

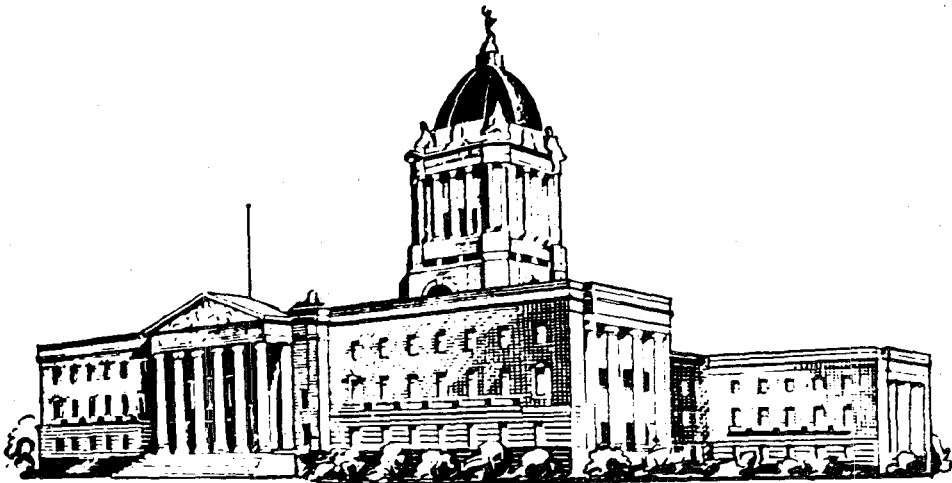


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XIX No. 82 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 17th, 1972. Fourth Session, 29th Legislature.

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WOLSELEY			

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Wednesday, May 17, 1972

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention to the gallery where we are pleased to have 20 businessmen from the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. They are the guests of the Honourable Member for Brandon East, the Minister of Industry and Commerce. On behalf of the honourable members, I welcome you here today.

We also have 30 students of Grade V standing of the Cranberry Portage School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Samatte. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

We also have eight students of Grade IX standing of the Sansome Junior High. These students are under the direction of Mr. Maxwell. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia. And we have 62 students of Grade V standing of the Montrose School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Bahaud and Mrs. Cook. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for River Heights, the Leader of the Opposition.

And we have 100 students of Grade IX and X standing of the Nordale School and the Sir Charles Tupper School of Vancouver. These students are under the direction of Messrs. Benton, Kazina and Mrs. Kiddar, Mr. Mullar and Miss Roberts. The host school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Vital. On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here today.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

STATEMENT

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a brief statement to make with respect to The Pas Forestry Complex.

Mr. Speaker, a few hours ago the Receiver of The Pas Forestry Complex provided the court with a copy of the report on the first year of operations of The Pas Forestry Complex. This is in accordance with his responsibilities as an appointee of the court. The report is very comprehensive and provides considerable detail; also it is an interesting document in many ways. For one thing it is printed on the high quality unbleached craft paper which is now being produced at The Pas. In that respect it is unique and for all its simplicity it is attractively produced. It is an eminently readable document and because of the importance of this matter to all of us, I am taking the first possible opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to table copies of this report.

I do not propose to read at any length from the report but let me draw honourable members' attention to some of its highlights. For one thing, it outlines many of the problems which faced the Receiver when he was appointed in January of last year and it describes the steps which were taken to overcome those difficulties. It shows for example that in 1971 sales exceeded \$8 million based on an output of 44,500 tons of pulp and paper and some 25 million board feet of lumber. You will see too, that the temporary United States surcharge applied on pulp and paper cost us approximately \$93,000.00.

The section on Industrial Relations will give you a strong impression of the serious attention which has been given to the subject which is of particular importance when one considers that so many of the employees of the forestry complex had never before had an opportunity to have regular worthwhile jobs. At the end of the year, a total of 747 people were employed and the report shows clearly that most were Manitobans and many of those were local people. Mr. Speaker, it's obvious from the report that the project was seriously over-capitalized but we are doing everything we can to recover the situation on behalf of the people of Manitoba who have so much invested in it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministerial Statements; Tabling of further reports; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills -- the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Selkirk): I think ...

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour, I'm sorry.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Yes, there are some, Mr. Speaker, who say there are too many Paulleys or some who say there are too many Russells.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. PAULLEY introduced Bill No. 42 An Act to amend the Amusements Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY introduced Bill No. 57, The Apprenticeship and Tradesmen's Qualifications Act. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet) introduced Bill No. 58 An Act to amend The Water Supply Board Act.

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (Leader of the Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. It relates to the Receivership and Columbia Forest Products. I wonder if he could indicate whether the government will be - or the Manitoba Development Corporation will be providing funds or guaranteeing funds for the Receiver to operate the plant at Sprague.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the Receiver has been appointed and as such is responsible to the courts of this province. Because the MDC unfortunately has a large investment in this very marginal enterprise, the MDC will do everything in its power to ensure that the assets are protected and that the operation is conducted in the best interests of the people of this province.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Before we proceed I should like to indicate that this subject may be subjudice and I would want all honourable members to use their discretion in the questions as well as the answers. The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Will the MDC be authorizing more funds than have been so far paid to the project for the Receiver to operate in the next period of time?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I believe my first answer stands, and that is that the MDC's decisions will be based upon the essential interests of the people of Manitoba.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Has the Receiver requested additional funds from the government or from the MDC for the operation of the plant at Sprague?

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to give a very easy and quick official answer to that matter. The Receiver has certain jurisdiction and certain responsibilities as an appointee of the court and he will be discussing the matter, various administrative details with the management of the Manitoba Development Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask for the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development. Has anyone on behalf of the government made an offer to buy the Bio Science lab?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health) (Springfield): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have a further question for the same Minister. Have the Manitoba Health Services Insurance Commission authorized back billing as far back as to 1969 for lab work done by the Mount Carmel Clinic?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. Of the 747 people employed at CFI that he just mentioned, is that peak that was reached or is this the permanent employees?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I believe I stated that this was the number employed as of the year end, calendar year end 1971. Of course the level will vary throughout the year but

(MR. EVANS cont'd) 747 does relate to the situation as of December 31, 1971.

MR. PATRICK: I have a supplementary. I wonder if the Minister can tell us what was the lowest number employed during the year and how many of that number were native people. The Minister mentioned that many of them were local. I would like to know how many of the 747 were native people.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, according to the laws in Manitoba we do not classify anyone in accordance with race and therefore there are no documents showing anyone by racial origin.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. A. H. MACKLING, Q. C. (Attorney-General) (St. James): Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member from Morris asked me a question and I have the answer for him - it's Section 443 (1) (b) of the Criminal Code.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Speaker, 443(1) of the Criminal Code I believe deals with the method by which warrants are to be issued. What I was seeking was information dealing with the offense or the alleged offense of the Bio Science Limited and that must come under some section of some act and I was wondering if the Minister could provide the House with that information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: I don't know, Mr. Speaker, whether there is a question directed to me. Perhaps the honourable member would rephrase his question so I could understand what he wanted.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I'll rephrase my question so that it's even clear to the Attorney-General. I wonder if the Minister could provide the House with the information outlining the section of the act under which Bio Science Laboratories have been charged; or under the authority on which the warrant was issued. I'm not interested in the method by which the warrant . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The honourable member is debating the question. The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, no charges have been laid yet.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the Minister of Colleges and University Affairs. It relates to the employment practices of the Provincial Government for students in summer employment. In view of the information that the Minister gave us the other day that preference is given to students having student loans from the province in respect to employment, could the Minister tell the House if any preference is given to students who have prior experience in the positions for which they are applying for summer employment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Colleges and Universities.

HON. SAUL A MILLER (Minister of Colleges and Universities) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I earlier stated in answer to the question that the question of loans or bursaries to which students might qualify was only one of the criteria. Certainly if the job requires a certain skill, a certain academic knowledge or experience, then that too is taken into account.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is it possible then that a student from Brandon University having had two years summer employment at the Brandon Hospital for Mental Diseases as a Nurses' Aide and having achieved the highest marks in his assessment of his job performance would be rejected on his application this summer because he did not have a student bursary.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I'll answer that hypothetical question with a hypothetical answer. If that student didn't need the job then he might not get it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the House Leader and ask him if he would be able to advise the House what Public Utility will be appearing before the Public Utilities Committee tomorrow morning.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Well actually, Mr. Speaker, as my honourable friend is well aware, the Committee itself decides. However it is suggested or has been suggested - I believe it was the Moose Lake Logging complex, the --(Interjection)-- well, organization. I'm sure that I didn't have the description correctly; and then I believe it was the - was it the Exploration

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) Development Corporation; and then Manitoba Telephones. I believe I'm correct - I'm sure my honourable friend will appreciate I'm only going by memory.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, with your permission may I move, seconded by the Member for Fort Garry that the name of George Henderson be substituted for that of Harry Enns on the Standing Committee on Public Utilities.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? So ordered. The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I have two questions, the first one is for Attorney-General. Is he planning on taking any action against the magistrate who signed the Search Warrant against Bio Science Lab without stating the reason for it which is contrary to law.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have not examined the particular warrants personally and I'm not in a position to concur that there has been error. Error would have to be judged in the place where it may be judged, and that is by the courts; and any assessment of warrants can be made there and that's open to anyone. I am not in a position therefore to accede to the assumption in his question; even if I did, I say that anyone including magistrates, judges of high courts, even honourable members of this House err and to err is human.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, my next question is for the Minister of Mines and Resources. Could he indicate to the House whether the CFI complex that's under a Receiver is paying its annual interest rate to the MDC monthly and on a regular basis.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can advise the honourable member and other honourable members of the House that given the over capitalized structure of The Pas Forestry Complex, it's simply impossible for that complex to pay interest payments on its loan and therefore no interest payments have been paid and I cannot foresee unless there's some drastic restructuring of the capital any possibility of that for some time to come.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. BOROWSKI: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, - could the Minister indicate the amount of arrears owing to the MDC up to this date?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I cannot give a precise figure, but I can simply say that the CFI Companies - and this should be distinguished from the Receiver as such although he has had certain responsibilities since last January - but the interest owing and due by those companies runs into the millions of dollars.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Of the 747 people employed in CFI how many are local Manitobans?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): I was very much wishing to rise earlier when the Member for Assiniboia asked a previous question on the same matter. My point of order, Sir, has to do with questions asking for specific numbers, specific numbers of a very precise kind with respect to employees or any other - any question that asks for specific numeration, I suggest, Sir, is, if not out of order, certainly more appropriate in the form of an Order for Return.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. I should like to indicate yesterday I did mention it would be a courtesy for members who wanted statistical information to give notice, and I think that that should be considered. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Minister made reference to the native people, that's why I asked the question how many local northern Manitobans are employed - in the number of 747 people? The Minister made the statement, not me.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, in my statement I did not make reference to native people of Manitoba. I did not make reference to that in my statement. I stated in an answer to the honourable member's question that we had no information on the number of native people employed, because this was the question he asked - because it broke the laws of Manitoba and we do not obtain or maintain employment statistics based on race, creed or colour.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Attorney-General and

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) relates to the reply that was given to the question asked by the Member for Thompson. Is he admitting now that there was an error made in the issuance of the warrant to investigate Bio Science Laboratories?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The question asks for a legal opinion. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the House Leader. I wonder could the Honourable House Leader indicate when we will be dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Industry and Commerce?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. PAULLEY: When the business of the House is expedited sufficiently to get to those Estimates, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question then for the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder can the Minister indicate if grants are being withheld from the Regional Rural Development Corporations because the Estimates haven't been approved?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I'll rephrase my question to the Attorney-General and ask him if he would elaborate on the reply that he just gave to the Member for Thompson regarding errors being made in the issuance of a warrant.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I thought I was very clear on the point. I indicated that I had personally not examined the particular documentation in question and I am in no position to judge whether or not there has been error. The basis for determining whether there is error is clearly up to a court, and anyone interested has ample opportunity to bring that matter before a court. If there has been error, which I don't know about . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister is hypothesizing.

