

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Monday, August 18, 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.

Before the Orders of the Day, may I remind the honourable members that a seminar dealing with the rules of the House will be held in Room 254 tomorrow, Tuesday morning, at 10:00 a. m. All honourable members are invited to attend, and in particular those newly elected to this House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere) introduced Bill No. 25, The Ombudsman Act, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill).

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK Q. C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns) introduced Bill No. 18, an Act to amend The Motive Fuel Tax Act (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill).

And Bill No. 19, An Act to amend The Gasoline Tax Act, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill).

MR. CHERNIACK, in the absence of the Honourable Minister of Labour, introduced Bill No. 14, An Act to amend The Workmen's Compensation Act, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill).

HON. AL MACKLING (Attorney-General) (St. James) introduced Bill No. 3, An Act to amend The Regulations Act, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill);

And Bill No. 4, The Intoxicated Persons Detention Act, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill).

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet) introduced Bill No. 16, An Act respecting The Keystone Centre, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill);

And Bill No. 17, An Act to amend The Natural Products Marketing Act, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill).

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) (Springfield) introduced Bill No. 12, The Consumer Protection Act, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill);

And Bill No. 13, An Act to amend The Public Utilities Board Act, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill).

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources) (Brandon East) introduced Bill No. 10, The Fisheries Act, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill).

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Transportation) (Thompson) introduced Bill No. 15, The Transit Grants Act, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill);

And Bill No. 24, The Proceeds of Contracts Disbursements Act, 1969, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill).

HON. SAUL MILLER (Minister of Youth and Education) (Seven Oaks), in the absence of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, introduced Bill No. 27, An Act to amend The Metropolitan Winnipeg Act.

MR. MILLER introduced Bill No. 20, An Act to amend The Public Schools Act.

MR. MILLER introduced Bill No. 26, An Act to amend The Teachers' Pensions Act, (recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of this Bill).

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day, The Honourable the Minister of Transportation.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I wish to make an announcement that a decision has been made relative to the new Lynn Lake highway south. This road will run across the Churchill River at Leaf Rapids, then turn east across the Rat River at Notigi, past Nelson House Settlement and swing southeast to Thompson. The Mauro Commission on Northern Transportation recommends this route. This route was primarily chosen because of its lower cost, availability of road building material, and better ground conditions. Further, this route would pass within a few miles of Nelson House which would give road access to the community, and finally it passes through an area of great immediate tourist potential, as well as providing access to resource development which is most important in the north. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition) (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, if I may be permitted a question in relation to the statement, may I inquire whether the location of this road has any influence on a decision in terms of South Indian Lake and crossing of the Churchill River?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I'm surprised that the former Premier would ask such a question since it was his department that made the initial decision. The road, as I understand, had been slated to go right by South Indian Lake but, because the government had made a decision that they will flood South Indian Lake, the highway did swing south, and the present route that I have just announced will not be affected by the flooding of South Indian Lake. This is not to say that a decision has been made on South Indian Lake, but if it is flooded it will not affect that highway.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the Honourable Leader a supplementary question?

MR. WEIR: Well, Mr. Speaker, not a supplementary. The editorial comment of the Minister of Transportation wasn't really necessary. An answer was all that was required in terms of my question and I'm not sure that it was answered yet in terms of the bridges that might be required across the Churchill River in relation to the height of the water in the area.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, am I to understand you are concerned about the bridge across the Churchill River? Is this your question?

MR. WEIR: Yes, Mr. Speaker. And its location and its height.

MR. BOROWSKI: Our engineers tell us, Mr. Speaker, that the bridge design is complete now, and this design was ordered by the previous administration, of such a nature that will accommodate high or low level flooding.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): I would like to ask one supplementary question to the Honourable Minister of Transportation: if he would not take into consideration, or if he would take the people of Lynn Lake into consideration in respect to the location of this highway before it is finalized.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I fully appreciate the concern of the Member for Churchill and I want to assure him that very serious consideration was given by our Cabinet and caucus to this matter. The route chosen was for several reasons. One of them, as I've stated, is the availability of material, and secondly the cost. The three routes were photographed and it was found that the only feasible way, bearing the cost in mind, the only feasible way to build the road would be through Thompson.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Member for Portage la Prairie - I'm sorry, for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, like you, will have to get used to a lot of new faces. I direct a question to the Honourable the First Minister. Would he indicate to the House which of the ministries is responsible for the administration of the ARDA program in Manitoba, and specifically the FRED program as the development program that's relative to the Interlake.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I can advise the honourable minister that there has been no organizational change in this respect since the practice of the last administration.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question then, Mr. Speaker, not to the First Minister but I assume to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, if no change has taken place. Is there any significance to the fact that one project of many, namely the Fisheries Training Program that's being carried out under the FRED program at Hnaua, which was singled out for special mention in the Throne Speech, is there any significance that in so singling this one

(MR. ENNS cont'd.) project of many that the government is planning any major change or shift of the program as it's been agreed to by both federal and provincial authorities?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, any changes in the program will be announced in due course.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Are we to undertake that the government is considering basic changes to the FRED Program in the Interlake?

