

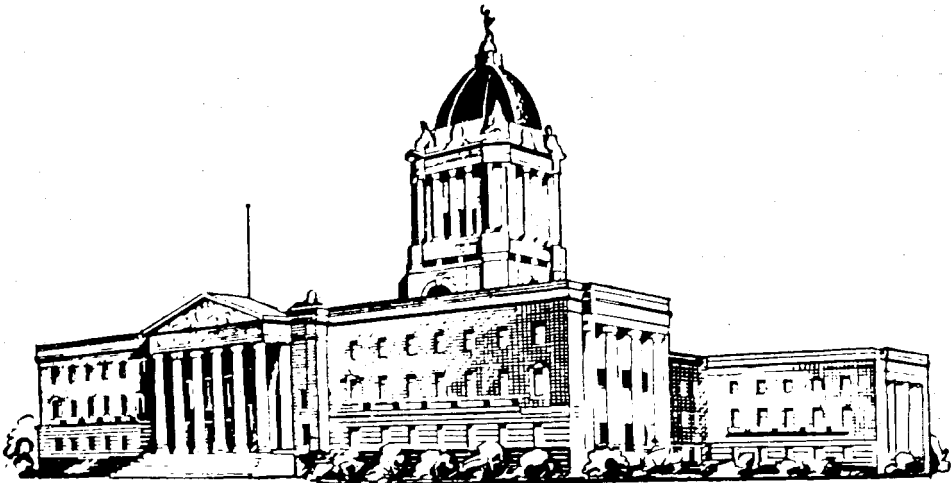


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXI No. 51 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 13th, 1974. First Session, 30th Legislature.

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
2:30 o' clock, Wednesday, March 13, 1974

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 50 students, Grade 11 standing, of the St. Paul's Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Starkell. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Morris.

We also have 18 people of the Elmwood YWCA Group. These people are under the direction of the Leader, Mrs. Wylenko. This group comes from the constituency of the Honourable Member for Elmwood, the Minister of Public Works.

And we have 60 students of Grade 9 standing of the Minnetonka School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Balness, Mr. Ciczki, Mr. Evans, Mrs. Arnason and Miss Masse. The school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Riel.

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; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; The Honourable First Minister.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS - BILL No. 32

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere) introduced Bill No. 32, an Act respecting the City of Brandon.

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister and it relates to answers given yesterday, and this is by way of further questions for clarification. I wonder if he can confirm that the bridge financing undertaken by the Co-operative Development officers on the Southern Indian Lake Co-op was a misuse of funds at the time because they had no authority to deal with the funds in that way.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the question affords me an opportunity to indicate that with respect to all of the allegations of fraudulent and criminal activity or conduct on the part of two or more public servants of the Province of Manitoba, that I have made inquiries in the past 24 hours and am completely satisfied that in fact there is no basis or foundation whatsoever, not one git or tittle. But in any case, Mr. Speaker, just so that there cannot be the continuing kind of abuse of all of these rumours and utterances, the government is fully prepared, and intends to in fact, to have the matter referred to the Attorney-General's Department in the belief that if necessary there will be a request that the RCMP cause an investigation to be made. Having said that and having that on track, I nevertheless want to repeat that I have had it confirmed within the past 20 minutes that the person whom it is alleged was the source of the allegations, that is to say the present chairman of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, has indicated that the matter is an entire taking out of context of anything that he may have said at a meeting back last September, and that he has no hesitation in saying that there was no allegation on his part of fraudulent activity on the part of provincial public servants.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister and it's in the light of his answer that he's made an investigation within the last 24 hours. I wonder if he can explain his answer yesterday, or clarify his answer yesterday, when he indicated that in fact - and I can use the words directly from the question period and I think that would be the best way of doing it: "Well again, Mr. Speaker, not to my knowledge but it would strike me that if financing involved were truly bridge financing, that with the payment forwarded of the DREE grants. . ."

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I do believe the honourable gentleman is bringing back something from the past and it's also intended to be argumentative. If the honourable member

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(MR. SPEAKER cont'd). . . does have a question I'll entertain it.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Premier has only made the investigation within the last 24 hours, how he knew there was a question arising with respect to bridge financing by the Department of Co-operative Development and moneys to be paid back as a result of DREE money?

MR. SCHREYER: Because, Mr. Speaker, that deals with another aspect of the entire history of the difficulties that were encountered in the initial formation of the co-op operation at South Indian Lake and meeting the capital cost of construction. There were, after all, three different departments of the federal and provincial governments involved: the department of DREE, Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, and the Department of Co-op Services, and to some extent as well in initial stages considerably more so in involvement by the Department of Indian Affairs as well. If the rules permit, I can indicate that there was some considerable difficulty that arose because the Department of Indian Affairs at the regional level gave an undertaking with respect to a formula of financial participation, which undertaking or indication of intent was subsequently modified on their part, which threw some of the additional weight or difficulty of financing onto the provincial crown. So there was a period of about 30 days, so I am advised by my colleague the Minister of Co-op Services, in which there was some scrambling in terms of finding temporary financing while awaiting the forwarding of the DREE grant, which in its entirety amounted to something in the order of 450,000. But in that context, Sir, I was certainly not intimating that there was any fraudulent activity; on the contrary. And I have indicated to my honourable friend that it has been confirmed today that there was no intention of alleging fraudulent activity in the first place on the part of those involved in the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. But all of this, Sir, is something which can and should be investigated by the Attorney-General's Department using the co-operation of the RCM Police.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the First Minister is in a position to confirm that the Chairman of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation did in fact suggest that there was fraudulent misuse of funds forwarded by them which were ultimately paid back by DREE and which were in fact the statements referred to by the Premier with respect to the bridge financing yesterday?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that is precisely what the President of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation has indicated to me he did not say or intend to say, and he suggested that the matter has been taken entirely out of context. That is precisely what he did not say or intend to say.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Premier can indicate when he made the investigation and determined the information he just furnished to the House?

MR. SCHREYER: I already indicated that, Sir. In the course of the past 24 hours and in the conversation in the course of the past half hour.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister can indicate, then, how he answered the question yesterday about bridge financing and DREE.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the matter of ascertaining whether a person intended or did in fact allege fraudulent activity is one question, and the question as to whether or not there was any application of any given amount of funds towards, not private gain or personal use, but the construction of a capital facility for the use of the fishing community at South Indian Lake is another aspect, another question.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister can indicate what funds were used by the Department of Co-operative Development for bridge financing.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that information in its precision can be obtained. The question will be taken as notice. I believe that there was a loan by the Co-op Credit Union Society. That was one of the sources of bridge financing for certain, there may have been one or two others. But it was put into the Co-op, Sir, and in any case I have already indicated our intended course of action on something that I believe to have had its origin in a very -- perhaps I shouldn't complete that sentence.

MR. SPIVAK: By way of another question, is the First Minister prepared to confirm that there was no misuse of trust moneys by the Department of Co-operative Development?

## ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SCHREYER: I am completely satisfied, Sir, but in any case that is precisely the essential element of what is being referred to the Attorney-General's Department, and through that Department, for RCMP investigation if necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the First Minister. In view of the statement by Manitoba Hydro of a pending agreement with the United States regarding export power, can the First Minister give us the government's undertaking that the people of Manitoba will be supplied with a complete and accurate disclosure of costs and benefits of any pending agreement, before it's signed by Manitoba Hydro.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, I should think so, Sir, in the normal way that these things are ascertained, and my honourable friend is aware that there is the procedure, which is a good one, of submitting any application for proposed export sale of energy to the National Energy Board of Canada, which is then in a position to go into considerable analysis of costs and benefits and relative prices being paid by the potential purchaser.

MR. CRAIK: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of other agreements that have been condoned or agreed to by the National Energy Board, can the Minister give the undertaking that, prior to going to the National Energy Board, that the people of Manitoba will know the contents of the proposal of Manitoba Hydro?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the question is one which I think has a self-evident answer. Before an application goes to the National Energy Board, there has to be an indication of approval by the government of the province from which the energy source would flow, and this is standard practice. If there is non-concurrence, then the matter doesn't get to the Energy Board in the final analysis in any case.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary. In view of the statement by Hydro and the First Minister's remarks here today, can he give us an idea, any idea of when an agreement is likely to be reached and when we might know the details of it?

MR. SCHREYER: I couldn't give a date on that, Mr. Speaker. I would venture to say that it would be some time by midsummer and the hearing probably in the fall. I don't think there is any possibility of the hearing taking place before that.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct another question to the First Minister; it's regarding the same topic. It's with regard to the statement by Hydro that there would be two components to the export, one off-peak summer export, off-peak power, and the second called "surplus," a second type of power, Mr. Speaker, called surplus. Can the Minister confirm that the so-called surplus power referred to is in fact power which is going to require substantial expenditures to generate the power over and above Manitoba's needs before it can be considered for export?

MR. SCHREYER: I don't believe so, Mr. Speaker, not in a way that could be specifically or exclusively or even a major part attributed to the main purpose of export sale, but I would invite my honourable friend to put his question for more detailed reply next Thursday at the committee when the chairman of Hydro will be present.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the First Minister. Could he indicate to the House what the precise "unexpected conditions" are that have been attached by the Federal Government to the granting of a license for the diversion of the Churchill? What are the specific conditions that they are requiring the province to meet?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that question I believe was asked by some honourable gentlemen opposite, or perhaps one of my own colleagues yesterday, the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro. The answer to my honourable friend's question is that it is not possible to put a precise cost figure on the cost of meeting the conditions that are attached to the Federal license under the Navigable Waters Protection Act, or Navigable Waters Act. In any case, it would be premature to give such a figure even if one were available - which it is not - simply because there are negotiations still being carried out between Manitoba Hydro and officials of the Federal Department of Transport with a view to obtaining certain modifications in those conditions which, if granted, will change the cost implications.

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MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the First Minister, could he indicate what the conditions are that the Federal Government has placed upon the granting of a license and what modifications the Provincial Government is now asking in these conditions?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't lend itself to a concise reply, nor a verbal one. I would invite my honourable friend to either attend at the Public Utility Committee Meeting next Thursday or else to file an Order for Return.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister would be able to answer the House, then, why the chairman of Hydro expects these negotiations to last up to two years, and how will this affect the capital cost of the hydro project and the proposed sale of power to the United States.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't deny that there are many contingencies involved in proceeding with a major - but I do mean major - energy development project such as is the Nelson River, and I suppose all of those questions could have been asked in the first place, and fortunately I believe, fortunately for Manitobans, that did not frighten off those who took the decision to proceed with the development of the Nelson in the first place.

I can only tell my honourable friend that past experience shows that whenever an application is made, under the Navigable Waters Act, to the federal authorities, considerable time elapses between the question or the application and the reply, and I'm not being critical but that is the fact of life.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Are the number of heavy care beds in nursing homes set by the Manitoba Health Services Commission?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Health & Social Development) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I have to take that question as notice.

MR. BROWN: I would like to ask the Minister at the same time while he is taking that question as notice, would he then also look into -- not only is there a long waiting list of patients for heavy care beds, but in several nursing homes there are patients who have been panelled and are receiving heavy care treatment, but the Commission refuses to pay the extra

...

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member is debating the issue now.

MR. BROWN: Would the Minister review the situation with the Commission in order that nursing homes be paid the established rate for care being given?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, nursing homes are being paid an established rate, that rate being established by the Commission, and reflects the care which is being offered to the patient. That's my understanding of it. I took the first question as notice. I'm not sure that the speech subsequent to that requires to be taken as notice.

