

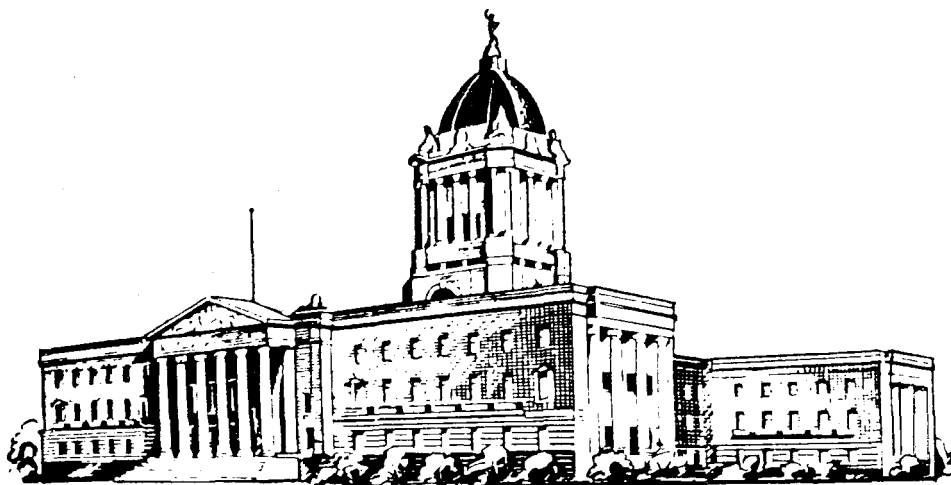


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XX No. 119 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 24th, 1973.

Fifth Session, 29th Legislature.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
10:00 o'clock, Thursday, May 24, 1973

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

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 28 students of Grade 8 standing of the Aberdeen School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Drzystek. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

And we also have 30 students of Grades 3 and 4 standing of the Elwick School. These students are under the direction of Miss Lorette Laroque. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, the Minister of Colleges and Universities. 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 Agriculture.

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): . . . with the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation which was a subject of some controversy earlier during the session, and with it his telegram indicating he has no objections to having his file tabled. And also I wish to table a telegram from one Mr. Bowles, who objects to having his file tabled.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports? The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I would only like . . . this report here, the press releases inviting all members of the House to drop into the Operation ReNu trailer in front of the building any time this morning; especially those over 45.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, can we revert to Ministerial Reports?

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? The Honourable Minister.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, as promised, I'm now tabling the Annual Report of the Clean Environment Commission. There are enough copies for all members.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; 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 Agriculture. Is it the government's intention to table the confidential reports of applicants to the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation in any situation in which there is public discussion of a loan application?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, there are two courses of action open to the government; one is to reveal every file on record, or simply to ask permission from those people whose files have been questioned by members opposite. What we are doing here this morning is with the permission and concurrence, whatever you want to call it, Mr. Speaker, of the person in question; so that we are not violating any principle or confidentiality, it's with agreement. Now if members opposite want to pursue questions with respect to other people who have loans with MACC, we will have to do that as well.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. The file that was tabled and we do not have it in front of us, and I'm not in a position to make any statement -- (Interjection) -- Well, that may be -- is the file . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPIVAK: . . . of Mr. Hofford's son, is that correct? It is not the file of Mr. Bowles. But the file of Mr. Bowles is in question, and he objected to his file -- have you filed his file?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: . . . indicated in my opening statement that Mr. Bowles did not wish his file to be tabled, and likewise we are not going to do it because it would be a violation of confidentiality with respect to an agreement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Urban Affairs. Does the government have any action or plan -- any action on the request by the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities for new Provincial-Municipal fiscal arrangements and revenue sharing?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Urban Affairs) (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, negotiations are presently under way with the City of Winnipeg dealing with this very matter, and to some degree they have been finalized, but I think I should say that they are continuing with respect to long range plans and the establishment of the formula that would be applied on a year to year basis.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Does the government support the municipal government's concept of sharing provincial growth taxation?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I think you will find that that concept is in effect to a degree at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the statement made by the Minister of Agriculture a few days ago in Ottawa regarding the possible use of DDT to fight grasshoppers, is it the intention of the Provincial Government to allow this banned chemical or pesticide to be used in Manitoba?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the use of chemicals is a matter for the Government of Canada, its use is controlled by the Government of Canada, the Drug Administration have the authority, so that legally the province I believe would not have authority to either endorse the use of it or of any chemical or to control the same.

MR. BOROWSKI: Yes, I have a question for the Minister of Health. In view of the statement made by a doctor on a hot line the other morning indicating that Dr. Otto Schmidt was the abortion butcher in Manitoba, I wonder if the Minister would cause an investigation to see if there is abuse by this doctor because he apparently is doing the bulk of the abortions in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, first of all I didn't hear the so-called hot line and no one has laid information before me or the College of Physicians and Surgeons in regard to Dr. Schmidt that he was a butcher and that he was contravening the sections of the Criminal Code pertaining to abortions, so there is no way that I at this stage can cause an investigation or ask that the College of Physicians and Surgeons do so. The honourable member who is concerned and seems to have information that I haven't access to, can lay that information before the College of Physicians and Surgeons and have that investigation made of Dr. Schmidt or any other doctor in the Province of Manitoba, by that body who is responsible.

MR. BOROWSKI: Yes, Mr. Speaker, in view of the Minister's comments a couple of weeks ago, that if anybody had information to bring it to his attention, which I have just done, is he indicating that he's really not interested in such information?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, when I requested or asked for information in regards to individual doctors in the Province of Manitoba contravening sections of the Criminal Code pertaining to abortions, I meant information that I could bring forward to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, not hearsay or verbal information, something that can be brought forward in a concrete way where the College of Physicians and Surgeons can take action. If the honourable member has such information I'd be glad to act as the third party as far as laying that information before the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. BOROWSKI: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that a doctor has made such charges publicly, is the Minister prepared to look into this question of abuse by a certain doctor where abortion is concerned in Manitoba?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, first of all I can talk to the College of Physicians and Surgeons and see if they can get information from, and justify the accusations made by that certain doctor on the hot line and then they can pursue it from there.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture. I wonder if he can confirm that the file that was tabled before the question period in connection with the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation is the first file of the corporation ever to be tabled in the Provincial Legislature?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: I would hazard a guess, Mr. Speaker, that it probably is the first time, and probably because of the way in which for the first time an application was debated in the House.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture can inform the House whether there has been any complaints made to him as Minister of Agriculture by any applicant to the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation with respect to a refusal for an application or a proposal by the Credit Corporation which was not in line with the original request of an applicant?

MR. USKIW: I think I know what the honourable member is suggesting. On occasion, Mr. Speaker, I receive letters, telephone calls from people that have either applied or intend to apply for a loan with the MACC. However, as I advised the House on many occasions, Mr. Speaker, I do not take part, participate in any way in the consideration of an application for a loan. Likewise, in the case of Mr. Bowles who did come to see me, where I told him that really he has to deal with the corporation itself and that I do not make loans on my desk, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture can inform the House whether on any occasion he as Minister of Agriculture discussed a loan with the chairman of the board or members of the Agricultural Credit Corporation?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, when the board or its chairman and I meet we discuss the whole range of policy questions arising out of our credit program, from which emanates amendments to regulations and perhaps even legislation.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture again. I wonder if he can inform the House whether he as Minister of Agriculture has discussed a loan that was pending before the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation with the chairman or members of the board during their consideration or reconsideration of a loan?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I think one would be naive to think that on no occasion would such a situation arise. I can only recollect that there have been conversations between myself and members of the staff of the Credit Corporation and the Board pursuant to enquiries made to me and to my office. That is a normal course of procedure, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture can inform the House whether on any occasion he requested the file of an applicant who made an application before the board or who was having an application considered, request the examination of the file?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, is the member asking whether I've ever requested? Yes, on occasion, Mr. Speaker, where there is a complaint launched, I have asked for a file to be tabled with me for my perusal and subsequent discussion as to policy.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture can inform the House whether when the request for a file was made, was it made with the consent of the person who had spoken to him, or the applicant to the Credit Corporation, was made without the knowledge of the applicant?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, those particular situations arise where people have either written in or phoned in making enquiries of me as to the status of their application, as to whether they should or should not apply; so that really it's all pursuant to enquiries made to my office.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture can inform the House whether on any occasion with the consent of an applicant he has asked for the file before the

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) Agricultural Credit Corporation for examination by him.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I thought I'd answered that earlier; and that is that on occasion, in the normal course of my duties such situations do arise wherein people have launched either a complaint with respect to the management of MACC or even the board itself, when I undertake to peruse the file and to try to determine whether there was any reason for complaint.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the House Leader and ask him if now, on the basis of the action that was taken this morning by the Minister of Agriculture, if it is now the intention of the government that every time a question is raised in this House regarding the actions of any branch of the government that personal and private files are going to be tabled in this House, simply because the Opposition raise questions?

A MEMBER: Oh, you'd like it the other way.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, every case would have to speak for itself. With respect to the existing case I would think it would be a great injustice if the matters were left to rest without being dealt with if the Minister had the authority to deal with it from the applicant.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Northern Affairs. There was some indication by the government to setting up a commission of enquiry into the high cost of living in northern Manitoba. My question is, has the government as yet set up a commission of enquiry to deal with the high cost of living in northern Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. RON McBRYDE (Minister of Northern Affairs) (The Pas): . . . the description "commission of enquiry" would be a correct description. There is some ongoing studies being done by my department and by Mines and Resources, and I believe they're also involving the Consumer Affairs, but I'd have to check on that, on a continuing basis as to the cost of living in northern Manitoba.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Has the government set up a commission to investigate the cost of transportation to northern Manitoba?