MR. USKIW: I may say that there is a review under way and when there is a change, that change will be announced in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Member for Charleswood.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Transportation. In view of the fact that the Midland Railroad land, which is involved in one of the urban renewal areas affected by the cut-backs of the Prime Minister in the freeze, could you tell me whether the possible removal of the midland tracks along Renfrew in River Heights, part of the Charleswood constituency will be affected or not?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I think we'll take that question as notice.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the Minister of Transport. Is the Minister of Transport aware that the CNR plans to cancel its Campers Special rail service to the communities of Elma, Brereton Lake, Ophir, Winnitoba, Rice Lake, Malachi, Ottermere, Wade, Minaki and other lake areas as far east as Fairlane where hundreds of Manitobans have summer cottages. Is the Minister aware that the stated reason by the CNR is that the cancellation of this service is so that equipment can be sent to Quebec for commuter trains? Has the Minister made any representation to the Federal Government with respect to maintaining existing service, and if he has not will he undertake to do so?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, it's obvious that we've both been talking to the same person. I phoned Mr. Camp, who is the regional area supervisor, I believe, for the CNR. He informs me that this is being considered. He indicated that the newspaper report was incorrect. They have not scrapped it, they are simply considering it, and his information was that they do need the equipment some place else. There are only ten runs per summer, and this is an economic measure; he also indicated to me that we would have to make up our mind what we wanted. In other words, we can't have low freight rates and have runs that are losing money. Now he said, "When you people make up your mind, let me know." I really can't come out on a limb and ask him to run a train that's losing a great deal of money and in the second breath ask him to lower the freight rates for the north particularly.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: A subsequent question, Mr. Speaker. My question really was: Will the Minister enquire into this and look after the interests of Manitobans? It seems to me a cancellation of rail service is a matter for our Minister of Transport.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I will look into it further.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK Q.C. (River Heights): A supplementary question. I wonder if the Minister would indicate what members of the department would be involved in this matter with him?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for River Heights-Tuxedo, I'd like to advise him that the information he is seeking is inter-departmental.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable First Minister. In view of the fact that the Throne Speech makes no reference to a tax freeze to encourage city core development, has the government decided not to proceed with the legislation during this session?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I can advise the Honourable Member for Assiniboia that the government has at the present time discussions under way with the City of Winnipeg, Metro and potential developers, to see whether we can arrive at an approach that will provide equivalent stimulus to downtown core development.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, on Friday I directed a question to the First Minister in relation to a statement by the University of Manitoba's Students' Union. I note that since that time the Minister of Education has answered the question outside the House that was asked inside the House, but notwithstanding that indiscretion, Mr. Speaker, might I enquire of the First Minister if the statement by the University of Manitoba's Students' Union is correct?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition should indicate more specifically what statement he is referring to. If he means the letter that was attached as a covering letter to the petition that was circulated I presume on Thursday, I would say that it is not completely accurate. There's reference in that letter that members of this Cabinet had signed some petition that had been circulated during the course of the election campaign. I can't speak for all of my colleagues but I do know that the signature on this petition that purports to be my signature is not my signature. I must make further enquiries to see whether someone had asked me for authorization to sign my name, but it's not my signature.

MR. WEIR: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that we're talking about the same thing, and of course the answer by the Minister of Education outside the House was that he was sorry that they would twist it in that way but at that time they weren't aware (a) that there would be an election; (b) that they would win it; that there would be a session and that the estimates would be before us at this stage of the game. And so, Mr. Speaker, I would be happy if on . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Could we hear the honourable member's question, please.

MR. WEIR: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to request the First Minister when he has sought out this information if he would please advise the House.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'll undertake to do that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister. I wonder if he would, in his capacity as Minister of Industry and Commerce, call the Air Canada Policy Committee into session this week.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I'll take that proposal of the Minister under consideration and advise him at the earliest opportunity in the Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Member for River Heights have a supplementary question?

MR. SPIVAK: No, it's another question for the First Minister. I wonder if he can inform the House whether he or the Minister of Transport or any other officials of his department have had discussion with the American officials of Northwest Orient Airlines since July 15th of this year.

MR. SCHREYER: I believe I can say that certain officials of my department have been in touch with officials of Northwest Orient, and perhaps even one or two other U.S. carriers, with regard to trans-border flights and with regard to air policy generally.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question. I was concerned about the American officials in the United States. Are you referring to them specifically with Northwest Airlines?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, if I understood the member's question correctly, he's asking if officials of this government have been in communication with officials of one of the U.S. carriers, to wit the Northwest Orient, and I believe I said that they have been.

MR. SPIVAK: I have another question for the First Minister. I wonder if, in view of the fact that the Federal Government intends to produce a White Paper on taxation in October, in view of the fact that the Provincial Government has already filed its position paper on the Carter Commission Report, in view of the fact that there have been pronouncements in this House and outside by the members of your government with respect to the Carter Commission, may I ask whether it's your intention to file an amending report as to the position of Manitoba before the Federal Government prior to the announcement of the White Paper?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I think I should say to the honourable member that if a policy of position paper has been filed by the Government of Manitoba relative to the Carter Commission recommendations, that I just assumed that it would be necessary to file an amending report because, as I understand it, our positions aren't that close.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question. I wonder if the First Minister would indicate when he intends to file such an amending report and when the House can expect to have it in their hands.

MR. SCHREYER: It would seem that there is a period of at least sixty days within which to do this, and in any case my honourable friend is assuming that the Federal Government will be able to come up with a White Paper on tax reforms by October. I think that if he'll check closely he will find that the Federal Government finds it very difficult to meet its own deadlines.

MR. SPIVAK: . . . a supplementary question of the First Minister. I wonder if he'd

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.) indicate to the House, in view of the wording of the Speech from the Throne, that it is not their intention to eliminate the Medicare fee premium as promised.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member is suggesting that we promised a complete elimination of the Medicare premium, I suggest to him he look very carefully at what was said during the campaign.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to, in a supplementary question, refer the Honourable First Minister to the statements that were supposed to have been made at the New Democratic Youth Convention held a few weeks ago.

