

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Wednesday, July 8, 1970

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. Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

STATEMENT

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a statement if I may on behalf of Manitoba Hydro in connection with the rates in the north; and I'll read their news release which is being released as of now. "Manitoba Hydro has announced that the rates for electric service will soon be standardized throughout rural Manitoba. Effective with meter readings taken after August 15th about 2,700 customers in 25 communities presently supplied by diesel generated power will no longer pay a special rate. The change will reduce the first block of 75 kilowatt hours from 9 cents to 8 cents per kilowatt hour, while all energy used in excess of 175 kilowatt hours a month will now be at 1 cent instead of 1 1/2 cents per kilowatt hour. The minimum monthly bill of \$3.60 will remain as will the 10 percent prompt payment discount.

"Communities affected by the new rate are Bakers Narrows, Berens River, Bloodvein, Brochet, Churchill, Cormorant, Cranberry Portage, Dauphin River, Garden Hill, God's Lake Narrows, Jackhead, Matheson Island, Moose Lake, Nelson House, Norway House, Oxford House, Pikwitonei, Pine Dock, Pukatawagan, Split Lake, St. Therese, Thicket Portage, Wasagamoc and Wanless and no points west that I'm aware of.

"The community of Little Grand Rapids has just received electricity on July 6th and will change to the new rate along with the other communities. The settlement of Poplar River will be served by Manitoba Hydro in August. There are only a very few communities remaining in Northern Manitoba that are not yet served by Manitoba Hydro.

"While consumption of electricity by Manitoba Hydro customers increased by almost 14 percent last year, the increase by customers supplied from Hydro's diesel plants was an impressive 56 percent." That is the release, Mr. Speaker. I understand this will apply to consumer use and that there will be now an equalization for all of rural Manitoba in accordance with this release. Manitoba Hydro is rather proud of being able to make this announcement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, just briefly let me commend the Minister for the statement just read and of course the continuing efforts of Manitoba Hydro who through the years have attempted to improve their services throughout Manitoba. The particular statement that the Honourable Minister referred to must, of course, be met with considerable gratification for those persons and members in the Chamber representing those northern areas who have for some time recognized the difficulties encountered by these remote settlement areas. I'm sure that the recipients of the relief with respect to the hydro rates will appreciate today's announcement by the Minister and look forward to many longer hours of reading in the dark winter.

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

MR. GORDON JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, through the Minister I'd like to congratulate the Hydro for finally taking this step. I say finally. There have been resolutions in this House in the past sponsored I believe by the Member for Ste. Rose on at least one occasion asking the government to instruct the Hydro to do this and if those of you who are here now were in the House then will recall that the previous administration always used to amend or defeat that resolution. It was presented on more than one occasion.

I'm sure that the people in the northern communities will be very appreciative of this and it will be one small step in bringing down their cost of living and supplying them with a comfort that was rather expensive heretofore in the north. I think other members in the House who were on the Northern Task Force will recall vividly that this was always one of the complaints that each community had, in my opinion a justified complaint, that was the unequal treatment of Hydro rates that they had to suffer vis-a-vis the people of the rest of rural Manitoba. If the government had anything to do with this, I congratulate them, but in any case I

(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd) certainly congratulate the Hydro for recognizing this and doing what they did.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank both the Minister of Finance and the government and Manitoba Hydro for this step forward. I think that it truly makes Manitoba Hydro a Manitoba Crown Corporation for all Manitobans and I'm sure that Manitobans in the north as a whole will appreciate this step forward and will show their appreciation in the usual way, I hope. But I'm sure that they would like me to say thank you very much for the consideration that's been given.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the First Minister.