MR. McBRYDE: Well, Mr. Speaker, if the department is doing it, then the government is doing it, I don't see the difference in the question from the previous one.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Has the government any plan of action to reduce the cost of living in northern Manitoba and the cost of transportation?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, there's been a number of actions taken to assist in reducing the cost of living in northern Manitoba, but I don't believe in the question period I could go into all of them at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS McGREGOR (Virden): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture. Where stands the Small Development Fund Agreement with Ottawa?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: . . . , received by myself only the day before yesterday from the Federal Minister. It appears that agreement has been reached.

MR. McGREGOR: When does the Minister expect this to be in effect or when can farmers expect to apply for this type of fund?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I would think that it's a matter of administrative detail from this point on; the agreement would have to be entered into formally, in which case it would take probably three or four weeks before it would be possible to consider applications. I couldn't be positive on this point, Mr. Speaker, in that it does involve another level of government. That would be my impression.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Does a senior citizen who is applying for his pass to go into a provincial park, or the provincial parks in Manitoba, have to appear personally in Winnipeg with his identification, registration and driver's license?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, the applicant has to appear personally to show proof of age and also proof of ownership of the car, but not necessarily in Winnipeg, there's been other places announced, I don't have the information right now and we're looking at the possibility of making even more of these locations -- open more of these locations in different parts across the province, different areas in the province.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Did I understand the Minister to say that there has been an office set up, or an arrangement set up for people in the western part of Manitoba and northern parts of Manitoba to make application personally?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there has been other locations announced and we're looking at the possibility of opening more such offices - we're looking at the possibility of giving these passes at certain parks in different areas of the province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. THOMAS BARROW (Flin Flon): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker. When will the signing of the water and sewerage project in Cranberry take place?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the town of, or the local authority of Cranberry Portage is the authority that still must carry out an obligation pursuant to a section in the Municipal Act; and that is that they must advertise for a 30-day period their intention to proceed with Public Works in that connection. Once that is done the province is prepared to sign the agreement with Cranberry Portage.

MR. BARROW: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Then the element of time lies with the EUG Committee, does it not?

MR. USKIW: Would the honourable member repeat that question?

MR. BARROW: The problem of the time element lays with the EUG in Cranberry Portage?

MR. USKIW: Yes, the question of delay really centres on quickly the local government acts, Mr. Speaker. We are not at this point in control of the situation but are ready to respond as soon as the local government is ready.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture could tell us if the questions directed to him at the moment from the Member from Flin Flon were directed to him in the NDP caucus this morning or last night or yesterday morning?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member would be awake, and I don't know that he should be, he would know that we had no time to caucus.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I was quite awake at 3 o'clock this morning.

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

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Thompson): . . . Clean Environment Commission, I wonder if he could indicate how many towns, villages or cities or other communities are still dumping raw sewage in our waterways?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I couldn't give my honourable friend the exact number, but I'll take the question as notice.

MR. BOROWSKI: Yes, a further question. Is there a limit, has he set a limit to these communities that dump raw sewage into our waterways, has he given them a time limit of one, two or three years to stop dumping the sewage -- in other words to provide proper sewage treatment facilities?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it's not the Minister who gives the limits, it is the commission that hears these things. I know that in several cases they have given limits; I know that in some of the cases where they set limits there have been extensions. It is a very desirable thing, but it is not a simple matter.

The Member for Morris raised some problems with regard to things other than municipalities, and although we are all striving for a clean environment it is not a simple matter to just set the limit and think that it's going to happen. The City of Winnipeg I believe is now in

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. GREEN cont'd) . . . its final phase of a ten-year program to stop the dumping of sewage into the rivers.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I notice that in the absence of the Minister of Municipal Affairs whose concurrence on his estimates closed by closure just sometime before the House reconvened . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. WATT: I direct . . .

MR. GREEN: His estimates were delayed by a filibuster.

MR. WATT: We'll debate that then.

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, then on the point of privilege . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. WATT: . . . you allowed the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. There is no point of privilege. I have given the honourable member the floor and I've asked him to place his question, not to make comments.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker . . . by the Legislative Counsel. Resolutions presented by the Union of Municipalities, Rural Union of Municipalities, and I will not read, Mr. Speaker, the resolutions, I'll just simply number them. Were these resolutions considered and acted on? Resolution No. 2, Resolution No. 3, Resolution No. 4, Resolution No. 7, Resolution No. 8, Resolution No. 9, Resolution No. 10, Resolution No. 13, Resolution No. 14, Resolution No. 15, Resolution No. 18 . . .

A MEMBER: Pass --

MR. WATT: Resolution No. 22. You keep track, I'd like an answer. Resolution No. 27, Resolution No. 30, Resolution No. 31 . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. WATT: Resolution No. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Order please. -- (Interjection) -- ORDER PLEASE! The question is nonsensical, since I have no value neither does the Clerk, nor will the records show what the questions mean. Just numbers. And therefore I say that the honourable member should file an Order for Return if he wants to ask a question of that length. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WATT: . . . (Not audible) Resolution No. 33, Resolution No. 34 . . .

A MEMBER: He hasn't even got his microphone on.

MR. WATT: Resolution 35 . . . Resolution No. 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 -- (Bingo!) (Not audible) . . . do over there, but these are resolutions that we were not allowed to bring before the committee last night.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. WATT: Resolution No. 44, Resolution . . . (not audible)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as Deputy Premier of the Province of Manitoba, I want to assure this House and the Honourable Member for Arthur, that when resolutions are presented to the Executive Council of this government, they are given every consideration. It may be, it may be they are not answered upon immediately, but certainly, Mr. Speaker, when presented to us, either directly to Cabinet or through one of the members of Executive Council, they are considered by this government, and I suggest to my honourable friend that this is the only answer I can give to him. They may be not immediately acted upon, but they are given a hearing and a consideration by this government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Oh! I'll ask a direct question then to the Deputy Premier. Have these resolutions been gone over, and are any of them going to be acted on?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is the policy of this government to meet with representatives of the Urban Association, the Rural Association, the farm groups and others, and I indicated to my honourable friend that we consider all the resolutions; and his question to me was, have they been acted upon, have any of them been acted upon. My honourable friend just listed a number of numbers and I'm not knowledgeable of the specifics . . .

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. WATT: I listed resolutions.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . of those resolutions at the present time, but I do want, Mr. Speaker, to assure him, and even through him, if I can get through him, to the Urban Association, the municipal people or any other group engaged in affairs public in the Province of Manitoba, that this government always considers their representations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Honourable the Minister of Tourism. Will the government of the Province of Manitoba be making grants to the City of Winnipeg in the current fiscal year for the purposes of their 1974 celebration?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, I imagine that there's little doubt that the Provincial Government will participate in some manner after discussion with the Committee of the City of Winnipeg, for the Centennial of the City.

MR. FROESE: Will they be designated for any special purposes?

MR. DESJARDINS: This will be decided after the committee named by the City meets my colleague here and the other Cabinet Ministers and decide how and in which way we could help them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the House Leader. Ask him if it's his intention to introduce those bills that appear on Page 3 of today's Order Paper entitled "Second Reading of Government Bills"; I believe there are nine in all. Is it the intention of the government to proceed with those bills before the end of the session?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I can tell my honourable friend that we are intending to proceed with Concurrences later this morning, and further events I just can't predict at this moment.

MR. JORGENSON: . . . Will there be any more bills to be introduced other than those that now appear on the Order Paper?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, not that I'm aware of. It's possible that bills could be introduced by other members of the Chamber, but I'm not aware of any bills other than the bills which normally follow the Concurrences and the passing of Supply. But other bills with regard to new departmental legislation, I'm not aware of any.

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

CONCURRENCES

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, would you call the motion on Concurrences, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Resolved there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$9,152,800 for Northern Affairs. Pass? The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I feel that I would not be responsible in my position in this House if I didn't take a few moments to discuss Northern Affairs. This item, Mr. Speaker, we unfortunately didn't have time to discuss in the studies of the Estimates, but there is an increase of some \$4 million over last year's operations. In other words, Mr. Speaker, it's reached the colossal figure of some \$9 million. And I feel that the Minister owes the House and the people of Manitoba some explanation before this item is approved.

The trouble as I see it, Mr. Speaker, is that the majority of these funds is not going down to the people whose lives it was intended to improve. I believe we have an operation here that is developing into something that is just far too top heavy in administration. I feel confident in the fact that far too much money is going into the travelling around the country and the setting up of offices, hiring of experts and people travelling at enormous expense backwards and forwards in the interests of doing something for the people in northern Manitoba.

I believe the Minister owes it to the House that he should tell us how much his staff has increased over last year. And not only that, what does it cost him to maintain that staff? I think the people generally know, Mr. Speaker, that we've had a very serious problem in that particular area; many of the medical fraternity as you know, by far the largest majority,

CONCURRENCES

(MR. BILTON cont'd) are located here in Winnipeg, and I want to know what the department has done, not only to encourage the people in the medical profession to move into that country but to stay in that country and work with the people.

I want to know, too, Mr. Speaker, what has been done in the dental field. It's a well-known fact that over the years the young people particularly have been in need of this service. From time to time over the years during my service in this House I've endeavoured to explain and encourage the government, not only this government, but the government to which I belonged before, that something should be done in the way of dental clinics spotted throughout northern Manitoba so that the children particularly could receive the service that they ought to have in their growing years.

There was much ado, Mr. Speaker, in recent years about air ambulance service for northern Manitoba. We've had no report from the Minister as to whether or not this service is in operation; and if it is, I'd like to know, as well as my colleagues would like to know, just how many flights have been made, where have they been made from and the total cost of this service. Added to that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know also as to whether or not an aircraft has been purchased for this particular service and whether it is fully equipped to meet emergencies, that was the original intention when this was discussed over the years.

