

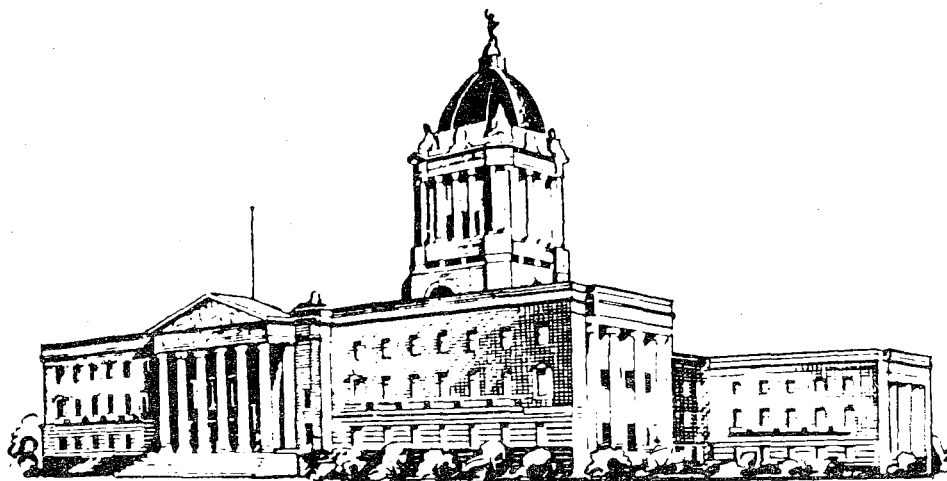


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XVIII No. 2 2:30 p.m., Thursday, April 8th, 1971. Third Session, 29th Legislature.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
2:30 o'clock, Thursday, April 8, 1971

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.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to my gallery where we have the Fur Queen and the Court for The Pas Trappers' Festival - Princess Shirley Dion of Flin Flon; Princess Norma Jebb of The Pas Indian Reserve, Queen Anne Szadiak of The Pas and their chaperone, Mrs. Templeton of The Pas. On behalf of the honourable members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you all here today.

Orders of the Day. The Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q. C., (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to file the following reports with the Clerk: The Financial Administration Act Reports; The Insurance Act Reports; The Mental Health Act Reports; The Public Officers Act Reports; The Provincial Auditor Act Reports.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question which I would direct to the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and it relates to the jurisdictional boundaries of western Manitoba. I would like to ask the Minister if he has received the report of the Brandon Boundaries Commission.

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Selkirk): No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCGILL: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister say when this report is likely to be tabled?

MR. PAWLEY: It's my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the report is in the final stages of completion by the Commissioner. I will be expecting to receive that report very shortly, and at that time we'll undertake to table it. But it is my understanding that it will be available within a few days.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the First Minister. I wonder if he can tell us when the government will table the report on Churchill Forest Industries, and I'm referring to the amending agreements, consulting reports and correspondence which the Premier, I believe, promised publicly prior to taking over the forest complex.

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): I think, Mr. Speaker, that perhaps that question should be divided into two parts. The one part asking for certain documentation to be filed, I think an Order for Return would be a routine way to deal with it. With respect to that part of the question that pertains to information other than formal reports or documents, the answer would be "Soon".

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Premier could tell us if the River Sawmill plant is fully operational, and, if it's not, when will it be operational? The River Sawmill.

MR. SCHREYER: The planing mill, Mr. Speaker, as I understand, is operational. The one of the three lines of the saw mill is operational, the other two are in process of being brought to completion. I can't give you specific dates, but again the answer would be "Soon".

MR. PATRICK: One more supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder for how long a period could the government of Manitoba get an extension on the federal grant and for what amount?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, here again it may be that one of my colleagues may be in a position to provide more recent information than I have, but my understanding is that an indication, a firm indication of intent has been received from the federal authorities and this indication of intent was received about three weeks ago - granting the application in effect.