MR. MACKLING: I am not aware of any error.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, . . . questions to ask the Attorney-General, and ask him if it is his intention to investigate this particular matter and inform the House?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I have the matter under advisement and I'm sure there will be further developments very shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. JEAN ALLARD (Rupertsland): Mr. Speaker, I have to preface my question to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, the Attorney-General. In view of the fact that a Winnipeg TV station has stopped selling advertising time to Easton Cleaners after examining the files of the Better Business Bureau; and in view of the fact that the ratio of complaints to volume of business of Easton's Cleaners is many times, something like ten times higher than that of any other similar enterprise; and in view of the fact . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. I think that the honourable member is well aware of our rules, that questions are to be brief, explicit and to the point and for information. That the question the honourable member raises has been raised three times in this House to my knowledge. In regards to cleaners, yes, not to this specific one. I think there was an explanation given yesterday. Consequently I must rule the question out. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I would like to requestion the Minister of Industry and Commerce on my question. Are the grants that are supposedly being paid to the Regional Development Corporations being withheld until the Minister's estimates are approved?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, obviously the honourable member who represents the constituency in the Parklands Regional Development Corporation doesn't know what's going on there because they received their annual grant I believe three, four, five, six weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, the Honourable Member for Morris asked a question on the water level at Morris on the Red River. I can advise the honourable member that we do not - inasmuch as the water levels have gone down substantially in the last two weeks - we do

(MR. EVANS cont'd) not take daily readings at Morris. The nearest centre at which we take readings is at Emerson, and at about 2:30 this afternoon the reading was 757.63 feet. Now if he would like us to spend the taxpayers' money and take a reading for him personally, we'll look into the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Attorney-General. An Order for Return shows us that \$3-3/4 million in that Lottery Commission - could he tell us if that is being held in reserve by the government?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is well aware of the laws of Manitoba and the law dealing with the handling of lottery funds. He was part of the Legislative Assembly when the legislation was passed which has the effect of providing that these funds are held in reserve, in a trust arrangement with the Provincial Treasurer for specific uses.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River. The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. MOUG: Sir, in the Order for Return, it mentions that no organizations got any money.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please, would the honourable member . . .

MR. MOUG: . . . any organizations that's receiving funds from this . . . ?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member ought to know that the Minister of Tourism and Recreation announced in this House a formula for distribution of these funds. If he was present in the House he would have that information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce. In view of the important announcement he has made today with regard to CFI employing 800 people during 1971, possibly the Minister would like to take my question under advisement. Will the Minister tell the House how many union woodsmen were brought in from Quebec during 1971?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, obviously I don't have that information. If there is such information I don't have it available to me, and I'm not sure whether the people at The Pas would classify information in that particular way. I can simply state that the vast majority of people now working at The Pas Forestry Complex are people who are from the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, if I may go on while I'm on my feet to reply to a question that was asked of me by the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie a few days ago respecting Boissevain Laminated Structures Limited. He wondered whether Dring Laminated Structures of Boissevain will be closing their doors at the end of May, and he made some reference to an MDC loan. I think the best way I can reply to that question, Mr. Speaker, is to refer to a public statement made by the General Manager of Dring Laminated Structures at Boissevain, Mr. Garth Chambers, who confirmed in the Tribune of Tuesday, May 2nd that the business would cease operation under its present name on May 31st. But he added according to the news report that negotiations are underway with a new group to finance the company and to continue operations without any loss of jobs. The General Manager also indicated that the new group would take over MDC obligations and hope that it would be privately financed. Mr. Chairman, I can also indicate therefore that there appears to be no loss to the MDC and furthermore the loan was made at least two and a half years before the Schreyer administration took office.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I should like to - on the basis of that answer I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Is it not the intention of the new company to take off the old loans of the MDC and further loans from the Manitoba Development Corporation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the honourable members of the House I was quoting from a public statement made by the General Manager of the company - and his statement, if you will permit me in order to answer his question, Mr. Speaker, to quote - and this is from the Winnipeg Tribune of Tuesday, May 2nd: "This new group would take over MDC

(MR. EVANS cont'd) obligations", he said, meaning the General Manager and it would be "private all the way".

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that Alberta has announced that they agree with the Federal Government to aid plans to beef up small farm operations, will this government give consideration in entering into the same type of agreement for Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the discussions that were held in Ottawa by all ten provinces and the Government of Canada were such that resulted in no agreement in terms of formality. But the provinces took the position that there's no bar to the Government of Canada carrying out its own program; since the provinces were not to be involved in the policy areas, it was felt that there was no need for a Federal-Provincial agreement and we simply indicated that they can proceed as they wish.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. ALLARD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney-General. What is the Minister going to do to protect the customers of Eastons Cleaners?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I have had the benefit of some counselling from the rear that I will consider, but the answer is that the Consumers Bureau has as I indicated to the honourable member yesterday and to the House dealt with the complaints that they have received. There are complaints that individuals if they are not satisfied with the conciliation process that's available through the Consumers Bureau can now fortunately take before the County Court of Winnipeg - those people who affected by the operations of a particular cleaning company or anyone else - and in a summary way get adjudication of their claim. And I'm happy to say that that system is operative and it's working well in respect to small claims that come before it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): On a supplementary question then, how much would it cost to go to this Court to get a claim for, say a \$10 claim?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to tell the honourable member whether it's \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50 for the process but there are no lawyers required in this Court. There is a minimum of formality and a maximum of efficiency and economy and justice, I hope.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Cultural Affairs. Could he indicate the reasons for the Censor Appeal Board overruling our ultra-conservative, our ultra-liberal Censor Board pertaining to a certain movie.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. I wonder if I really have to ask the co-operation of all the members that their questions should not be argumentative; should not contain extra verbal foliage which confuses the question and doesn't get an answer. The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. BOROWSKI: Yes, you are right, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry. Could the Minister indicate on what grounds does the Censorship Appeal Board overrule the Censor Board regarding a certain film that they reviewed recently.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister . . .

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (St. Boniface): Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd have to say it's on the grounds they don't agree with it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I'm not a good humour man. I have a question for the First Minister. Yesterday in the House and by today's newspaper it indicates the First Minister has indicated policy whereby the taxpayers of the Greater Winnipeg area will receive some \$2 million in tax relief. I wonder if the Government is considering an equal policy for the people of rural Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, what I indicated yesterday is certainly in line with

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) what was indicated in this House a year ago, at the time of the presentation of the policy paper and the discussion thereon. But since the Honourable the Member for Roblin has raised the matter in a snide way of trying to stir up urban-rural dis-sension, I would advise him that urban residents do make some contribution towards the cost of education in rural Manitoba through the Foundation Program.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I regret very much the remarks the First Minister has indicated to be snide remarks.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. SCHREYER: . . . statement on the words I used which constitutes a point of privilege. So I'd like to know on what basis the honourable member was rising.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder if a permanent Manager has been appointed for the Northern Regional Development Corporation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: No, a permanent manager has not yet been appointed but there has been advertisements for a person to fill that position.

MR. BEARD: A supplementary one then. Does the appointment of the Manager now have to have the approval of the Minister of Industry and Commerce?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as the taxpayers of Manitoba pay at least 50 per-cent, in some cases more, it was deemed advisable that the Provincial Government on behalf of the taxpayers of the whole province have some say in the selection process but this does not mean that the local Regional Development Corporation cannot take various initiatives as they deem it advisable.

MR. BEARD: On a further supplementary. Has the Minister of Industry and Commerce refused two names that have been suggested by the Directors of Northern Regional Development Corporation?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, there is a selection process that has been established and we will follow the procedures that have been established.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Highways. Has Manitoba Telephone System purchased 90,000 shares in Teleset Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

HON. PETER BURTNIK (Minister of Highways) (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I'll take that one as notice.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Since the Minister has taken it as notice I wonder if he could also take as notice how many of the 35 ground satellite stations that will be built in Canada will be built in Manitoba.

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

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to get back to the question of censorship. Could the Minister of Cultural Affairs indicate if the same censorship laws and rules apply to the universities as to our theatres in Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I think that the Censor Board deals only with commercial films.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Chairman, I am referring to the same type of films that are shown . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question, please.

MR. BOROWSKI: . . . downtown as at the university. Does the same law apply?

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

MR. MORRIS McGREGOR (Virden): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Social Development, having given him some notice - how many nursing care homes in Manitoba are privately financed?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Member from Virden for the notice - short, but notice. There are 36.

MR. McGREGOR: Mr. Speaker, another question. How many nursing care homes are financed through a combination of both government and organizational funds?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, there are 48.

MR. McGREGOR: How many nursing care homes are there in Metropolitan Winnipeg and the rest of Manitoba?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, there are a total of 37 nursing care homes in the Greater Winnipeg area and 47 in the rest of the province, making a total of 84 in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member has had two supplementaries. Order, please. Order, please. The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. McGREGOR: Is there a freeze on these private nursing care homes?

MR. TOUPIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Highways. Several months ago he said that the results of a telephone survey would be ready and would be tabled in the House and the results would be known if Headingley will receive toll free telephone. Is that survey completed and will it be tabled in the House?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

MR. BURTNIAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't recall at any time saying that the report would be tabled in the House. I said that there will be a survey taken. This has been done; it took several months to do. As far as I understand the report is now in and there are certain recommendations that the Manitoba Telephone System will be making time as Minister as a result of the survey that was taken.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Can that report be made available to the members of this House?

MR. BURTNIAK: I said, I don't believe I said that I would table it but I don't have any quarrel with that, I suppose it could be made available to the members of the House.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Will the Minister or the government be making a policy statement as a result of that report in the near future for the no toll service to Headingley?

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Speaker, that's a matter of policy and of course it will be announced in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I would like to ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development. Could he tell the House why there has been a freeze placed on the development of further private nursing homes?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, pertaining to the policy decision taken to impose a freeze on privately financed nursing homes, it was the intent of government to try and coordinate the efforts made by the private and public sponsored facilities pertaining to nursing homes so that we could have a coordinated effort and a well planned scheme for the years ahead - and that is the main reason why we have imposed a freeze pertaining to privately funded nursing homes.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Speaker, in that case could the Minister tell us how a group wanting to start a private nursing home might make such a request and whether they could have a decision made based on the need in their area.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that I could adequately answer that question. I would encourage the honourable member to resubmit that question during the Estimate debate of the Department of Health and Social Development.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: I'd like to direct a question to the minister of censorship. If the Censorship Appeal Board is ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order.

MR. PAULLEY: I do not believe there is a censor minister on the treasury benches.

MR. BEARD: ... if ... the Minister of Cultural Affairs, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: May I also indicate to the honourable member if he starts with the "if" it will be out of order.