May the House be told, too, Mr. Speaker, when the Minister is replying to the few comments I have to make, as to whether or not there is a doctor and a nurse on a standby 24-hour service to augment the establishment of this air ambulance service.

Another important thing, too, Mr. Speaker, that has been a cause of concern to the people of northern Manitoba, particularly those in the twilight years of life. What is being done for the senior citizens in that area with a view to establishing homes, if you like, in order that they can get the proper care and under proper conditions. I know at The Pas they have such an establishment and at Flin Flon they have such an establishment, but these are only centres, centres of large populations, Mr. Speaker, that I'm sure cannot cope with people in outlying areas who also need this care. Now that the Medicare has taken over the responsibility of extended care homes, I wonder if the Minister could inform the House of any plans that the government has in mind toward the establishment of a facility that I have attempted to mention in northern Manitoba; particularly northeastern Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. Surely the time has arrived when those people deserve the same consideration and the same attention as is humanly possible as the rest of Manitobans.

I know the Minister may say to me, what did your government do? Our government, Mr. Speaker, went out of office in 1969; this government has been in office for four years. They set up a northern Task Force, the northern Task Force came forward most forcibly in 1970 on this particular recommendation. And surely at this late date, the Minister must have some plans in mind as to what's to be done for those people in this way.

Questions have been asked over the weeks with regard to transportation and the efforts made by the department in the building of northern roads, particularly winter roads, with a view to reducing the cost of goods transported into northeastern Manitoba, thus assisting the people in that area.

This road building effort from what we've learned, Mr. Speaker, has been a dismal failure. When the Minister was questioned on this particular matter, he simply said in passing that the early spring had a great deal to do with it. This is a good excuse and may satisfy some people; but you know, Mr. Speaker, the spring was quite a little while coming, quite a little while coming; they had the whole winter to open up these roads, and I think that the Minister should admit that what was lacking was expert opinion in winter road building that was the cause to a large degree of the failure to carry this through.

We would like to know on this side of the House what this error cost the people of Manitoba in extra freight charges. We have heard what it has cost private organizations to get materials and goods in because of the lack of the transportation company that was written off by this government without any, as I understand it, compensation. If what happened this past winter, Mr. Speaker, is a forerunner of what's going to happen next winter and the following winter, it seems to me it will be a sorry state of affairs.

I'm hearing, Mr. Speaker, from time to time complaints of the increase in freight rates to northern Manitoba by the CNR, and particularly in recent months. The Transport

CONCURRENCES

(MR. BILTON cont'd) . . . Board have listened to briefs by the transportation companies and I have no doubt gave the entire matter serious consideration. But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, it comes as a shock to people in northern Manitoba that freight rates so to speak on the established highways and the CNR have tripled overnight. Tripled overnight. Only yesterday I had a call from Birch River where a merchant was complaining bitterly of a 500-pound shipment that he received of goods for his store, and it cost him three times more than it did six months ago. I believe that the Chamber of Commerce are grappling with this subject and they will be bringing it to the attention of the province and the Federal Government.

What I would like the Minister to inform the House is to how he feels about this. Has he kept a close touch on the developing situation? Did he do something, did he go before the board and plead the case of people in northern Manitoba? Because, Mr. Speaker, it costs enough to live in that country. I have said so many times before that those of us that are on the frontier so to speak pay a premium to live there in the developing of northern Manitoba, and the order should be reversed somehow to lower the cost of living by the fact that high transportation costs must be accommodated one way or the other. Has the Minister appealed for action or does the department plan to do anything by way of a subsidy or something to relieve the situation?

I wonder if the Minister has done anything or instituted any plans toward the cleaning up of the liquor problem in many of our northern settlements? Will he advise the House as to what he has done and possibly what the situation is today?

For many years some of us have seen the need for police protection in these northern communities. It's true they cannot afford to pay for them themselves, and I've been always an advocate that the native people themselves with limited instruction could do an excellent job, and I've appealed to the government on several occasions to pick out men throughout northern Manitoba that were suitably inclined and train them, place them in the communities to assist in keeping order.

The cost of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the north in close proximity of these communities, I'd be the first to say, is beyond the public purse to maintain. And actually, Mr. Speaker, it's not necessary if the men that I am talking about get that training and are particularly inclined, they could very well work with the Mounted Police and do a great job. I know that an effort is being made at Rivers, a partial training plan is going on there. I'd like the Minister to give us a report on the effort made, how many men have graduated and where they are located, what the operation is costing, and whether or not he has confidence in its success.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that with the expense of \$9 million for the general operation of northern Manitoba, much of it intended to uplift the lives and conditions of people in northern Manitoba, will be spent and spent well, and cautiously, and spent properly, and that it's not spent for people to fly north, so-called experts, so-called scientists -- (Interjection) -- and -- I hadn't thought of that, but I acknowledge the member's comment -- in order that everything can be done and every last penny be spent properly. Because, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the Minister will appreciate my opinion when I say that there is much to be done, and those people are still living in squalor. As a colleague of mine was saying the other day, the poor people are still out there, and they are still out there. I feel the population of Manitoba are prepared to do their part and they will not complain at any figure that goes toward the betterment of life of these people who for so long have stood aside and never had the opportunity of taking advantage of the pleasures of society as we know them today.

But I do want to insist, Mr. Speaker, before I sit down, that something has got to be done from a medical point of view. It's all very well to have a team set up and travel through the country and travel out of the country and put in a report which gathers dust and little done about it. The department I am sure by this time has sufficient material with which to work, that a special effort should be made, and I would ask the Minister, with the limited time that I have taken, I have not covered the things that I would have liked to have covered, but due to the hour, I would ask him to take a few moments, and not only possibly reply to some of the items that I have attempted to bring out that I feel is important, but he inform the House and the people of Manitoba of possibly one or two other things that are important that the people of Manitoba should know and the people in northern Manitoba will be encouraged by his opinion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resolution before the House --pass? The Honourable Member for Roblin.

CONCURRENCES

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we're going to get a reply from the Honourable the Minister of Northern Affairs. We had the debate last night in this Chamber for most of the night and into the early hours of this morning in the hope that the Minister of Municipal Affairs would respond to the some \$100 million of money that's being expended through his department, but unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we did not gain a reply from the Honourable the Minister. Here is another department which was not dealt with in the debate of the Estimates in the House, and I wonder if our efforts are going to gain a reply to some of the many questions that we're asking regarding this department.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder as I sit here this morning if in fact the Honourable the Minister does provide the House with an annual report from his department. I have failed to find one, and possibly the legislation or the statutes do not require the department and the Minister to file an annual report for the members of the House.

I, Mr. Speaker, have listened with great interest to some of the questions that's been raised during the session of the problems of administration and to the problems of the bureaucracy that have been continually raised during the course of this session regarding the problems in the north. And while the Minister did at times give some questions, Mr. Speaker, it's quite evident that it's far from running smooth under the Minister's administration, Mr. Speaker.

I also wonder, Mr. Speaker, regarding the -- I note that the air division of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources of course has been transferred into Northern Affairs, and that jurisdiction comes under his ministership, and if the Minister could advise the House how many new aircraft they have purchased and what type of aircraft they are, if any, or has he any records of that for members of the House in the Government Air Services.

But, Mr. Speaker, my prime concern today in rising is the community development concept as it's being used in the north and some of the problems that have been brought to the attention of members of the House regarding this concept. So, Mr. Speaker, the community development concept, as I understand it, is a program of government service to people and it's borrowed basically from the United Nations, who I understand a number of years ago identified the need for community motivation and community action to try and improve the social and the economic conditions in the underdeveloped countries of the world. And the adaption of this concept to our Canadian society and especially our northern society, has not over the years I daresay seen many real changes in its objectives despite the fact that programs as delivered in undeveloped countries of the world, where a majority of the people could be classed as have-nots, it's not necessarily consistent with the needs of some of the native people of this province where they represent a minority and where I'd say the majority of the people are reasonably well off.

Mr. Speaker, community development in underdeveloped countries around the world is based upon the ability of people to join together and carry out specific functions and acts in which they could take pride with building certain things by hand, and they could thus transplant meaning into their efforts. Several departments of government have been implemented in these various community development programs that have taken place in northern Manitoba during the last years, and each no doubt has had its own specific job to do, but basically it is my understanding that they have not been going that well and the concern of these groups such as the Manitoba Metis Foundation is one that comes to my attention. I am sure the Minister is familiar with the presentation that was made to the government and to the members of the Legislature during the early days of the session; and I'm sure that the Minister can recognize the concern that was raised by that group regarding the community development program under his department and some of the problems that they're experiencing with it.

Mr. Speaker, if I thought for a minute that the Honourable Minister wouldn't reply, I'd go through this report and specifically ask the honourable member some of the questions that were raised, and as I stand here I have no assurance, all I'm getting is a grin that he is going to in fact stand up and reply to some of the questions. But, Mr. Speaker, the various groups in Manitoba who have been working under the community development concept certainly deserve some answers for tomorrow or for their future and where the programming is going to lead them. Does Northern Affairs, may I ask, the Department of Northern Affairs persist in placing many many more workers or bureaucrats in these various communities despite the fact that the groups don't want basically that type of leadership? I think that the Metis Federation if I recall them correctly feel that they have a very effective organization themselves and

CONCURRENCES

(MR. McKENZIE cont'd) . . . they are most capable and can handle many of these duties that are being assigned to the Community Councils. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, will possibly the Minister stand up and announce to the House that he recognizes the stability and the stature of some of these small groups who have offered their services to the department and feel that they can do the work that the bureaucracy is doing for them and possibly do it much better.