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, on that happy note I hope that the following announcement will be equally well received just a statement of information for honourable members that because the Queen, the Royal Family will be arriving in Manitoba at approximately 2:45 on Friday, it is the intention for purposes of House business that the House meet Friday morning at the usual time and following that go into Law Amendments Committee to hear briefs, presentations, which I understand there are quite a number, on Bill 139, Landlord and Tenant Act and that the House - not the intention - but it is the wish that the Committee would meet until these presentations have been heard or until 1 p. m. and then recess for the duration of the Royal Visit.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, perhaps for clarification and a note of gratitude. The hours are getting long and any break will be appreciated by all members of this House, and perhaps it'll do us well. Could the First Minister just further clarify what his interpretation is of the duration of the Royal Family's visit. In days or time, does it

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, to answer that, the duration of the Royal visit would be that period of time from arrival at Churchill Airport until departure at Winnipeg International Airport on the evening of the 15th. So that therefore, July 16th we would then resume here.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): Business as usual 9:30 on the 16th.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the First Minister's statement. I'm sure many members who live a distance from Winnipeg will welcome the chance to go back to their constituencies and where the Royal Family is visiting, take part in the event. This is not a question, perhaps it's only an observation, but I hope because there are a great many presentations on Bill 139 The Landlord and Tenant Act that the Premier will not think that he should be forced to call an election because there are too many briefs on that Act.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the observation of the honourable gentleman requires some statement of clarification. I'm sure the honourable member will want to agree after he's read Hansard that I at no time indicated that any large number of Briefs were cause for even contemplating an election. What did give me cause to contemplate it, at least for some period of time if not even now, was the veiled threat that we would be kept here indefinitely far beyond the hearing of briefs. The honourable gentleman I think will recall the incident.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Government Services, but I guess I'll direct it to the First Minister. I wonder if he could indicate to me and the many Manitobans who have enquired as to what's the significance of these poles and wires and cloth at the front of the building?

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder if my honourable friend might repeat the question. I know he's quite capable of doing so and then I may be able to answer it precisely. Would you repeat the question please.

MR. MCKENZIE: I was wondering if the Minister could indicate to me and the many Manitobans who have enquired what is the significance of all the poles and the wire and the cloth stretched around the grounds in the front of the building?

MR. PAULLEY: The purpose behind it all Mr. Speaker, is to acknowledge the fact that it is a festival occasion for the Province of Manitoba as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our birth. It has been designed by professionals and if my honourable friend being a

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) non-professional does not agree entirely with it, of course that is his privilege, but I say the basic idea behind it all is to put a little colour into the atmosphere around the building, down Broadway and the rest of our Capital City and I hope that my honourable friend the Member for Roblin will enter into the spirit of the thing, and not the spirits of the thing, so that we have a lot of colour on this festive occasion in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): question Mr. Speaker. I think my honourable friend is referring particularly to the hydro poles. Will there be any further mutilation of the beauty of the front of the grounds?

MR. PAULLEY: I want to assure all honourable members that after Her Majesty and the Royal Family have left and we terminate our festive festivities, the grounds will be put back into the same very lovely and beautiful condition that they were before the poles were erected.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, we're dealing with hydro posts and hydro matters. I have a question for the Minister of Finance with respect to his capacity as the Minister reporting for Manitoba Hydro. It's my understanding that the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro's employment arrangements were for a duration of six months. I would think that that period is coming to an end. Can the Minister indicate - yes - can the Minister indicate are his present arrangements being extended or is the government considering new arrangements?

MR. CHERNIACK: The answer is yes to the last question. New arrangements are in the process of being negotiated and there will be an Order-in-Council in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. CY GONICK (Crescentwood): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. Last month Allstate Insurance Company in its publication called "Cavalcade" reported that a Member of the Cabinet

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, does the point of privilege - on a point of order, the member's introduction of the point of privilege refers to what some organization did outside of this House and the point of privilege should be, in my judgment and I'm no expert on rules, on those matters that arise as a result of discussions within this House, either between members opposite or others.

MR. GONICK: Sir, my point of privilege arises from discussions that did occur in the House.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN Q. C. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, further to the point. I don't know whether we've been doing it on a privilege or otherwise but if a member has been misquoted in publication, he has taken the opportunity from time to time to clear that on the record.

MR. GONICK: In that publication the company announced that a member of the Provincial Cabinet had advocated that after the government takes over the insurance companies will then take over the newspaper industry in Manitoba. That matter was raised in the House. The Premier made it clear that no member of the Cabinet had ever issued such a statement and knowing full well what was the intent of the announcement in "Cavalcade", I made clear at the same time that no member of the caucus had advocated such a thing. Nevertheless, in the current issue of "Cavalcade" there is an apology issued to whoever is interested, that there had been a mistake, that it was no member of Cabinet but had been a member of the caucus, namely myself, who in speeches outside the House had advocated that the government should take over the newspaper industry in Manitoba.