MR. BEARD: Now that the Censorship Appeal Board has cut out 20 minutes of "The Stewardesses" film will the admittance price be discounted accordingly?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I don't think that this will affect the price at all. I would hope that they would increase the price so nobody can go.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson. Order, please.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to rephrase my question to the Minister of Cultural Affairs. Why is the university allowed to show restricted movies to teenagers under 18, which is a violation of the Criminal Code and the provincial laws?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that first of all there is the question of the Censor Board and that deals with commercial films if there is any charge being levied; as far as anybody being permitted to show any obscene movies they would be prevented to do so by the Criminal Code, and this would be something that should come under the Criminal Code.

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

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I hate to pursue the matter - but will the Attorney-General -- will the Attorney-General take action against the university for the violation of the censorship laws?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, the Attorney-General's Department responds to complaints, and when complaints are received we investigate.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, we have an Order for Return by the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - ORDERS FOR RETURN

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Assiniboia ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: ...

THAT an Order of the House do issue for a Return with respect to the Manitoba Student Employment Program and the Student Placement Office, showing:

- (1) (a) The name, salary, and expenses of the director.
- (b) The name, salary, and expenses of any other employees.
- (2) For each year since the inception of this program show:
 - (a) The number of applications received. How many male? How many female?
 - i) With respect to the above, show the number of jobs given to residents of the City of Winnipeg and the number of jobs given to the residents in the remaining part of Manitoba.
 - ii) With respect to the jobs given to residents of the City of Winnipeg, show how many worked outside of Winnipeg.
 - (b) The number of positions filled for each year.
 - (c) The average salary received by the successful applicants.
 - (d) The highest salary paid per month and/or per week.
 - (e) The average duration of the position in each case.
 - (f) (and by leave, Mr. Speaker, I would like to change in the second line the word "two" to "three" to make it read three months)
 - of the positions filled by this department, were any of more than three months duration? If so describe position giving duration and salary received.
 - (g) All of the criteria for placing or not placing an applicant.
 - (h) The number of successful applications for each of the provincial constituencies for each year.

MR. SPEAKER: Moved by the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, seconded by the Member for Assiniboia, the motion as read with one amendment in Section (f) "two" is changed to "three", is that concurred in unanimously? Agreed? Very well.

The Honourable Minister.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to accept this motion. The question of the names and salaries and expenses of other employees, the names and the salaries would be given for those in excess of \$7,500 as has been the practice. It would be by category rather than by name and salary of the individual employees below the Director level.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Just for clarification, Did I understand the Minister to say the name would be given along with the salary above \$7,500?

MR. MILLER: Yes, that's right, Mr. Speaker, and whatever other information there is that we have we will supply.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is not debatable. The Honourable Member for Thompson on a point of order.

MR. BOROWSKI: I'm asking you, Sir, to examine the Order for Return that's just been proposed and see if it is indeed an Order. Some if it seems to be based on almost unreasonable racism by constituency and therefore it's highly improper.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The motion at this time is not debatable. If the honourable member wishes to transfer it for debate that's his prerogative. But I have no desire and no other alternative but to put the motion at the moment.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, do we now go to second reading of government bills?

MR. SPEAKER: Starting at 11?

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder, Sir, if you would call Bill No. 12 standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Health.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN presented Bill No. 12, an Act to amend The Pharmaceutical Act for second reading. (To be sent to Law Amendments Committee)

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable members of this House have noticed this bill is very short. It has the possibility of many implications, and hopefully the ultimate aim of this bill is to reduce cost to the consumers of this province. This is the ultimate aim of the government in proposing this amendment to The Pharmaceutical Act. There are some points of contention that lies within this Bill that will certainly be raised. When you talk of substitution by a generic name several people might question what protection is given the pharmacist who will now have the opportunity to substitution at their discretion. The answer, Mr. Speaker, is very simple. They have the same protection as they now have within the Act. That is the provisions within the existing Act do now protect the pharmacists and will continue to do so. (b): There will be certainly a point raised pertaining to the amendment now before you regarding the quality control of generic drugs might be another subject of discussion in Law Amendments or in third reading. In this case the Food and Drug Directorate has approved all medication dispensed in the Province of Manitoba and there is no reason to believe that an approved generic is less effective than an approved brand name product itself.

The gist of this Bill, Mr. Speaker, is we now propose as a government to let a pharmacist be a pharmacist as opposed to being a mere pill dispenser. We are equally putting an onus on the prescriber and/or the dispenser; and we have to put some faith equally, Mr. Speaker, in some of our pharmaceutical companies in Canada. But let us make a point very clear, that if like, say, Alberta who has had this type of section within their Pharmaceutical Act since 1962 and it has not been that effective - I don't think we can blame the honourable members sitting in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the lack of effectiveness of this section, but we can blame at least some of the doctors and some of the pharmacists that do practice within that province for not co-operating for whatever reason they chose not to - but we believe that in the Province of Manitoba we do have doctors and pharmacists that will take advantage of this section to ultimately attain what we have in mind, which is what I mentioned in my opening remarks, to give quality drugs to consumers at a lower cost and if this is done, if we do have the co-operation of the medical profession and the pharmacists practicing within our province either private or public facilities, we can ultimately see great savings for the taxpayers of this province.

There are many arguments that can be brought forward by mainly pharmaceutical manufacturers pertaining to the effectiveness of such an amendment to The Pharmaceutical Act, but ultimately in assuring the quality control that's embodied and the flexibility that is given to the medical profession, and giving back the role of the pharmacist that he should have kept from Day One we are assured, Mr. Speaker, that this amendment can not only be effective regarding the dispensing of drugs but equally very effective to the ultimate to the consumer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, there are a number of things about the legislation before us that concern and they disturb those of us on this side and one or two of the suggestions implicit in the Minister's remarks just completed also concern and disturb us. The legislation before us, Mr. Speaker, is nothing but window dressing for - a posture on the part of the government that is intended to represent an interest in lowering prescription drug costs to the consumer. Perhaps the government has got an interest in lowering prescription drug costs to the consumer but you could never tell it by this legislation, Mr. Speaker. You could never tell it by this legislation in a million years; and for the Minister to suggest as he did that the ultimate aim of the government where this legislation is concerned is to reduce the cost of prescription drugs to the consumer, I suggest is window dressing and shadow boxing that is not substantiated by the legislation itself.

We, Mr. Speaker, are in a kind of an ambivalent position on the Bill because we are in favour of lower prescription drug costs to the consumer; and if there's any possible way of doing that we want this government and this Legislature to move in that direction, and we believe there are possible ways of doing it. They are not outlined in this legislation. But for us to stand here and oppose the legislation would be a position that would lend itself, Sir, to at least misinterpretation if not deliberate distortion on the part of perhaps some members opposite, perhaps some of the general public.

Therefore we find ourselves in a position of saying that in principle we are in favour of the legislation in much the same way as in principle we are in favour of motherhood, but we are not in favour of bad motherhood. Just because we're in favour of motherhood in general; there is good motherhood and there is bad motherhood and we're not in favour of the bad. -- (Interjection)-- And although the same applies to fatherhood, Mr. Speaker, and the same applies to my good friend the House Leader, we're in favour of good House leadership but not of bad House leadership. The problem here, Mr. Speaker, is that there is vague, vapid, nebulous kind of a suggestion that something is being done in the area of prescription drugs in the pharmaceutical industry, and that some hope for a goal may be achieved in some unexplained way. And we do not want to be against the attainment of that goal, because as I suggested we want lower prescription prices but we have to say that this is chicken-hearted legislation and that's the kindest thing I can say about it - chicken hearted legislation, Mr. Speaker, because it doesn't move this province or this Legislature or the people of Manitoba in the direction of that goal.

I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, what individual pharmacists and officials of the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association have said to me about this legislation - and I have talked to them and to other persons here and in the Province of Alberta both at considerable length on this legislation, and the message that's conveyed to me is that the Bill is in actuality a retrogressive step. Now I don't go so far as to say it's retrogressive; I don't know that I subscribe to the suggestion that it's retrogressive, but it is at the very minimum not progressive, Mr. Speaker, - it's a nothing step, if it's not retrogressive it's at least a side step, a side step that avoids and sidesteps the whole issue and the whole question before the Minister and before this government. -- (Interjection)--

The Minister, Mr. Speaker, asks me what I suggest. Well I'm going to tell him what I suggest in the next few minutes, and he doesn't have to get it from me. Mr. Speaker, this government 15 or 16 months ago set up a committee entitled the Advisory Committee on Central Drugs Purchasing and Distribution, headed by Dr. Allan Klass, a committee that subsequently came to be known as the Klass Committee. The Klass Committee in April of this year, Mr. Speaker, brought in a very intelligent far-ranging, logical and deeply thought out report on what could be done in terms of establishing a method of central drugs purchasing and distribution and quality control that could produce the desired effect that the Minister says he's so interested in, namely the reduction of drug prescription costs to the consumer. -- (Interjection)-- I'm sorry I didn't catch the Minister's question, Mr. Speaker. He's asking - the Minister is asking a question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has made reference to a section of the Klass report pertaining to drug purchasing and drug distribution. Does he favour such a step forward?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, my position on the recommendations of the Klass Committee I assure the Minister will become very clear in the course of my remarks during the next few moments. I will make my position on the report and the committee's recommendations very clear. Let me say at the outset, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister and the government after setting up the committee proceeded to act presumably on its own and it disregards everything that the committee asked for, to disregard virtually everything that the committee recommends. Mr. Speaker, in that report to which I refer, and the Minister surely is fully familiar with it, are seventeen - seventeen recommendations of the Klass Committee, Sir; and outside of the provision for substitution of a prescription by generic name there is not a single recommendation among those contained in the Klass Committee's conclusions that is incorporated or finds its way into this legislation before us. And yet this government set up the Klass Committee and commissioned it to bring in a series of directions and directives to achieve the goal the Minister talks about.

Let me just for the record, Mr. Speaker, mention some of the recommendations, just some of the recommendations that the Klass Committee has proposed because not all members of the House may have had the time to familiarize themselves with them. And I'm not going to go into the more technical or clinical recommendations having to do with the composition of the Committee and the tenure of members and those aspects, but just let me mention some of the recommendations having to do specifically with the purchasing and distribution and cost control and quality control of drugs. The primary, fundamental recommendation of the Klass Committee was that there should be established a Manitoba Committee of Drug Standards and Therapeutics, a committee that would have charge of and responsibility for breaking the trails that are necessary; that must be broken and that must be traversed if we're to bring prescription drug costs and prices down.

Now, among the duties of that committee, the Manitoba Committee of Drug Standards and Therapeutics, which by the way is nowhere mentioned in the legislation, Mr. Speaker - among the duties of that committee is the fact that they are charged with the selection of drugs for inclusion in competitive bid tenders for purpose of provincial wide central purchasing and distribution of high volume drugs. "To this end," and I'm quoting from the recommendations of the Klass Committee: "To this end the Committee shall arrange for the quality assurance of all approved drugs for central purchasing; it shall arrange for continual monitoring and testing of all drug products that are centrally purchased by the province before they are distributed; it shall prepare a Manitoba formulary to be known as Man-Form of equivalent brand name categories along with respective prices of these medications. To this end the committee shall ensure that the drugs listed in the Manitoba formulary meet the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act and the Food and Drug regulations. It shall consider and appraise available information relating to the chemical equivalents and/or the biological equivalents of drugs listed or considered for inclusion in the Manitoba formulary. It shall review that formulary at least every six months; it shall ensure the publicfull access to the formulary. It shall establish a Drug Information Centre that will have a number of functions including the responsibility for assisting that committee in its deliberations by collecting resource material pertaining to the therapeutic effects and the recommended usage of drugs."