I wonder also, Mr. Speaker -- there are many new co-operatives that have been formed in the north under the Minister of Northern Affairs and I wonder if he could give us in fact some idea of how they're getting along and are they getting their problems resolved to their satisfaction. It's a difficult thing to start up a new co-operative in any given area and I'm sure under the Minister's jurisdiction he's faced some problems of that nature and I just wonder are they growing or are there some basic problems that come to life in various areas of the north?

Mr. Speaker, again I think that the Minister maybe should advise the House about the Winter Roads Program and maybe in some detail. I think it should be spelled out at this time of the session rather than waiting till late fall to advise the people of northern Manitoba what this government, if in fact they are re-elected, propose to do for the north next year, next winter. Are they going to follow the same path that they followed this year or will there be some changes? I think it's quite clear what our policies will be if in fact we are elected, and I don't see any reason, Mr. Speaker, why we are not going to be elected. My recent poll, the last figure as you recall, Mr. Speaker, I told you it looked like we had 26; I've moved up now to 29, Mr. Speaker. It looks like we're going to be able to gain some of those northern seats for the Conservative Party, and no doubt, Mr. Speaker, under those conditions the people of the north can get some maybe better guidance and better policies than they're getting from this government as they try to resolve their problems.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable the Minister can advise the House of what happened to this NewStart Program that was brought to our attention not so long ago and what did that program cost. I've heard figures as high as some four million bucks went down the drain on the NewStart Program. I'm sure the Minister can maybe correct me if I'm wrong with that calculation of the four million but I am left with the figures that I have on my desk, Mr. Speaker, that it is somewhat in the neighbourhood of \$4 million and I believe now that they put up a new storefront in front of this NewStart Program calling it -- was it Information Communication? -- and I wonder what kind of moneys that the Minister and the government put into that program.

Mr. Speaker, there's also been some concern about the special ARDA arrangements that have been shared with the various groups under his jurisdiction. I understand the boundless and the endless red tape and the very complex administrative structure that's coupled with the Special ARDA has pretty well made it almost impossible for the northern communities to get involved in those programs. And of course this is typical of the federal bureaucracy. I think, Mr. Speaker, if you happened to be listening to your television news last night or the night before last -- I guess we didn't have a chance to see television last night, did we, Mr. Speaker -- he was complaining on the medium of television about the huge bureaucracy that he ran into in Ottawa in trying to find some dollars to share with the people of this province. And when you take that type of a bureaucracy and move it into the northern communities of this province where they're not fully acquainted with how to deal with the bureaucrats and their reams and reams of administrative powers I'm sure that maybe you can understand why some of these Special ARDA programs haven't been successful.

Mr. Speaker, those are some of the questions that have come to mind as I stand here this morning and I hope that the Honourable the Minister will in fact give us some answers. We unfortunately didn't find the time during the debate of the Estimates before the House to inquire about what is happening in that very important portfolio so possibly some of the other members of the House will raise some questions when the Honourable the Minister replies.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resolution before the House --pass? The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I don't intend to take very long on Northern Affairs. I don't pretend to be an expert on Northern Affairs, but I have had the opportunity since the end of January to be in the north on five separate occasions. What really does amaze me is that we hear of all the great and wonderful things that this government has been doing in northern Manitoba, and quite frankly when you travel through northern Manitoba you find very

CONCURRENCES

(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd) great unhappiness among the people of the north and a very great dissatisfaction among the people of the north. In fact you actually have some of them say that all of these things that we hear are happening to us - where are they, what are they doing?

I'm wondering, you know, what the Minister's attitude toward the north is. I couldn't help but jot this down one night when I was watching television and the Minister came on television and it was probably one of the greatest statements I've ever heard in my life. He said, you know, he said, "you really don't know the north until you have gone to an outdoor toilet with the wind blowing." I wrote down -- (Interjection) -- the Hon. Ron McBryde, CBC Television, Sunday, February 11, 1973. You know I can understand after he makes a statement like that that the wind is blowing somewhere and obviously that is where his knowledge of the north is.

Mr. Chairman, I have never seen in Thompson in the last few years the situation that you see today when you go to Thompson. People are unhappy, people are saying that the government talks about all the things they're doing and nothing's happening. When I was in Churchill I saw a tremendous housing plan going on; in fact, Mr. Speaker, I saw native people being employed building those houses. I think it's a very good project. But the problem that is up in Churchill is obviously, it is money being spent by both Federal and Provincial Government in Churchill but there seems to be a tremendous habit to spend the money and not really take the advice of the people that live there or take too much consideration of what they say. They firmly believe that they have been left out of the decision making of their area.

Churchill is an area, Mr. Speaker, that is probably one of the most unfortunate areas in Manitoba in that they're basically a Port but they had a large influx of people thrown upon Churchill because of a situation of war. They became used to many things and they see other people having things on the base, etc., and now it's hard to really go back. And the government is to be complimented for the work that's being done federally and provincially in Churchill, but they're not to be complimented because they certainly aren't listening to the people who have been there for many years and can give very good advice.

Gillam, we hear all the time about the problems in Gillam. Again we hear about freight rates in the north, we hear of high food prices in the north, we hear of Hydro costing more in Gillam and in the northern areas than it does in the south. They wonder why things like this happen, and it's happening all the time while the government is saying we've done more for the north than anybody and we've spent more money than anybody. And you can't argue with the figures. There is \$9,152,000 budgeted this year for the north. It's considerably higher than it was; it's up \$4 million, but what's \$4 million. I can see it in an expanded air operation which is up considerably; I can see it in an expanded bureaucracy that's roaming around the north, but the real benefit of the money being spent in northern Manitoba is not really benefiting or happening for the benefit of the people in northern Manitoba. And the Minister keeps coming back and saying everything's going great. And as I said, I'm no expert on the north; I'm not prepared to stand up and say what the complete answers to the problems are, but obviously, obviously the Minister has not taken the time to really find out the answers or the problems himself because the dissatisfaction in the north everywhere is still there.

I think the Minister has every reason to explain, Mr. Speaker; we did not have the opportunity to go through his Estimates item by item but I think the Minister has an obligation to explain to this House just what this money is all being spent for. And again as I say, communications is another one. Communications, the people in the north are always paying a higher price for communications, both by travelling - when they travel their train rates and everything seem to be higher. They always have to pay - and I mentioned extra for food, so it all adds up.

Where are the roads that they've asked for? You know, Mr. Speaker, they talk about the building of roads in the north and how much this government has done building roads in the north, and I again have to make a compliment. They have worked on road construction, the roads are better, but it seems to me that they have forgotten the most important places to put the roads, you know. There can be extensions of roads to see that the communication between some of the areas of the north are there so people can get around.

The area that we heard so much about, where the Minister got into the winter roads business and we look at his budget, Sir, and we see \$540,000 which was never there before,

CONCURRENCES

(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd) . . . never there before, and we hear rumours -- at least I hear rumours down here and when we're travelling up there you hear people say that, you know, it wasn't successful what the government did. The costs to the people, it's going to be much higher, much higher than if they'd left it the way it is and probably the cost to the government. The Minister has caused a lawsuit to be filed against the province because of that situation. I think the Attorney-General should be keeping track of the Minister to make sure that he doesn't keep going off half-cocked and having this province or himself sued.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable member would permit a question?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Yes, certainly.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable member were part of the government and was a Minister, that he would think that it was a reflection on the government if somebody paid \$5.00 and filed a lawsuit against him and would that be cause to be concerned with the activities of this Minister?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Oh, well, Mr. Speaker, to answer the Minister's question. I know that you can put \$5 down as he says, in fact I don't know that, it's news to me and if that's what it is \$5 down . . .

MR. GREEN: I may be wrong in the amount. I haven't been there for awhile.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: . . . to place a lawsuit -- well we'll agree on whatever figure it is, we can find out; to place a lawsuit there's got to be reason to do it.

MR. GREEN: No.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: I don't think that any person in their right mind would go out and hire an attorney and I don't think any attorney in his right mind after studying the whole case would advise his client to go ahead and sue the Government of the Province of Manitoba if he didn't have a case. You can criticize the law profession as you like, I have a high respect for the law profession and I think we have a good law profession in Manitoba. And I think, as the Honourable Minister would advise his client, I'm sure that the attorney that's advising a client about suing the government would be very very serious about it, because, you know, when you're wrong when you make a lawsuit like that you're really wrong so you're very careful when you do it. I think the Attorney-General or the Minister should be checking with some of the people that are more up to date on the law before he goes barging in and doing things that create lawsuits against this province. In fact I don't know how it stands, I don't intend to dwell on it because quite frankly, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't want to get into something that is in the courts at the present time.

Now the Air Force. I frankly believe, Mr. Speaker, the air force operations does come under this Minister. I find that it's not the most efficient in northern Manitoba and maybe they're solving the problems. I find that many of them, the planes don't fly at night or they have a policy of maybe closing up for the weekend, they run on sort of permanent hours unless there is a charter or something arranged ahead of time. The equipment is good equipment but it's probably not as good as required for moving around the north, and I quite frankly don't think that the government should be into the flying business, let's call it, as much as they are. There are people in the north that know more about flying airplanes around the north than the government will ever know, and if the Air Force comes under this Minister, Mr. Speaker, I think because of some criticisms we've had in the House regarding the use of the government airplanes, it should be explained. If the flying is justified I would agree with it. I am not one that believes that the Premier of this province shouldn't be able to contact the people of this province by plane if it's necessary, but if there is misuse being made of those airplanes by the government or government personnel, that is something that should be stopped. And again that has come up.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you, to sum up, all of the marvellous things we hear that is happening in the north and being done by this government and all of the marvellous things that this Minister says he's accomplishing up there, is just not being accomplished. Is just not being accomplished -- and we get the great ha, ha, as usual from the Honourable Member from Flin Flon, and it's really too bad, really too bad that he has a blinded eye or eyes to what is going on. It's very obvious that if one of the Ministers over there, and especially the Minister of Northern Affairs, said "This is happening", you know, and if he saw it wasn't happening, he'd say, "Well I must be wrong - my eyes are deceiving me

CONCURRENCES

(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd) because they told me, they told me, and the Honourable Member from Flin Flon really works that way. I'm rather surprised because I think he's a very free-thinking man, but he's very closed-minded when it comes to anything but government policy.

