at the present time that there may be possibly four more bills to be introduced into the House, and may I assure my honourable friend that they will be introduced with due despatch.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (House Leader of the Liberal Party) (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the First Minister. With respect to his discussions he held with TransAir, where I understand he recommended the changes in management, will it be the policy of this government to recommend to private companies changes in management, if some members of the Legislature disagree?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, perhaps . . . but in any case this government didn't make any recommendations about changes in management, not in the slightest.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would direct to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. In view of the urgency surrounding Bill No. 16 which would permit the City of Brandon to sell certain obsolete properties, could he tell the House when the Agricultural Committee would meet to give this bill its . . .

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac Du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, it's the intent, as I understand, to refer all bills to Law Amendments. Perhaps the Honourable House Leader might elaborate on that point at this time.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be introducing and will give notice of it now. Although it will appear in Votes and Proceedings I'll give due notice that all bills will be referred to Law Amendments Committee. May I assure my honourable friend the Member from Brandon that this matter will be given every consideration as quickly as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the House Leader whether, amongst the four bills that are to be brought in, there is one concerning the tax freeze or tax incentive for the City of Winnipeg's downtown area. I feel it is a matter of some urgency.

MR. PAULLEY: My reply, Mr. Speaker, to my honourable friend the Member for Fort Rouge, is that not to my knowledge at the present time.

MRS. TRUEMAN: A supplementary question. Does this mean that no action will be taken in this respect during this Session?

MR. PAULLEY: My answer would be not necessarily so, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for LaVerendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Is it true that Manitoba investors were not given an opportunity to buy Manitoba Telephone bonds in the latest issue?

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance) (St. John's): Mr. Speaker, my understanding was that the bond issue was taken up very quickly and enthusiastically. It's not really known just who picked it up but I can inform the honourable member that I've discussed the procedures involved with the fiscal agents and, as I understand it, there are some 28 brokerage houses in Canada which forms a syndicate which was changed with the distribution, or the allocation - I should use the word allocation - of the bond issue, and that due regard in the distribution or allocation amongst the syndicate members is given to their ability, their ability to make proper sale of this in the proper manner, that there are Manitoba companies involved which I believe have some additional or special consideration in the allocation. I have not heard any complaint of any type from Manitoba investors, or indeed other investors, that they've not been able to buy bonds, but I would hope that a great many people were disappointed that they didn't come in quickly to invest further in Manitoba and I hope they will have further opportunity.

MR. BARKMAN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it not true that this issue was announced during the Manitoba noon hour, and by the time they became aware of this they were already bought up?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I will not accept the statement that that is true. I understand that there was an earlier timing than -- you say the Manitoba noon hour. I believe that the timing was earlier and that that was not a problem and that that suggestion is not an acceptable one as a description of what happened. I have not heard any complaints.

MR. BARKMAN: Mr. Speaker, one more supplementary question. Would the Minister inform us what the net interest was.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, I don't have my material before me. I don't think I should give figures without knowing them. I will try to get them. If I can get them today I will inform the honourable member. I will also make the statement in the House, accepting this as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Honourable the House Leader relative to the answer given to the question by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. Is it the intention of the government not to convene the Public Utilities Committee?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think that I was clear enough when I suggested that I would be introducing a resolution referring all bills to the Committee on Law Amendments, and I would suggest that on receipt of that resolution my honourable friend could raise objections if that is what he had in mind. So, by implication, my announcement of the referral of all bills to Law Amendments he can interpret what he will.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I take it, then, that we will not have an opportunity to examine the vital Hydro matters before the government at the moment at Public Utilities, nor indeed will we have an opportunity to have Mr. Cass-Beggs before us at that committee, as has been suggested by members of the opposition as a suitable course to follow.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, all I can say, and repeat again to my honourable friend, that insofar as the disposition of bills are concerned it is the intention of myself as House

(MR. PAULLEY Cont'd.) . . . Leader to introduce a resolution referring all bills to Law Amendments. The other committees will not be called for the purpose of discussing bills.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I directed a question some weeks ago to the Minister of Agriculture in regards to the advance upon grain that farmers could apply for, regardless of acreage. His answer to me was "soon" and I'm wondering if he could give us something more definite today as to where we stand on that matter.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, . . . the Member for Rock Lake. My answer was that I had "hoped" it would be soon.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Can the Minister advise the House if the government intends to reduce telephone premiums, which was advocated by the Honourable Member for Crescentwood?