So I think it's appropriate therefore that on a point of privilege I say to the Allstate Insurance Company and to all the other finks and distortionists who continue to misquote myself on this matter, that I clarify once and for all, if I can, that no matter how badly a newspaper would distort the news, no matter how unfair it is, no matter how dishonest it is, I for one would never advocate I'm on a point of privilege.

MR. ENNS: On a point of order, speech and I just want to make it clear that if the member is making a statement we would expect to make a statement on this side.

MR. GONICK: I think I'm still on a point of privilege. What I was saying is that no matter how unfair a newspaper would be in its reporting or in its editorial pages, no matter how unrepresentative it is, I for one would never advocate any form of censorship, public censorship or certainly no form of government take over. I've said this repeatedly both outside the House and inside the House. Members must know that the whole area of censorship by the

(MR. GONICK cont'd) Free Press is probably as important to me as any other single issue. So I hope that I have clarified this matter, and, as I say, that the finks in this province and outside would take note and not repeat this error.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I believe that the statement the Member for Crescentwood has just given should be made outside the Chamber and not in this Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Third readings. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation and ask him if he has received the telegram from the Mayor of Thompson in which he points out despite the extra police coverage conditions were completely out of hand last Saturday at Paint Lake and they are in deplorable conditions. I wonder if the department was taking any steps in helping them to get this straightened out?

HON. PETER BURTNIAK (Minister of Tourism and Recreation) (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, yes, we did receive the telegram from the Mayor of Thompson informing us that there were certain conditions that existed on Saturday night in that area. We have taken upon ourselves to check this out and although I really don't know for myself because I wasn't there but in checking with the people that work for our department in that area they inform me that there was no such an incident taking place there on Saturday that they are aware of.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. GRAHAM: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Is it the intention of the department to upgrade the facilities at the Paint Lake area or will they continue to remain in a deplorable condition?

MR. BURTNIAK: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that they are really in deplorable condition, to start off with; and furthermore, work is being done at the present time. Last year there were approximately 49 campsites there, we have increased that to 80 at the moment; we're placing more tables, more campfire stands and so on which are now in progress. Roads are being built in through the park, gravelling and so on, so I think that we're doing everything we can to relieve the situation.

MR. GRAHAM: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has the staff in the Paint Lake area been increased this year?

MR. BURTNIAK: Yes, to a certain extent, as much as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Government Services. Some time ago we had a little discussion as to whether the skylight might be cleaned and it occurs to me that the members of the Royal Family might be quite interested in seeing this beautiful building, particularly this beautiful Chamber. Is there any chance that if they look up at the skylight it will be clean?

MR. PAULLEY: I must confess to my honourable friend the Member for Fort Rouge I had anticipated joining her in an expedition to clean the skylight. The finances of the Department of Government Services at the present time is such that I couldn't afford to buy the scrub brushes. I do undertake however, in due course to have the job of cleaning the skylight facilitated. I want to say to my honourable friend that present plans are not such that the Royal Family will enter into this Chamber and I might assure my honourable friend if plans change accordingly, then I will ask her to join me in the expedition of cleaning the skylight.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder if he could undertake to ascertain for us whether or not the Tantalum Mine at Berniac Lake is in severe financial difficulty to the extent that they may not be able to meet their payroll this week?

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Well Mr. Speaker, I cannot possibly know the day to day operations the management problems of every industry or every establishment within this province, and the particular member's suggestion or statement comes as a surprise to me. As far as I'm concerned that particular mine is a very rich mine, I understand the markets for their particular output are very strong and it has a great future and I see no reason why it should be in any financial difficulty.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, more for clarification on my part than for the Minister's. I hope the Minister understood me correctly. I asked him to ascertain for us or to undertake to investigate into the matter. There seems to be some confusion as to whether when I ask questions that they are statements - they're not statements, I'm asking questions.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I'd like to ask the Minister what official involvement that the province have in entertaining the great River Road Association in August. As members know, this Association consists of two Canadian provinces and a great number of American States bordering on the Mississippi and their convention will be held here in August. Can the Minister tell us what the province is doing to assist and publicize this event.