So Mr. Speaker, that's all I have to say. As I said, I am no expert on the north but --(Interjection)-- That's right and I don't think you are either, but there are people that are and they should be listened to.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a few minutes to bring some points to the attention of the Minister and perhaps the first thing I would like to say, I'm not so certain that the Minister is giving vigorous enough leadership in Northern Manitoba. The reason I say that, because when my colleague had the resolution on the higher minimum wage in Northern Manitoba, we didn't hear from the Minister and I believe he should have been up on his feet shouting and screaming even if some of his members did not agree with him. As well, I think, the Member for Flin Flon should have been up on his feet trying to convince the government that this is a necessity, it is a must, because I wish to advise the Minister of Northern Affairs that last year when this resolution came before the House, the member from Portage had many, many letters from Northern Manitoba in respect to the high cost of living, and really we have been debating the high cost of living and inflation in this House the last couple of months, and in my opinion, if the government was seriously concerned, seriously concerned, about the high cost of living in Northern Manitoba, my feeling would be why not demonstrate your good intention and increase the minimum wage in Northern Manitoba? Because surely the people that are under union contract there is no problem there; they work at a much higher wage than the minimum wage, but the other people in the service industries and many other groups who are not in a bargaining unit, most of them work on a minimum wage because the minimum becomes the going wage, and I'm sure that the Member for Flin Flon would agree with me, and I'm very disappointed that neither one of these members--and on occasion I see there is nothing wrong for a member from the government to get up and disagree with the government and try to relate the strong feeling that he had for his constituency, and neither one of these members took the opportunity to say that there is need for a higher minimum wage. Perhaps the government would have listened and demonstrated its good intentions that they are really concerned about the high cost of living in Northern Manitoba, and do something about it. I think it's unfortunate that this was not done.

But, Mr. Speaker, it brings me to a much more important issue and I wish to bring it to the Minister's attention and perhaps he can give us some answers. The thing that I wish to bring to his attention, the government was committed to build ten houses at Nelson House, Mr. Speaker, under the Remote Housing Program, and up to the present time we had delays and delays and no action was taken, until, Mr. Speaker, just recently the Premier has instructed, the Premier has instructed the Chairman of the Manitoba Hydro to remove certain lands so that the construction of these houses would proceed immediately, and the reason I am bringing this to the attention of the Minister it's very interesting and worthy of note and perhaps he can shed some light and give us some answers. The site for these houses was in land set aside for the Burntwood Water Power Reserve Station and the government has been urging Hydro to remove this land from this area, from the Hydro area where the plant was going to be built.

Now, it is my information that the Hydro has been resisting on the grounds that they need further study and they need the study and the report from the Underwood McLellan and Associates which are carrying out the study, but even without this report the Premier undertook to instruct the Chairman of the Manitoba Hydro to remove this land immediately, to remove this land immediately so that the houses can be completed at an early date. And, Mr. Chairman, this would lead me to the following question: If the land is in the Power Reserve, does it mean that it will be flooded or that it will be isolated by flooding, because it is my understanding that where the houses were supposed to be built they were on a hill, and once these houses are being built will they have to be moved within a short time or what will happen? I would like to know what are the facts, and I think that we should know the facts and perhaps the Minister can give them. Why were these instructions given to the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro to remove the land so that the housing can proceed immediately, without the information and without the necessary report from Underwood McLellan? And this is my question. In fairness to the

CONCURRENCES

(MR. PATRICK cont'd) government, Mr. Speaker, I think that they may have some answers, and surely if they have the answers it would dispel any indication that the government wished to start building these houses or have them underway before the election. You know, I have not the answers, the Minister must have these answers. But the problem is, if in fact these houses are in an area of flooding and still being on top of a hill, the real serious question, Mr. Speaker, is what will happen and what will the situation be regarding the Nelson House Indian Reserve which is located in the valley? So surely the Minister can give us some answers in respect to these questions. I may also point to him that under the Remote Housing the province was supposed to build, the government was supposed to build some fifteen houses at Norway House and this commitment was made three years ago. Up to the present time there has been no action taken in that, and so again I wish that the Minister would give me some indication.

The reason, the reason I pose these questions, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps the Minister of Northern Affairs--and again I say that all I want to do is to be fair to the government and get some answers--but the reason I put these questions to him is because I wish to put on the record the letter from the Premier to the Chairman, and I wonder if the Minister has seen the letter or has got a copy, but the letter that came to my attention, and I wish to put it on the record and he'll know what I'm talking about and perhaps can give us the answers much easier.

This is a letter addressed by the First Minister to the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro and I'm quoting the letter. It's dated May 4, 1973. "Mr. L. A. Bateman, Chairman, Manitoba Hydro, Box 815, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Dear Len: The Minister of Northern Affairs has received strong representation from the Community of Nelson House to proceed immediately with the surveying, clearing and construction of houses in that community's Remote Housing subdivision. We have publicly committed ourselves to building ten remote houses in a new subdivision at Nelson House, at the earliest possible date. I would like to see construction well underway this spring.

"As you are no doubt aware, the proposed Remote Housing subdivision at Nelson House is within the Burntwood River Water Power Reserve. Your secretary and general counsel, Mr. Funnell, has requested that the Water Resources Division take no action to remove lands from this Water Power Reserve until a report by Underwood McLellan and Associates Limited is received and reviewed in about six months' time. In light of the public announcements and commitments we have clearly made to the community and individuals in Nelson House, such a delay is impossible. Surveying of lots in the subdivision should proceed in the next few weeks and should be preceded by removal of the necessary lands from the Burntwood Water Power Reserve. I would therefore request Hydro's immediate co-operation in reviewing the subdivision plans with the Department of Northern Affairs and the Water Resources Division to resolve any substantive difficulties you may perceive with respect to the proposed area, and insure the immediate release of appropriate lands from the Burntwood Water Power Reserve.

"By copy of this letter I am also requesting the full co-operation of the Water Resources Division, the Surveys Branch, Crown Lands, and the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation with officials of the Department of Northern Affairs to facilitate all necessary actions to insure that construction can legally begin within a matter of weeks. Yours sincerely" and it was signed by the First Minister.

Now this letter does pose quite a few questions, and I want to be fair to the Minister and I wish that he can give us some answers why should we proceed with the housing before we have the study from Underwood McLellan; and if we do proceed and build the houses will they have to be moved within a year if they are in the flood area; and what does it do to the Nelson River Indian Reserve down in the valley? And surely this poses many questions, so I hope that the Minister can shed some light on these questions, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member from Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID R. BLAKE (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, I too would like to have some comments and ask the Minister if he might provide some information to us in view of the fact we haven't had an opportunity to completely review the expenditures and have a chance now to do so on Concurrence. Unlike my colleague the Member for Sturgeon Creek, I think I can say that I know the north. I spent some time up there and if knowing the north is to be subjected to the conditions that he described attributed to the Minister of Northern Affairs, I know it very well. I must say that I enjoyed my time there and I have a great deal of affection and admiration for

CONCURRENCES

(MR. BLAKE cont'd) the north. I think the potential in our northern area is just beyond one's imagination.

But I would like the Minister to give us some information. The budget in his department has upwards of \$9 million and I think with that kind of expenditure we probably should have a little more information. We know that a lot of the activity of the department, Mr. Speaker, is directed towards looking after the political future of the Minister with the various appointments of Special Assistants and Executive Assistants that are able to, with the aid of the Air Force, do considerable politicking on a year-round basis on behalf of the Minister, and this will undoubtedly place him in good stead in many of the communities. But I'm interested, Mr. Speaker, in having the Honourable Minister just give us his comments on some of the expenditures, and one that I would refer to as not a direct expenditure of his department but it's in connection with the sizeable grants that have been granted to the Southern Indian Lake Co-op or the South Indian Lake Fishing activity. I understand--I haven't had the opportunity to inspect the plant or the filleting and packing facilities at Leaf Rapids, but I understand it is completely modern and up-to-date. But I also understand from being recently in Lynn Lake that there was a facility there that was handling a large amount of fish, in fact all of the fish that was brought out of there in the past, and was certainly capable of handling the fish from the Southern Indian Lake area. They tell me now that that will be closed up and the new plant is of a size capable of handling just about all the fish throughout northern Manitoba.

But getting back to the grants in that particular area, my information is that something in just under a million pounds of fish was taken from the Southern Indian Lake area in the season, 1972 season, and there were some 70 fishermen engaged in that operation, earning from 200 and some dollars a week up to probably \$800.00 a week to the top fishermen there, which brought in 160 some thousand dollars to the fishermen engaged in that activity in Southern Indian Lake. But with the grant structure and the amount of fish that came out of there and the price they received for it, it amounted to something like \$10,000 per fisherman according to my figures, and I would like the Minister to maybe comment to some degree and give us some idea of how accurate that might be.

I would also like to make some mention of the rather disastrous results they had in the past season in going into the road construction business. I understand that apart from the some \$300,000 contract that was awarded for winter roads, there were two roads constructed at a cost of some \$97,000 that were actually never used, and I'm sure that from the past experience they'll realize that you just don't run a bulldozer through the muskeg, Mr. Speaker, and pack it down with a couple of skidoos and have a good winter road. You must get down into the muskeg and form a good ice base and then it doesn't disappear with the first thaw in the spring.