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, this will be considered in due course.

MR. PATRICK: A subsequent question. Will it be this session?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I can't answer to that question.

MR. CY GONICK (Crescentwood): On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to advise the member that I made no such statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, a further question to the Honourable the House Leader. I appreciate his point that the Public Utilities Committee will not necessarily be called to deal with any bills. Can he indicate to the House, will it be called for any other reason?

MR. PAULLEY: . . . does not indicate that it will be called for any other purpose.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: My question is for the Honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in the week I had asked a question of whether or not he had let a road contract on a cost-plus basis. Is the Minister prepared to answer at this time?

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Transportation) (Thompson): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The answer is "no".

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister. In the Speech from the Throne I interpreted, and I believe that the First Minister has indicated, that he would form an all-parliamentary committee on parliamentary reforms. When could we expect the announcement of that committee, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SCHREYER: It's being done, Mr. Speaker, and should appear in Votes and Proceedings very soon, if it hasn't already.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister can inform the House whether one of the four bills yet to be tabled in the House would include amendments to the Manitoba Development Fund, and more particularly, the increase of the capitalization from \$5 million to \$25 million as was suggested in an article in the Financial Post this week.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is yes. The answer to the second part is that it's a matter of policy which will be announced to the House in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to direct another question to the First Minister. When will the consultative board to recommend legislation re the Automobile Insurance Act, when will that committee be named?

MR. SCHREYER: Hopefully, at such time and in such a way, Mr. Speaker, that there can be legislation ready to submit to honourable members by the next regular session. I say "hopefully".

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Could we expect amendments to the Labour Regulations Act be received?

MR. PAULLEY: I have already indicated to this House the only bill that the Department of Labour intends to introduce is that dealing with Workmen's Compensation Board.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the First Minister, if I may. In view of the possible establishment of the northern task force, will the First Minister inform the House as to whether or not it will include representatives from all parties in the House.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the answer is that it will include members representing constituencies that are in the north; that is, by definition, along the standards accepted by both the federal and provincial governments, north of - Census Division 16, in other words - so that whoever is an MLA from that area will likely be on this task force. It includes the Honourable Member for Churchill, the Honourable Member for The Pas, Rupertsland and so on.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Speaker, just a reminder, I wonder if I could remind the Honourable First Minister that the North starts at Swan River.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, it would be pleasant, I'm sure, for members of the task force to have the pleasant company of the Honourable Member for Swan River, but then, where do you draw the line? Roblin, or Virden, or perhaps Arthur.

A MEMBER: Or North Winnipeg.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to answer the question of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye on the interest rate payable - I think he used the words "net interest payable" or receivable, which was it? - on the recent bond issue. If the member were a reader of the News Service of the Manitoba Government of August 13, 1969, he would have seen a full page report. The bonds are five-year bonds, extendable at the option of the buyer for an additional fifteen years, to turn it into a 20-year bond. The bond is an eight percent bond and was sold to investors at \$98.75. The yield, if held for five years, would be about 8-1/4 percent; the yield if held for twenty years would be about 8.12 percent. I might say that in the arrangements made with the fiscal agents, there is a payment, I believe, of one percent of the issue as commission, so that the cost to telephones would of course be somewhat higher when that commission is spread over the full term of the bonds, and the cost to Hydro, I am informed, held for 20 years, would be somewhere around 8.22 percent, and if held over five years would be 8.56 percent.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for LaVerendrye.