MR. SCHREYER: Was that during the campaign? And precisely what am I reported as having said there?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, it was not during the campaign. It was after the campaign in the position as Leader of the Party and as Premier of this province when he was reported to have suggested to the New Democratic Youth that the medical premium would be eliminated.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I feel I should take a moment now to indicate to my honourable friend that it's what was said during the campaign to the people that we're talking about here. The honourable member started out by saying that a promise had been made during the election. I indicate to him that no such promise was made.

MR. SPIVAK: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I did not suggest a promise as made before the election. I said "as promised".

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister in connection with the first question that was asked by the Honourable Member for River Heights in connection with the Committee on Air Policy. Has such a committee been established by this government, and if so, who are the members of this committee?

MR. SCHREYER: The machinery has existed in the past for consulting and obtaining the advice of the industry such as it exists here in the province and interested parties, and we hope to continue with this kind of consultative machinery.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLASWATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. I'd like to ask the Honourable Minister if he has approached the Federal Government and/or the Canadian Wheat Board in regard to the most inequitable situation that exists at present in regard to the deliveries of the 1968/69 crop.

MR. USKIW: You mean the lack of quotas?

MR. WATT: I mean the inequitable situation insofar as quotas are concerned particularly.

MR. USKIW: Yes, I have been in contact with the Canadian Wheat Board on a number of occasions, dealing precisely with the quota aspect, and as you recall there were some movements made by the Canadian Wheat Board in extending quota privileges into another year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. In view of the government's announced decision to drastically reduce Medicare premiums, will this reduction become effective this month and this payment?

HON. SIDNEY GREEN (Minister of Health and Social Services) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to advise the honourable member that the date on which the reduction will become effective will be known the date that the announcement is made.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: I'd like to ask a question, Mr. Speaker, of the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. I wonder if he could indicate the number of people in Manitoba who are either delinquent or who have not paid the Medicare premiums?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the answer is no, I can't.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question. I wonder if that information would be obtained for the benefit of this House?

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'll undertake to obtain that information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, on Friday last a question was asked of the First Minister with respect to the tabling of the Cass-Beggs report on Southern Indian Lake. The answer of the Premier on that occasion leaves some doubt as to whether or not that report will be tabled.

(MR. ENNS cont'd.) My specific question directed to him is: can he indicate today whether it will or will not be tabled; when; and if, in the tabling of that report, could we also have the terms of reference under which Mr. Cass-Beggs carried out this study tabled at the same time? I refer to Page 11 of Friday's Hansard where the Premier indicated: "I will simply indicate to the Honourable Member of River Heights that it may very well be possible to table this report." That "it may very well be possible" is what's worrying me. Do we have the report or don't we?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, I think I can tell the Honourable Member for Lakeside that this government, unlike the former government, does not believe that secrecy is necessarily a virtue, so that we shall very likely get . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I had a supplementary question for the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. Is he aware that the Wheat Board's policy in extending the 1968-69 quotas into the '69-70 delivery years does not provide for equalizing the quotas for 1968-69?

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last I directed a question to the Minister of Education regarding the federal cuts in possible grants, and whether or not this would have any impact on the composite school construction program. I wonder if the Honourable Minister has been able to gain any further information.

MR. MILLER: No, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the Minister of Health and Social Services. Is it the intention of the government to amend the Medicare legislation to compel all doctors in the province to operate under the plan as had been previously advocated by the present Minister of Transport.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transportation. Could the Minister indicate whether the St. Lazare bridge will be built as originally planned this year?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, the member, who was a member of the government, I think knows the answer. There are funds set aside. The problem right now is that the community seems to be divided just where this bridge should go because they don't want the highway in a particular section of the town. I was at a delegation from there on Saturday and I've undertaken to visit the community this coming Sunday, discuss the situation with their officials further, and after that we'll have to make a decision just where the bridge goes and what type of bridge.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: In the past, this government has historically supported the Hudson Bay Route Association. I understand from members this year that that financial support has not been forwarded. I would imagine it was because of the calling of the election, but I hope they would keep that in mind for this year, particularly if we're going up there this weekend.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be able to tell the Honourable Member for Churchill that the usual amount was forwarded and that if it has been delayed perhaps he should look at his friend across the way.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm back to the question of the Cass-Beggs Report, and while I appreciate the Premier's having his fun with us on this particular matter, I take him sincerely when he says his government has no intention to suppress reports, so while I'm not asking them for any decision-making on the report, you have the report; can the House not have the report? This is an honest, straightforward question.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is now, and so my answer is simply to indicate that the report will be made available, and certainly it will be made available before members will be required to deal with this great problem in committee or some other forum. You'll have it quite soon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: A subsequent question, Mr. Speaker. Could we then have the terms of