I think also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the Minister comment on some of the home repair work that has gone on in the various areas, and I certainly don't criticize any upgrading of homes for the native people and homes in the rural area, but I would like him to assure me that the repair work that was done and the people that were involved in supervising it and being foreman on the job were not using the upgrading of the homes to influence the recipients of such home repair work in any political way.

I think the Minister is conscious now, with the number of months that he has spent in this capacity, that it's a favourite term that his party like to use, the term "rip-off" and I would like him to assure us that he is taking ample and adequate safeguards to prevent any rip-off by the native people, because I'm sure that they are capable of such actions just as other people have been accused of ripping off grants or ripping off governments.

The airfields in the north I'm sure are welcomed by all the northern residents. One thing about the north, there is something of a remoteness and an isolation there that just everyone can't accept or doesn't live with easily. I know that the upgrading and the creating of new airfields has been a tremendous asset and an improvement to the condition and standard of living of the people in those areas. It's unfortunate that it hasn't produced the required results in lowering some of the freight rates and lowering the cost of living to the native people, because as I said earlier I spent some time in the northern areas and I have some idea of what the costs are. But I think the expenditures of the Department providing they are used wisely and for the benefit of the northern people, it's a good budget and money being spent by this nature in the north is certainly long overdue. And I would be interested to hear the Minister's comments, Mr. Speaker, in providing us some more information and some more comments on just what future plans he might have for the northern area.

CONCURRENCES

(MR. BLAKE cont'd)

I think the activities of the northern people in looking after their own affairs is evident. The native people are starting to take ahold of the various operations and forming their own wholesale and retail outlets and I think this is an excellent way for them to improve their own standard of living and to also improve their own way of life. There is nothing more satisfying to them I am sure than to take a small operation, be it a co-operative or seeing one of their own people get individually involved in the operation of a store or an outfitting camp or a tourist operation; I am sure it is satisfying to all of the native people to see their own people get involved in these operations and become successful. And we realize of course on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, that not all of these operations will be successful, they will certainly have a failure rate to some degree but we will be interested in hearing the Minister's comments on some of the points that I have raised, Mr. Speaker, and points that have caused some question in my mind. Thank you.

. continued on next page.

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 36 students of Grade 6 standing of the Sanford School. They are under the direction of Miss Enns. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Morris. On behalf of all the Honourable Members I welcome you here this morning.

CONCURRENCE - NORTHERN AFFAIRS Cont'd

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I have a few words to say on this Department. Unfortunately there isn't too much that can be said. We have not dealt with the Estimates, we really don't - or have we dealt with the Estimates? In my opinion a great deal hasn't been done by this Department and I'm put in a position of really talking about something that I can't put my finger on or can't prove. It's an important Department, it's one that we talked about for a long time when we were in opposition and when we took over the government there was a great deal of discussion and soul-searching would it be best handled by the Mines and Resources Department, which I believe did handle it at the start, or would we serve the north and particularly the Indian and Metis communities by having a special department. I'm afraid looking back on the short history--and it's really difficult to pass judgment at this time because every project and new undertaking has growing pains and mistakes are made and some of them cannot be attributed to incompetence on the part of a Minister or the Department, it's just one of these things that happen when you are involved in a new program--and up to this point I would say on the basis of that short life of the Department that precious little has been done. I feel somewhat responsible because I am from the north and you will recall when I left the Cabinet one of the things that they had to do, for political and practical purposes, to have a northern member in the Cabinet and there was considerable discussion who to choose and I had some influence I hope in suggesting that the present member be appointed as a minister. There was a choice between Rupertsland, I believe, and Flin Flon and The Pas, and in my humble opinion at that time I felt that Flin Flon probably had a rating of 57, number 57 in this Legislature and he probably would have difficulty being an executive assistant so he certainly could not be recommended and I think that in spite of all the mistakes and lack of action on the part of the present Minister he is probably still the best choice that we had made at that time. I certainly hope that he will, given a chance, improve with time.

I don't know if the public is going to be as charitable as I am on June 28th or 29th, you know, that's something that they're going to have to decide. If they are, then he will have four years to prove himself; not to me, he'll have to prove himself to the people of the north because he is unlike other departments. His function really is to deal with the people of the north and the problems of the north so one can say that he is a Minister of half of Manitoba rather than for all of Manitoba.

One of the criticisms I do have is I think that he has concerned himself -being an MLA it's very difficult to make the transition from an MLA to a Minister. I certainly know what it's like myself -he still acts like the MLA for The Pas rather than the Minister of the north. I know it's important for him to get re-elected but I think it's unfair that he should use his position as a Minister to spend so much time and so much effort simply in his own constituency. It's simply not fair to the other constituencies, whether it's my constituency or the Churchill or any other one. I think that we did not appoint an ambassador for The Pas constituency and we did not get a high-priced MLA for that constituency. He is the Minister for the north and I would ask him to start acting like a Minister for the north rather than acting as he is, a high-priced MLA for his own constituency. We are paying him a great deal of money like any other Minister; his portfolio is light and that's natural because he does look after only the northern area but I think that he has not made that transition from an MLA to a Minister and I think the sooner he makes it the better off the people of the north are going to be.

Now one other area that he has done something that I'm aware of--now when he gets up to answer he'll probably tell us about some of the things that he's done that I'm not aware of--but one of the things that he was involved in which did affect the whole north had to do with the movement of groceries and oil and gas and all the things that the northern communities need to live from day to day. That program I believe cost the taxpayers half a million dollars. I think it was an unqualified disaster, partly because of weather conditions, and that being bad

CONCURRENCE

(MR. BOROWSKI cont'd) enough there is something even worse. That in the process of this disastrous program they put a lifelong or two generations family business out of business and today we have neither a business and we still haven't solved the problem of giving low priced freight costs to these communities.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me if the government can't do better than the previous operator - which I admit had many shortcomings and I criticized them as much as the Minister of Mines and Resources and other people, particularly the northern people, the system under which we operated was unsatisfactory and as the Minister had indicated they had come at one almost to blows on the road. It was a situation one simply could not tolerate in our society where an individual businessman is going to in fact put up road blocks and not allow anybody to go through because it happens to be his road. But, Mr. Speaker, the present system simply is not acceptable either and I think that the government if they feel in view of their experience over the last winter that they are not capable or that it's not possible under the structure that they have set up then they should get out of it or they should change it, or they should try and work a competitive system with, I believe it's Sigfusson Transportation, and let's see who can provide a better service at a lower cost. And if this transportation company can do better - and they would be forced to do better because they would be competing with the government - if they can do better then they certainly should be given an opportunity to supply those services. I do not believe that we should continue to pour money into a program that the government had high hopes would really make a significant dent in the cost of northern transportation. If it's not working, there is nothing wrong with saying on this occasion, we the government were wrong, we failed, it's just not working, and get out of it. Let the other company do it.

Mr. Speaker, that is really about the extent of what I have to say. As I indicated, I am not aware of what the Minister has done, therefore it's very difficult for me to criticize because the evidence isn't there of any action with the exception of what I've mentioned and I will wait with baited breath to see if the Minister can tell us if he has earned that high salary that he has been paid in the short time that he has been Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Resolution passed? The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I am indeed delighted to take part in the discussion of the Estimates on Northern Affairs. One reason for that is that I certainly wouldn't want to let down the late Member for Churchill who sat in this House for many years and was a very staunch supporter of the north and on so many occasions I have supported his efforts in this House to get recognition for the north and also get support for the things he was trying to do for northern Manitoba. I for one certainly thought that his efforts were good and noble and that his recommendations that he made from time to time were valid ones and that we should pay attention to what he tried to do and now that he's no longer with us that certainly we do not just forget those things and certainly follow up and try to do something about them.

I notice from the Annual Report of the Department of Industry and Commerce, on Page 14 I think it was, that there is mention made of the Communities Economic Development Fund under which the Minister could make loans to establish and strengthen small to medium-sized locally owned enterprises in remote and isolated communities in northern Manitoba. I just wonder how much was done in the past year under this program. I recall meeting some of the people from northern Manitoba . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Minister state his point of order.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I think that the honourable member should be aware that that is a branch of the Manitoba Development Corporation, the Communities Economic Development Fund. It does not fall within the Department of Northern Affairs now. They do work in that area and I suppose that the honourable member can relate the subject but I'm merely bringing him that information so that he knows that the actual fund comes under the Manitoba Development Corporation. I hope I'm right.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Well certainly I'm aware of those things, but you would think that the Minister for Northern Affairs would take a very strong interest in any allocation of funds for the north, that these would be put to best advantage and that the most would be made out of any funds appropriated to northern Manitoba. I notice he is not in his seat when we are discussing his very Estimates and when this is the only opportunity where we will have to speak on concurrence.

CONCURRENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Minister have another point of order?

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Minister has been here throughout

A MEMBER: . . . point of order?

MR. GREEN: The point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that the Honourable Member for Rhineland has put on the record that the Minister of Northern Affairs has not been here during the discussion of his Estimates.

MR. FROESE: No, I said he is not in his seat.

MR. GREEN: . . . and I'm indicating that the Honourable Minister left the Chamber for a few minutes to sign an agreement and will be back to hear the rest of his Estimates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland,

MR. FROESE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that was a point of order. I stated that the Minister was not in his seat and I used the present tense and therefore there was no point of order.

As I stated, that there were funds allocated for use by the people of northern Manitoba and having talked to some of the people from northern Manitoba they claim that there was a lot left to be desired and that things were not accomplished that should be accomplished and achieved. I remember too well when we had a special committee of this House set up as a task force to go into northern Manitoba to assess the situation, to have hearings in the various communities. We had this report tabled and we have had full discussions and I recall some of the recommendations that were contained in this report, and one was that the people up in the north wanted more say in the matter of education, that they wanted to have a stronger voice in educational matters. What has been done to date to give this to them? Are we doing anything in this direction, are we giving them any autonomy as far as educational matters are concerned? This was one of the recommendations and I recall there were a lot of others. Some have already been mentioned by some of the other members who have spoken and I am sure that other members will bring other items to the Minister's attention.