MR. BARKMAN: I want to thank the Minister for the answer and I also want to congratulate him that he is also not a reader of the propaganda services.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question on that answer. I wonder if the Honourable Minister could compare that, or give his comparison of the \$40 million loan of the Ontario government at that time in West Germany for 7 percent.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to say, without checking much further, that I don't believe the statement as it is put by the honourable member. No doubt he will have an opportunity to expand on it. That is in, you say, in Germany. Well, I'm just not going to comment. I don't accept it. If he wants to elaborate on it and prove the statement he just made, I would be very glad to deal with it and give him a full report.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, may I reply to the question? Even if the rate quoted by the Honourable Member for River Heights is correct, that is to say 7 percent on the West German money market, lest members infer too much I just want to point out that when you borrow in the West German money market you run the risk of Deutsche mark revaluation and that could have a serious negative effect.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture or the First Minister. I do this because of the heading I see in today's paper, "Agricultural Credit Changes Are Probable", and I'm wondering, from the statement he made, whether farmers should get into the livestock business through co-ops or corporations, and is he suggesting to do this without any financial assistance from the corporation?

MR. SCHREYER: Was that directed to me, Sir, or to the Minister of Agriculture?

MR. EINARSON: Yes, to the First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well then, Mr. Speaker, I would simply say that certainly it is our hope that we can formulate policy that will be accepted by farmers, with enthusiasm even, to the extent that farmers want to group together either in co-ops or in corporations in which

(MR. SCHREYER Cont'd) . . . shares are more or less equally held. If they are prepared to do this, the government would want to stand ready to provide capital loan assistance to stimulate conversion from one kind of commodity production into livestock production.

MR. EINARSON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the First Minister could inform us as whether in the Supplementary Estimates there may be funds available through the Corporation for this purpose.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Agriculture pointed out a few days ago, officials of his department are working on this problem area right now trying to formulate policy with precision. I've stated the general outline of policy that we hope to put forward, and now officials of the Minister's department are working on detail.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the First Minister. I wonder if he can inform the House whether in fact the government in the past has not loaned in Deutsche marks from West Germany a substantial sum of money repayable in Deutsche marks.

MR. SCHREYER: Well yes, Mr. Speaker. There is no question but that the West German money market is a place where rate terms are relatively good and attractive to the borrower, but there is the - which has to be weighed against it - the possibility, and I don't want to comment to what my personal views are except it's a distinct possibility of Deutsche marks revaluation, which then puts a penalty on the borrower at times of repayment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Transportation. Yesterday he indicated on T. V. that they were going to start a program of some \$5 million of overpasses on the Metro system, the Perimeter, and could he indicate to the House which crossing he would start on first?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I didn't get the question.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to respond to the question again. Yesterday the Minister of Transportation, on a public news media, indicated that he was embarking on a \$5 million program of perimeter cloverleafs, overpasses. Can he indicate to the House at this time which crossings would receive his first priority? I think a good number of the travellers in the Metro area would be vitally concerned with that. I travel the Perimeter myself. I would be concerned about it.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, when the next budget is brought down we'll answer all questions on that matter.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Transport. Can the Minister explain the purpose of surveys being taken on highways during the past weekend by a group of six to seven, and in some instances more, men on Trans-Canada east and west? Can he explain the purpose of the surveys?

MR. BOROWSKI: If the honourable member is referring to the boys in pink hats questioning motorists, the information is used for our department, it's used for the Tourist Department, and I think it's a practice that's been going on for some time - and it's a very good one and one that's essential.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, a subsequent question. There was only, I believe, two questions asked because I was one of the ones that was stopped and asked, and the question was: "Where is your address and where are you going?" or destination. My supplementary question is why seven to eight men to ask one motorist?

MR. BOROWSKI: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm surprised he should ask such a silly question. Cars pile up. If you have one person standing there you're going to have 50 cars piled up; if you have seven people, the vehicle traffic moves seven times as fast. It's just that simple.

MR. EARL McKELLAR (SOURIS-KILLARNEY): . . . direct this question to the House Leader. Will the Special Committee on Farm Machinery be reconstituted this session?