There are a number of other recommendations having to do with the powers of the Committee, Mr. Speaker. The recommendations go on to suggest that the Committee negotiate a fee schedule with the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association on behalf of its members.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. I hate to interrupt the honourable member and I realize that relevancy is sometimes difficult to define, but we are not discussing the report we are discussing a Bill before us. Although I did allow latitude for the report to be mentioned, I do not think it should be the subject of debate; it should be the subject of the Bill. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can hardly make the case that must be made against this legislation without referring to the report of the Klass Committee. It's the government that's introduced this legislation in three or four paragraphs of vapid meaninglessness. It was the government that set up the Klass Committee which was supposed to be the forerunner of the kind of legislation that was going to produce the results the Minister has talked about, and in his remarks he said, Sir, and I'm quoting: "That the ultimate aim is to reduce the cost of prescription drugs to the consumer". And he said also, and I quote another remark from his opening remarks: "That quality control is embodied in the legislation". And I suggest to

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) you, Mr. Speaker, that these were the things that the Klass Committee urged; that these are the things that the Klass Committee attempted to find ways of ensuring and guaranteeing through its recommendations, but nowhere in the legislation are any - nowhere in the legislation are any of these recommendations included.

Mr. Speaker, with your admonition in mind, Sir, just before I move on to another phase of my remarks, let me just, let me just add one point having to do with what the Klass Committee said. The Klass Committee urged that the committee I've referred to - the Manitoba Committee of Drug Standards and Therapeutics takes steps on a Federal-Provincial level to the effect that ultimately the quality of all drugs be analyzed by federally operated laboratories and approved on the basis of a number of factors, including chemical equivalents, purity, dosage of ingredients etc. , - and it urged that that committee take measures to ensure that the manufacturers' label carried certain pertinent, relevant, valuable and instructive information; and it urged the Federal Government to expand Section 19 of the Patent Act to explicitly include the Provincial Governments and their agencies so there will be another tool by which the governments in Canada can act in the interest of the consumers.

Mr. Speaker, those are just some of the recommendations of the Klass Committee report for - shortened for the sake of debate and for the sake of staying within the parameters of your admonition to me, Sir; and my point is that having set up this Committee, having seen a committee do its work religiously, conscientiously and well, the government has then struck off on its own narrow direction, on its own narrow path to nowhere - to nothingness - with a piece of legislation that has already proven itself, with a piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and I wish the Minister would listen to what I have to say on this point and ask me the questions he wants to ask me afterwards, I'll do my best to cope with them - but a piece of legislation that already has effectively been demonstrated in Alberta as being next to useless.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the intention of the Minister and the intentions of the government are that this kind of thing will hopefully somehow, in some unexplained way lead to the reduction of drug prescription costs - at least they say that's their intention. But I would like the Minister to recall, to remember this, Mr. Speaker, and that is that it was in 1962 that the Pharmaceutical Association Act of Alberta was amended to include just such a provision as is contained here in Bill 12 before us; and that, Sir, the average cost per drug prescription in Canada in 1970 was \$3.89; the average cost per prescription in Manitoba was \$3.63; and the average cost per prescription in Alberta which has this legislation - which has product selection - was \$4.46 - it was the highest in the nation, it was the highest in the land and it was higher than the national average by 57 cents.

Now let me hasten to say, Mr. Speaker, that no one is suggesting that it's because of this legislation that Alberta's drug prescription costs are the highest in the land. I'm not suggesting that, and I hope that the Minister accepts the sincerity of my word on that - but what can be said, what can be argued and what can't be denied obviously is that the legislation hasn't done anything to bring Alberta's drug prescription costs down. If it hasn't forced them up, and it hasn't forced them up, other factors presumably have forced them up; it has not brought them down; it has not brought them under control; it has not kept them at a reasonable level. The Province of Alberta has the legislation that we're faced with this afternoon, and it also has the highest drug prescription costs in the country in the year for which the latest figures were available and that was 1970; and there's certainly nothing to indicate that in the past 17 months there's been any significant change in ratios or relationships. So I submit, Mr. Speaker, that that's a fairly significant consideration for us in this House as we look at this piece of legislation.

Now that's a ten-year experience in Alberta and I took the trouble, Mr. Speaker, to talk to the Alberta government - and I mean the professional government, the public service not the administration - or I mean not the political administration - to talk to the public service in Alberta about this legislation before challenging the Minister as I am doing today. And I talked to the Department of Health and Welfare of the Province of Alberta; I talked to the Deputy Ministry of Program Planning and Development and I was told with no equivocation and no rationalizations, Mr. Speaker, that the legislation has not had very much effect on drug costs in Alberta, and that - and these are the words of a senior official in the department to whom I talked and I'm quoting "that it doesn't hurt a heck of a lot but it doesn't really help any either." The same officials told me that unless the physician and the pharmacist co-operate in the interests of the legislation you really achieve nothing through a measure such as this, and that of course refers back to something the Minister said in his opening remarks a minute or two

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) ago about where the blame may be placed or, for lack of effective success in Alberta with this legislation - and I want to get back to that in a minute - but what these officials said to me was that in the same, along the same line as the Minister suggested, that without co-operative bases and a broad concern between the two professions, pharmacy and medicine, the legislation itself is pretty toothless and pretty valueless.

The effect of the legislation on bringing prescription drug prices down in Alberta has been negligible as I have suggested. And the officials I talked to went on to say to me that the doctors in the province don't really like to have to bother with the requirement of specifying the manufacturer and making the point of no substitution, so that there's a kind of a perhaps a liberalism or laxity existing on the point of specification, and on the point of indication on the prescription of the right to prescribe a substituted drug, substitute medication. But the important point is, Mr. Speaker, that after that ten-year experiment they feel absolutely nothing about it. They feel absolutely unaffected in terms of the difficulties and the problem in society that the legislation was designed to correct.

The industry and the profession in this province, the pharmaceutical profession in this province has assured me, Mr. Speaker, that its members are not opposed to the bill as far as principle is concerned, they are not opposed to the bill. They are simply opposed to the fact that the bill does nothing that they hoped it would do or that the Klass Committee suggested it should do and that there were really no safeguards for the public and for the Minister to suggest that quality control is embodied in this legislation indicates to me that the import of the Klass Committee recommendations have either not been conveyed to him, or they have escaped him entirely, because how anyone could argue rationally, reasonably that this piece of legislation implies and argues for quality control escapes me, Mr. Speaker. If you compare it alongside the kinds of things in terms of quality control that the Klass Committee asked for this is vapid, it's totally meaningless. There's nothing in there to guarantee quality control. The doctors and the druggists of this province would be happy to have a piece of legislation that permitted substitute prescription if there were such safeguards, and if there was such quality control, such a safeguard for the consumer, and for the public, built in to it. I might say that they're not particularly happy with the term "substitute prescription" because they think that it has a connotation that is really not the connotation intended either by the legislation or by the Klass Committee. They would prefer to see the term "select an equivalent", "select an equivalent prescription by generic name" rather than "substitute prescription by generic name" and that's not really splitting semantic hairs, Mr. Speaker, because what it comes right down to is the fact that the pharmacists and the medical profession are concerned that they don't unwittingly assume unto themselves an image of substituting things. They don't want to substitute anything; they want to select equivalent medication that is as valuable in terms of meeting a person's medical problems as the original prescription. They don't want to substitute anything for anything.

Mr. Speaker, one of the glaring weaknesses in the legislation is the fact that in design and in concept the Klass Committee envisioned that substitution be permissive, and that it be done so that the patient benefits, and if you read the legislation, Mr. Speaker, you will find that under its terms there is no guarantee that the patient would benefit under the substitution or equivalent permissiveness granted the pharmacist in this case. Under the terms of Bill 12 a pharmacist could substitute with a drug that costs a higher price rather than a lower price. There's nothing in there that guarantees the consumer will benefit by reduced prescription costs if the pharmacist is allowed to select an equivalent medication or prescription. The whole rationale, or one of the two or three main rationales in the Klass Committee's work was that the patient should benefit with a lower price if possible, and that where there was substitution, or selection of an equivalent, it would be undertaken with the object of reducing the cost to the patient.

Mr. Speaker, the manufacturers no doubt will have a rearguard battle, a rearguard action of some dimension which they will fight, which they will initiate against this kind of legislation. They will say perhaps, Mr. Speaker, that the pharmacist is not qualified to make this kind of a choice, to choose a substitute medication for his patient, or his client and, Mr. Speaker, the pharmacists would agree. The pharmacists that I have talked to, the officers of the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association would agree, except that the safeguards recommended in the proposals of the Klass Committee would make certain that no client, no patient, suffered as a consequence of this right being granted the pharmacists. The Committee of Drug

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) Standards and Therapeutics recommended by the Klass Committee provides and guarantees that protection. They select the range, or the list of drugs that would be used in the province; they select the list of substitutes from which the pharmacists can work, and therefore the protection and the guarantee for the consumer is built in. But without that committee, without that recommendation from the Klass Committee, without the Manitoba Committee of Drug Standards and Therapeutics, there is no such safeguard, and so the manufacturers when they mount their rearguard action and they start to argue that pharmacists aren't qualified to make this kind of a substitution, will be right. They will be right because out of a clear blue sky just being allowed to do the substitution does open up an area of possible difficulty and possible abuse. The pharmacist, Sir, has to know the full implications of his selection. If he doesn't there could be a serious drug accident, but with the committee recommended by the Klass Committee that quality control would be built in and guaranteed; the pharmacist would be protected, and the consumer would be protected, and the rearguard arguments that may well be mounted by the manufacturers in the industry would be deflated before they were ever -- before they were ever launched.

Mr. Speaker, another glaring weakness in the legislation is that where those who worked on the Klass Committee to devise the guidelines from which the government was supposed to proceed, where those persons were concerned with purity, with purity of drugs and of medication, you move into an area in the legislation where economics could come before purity, economics could come before purity. I suggested a moment ago that substitution could be made in such a way that the substitute medication cost the patient more, but the reverse is also true. The former is possible, but the latter is possible. The medication could cost less and it could be desirable on the part of the patient, or the client, to get the cheapest possible substitute he or she could, purely on economic grounds, without the kind of regard for, and guarantee of purity that the Klass Committee insisted on. The recommendations of the Klass Committee were totally the reverse of what is implied in this bill. The Klass Committee said purity must come first and then economy. You can't fool around with drugs. You can't fool around with people's medication. You can't fool around with health. Purity comes first and then economy. If you turn it the other way around and allow people to opt for economy over purity, I think it's obvious that what will happen in the majority of cases, the decision will be made in favour of economy and the patient will suffer, and in the end the pharmaceutical industry -- not the pharmaceutical industry but the pharmacist, the pharmaceutical dispenser will suffer, Mr. Speaker.