We have also been told and for those of us that have been up north -- and I attended the conference last year, last summer, in Churchill while we attended the Conference on Development of the North and I was the only member in attendance except for the late Member for Churchill; none of the other members except the Minister of Industry and Commerce, who was also present, but I mean from the members other than the Ministers of the Crown, and we heard firsthand reports of what the situation was in Churchill and what the needs were. I also saw the housing manufacturing or the prefabricating of housing that took place there. They used some of the old storage or the storage facilities that they had up there for that very purpose, and I feel that this was commendable and that it gave jobs to a good number of people. I would like to know how the export or the sale of these houses is coming along. What is the potential of this prefabricated housing industry up in Churchill? I know we have the Churchill Forest Industries up in northern Manitoba which is making lumber, and no doubt this lumber is being made available to the people who are in the process of manufacturing these homes so that certainly the freight rates shouldn't be such a big item. And here again I would like to know from the Minister: what are the freight rates when we ship lumber from The Pas to Churchill? Because -- (Interjection)-- Well, I think the Minister of Mines can get up after I have spoken and give indication to that. There is no point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The Honourable Minister state his point of order or matter of privilege.

MR. GREEN: It's been a universal custom in this House, Mr. Speaker, that when a member is recorded to be absent, that another member of a similar caucus can get up and explain his absence. The honourable member put on the record that the Minister wasn't here during the consideration of his Estimates. I asked him from my seat to have the courtesy to now indicate that the Minister is here, and I think that him refusing to do so, I am entitled as a matter of order to now indicate that the record stands corrected.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: I will come back to the matter of freight rates a little later that I referred to just before I was interrupted.

The late Member for Churchill was a very strong advocate of the Hudson's Bay Route Association. This association is very interested in the development and the furthering of the

CONCURRENCE

(MR. FROESE cont'd) Port of Churchill and to seeing to it that we have development of the Port and that we have greater shipments go through that Port. This particular association will be having a meeting next month, early next month in Saskatchewan, and if possible I certainly would like to attend. And the effort made by the former Member for Churchill, the late Member for Churchill, in the development of that port has been a record of long standing.

We know that the storage facilities for grain at Churchill in my opinion are too small; they need to be increased. The amount of grain that can be shipped through that port depends to a very large degree on the amount of storage space available at this port. And so, if we want to increase the shipping, the amount of shipping of grain that goes to that port, we will have to increase the storage facilities at that port. I would like to see that Manitoba's total export of grain would go through that port, but what is the case? Very little of Manitoba's grain is shipped through that port. --(Interjection)-- Ottawa has nothing to do with that, Mr. Speaker. I think the Member for Point Douglas should check on this. It is largely because of the rail line going through Saskatchewan, so that grain coming from Saskatchewan is closer to the port than when we ship our grain through that port.

So this is one of the basic reasons why Manitoba grain is not being shipped through that port, and here I would like to strongly advocate that the railway line running through the Interlake be extended to the Churchill railway so that we could ship our product through our own port in Manitoba. But we never hear anything said, now that we don't have the Member for Churchill in this House. It's quiet; nothing is being said; and I feel very strongly about this. Just a year or two ago we had the Agricultural Committee meetings throughout the province. We went into the Interlake. What did we hear? We heard a very strong plea by the people up in northern Manitoba that their railway should not be abandoned, and this is one of the things that they were facing, that their rail line was subject to abandonment, and this is also what the report bears out before us, that in I think the year was given 1972 but it goes up to 1975, when certain abandonments will go into effect. And I think we should certainly investigate. What would the cost be of extending that rail line to connect to Churchill? Certainly this would not only benefit the north, it would benefit the south as well. It would benefit all of Manitoba. We could ship much more than only grain through that port, and this has been the fact now for many years except for one effort made, I think, by Saskatchewan, where they shipped cars and liquor through that port. But what have we done? We sit on our fannies and do nothing, and that's the record of this government as far as the Port of Churchill is concerned.

Last year when I attended that conference we were told at that conference that they had shipped a barrel of soap from Winnipeg to Newfoundland which had to be unloaded and loaded four times over. The cost of shipping that barrel of soap was \$32.00. To ship that same barrel of soap from Winnipeg to Churchill, which meant loading it only once, and going on a rail line to Hudson's Bay, to Churchill at the Hudson's Bay Port, cost \$53.00 or \$56.00. It was more than \$50.00. So it was almost twice the amount that it would cost to ship that same barrel of soap from here to Newfoundland. Isn't this ridiculous? To ship the short distance that we have here and to have such high freight rates. What is the government doing in checking in on the freight rates of this particular route? This is one reason why we find the cost of living up north so high. This is why all the foodstuff that have to go up north is so high, and we see nothing done about it. This is a very serious indictment.

This would also mean bigger returns for the farmer in southern Manitoba. For a number of years the producers that were shipping through the northern port got as much as 15, 16 cents a bushel more for their grain. This is a very substantial difference and certainly the difference was clear profit to the farmer. Of late, the difference is a lesser amount but it's still worthwhile to ship through Churchill, and I feel that if we had our rail line extended that the farmers of Manitoba would benefit very considerably through such an effort. It would mean bigger returns to the farmers of Manitoba and we've had mention made in this House from time to time, the income of the farmers, being as low as it is, that from a survey that they made, 48 percent of the farmers were having a net income of less than a thousand dollars. It's pitiful, and here we can make an effort and it would pay, the results would certainly provide better returns to the farmer, yet we find nothing is done. The way things are now, the Saskatchewan farmers are benefitting and we are the losers, the poorer, as a result.

Certainly the people up in the Interlake expressed a very strong concern at that meeting in connection with rail line abandonment, and I'm sure they too would support any effort in this

CONCURRENCE

(MR. FROESE cont'd) line to extend the line to connect with the Churchill railway. As I mentioned, it would certainly mean that more freight would go through that port and we would see more development in that port. The savings that would be made to the people in those communities in food costs would be very high, and I've already indicated the savings alone on a barrel of soap.

And, Mr. Speaker, at the conference that I attended, we were told by people present - Federated Co-operatives of Saskatchewan was present - and they indicated too that shipments had to be ordered way ahead, for months ahead, and then these shipments had to go out from Quebec or the ports down east, go all the way around and come into Churchill. Isn't this ridiculous that we have such a thing take place when we could remedy the situation just like that or in very short order?

We were also informed that the number of carriers that are available is being reduced, that the cost could go even higher because of this, that there will be less competition or probably no competition at all in the future, and that as a result of that food costs and freight rates could still go up higher. This is the indication that we have at the present time and this is the information that we were given at that conference. I'm only sorry that I haven't got the material before me. This came up rather suddenly and I hadn't brought material with me. I was going to use it at the time that we would be discussing the Estimates of Northern Affairs. And I think we're failing in not taking the advantages that are open to us in building the Port and improving the Port of Churchill.

Grain storage, I mentioned that before, and the facilities we have, in my opinion, are much too small. I forget the amount that we can store, I think it's something like 6 million bushels and the shipments in a given year are roughly around 25 millions on an average. We've had years, I think, where it went as high as 28 million, but we could certainly increase that, probably double the amount that is presently shipped through that port. And certainly the weather up in northern Manitoba is much better than in southern Manitoba for grain storage. We have the research publication put out by the Agricultural and Research and Experimentation by the government.

Why are we doing this research if we don't want to make use of it? What's the purpose of the researching grain storage and so on if we're not going to make use of that information that we're getting? I think we're wasting money there if we're not going to make any use of the research results that are brought forward to us and brought in to us. After all, we're spending half a million dollars at the very minimum in one allocation under the Department of Agriculture to the University of Manitoba, and there is extra moneys in addition to that allocated each year.

Colder climate, colder temperatures in northern Manitoba certainly mean less spoilage as far as grain is concerned, and also we could have cleaning facilities at inland terminals and set up inland terminals and if not then what is happening now, the grain is being cleaned and the refuse, the screenings, are burnt right in Churchill. We saw them being burnt. --(Interjection)-- Sure, we saw. They use them for heating purposes. I saw it with my own eyes. I saw it with my own eyes and so did the Premier; we were there together. --(Interjection)-- Last year and a couple of years before that. Sure, I was there, and so were the Premier of Manitoba and the Premier of Saskatchewan at this particular conference where we looked at the terminals together.

We also find now that, I think to a large degree because we did not develop the Port of Churchill, that the Federal Government is now going to develop stations in the Northwest Territories, and I think the one that they will decide on or have decided on is Chesterfield Inlet, and I think here again we're missing the boat. This could be the centre for the distribution in northern Manitoba and we are letting the opportunities go by. Now they're going to promote another town or port in Northwest Territories. Well, it's a shame, and I don't think there's been any representation made to the Federal Government in this connection. We never hear anything, and if there was anything done I think we should have been told. I think if the Minister's Estimates had been considered during the time that we considered Estimates in committee, I would have moved that his salary be cut to a dollar because I feel that he's not doing a job, he's not doing a job for Northern Manitoba. And I think that the things that I have mentioned certainly are reasons that support that contention.

So, Mr. Speaker, I could go on but I feel that I don't want to unnecessarily delay the concurrence of the various departments and other members will want to contribute to the debate, but I feel very strongly that the efforts that were made by the late Member for Churchill are going

CONCURRENCE

(MR. FROESE cont'd) to waste and are not followed up by the present Minister of Northern Affairs and are not properly being looked after, and I think this is a very poor matter to have this happen and have things go this way.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I would want to make one comment following the remarks of the Honourable Member for Rhineland with respect to the former member who represented Churchill. I had the opportunity of being with him in caucus and I think that one can say, in all truthfulness, that--and we have already had a condolence motion, but just by way of a few remarks before I commence my discussion of the department's activity, but he was one who was restless with government's attitude and with government's activity in Northern Manitoba, and he essentially reflected the general feeling that exists in Northern Manitoba, and I think we can say that with some agreement among members of both sides.