MR. PAULLEY: The matter is under consideration, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. JACK HARDY (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, may I direct this question to the Honourable Minister of Transportation? Can it be a concern by this House - I'm sure it can be, depending on the answer that you relate - that the \$5 million which has been suggested is going to be spent on overpasses on the Perimeter highway, is in fact a policy of the government which will be put into effect presumably when the next budget is introduced?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Chairman, the gentleman can presume what he chooses to presume. This is a figure that was mentioned in the department, the approximate cost of the overpasses, and I think when I mentioned this figure I mentioned other figures also, and when the decision is made to go ahead we'll have definite figures and we'll also have definite ideas of how to raise the money to pay for it. He'll have an opportunity at that time to ask questions and to vote for ways of raising funds to pay for it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would direct to the Honourable the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Does he contemplate any action in respect to the announced intent of the Federal Government to return the campsite and townsite at Clear Lake and all the recreational facilities to the wilderness concept, and is he concerned with the effect this will have on the many people of Manitoba who use this facility?

HON. PETER BURTONIAK (Minister of Tourism and Recreation) (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, certainly I'm concerned but I'll take that as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Attorney-General. Is he contemplating taking any action against the indecent exposure of the Member for Lakeside?

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I believe the House Leader indicated that we could expect four bills additional. Is any one of those bills to deal with agriculture?

MR. PAULLEY: My honourable friend will receive his answer when the bills are introduced in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. MCKELLAR: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Does the Minister of Finance agree with the Member for Crescentwood, as stated in Canadian Dimension, that Manitoba is not one of the most heavily taxed provinces in Canada?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I haven't read the article; I haven't seen the magazine. If the honourable member would care to send it to me I would be very glad to read it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): I forget what the question was. All right. I'd like to ask the House Leader if he would follow through with a little more education and tell me whether or not bills referred to Law Amendments would not be the same as bills referred to Public Utilities. Can we call people in front of Law Amendments the same as in Utilities?

MR. PAULLEY: I don't know what the reference was of my honourable friend to education. The committees have certain powers within the committees themselves, and the decision of the committees will rule the procedures of the committees. That's the only answer I can give to my honourable friend, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): . . . specific question is: does the Law Amendments Committee have that power?

MR. CHERNIACK: Look it up.

MR. CRAIK: Well, is it too much to request of the Honourable the House Leader?

MR. PAULLEY: My honourable friend has occupied an executive position in the Government of Manitoba. I'm sure a man of his intelligence ought to know the answer to that.

MR. CRAIK: The usual answer.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Speaker, for the edification of the Deputy Speaker, the behaviour of the Honourable Member for Lakeside is somewhat above the law within this House and he's probably taken his cue from across the floor.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I rise, not on a point of order, but on a matter affecting the decorum of this House. I believe that it can be said that honourable members, on both sides it would seem, are not all sure as to what is proper dress in this Chamber, but it would seem to me, Sir, that it is the prerogative of your Chair. If you'd care to

(MR. SCHREYER Cont'd) . . . comment I'm sure all honourable members would be prepared to take your good advice on the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: . . . members that I do not see any coat hooks or hooks for garments provided within this Chamber, and I don't see any appendage to any desk that could properly be used as such.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Speaker, I just wondered whether the rest of the Assembly is aware that there are guests in the gallery behind me who are entering into the debate. They're speaking. I'm getting sounds from both sides and it's a little difficult to differentiate which are appropriately part of this Assembly and which are, I think, out of order. There's a lot of comment coming from behind . . .

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder if my honourable friend would be more explicit because I -- (Interjection) -- Oh, the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER: . . . request the visitors in the gallery to maintain some semblance of silence to make it possible to hear questions and answers in the Chamber. May I also remind the honourable members that it is now five past three, and there was some commitment made or some agreement arrived at yesterday.

MR. PAULLEY: In response to that point, Mr. Chairman, I realize that there was due notice given to the calling of the Committee of Law Amendments at 3:00 o'clock, but I do not -- the government does not wish to curtail the opportunity of honourable members to ask questions on Orders of the Day and, if they have exhausted their questions, then I would make the suggestion as to the procedure for the balance of the day, but I do not wish to curtail, in accordance with the decisions of this government to be free, frank and open with members opposite, as contrary to some other administrations, that if they wish to pursue questions I have no objection.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, just -- I am very appreciative of the comments just made by the Honourable House Leader. I would assume, then, that this same free, full, frank opportunity for public discussion will be afforded to the people of Manitoba on such matters as South Indian Lake, on such matters as the hydro-electric development projects in this province, and this is the reason for my question about the convening of the Public Utilities Committee or the Law Amendments Committee.