MR. PATRICK: Perhaps just for clarification, Mr. Speaker, my question was for how long a period is the grant available to us - you know, is it for three months or six months, or how soon does the whole complex have to be completed?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that it's been granted for a period of six months, and it's been granted in the form of a firm indication of intent to grant it for six months.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I direct a question to my honourable friend the Minister of Agriculture. Could he tell us when the dollar an acre payment will be going out to the members of Ste. Rose constituency, and I believe other farmers in the Province of Manitoba, and how he equates this with one dollar for \$40.00 for the potato growers of the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I would suggest that the members address their questions to the Chair and then I can rule on whether they are in order. If they address them to the member I shall not be able to do that. Thank you.

MR. WATT: Shall I redirect my question?

MR. SPEAKER: I heard it. It was argumentative. The Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Well, Mr. Chairman, I think that my honourable -- or Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Arthur ought to know that that kind of a program will logically include the constituency of Arthur.

MR. WATT: . . . Mr. Speaker, through you, Sir, I ask, "When"?

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I see he's out of his seat. He's back now. In view of the statements made in the Throne Speech that Manitoba's economy was showing a very healthy recovery, my question is is he aware that the CAE Industries has announced that they will be laying off 300 men within the next two to three months? I believe this is in addition to some men who have been laid off already, and my question is, has the Minister met with any of the CAE officials and has he been in touch with the Federal Government concerning this matter?

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I learned of this unfortunate news this morning. As you realize, it is a result of a decision by the American government to cancel the contract to overhaul and modify the American military craft known as the T-Bird, I believe. I have been in touch this morning with the office of the Honourable James Richardson in Ottawa, who is the Minister responsible for the particular Crown agency governing this contract. I've also been in touch with the local management and the local union people, and I can also inform the House that my department has been working very closely with this particular company in order to endeavour to get additional work over and above existing contracts. So I think the answer, in short, is that we're on top of the situation.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary question. Does the Minister know, after the layoff takes place, how many man hours' work will be left after the 300 people are laid off - will it be up to 700,000 hours, which I believe the agreement called for when it was signed with Air Canada. I might as well ask this one: Have you got any recommendations to the CAE industry and the Federal Government? I think it's a very serious matter with that many employees laid off.

MR. EVANS: Indeed it is a very serious matter. I don't have all the detailed figures on man hours and so on, but I understand that approximately 750 men are employed in the total operations of the company and that approximately 300 men will be affected by this decision of the American Government. If the decision is irrevocable, if this turns out to be the case, then these 300 men may be phased out over the next three or four months, but hopefully, in the meantime, we can persuade the powers-that-be in Ottawa and others to assist us in providing alternative work, alternative contracts for the men and for the company involved.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder if he could advise or determine how many of these employees were formerly employees of Air Canada that were transferred over to CAE.

MR. EVANS: I'll take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Chairman, just a question that has become routine at this time of year, to the Minister of Mines and Environment with respect to the Flood Forecasting Committee. Has the Minister -- will it be necessary for him to furnish us with reports on the situation?

HON. SIDNEY GREEN (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Chairman, as was done in the past, I will furnish the members with the reports as they are received. I believe that there were three reports prior to the legislative session opening and I'll undertake to get copies of those reports to the honourable members as early as I can.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Is the government reconsidering an earlier statement in connection with the compensation to fishermen deprived of an income because of pollution? Is the government reconsidering and will these fishermen be compensated beyond the initial period where they got compensation?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, there's no earlier statement that we are reconsidering, but the government has indicated to the fishermen that in conjunction with the Federal Government it is working on a plan for income maintenance such as it did during the winter of 1971 which covered well over 85 percent - and I'm quoting from memory - of the income that was lost. A similar income maintenance plan is being worked on for the summer and I hope to be able to announce that very shortly.