The fact that the expectation of the people who live in the north is very great, the desire for the equality of services that exists in the south is great, the recognition of the significance and importance of northern activities of the total economic picture of Manitoba is recognized, and in this respect, Mr. Speaker, what he demonstrated over and over again and finally, by his very action in leaving the Conservative caucus at the time, was the fact that government realistically could not and was not in a position to satisfy the demands and the needs and the expectations of the people of the north.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the fact that he is not with us today, or that he's not with us now, does not mean that we have not had people who have attempted to try and express the same point of view, and we have members from the north who have spoken time and time again about northern activities, but the reality, Mr. Speaker, is that when we talk of the north, and there has been an occasion in which I and the present Minister of Northern Affairs have appeared over television, and I think in this respect had an agreement, at least to the extent of what I am going to say now --(Interjection)-- We'll talk about actions and activities afterwards. It is a fact that when we talk about the north we really are talking about two norths; we are talking about the remote north and we are talking about the organized communities of the north. They are not the same, Mr. Speaker. Their needs are not the same, their expectations are not the same, and the kind of government program and activity that has to be undertaken is not the same. --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, what I'm saying is such an obvious truth that I don't think the fact that even the writer or writers of the Guidelines would express the same thought in their own way reflects anything different. But the fact, Mr. Speaker, the fact, Mr. Speaker, that there are two norths and the fact that there are different needs and different demands from the two norths, means that the kinds of policies the government develop necessarily do not have a uniformity for all of northern Manitoba, and must reflect the difference in point of view.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that we are dealing with a Northern Affairs budget and a Northern Affairs Minister who is relatively new to his position and who has the responsibility of carrying out the government program with respect to the two norths, and a judgment has to be made at one given time as to how well the present government has dealt with the problems of the north, and in doing this, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about government activities, government programs and the Minister as the person who symbolizes those programs rather than the Minister as an individual who is subject to criticism for his competence, for his ability. This becomes important, Mr. Speaker, in the context of the same things that I am going to say, because notwithstanding the fact that there has been an attempt on the members opposite to try and deal with part of the northern problem that I have expressed, there has generally been a failure in many areas.

You know, Mr. Speaker, right from the very beginning when the government, when the government took over, they had before them a report on Northern Transportation which was called the Mauro Report. The Mauro Report was more than just a report on transportation, Mr. Speaker. It was an extensive study of northern transportation matters and in many respects of northern life. It gave recommendations which were recommendations dealing with both the organized and the unorganized communities, and its recommendations were in the legal sense obiter, that is they went beyond the terms of reference of the report and they contained recommendations for government action and activity in areas other than in transportation, with a general attempt to meet the phrases of the NDP, to meet the equality of the human condition

CONCURRENCE

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) in northern Manitoba; and it is so typical of the government, the present government, to sort of follow their reaction to what is probably the most substantial study on northern transportation in Canada and probably one of the most foremost works, completed by someone who had knowledge, by someone who had a staff of people who were probably as competent in transportation and in northern matters as any group in Canada. And, Mr. Speaker, it is typical of the members opposite that they reject it throughout and ignored that recommendation. Why, Mr. Speaker? Well because it was commissioned by a Progressive Conservative government and because obviously if it had been commissioned by a Progressive Conservative government it was no good. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, if in fact it was a program and a policy that was going to be adopted by a Progressive Conservative government, you know, it just wasn't for the NDP, and so what we have had, Mr. Speaker, in this area is, you know, the essential ignoring of a basic document that could and should have been used for the basis of support for part of the programs that should have taken place in northern Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of the statements that have been made, not so much in this House because we are really dealing with the estimates of the Minister for the first time, but the statements that have been made by the First Minister when he's travelled up north and the Minister of Mines, and the Minister of Northern Affairs. In spite of the statements they've made, the government has really not responded to the needs of the north. They have in fact ignored what really has been happening. The distance and the cost of travel have in one sense made it very tough, Mr. Speaker, for many of the northern residents to come down and to talk to the government. They have had their study, they have attempted a certain amount of traveling, they have attempted to listen to the people, and they have assumed that that reaction on their part by attending on one occasion or on two occasions was sufficient for them to understand fully and to be in a position to deal effectively with the requirements of the people. And this ignores, Mr. Speaker, the great expectation of northerners that they should be in a position to have the continual dialogue with government just as the people in the south have. And that's why, Mr. Speaker, one of the proposals that we have, one of the proposals that we intend to adopt as a government, one of the proposals that the present government will adopt if they in fact are sustained, will be a premier's office in northern Manitoba.

The reason for a premier's office in Northern Manitoba means that there will be an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, for people in the north to have direct contact with the highest authority in government for the satisfaction of any particular issue that may affect them. It can and should and would be almost an immediate response to a request for assistance. If anything, Mr. Speaker, would symbolize the concern of communication with government of the two norths, it would be the fact that there really is not, through the Minister and his department, the kind of communication that allows them to deal effectively with their day to day problems in the same way as it exists in the southern part of this province, and if there is anything that symbolizes the unrest, the dissatisfaction of the north, it is the fact that there is really no communication with government, notwithstanding the additional attempts by the Minister, the development of his department, and the carrying out of his activities.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this is not to indicate that the Honourable Minister is not well-intentioned. What it indicates, Mr. Speaker, is there has been a failure to recognize the necessity for further action, and you know, Mr. Speaker, I recall when the first suggestion was made of a premier's office in the north, that there were a few answers and comments made by the First Minister in this House indicating that, you know, this was an expense; indicating that this was a cost that appeared to be exorbitant, indicating that there was no need. Well, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the First Minister is changing and he's changing his opinion just as he changed his opinion on the Kierans Report. I suggest he is now realizing, in spite of four years of government activity, that the people in the north are essentially dissatisfied with the nature and the way in which communication has taken place.

Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied that the people of the north want and would utilize a premier's office because in effect it would give them the kind of instantaneous reaction and response to particular situations, and when we talk in terms of a premier's office in the north we are talking essentially of an office in which an Executive Assistant of the Premier will be present to deal with the matters and would be in a position to come almost on a twice-a-week basis, back to Winnipeg, or be in communication with the Premier, so that decisions could be

CONCURRENCE

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) made with respect to the particular items that have been brought to his attention, so that in fact action could take place, so the bureaucracy would not stand in the way and that they would be in the same position as a person in the south of appearing here in the Legislature or appearing at the Premier's office, or in fact contacting his secretary and being in a position to make their complaint known.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a great deal of money--much less than the kind of advertising waste that the government has spent on department after department in the past few weeks to advertise the NDP for the election, and the people of the north have a right, Mr. Speaker, the people of the north, Mr. Speaker, have a right, have a right, Mr. Speaker, to essentially resent a government that is prepared to waste the kind of money that it has and not provide this kind of facility, and to suggest, as the Premier did in this House, that there is no value or that there was an expense that is so great that makes it prohibitive. Mr. Speaker, in Alberta, where the Premier has a problem which is the reverse problem, where he has a problem because the capital is in Edmonton and the problem in the south, the Conservative administration has been able to basically develop and set up a Premier's office in the south which in effect accomplishes in that respect, in that area, all the things, Mr. Speaker, that I have suggested should occur in the north.

Mr. Speaker, we believe, and I suggest that this is going to be forthcoming, no matter what government takes over, Mr. Speaker, we believe that a premier's office both would symbolize to the northern people the fact that there would be easier communication and direct access to the government, and would in fact allow them the opportunity to be able to basically deal expeditiously with their problems. Now Mr. Speaker, we have received, and I now talk in terms of the members of our caucus, you know - a series of different complaints from people in the north who have not had easy access to the Minister or to his department, who have not been able to have the kind of response that they would like to have with respect to the particular issues, and Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that the Minister's program and the Minister's administration, although it involves \$9 million, realistically is concerned with more than the \$9 million when we examine the other departmental activities and the kind of co-ordination that has to take place or the kind of concerns that he has to--that is, he and his people have to deal with, with respect to other areas.

No, the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that this is the money that is allocated to the north. The fact is that the northerners receive, as the southerners receive, benefits from other departments, but he is in a unique position, Mr. Speaker, because people from the north come to him and to his department with respect to the other activities, and I don't think he is going to deny that and I think he is going to indicate, Mr. Speaker, if he does speak, that in effect they demand of him, you know, the kind of action because he is the Minister for the north, that is peculiar to him and to his department and to the northern matters, and does not exist in the other regions of this province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would say to the honourable member from Flin Flon, if he intends to make a contribution to the debate I would look forward with interest, I always look forward with interest to his sort of earthy remarks that he expresses in the House, and I would hope and encourage him to enter the debate. I think that that, you know --(Interjection)-- No, I don't expect we will, Mr. Speaker, but the fact of the matter is that if he really has anything to say I would prefer that he stand up and say it rather than say it from his seat at this present time.

Mr. Speaker, northern prosperity starts with the resources that we possess and we've already indicated, Mr. Speaker, that the mining business is pretty important to the north. But as I've indicated before, Mr. Speaker, these days are pretty confused for the mining business. We have the Kierans Report; we have the problem that the government may take over the mining business. We know, Mr. Speaker, that the government has been involved in - the central involvement of nine Crown corporations. We know that they all lost money, Mr. Speaker; and we know that there is a disposition on the part of Mr. Kierans that the government go on into the mining business. And, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the organized communities, in terms of the organized mining communities I suggest, and I think the members opposite are starting to realize, that this has caused great difficulties.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The hour being 12:30, the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 this afternoon.