MR. BURTNIAK: Well in the first place, Mr. Speaker, we did request that the Convention be held here this year in view of the fact that it is our Centennial Year, and we are assisting through a grant as far as the organization is concerned and I think that's about the extent of it.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the province providing a luncheon or a banquet, and also is the province having official representation and are they assisting with the publicity?

MR. BURTNIAK: As far as the official representation from the province and the banquet, the answer is Yes. Publicity, I couldn't say right at the moment. I don't know to what extent, but I think that we are to some extent. As to what extent I can't say.

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

MR. WALLY JOHANNSON (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs with regard to the recent decision of the St. James Council to oppose the Heritage Park public housing project. Could the Minister inform the members here who on that council led the Neanderthal opposition to this project?

MR. SPEAKER: I'm sure the honourable member is aware that a question of that type is out of order. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the First Minister. Due to the length of this session and due to the extra expense involved for rural members and with the Queen's visit just around the corner, would the First Minister consider advancing us about 75 percent of the indemnity that's due to us, especially the rural members?

MR. SCHREYER: I'm advised, Mr. Speaker, that even if the honourable member's proposal was considered as meritorious, it wouldn't be possible to do it in time, to have it done by Friday . . . we'd have to amend the Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the House Leader. Why was the recorded vote last night on the motion to receive the Committee's report not recorded in Votes and Proceedings?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't know.

MR. FROESE: A further question. Will it be corrected?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, Votes and Proceedings I take it now has notice of your complaint and they'll review it I take it and if it needs correction it will be corrected.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Labour. I wonder if he's aware that the employees of Air Canada might not be getting July 15 off as a holiday, and further I wonder if they are entitled to it? -- (Interjection) -- I wonder if by statute they are entitled to it.

MR. PAULLEY: Unfortunately for the employees of Air Canada and a number of employees under the jurisdiction of the Right Honourable the Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Trudeau, are not entitled to receive the progressive benefits that we are giving to the employees under provincial jurisdiction. But I do want to say, Mr. Speaker, that representations have been made by the Premier to the Prime Minister asking him to use his good influence, or his influence, with the corporations under Federal jurisdiction to give the same privileges to those under Federal jurisdiction as those under the jurisdictions of the province. Thus far we have not been successful or the Premier hasn't. I also made representations to the Federal Minister of Labour asking him to use his good offices. We're still hopeful, but our hopes are

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) diminishing as we approach July 15th. We did appeal to the Federal authority as I say, Mr. Speaker, to give the same rights to Federal employees as we're giving to our Provincial employees.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary question. Has the First Minister or the Minister of Labour made representation to the Federal NDP caucus on the same matter?

MR. PAULLEY: I assure my honourable friend that the NDP caucus in Ottawa is very alive as to the prejudices that will be accruing to the Federal employees and if my honourable friend would only get his caucus in Ottawa to do the same as ours, maybe something might have been achieved.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: I have a supplementary question to the Minister of Government Services on that very point. Is the only channel that's open for communication to Ottawa through the Minister of Agriculture; is that the channel that's used to communicate in Ottawa for?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it's the intention of the members of the House

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up the question posed by the Member for Rhineland in regards to procedure last night. I believe the Member for Rhineland asked the question why the report of the Committee has not been listed in Votes and Proceedings. Will there be such a report? There was no motion last night that the committee rise and therefore, as far as I'm concerned, we're still in committee.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, there was a report. The record speaks for itself and I don't intend to go into it.

MR. FROESE: On a point of order, the record is not correct and it should be corrected.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the honourable member made that point earlier. Orders of the Day. Third Readings. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: It's the intention of the members of the House to continue for the rest of the day in Law Amendments Committee and if necessary tomorrow, but what I'm suggesting is that we come into the House at 9:30 tomorrow morning, in the unlikely event that we are through with Law Amendments Committee tonight.

So I would move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Cultural Affairs 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 9:30 Thursday morning.