MR. BROWN: A further question to the same Minister. Is the Minister prepared to act in the matter of the Concordia insofar as the nurses have asked for a judicial inquiry?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I read the same newspaper clipping a few minutes ago as the Member for Rhineland, and if you look at the end of the clipping you will find that the Association does want to get more information, they've sought more information, and they are seeking clarification before taking any further action. This matter is in the hands of a number of bodies including the Commission itself, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and frankly I think we'd be well off to let it take its course before we try to have an investigation within the House itself amongst ourselves, who really don't know what the association is.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister responsible for Colleges and Universities. Has the Minister or the government launched a program designed to make summer jobs available to the university students?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education) (Burrows): Yes, Mr. Speaker, for another year as in the past.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. How many jobs is the government or its department making available in government departments or, say, corporations to the students?

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MR. HANUSCHAK: By filing an application with the STEP office.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON (Gladstone): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Attorney-General and ask him, will the Attorney-General be prosecuting those individuals who are trespassing on private land while engaged in the practice of jacklighting as provided for in Section 13 of the memoranda of agreement of the Manitoba Natural Resources Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General) (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that question as notice and inquire into the circumstances he's referring to.

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

MR. J. PAUL MARION (St. Boniface): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Education. Will the Minister indicate whether officials of his department have held any meetings with officials of other provincial Departments of Education with respect to the recommendations contained in the CORE Report, and will he specify which other provincial Departments of Education were involved.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure if the honourable member will reread the CORE Report carefully he will find that this was a study of matters related to the Department of Education in the Province of Manitoba. This is not an interprovincial study or report.

MR. MARION: Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase my question inasmuch as the Province of Manitoba is a province within a confederation. The CORE Report had certain ramifications with respect to secondary . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question.

MR. MARION: The new system implemented by the CORE Report, Mr. Minister, has ramifications. I wonder if your department entered into any dialogue with other provincial departments respecting the advisability of introducing those kind of recommendations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: You know, Mr. Speaker, we've introduced many new systems, and not knowing which particular new system the honourable member is referring to, I cannot answer that question.

MR. MARION: Mr. Speaker, does the Department of Education have any written acknowledgement from any other Departments of Education concerning the course credits involving Manitoba students who are required to transfer to other provinces to complete their secondary education in that new province?

MR. HANUSCHAK: I'm beginning to appreciate the general intent of the honourable member's question. The directive that went out from my department very recently pursuant to the CORE Committee recommendations, deals with course credits granted by the Department of Education of the Province of Manitoba and has nothing to do with course credits being granted by other jurisdictions.

MR. MARION: A last supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Inasmuch as the Minister now knows what I'm driving at . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question.

MR. MARION: What assurances is the Minister able to provide to this House that students who transfer from the educational system in Manitoba, as it will function under the new point credit system, will not be penalized when they transfer to another province?

MR. SPEAKER: The question's hypothetical in a sense. The Honourable Minister wish to give a hypothetical answer?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Every bit as much as, perhaps even somewhat more than the assurance that we were able to offer in the past under the previous system.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister and relates to the information that an investigation will be conducted by the Attorney-General, and I'll have more to say about that but not at the question period. I wonder - to the First Minister - whether he can indicate now whether the government is prepared to undertake restitution to any fisherman who may have in fact been short-changed or stolen as referred to in the memorandum by members of the Department of Co-operative Development.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, obviously that question can only be answered in the light of the investigation that's been referred to. I cannot separate the fact, Mr. Speaker, that the question is being asked by one who made allegations, the entire basis of which has now been denied completely by one who the Leader of the Opposition alleges made the allegations in the first place. Certainly I will not dignify the matter further with any further indication of intent other than to proceed by way of investigation to ascertain the facts.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question to the First Minister: Is he not prepared to indicate that restitution will take place if the facts as alleged are true?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The question is hypothetical and I'm sure the Honourable Leader of the Opposition realizes that. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder, then, if the First Minister is in a position to confirm that the government will undertake restitution to any fisherman in a situation in which there may very well have been a misuse of funds and . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Again, order please. The question is still hypothetical. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable the Minister of Labour. Will the recent recommendations from the Fire Commissioner concerning the need for upgraded fire prevention standards in buildings be the basis for departmental action?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I don't know what recommendations my honourable friend is referring to. I did see a newspaper clipping, something to the effect that in the Inner City of Winnipeg some reference was made to this, but I have not received any formal report from the Fire Commissioner.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Education. Can the Minister tell us whether the Department of Education presently has any plans to give additional financial aid to those school divisions that may incur extra costs as a result of any conversion of programs to the CORE Committee recommendation such as the credit system?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is hypothetical. I'm sure the honourable member realizes that. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister and relates to the question of compensation to fishermen under the co-operative system, and I would ask him if the compensation given to the fishermen will be consistent with that given to the fish companies that were redundant as a result of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is argumentative. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, there is a hypothesis in that question as well, plus a bit of sarcasm that also doesn't deserve a reply.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Co-operative Development. I wonder if he can inform the House whether his department complete the income tax T4 and T4A slips for the co-operatives and for the fishermen.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice.

MR. SPIVAK: . . . if the Minister can inform whether those T4 and 4A slips have in fact been completed and forwarded as required by law.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think all questions that I haven't been given notice on will be taken as notice, and I won't rise on each occasion to respond.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I want to redirect a question that I asked on Monday to the First Minister and ask him if, in the light of predictions made by the United States Weather Service Bureau, where there will be considerable flooding along



## ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd). . . the Red and Assiniboine Rivers within the coming year, if the government has taken the precautionary steps that are necessary to ensure that the effects of those floods will be mitigated in the event that they occur.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am advised that the question that my honourable friend is referring to was posed on Monday, was referred by the Acting Premier in my absence to the Department of Mines and Resources and a response should be forthcoming presumably within the week.

MR. JORGENSEN: There was a further question dealing, not with the Department of Mines and Resources, but with an action on the part of the government as to whether or not they have taken up with the Canadian Wheat Board and the Railways the possibility or the necessity of moving grain out of the path of the flood before breakup, which at present rates could be very soon. There is some urgency in that being taken care of as quickly as possible.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is a specific request which deserves a very specific consideration. I trust and hope that the officials of the railways will be amenable to a suggestion that they do gear up for contingency action in the event that we do get confirmation of the definitive likelihood of flooding. My honourable friend the Member for Morris will know that in the past couple of months and more, the movement of grain across the prairies has been less than to inspire confidence in farmers anywhere on the prairies, and those lying in the possible path of flooding will have to hope that some very special extraordinary arrangements can be made with the railways. We'll certainly follow up very quickly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Education. Is the Department of Education now offering any additional assistance to school boards which are planning or now converting to the credit system under the CORE Committee recommendations?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I note, Mr. Speaker, there are still 58 hours remaining for Estimate debate time, and at the moment the House reaches the Estimates of my department I will be only too happy to explain to the honourable member in detail the financial appropriations for all the programs within my department.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Minister could answer this question as to whether every school board has been consulted concerning this conversion to the point credit system and whether they are all in approval of it?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, not only has there been consultation with various groups, superintendents, teachers, trustees, but in fact a move in this direction had commenced some time ago.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Could the Minister indicate how many school boards have now indicated they plan to move into this new system?

MR. HANUSCHAK: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Can he indicate whether the University of Manitoba -- to the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker. Can he indicate whether the University of Manitoba Staff Association has filed for application to be recognized as a bargaining unit for the staff at the university?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): It is my understanding that they have, Mr. Speaker. I will take the necessary steps to assure that what I say is correct, but the indications have been made to me that this is in the processing avenue at the present time.

MR. CRAIK: I wonder if the Minister might inquire, as well, whether any other appeals have been made to the board to recognize those people who were in a minority but nevertheless a large group opposed to such a move?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to do that. I'm sure my honourable friend is aware, however, that if an application is before the board that is a majority, then the board normally rules in favour of the majority insofar as certification and proceedings are concerned.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I would like again to direct a question that I directed to the Minister of Agriculture yesterday.

A MEMBER: Is it the same question?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. WATT: I'll rephrase the question.

A MEMBER: You haven't asked it yet, Doug.

MR. WATT: No, that's right, I haven't asked the question yet. The question is: Has the Minister followed up on the fact established by the grain trade that in the past crop year that the farmers of western Manitoba, including Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, have lost \$300 million because of the actions of the Canadian Wheat Board or the railways and of the whole system. Can he give us an answer on it? Yesterday he said . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. WATT: . . . he didn't know. I'm saying now that he does know but he doesn't want to give an answer.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I will invite the Member for Arthur, I will invite the Member for Arthur to go with me to find those \$300 million somewhere along the road.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question then. Will the Minister provide transportation for he and I to go and find the \$300 million?

A MEMBER: It's a lot of money.

A MEMBER: Ride the rods.

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

MR. MARION: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Health and Social Development. Has the Minister - and this is further to some questions last week - Can the Minister advise if he has now received a recommendation from the Manitoba Hospital Services Commission with respect to a report with recommendations that a central counselling clinic, pregnancy counselling clinic, be set up?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that I have not had such a request. I can also advise the member that I have responded to the letter which I received through the Premier's office and which the member has a copy of. I've responded to the letter by asking the person who sent the letter to please make known what information he has because I have not been able to discover any.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Development. In view of the reports that there is now in existence or in operation three community health clinics, could the Minister indicate whether we are now in the midst of implementing a provincial-wide system of community health clinics in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: No, Mr. Speaker, what we are in the process of doing is what we announced two years ago, in the process of starting demonstration pilot projects where the community is interested and is desirous of having these projects started, and I'm happy to say that they have been launched.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister confirm whether the Province of Manitoba is presently negotiating with any groups in the City of Winnipeg to establish pilot or demonstration community health clinics other than Mount Carmel Clinic?

MR. MILLER: Well, Mr. Speaker, there is a group known as the Norwest Group where discussions are taking place. I know that one. There may be one other but I don't know to what extent discussions have taken place or how far they've gone.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Are these negotiations and discussions for new facilities designed in any way to ease the requirement for emergency or ambulatory care that now exists in the City of Winnipeg?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, they are -- this whole scheme, the entire idea which is going on right across the country, is an attempt to rationalize the system, and if you rationalize the system then you meet and help resolve all the problems, not just one.

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

## ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been holding this question for the last couple of days because the Minister in charge of MDC was not in the House. I don't know if there is anybody on the other side who could . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question?

MR. MINAKER: . . . answer the question or not, but could the Acting Minister confirm that the Eastern Canada sales agent for Churchill Forest Industries in the sale of kraft paper, is a competitor who also manufactures kraft paper in their own mills?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that question is one which for precision's sake we'll take it as notice. I might add that on Tuesday next the Chairman of the MDC will be present before the Economic Development Committee of this House.