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.) reference immediately?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take that question as notice. There may be some implications there that perhaps before I say that the terms of reference will be made available immediately, I should take it as notice and give a reply in 24 hours.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I'm wondering if he can indicate where the Pleasant Valley Dam Project stands at this moment?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I may take that question as notice?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I think it would be helpful if I were to make a brief announcement. Since the Throne Speech was read by His Honour on Thursday, in which there was reference to the appointment of two Legislative Assistants to His Honour's Ministers, there has been considerable speculation as to who these persons might be and what their functions would be, and accordingly I wish to announce to honourable members that for a number of reasons, particularly having to do with what we believe will be increased activity in the Department of Industry and Commerce, increased ministerial responsibility there, and also because of increased activity relative to Dominion-Provincial relations, cultural liaison with our sister provinces, etc., it is proposed to obtain the approval in principle of honourable members to the appointment of a Legislative Assistant to the Premier, and also in the same sense, a Legislative Assistant to the Minister of Dominion-Provincial Relations which is really the same person; and in that capacity I would propose to appoint Larry Desjardins, Esquire, MLA for St. Boniface. And also as regards the Minister of Industry and Commerce, inasmuch as there is no provision at the present time for an executive assistant, that it might well be worthwhile and perhaps even save the taxpayers some money if we appoint there as an assistant to the Minister, a Legislative Assistant in the person of Ian Turnbull, Esquire, MLA for Osborne.

I might add that in the case of Mr. Desjardins, who has served -- the Honourable Member for St. Boniface rather, who has served in this Chamber for a number of years, that it is a field - Dominion-Provincial Relations, cultural liaison, etc. - a field which he has a great deal of interest in and accordingly it will be a labour of love. It is proposed that there will be no extra emolument.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, might I inquire if it is a labour of love for the Honourable Member for Osborne as well?

MR. SCHREYER: Since the function of Legislative Assistant, while it is well-known in Ottawa and the terms are rather clearly understood and defined, it is not the case at the provincial level and so certainly it is expected that we will proceed as follows, that until after a few months of actual experience with this innovation it is not proposed that there will be any extra emolument. Following the regular winter session with the coming forward of estimates of expenditure for the next fiscal year, by that time it may well be that we will have a specific sum to put forward to honourable members.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, just for the record and for the information of the First Minister, I may say that the estimates of the Department of Industry and Commerce did provide for an executive assistant.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that calls for a reply. I didn't say that the estimates didn't provide for it; I said that since the change of administration we have not seen fit to fill that appointment so the money is not being spent, and we propose to try some innovations which will result in some saving to the taxpayers at the same time.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Osborne for an Address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in answer to his speech at the opening of the session. The Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, if I may in the usual sense on the first occasion of addressing you, Sir, in an official manner, express my personal congratulations to you in the election to the highest office that this Assembly can provide. As I've told you personally, I'm sure that you're aware of the fact that when the message arrived at my home there was interest by more than myself, owing to the fact that two of my boys have been students of yours at River Heights School, and may I say that they join with me in expressing our congratulations to you.

I'd like to also say a word of congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the Message in Reply. I know that it's difficult on any occasion to move into that role, and for two new members who have never sat in the Chamber before, I'm sure that it doesn't make it any easier, and I express my congratulations to them for the manner in which they responded to the Message.

A word of congratulations as well to all of the new members who sit in this House that weren't with us on the last Legislature, and to include a message of congratulation to the First Minister, which I have given privately and publicly before, on his election to the highest office that can be given by the people of Manitoba, and to those whom he has chosen to support him in the front ranks of the government of the day.

From time to time there isn't a bit of doubt, isn't a bit of doubt, Mr. Speaker, that we're going to disagree; I would expect maybe there might be the odd hint of that before I sit down this afternoon. But I do, Mr. Speaker, sincerely congratulate them and hope that in the interests of the people of Manitoba that the short period of time that they'll occupy those positions will be a successful one, and I include congratulations to the two new appointees that we just heard of today. You know, I have had something to say about that since the announcement was made in the Throne Speech, and I might as well say right now that I wondered whether it would be a reward or whether it would be a recognition of the thing that is sometimes referred to as the "rump" of the party. Some "rump", Mr. Speaker, some "rump".

But, Mr. Speaker, one other word of recognition that I would certainly not want to slip by on this occasion and that is a recognition of the services of the former Member for Lakeside. After 47 years of representation of that area of Manitoba; to hold a backbencher's position; to hold a position of a Minister of the Crown; to hold a position as Premier of the Province of Manitoba; to move over and to be Leader of the Official Opposition; and then be, you might say, a backbencher in the Official Opposition, is a career that I doubt like the dickens if many of us, many of us will ever see. So, on behalf of those whom I represent, and I think on behalf of all Manitobans, I would like to express my appreciation and the appreciation of fellow Manitobans for those 47 years of service.

I speak as a long-time personal friend of a couple of generations when I talk of Doug Campbell. I know that he has said the thing that he feels the proudest about in his tenure of office was the appointment of an independent Boundaries Commission. I recognize the importance of that act to him and I go along with it as being one of the most important things that Doug Campbell stood for. One of the others that I think has had, certainly up to this period of our history, even greater impact was the contribution that Doug Campbell made and the members of his government in rural electrification in Manitoba. This has made an impact on the lives of the individual people of Manitoba that may not even be surpassed by those of us who sit here.

He had one other thought in his mind and he never saw it accomplished in his term, and that was his desire of a permanent Speakership for this Legislature. I must say that I'm disappointed to have to say that I think that the schizophrenic actions of the First Minister in the early days following the June 25th election may have made the culmination of the desire I think of all of us of a permanent Speaker more difficult to achieve. Instead of taking the action that might have been contemplated for a permanent Speakership and agreeing in terms of principle without talking about personalities and politics to see if we couldn't arrive at some means of arranging that permanent Speakership at this time, to take action public, to make moves and invitations to individuals that had been elected to the House in terms of the Speakership in what appeared to be short-term political gain, I think has made it more difficult to arrive at a permanent Speakership.