Now the Minister said a moment or two ago that in Alberta the legislation hadn't had any constructive or productive effect insofar as keeping prescription drug prices under control is concerned, and my research substantiates that position entirely. But the Minister said in elaborating on that point that we can blame at least some of the doctors, and some of the pharmacists, for not co-operating. And I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether the Minister is not paving the way here in a remark like that, which I think is highly unfair to both professions, is not paving the way here for an escape route when this legislation, which is equally vapid, and equally meaningless fails to bring drug prices under control in Manitoba. Then he will say, "I told you so". There were some doctors and some pharmacists in Alberta who didn't co-operate, remember? I warned you. I warned you. The doctors and the pharmacists are not going to co-operate. Well I say that's a backhanded slander against the doctors and the pharmacists, because there is no evidence, there is no evidence that the --(Interjection)-- I don't know whether I deny it, or I condone it, because I don't know. What I'm suggesting to the Minister is, there is no evidence that there was failure in Alberta, or that there will be failure in Manitoba, because doctors and pharmacists won't co-operate. The suggestion has been made by some but not by Ministers of the Crown, and the Minister of the Crown who is introducing and piloting this legislation in the House has a responsibility to judge all parties in the situation fairly and equitably in presenting and arguing for his legislation, and not to compromise some of them before the debate even gets underway. Now I suggest he cannot take that position, it's an unconscionable position for him to take because he's paving the way, he's paving the way for an escape route. And there will have to be an escape route if this is all this government is going to do in terms of legislation to bring drug prices under control.

My position, Mr. Speaker, is the position that is basically incorporated in the recommendations of the Klass Committee, I have talked to the pharmacy trade; I have talked, as I've told you, to the public service in Alberta; I've talked to the medical profession; I've tried to

(MR. SHERMAN Cont'd) examine the different points of view from the different vested interest groups, if you like, in the situation. And --(Interjection)-- I don't know whether I have support or not at this point but I can tell you this: that in presenting this argument in my caucus I have not met, I have not met opposition. That does not say that there aren't opponents to it in the caucus, but the research that I have done on the subject has indicated to me that pharmacists and druggists are in favour of legislation that will help to get these prices under control.

The Minister knows, Mr. Speaker, that there are discrepancies of as much as 1,000 percent between the prices that hospitals pay for example for bulk drug purchases from drug firms, major eastern Canadian drug firms, and the prices that he pays when he goes down to the corner to fill a prescription for his wife or his child. There are discrepancies of as much as 1,000 percent and these are dictated by the different approaches, the different philosophies, that the different drug manufacturers bring to bear; the different economics in manufacture of drugs and the obvious, the obvious factor of bulk purchase over smaller type purchase.

Therefore there is an argument that has to be made, and that I support, for a bulk purchasing program in the Province of Manitoba in the field of drugs in order to bring the advantage of those reduced prices --(Interjection)-- Yes, and distribution but not sales. But not sales, Mr. Speaker. There's a difference between distribution and sales and I want to make it perfectly clear that as I understand it, the program, the program envisioned by the Klass Committee calls for a central purchasing and distribution agency but not a central selling agency. The pharmacist would continue to operate the pharmacists would continue to sell the drugs that they've purchased from the central agency, to their own customers. And the pharmacists themselves interpret the Klass Committee recommendations as meaning this because they are in favour of it; they support the concept. The thing they're afraid of, the thing they're afraid of, Mr. Speaker, is that through meaningless legislation, through a side-step of the issue, such as in Bill 12, we're going to wind up with a situation where the government is going to be able to say that drug prices at the prescription level, and the consumer level, are still out of control, still beyond control. We've done something legislatively; it hasn't had any effect, so now we've got to move in holus bolus and take very drastic steps and it could involve severe curtailment of the pharmacists freedom to operate as an independent businessman. They would far rather see a meaningful, intelligent approach taken now which enabled them to play a role in the overall distribution and sales system in the field of drugs and pharmaceuticals that would be successful, something that they could take pride in, and have a share in now, so that they wouldn't have to answer for consequences later over which they have no control.

And that's why they're asking for a decent piece of legislation rather than a chicken-hearted piece of legislation such as this. And that's what it is, Mr. Speaker. It's a gutless piece of legislation. It's got nothing in it in terms of body, or import, or meaning, for the consumer.

The Minister wants to know if I'll answer a question now, Mr. Speaker. I know I'm racing the clock and I'm certainly willing to try to cope with the question he might put forward, but just let me say in conclusion that the position I take on the legislation is as I said at the beginning of my remarks, I cannot very well, or I do not wish to put myself in a position that could be publicly misinterpreted as being juxtaposed to the initiatives to reduce prescription drug costs. As long as the Minister understands my position and does not attempt to misinterpret it, and as long as it isn't misinterpreted by others among his colleagues, I would say that I'm against the legislation, I'm against it because it doesn't do anything. But when the time comes to vote I don't want to be accused of being against legislation in the drug field that the government says is going to help. And if this is the only step that they are prepared to take, if this is the only step they're prepared to take even though it's a side step, I think after searching my conscience I'll probably vote for it, but it's certainly an ineffective piece of legislation. Why can't the Minister bring in something that will do something, that will move in these directions that the government has insisted it wants to move in; and why did he set up the Klass Committee in the first place if after that kind of work they discount the recommendations of that committee and go off on a meaningless tangent of their own.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Fort Garry has sat down and allowed me to ask him a question. I would like to make it maybe a two-pronged question.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Is the Minister closing the debate?

MR. SPEAKER: No.

MR. TOUPIN: No. No. Just asking a question.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Is it not customary on second reading for the Minister to answer all points raised by the . . .

MR. TOUPIN: I'm asking a question I'm not answering. Mr. Speaker, am I recognized? Would the Honourable Member for Fort Garry give me the fruits of his thoughts pertaining to the possibility of this government, or any other government, to take action regarding different proposals contained within the Klass report without amending this . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. Order, please. I should indicate that questions as most members are well aware of should be related to the presentation that was made. They cannot open up further debate or further argument. I did indicate the Klass report was not under debate but the Bill itself. The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: The other question is pertaining to the amendment that we have before us, and the honourable member indicates that he will vote for the amendment. Would he agree that the amendment can produce worthwhile results and that the Provincial Government through its different agencies can monitor the effect of this legislation over a period of say one year and then if need be take other steps that are needed?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister gives me that kind of assurance, and if I were sure that he's still going to be the Minister of Health and Social Services in a year, and that he would institute that kind of a monitoring program I would certainly be in favour. But the position I'm taking on the Bill is a position that I take after consulting with people in the pharmacy profession, the pharmacy industry and trade in the province. They say that much as they despair over the - over the emptiness of the Bill they would like to see some steps taken in the direction we've talked about and they're afraid that for the Opposition to take a position against the Bill would mean that we kill the initiatives in that direction. So I would go along with the Minister on that if he can give me the assurance that he's going to monitor it and act accordingly.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm surprised that a one paragraph Bill could arouse so much ire on behalf of the Member for Fort Garry and I believe some of his points are valid. But I would like to mention perhaps two points that perhaps the Minister could answer when he rises to close debate. He made the vague reference to the fact that he hoped that this Bill would help to reduce the costs - I think he left it at the fact that it was just a hope, that he really didn't have anything to hang his hat on so to speak. I would think that if a pharmacist is going to be able to supply the equivalent, that he would tend to reduce inventory, that he wouldn't carry four or five particular lines. He may reduce that to the two most popular lines or even to one. But what would be liable to happen - would not the drug companies tend to stay in line with price? I don't say price fix but it's possible it could happen, that we would end up with the companies all charging a standard price which wouldn't necessarily mean a lower price because there would be no competition. So we would have the situation where the pharmacist would say well I'm going to drop several lines. Where before there may have been a price differential and then if he just kept the one or two most well-known lines or the best selling ones then there's no guarantee that the price on these lines are going to go down. As a matter of fact I would think that the possibility would be there that the price would go up.

Now, I ask the Minister, whether or not there could not be incorporated into a Bill a list of generic drugs that could be approved and the pharmacist have the list knowing that he could perfectly with safety use these drugs. They are on the approved list and as I understand much of the senior citizens medicare payments, drug payments are made by the province so this would be some inducement for the pharmacist to carry the approved government list of generic name only, not brand name, where possible. Now I ask him that if in the preliminary formation of the Bill were there any discussions held with the medical doctors and held with the pharmacists to see if their co-operation could be enlisted so that the main purpose would be to put the price of drugs down? And if the discussions were held with members of the Department of which he is the Minister perhaps he could tell us whether the discussions were fruitful enough that he would be encouraged to think that there would be a reduction in price to the consumer.

(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd)

Now, on the Bill itself, Mr. Speaker, there's rather an odd use of words and I wonder why. On Section 46 the substitute - it says "substitute prescription by generic means"; yet in 46 (b) the word equivalent is used, "by specifying that no equivalent is to be dispensed." Well, my definition of a substitution is something that may be slightly different but it will do the job equally well. In other words, if a prescription has five milligrams of a certain substance and another one has six milligrams of a certain substance but it is a similar medicine, why restrict the pharmacist with this sort of a limitation. Whereas equivalent to me means exactly equal. Now perhaps some other members have a different interpretation of this. But this would tend to discourage the substitution because equivalent means the equal. So perhaps the Minister could answer those few questions when he closes debate.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am rather amused, when the Minister was starting to open his remarks he said that here is a Bill that would finally let a pharmacist be a pharmacist instead of a pill pusher, but really what's the difference whether you push a blue pill or a red pill. This is all that it's allowing him to do is to substitute one for the other, so I really don't believe that it will allow him to do anything more than what he is doing at present. In fact I would hope that it wouldn't do that because the doctors are being paid to make the decisions and the pharmacists are being paid to distribute the drugs and I would hope that we never come to the point where we bring in a Bill that will change that authority.

I am not against this Bill at all except that I have talked to a number of doctors about it and I find that each of them have different approaches to it on a personal basis. But one overall approach they seem to have is that they really don't have time to experiment with all the drugs so they depend upon the manufacturer's agent to tell them about it and then they depend upon the one drug that they choose or the one that they finally decide on as the one that does the best job for them. They do point out that they have found that there may be one particular pill that has maybe a different type of sugar coating than another one and that in itself may prove to have a different reaction altogether on a patient than another one. And they say that you have to be very careful in the substitutes. In fact the plastic capsules they have to be very careful with; sometimes just a change in the plastic capsule will undo all the good that a pill was normally doing for the patient. So it is something that you have to be very careful with and yet they accept the fact that it could be done.

But if you moved from that, the next thing of course is their concern about who will accept the responsibility for this. Who is going to accept responsibility for the change? They say that if they want to name the brand, if they want to say that this is the brand that they wish the patient to have then that is up to them to make that decision.

Now if the government are not very careful with this and they allow the pharmacists to make the change, or they ask the doctor to be able to give two or three different types, then that person would be coming back and having one type one time, one type the next, then they really don't know what the results would be, or could be. So they say we don't really want to have that responsibility. We don't want to take that responsibility. The pharmacist is concerned; he's not going to take the responsibility. The public are concerned because they're the ones that are being experimented on. Then you'll say well, the government are responsible. So if they go to the province the province will say, no, we're not really responsible it's up to the Federal Government and their agencies. Then you would go to the Food and Drug Act and say well they're responsible for testing of the new drugs. And then of course the private person would probably be dead and buried by the time that he got any response from the different agencies that he would have to go through.