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

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I may ask the House if they are prepared to have a meeting of the Private Members' Bills Committee tomorrow morning. I regret very much that I haven't spoken to the Whips in respect of this, but the legal day for the expiry of the receipt of petitions for private bills expires tomorrow, and a suggestion has been made to me, Mr. Speaker, that if it's agreeable to members of the Private Bills Committee to meet tomorrow morning at a quarter to ten for organizational procedures and also to extend the date of the receiving of Private Members' Bill, it would facilitate the House. I realize that the Committee on Public Accounts meets tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, and my suggestion would be, Mr. Speaker, to members of the Committee, to meet at a quarter to ten simply for organizational purposes and to extend the time limit in order to facilitate applications for reception of Private Members' Bills.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Our group agrees to that procedure.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? (Agreed)

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I formally announce the meeting of the Private Bills' Committee tomorrow morning at a quarter to ten o'clock and then remind members of the Public Accounts at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

MR. SPEAKER: Room 254?

MR. PAULLEY: I believe so, Sir. I think yes, because the Public Accounts, I believe, is meeting in 254, is that correct?

MR. SPEAKER: Right.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - BILL NO. 7

MR. PAULLEY: Then they might as well meet together in the same room. I wonder now, Mr. Speaker, whether you would call Bill No. 7. I notice that the Honourable Member for Lakeside is absent. If any other member wishes to speak, I might have agreement of the House for them so to speak and then let the matter stand in the name of the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 7. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, our party's stand has been officially spelled out on the speaking on second reading before the amendment, and I would say that nothing has changed in that regard. We agree with the principle of the bill but we have amendments to propose and if we're not satisfied with the progress of our amendments, then we will reserve the right to vote against the bill on third reading. But I would like to pose a few questions to the Minister and perhaps when he, if he takes the opportunity to speak on the amendment before us, he could give some answers. Well then, perhaps one of his colleagues can give the answers through the Minister's advice.

Yesterday at Public Utilities Committee I understood Mr. Bateman, the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro, to say that the Member for Emerson who is employed by Manitoba Hydro would have his job to come back to after the Session, and I think everybody agrees that that's progressive and fair and that's the way it should be, but as I read Bill No. 7 that can't happen, because he's been elected a member, Manitoba Hydro is an agency of government, and automatically he cannot go back because he's been an elected member. Now perhaps the government will say, well, we call Manitoba Hydro a Crown corporation, and if this is so, if this is the understanding of government, then I think that the bill should spell out exactly what "agency"

## BILL NO. 7

(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd). . . is and list the agencies, not interpret it in the way that they would like to interpret it, but put it into the bill what an agency is. Is a water board an agency because it's members of the NDP? Is the member on the Water Board, the Hydro Board, the Telephone Board. So I'd like a clear definition of the clause or the paragraph in the bill that refers in its vague way to the word "agency", and I think perhaps that every agency that this is applicable to should be spelled out in the bill.

The other matter that I raise and I raise it more as a matter of interest, and I don't know what the government intends to do about it, but in the last election we were told that there were two NDP candidates and one Progressive-Conservative candidate came from the Civil Service and they went back to their jobs. I was given to understand that Mr. Parasiuk, who ran in Riel, took leave of absence from a job that paid him in the neighborhood of \$22,300, and I presume that he took leave of absence without pay for the 35 days or whatever length of time he was involved in the election. Well, when he came back it's my understanding that he came back with an increase of about \$2,200, so that really you're making a joke out of the fact that he's taking leave of absence at no pay because he got more than a month's pay in his increase when he came back.

Now I pose the question to the government, were the other two candidates treated the same way when they came back, the other NDP candidate and the one PC candidate, were they rewarded for their offering themselves to public service by about a 10 percent increase in salary? So perhaps when the Minister has one of his colleagues to speak, he could take the first point, which is quite important, but give us some kind of an explanation on the second point that I raise because it's a pretty cynical operation when government can reward their own and then make things difficult for those who are of a different political persuasion. Because if you can give an increase or deny an increase, then you can do other things. You can slow promotion or you can -- I think the Minister of Labour was the one who introduced the phrase into this House, where persons get lateral transfers. This could happen too. My point being that if you can reward someone with a ten percent increase in salary, well then you can do other things besides reward them.

MR. SPEAKER: The question remains in the name of the Honourable Member for Lakeside. Bill No. 17. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. (Stands) Bill No. 9. (Stands)

Continued on next page.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Labour, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair.

SUPPLY - INTERIM SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I have the impression that we could proceed now with Interim Supply and hopefully deal with the resolution and then move into Supplementary Supply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, I raise the point at this time because of the latitude provided under Interim Supply, but what I want to do is raise the concern about having to deal with Capital Supply immediately following Interim Supply in view of . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I said move into Supplementary Supply for the current year.

MR. CRAIK: You are moving into Supplementary now?

MR. CHERNIACK: After Interim, I would want to go into Supplementary for the year ending the end of this month, and then into Capital which I am sure won't be today.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: May I also say, just as a help, that if we are ready to move into Capital, possibly we could deal with those items that honourable members would be prepared to deal with more expeditiously, leaving others over for a little later. I think we should accommodate the committee to make sure that the fullest opportunity is given to discuss the various lines. I wonder if that will help.

MR. CRAIK: In that connection, Mr. Chairman, what I wanted to -- the point I wanted to make is that it's very difficult for us to deal with the Capital Supply for the Manitoba Development Corporation since we don't have the annual reports and won't have them before next Tuesday for those companies under the Manitoba Development Corporation in which the MDC has equity position, so in the Capital Supply we do have requests for \$40 million in Capital Supply, so I don't see any way that we can, logically at least, deal with that part of it till following next Tuesday.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the point made by the honourable member and I think that we should be governed by the indication that he has given of the desire not to deal with the MDC until after Tuesday. Obviously, if he doesn't want us to proceed we won't and -- no, I mean it quite seriously that it would be -- I understand that point. Tomorrow I can discuss it with the Minister for MDC. I shouldn't make decisions in his absence, but my own inclination would be to proceed as far as we can, subject up to the MDC, and if we can deal with everything else, then we would, but certainly I see no problem about delaying that. If my Department informs me that it would be advisable to get capital authority for other than the MDC, then possibly we could split that off the Bill. I think we should be flexible about how we deal with it as long as we don't try to pressure anything through.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we're on Interim Supply. Resolved that there be granted - Resolved that a sum not exceeding . . .

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Scuris-Killarney): Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to say a few words on interim supply regarding a subject matter which is important to the people in my area and rural Manitoba, is dealing with the Home Economics who have been transferred, many of them transferred altogether to the Department of Health, and some whose positions have been wiped out completely, and in an editorial in this week's paper in Boissevain, I think I should read this editorial because I think it pretty well explains the position of the problem here. Mr. Chairman, it says here: "Eleven home economists presently working for the Department of Agriculture will be transferred to the Department of Health and Social Development effective the 1st of April. This is the information the Recorder learned from a telephone conversation with Mr. Janssen, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Province of Manitoba. Mr. Janssen stated that six of the new positions would be in Winnipeg and two in the far north. He further stated that the two home economists would be carried out as before. It's understood

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(MR. McKELLAR cont'd) . . . from usually reliable sources in this region in the province, the positions of the home economists in Virden, Minnedosa and Boissevain will be all eliminated and an extra home economist and a 4-H specialist will be added to the staff of the Department of Agriculture in the regional office in Brandon

"In an interview with Marlene Baskerville," - that's Mrs. Baskerville who is the home economist at Boissevain," she said that she had tendered her resignation with the Department of Agriculture because her work load has been increased to the point where she no longer can do the position justice. Mrs. Baskerville says that during the last year she has driven her car more than 15,000 miles and had co-ordinated courses with rural women on many subjects such as nutrition, consumer education, money management and textile information, as well as devoting considerable time to the wide spectrum of 4H activities.

Another one of the problems which I think involves rural Manitoba is the subject matter of the women's Institute and I'll relate this, it's related here in the editorial too:

"Another of the Home Economists whose position has been eliminated is Mrs. Gwen Parker of Ste. Agathe, Manitoba. Mrs. Parker has for the last seven years worked with the Women's Institute in Manitoba as a counsellor and co-ordinator, and in an interview with Mrs. Parker she said that she had the choice of accepting a position with the Department of Health and Social Development but she had no idea of what her new duties might be or where she might be located. In opposition of these moves, the Department of Agriculture is growing in rural Manitoba and it seems certain that a major confrontation is shaping up between the government and the many groups in all parts of the province. In a telephone interview with Maureen Fulton, past president of the Manitoba and Canadian Women's Institute, Mrs. Fulton said that her organization has already written Mr. Sam Uskiw, Minister of Agriculture, to protest the move but she had not received any reply. She said that the provincial executive will be meeting early next week and they will probably request a meeting with the Premier on that matter. Opposition is also coming from the local Chamber of Commerce at Boissevain, and according to President, Mr. Jack Houston, letters will be sent to the Minister of Agriculture and the Premier as well, requesting other local Chambers of Commerce to join the protest. Mr. Houston also said that it is a bad blow for rural Manitoba and he said the Home Economists had a hard time keeping up with the work load as it's presently being done."

Mr. Chairman, this is the problem as I see it, and I can understand the government's position that maybe they don't think this is important to the people of rural Manitoba, but it is important. It is important. It's important to the point where if we were receiving someone else to take the place of the Home Economist in Boissevain, it would be something else, but we are losing that position in Boissevain, we are losing a position in Minnedosa, we are losing a position in Virden and other places.

MR. CHERNIACK: I wonder if the honourable member could favor us with a copy of what he is reading from so we would have the information and pass it on to the . . .

MR. McKELLAR: Yes I would. It's a newspaper. . .

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes I know, but it would be helpful to give it to the Minister.

MR. McKELLAR: That's right - yes, sure. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is important to the people in my part of the province because it came as a direct blow to them, something which wasn't even mentioned in estimates here by the Minister during his estimates there of the last ten days, and I think this program should have been told to the people, if you are going to spell it out, and I understand it's coming out in the budget. When the Minister of Finance presents his budget next week it's coming out in the budget - a new program, but if you are going to be fair with the people why not go and tell them in advance? Why shouldn't they be told this fall when the meetings were held, when you had your fair meetings throughout the province this fall? Why weren't the people told at that time? And I think it's right and proper that we should make a case of this at this time. I'm not saying that the Minister of Health won't treat the people fairly, I know he will. But what's happening is that the program is being done away with. This is actual fact - the program is being done away with, and this is where the complaints of the people -- they are bringing to my attention, the fair boards, the Women's Institute Chambers of Commerce and other groups in the community who are greatly interested.

Mr. Chairman, the 4H work will be greatly affected as I know it. These Home Economists deal directly with all the 4H clubs in the Province of Manitoba, and I know those boys and girls who are closely associated with riding clubs and sewing clubs and other clubs of other

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(MR. McKELLAR cont'd) . . . nature dealing with 4H work will be affected to the extent where many of these clubs will likely fold up because of the lack of leadership in their many communities. And I would say to the government of the day to take a second look at this - take a second look at this. Go back and negotiate or talk to the people who are involved in the formation of 4H Clubs and the people who are involved in the Women's Institute. Talk to them before you make your final plans. That's all I'm asking for, because I know that governments can change their minds when they have to, but sometimes they will only do it under pressure by people and by organizations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: It's not my intention to make a speech on this, Mr. Chairman, but just to support what my colleague has just said, the fact is that the Home Economist has been removed from southwest Manitoba stationed at Deloraine, serving the southwest area and 4H clubs. They don't know where she's gone but they know that they now have no Home Economist supporting the 4H Clubs, the Women's Institute, and the general service in the southwest area of Manitoba. They don't understand why suddenly -- and maybe the Minister can answer. Maybe the First Minister can answer this question since he has made the statement that those constituencies that did not vote in favour of the NDP party would be clobbered, and this appears to me to be coming more evident all the time. But in support of what my colleague has just said, the Home Economist has been removed from a position stationed at Deloraine and serving the southwest area, and the letters that I have received want an answer to why the Home Economist should be removed from that area supporting 4H Clubs, supporting the Women's Institute, supporting all the progressive activities, particularly the women in our constituency, they've been removed and I'd like some answer. They would like some answers, but particularly I would. Maybe the Minister could give us some answer.