MR. PAULLEY: I'm sure my honourable friend is well aware of the fact that this government has already announced that it will be more free, more frank and more open than the previous administration was in regard to Southern Indian Lake.

MR. ENNS: You haven't spelled it out. The question still is asked, where at? The Public Utilities Committee or the Law Amendments Committee? Where at?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I want to make two points to the honourable member. The first is that it has been common practice in this House whenever a shorter session has been called - that is, other than a regular session - to send the bills that pass second reading here into Law Amendments. If he will check back the practice followed by predecessor Premier Roblin in the years between 1958 and 1967, that on more occasions than one it was decided during a shorter session to refer all bills to Law Amendments even though they might normally in a regular session have come to the Committee on Utilities and Resources, for example.

The second point I want to make in reply to his question is that we hope, at least in degree, to open up the process of government to more public scrutiny. We're not saying that we shall have a complete revolutionary change in that respect from the previous administration.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the First Minister would be the first to agree with me that the matter of South Indian Lake and hydro-electric development project is not just another thing or issue and more important - and here is the question - am I to understand from his answer that we will not have an opportunity to debate the very important issue which has hung over us and the public of Manitoba for so long on the matter of South Indian Lake, nor will we have an opportunity of examining the hydro officials, the opportunity which this government, when we were in government, gave to all members of the opposition, or the opportunity to examine those people who are currently advising the present government, such as Mr. Cass-Beggs?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, if that was the question I'd like to answer it and tell my honourable friend that he is free to bring in a resolution to that effect; and secondly, whatever process we follow, whatever procedure we follow, we shall at least not be hiding in a report. It'll be free and frank.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question of the First Minister further to the questions that were asked of him the other day regarding the responsibilities of the Member for Crescentwood that he is either performing now or will be performing for the Cabinet and particularly for the Cabinet Planning and Priorities Committee. Could the Minister indicate exactly what are those responsibilities and what is the appointment?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the considerable talents of my colleague, the Member for Crescentwood, could be brought to bear in the way of analysis of problems facing our economy in the way of consultative advice to certain government departments at the ministerial level, etcetera. In other words, my colleague from Crescentwood, being a member of this House, can hardly fit into a conventional kind of advisory role to government, but certainly we hope that it will be possible for him to participate in the process of drawing up planning and priorities for this government projected forward.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is this, then, as a legislative assistant or whatever capacity that the Honourable the Member for St. Boniface and the Member for Osborne constituency - is this the same appointment?

MR. SCHREYER: No, not quite, Mr. Speaker. There has been no announcement to that effect and none is contemplated, at least for the short run. I'm not in a position to say as to what arrangement might be made at some time in the future, but for now it's not the intention to make that kind of an arrangement. I repeat that my colleague will be giving us the benefits of his expertise in matters economic in the way of an advisor, simply - which is open to any MLA.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister can tell us whether the Honourable Member from Crescentwood will be sitting as a member of the sub-committee of Cabinet on Planning and Priorities dealing with economic planning in Manitoba?

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it may well be that when he is called upon to

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, can the Honourable First Minister inform the House - that means that he will have access to documents and research that are not available to other members of this House?

MR. SCHREYER: Not necessarily, Mr. Speaker, but just as it happens that a Minister may consult with an MLA -- I hope that this by the way is not unconventional in British parliamentary practice that Cabinet Ministers once in a while consult with Caucus. I don't know what the practice was with the previous administration. I want to tell my honourable friend that this administration intends to bring members of caucus into the mainstream of government, for a change.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Honourable First Minister can inform us whether members of his caucus will have the same privileges with the Minister of Finance on his budget matters.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I will make such decisions as I deem necessary and advisable at the time when the problem occurs to me. And if the Honourable Member for River Heights wants to give me advice I'll be happy to hear from him as well.

MR. PAULLEY: I suggest you be wary of his advice.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question to the First Minister, for clarification. Do I understand that the Member for Crescentwood has no other responsibility, no greater responsibility than any other member of the caucus, that is merely in the same capacity, or has he a special appointment?