So I think that these are some of the pitfalls that could come about, and I don't think it should hold up a Bill like this but I think that it's something that the government had better pay attention and make sure that there is a responsibility and that somebody is prepared to face up to those responsibilities. Because it always remains that it is the patient that has to suffer; and whether it's the experiments of government or the experiments of the drug manufacturers or experiments of replacing one manufactured drug with another, these are all experiments. I think that when you're fooling around with somebody's health then you have to be careful.

That is the extent of the Bill. I tried to follow the Conservative Party on what they were placing before us. I was thoroughly confused by the time it was finished. I really don't know what they were trying to say to us but I do understand that in one form or another they were

(MR. BEARD cont'd) saying that they were not really against the bulk purchase of drugs and distribution within the province. I gather that there is more and more movement towards this and I find that within the profession itself that there is some wish that they would move toward that type of program.

And as he noted, the Member for Fort Garry noted, that hospitals do buy in large quantity and we of rural and northern Manitoba end up in many cases the real end sufferers, in that the people in Winnipeg here can go to the large drug distribution houses and get drugs at a much less cost than you can out in the country, and the types of drugs that you get out in the country are much limited, more limited than the types that you have in the city. So there are many things I think that you have to look into especially with the changing of times and the changing of medicine itself in that it's become very expensive in the inventory and the fact that the pharmaceutical houses are closing up and the small rural pharmacist is just not in the rural towns as much as he was in the days past, then I think that certainly in some way, shape or form it will have to be included in a health program at a later date because it should be included in things such as service, which the health programs have to look at for Manitobans. I think the economics itself is an important thing, because why should one person have to pay more in one part of the province than in another for the same type of drug.

So I can in many ways support, not only this Bill, but support a further extension of the government in the distribution of drugs, but I would warn them as they are going into it they are going into something that does affect the health of people themselves and while up to this time they have been paying people to look after the health of the nation, if they are going to look into things such as the distribution of drugs then they are getting closer to the patient himself and they have to be very very careful in particular with the interchange of drugs which I hope they will keep a good eye on as time passes and make sure that the pharmacists are watched and that they aren't really encouraged to slough off old stock, or stock that they're heavy on, to deplete their inventory rather than get rid of what the doctor has put down for the patient - and this can happen. This can happen. Not necessarily - I realize that they'd have to go to the doctor to request this but, it leaves the door open for this type of thing to go on.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 35 students of Grade 7 and 8 standing of the Provencher School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Fouasse. This school is located in the Constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. On behalf of all the members, I welcome you here today.

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GOVERNMENT BILLS (cont'd)

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

MR. JAMES WALDING (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I really only wanted to raise one point on this bill until the Member for Fort Garry spoke to it, and I must say that I'm impressed, Mr. Speaker, with the amount of work and research that the Member for Fort Garry has obviously done on this bill, and I'd like to compliment him on having taken so much trouble to do that.

Having done all of that, Mr. Speaker, I had expected something significant and very constructive from the Member for Fort Garry. However, 90 percent of his speech seemed to deal somewhat irrelevantly with the report of the Klass Committee and he spoke glowingly of the number of the recommendations that that report had made, and suggested that the government had not implemented any of those in Bill 12, and he said that because of this that this was a useless piece of information, it really didn't do very much, and the government had failed to act. Well, Mr. Speaker, that sort of charge or opposition is quite a legitimate one to make. However while making it the Member for Fort Garry failed entirely to show that the government was in any way precluded from moving on any of these recommendations of the Klass Committee and that while, while in his opinion and the opinion of probably the majority of the members, that they should be brought in, he failed to show that this is not at least one small step in the direction in which we want to go.

The second red herring that the Member for Fort Garry brought forward was the matter of prescription costs in Alberta, and he pointed out, and I believe him on this, that they are the highest in the whole of the country. However, he admitted right afterwards that their legislation along the same lines as Bill 12 probably had nothing to do with this, although he didn't put forward any reasons why it might be so.

As a third red herring, or a possible red herring, the Member for Fort Garry raised the possibility that in substituting a generic main drug for a brand name, because of the wording of Bill 12, that the patient could end up paying more rather than less for his prescription to be filled. Now in all the literature that I have read on the subject of brand names versus generic names there are always many many examples given of the lower costs of a generic drug than of a brand name drug, and if the Member for Fort Garry, or any other member of the Opposition, has any examples or can give us any evidence to back up this suggestion that a generic drug might cost more than a brand name drug, then I would invite him to bring that before the House.

Now the main point that I wanted to bring up as a -- hopefully as a suggestion to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, and I understand that this is something that Alberta has experienced as a result of bringing in legislation similar to what we have now. One of the principles of the bill suggests that a generic main drug shall not be substituted for a brand name providing, or if the prescribing doctor says so. Now I am told that the experience in Alberta has been that various pharmaceutical manufacturing houses have supplied to doctors prescription pads where it is printed on the pad across the bottom words to the effect that no substitution allowed. So in order for the doctor to allow a generic drug to be supplied, he would have to delete this. The suggestion has been made that to facilitate the intent of this bill that such prescription pads, such imprinted prescription pads, should not be allowed; that in order for such an instruction to go to the pharmacist from the doctor, that he should have to write it in by hand. I made this suggestion to the Minister as a step to preventing any prescription, any pharmaceutical manufacturer from subverting the intent of a provincial Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. One minute left.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member from Morris, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: We have one minute to Private Members' hour. Is it the desire of the House to proceed into Private Members' hour?

MR. JORGENSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. First item on Wednesday under Private Members' hour is Orders for Return, debate, transfers for debate. First Order is -- the Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. CY GONICK (Crescentwood): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to motivate the discussion which is that the Legislature be given a list of the doctors in Manitoba and the fees that are paid to them, I must spend some time discussing the kinds of increases which the doctors of Manitoba have been experiencing these last few years, and I must speak, too, about their new demands for fee increase which they've indicated are five percent.

Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba Medical Association now asks for a five percent increase of fees up to a ceiling of \$44,000.00. I don't know exactly what that means, what the ceiling refers to. Does the MMA intend to tax away all doctors incomes above \$44,000.00? If that were the case, and they were willing to take that initiative, I'm certain that the general public would support that measure and that would give them more than enough money to re-distribute among the poorer doctors who receive something less than \$44,000.00. Is that their wish to equitably distribute the incomes of doctors? This I would suggest would be a direct way, a fair way, and one which would, in which there'd be no argument in the general public, or certainly not in this Legislature from this side. But Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that that is their intention. I think that the \$44,000 ceiling that is referred to, whatever it means, is just a smokescreen to cover up another grab for public money on the part of a group which is becoming the greediest bunch of professional tycoons in the Province of Manitoba.

The Manitoba Health Services Commission in 1971 paid out \$51,914,000 for services performed by the Province's doctors. There were approximately 970 fee practicing physicians in the province and therefore the average gross payments came to \$53,520 in 1971. This is the average for the entire profession. But of course averages conceal some interesting information. The averages range among the special fees from a low of just over \$40,000 in the case of internal medicine, to a high of nearly \$83,000 in the case of cardiovascular surgery, \$83,000. Now we know, Mr. Speaker, that these refer to gross incomes not net incomes. Doctors have expenses which must be deducted and they use an average percentage expense calculation of 35 percent of gross receipts as an indication of their costs. This would mean that the net professional earnings for Medicare, after deducting costs according to their estimates of cost, would be \$34,420.00. That's the average which again conceals the range of fees received from the Hospital Commission.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that these figures in no way indicate the total net income of doctors; even when we have discounted the gross to the net, we know that doctors who receive earnings from the Workmen's Compensation, those earnings are not calculated in this total. Doctors who do work for the Great West Life and other insurance companies, those incomes are not included here. Doctors who do work for the Department of Health and Social Development on welfare cases, the incomes they receive for that work is not included here. So it is very certain that these income figures understate the total earnings of doctors in the province. So when we talk of a net income on the average of \$34,000, \$34,420, it's certain that the average real income net of doctors would be nearer its \$40,000.00.

If the Manitoba Medical Association would like to see a more equalized income structure among doctors, this could be arranged very simply. I'm sure that the government authorities would agree, by simply lowering the fee schedule for the highest paid doctors -- the surgeons, the radiologists, and the others. Nobody would object to this. But the MMA would never agree to this procedure. That's because their main interest is not equity among doctors. It never has been. They have the same interests as all other monopolists in the history of business enterprise. The MMA is nothing else but a cartel, a private cartel, and its only interest is the charge which the traffic will bear, and that is exactly what the MMA is interested in at this time. It's not satisfied with an income from the Hospital Commission of \$53,000 gross for its members, it wants to raise that to \$55,000 average, which would be the effect of a five percent increase.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I remind you and members of this House that that is not the total earnings of doctors because it excludes certain important sources of doctor's incomes, including Workmen's Compensation, including the incomes they receive from social allowance, including the incomes they receive from the insurance industry, and the like. And the work they do for the Department of Indian Affairs, and other work they do for the Federal Government.

(MR. GONICK cont'd)

Mr. Speaker, let's see how this profession has fared in the past to indicate the fairness of their present offer to the people of Manitoba. How have these healers of the sick conducted themselves over previous years. In 1967, it became clear to all that the Government of Manitoba would be negotiating for entry into the Federal Medicare scheme. In the previous two years, 1965 and 1966, the average earnings of the doctors of Manitoba had increased by 15 percent, one five. But now the MMA saw that they could make a real killing when the Province of Manitoba would enter Medicare, so they demanded a new fee schedule so that when Medicare came in they would be in a position to gorge themselves on the public purse. This is called the infamous centennial fee schedule, a kind of private project, centennial project, of the MMA. The Conservative Government gave in to them at the time. The average increase in the fee schedule agreed to in 1967 was a 25 percent increase in the fee schedule. And now what was the result? In 1969, one year, one full year after the Province of Manitoba entered Medicare, the average earnings of the doctors of Manitoba jumped by 23 percent, Mr. Speaker, in one year. Their incomes, their average incomes jumped by almost one-quarter in one year as a result of their negotiations two years previous. No union of blue collar workers, no union of any workers, has ever been able to match this feat of an increase in their salaries or wages of 25 percent in one year.

If we look at the three years since Medicare has come into effect, 1969 to 1971, the average earnings of doctors, again that's on the limited source from the Health Commission, does not include their other sources of income, of medical income, in the three years 69 to 71, the average earnings rose by fully one-third, one-third higher, they are one-third higher today than they were in 1968 the year before Medicare came into effect. What other occupation has enjoyed such an increase of their incomes in this period of time?

If we look at the period 1965 to 1971, only a six-year-period, the incomes of doctors rose by 67 percent. In 1971 their incomes were two-thirds higher than they were only six years ago. Mr. Speaker, that's the record of the immediate past history of doctors' incomes in the Province of Manitoba. Now the MMA says it wants a new hike in the fee schedule, not 25 percent as in the previous hike in 1967 but five percent, a measly five percent. However, it would cost the Manitoba taxpayers two and a half million dollars -- not so measly in terms of the Manitoba taxpayer.