(MR. WEIR cont'd).

It's done one other thing, Mr. Speaker. While I congratulate you and can say that I will do everything that I can to co-operate with you in handling the difficult situations that are bound to arise in the House, I must say that you can honestly be my first choice of Speaker but you can't be any better than third choice of the First Minister. The Honourable Member for Elmwood, he can almost find himself in not being better than fourth choice. We do have first choice and we have a second choice around that we're aware of. We're not really sure that you're the third and you're the fourth, Mr. Speaker, because there may have been other invitations and you may have been further down the line than that. There may have been some difficult discussions in arriving at it, but nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, we recognize the difficulty and we are with you in terms of trying to provide a reasonable means for discussion. --(Interjection)--I beg your pardon? Well no, Mr. Speaker. If the First Minister would care to make a speech, I don't mind sitting down and allowing him the use of the hall. Mr. Speaker, I wondered how long the silence of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface would hold. I can hardly imagine him as a soft-spoken backbencher.

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): You're so right.

MR. WEIR: All I can say is that if he's not soft-spoken here just imagine what he's likely to be in caucus. I haven't found out what a Social Democrat is and I sure as the dickens don't know what a Liberal Democrat is, but nevertheless, nevertheless so be it, and they'll have their difficulties in private.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think that this is the time really to have a post mortem on an election campaign. I want to recognize all those who ran in the June 25th election on behalf of all parties as being sincere and dedicated people prepared to make a contribution to the people of Manitoba, and one of the reasons that no post mortem is necessary, Mr. Speaker, seeing as how my honourable friends asked, is that the people have spoken and I respect their decision. My honourable friends the Socialists have earned the right to a mandate; they have earned a right to govern. They have also, Mr. Speaker, earned the responsibility of implementing the things on which they were elected on, doing their best to do that.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I've had a few days of relaxation and spent more time with my family in the last month than I have in the last year and a half, and I sympathize to a certain degree with my friend the First Minister who is going to experience some of the loneliness that goes with the job, both associated away from the general public and with his family. But during that I managed to spend three or four days in Minnedosa, Mr. Speaker, which I'd recommend to any of you. It's a wonderful place to spend a few days. We've got a nice cottage there by the lake and we have some neighbours that have some domesticated animals. While I was there I happened to notice something. It's a bit of a strange thing, Mr. Speaker, and I couldn't help as I watched it to relate it to people. I couldn't help but relate it to this Legislature because politics, like other things in human life, have some strange partnerships. You know, next door to us at Minnedosa we have a goose that's going steady with a half-blind horse. The goose follows the half-blind horse all over the lot, and I couldn't, Mr. Speaker, help but reflect on how this had a parallel with the Member of St. Boniface and the NDP. I had a little difficulty in sorting out who was the goose and who the horse was, but nevertheless I couldn't help but have that bit of a reflection as I was sitting there relaxing, something that I hadn't been accustomed to.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I also think that it has been interesting in the last month or so to compare, to compare some of the before's and some of the after's, and I just mention a couple, and I'm sorry my friend the Minister of Labour isn't here because it was certainly a wonderful thing for me to behold a press release in his name, put out by Information Services that I've heard he and others talk about in the past, talking about the wonderful situation that we're faced with in Manitoba with everybody employed. Essentially everybody is tied up in how it all happened in a matter of two or three weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I can add to that the wonderful feeling that I had when I saw reference to the fact that my honourable friend the First Minister and his friend - and mine - the Minister of Finance, talked about the credit of the Province of Manitoba and the reflection that there was on the affairs, I think of the financial affairs of the Province of Manitoba, and the impact that this was going to have on the future. All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is I hope that never changes, not even under the government that we have opposite; and if it doesn't change I'll try, in my impartial way, to give them full credit for having accomplished it, Mr. Speaker, if they can keep it in that regard.

(MR. WEIR cont'd)

Now maybe, Mr. Speaker, in the time that I should be on my feet, I should say a thing or two about the Throne Speech. It was referred to in the Throne Speech that there would be a modest portion of our socialist friends legislation introduced at this stage of the game, at this session of the legislature, and I can say on scrutinizing what I have been able to see at that time that was no understatement. I can say in terms of the legislation that was mentioned that I don't think there'll be too much squawk on most of it in terms of principle from this side. Our position in terms of the principle, if the detail remains the same, is pretty well known. I talk about the Public Schools Act and the amendment for our Canadians of Indian ancestry; I talk about what we know, or believe to be in the Metro Act and the Municipal Act; I talk about what we understand to be in the Urban Transit Grants Act and what we understand to be in the Fresh Water Fish Marketing Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Consumers Protection Act, of the legislation affecting consumer protection, and the ombudsman. Those are things that in principle I don't think that there's any great difference of opinion between us, although we may have some argument in detail if the changes are too drastic. I think that probably we'll have some discussion on changes in medical premiums, but really I feel that the obligation is on the government to present their views in that regard.

They've made reference to the Human Rights Commission. I might say, Mr. Speaker, in that regard the Party that I had the privilege to lead are prepared to have an open mind on that subject because I don't think there's any difference of opinion, any difference of opinion between us in terms of human rights. Whether it requires a commission or not to be able to administer it and hold them, I think we're open to that kind of fruit by the people that are going to present the legislation and we await with interest the legislation that they have. There's no indication whether it will be at this session of the Legislature or whether that's some of what they're working on in the future.