MR. SCHREYER: my honourable friend, to the nub of the matter. It is not intended to give any kind of formal designation to the role of participation that shall be played by my colleague the Member for Crescentwood. But inasmuch as my colleague, the Member for Crescentwood is a man with considerable knowledge in certain select fields in economic thought it is felt that there will be times when we will want to take advantage of his views, will want to get the benefits of his views and expertise.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I think that it is a point of clarification, and this is not the witch hunt that the Honourable Minister of Finance suggests, but I'm aware of the practice of the previous administration and there is a suggestion of a change, and for that reason my question has to be put to the First Minister. Will it be the practice to allow the Honourable Member for Crescentwood access to the civil service and documents without proceeding through

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd)... a Minister or the Minister in Charge? The practice before was the Minister was in charge of his department and the information could be given, but will the Honourable Member for Crescentwood have access, direct contact with civil servants of departments, will he in turn be allowed to ask for and deal with documents without going through the Minister?

MR. SCHREYER: surely knows that members of the Legislative Assembly have the right to go to a departmental official, seek information. Oftentimes the official may see fit to do so; sometimes he may not because he feels that the information being sought bears on policy or on a matter upon which policy has not been decided, in which case the Deputy Minister or the official advises the MLA that he is not in a position to give him the information, in which case the MLA if he's really aggressive will go to the Minister and ask if he can get the information. The Minister exercises his judgment as to whether the MLA can have that information and if he feels that he can, he sends a directive to the deputy or the official that the information should be made available. Does that answer the question?

MR. PAULLEY: That's correct, too.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, the First Minister has just recited a policy that was followed in the past. Again, I'm asking is it the intention to follow this policy which means that the Honourable Member for Crescentwood will not have access to the documents unless they're forwarded him? And with respect to planning and priorities we are all dealing in policy matters.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Crescentwood, like other members that are interested in government, will be working closely with Cabinet Ministers and if they seek certain information and from the judgment of the Minister this information should be made available and put to good use through analysis by the MLA, the Minister will request that information and pass it on to the MLA, if in his judgment it should be done.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I can ask the First Minister a question? Is it a fact that the Honourable Member from Crescentwood has in fact now been dealing with matters, policy matters of the government, and has he in fact processed them through the Ministers, or did he in fact deal directly with civil servants? --(Interjections)--

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, if I may. The First Minister was kind enough to say that I was getting to the nub of the question. I would like to get to the nub of the answer. Does the Member for Crescentwood have any different relationship or responsibility with regards to the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet than other members on the government side?

MR. SCHREYER: Not in any formal way.

MR. CRAIK: The Honourable First Minister has mentioned that this is all in keeping with the parliamentary process, but isn't in actual fact the parliamentary procedure or parliamentary system we operate under, doesn't it really set up an executive branch and a political branch. Your executive branch is of course your Cabinet and your political branch of government side is your caucus, and the executive branch does sit in different terms of reference than the caucus itself does. That of course is that one person of the executive branch --(Interjection)-- The question, Mr. Speaker, is that a member that is a member of the Planning and Priorities Committee is in fact a member of the executive branch, is he not? Or is he a member of the political branch?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there have been some innovations in the past and I don't admit that there has been any significant innovation here. The very fact, for example, that the Legislative Assembly Act was amended some few years ago to allow a member of the Legislative Branch, as opposed to the Executive Branch, to sit in as a member of a policy determining board, for example Manitoba Hydro, is a classic example of how the classic differentiation between the legislative and the executive branches of government have been sometimes slightly adjusted.

To answer more precisely my honourable friend's question, I just want to say to him that if anyone other than a Cabinet Minister attends a meeting of Planning and Priorities Committee it is only on the request, upon the exercise of judgment of the chairman, who's a Cabinet Minister, that someone might be called in for an ad hoc purpose to get his views or his expertise to bear on a specific problem and then when that is dealt with the meeting goes on to deal with it in a routine way.