How do the doctors and their official organization, how do they justify an increase at this time? One factor they mention is that their workloads have increased; doctors workloads have increased and this would justify an increase in their -- they're working harder than they were in 1967, the last time when their fees were adjusted. They say that their services have increased by 339,000 over 1970, that they performed 339,000 more services over the previous year. They actually say 300,000 but I think the figure is closer to 339,000. But, Mr. Speaker, these services include everything from very complicated open heart surgery which costs hundreds of dollars, thousands of dollars to simply lab tests which cost 85 cents. All of these are included in these extra services which the doctors say they have performed between 1970 and 1971. Now my information shows that in 1971 compared to 1970, to compare the services over these two year periods, you find the following indication of the change in their workload. House calls by physicians decreased by 15 percent, one-five percent decrease between 1970 and 1971. Accidental bone fractures decreased by 14 percent. Confinements for deliveries decreased by one percent. Office visits by patients increased by 2.5 percent.

Mr. Speaker, that list, those four items can be defined as services which are demanded by patients, which are in effect controlled by patients, and if you look at that total and you add up the percentages there is no question that those services decreased between 1970 and 1971. If you look at the services which are controlled and initiated by the doctors, those are the ones that have increased. Hospital visits by doctors increased by 4.2 percent. Major surgery, which of course is ordered on the instructions of doctors, increased by 10 percent. Lab tests done in private laboratories under the instruction of doctors increased by 12 percent. And here

I think was the lulu of services: Surgical assistance given by physicians during major operations increased by 17 percent. In other words, doctors called in their friends who are also doctors to do consulting work while they are operating. This increased by 17 percent between 1970 and 1971. Each consultant is paid, whether the operation is ten minutes or an hour, each consultant is paid anywhere between \$21.00 and \$100.00. Mr. Speaker, those are the services which are under the control of the doctors and those are the ones that have increased.

(MR. GONICK cont'd) The ones that are demended by patients decreased. So much for their arguments that they are overworking and require adjustments in lieu of that.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, if we take their figures that the number of services that they have performed has increased to the extent that they have this would come to an increase of 4.6 percent over the previous year. And if you take the increase in total payments which they have received without any increase in fees between 1970 and 71 it increased by 4.9 percent. So they have been adequately compensated for the extra services, more than adequately compensated and cannot justify their demand for a fee increase on those grounds.

Mr. Speaker, Manitoba is already paying exorbitant sums for the services they receive from doctors. In 1970 the cost of doctors' services for each person in Manitoba was \$54.13. This is double what it was five years earlier in 1965. And it is higher by 12 and a half percent than the Canadian average. The consumers of Manitoba are paying their doctors better than the consumers of medicine in other parts of this country -- substantially better. And the doctors of Manitoba are now demanding a further increase in their fees.

In 1965 the Manitoba average was 10 percent over the Canadian average. Now it is 12 and a half percent over the Canadian average. So the gap is widening. Each year over the past five years the annual percentage increase, the per capita costs rose by 18 percent. Eighteen percent in Manitoba, which is the second highest in Canada outside the Maritime provinces. So if the MMA had any concern for a fair deal for Manitobans it would recommend that the fees in Manitoba be brought into line with the fees in the rest of Canada. This would save the taxpayers of Manitoba \$5 million, if our fees were in line with the fees in the rest of Canada. And our doctors would be no worse off than doctors in the rest of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the public is exasperated by the cost of Medicare. The culprit is not the MHC. Administrative costs relative to total expenditures has dropped in 1971 compared to 1970 percentagewise. Nor is it the patients. House calls decreased by 15 percent between 1970 and 71. Office visits increased by only two and a half percent, a minor increase. The real increases in services were those ordered by the doctors.

Mr. Speaker, the immediate aim must be to hold the line on fees. But that is only a short term measure. Doctors can raise their earnings by doing other things. They can increase their services, because they control how much services they provide as we've seen. And this they will probably do whether they get an increase or not. They can call their buddies in for consultation and assure them of extra earnings. The real solution, Mr. Speaker, is to eliminate once and for all the fee-for-service system and put all doctors on a salary -- as they are in many private clinics, in many private clinics in this province. MHC could easily set a salary range which is reasonable by all standards; let us say between \$25,000 and \$50,000.00. Is that not a reasonable income for most men? I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that most men would be satisfied with that income and most doctors would be satisfied with that income because it is a reasonable range and a reasonable income. Those that are not satisfied would probably leave the province and I think we could bid them adieu and good riddance.

The immediate problem is that the MMA demands a fee increase. I think the people of Manitoba are entitled to know how their medical taxes are being distributed among the doctors. I think they are entitled to know what fees each doctor in the Province of Manitoba receives. All other public monies, virtually all other public monies are accounted for in this way. All public servants of the Province of Manitoba, their fees, their incomes are identified in this way, available as public information to all. I do not see why the doctors of Manitoba should be in a special privileged position where their incomes are not public information. I'm certain that the university professors if that request was made to them would have no objection to this. And any other group of people who receive public funds would agree if there were a demand for it that their fees be made public and available as information to the taxpayers of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member's time is up.

MR. GONICK: Mr. Speaker, I'd ask for leave for about one minute to complete my remarks.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? Very well.

MR. GONICK: Mr. Speaker, the Province of British Columbia has done exactly what I'm asking the Province of Manitoba to do. It was under the very similar circumstances where the doctors of British Columbia were demanding a fee increase and under those circumstances because the Premier of the province knew the public outcry at that time, he had the fees, the

(MR. GONICK cont'd) earnings of doctors published against the names of each doctor. It was published under the title of Medical Services Commission of British Columbia administering the overall medical services plan in British Columbia, Financial Statement. It is now to be done annually. That list was published not only in this document, it was published in the newspapers in British Columbia so every citizen of Canada living in British Columbia could know how much monies were being distributed to the doctors of British Columbia. I don't see why the same arrangement is not fair, is not reasonable -- in view of the demand by the doctors of Manitoba for fee increases is not reasonable that they come under the same kind of scrutiny as all people receiving public funds do and as the doctors of British Columbia now come under public scrutiny. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to see the Member for Crescentwood has joined on some members on this side of the House to elicit information out of the government. Earlier in the session members, including myself, have asked for information, particularly where taxpayers' dollars are being used to pay the salaries, for names and salaries of certain individuals. So I can appreciate his feelings when he finds that the government has indicated that they will not supply the information that he is requesting. So therefore this debate.

I might say that -- and I suppose we're all the same where everybody says well my family doctor is a very good man, we like him, we like his services, then they say, but, the medical profession I have certain reservations about, and I guess most of us are in this position. So I would say that I admire the Member for Crescentwood and I respect it. I like the arguments he put forward today and I might say that I support him on this. It's taxpayers' money, the information we are requesting. We are not requesting the information on other doctor income that has come from other than the Medicare program. So for those reasons and those very few words I say that I support the member on his request and I hope other members of this House will do the same.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. BOROWSKI: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted to see that the Liberal Party has finally seen the light and is going to join and vote for this resolution to get this information. -- (Interjection) -- Well I don't know. Maybe if we kick them around enough that they'll come around and release the information. I don't want to say anything unkind about the doctors, Mr. Speaker, but if by stating the facts I am less than complimentary it's not because I want to offend them but because I think that the record should show what has happened in the past and also I think it would indicate there's justification for having the salaries published.

The Member for Crescentwood I think has pretty well covered the field. It's very difficult to say anything without being repetitious, but I think it's very interesting when he mentioned the increase they are asking and also how the house calls have decreased. I know as a union man when we sit down to negotiate a wage increase we have to spend months and months of very difficult negotiation and we have to justify every penny we ask for from a usually tight-fisted employer. Sometimes we have to go on strike to get that increase. Well I think we should examine the doctors' record as the Member for Crescentwood has examined it. Do they really deserve or are they entitled to an increase? I think that the record will clearly show that the services haven't improved. I know today that unless you're almost dying, really seriously ill a doctor will not come to see you. I know that people aren't any healthier, they don't leave the hospital sooner although we have the best hospital facilities in the world I'm told, competent staff, the latest equipment. Still people aren't any better off. The doctors continue to come in and ask for increases. I recall the last time they asked, again the Member for Crescentwood mentioned it, and at that time I believe I wrote a long letter and cancelled myself out of MMS because I thought that it was an outrageous increase for no reason. They certainly had no justification for increasing it. I know for example in government service, Mr. Speaker, as a member of Public Accounts which we just completed, any expenditures over \$1,000 have to be listed in Public Accounts and can be scrutinized by all members of the House and the government has to give that information. I also know that employees earning over, I believe it's \$7,500, are listed by name and their salaries given. We are dealing here with public funds and I'm really amazed and will be very disappointed and shocked and probably a little angry if this government decides to select a certain group of people in our society, namely the doctors, and to say these are privileged people we will not give you the salaries of these doctors. I'd be very shocked and I hope that in the course of

(MR. BOROWSKI cont'd) this debate that members from the opposition will rise, the Official Opposition will rise, and state their position on this issue because this is a very important issue and I'm sure that the members of the Conservative Party have something to say about this and contribute to this debate and I think it's incumbent upon all of us since it is an important issue for various members of the party to get up and state their position on this important issue. If they do not the government may come to the erroneous conclusion that we really don't care and simply say we will not do it. So I think it's up to us on the back bench in the opposition on both sides to get together, to get together and have this thing published. One other item I'd like to mention, Mr. Chairman, I recall a few years ago when Medicare was brought in and doctors in Thompson opted out and at that time it looked like for a while we were going to have a community without any service because the set-up there was that three doctors had a corporation which is quite proper and legal, and they employed all the other doctors. And I believe, I think they paid them \$18,000 a year. And we couldn't understand why we couldn't get any doctors in Thompson because we are always told, lead to believe that doctors are very high paid people -- now why couldn't they come to Thompson, one of the most prosperous communities in Manitoba. And when this think broke open -- and at that time we found out that the very people who had just negotiated themselves a 25 percent increase did not pass it on. The doctors that were in their employ were getting a miserable \$18,000 a year. Now that is the type of dealings that we have been exposed to and Thompson has suffered, and I am sure other northern communities have suffered as a result of this. Because nobody knew why doctors wouldn't come and nobody knew why doctors wouldn't stay; until the Medicare was brought in by the previous government, which we supported, and then they showed their colours -- when they withdrew we found out the fact that the doctors were always out for an increase, would not pass on this increase. And had the figures been published at that time as they are in British Columbia today. I am convinced that that situation would never come to the point where we had to pick a doctor at Blaine Johnson's Clinic for several days and put pressure on him to get the medical services back, which created quite a hazard for the community.

So, Mr. -- (Interjection) -- Speaker, I believe he was the candidate against me in the last election and he will probably be the Liberal candidate, but that doesn't really matter. He isn't a medical doctor and he is getting public funds, and I think all of us are entitled to know how much money, tax money, is being paid. So, Mr. Chairman, I join with the Member for Portage and the Member for Crescentwood for a change in supporting this Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, at the kind invitation of the Member for Thompson, I intend to make myself heard on this particular Resolution. Sir, that's a rather interesting position that is now being taken by the Member for Crescentwood and the Member for Thompson. He made the statement, and I think most of us will recall it well, in Law Amendments Committee; he made an accusation against a doctor because he was earning too much money at that time. Now he refers to their salaries, the lousy \$18,000 a year. That was a pittance, it was a pittance in those days -- he says today -- but at the time when the doctors were earning \$18,000 a year he was suggesting in Law Amendments Committee that their fees and their salaries were exorbitant. How times have changed, Sir. And what is the reason for it? I find and I will not call their position a hypocritical one because, Sir, that is an unparliamentary term that I don't intend to use but if I can find a substitute for it I certainly . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The Honourable Member for Thompson. Point of Privilege.