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

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, my colleague the Minister of Agriculture is not here and I think he has greater detail than I would, but I do want to respond immediately because of some of the suggestions put forward by the Member for Arthur, that somehow this is part of a devious plot because some areas may not have voted NDP in the last election. That's utter rubbish and nonsense. This has been discussed now for some time inter-departmentally and between governments to try to rationalize the services. The Home Economists have been with the Department of Agriculture for many, many years - many decades - and as is the custom and should be the custom in a government that just doesn't accept what went on before as being unchangeable or never to be altered, we came to the conclusion and recognized that it makes more sense for the Home Economists, who in this day and age have to deal with such matters as nutrition etc., to be under the Health and Social Development with a core staff in Winnipeg who will develop the programs, not just for Agriculture but develop the programs for the Department of Health and Social Development too, so that the Department, our Department personnel can take advantage of their programs.

The suggestion that the 4H Clubs are somehow going to wither on the vine, that no one is going to look after them, I don't think are quite valid. There will be a transference perhaps to another department insofar as the individual is concerned, but I'm not sure that that means that there is going to be a great change in what they are doing. They may have to broaden their scope somewhat to include other than just Department of Agriculture concerns; they will have to concern themselves with the broader problems of services to people who need that kind of service, whether they are on farms or in the towns within that region, and the letter or the newspaper article read by the Member for Souris-Killarney, stating that a certain person resigned but she resigned, if I heard him correctly, she said she didn't know what the new arrangements were and therefore she resigned. Well anyone who resigns in advance of knowing what's involved is taking a decision by themselves. Nobody is urging them to do that. This person apparently just felt she wanted to resign and of course she's free to do that if that is the case, but to suggest that because she resigned without knowing what was involved, I tell you that is nothing to do with the Department, that's a personal decision on her part.

Basically the proposition is that because services to people in the communities, rural city, everywhere, we have to deliver services to people. The Department of Agriculture which in the past handled the home economists, it was somewhat narrow in its approach; we felt it had to broaden its point of view and its delivery to include more than just the farm-related

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(MR. MILLER cont'd) . . . matters, and that is why the move is made to Health and Social Development. Now, this program goes back decades to the days when the farm community was isolated from the rest of Manitoba, when being on the farm meant that you had no communication and needed somebody to advise you. Well times have changed, and I suggest that the people in the towns and the villages and the farms are as knowledgeable as the most sophisticated people in the city. They have communication, they have newspapers, they have radio, they have TV, and the days when somebody had to go round to explain to them how to can goods or how to pickle fruit for the winter, that is changed, and I think we have to change with the times, so that the services that are provided meet with the needs of people of various kinds of needs - not just purely, the needs which the Department of Agriculture would envisage as the kind of service being required, but rather to meet the basic needs of people with regard to their problems, counselling, assistance in how they budget, assistance in how they buy their food if this is one of the problems in that family. It's this kind of assistance which a Home Economist can give to people because of their training and it's that kind of assistance we now want to make available to the people in the regions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. McKELLAR: Sir, I would just like to say a word on the comments of the Minister of Health, and I think what the Minister is saying is actually going to happen in the reverse. I honestly do. I come from the rural and I know, I know the problem, What the Minister has just actually mentioned that -- well, it just won't happen. It won't happen. You've done away with the program that did help people and what actually is going to happen now is the reverse. You are not going to have a program now. You are not going to have a program, so how in the name of the world you can be better with this program than the other program is more than I'll ever know.

Well, Mr. Chairman, it's one thing when you do something, but when you don't do anything -- and this is what you're doing; you wiped out all the Home Economists in that part of the province, then to say in the next breath you are going to be something better, is something else all over again, and I could argue here all day and I'm not going to argue, because it isn't going to make sense, because the people in the province where I come from know better. They know better. They know that what you're saying, what you're saying is they are moving them all to Brandon and Winnipeg. This is what you're doing. You are moving them all to Brandon and Winnipeg, transferring -- well this is what actually happened, this is what I was told; what I read in that newspaper column, and I just can't see it. Now what you want if you, Mr. Chairman, if you want to make a whole welfare department out of it, this is what-- and go around helping welfare people, that's one thing. What I'm talking about is helping the boys and girls in the Province of Manitoba, people who need help at that age, to help them form their lives, along with their parents. Not to take over the job of parents but to help and guide them. And maybe you say, maybe they don't have to be told how to can goods, but I'm telling you, Mr. Chairman, it isn't a bad thing, it isn't a bad thing for a girl to know how to can, make some canned preserves and know how to can some vegetables. It's not a bad thing; it wouldn't be a bad thing if some of them knew how to make butter and make bread - that wouldn't be a bad thing. And if you did nothing more than that, did nothing more than that, you'd be helping the boys and girls. But this is a different thing. What we're being told today, what we're doing told today that a program is being wiped out. Wiped out. Wiped out. That it was under the Department of Agriculture no longer exists, like the program was no longer - it was too narrow. Well, Mr. Chairman, if it was too narrow, why not broaden it? Why wipe it out? Why wipe it out? That's all I'm going to say. I'm saying the government are making the wrong decision, they're making the wrong decision, and I hope you reconsider. I want to just say one thing, knowing full well the Minister of Health has never lived in rural Manitoba, knowing full well --(Interjection)-- I know, West Kildonan's a lot different than out at Boissevain, and I tell you, Mr. Chairman, with those thoughts in mind I'd sooner keep it under the Minister of Agriculture. I'd far sooner, because I think he has a better -- Yeah, even though I think he can do a better job. All I'm saying, if you're in doubt you leave it as it is, and I say you're in doubt.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I too would like to take this opportunity to say just a few words in the debate on Interim Supply, mainly because I am somewhat



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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . concerned that the exigencies of the time devoted towards Estimates may not allow us to get into a proper discussion and debate concerning some problems which I find have particular significance in my own constituency and which certainly, over the past two or three weeks, have been brought to my attention repeatedly, concerning some of the things that are beginning to occur particularly in the problem of housing, and while we have had some limited exchange on this we haven't really been able to present, I think, to members opposite and particularly to those two Ministers now in the House who have some responsibility in this field, the serious nature of the problem we're now beginning to face in Winnipeg.

I would point first to what is becoming, I think, a problem of major proportions and that is the lack of supply of low cost housing in the City of Winnipeg, that from the best estimates I can make the Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation has built less than 600 units this last building year - in the year 1973 - which of course is far far less than the target that was set for them, which I believe was in the neighborhood of 1,500 to 2,000. I believe the Attorney-General when he was responsible for MHRC last spring, said that they had planned to build close to 1,500 to 2,000 public housing units in the Province of Manitoba.

Well, if that is the standard, then, Mr. Chairman, we have fallen far short and whatever the reason is the problem is now being faced in extreme circumstances particularly by people who are older. I gather again from reports from those who have made applications that in many cases they are told that the waiting lists are now extending towards a two-year waiting period and some people are not, they're even given advice that it may not be of any point even to put their name on the list because the possibility of their receiving a new unit is so far remote.

It's also being faced by a particular group, Mr. Chairman, in my constituency, which are single people, working people by and large, who work for very low incomes, who may make only \$75.00, 85.00, 90.00 or \$110.00 per week who, because of the extreme shortage of apartment space - and I bring your attention that the vacancy rate in Winnipeg is now around three percent, which are substantial points below what it should be to provide any flexibility in the market - they're finding it extremely difficult to get proper accommodation at a price they can afford. And under the present rules and regulations of MHRC, people who have not yet reached the age of 65 can't get into a public housing unit if they're single unless there is a medical reason for it, and these are people who are particularly finding it difficult now to find accommodation which is suitable and affordable for them, and they're finding it extremely difficult to have any kind of leverage in the housing market at the present time and therefore I feel that it is of great importance that the government take action while we still have a chance for this building season that is in fact upon us now; that we cannot afford to wait a month or two months, we are now entering into a new building season and therefore the requirement for action cannot be delayed much longer.

Now, we have asked some questions what the projected estimates of construction is for MHRC, but even at that, I take some notice, the protestation of the First Minister, that one of the reasons why these units aren't being built is because they're being held up by the City of Winnipeg in its processing mechanisms, and I agree that that's a problem being faced by all housing developers whether they are public or private. And I would suggest that a solution to that problem is also in the hands of the Provincial Government if they want to take that solution by taking a serious look at the mechanisms set out in the City of Winnipeg Act, and to see to what degree they have added, probably more than a full year, to the development process in terms of the application for subdivisions and new projects and for zoning variations.

But back to low cost housing programs. I would like to suggest to the Minister responsible for housing that one thing he should look at very seriously right now is the kind of program that has been introduced in Ontario over the past two years, which is to make agreements with private builders to reserve a proportion, let's say 10 percent, of units in private housing for a rental subsidy scheme so that those kinds of units would be available for people on lower incomes. That would mean that they could accommodate some of those arrangements within their present building proposals and building projects. I think that this would provide the required ability of those who are now being squeezed out of the housing market or finding

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . their rents being badly inflated, and secondly, would also provide an alternative to the public housing approach which thus far has been almost the sole technique or method that the Provincial Government has adopted in relation to finding a supply of low income housing. So I would certainly like to see, during this time while there is still some time left before we get into the full rhythm of the building process, to see if through the cost-sharing with the Federal Government - because they do go into cost-sharing agreements on this kind of proposal and they have entered into agreement with the Ontario Government - to see if we can introduce a rental subsidy scheme or an agreement whereby certain proportions of units in private developments could be reserved for those, particularly in that group which I mentioned which I am beginning to receive a lot of concern about both by mail and by telephone and by personal visit, those who may be in the age bracket of from 45 up who are locked into low-paying jobs and are simply finding it very difficult to cope. So I would like to propose that to the front bench to consider while time is still upon us.