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

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Honourable Minister of Youth and Education. Can he tell the House, inform the House when the Languages Advisory Board that was provided for in Bill 113 passed last year will be named?

HON. SAUL A MILLER (Minister of Youth and Education (Seven Oaks): Letters have been sent out to nominees and we are awaiting the reply whether they will accept the position.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Labour. Can the Minister inform the House or give us a report on the strike at Flin Flon which is affecting a total of some 2,600 employees, and is the Minister contemplating any legislation in respect to the strike?

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity that I now have of informing the House as to what this government has attempted to do in respect of the unfortunate dispute at Flin Flon. I'm sure my honourable friend is aware of the fact that this is under federal jurisdiction, but notwithstanding that, because of the interest of the Province of Manitoba in the economy of Flin Flon and of Manitoba, the Department of Labour and its Minister have offered their good services in an endeavour to resolve this dispute, without avail insofar as the company is concerned. A recent offer made at Flin Flon as far as myself and the Honourable Minister of Transportation representing Manitoba, offered the services of Manitoba to mediate in the dispute, the offer was accepted by the union, rejected by the company on the basis of this being under federal jurisdiction. I want to assure my honourable friend and members of this House that the Minister of Labour has been in constant contact with the federal Minister of Labour and asked him to use the same initiative and energies as he apparently does in other instances, to resolve this dispute, and I inform my honourable friend through you, Mr. Speaker, that I was in contact with his office this morning. I was hopeful that the Honourable Minister of Labour at the federal level would be here in Manitoba on Monday. I find this is not the case; however, may I assure this House and Manitoba that this government is deeply concerned in doing everything in its power to resolve this dispute.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that the Honourable Minister is still interested in Manitoba, and my question is: has he requested the federal Minister of Labour to take some action and did he offer or give any recommendations to the federal Minister?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, I did ask the federal Minister of Labour to get cracking.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. Just what representation has the Provincial Government made to the Federal Government in connection with the Task Force Report as far as the stabilization program? Have you had any success and will there be any changes as a result.

MR. USKIW: Well, I think there have been a number of representations made, dating

(MR. USKIW cont'd.) . . . . . back to last fall. The Outlook Conference is one of them. The Farm Congress wherein we participated very heavily, if I may say so, was another opportunity at which time we exercised all the muscle power that we had in trying to draw the attention of the needs of the prairie farmers to the Government of Canada. There were subsequent communications and delegations that have met with our federal counterparts since that time. There's been the development of an alternate proposal by the Government of Manitoba which we've had some dialogue on, and there has been a number of meetings held throughout rural Manitoba on the whole subject matter - and I believe some are still going on and will be completed very shortly.

The question of success: I think there has been some success. We have to date been made aware of the improvement of the Lang proposal, grains proposal, a better proposal than it was some months ago. There's also a qualified statement in the House of Commons made by Mr. Lang some two or three weeks ago in which he indicated that he didn't rule out other measures that would improve the incomes of prairie farm people, and I take that to mean that he is still responsive and is willing to further consider the submissions that the Government of Manitoba has made and other farm groups and governments perhaps.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I only have one more question and I won't take any more time of the House, but it's to the First Minister. In view of the Premier's public commitment to provide aid to private schools, I wonder if there is any significance that it wasn't mentioned in the Throne Speech (the reason I am asking this question is because at least one school in my constituency is in a serious situation) and can we assume that there will be no aid during this session?

MR. SCHREYER: That would not be a warranted assumption. However, I want to indicate to the honourable member that the government is starting the process of a systematic evaluation study of the subject matter, and hopefully will be able to come to policy conclusions that can be implemented in due course and certainly before the commencement of the next session, put it that way -- (Interjection) -- Well, I'm not ruling out the possibility but it certainly is not to be assumed that it will necessarily be at this session.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Agriculture. I wonder if the Minister would undertake to see if water and other plumbing facilities could be added to the Conservative Caucus Room?