They mention the voting age, and we've given some consideration both in the past and recently to the voting age which can be at best an arbitrary rule for the election of people to this assembly and in the Province of Manitoba. Our Party in the past have taken the stand that there should be a uniformity between the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada. I really don't think that there's any difference of opinion between us on both sides of the House in relationship to it. We've studied the patterns across Canada and we find that there are differences in other jurisdictions. We believe that this is something that is basic to our society. There hasn't been any indication from the Government of Canada that they intend to change. There have been changes in other areas and we humbly suggest that a referendum, if we're going to break away from uniformity, if we're going to break away from uniformity with the Government of Canada, that a referendum might very well be in the best interests of Manitobans and also it would be an expression of opinion of Canadians that might be of some assistance to the Government of Canada in establishing uniformity of voting throughout the country. This is one of those rare areas because I don't believe in a mass referendum; I believe that we're elected to rule, elected to govern, and that referendums should be used only very judiciously, but this is one of those basic areas where we believe it could be considered.

Mr. Speaker, there was one other thing that was contained in the Throne Speech that I would like to comment on briefly and that is the reference to the Centennial and the invitation to Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness to come to Manitoba and preside and take part in our centennial celebrations. It's no secret that this suits the ideas that we on this side of the House would have, and I have filed a resolution today with the Clerk which I would hope would come up for some discussion during this session of the Legislature, and it would discuss the monarchy in terms of Canada and Manitoba and use this as an indication of our support for that form of government.

Mr. Speaker, reference was made in the Throne Speech to departmental reorganization and re-structuring, and I think that it is reasonable that the government should take time, they need time to study this. If I may give them a word of advice for one that's been around, and I would hope that I would be able to reflect it when the bill comes forward, and that is in setting up the machinery that flexibility should be there. Departments as they are established now were set up within the terms of the Executive Council Act, but the wording of the Act made it a little difficult to do it administratively, although it's just as official as though it was done in an easier manner with administration made easier. So, Mr. Speaker, may I suggest to them that the government of the day be given the flexibility that is required to reflect changing circumstances. Things are moving much more swiftly in terms of our present day government

(MR. WEIR cont'd.) structure than they ever have in the past, and I think that whether it's -- I think we could do a better job if it was us who were there, but notwithstanding whoever is there, Mr. Speaker, I believe that that flexibility is a requirement that is needed by the administration in power at the time. So if that word of advice to my friends opposite as they are developing the legislation that they will be presenting either at this session or the next one, I would suggest to them that they consider that.

They talked in the Throne Speech about government motivation and the equitable distribution of worldly goods of this society that we live in. Well, Mr. Speaker, again I may be a bit partial but my impression of watching them in the past and watching them in the present, while they've attempted to disguise it, have attempted to disguise it in terms of social democrat etc., really what they're talking about is send it all in and we'll send back what we don't need.

Now that we've talked about what's in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, there's a much bigger area and that's the part that's not in the Throne Speech. No mention of urgent matters that the government really should be dealing and dealing effectively with at this particular time. Changes have taken place in our economy which do require the attention of the government.

First of all, I think that I should talk about agriculture and the crisis that our people on the farm face. There's only passing reference to agriculture in the Throne Speech, and I don't think that our people in the rural communities, and back that up into the small towns and back them up into the city, have ever faced -- well certainly have never faced a situation like this since the late 1950's. At one stage of the game I believed that the Government of Canada either didn't understand or didn't care about this situation in western Canada, and for a long time I gave them the benefit of the doubt that they didn't understand, but since the Prime Minister's visit to western Canada recently and the mere shrugging off and saying well you've got to grow less grain and things of that nature, I'm coming more and more to the conclusion that they may not care, and if this is the case, Mr. Speaker, it's something that is going to require the attention of the Government of Manitoba, the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Alberta. Oh, I know my friends have had some success. My friends opposite, and others, have advocated the two-price wheat system and they got it -- they got it. It was managed to be used as an excuse for actually lowering the price of grain to the farmer. We know about the delivery quota problems that have been mentioned by my colleague the member for Arthur, and I'm sure others will have more to say about that in due course. My solution, Mr. Speaker -- the Honourable Member for St. Boniface is piping up again, he's getting back into his usual form.

MR. DESJARDINS: I like to hear it.

MR. WEIR: My solution is that there has to be a concern established in western Canada, and my advice to my honourable friend opposite would be to attempt to get a meeting of the Prairie Economic Council immediately, because if the Government of Canada is not going to deal with this thing, if they are not going to recognize the impact that this has on the national economy until it backs right up into Ontario and Quebec, if the political climate in western Canada isn't such that they pay that kind of concern, then we have to. I know that my honourable friend has said he can get along with the Premier of Alberta, I know that he said he's going to have difficulty with that fellow in Saskatchewan, but notwithstanding that, may I ask him to swallow his pride; may I ask him to try and convene a meeting. If they're not going to establish markets from Canada or from the Canadian Wheat Board, then let's us do it.

MR. DESJARDINS: Why didn't you do it when you were in office?

MR. WEIR: I'll tell you, my friend, that this situation hadn't really developed to this extent when we were in office. Mr. Speaker, these things became readily available at the close of the crop year when the statistics for the last year were available, and we did complain to the Government of Canada; we did make representations and we didn't sit down with the Prime Minister and say I'm sure we can get along all right; I'm sure we can get along all right. Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the First Minister that he use everything that he has at his command to put a joint effort of the three western provinces. This is one area where the west must speak with one voice; this is one area where if the Canadian agencies will not take the initiative then we should.