There is one other issue which has come to my attention in my constituency which I'd like to bring to the attention of the First Minister, and I only regret that in a similar exchange during a question period about ten days to two weeks ago, his answers were less than satisfactory, and that is concerning the provincial support for the Osborne Street Bridge. And I'd like to bring to his attention that many residents of the area which I represent on both sides of the river, are particularly concerned about the potential damage that that bridge will have on the residential areas of this downtown part of the city, and particularly what it might lead to in the way of added or expanded high speed transit systems through this downtown portion of the city. And I'd like to bring to his attention one major failing, which I find very surprising, that the Provincial Government, when it introduced the City of Winnipeg Act, placed in that act the requirement that an Environmental Impact report be registered on any major public works development. There was not such an environmental impact study done on the Osborne Street Bridge and yet the Provincial Government went ahead and provided support in, I expect, the knowledge that that Impact Study was not available or had not been done. I find it a little bit of concern that the Provincial Government would, in a sense, reject or ignore a piece of legislation when it itself was the author of, and I find that that has become a matter of some concern because those of us who live in that area, as I do, find within the proposals of the City of Winnipeg that there is a potential possibility for a sixth lane being introduced across that Osborne Street Bridge, and if that is so that could mean serious reconversion of the Osborne Street area and the introduction of far larger numbers or frequency of automobiles coming down the Osborne Street and the River Avenue Street arterial road routes, and that again would have a very significant change or alteration in what is now, I think, an enjoyable and interesting part of the city and one which provides a good deal of residential enjoyment for its inhabitants. And I think that the opportunity the province had when it was requesting, or when it had a request of support from the City of Winnipeg, to place certain conditions upon that support which would have been clearly and totally in line because they, after all, did indicate that they wanted Environmental Impact Studies done, would have provided the kind of assurances and guarantees that the residents of this downtown area required.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to bring one other matter of, again I think, serious consequence, to the attention of the two Ministers now in the House who have a concern or should have a concern about city matters, and that is the financial situation of the City of Winnipeg that when the bill was introduced in 1971 the province provided certain tax equalization base payments to compensate for those municipalities that would have their tax base altered as a result of the amalgamation scheme. What they did not provide for was any additional cost to the new Unicity to cover any additional cost that would be borne or incurred as a result of amalgamation of services in its own right. And I would remind the Ministers that certain warnings were issued at that time - in Law Amendments Committees by Mr. Bowles, who's the former Executive Chairman of Metro Corporation, that the experience of previous cities that had gone in for amalgamation programs was that in the first five years of those amalgamations one could expect additional costs directly attributable to the requirement for personnel and new services in amalgamation of services such as police, fire, waterworks and so on.

I think that is now happening in the City of Winnipeg, and the proposed budget that the city is now having to contemplate which could, if it was not severely reduced, could result in a 20 mill increase for the property taxpayers of the city. Furthermore, and I think this is

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . even more important, it could mean a curtailment of very important services the City of Winnipeg now believes it requires, and I don't think that we can sit here in judgement on the priorities set by the City of Winnipeg but we can certainly indicate to what degree the financial resources that may be required to properly compensate for extra costs acquired as a result of amalgamation should be borne by the Provincial Government, and I would point out to the Ministers that according to the financial statements registered by the Federal Government at the last Tri-Level Conference Meeting, Manitoba stands as one of the lowest provinces on the rung providing assistance to its municipalities. My figures may be slightly off but I believe that in the City of Winnipeg close to 75 cents of every dollar spent is raised through the property tax where in the City of Toronto only 50 cents on every dollar is raised because of a more generous contribution by senior levels of government. And I think part of the problem can be attributed to the lack of bargaining that the City of Winnipeg has been able to achieve and I regret that they haven't been a little tougher and a little more skillful in striking a better bargain. But the fact of the matter is, I think that the new city was a creation of this province; I think that they take some pride in its accomplishments, and I endorse that in most respects it was a very bold and innovative program. At the same time I don't think we should ask totally the citizens of Winnipeg to pay for that boldness and innovation, that they certainly pay more than their full share to the provincial treasury, and I think at a time when their costs are escalating increasingly and in almost exponential fashion, that the province has a responsibility and obligation to assist the city and the property taxpayers in this city at this time.

So I would like to bring those matters to the attention of the Ministers. I hope that we will have the opportunity later on in estimates to exchange more fully on these items, but I would that in particular they would take note of the housing problem because the solution of that problem must be introduced in very short terms, otherwise we will have to wait another year and by that time the problems just simply won't be serious, they'll be catastrophic.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. J. R. (Bud) BOYCE (Winnipeg Centre): Well, Mr. Chairman, the last argument of the Member for Fort Rouge I will let stand on its own, I won't even comment on it. He makes it better perhaps from his position than I could from mine. But we do share equal concerns and one of them, of course, is in housing. And of course we all realize when he mentions, you know, the Minister and we have the authority to impose solutions on people, of course the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba has the authority to impose anything on any municipality. But this government is committed to a concept of local control and this is one of the difficulties. I would use for an example the -- I'm sure the Member for Fort Rouge will appreciate my remarks even if the Member for Assiniboia does not. For example, with the Chinese Development Corporation, which I understand their report will be finalized, it's finalized now but it is being printed in Chinese. The four years of negotiations and all the concepts, they get together the housing component, the senior citizen component, the town housing, the commercial and all the rest of it, has been very difficult. Now I am informed that the final report should be in our hands next month, but here I would repeat that this Legislative Assembly could have written into the City of Winnipeg Act, the Minister could have, you know, just expedited everything if the Minister would just, he would sign approval and everything else. But this wasn't the choice that was made. And perhaps the Member for Fort Rouge when the City of Winnipeg Act comes up for amendments, as I understand it is, there are going to be amendments proposed, that he can make some suggestions as to how we can expedite the processing of developments but keeping in mind there has to be some local control, local responsibility.

I enjoyed also his presentation relative to the Osborne Street Bridge. I hope once again he perhaps can make the argument better from his position than I can from mine relative to the Sherbrook-McGregor Street Overpass. We share common concerns in some areas.

But to the Member for Souris-Killarney, having been familiar with the relationship between agriculture and home economics, as I mentioned before my first degree was from the Faculty of Agriculture and at that time there was one dean, there was a Dean of Agriculture and Home Economics - they were actually one faculty - and over the years the Home Economists in the rural communities have in my view done a terrific job, they really have. In working in the community, as was pointed out by the Member for Souris-Killarney, they've

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(MR. BOYCE cont'd) . . . taught people how to can and all the rest of it. But really, the change in our society has necessitated a coming back into the urban area. I think in the City of Winnipeg in some of our problem areas that I share a mutual concern with the Member for Fort Rouge, that what is envisaged is not a cutting back of programs in the rural areas but an expansion of these programs, and also including of the home economist concept for city people in the idea of nutrition and the rest of this sort of thing, which is really a social development function.

The Member for Souris-Killarney made reference to one particular individual that was offered an opportunity of change it, and of course all of us in this House when we pass laws we change people's life styles. Just briefly, I had occasion to attend the changeover at Kelwood, Manitoba from a switchboard to a dial system, and in the small community of Kelwood their main income for the little small village was the phone -- Sturgeon Creek excuse me. I corrected, I said the Member for Assiniboia. It was the Member for Sturgeon Creek. I transferred members. But the people who were involved, their jobs disappeared, and of course the Manitoba Telephone System made every effort possible to accommodate these people.

Well one of the points that was mentioned in the very article that the member read, was that this particular individual had said as a point of interest that she had travelled 15,000 miles. Well, I haven't got the actual figures available to me but I would hazard a guess that in traveling in Manitoba the average speed would perhaps be in the neighborhood of 20 miles per hour. I know it reaches a ridiculous point in the City of New York -- the Member for Fort Rouge, because of his involvement in urban affairs, could correct me if I'm wrong -- but the last figure I saw that the average speed in the City of New York was 4 miles per hour. But if you figure out 15,000 miles at 20 miles an hour average speed, that's 750 hours in an automobile. So really, I was rather apprehensive when I first heard about this because I thought they were going to remove Home Economists also, but as the plan evolved, it wasn't a removal, it was a strengthening and also an inclusion of the City of Winnipeg within that total concept, that we're going to make better Ministers, the two Ministers, with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture between the two departments they hope that this plan will employ more Home Economists.

I might point out too at this time that the point raised by the Member for Souris-Killarney about removing Home Economists from the rural scene, we've actually put more Home Economists out in the school systems because it used to be, you know, in the rural schools they had no Home Economists at all. In fact you never got shops or anything else in rural schools. The only place that you got these shops and home economics were in the city school system. So the school system is now, with these younger people, involved in helping them in the field of home economics, as they are in the field the things that we used to call manual arts and the rest of it. But as far as cutting services back it is not. As a matter of fact there's an expansion of the service in all of these areas and to include the concept within the City of Winnipeg.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolved that a sum not exceeding \$196 million -- The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek,

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say a few words. The discussion on the City of Winnipeg highways and freeways and bridges has come up and I would like to form it more or less in the type of a question to the First Minister because I know we'll have room to debate this on the other part of the estimates. And there have been some very great advances being carried out in different cities regarding traffic patterns, and I think some of us had the opportunity to see some of these ideas that are being presented on television not too long ago.

The one presentation that I would like to refer the First Minister to is the fact that in Ottawa the provincial government of Ontario made a very special request to the people of Ottawa, or to the Federal Government, who is the largest employer in Ottawa, as the First Minister well knows, to work on a staggered-hour system whereby people could come to work between 8:30 and 9:00 or 7:00 and 9:00 and leave as long as they put in those type of hours. And one of the reasons the provincial government of Ontario did this is because they pay 50 percent of the road mile which is also the policy -- I don't know whether it's 50 percent down there but it's certainly the policy for main arteries for the Provincial Government of Manitoba to pay 50 percent of the road mile in the City of Winnipeg, that there would be a very large considerable

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(MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON cont'd) . . . saving of money to both governments and the people generally of Winnipeg could save money and the people generally of Manitoba could save money.

So I would ask the First Minister if there has been any discussion with the City, not from the point of view of telling them what to do, but I think he realizes the Watts Report is a very old report now and I think it could look at some upgrading, and I think we could seriously look at if there's any possibility of saving a lot of money. Nobody is saying we don't need some main arteries changed in this city but if you're going to take the comparison of Ottawa, and I'm one who says let's not compare other areas too often, let's stick to Winnipeg, but I think if we could study that concept and see if it applies to us here, you know, the traffic between 8:30 and 9:00 in Winnipeg is heavy and it's heavy from 4:30 to 6:00, and I think most of us who leave this Legislature if we wait till 20 to 6:00 we can get nearly anywhere in this city in 15 or 20 minutes. So the staggered hour concept could be a way where the provincial government might just suggest to the city that the City of Winnipeg people will save a lot of money and the people of Manitoba could save a lot of money before we rush in and say we're going to go into this whole hog. And I wonder if the Minister can tell us, the First Minister can tell us if he had discussions with Winnipeg on that basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister. The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): I have one or two remarks that would be directed down the same avenue to the First Minister in regards to traffic problems within the city, and I was wondering if the government would give some consideration to the fact that the financial participation that they're going to have in such places as the McGregor Street overpass, the St. Vital - Fort Garry bridge over the Red River, the Osborne Street bridge over the Assiniboine and the benefits that we will be deriving from those, and the amount of money the government is going to be putting in in their portion of the construction, I would like him to give some consideration before all this money is spent, and also I should add in with that is the participation of the provincial government in land acquisition for the inner beltway, which still goes on, I think, according to a question that was answered by the First Minister here last week, if some consideration would be given to an overpass at the Roblin Boulevard Perimeter intersection where we've had the loss of 12 lives in the last few years plus, I'm sure, in excess of 50 people seriously injured and taken away by ambulance and some of them permanently crippled. That intersection is becoming more and more congested because of the Westdale situation, the new development there, with some 7,000 people in it and 450 new homes going in on the riverbank side right at that intersection, and of course all the Portage Avenue traffic, the airport traffic, anybody that works in the west end of Winnipeg will use Portage Avenue and the Perimeter rather than coming out through the three congested east-west roads that we have south of the Assiniboine River. So I would ask the First Minister to consider that when he is answering the questions of the other two members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of specific items that have been raised and I will deal with some although I will, for the most part, accept the invitation or the suggestion of the Honourable the Member for Sturgeon Creek, and defer some of the items for more detailed reply at the time of the main estimates of the department.