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed to Orders of the Day, as one says in the vernacular I'm a new boy at this job and therefore I am going to ask the assistance of all the members. I know we have had a question period now for some twenty minutes and I do believe it has been the custom in the past to give notice of some of these questions to the Ministers so that their verbosity would be kind of curtailed as well. I wonder if the members would all take note of this, and that way we could probably get over the question period a little quicker, the asking as well as the answering.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable First Minister. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I adjourned the debate on this particular resolution yesterday to make some comments and also see whether we can't straighten out a few things and make it more compatible to all sides of the House. I know last year that the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources were the two dominant people, as far as I'm concerned, with which I had to deal in connection with membership on the various committees. What I didn't like was that I was being confronted with a sheet whereby they would only allow myself and the Member for Churchill to be on either one of the committees; that we were limited to the number of committees that we could sit on, and that we two had to share. I didn't like this because it meant that I was being deprived of sitting on some of the committees that I had a very great interest in. I did not sit on Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, both committees which had a large amount of work to do in and after the session of last year, and I think these committees had very important work before them. No doubt these matters will be dealt with once the reports are received and once legislation is introduced as a result in this House.

(MR. FROESE cont'd.)

There are also -- oh, before I proceed -- in determining the number of members that will sit on a certain committee beforehand, I think it is not right. I think this should be determined in such a way that it will accommodate all groups in this House.

Then we find so often that during the session certain members of certain parties will be able to switch from one committee to another. This is definitely not the case with the Member for Churchill or myself because we were only limited to sit on certain committees, and I feel that if you give the prerogative to one member in this House to make a switch, I think that prerogative should be there to all members.

Then I think we should come back to some of the criticism that the government made to the previous government when they sat on this side of the House, and one of them was that these committees were not called. I know some of the committees have had a very large job, had many meetings, but there are other committees which were not even called once. They haven't even organized, neither during the last session nor after the session. I am referring to the Committee on Statutory Orders and Regulations. This committee was never organized. It has never sat. It hasn't dealt with any of the business that is supposed to go to that committee. Naturally, regulations is one of them and we have not dealt with regulations, approved them or concurred in them since 1968, and I feel that this is a sorry state of affairs. This should be an annual event, that regulations passed in a certain year should be approved and sanctioned by this House as early as possible at the next session. This has not been done. The last regulations that we approved were Regulations No. 1 to 25 of 1968 and I think this is also a deplorable situation. Certainly, when the Minister of Finance sat on this side of the House he made a big issue of it and I think we should not let this pass up without making reference to it. It seems as though now it can be ignored and the whole matter passed up.

Another thing that I feel that I should mention in connection with committees is that we should have a Committee on Education. This has been debated in past years and I feel this should be one department that needs it more than ever. This is the department that spends the most money, by far the largest amount of the total estimates, and I feel that here is a department where savings can be made -- I am positive that savings can be made -- and that should be made, and I think that we as members should have a closer look at what is going on in the department. I think we should have the right to summon such bodies as the Public School Finance Board, The Universities Grants Commission, bodies like this, and there is many other countless boards in that department which should appear before a committee so that we could get information from them and see what improvements can be made. Certainly this is one thing that should be done at this particular session since it has not been happening heretofore.

There are so many matters that a person could raise in connection with the Education Department. I don't want to go into it in great detail but recently, I imagine most of you people got a brochure of it; this was a booklet put out in connection with the universities and just what Saskatchewan is proposing in this connection. I am just wondering how many professors are on our university staff, probably working part-time and getting a full-time salary; how many subjects are given where you just have one or two or three or just a few people enrolling and spending large amounts of money for this purpose when it's not properly utilized. I think these are matters that should be checked into and I think a committee of this type could do this indeed.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to rise on a point of order. I believe the honourable member is speaking on a motion which refers to the standing committees and the list of them, and I think that the standing committees are such as are contained in the rules. My honourable friend will be able to discuss certainly the setting up of an Education Committee at an appropriate time, but the motion refers to the existing standing committees and therefore I don't think that the House should have a debate on whether there should be a Standing Committee on Education or not. There just isn't one according to the rules.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I am coming to that. I am proposing an amendment to the motion, and once I have proposed it I cannot speak on it. The only time I have to develop it is before I make it, so this is why I brought the matter in at this point. I could have adjourned the motion yesterday dealing with the various committees that are committees established under the rules.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on the same point, if my honourable friend wishes to make a motion amending, he would have to make a motion amending the rules to provide for another