Mr. Speaker, our friends opposite have indicated no measures, no measures to relieve the difficult situation that municipal taxpayers find themselves in -- and I can relate this particularly to the rural areas -- and I would predict, Sir, I would predict that when this year

(MR. WEIR cont'd.) closes the percentage of taxes that have been able to be paid in the rural areas will be far less, far less than they have been in the past, and unless there's something done about markets, I would predict that this year won't hold a candle, Sir, to next year.

A few months ago when there were items being presented to this legislature, a \$10 million contribution from existing provincial taxes to attempt to offset existing real property costs in education and in the municipal field, the government of that day was pooh-poohed and hurraed by the opposition of that day as it being insignificant, by being not enough, the Foundation Program in itself wasn't enough and that the contribution to the existing Foundation Program wasn't enough, and that that same percentage on a higher Foundation Program wouldn't be enough. That same group of people talked in terms of relief to the homeowners of Manitoba and the exemption of the first \$2,000 of assessment. They paid particular attention to the people on real and on fixed and low incomes, and we agreed with them but we didn't have the answer. We didn't have the answer, and, Mr. Speaker, they are the people, they are the people that had the answers. They didn't say then that it required study; they didn't say they'd have to consider it; they said they'd do it. This is one of the responsibilities that that group of people had as a result of having presented their ideas and their thoughts to the people of Manitoba, and we will be expecting them to take some measures along this field and we don't expect them to be put off for too much consideration and too much ideating. Maybe when they get advisors like the Honourable Member from St. Boniface, it'll all come out clear.

MR. DESJARDINS: They won't leave 62 bills on the table, Walter; they won't leave 62 bills on the table.

MR. WEIR: Clear like mud, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DESJARDINS: There's the man of action there.

MR. WEIR: Clear like mud.

MR. DESJARDINS: Tell us. Pep it up, kid.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, this doesn't say anything about the fact that administrative difficulties made it difficult to exempt children's clothing from the sales tax. It didn't say anything about that, Mr. Speaker, it didn't say anything about the difficulties that there might be in exempting the construction of homes from the sales tax, and that was before, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada cancelled their urban renewal projects, which makes this an even more difficult situation in terms of the people of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture and the people that were members of that government at that time saw no reason why there shouldn't be, why there shouldn't be exemptions for multiple storage granaries, multiple purpose grain storage in the Province of Manitoba. No excuses were listened to, and I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, that was before we recognized the difficulties that the Canadian Wheat Board was having in selling to some of the communist countries; that was before we recognized that the Government of Canada through the Wheat Board had lost their markets of grain; and they're not going to be easily regained, Mr. Speaker. If those things were necessary in terms of Manitobans then, they're even more necessary now.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, did the Minister of Education speak for the government when yesterday he said: well we didn't know then that there'd be an election; we didn't really think that we'd win if there was one. Well, Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba called their bluff - steady and considerate isn't enough.

MR. DESJARDINS: This is a great comedy.

MR. WEIR: As a matter of fact -- (Interjection) -- No, Mr. Speaker, the people that were doing the bluffing - and it wasn't me they were bluffing - the people that were doing the bluffing was my honourable friends and the people who were listening were the people of Manitoba, and the people of Manitoba are expecting this kind of results from my friends opposite, and I'm going to be doing my best to remind you of the things that you had -- (Interjection) -- Mr. Speaker, does the Honourable the Attorney-General wish to speak?

Mr. Speaker, we were accused, we were accused of hitting people over the head, and I think my honourable friend the Minister of Education referred to it as "kicking them in the teeth." But you know, Mr. Speaker, we did have, we did have some plans that we were trying to implement that would control some of the costs, some of the public costs. We advocated that there needed to be a co-ordination in public costs between Ottawa, the province and the municipalities. We had some ideas in terms of school boards. Our friends called it kicking

(MR. WEIR cont'd.) them in the teeth. I don't look at it that way, Mr. Speaker. I looked at it by trying to give them some of the tools that they required for providing the kind of education system for the people of Manitoba, for the young people in Manitoba, that the people of Manitoba could afford to pay. Well, if our ideas were no good, Mr. Speaker, that's fine - that's fine, because we thought they'd work. We didn't get an opportunity to try, but we thought they'd work. May we have some original thinking from our friends opposite to make the same things happen. No indication in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, no indication of support for the work of hundreds of Manitobans that worked on the TED report; no indication of the acceptance of the objectives and the recommendations of that group of people; no indication of what steps will be taken to achieve these goals. One of them, a decision on the Nelson River development, South Indian Lake that we've heard so much about, the delaying action that our friends opposite have taken in the appointment of - yes, a doctrinaire socialist - a doctrinaire socialist, a fellow who was fired by the government of Saskatchewan for his inability to manage a utility similar to ours in Manitoba . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: Come on now.

MR. WEIR: . . . to come in here, Mr. Speaker, and seriously challenge the capacity of the people that are employed by Manitoba Hydro. If the officials of Manitoba Hydro or the Board of Directors are no good, Mr. Speaker, they should turf them out.

MR. DESJARDINS: You did the same thing.

MR. WEIR: If they're no good, they should turf them out.

MR. SCHREYER: Would you permit a question?