MR. BOROWSKI: I believe it's a point of privilege when a member attributes certain statements to another member that are incorrect. He is talking about Law Amendments which took place in 69; and at that time the salaries were not \$18,000 they were around \$35,000 a year and he is suggesting that I at that time complained about salaries that were incorrectly stated by him now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: I'll accept the honourable member's correction if that makes him happy. I don't intend to quarrel over that because that's a minor thing. What is really happening, Sir, we find the Member for Crescentwood and the Member for Thompson now standing up in this House attempting to make great guys of themselves in the eyes of the ordinary people, the wage earner, by attacking a group of people that will not, I am sure, take the trouble to defend themselves against the asinine accusations of the Member for Crescentwood.

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) The fact is, Sir, that what these gentlemen are criticizing -- and this is where I find the situation rather amusing -- they are criticizing the application of socialism in this country. And yet both of them sit on the socialist side of the House supporting the socialist in principle -- supporting the socialist in principle, voting with them, keeping this government into office, and then have the supreme audacity to stand up in this House and criticize one aspect of socialism. This is the inevitable result of its application.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I realize I must allow a lot of latitude in regard to this debate but I don't think we are debating socialism; I do believe we are debating an Order for Return. If the honourable member would have a look at it he would probably get closer to the question. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, Sir, on that point of order the Member for Crescentwood -- the Order for Return is simply seeking information regarding the salaries of doctors. And he dealt at some length as to reasons why doctors' salaries have increased; made all sorts of accusations; put on the record a great number of figures as to how doctors' salaries have increased over the period of time that Medicare has been practised in this province. And I think it was a legitimate argument on his part, in substantiating his claim for a revealing of the figures. Sir, all I am doing is taking his same argument -- and his was allowed -- and establishing the reasons why those salaries have increased. Sir, the reasons they have increased are quite evident. I've said it over and over in this House and I am going to say it again, it is the inevitable result of the application of socialism, the very thing that the Member for Crescentwood supports so fondly in this House. And I can't understand how he has the audacity to stand up here now and criticize that which he loves so much.

There's one way to make sure that doctors' salaries remain at a level that is competitive -- a salary that people can afford to pay -- and that is to enable them to be competitive and to remove the restrictions, the socialist philosophy, that is inherent in a Medicare program. Wherever -- wherever it is applied prices rise. And I find it rather interesting now to see those two gentlemen opposite crying in their beer because doctors' salaries have gone up. We could have pointed that out -- we could have pointed that out -- at the time that Medicare was brought into this province, at the time that the Medicare -- (Interjection) -- It was pointed out in Ottawa that it was going to be the inevitable result of a Medicare program across this country. My honourable friends are going to have to learn . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order. The Honourable First Minister on a point of order.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is simply this -- is the question before us that of Medicare, or is it that of a specific aspect of Medicare payments, the format and mode of payments?

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The Order for Return is in regards to the information and the salaries of doctors. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, the Order for Return is seeking information, asking for the -- a Return outlining for the years 1969, 1970, 1971 information regarding medical fees paid by the Manitoba Health Services Commission and its predecessor. And they want the names of the doctors receiving the fees and the amount of monies received by each doctor during this period. I have no objection to that information, no objection at all to that information being revealed. And I'm quite sure that the doctors have no objection to that information being revealed; because I think what it will reveal, what it will reveal is the weakness of the argument being proposed in this Chamber today by the Member for Crescentwood and the Member for Thompson. And these honourable gentlemen would look perhaps a little more credible if they would remove themselves from that side of the House, move over there -- I wouldn't want them to move too far this way -- move over there and align themselves against the government that is dedicated to increasing prices in this country. Then they will have indicated to us that they mean what they say instead of just mouthing platitudes in this House in an attempt to gather in all sides of the political spectrum. No, Sir, the honourable gentlemen opposite are going to have to put their money where their mouths are.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, this is a most interesting Order for Return. I have listened to a number of the participants in the debate and I must confess that I do not know where the majority of those who have spoken stand in respect to the Order for Return itself. I listened with a great deal of interest to the Honourable Member for Morris who is today in

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) his normal flamboyant -- his normal flamboyant self -- and I compliment him for that. I only wish sometimes that I was just as flamboyant as the Member for Morris. But you know when you assess what has been said by my honourable friend you wonder where he stands. On this side of the proposition or on that side of the proposition?

I want to say to the Member for Crescentwood that by and large the proposition that he has introduced to this House is a most interesting one. There is no question of doubt that all of us in the Province of Manitoba, indeed in the whole of the Dominion of Canada, are quite concerned with the apparent ever-escalating costs of the provision of health services and Medicare services to the citizens of this province and to this Dominion. And of course, Mr. Speaker, we are not peculiar here in that regard, because the same proposition has prevailed in the Old Country -- and by the Old Country in this instance I'm suggesting that we should refer to Great Britain, where as I understand the first Medicare program or comprehensive Medicare program was enacted away back I believe in 1944 or 45 after Beveridge introduced a plan for the treatment, medical treatment, of all of the people of Great Britain. And then of course following that the resolutions of the International Health Association under the United Nations and -- it's been an ever recurring problem and consideration of the escalating costs. And I would say that the Honourable the Member for Crescentwood, as indeed all of us in this House are concerned with these costs. I'm wondering whether or not certain groups of people are in a position where they may take advantage of the requirements of rendering services to human beings in the field of medical service. And I appreciate this -- I'm concerned; and I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether we're approaching the problem properly by the methodology being used.

As I understand it by the Member for Crescentwood, he asks in this Order for Return the names of the doctors receiving fees and the amount of monies received by each doctor during the period of 69, 70 and 71. And I suggest to my honourable friend that this isn't enough -- because it can give a picture that isn't a proper, in my opinion, and true picture as to the costs of Medicare and as to whether or not doctors are taking advantage of the fact that we have a Medicare scheme in Manitoba and a number of the provinces of the Dominion. As I understand the request of the Member for Crescentwood, this would exclude doctors who are not covered under the plan at the present time and who have elected not to come within the plan. And I say, Mr. Speaker, in all due respect that if what we are attempting to do -- or the Honourable Member for Crescentwood is attempting to do -- is to pinpoint the ever-escalating costs of the provision of Medicare; that we can't take in isolation just those doctors that are covered under the plan itself. We are concerned with the costs. I don't know, Sir, what the percentage of doctors under the plan happens to be today. I believe a year or so ago that it did include about 85 percent of the practitioners in the province.

But there's another aspect I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we have to take into consideration, and that is today as I understand it, and I may be wrong, and I'm sure honourable members will recognize that I have been wrong in a number of instances, but it doesn't take into consideration the fact that a number of doctors, and I suggest a considerable number of doctors today are not related to patients in the normal concept of doctor/patient relationship as we historically knew it, because they are working, in effect, for clinics and actually receive salaries rather than fees. I do not know whether or not these persons would have revealed through the substance of the Order for Return by the Member for Crescentwood their true amount of money received through the Health Services Commission. Then, there is also the proposition I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that as I understand it, subject to correction, that it isn't simply the application of the fees received from the Health Services Commission to the individual, but we have to take into consideration what is the input of those fees. An individual practitioner working, say for instance in the City of Transcona, the former City of Transcona, as an individual, may have to pay out of the amount of fees that he receives from the Health Services Commission, if he's a participant, all of the full costs of the operation of his business. And it is of course a business. And then we compare that with the fees paid into some clinic such as the Winnipeg Clinic where the costs of operation are pro rated between a multitude of doctors.

I have no objections at all, Mr. Speaker, I want to make this amply clear, that where the treasury and the public, be it through the Health Services Commission or directly are concerned, that for the expenditures of money from the public treasury, it should be revealed. But I fear, I fear, that there can be a misconstruing of the documentary evidence or report as suggested by the Member for Crescentwood. -- (Interjection) -- I'm not wiggling at all, I'm not wiggling

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) at all, I say to my honourable friend from Churchill. I'm trying -- and maybe this is alien to some members -- maybe I shouldn't say that, Mr. Speaker. I was going to say, maybe it's alien to some members of this House to be honest and I am trying to be honest and I've always tried to be honest as a member of this Assembly. If my honourable -- (Interjection) -- I beg your pardon? No, I'm not trying to talk the clock out at all. -- (Interjection) -- Pardon? Well I don't know if my honourable friend from Portage la Prairie can wear that mantle or not. That is the mantle of honesty. I leave he to be the judge, I leave him to be the judge as to his honesty and without reflection on my honourable friend. -- (Interjection) -- I didn't claim the mantle at all Mr. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister has five minutes.

MR. PAULLEY: Pardon?

MR. SPEAKER: Five minutes.

MR. PAULLEY: I want to say, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much, I appreciate very much the sincerity of the request of the Honourable Member for Crescentwood. The only reservation that I have is as to whether or not the answers to the Order for Return that he thinks will really give us the answers to problems that we are confronted with and will they really reveal the situation which we're confronted with in the whole field of Medicare, not only here. My honourable friend from Churchill laughs. You know, Mr. Speaker, I have a great admiration for my friend the Member for Churchill and I do not suggest that my honourable friend should not laugh. I think it is very very becoming of the Member for Churchill to laugh. His joviality has long been one of his talents -- and possibly one of his better talents as he has exhibited from time to time. -- (Interjection) -- That is an honest statement I say to the Honourable Member for La Verendrye, that the Honourable Member for Churchill can laugh. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, on occasions he can even make the Member for Transcona laugh and I join him in that. But my great -- (Interjection) -- Yes, the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs, he may even prod me into smiling at least.

Again may I recap my remarks, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate that my time is up. My fear is that the type of question that we are being asked today by way of an Order for Return for the Member for Crescentwood will not give the proper answers to the people of Manitoba who are concerned with the ever escalating costs of Medicare. I think that there is some other way in which this can be done; however, I am prepared, I am prepared to listen to further debate and eventually I may even support the proposition of the Member for Crescentwood providing -- and this is my reservation -- providing it is clearly understood that there are areas of misapprehensions, that the documentation of the Return could be misconstrued to the disadvantage not only of the doctors in the Province of Manitoba but also to the citizens generally of the Province of Manitoba who, of course, in the final analysis are paying the shot for Medicare in the Province of Manitoba.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened with interest to the non-statements of the Member for Transcona, the Honourable Minister of Labour, and I must admit that he must have laboured very hard to bring forward a speech such as that one.

Mr. Speaker, the Order for Return that is filed by the Member for Crescentwood does intrigue me probably for rather different reasons than he has stated here. We find that here is a member who is directing all his attention and his energy and drive at one particular segment of society. And it makes me wonder why he would direct his attention at just one segment of society. If he wants information regarding employees of government that draw salaries he would, I would imagine, support some of the requests that have been made from this side of the House but he doesn't do that. Here he is asking for information just about doctors. He isn't asking for information about the professors at university, he's not attempting to try and find out how much the professors are getting with their increases year after year after year, or the fact that they're doing less and less and less each year, but he wants information about one particular segment of society.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The hour of 5:30 having arrived, the House is accordingly adjourned until 2:30 tomorrow afternoon.