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) . . . . standing committee and that would not be an amendment to this motion which is dealing with the existing standing committees. That would have to be a motion amending the existing rules. This motion deals with the rules as they are.

MR. FROESE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I will make my motion at this time. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney, that the motion be amended by inserting the words "including a Committee on Education" after the word "committee" where it first appears in line three of the motion.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker. Just before you accept the motion I would just ask you to consider, Mr. Speaker, that the existing motion refers to the standing committees of this House and the proposed motion wishes to deal with something which is not contained within the existing standing committees of this House, and I would therefore respectfully request that you take the motion under advisement with the view to ruling it either in order or out of order, and naturally I'm suggesting that it's out of order.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I feel that our rules are not a statute and therefore I feel that this motion is quite in order, because the House will make the decision, and so we can let it rest at that.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, on this point, I am sure my honourable friend is aware of the fact that there will be a report coming from a committee that was instructed by the Assembly to investigate into the rules of this House, and on the reception of that report from the Rules Committee, my honourable friend would have the opportunity quite legally and properly to propose the motion that he is doing at this particular time, and I appeal to my honourable friend in the spirit of fairness to him and to this House that rather than debate the matter on this particular motion which is the establishment of a committee, to consider the composition, the personnel of the other committees, that he withdraw until the report of the Rules Committee is before the House for debate. My honourable friend I am sure also is aware of the fact, because I believe he was there - I may be wrong - when it was agreed that the report on the Committee of Rules would be submitted to the House at the earliest opportunity for consideration and debate. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources, that it may be advisable to take this under consideration.

MR. FROESE: If I may raise another point of order in connection with what the Honourable Minister just raised, reports of committees cannot be amended, and not being a member of any committee I have no way of proposing a motion of this type and it cannot be amended once the report comes in.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank the honourable members for their valuable advice. Having perused the amendment, I find I cannot accept it since our standing rules already tell us the standing committees that we have and, unless we have a Notice of Motion to change the rules, this is the only motion I can accept, and the original motion contained the seven committees of this Assembly or the number of committees of this Assembly and the seven members that are to deal with that. Therefore I cannot accept the amendment. Are you ready for the question?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, that debate be adjourned.

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

. . . . . continued on next page.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and fellow members of the Assembly. First of all, Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great pleasure to be able to congratulate you on the election to the position of Speaker of this House. This is a highly responsible and challenging position, an office which I know that you will invest with the honour, dignity and fairness that has distinguished your activities during the many years we have worked together in the trade union movement.

I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate the two new members for the constituencies of St. Vital and Ste. Rose on their election to this Assembly. It will indeed be a great day when the saints come marching in.

I would also like to thank the Honourable First Minister for the honour and privilege of allowing me to make the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. It is an honour not only for myself but for the constituents of the constituency of Logan which I represent.

I must also at this time compliment the First Minister on his skill and statesmanship in guiding the government through its first 20 months of office. These months have been the crucible in which has been forged the basis for an equitable society in Manitoba. During this time this government has carried out election pledges conceived with the purpose of achieving a better life for all Manitobans.