MR. CRAIK: A subsequent question. If any member of a Cabinet, whether it's Manitoba or elsewhere, speaks in a personal way about government policy, does he not in fact reflect government policy? Can a Cabinet Minister - and I refer to a case in which I spoke out myself at one time as an individual on a matter of government policy and ran into some difficulty with both sides of the House.

MR. CHERNIACK: You enunciated a policy. . . .

MR. CRAIK: No, but what I want to know specifically is whether the First Minister or not does consider that when a Cabinet Minister or a member of the Executive Branch expresses personal policy in regard to government affairs that he is in fact expressing government policy and he can't really speak as an individual.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, this is becoming an exercise in second year political science - introductory policie. I just want to say to my honourable friend that there would be a problem if we were bringing a member into the Executive Council which is the decision making body, but inasmuch as a Committee of Cabinet is not a final decision making body but simply a body where discussions are held and recommendations go on further up to Cabinet, that if an MLA happens to sit in on a, for example, Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet, since it is not a - or management - since it is not a policy-making body, only a recommending body, since the non-Cabinet member who may be sitting in is not in a decision making situation I fail to see the problem.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Are there any plans to change the name of Hecla Island?

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Speaker, not at the present time, no.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is the matter under discussion?

MR. BURTNIAK: No, it is not under discussion at the present time but I was just wondering perhaps I could ask the honourable member a question right back: What is the purpose of his question?

MR. MOLGAT: I'd be delighted to answer if I may, Mr. Speaker. The purpose is that it's been brought to my attention that there is in fact a plan afoot to change the name and I personally see no reason why the name should be changed. The question by the way was asked in the last House. The Minister could not be aware of that.

MR. BURTNIAK: If there is any suggestion idea as far as changing the name it is certainly not to my knowledge. I think we're quite satisfied that the name should be Hecla.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. MCKELLAR: Before the Orders of the Day I would like to direct one question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. Are you planning on using the Honourable Member for Crescentwood, economic advisor?

MR. USKIW: I have no idea at the moment whether I will utilize his services.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to elaborate just a little with respect to a question asked by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia. He asked if Melville Watkins was being - what was the word? - hired as a consultant by the Government of Manitoba and I said that no decision had been taken, which I believe is basically correct, although it is the thinking of the government -- I'm going further than I have to really in telling my honourable friend that it is the thinking of the government that Mr. Watkins, like others who have some experience or specialized knowledge in a given field, may very well be retained from time to time for a specific research purpose. This is what we intend to do at some future date as soon as the need arises in a concrete form.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, a supplementary question to the comments that have been made by the Honourable First Minister. I wonder if it's his intention to take Professor Watkins along with him when he seeks investment capital in the United States?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, since this government, as evidenced by the fact that the last issue of government bonds went very well, this government sees no need to change the procedure by which it goes about seeking investment capital.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid the First Minister misunderstood my question. I wasn't referring --(Interjection)-- Oh yes. I have a feeling he thinks I'm referring to capital --(Interjection)-- Yes I do have a question, Mr. Speaker. I am not referring to capital investment for the province, that is financing for the province, I'm referring to investment capital for financing industrial development in this province. And again I ask the First Minister: Is it his intention to take Professor Watkins along with him on these various junkets?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I believe I said that Mr. Watkins would be retained as a researcher or consultant from time to time whenever concrete demand for his service arose and I must tell my honourable friend that the search for investment capital I do not regard as being an area which Mr. Watkins would be retained to help us with.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable Minister of Finance and I ask it on behalf of that large group of citizens of Manitoba who have been working on certain agricultural surpluses. Would it be advisable for these people to stock up on certain products kept by the Liquor Commission, before tomorrow?

MR. CHERNIACK: I could give a glib answer but I don't see any point in it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure now in accordance with the policy of the government, my honourable friends have exhausted the question period. I am prepared to move a motion that the House adjourn until sitting tomorrow but I would suggest to the honourable members that they take a look at Votes and Proceedings for today because it is the intention to call Law Amendments Committee for Monday morning at 10:00 o'clock. I hereby give notice to my honourable friends that may not know that they should read Votes and Proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs, that the House do now adjourn and that, will resolve itself and the members of Law Amendments will meet in Room 254.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 Thursday afternoon.