Insofar as some of the items raised today, I could indicate to the Honourable the Member for Sturgeon Creek that the question of staggered working hours, the extent to which this could have a real impact on reducing rush hour or concentrated traffic and attempt to spread it just a little more into those hours of the day that at the present time show a very light traffic density pattern, is something which that and also the question of experimental efforts and innovative public transit, are something which we are proposing to discuss with the City of Winnipeg. I believe that already there has gone a request to Department of Urban Affairs staff that process be commenced of a discussion with city officials along that very line. Certainly it is a titillating suggestion, Mr. Chairman, that the Member for Sturgeon Creek makes, and has also been undertaken on a tentative way in the Province of Ontario as he suggested. So we will follow up on that. I think it would be perhaps unrealistic at this point in time to hold out any high hopes as to whether this will in fact have a substantial impact, but it seems from the point of view of common sense to be something that warrants close and detailed scrutiny, and that will be put under way if it isn't already.

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) . . . .

The questions of the Honourable Member for Charleswood with respect to the extent of which we are participating in the acquisition of land for rights of way. As I indicated the other day, the Province of Manitoba, without committing itself to the totality of inner beltways and the like, nevertheless has been proceeding on a steady pace to cost-share in the acquisition of possible or potential future rights of way at certain strategic locations. This is done on a basis of consultation, as he knows, with the City of Winnipeg, and the funds come out of a special revolving fund, which I believe will require replenishment to the extent of half a million dollars or thereabouts in calendar 1974.

I might add as well that the process of acquisition of land and the engineering design work that is needed preliminary to the proceeding with any overpass at the junction of the Perimeter and Roblin Boulevard, is it? is something which is in hand. I would not want that to be construed as meaning that work will necessarily start this year; in fact I don't believe it can; but at least the process of preliminary work is under way and I have the impression that that is something that will be proceeded with in the next year or two. It is certainly one of the higher priorities insofar as the program to add overpasses at certain key locations on the periphery on the outskirts of the city of Winnipeg is concerned, on the perimeter highway and other main arterial streets.

Just at this point offhand, Mr. Chairman, I cannot advise the Member for Charleswood if there is cost-sharing with the City of Winnipeg on the Perimeter Route-Roblin Boulevard overpass. I suspect that one there isn't. It's an all-provincial undertaking by virtue of it involving the Perimeter Highway itself which is a provincial PTH.

Certainly we are not in a position to commit ourselves at this point in time to major extensions of thoroughfare and major bridges until we are satisfied that all of the consequential decisions that have to be made before a major bridge is built, wherever its location, we have to be satisfied with all of the planning, land use planning, land acquisition not only in direct route of the right of way but in that general area, that all those decisions have been taken care of in advance before we can actually commit and confirm provincial participation. And I think that that's only prudent because if we commit in advance to such large undertakings, which really casts the die for the future, and if there isn't adequate provision made for land use, zoning, public landholding for future housing, etc., then we are only succeeding in raising the cost to the City and to the Province, raising the cost rather than the other way around. It seems a pretty fundamental principle, Mr. Chairman, that if the public sector, be it municipality or be it province or a combination of both, is to commit several millions of dollars to the extension of an arterial traffic-carrying capacity and other infrastructure and services into an area that is relatively still raw land, that if that kind of commitment of public funds is to take place, it should take place only after there has been adequate provision made for public land in that general area so that we can proceed with the required development of land for housing, including housing for lower income families, including public housing or social housing as well.

I suppose the historical pattern has been that first a major public expenditure is made in building some major new infrastructure, whether it's sewer or water mains or whether it's arterial roads, and after that is done there may be some effort made by the Crown or the municipality or both to acquire land. Well by that time the land has been greatly increased in price. So there is a certain inescapable logic here as to what the right sequence of action is, and we will try to the maximum extent that is practical to follow the right sequence, which merely underlines the reason why we are not in a position to confirm provincial participation in some of the new capital budget requests - at least not at this point.

In answer to the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, I might indicate that one recognizes that the question of the vacancy rate in housing accommodation is one which is quite variable. I inferred from what the honourable member said that he is concerned that at this point in time there is too low a vacancy rate which is having the effect of adding to the increase in rents and the like. About a year ago we were getting the opposite message, at least from a number of sources, that there was too high a vacancy rate and that this was depressing the apartment rental situation or the apartment market so badly that some of the smaller apartment owners in this city - and even the larger ones - were beginning to feel some of the symptoms of distress. I would like to think that Winnipeg's vacancy rate is not unduly large

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) . . . nor unduly high nor unduly low. The last time I had an opportunity to see some statistical data in this respect in terms of cities in Canada over 100,000 population, that Winnipeg's vacancy rate was not remarkable in one sense or the other, not remarkably high nor remarkably low. Certainly it's no secret that the Province of Manitoba has had as a matter of policy, for some years now, the desire to proceed on quite an impressive scale with the construction of family and senior citizen housing through the MHRC operations, and I quite agree, I quite admit that in the past 18 months there has been quite a slowing down in the rate of construction. This is not because it was our particular desire but rather because of certain decisions or certain administrative difficulties, I don't know which, having to do with City Hall. We have not engaged in acrimony over that problem, but certainly I think it's fair to say that we have definitely had the feeling or the sense of being held back with our housing construction program. I can however, also report that there seems every indication at this point in time that in 1974 we can realistically expect to see some significant increase in the pace of construction of operations of MHRC or including as well, some of the new programs that have been recently announced last fall by the Federal Minister responsible for Urban Affairs and Housing and CMHC.

With respect to the Osborne Street bridge, I'm not quite sure what my honourable friend is suggesting as to whether the Province should take a superseding role relative to the City in deciding how and just what kind of bridge should be built. We have passed on to the City the following information: (1) We are prepared to cost share in the normal way in the construction of that bridge, and that also we forwarded the suggestion that we saw two alternative styles or two alternative types of construction. And we indicated we were quite prepared to accept either and left it to the City to make the decision as to which way they wanted to proceed. I believe we did indicate a non preference with respect to some third and fourth alternatives. We also indicated to the city at the time when we confirmed the availability of the provincial share of the cost, that we assumed that the city would proceed to insure that an adequate impact study or consideration had been carried out. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge indicates that it is a statutory requirement that the environmental impact of a given project be adequately considered and since it is a statutory requirement, we have no reason to assume that they will not proceed to do just that.

On the other hand, we do not -- and we refused to become involved in a situation where we would be second guessing the decision making of the City Fathers. Municipal government exists, it has certain authorities, obligations, powers and we trust that they will carry them out according to their advice received and according to their judgment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister accede to a question? Is not the wording of the Act, Bill 36 of the City of Winnipeg Act, indicate that the impact study on any public works must be done prior to the construction? And is it not true that the City of Winnipeg has now decided to proceed with construction without such an impact study being done? And thirdly, does the province, or has it ever indicated that it would expect the City to adhere at least to the statutory requirements of a provincial act before provincial moneys would be given?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well Mr. Speaker, the City Council and those who sit on the various committees of the City of Winnipeg Council, they have access to administrative advisors. There is a city solicitor. I am sure that they are well able to obtain the requisite administrative and legal advice from those who are retained by the City for just that purpose. We do not intend to give the City a legal opinion here from the Provincial, from the seat of the Provincial Government Offices. We have indicated to the City a willingness to cost share in accordance with the normal formula. Perhaps -- it is just possible, I'd like to avoid speculating, Mr. Chairman, but it is just possible that the City of Winnipeg preferred to obtain confirmation of availability of funds before they took certain steps with respect to other obligations, procedural obligations under the City of Winnipeg Act. I have no idea. But in any case, as to whether or not they are required to do something before or after, is something which they can easily ascertain by obtaining the advice of their solicitors and other senior administrative people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The resolution before the House: Resolved that a sum not exceeding \$196,940,950 being 25 percent of the amount of the several items to be voted for the Departments

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(MR. CHAIRMAN cont'd) . . . as set forth in the main Estimates for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1975 laid before the House at the present session of the Legislature be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1975. (Passed)

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering whether members opposite would like to consider--this was not in the . . . book but we have about six minutes. There's not much point I think in going into Supplementary Supply, unless members think that there's not much to debate on it, so I think the alternative would be, we can go into Supplementary Supply; or we could go into Ways and Means and deal further with Interim, and then first reading of Interim and then see whether the House is disposed to complete Interim. But, you know, I'm certainly not pushing for either of the two alternatives, although I think if there will be any debate on Supplementary Supply there wouldn't be much point in proceeding with it just for five minutes. I wonder if I could have some expression of opinion from members opposite.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Chairman, we have no objection to proceeding now with considering Supplementary Estimates if -- five minutes remaining, we wouldn't be considering very much. I don't think that there are many people on this side of the House who want to contribute to Supplementary Estimates other than the Member for Birtle-Russell who has indicated that he wanted to, and I've sent out for him now, indicated that he wanted some comments to make on one of the items in the Supplementary Estimates. But other than that we have no objection to proceeding now with Supplementaries and complete this particular stage of Supplementary Estimates, if the Member for Birtle Russell can get back in time.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well fine. I think then we should then proceed with Supplementary Supply and if the Member for Birtle-Russell doesn't come in, then it could be held open and he could deal with it tomorrow but we can do as much as we can, there's no rush to go to Ways and Means -- but then -- would you go to Supplementary Supply . . . ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a further sum not exceeding \$16,000 for Legislation. (Passed)

Resolution 2: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a further sum not exceeding \$40,700.00 for Executive Council. (Passed)

Resolution 3: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a further sum not exceeding \$160,000 for Executive Council. (Passed)

Resolution 4: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a further sum not exceeding \$28,500.00 for Agriculture. Pass -- ?

MR. JORGENSON: . . . an explanation of this particular account.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: The explanation is that increased expense is due to the heavy hail damage and additional term people were required to introduce the new Hail Spot Loss Option Program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Passed) Resolution 5: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a further sum not exceeding \$4,800.00 for Attorney-General. (Passed)

Resolution 6: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a further sum not exceeding \$72,600.00 for Attorney-General. The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman --oh the Attorney-General is here. With regards to Land Titles Office, I wonder if the Attorney-General could indicate here, or perhaps he could when his estimates come up if he can't indicate here, what plans there might be underway for streamlining the operations of the Law Courts or the Land Titles Offices located on Broadway. I'm sure that a number of people are better qualified to perhaps comment than myself, but on the rare occasion I do have to use the facilities of that building, it amazes me that such a set-up is still in existence for the processing of the activities that have to go on in that building, and I suspect that there's a great deal of pressures must come from within as well as from without to have something done about the processing that goes on in the Land Titles Office and the physical facilities that are there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Maybe I could just specify some of the directions and then during the fuller estimate review we could discuss different areas in more detail. One, there is plans afoot, preliminary work has been done in order to develop microfilming to place all the titles on microfilm in order to hasten and computerize the entire process of Land Titles Search.



## INTERIM - SUPPLY

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) . . . Two, the Land Titles Office will be moving to the new legal building that is presently under construction, so it will be in new facilities. Three, much complaint had been registered especially during the past summer about delays in registering documents, sometimes those delays would stretch from 4 to 6 weeks. There were a number of problems involved, vacations, illness, the very nature of the summer period encouraged longer delays than what should have occurred in respect to processing documents. It's intended that in the future there'll be more overtime, and here we have provision for greater moneys to be spent in order to bring in personnel to work on an overtime basis, particularly during the vacation period, when we run into these lengthy delays, and from those lengthy delays and those periods, develop most of the complaints about the Land Titles Office. Then, in the rural Land Titles Office there are other problems, which I would, unless members wished, I would go into in greater detail during estimate review, such as the northern area and the locating of all Land Titles' operations from Neepawa. Those are just some of the answers, Mr. Chairman, to some of the problems of the Land Titles Office and some of the intentions to resolve those difficulties.