. continued on next page

(MR. WEIR cont'd)

When I'm finished, Mr. Speaker, if you don't mind. My honourable friend is taking the floor all the way along here. Tell us some more, tell us some more, Mr. Speaker, tell us some more about the economic development that they see for the Province of Manitoba. The 'buck is a buck' theory. The 'buck is a buck' theory, and the Carter Report that I hear my honourable friend mentioning. I suppose all they need is a few more delightful meetings with the mining industry to encourage them to put risk capital into northern Manitoba into those areas where a buck is a buck. I suppose this is the kind of economic development that we can expect to find in the Province of Manitoba. What happened to the Estate Tax rebate? No mention of that in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. May I say right off that I agree, or my friends agree with me - I don't know who's first, the horse or the cart. But, Mr. Speaker, we both agree that this isn't good policy in terms of the location of investment capital. A tax haven - investment to take place now and tax to take place later on. We agree that Saskatchewan and Alberta shouldn't be doing it. But, Mr. Speaker, let's not run away from the fact that Saskatchewan and Alberta are doing it and that Manitoba in the meantime is going to have to compete in terms of investment capital in the Province of Manitoba. If they don't, if they don't Mr. Speaker, while we're awaiting the changes that may take place federally then we can only expect investment to take place in Saskatchewan and Alberta that might otherwise have taken place in Manitoba.

All of these things, Mr. Speaker, add up to that there is really no indication of a sound fiscal policy of the Socialist party sitting on the other side of the House. I think that the greatest incentive for economic development in Manitoba is in the establishment of that kind of a fiscal policy while we're going through an inflationary period like we are now; when it's even sunk in with the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister of Canada, that things have to be done in terms of the cost of public programs, public development in Canada. Priorities have to be established and my friends are going to have to do so. You know the Prime Minister uncovered the other day the federal five-year projection for revenues and expenditures and he indicated that the short fall in that five-year period would be about \$7 billion.

I'd like you to go back, Mr. Speaker, and look at the report of the Tax Structure Committee a few years ago when federal and provincial people sat down and projected the then five-year forecast for the provinces and municipalities together, and for the Government of Canada alone, to have a look at what both were facing. May I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that at that time for the fiscal year ending '71-'72 it was predicted that the Government of Canada would have a \$750 million surplus. It was predicted that the provinces and municipalities collectively and combined would have a deficit of \$2 billion. Mr. Speaker, if in the next three or four years to 1975, if that surplus can be turned into a combined deficit of \$7 1/2 billion, just imagine what the projection of the municipal and provincial combined will be for the provinces of Canada by 1975. Mr. Speaker, every indication from this government across there is that rather than do something about this, rather than have any controls in terms of public expenditure, they expect to even proliferate commissions, boards, departments, a few secretariats, and what have you, and all of these things can, I believe, only increase taxes, not reduce them.

Mr. Speaker, having made those few comments, I would like to move the following amendment to the motion. I'd like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member from River Heights, that the motion be amended by adding thereto the following words: That this House regrets that this government has failed to

(1) take any decisive and significant steps to assist the Manitoba grain farmer faced with a crisis in this province;

(2) indicate any measures to relieve the high cost of municipal taxation which places an undue burden on local taxpayers, particularly those on fixed and low incomes;

(3) undertake any measures requested by the Public School Boards of this province to assist them in the administration of the duties they are charged with by the provincial government;

(4) show any comprehension of a sound provincial fiscal policy;

(5) indicate or give evidence of adopting the targets set out in the Targets for Economic Development Report, or take any meaningful action on the recommendations therein;

(6) take decisive action on the Churchill River diversion thereby compounding future Hydro power costs and stalling the development of northern Manitoba;

(7) bring before this House for examination any significant legislation in keeping with former commitments to previous Legislatures or to the electorate of this province; and

(MR. WEIR cont'd)...furthermore, has given every indication of proliferating the number of government departments and causing an inevitable increase of taxation in the face of an all time high erosion of the take-home pay of all Manitobans, and the serious warnings of the senior government and other authorities to combat inflationary pressures.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Welfare, that during the present session of the Legislature the tabling of reports or periodical statements which it is the duty of any office or department of the government or any corporate body to make to the House as ordered by any rules, orders and forms of proceedings of the House, or by the journals or statutes of the Province of Manitoba, be dispensed with.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. PAULLEY:by way of introduction to the resolution explain that because of the fact that we are having a session so closely following the regular session at which the normal reports were tabled, it is deemed by the government no longer necessary. There really are no reports according to the statutes that have to be tabled.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, particularly to the new members of the Assembly, that if they would desire any of the routine reports which were tabled at the last session of the Legislature, the government would do its utmost to see that the members obtain copies if they would only make a request to the Whips, or through the Whips to the Ministries concerned, we would be pleased to accommodate them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to have the assurance of the House Leader that reports would be made available to the new members and with that assurance and the understanding that it's really the routine reports we are talking about, we're quite prepared to accept the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to place a question. That is were all the reports tabled at the previous session? I just want to get that assurance. Secondly, since our year ends at March 31st, are no reports available from any of the departments as of that date, because normally we only get them the following year and these reports tend to be old by the time we get them. If any of the departments had reports of the year as of March 31st of this year, certainly this would be appreciated.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for his remarks and assure him that we will carry through the desires.

As far as the question of the Honourable Member for Rhineland, I believe that all of the requirements under the statutes in reporting of reports was carried through at the last session. There may be one or two reports that are just beginning to come in now. I appreciate the matter raised by the Honourable Member for Rhineland as to the availability of the reports as they come in. It was the practice of past governments, as I understood, to distribute the reports as they were printed prior to their tabling formally in the succeeding session. I want to assure the Honourable Member for Rhineland this would be the practice to be continued and as the reports become available and printed it would be forwarded to the members for their consideration.

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

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, at this juncture I would move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the House do now adjourn.

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