One of our first actions, Mr. Speaker, was to spread the cost of Medicare more proportionately. The premiums were substantially lowered, greatly benefitting those on low and fixed incomes. As a government also we realized that in order to operate a car in Manitoba, which has become an essential part of our daily life, that the cost of comprehensive automobile insurance must be within the reach of every Manitoba driver. To bring this about this government during the last session of this House introduced and passed Bill No. 56--and I don't think I have to tell anybody what Bill 56 was about--setting out and setting up the Manitoba Automobile Insurance Corporation which will protect drivers of all vehicles in Manitoba at the lowest possible cost to them.

And also during the last session, Mr. Speaker, one of the most important pieces of legislation in somewhere over 150 brought in, was the revision of The Landlord and Tenant Act and the setting up of the office of Rentalsman, measures that were aimed at guarding the rights and ensuring fair treatment for both parties.

Another essential post that was also established was when the office of Ombudsman was created to protect the citizens of Manitoba from the bureaucracy of government.

It has also been my privilege, Mr. Speaker, to preside as the Chairman of the Municipal Affairs Committee between the first and the second session, during which we updated and revised The Municipal Act of Manitoba to bring it in line with current conditions.

Also, Mr. Speaker, to protect citizens involved in expropriation proceedings, changes were made during the last session to the Expropriation Act giving the right of appeal and giving a better opportunity for the average citizen to appeal decisions made by the expropriating authority, be they provincial or on the municipal level.

These are some of the more important reforms effected by this government.

Now I would like to deal briefly with the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne outlines a program of continuing progress and development for all of Manitoba, and as a representative living and working in an urban area, I'm happy to note the proposed legislation that deeply concerns my constituents. First and foremost the proposed uni-city plan. My constituency of Logan covers two of the largest and most heavily populated areas in Greater Winnipeg in the cities of St. James-Assiniboia and Winnipeg. The implementation of the uni-city plan for my constituency would mean proper planning and providing for the necessities of urban life.

Overall, the uni-city plan would integrate the Greater Winnipeg area, which has half the population of Manitoba, into a viable community whose common needs, interests and efforts will create a better life for its citizens and at a more attractive climate for industry. The uni-city plan recognizes local identity and representation while endeavouring to consolidate assets and liabilities to the greatest benefit of all areas.

The many people with small businesses in Logan constituency and all over the province will be very happy to know that the provisions will be made under the terms of the Manitoba Development Corporation for small business loans operation to encourage small local enterprise. This measure will fill a long-felt need and help revive home industry. The proposed



(Mr. Jenkins cont'd)... shifting of the education tax burden from real property to the provincial tax base is a move that will give the homeowner considerable tax relief. This, plus the tax credit on residential units, will help our senior citizens and others on low and fixed incomes to keep their homes.

As a trade unionist, Mr. Speaker, I am glad to note that progress is being made in drawing up a labour code for Manitoba--I think it has been long overdue; and that possible changes will be made in the minimum wage, Workmen's Compensation and employment standards. All the aforementioned proposals in the Throne Speech particularly affect my constituency of Logan. When implemented they will contribute to the raising of the living standards throughout the Province of Manitoba and will be reflected in increased social and economic activity that is typical of a healthy community.

The points that I have mentioned are just a few of the features of the proposed program for this session and all the features of this Throne Speech are part of an ongoing process to improve the quality of life for all the citizens of Manitoba. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Gimli, that an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as follows: We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address us at the opening of the present session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member from Gimli.

MR. JOHN C. GOTTFRIED (Gimli): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In rising to second this motion, may I first of all congratulate you on your appointment to the high office of the Speakership in this Assembly. In the discharge of your duties I am confident that you will be fair and impartial and that you will acquit yourself with both dignity and honour. And may I also take this opportunity to thank the Honourable the First Minister for extending to me the privilege of speaking on this occasion. And further, I would like to add my congratulations to those of the mover, to the two new members from Ste. Rose and St. Vital.