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if that's satisfactory, could we pass this item and then we start afresh next time we . . . Okay?

MR. JORGENSEN: Oh, so it would . . . No, I just simply, before the committee rose, I just wanted to ask a question of the House Leader and ask him if it was his intention to proceed from this point on when next the committee meets on Supplementary Estimates.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman I think that would be our intention, that we go from here, and that basically was the reason I wondered whether or not instead of leaving this particular item in limbo if it was agreeable to the committee to pass that item and then we will go to the next succeeding item next time we meet.

MR. CHERNIACK: May I also ask when it would be satisfactory -- or I would plan to, subject to the committee still going along with it, to move on to Capital when we are through with current Supplementary Supply bearing in mind the point made by the Member for Riel in regard to the MDC. I wonder if members would . . . Okay?

MR. PAULLEY: . . . if this item passes, then next time we meet we'll go into the Civil Service aspect of supplementaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the will of the committee to pass resolution 6? Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a further sum not exceeding \$77,600.00 for Attorney-General. (Passed)

Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, has directed me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

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

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Vital that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

MR. SPEAKER: The first item, Wednesday being Private Members' Hour -- Orders for Return, debatable. The item stands to the bottom? Very well. Second item, Private Members' Resolution No. 5. The Honourable Member for Crescentwood has 12 minutes.

MR. HARVEY PATTERSON (Crescentwood): Well, Mr. Speaker, we had considerable discussion on this resolution the previous time that it came up, and in talking to the various people there seems to be a wide diversion of opinion concerning the resolution. The resolution is stating that we should take a look at some restriction in the sale of Manitoba land to outsiders. Now when we talked to the people in the rural areas of Manitoba, we find that they are opposed to the program that would follow from that type of legislation. We find that the rural people aren't too interested in restricting the sale of land to whoever it might be; they are more interested in getting a price that they can get, and they're not too concerned whether the man is a Canadian millionaire or an American millionaire or a German millionaire or whoever he might be, and if we're to take that into consideration in proposing some type of legislation as suggested in the resolution, then we're going to run into some difficulty.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I wonder if the honourable members would assist the Chair so that I can hear what's going on?

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would be running into some opposition from the people in the rural communities in light of what the resolution is suggesting, but on the other hand when we talked to our fellow citizens living in the urban areas we find that the results show that they are much in favour of such a program. So, we have two opposing views within the population of Manitoba as to whether the Government should or should not restrict the sale of land to outsiders. So, in a political sense it's really not advantageous to take a real solid position on that because you're, really going to get clobbered from one sector of the society or the other.

But I think that what we really have to look at here and this seems to be the problem that we get, is the recreational land. And there seems to be a great problem that people can't go down to the beach and enjoy the natural resources of our beaches or lake fronts or whatever it might be, and I would think that maybe in that area the government could take some type of action and use the principle that we use on our shore lines, where they have a 12-mile limit, 3-mile limit and what have you; maybe we could have a thousand-foot limit from the beach front backward that would be considered to be Crown land and open for use to the public in that sense. But then, when you take that question and examine it closely sometimes and I don't doubt what some of the members in this House buy a little piece of property down by the beach, and they do so for the sole purpose of getting a little bit of beach front all to themselves where they can have a little peace and quietness, and in that sense you would be restricting the freedom of a person to get that type of accommodation. So you know the resolve of this resolution is really a conundrum that is hard to deal with because whatever you do you're just going to get yourself into trouble with one sector of society or the other.

Now the often discussed question of non national ownership of land is in reality an indication of the fact that critical multiple use resource areas -- and often these are the ones that non nationals are interested in -- are usually tied up under private ownership and thereby not available for the general public use. Now, then we come back to the thing of a non national ownership. Now how do we deal with that particular question? Well, if you're a land speculator and you've got lots of money, then you're going to buy up land that is relatively close to expanding areas of urbanization and you know that within the very near future you're going to reap a nice profit from that. So I would think that our government, whoever the government might be, might have some responsibility in that area of watching the development of land sales close to urban areas for the expansion of future urban development, because the price of land is just sky-rocketing out of all proportion and no doubt someone somewhere is making a tidy profit from that type of speculation.

There's another problem that has come to the fore in the last few years, and that is from the people in Manitoba who do a lot of hunting. They are complaining that - now whether they be foreigners or whether they be just ordinary Canadians that come in and buy up blocks of Manitoba land and then charge a fee for residents of Manitoba to hunt on that property, and that also is quite a problem and causing a lot of concern. Now is the government prepared to step in and say that Mr. X from Ontario can't buy X number of sections of land in Manitoba to turn it into a private hunters' vacation land? And the people of Manitoba have taken a strong

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(MR. PATTERSON cont'd) . . . . stand against that and the Minister responsible for that has it under advisement, and I'm hopeful that we can get a resolve in that area in the coming years ahead.

The other solution to the problem that the resolution proposed is expropriation of land by the government. Now that entails millions of dollars if we're going to expropriate land and the resolution is somewhat in odds to that type of policy of expropriation. If we want to bring land under government control then that is what we would have to be prepared to do and the government would have to be prepared to fund that type of action, and that would involve huge sums of money. --(Interjection)-- Pardon. Well you can reap all you like but sooner or later you're going to get caught up in the reaping of the benefits from that type of a program because there is a limit to the amount of money that government can use in that area.

But the resolution as I said previously, is relatively close to the philosophy of a lot of members in the New Democratic Party and I was just looking over some resolutions that we had at our last convention and it's very close to that that's stated in the resolution. But, you know, it's nice to get up at conventions and say that the sale and leasing of private and public land in Manitoba be limited to landed immigrants, the Canadian citizens and Canadian owned, and if it's a corporation, the corporation must be at least 51 percent Canadian owned. But when you're in government and you're faced with enacting legislation that's going to do that type of thing, that's a different ball of wax because the people in the rural areas don't particularly support that, where the people in the city do. And the resolution states that the Government of Manitoba consider the advisability of introducing legislation which will have the effect of restricting -- and the word "restricting" is really the key word -- the sale and purchase of Manitoba farms and recreation land in such a way as to ensure that such land will only be owned by Canadians or landed immigrants. In the matter of farms, well I don't know which farmer in this House is intending to sell his land in the near future, but I'm sure that he would rather strongly object to the government saying that he could only sell the land to a Canadian citizen irregardless of what the Canadian citizen did for that land. And let's say that some man from Texas was to happen on the scene and offered the Canadian farmer \$20,000 more for that land than what the Canadian citizen had, then would the government of Manitoba be prepared to subsidize the farmer the \$20,000 in order that he could get the price that had been proposed to him. And if that were the case, then how could you prove that there wasn't collusion along the line between the man from Texas and the Manitoba farmer because a lot of Manitoba farmers nowadays go south for the winter, you know, and they could talk to the man from Texas and sort of make a little deal when they were getting up in their later years and looking for a retirement to dispose of their farm in that manner, so the government could be caught in a real squeeze in that area also. And you can't blame the farmer for taking advantage of that type of a situation because the farmer's no different than any of the other people in society, if there's a dollar to be made he's going to make it and I say good luck to him.

Well, let's talk about Manitoba economy -- and it's quite true that so goes the Manitoba economy in the agriculture area so goes the economy of Manitoba because when the farmer's prosperous we're all prosperous and we're always hoping that they have a good crop and enjoy relatively high prices. And just aside from that, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that the farmers were pleased with the visit of Mr. Whelan to our province recently where he advised that the price of beef would be going up, and I don't begrudge the farm boys that increase in price at all because they earn every cent that they can get for their product -- but it just gets back to the old situation of government control. And this is what the resolution is suggesting, a government control of something that has been left in the hands of the individual or the private entrepreneur over the years. And really I haven't made up my mind about this resolution yet, I'm still open on it and I'm going to listen to the debate of the other members and hopefully the argument can resolve the indecision in my mind as to what would be the right policy; whether we take the position of the resolution and restrict the sale -- and the resolution is quite definite in that area, it says restrict the sale, or whether we take the other route and come up with some kind of a -- well you could call it a wishy-washy policy, where we'd have some latitude to move. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a few words to this resolution because for one reason I think it is beginning to highlight what is becoming I would

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . hope a more widespread concern in the Chamber, and that is the basic question of the use and planning and ultimate utilization of land in the Province of Manitoba. One thing that I think we are beginning to sense is that around about us there is a number of very important questions related to how we use that is probably our most valuable heritage and our most valuable resource, and that is the space we occupy.

And I'd like to first begin by considering some of the arguments that have been raised by other members, and I think some very important considerations have been raised. I think the last member who spoke in many cases articulated some of the important considerations that have to be looked at in this resolution that was advanced by this group.

I'd like to begin, Mr. Speaker, first by referring members to what basic problem we are trying to adjust ourselves to, and I don't think it's right for us to pretend that we are still living in some halcyon age of the 1910s or 20s when the total right of freehold was something that was a basic right of every westerner and every western Canadian, because the economic factors of the world economy are beginning to impinge upon the Province of Manitoba as they impinge on every other area of the world; that we can't any longer ignore some basic alterations in the economic structures of the international economy. And one of these is that there is literally billions of dollars finding some place to land, some valuable good that they can look on; when you get into an inflationary period you can know that anything that has substance to it becomes a valued commodity. And the fact that we are beginning to face in Manitoba is that large corporations, consortiums supplied by literally hundreds of millions of dollars far more capital that's available in the Province of Manitoba ever to compete with, is now beginning to come into the Province of Manitoba and sight unseen is saying, what have you got to sell, I'll buy it and don't even bother me with the price. And I think that that particular fact was confirmed by the Minister of Agriculture in his Estimates presentation of a week ago when he in fact said the same thing, that his indications are the same kind of thing, that there is literally large amounts of capital searching for all available land.

Now the consequence of that action, and I would address this point to the members on this side is that if that is allowed to happen we are in danger of committing or condemning future members of young western Canadians to become simply renters or tenants on large agricultural estates.

A MEMBER: Land lease.

MR. AXWORTHY: Now that is a problem -- well land lease, but at least a land lease is run by a provincial government that you can elect people in and out of. You have no control over a German corporation or an Arab corporation or an American corporation because they're in no way, in any way, part of the law of this country, and if they're not part of the law of this country we have no way of controlling them.

And I'd like to bring to the attention, for example, I have received some correspondence from rural people about his and I would refer, the Member for Minnedosa might be particularly interested, where I received from a young farmer in his area who said that he started out sharing the kinds of opinions that I've heard some members on this side express -- he says: "It's my view now that non Canadian buyers are influencing the selling price of land more so than the government. One example is that few sales in my area that I've heard were made to German citizens at \$200 per acre for land was at the time selling from \$90 to \$150 per acre. They do not even come over here to look at it first." And he says, "I've heard of other numerous reports in 1972 and 1973 that many Americans are now buying land, and are now renting to Manitobans as well in some cases coming up to do the job of seeding and harvesting themselves and returning." I'd be glad to send this letter over to the Member of Minnedosa, he might be prepared to meet with that gentleman.