Gimli constituency, the one I am proud to represent, is part of the Interlake area and such has been classified as an underdeveloped area eligible for special assistance under the FRED program. However, a series of events culminating last fall with the announced closure of Canadian Forces Base, Gimli, has seriously set back the economic growth and development of the area. When the full impact of this latest economic blow is felt this summer with the complete phasing out of the military and civilian personnel, a loss of 200 civilian jobs and 800 military, it will mean a total loss of \$7-1/2 million annually for the area.

Gimli constituency, however, is primarily a farming and fishing area. Because of the nature of our agricultural industry, being as it is more in the nature of the small family farm, the progressive decline in farm income over the past few years has placed many of our farmers at or below the poverty level.

With respect to the fishing industry, prior to my assumption of office, the B.C. fish packing plant at Gimli was closed following the establishment of a Fish Marketing Board. The next year the lake was closed to commercial fishing due to mercury pollution. The almost total loss of this industry in my community has meant the disruption, relocation and readjustment of many of our formerly financially secure families to a new way of life, some on welfare and a number on government supported winter works projects. A long-term solution to this problem is desperately needed.

All the setbacks just described were due in a large measure to results of actions taken and decisions made at the federal level. At times it appears as though the federal departments are working at cross purposes with one another. To date the loss of the industry in my community has only been partially replaced and the beneficial effects of the FRED program have been almost totally nullified. If, in the federal government's need to control inflation, many of my constituents must lose their only source of livelihood, then I say that the Federal Government should have been more selective as to which area of our economy should have been subjected to inflationary controls and areas already assessed as underprivileged and requiring special assistance should have been exempted from such action. I welcome, therefore, many of the proposed items of legislation aimed at improving the economic life of the province and the elevation of the human condition as outlined in the Throne Speech. Such changes as those mentioned in the approach to welfare, the initiation of improved labour

(Mr. Gottfried cont'd). . . legislation and the adoption of income improvement schemes, are all very needed in my community.

Basic to the attraction of industry into rural communities is the presence of adequate water and sewer facilities. This is sadly lacking in some of our larger communities and I am pleased to note that some progress in that direction will be made this year. While the efforts of our government to relieve the tax burden is to be commended, I personally feel that we should initiate some long-term measures aimed at achieving a permanent reduction in the education tax. In my constituency the major complaint against the high property tax is that portion allocated to education. Quite properly, with our limited tax resources, we should look to the Federal Government for grants in aid of education.

I can recall during the late 1940s when the Federal Government budgetted annually for huge surpluses while our local school boards could barely find the revenue to provide a very basic educational service. Surely this must indicate that there exists some obstacle to the granting of funds raised at the federal level; and, if there is, then I believe that this government should be doing all in its power to remove these obstacles in an effort to bring about a better deal for the property taxpayers of this province. More than one obstacle may exist, and I am sure that they do, but one we know of, certainly, is this Legislature's refusal to date to grant a fair measure of financial aid to our private and parochial schools. In this circumstance how could the Federal Government justify a grant in aid of education to the elementary and secondary schools of this province? Since 1895, when the then highest court in the land found that some of the schools in our province were prejudicially affected by the public school legislation of 1890 and had their recommendations for the restoration of these rights ignored, the Federal Government has been placed in an extremely awkward position. The solution of this problem, which is still with us, is intra vires this Legislature. The onus is on the Manitoba Legislature, on us, to pave the way for eventual federal grants in aid to education at the elementary and secondary level. This should be one of our long-range objectives in the reduction and equal distribution of the educational tax load. In the twenty months our government has been in office, we have made some progress in that we have passed a resolution requesting the consideration of financial aid to private and parochial schools, as recommended by the Manitoba Royal Commission in 1957. One bright note in that whole episode was that for the first time, last year, the leaders of all political parties were in favour of such aid.

In conclusion I would like to make this one observation. The answer to our dilemma does not lie in the denial of equal opportunity in the name of secularism, but in the widening of opportunity in the name of justice.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Lakeside, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Labour, 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 Monday afternoon at 2:30.