But the point I'm trying to make is that -- and I think this is where the Member from Crescentwood is not accurate. This is not simply a problem that's perceived as a problem in the province within the City of Winnipeg, it is being perceived in rural areas. I would present to him again as a piece of evidence that in the discussion of the Environmental Council of Manitoba last year which I had the honour of being elected as Chairman, not appointed, which would be a little bit of an anomaly -- as the Chairman of that, the major concern of the rural members of that council and they represented a wide variety of agricultural organization and a wide variety of areas within the province; their major concern was land use, and part of that concern was the fact that large amounts of land were being purchased by non

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . residents of Manitoba for the use simply either of holding the land for speculative purposes or for turning it into a form of tenancy.

So it is not something that I - and I would suggest that one of the requirements of this Legislative Chamber should be to determine the facts of the case. And I would bring to their attention the activity that's been going on in the Province of Prince Edward Island over the past two or three years, where they also began to see the same kind of problem; and I think that what they did was also something that this Chamber consider, and that is they set up a special legislative inquiry into who is using land, who is buying it, what is it being used for and the potential restrictive action and the restrictive use on land by residents of P.E.I. because of the large scale purchases.

And I would again recommend it -- members haven't seen it -- I'd be quite prepared to table the reports of that committee in this House because they indicate some very interesting things. They began to find out that Canada alone amongst western countries has almost no restriction on the purchase of land by non residents. The United States has it, Mexico has it, Germany has it, Great Britain has it, France has it; Canadians don't have it because, one reason is because of our federal structure and it's a provincial matter. But the point that they were making in the Island of Prince Edward Island and the legislators of Prince Edward Island are no more radical then members of this Chamber are, perhaps far less so in that they of course have had a good solid respectable common sense Liberal Government for the past several years, they began to see the problem happening in their own province. The legislators in the Province of Ontario have seen the problem and they've set up special committees, the same thing has occurred in British Columbia and in Saskatchewan. So this is not something that we are presenting because we think it's an interesting idea. We're presenting it because it is becoming a common concern right across this country about who is going to own the land and ultimately what is going to be the use of that land. So I think it's pretty clear that the problem exists and I think it's very important that we find out the range and degree and extent of the problem.

Now the Minister of Agriculture in his debate on Estimates says, but we have the solution, don't worry about it, our land lease program is the answer. He said, and if it isn't the answer we'll take one step further and we'll buy land up from anybody and we won't allow any kind of absentee landlords. Well I'd just like to bring to the attention of the Minister that if he intends to use the land lease program as the way of trying to compete with foreign owners of land, that he is going to pauperize the province because we just don't have the capital to compete, that we would use every single available red cent and we wouldn't be in their league. And I would recommend to the Minister and to some of his colleagues that they look at some of assessments being done, and I would recommend to their concern the metaphor of the elephant and the chicken in that when the elephant, which in this case is large multi-national corporations or land consortiums with literally hundreds of millions of dollars and with no concern where it goes, I don't think the Province of Manitoba can get into the business of trying to compete. And that's why we think that in addition to the purchasing of land and leasing it back to farmers in cases, we need additional instruments, and if they read the resolution carefully -- and I would ask the Member from Crescentwood who still has an open mind, to read it carefully -- we say "consider the advisability", and we have had a little debate in this House about the meaning of that word. It is to "consider the advisability" of restrictive measure on foreign ownership, which could be a form of screening agency simply to review the transactions, determine who is purchasing them and as they are now doing in Prince Edward Island, the proposal they're making there, is simply to bring it before a review agency and give residents of P.E.I. first option on any land that comes up for sale. If there is no option available then it can go to foreign ownerships. So they have set up a formula that is workable but they are simply saying, we have got to do something more than simply letting it happen. And so all we're suggesting it that it is the - we ask the government to consider the advisability of looking at these various means and techniques that are being incorporated in other provinces as a way of controlling the problem of foreign ownership of our land both agricultural and recreational.

I would suggest that we could even take, if nothing else, the first step to ask the government to set up a committee of this Legislature to look into the problem; to consider actions being taken in other provinces, to consider what in fact is the case. I asked the Minister of Agriculture a week ago, and he didn't answer me really and I wish he had, to lay

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . his evidence on the table of this House. He says he has reports and he has a large staff of civil servants, far more so than we are able to command on this side, and I would like to know what evidence he does have --(Interjection)-- Well, but the university I suggest to the Minister of Labour sometimes needs resources to carry out that research and this government hasn't been well noted for its supply of those resources to do that kind of research, and while certainly the talent and expertise is there, the where-withal is not so, that if the Minister of Labour is now prepared to commit his government to providing more additional resources so that the universities can study the problem, I'm sure they'd be more than happy to take him up on his gesture of support.

So I would think in fact that would be a magnanimous gesture of the Minister of Labour if he was prepared to sort of commission a series of independent studies by some of our agricultural economists and land people at the university. The skill is there, the problem is we're just not using the skills, and I couldn't agree more with the Minister of Labour. --(Interjection)-- That's right. We've got the skills there, but skills have to have some resources to use. So let's go out -- give them the money so that they can go out and study the problem so we can get proper information back into this House, so that when we debate what is a very important issue we don't simply debate it on the level of rhetoric or . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. AXWORTHY: If we don't debate it on the level of hyperbole which I know is a favourite source of ammunition for the Minister of Labour, that what we do is on the basis of fact, what in fact is going on. What are the facts of the situation? I know that -- and sometimes the Minister doesn't like to confuse his opinions with the facts but in this case the important, the issue is so important that we should look at that particular issue based upon the best kind of data, statistics and analysis that is available, and I would --(Interjection)-- Well, I would certainly think that we should consider the Minister's suggestion and I would be glad to incorporate it in this resolution.

But the point we're trying to make is that while I think there is the beginning of an agreement that the problem exists, the kinds of solutions that are being offered at the present moment are either partial or have the potential of bankrupting this province if the Minister of Agriculture is really serious, that what he's going to do is to go into a bidding scheme with the large sort of land purchasers beyond these borders. So we're suggesting that along with the kind of program he is looking at, that we also look at the effectiveness of things like screening agencies, or to require the registration or the public disclosure of land transactions being conducted by non-residents or non-landed immigrants so that we can provide some basis of assessment of what kind of dangers we're in.

Let me finally deal with an argument that was raised by the Minister of Mines and Resources, and this goes back about two weeks. He made a very curious speech I thought, because he said: What's the point of being a Canadian about this? You know, why should we be worried? And there have been a few slight suggestions from other members of the other side of the House that this is kind of a nationalist thing. Well, to begin with, I don't understand why that's such a problem, but let me look at the practicality of why it should be considered in terms of a national boundary. And it goes back to that old ancient legal word called "sovereignty", which means that it is being able to control what goes on inside your own boundaries and having the legal right to require obligations of those, and what we have certainly experienced in this country in the last 20 or 25 years with the existence of large scale foreign ownership in multi-national corporations is that we have very limited control. And we have seen the example, Mr. Speaker, in the last two weeks with the sale of locomotives in Montreal, that unless government is prepared to get really tough and fortunately the people in Ottawa got tough, that it is American law which applies to foreign ownership, not Canadian law. And I would suggest that that is one reason why we've got to take action here.

There was an interesting example I would like to point out to the members that occurred in the Northwest Territories last spring that was reported in Time Magazine of about a month ago, where a number of recreation lodges owned again by an American corporation simply in the middle of the season decided to cancel out, which left something like two or three hundred Canadians without jobs, mainly university students; left a number of guests who had committed themselves to going up there without any place to go -- and we had no legal right to bring them to court because they just simply scooted back across the border and we had no legal recall.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . So of course there is a very practical reason, because we have sovereignty over our own citizens and we don't have the same kind of sovereignty over people who exercise and are under the law of a different land -- and that is one of the basic requirements, that if we're going to have some control over the use of our land then we must have the legal right to exercise that control.

And I would suggest -- the final point, Mr. Speaker, and I have heard members in this House make the case which I agree with, that in the next ten or fifteen years increasingly we are going to have to be more and more careful about how we use our agricultural areas, because the supply of food to the world is a basic responsibility of this country and we're going to have to be better at and shrewder at it and smarter at it than we have been up to now. We just have to make sure that we make the best use and the best rationalization of our agricultural resource, and that's where we start with -- land. And I would suggest that if we don't have the sovereignty over the people who can determine what the use of that land is, then we eliminate or reduce our ability to properly plan and properly forward the development of agriculture in this country. And I would suggest that the same kind of considerations that are now being raised about the development of the Athabasca Tar Sands by the Premier of Alberta, when he says that we cannot allow Japanese or American or British interests to control the development of those resources because when the time comes for the Canadians to determine whether we need the oil and gas they will be the owners of it -- applies equally the same to our agricultural and recreational resources. We must have within the Legislatures of our own provinces the ability to determine and control the use of land, and we can't have that if a large proportion of that land is owned by non-residents or people who have no obligation and responsibility to the sovereignty of our own province or our federal jurisdiction. And that's the reason why this resolution is being introduced. We are quite prepared to meet in Committee in this Legislature to work out the different techniques, to make the assessments, to commission the studies that the Minister of Labour would like to do, but for goodness sake let's take some action before once again we find that the problem has got beyond our control and all we can do is react. I think we have now time to anticipate and to provide for a proper kind of incentive and initiative; the time is now, and if we leave it much longer we're going to find ourselves with the -- to use the metaphor that I've heard members here use -- with the barn door closed and the horse is already out. So I would suggest the time to act is now, and it is the consideration of this government at least to set up a committee of this Chamber to study the problem -- and certainly we could go much further than that -- so this Chamber and this Assembly can begin to once again cope with a major issue of importance to people throughout the whole Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to just say a few words in respect to the resolution before us. I think the first premise that one would have to commence from is that the resolution before us is too narrow, in that it deals with only one particular land use problem, that pertaining to the purchase of lands by non-Canadians, non-landed immigrants. And I want to say this to the honourable members, that certainly this is an area that we ought to want to examine. I would say however, that it matters not too much whether the person is a Manitoban or an Ontarionite, if in fact by their acquisition of large holdings, whether it be along the lakes or the shorelines of our recreational areas or whether it be the purchase of large holdings in rural areas and not farming them but speculating on them -- that that really is no better than if those -- that is an area of ownership and use of land which is one that we would want to examine also; that there's not any particular virtue in that land be owned only by Manitobans to the exclusion of all others, I think it is the use to which one puts land and the availability of our recreational areas to the public at large. And here I think that we have to discuss the wide spectrum of use, we have to examine the use that is put to our shorelines along our rivers, whether it's the Assiniboine or the Red River, Lake Winnipeg -- the availability of our recreational areas to the public at large, that those recreational areas are not choked off by the private exclusion of a few individuals. We want those recreational areas made available to all, and thus the technique of public land ownership and assembly is the best safeguard in that type of situation.

Certainly the Minister of Education was quite correct when he referred to the land purchase lease back ownership by the Province of Manitoba, in ensuring that farm families

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(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) . . . . have the option, the option to continue to enjoy earning their living from agricultural pursuits by the type of program that has been advanced by the Minister of Agriculture as an alternative to many farm families that would otherwise be forced off the land.

Then we have the entire question of land use in and about the urban areas, and I think here we have to explore very fully the best means, the best way that we can in the most maximum way develop that land for our future generations. I think it is unfortunate for instance that rich fertile farm lands are turned into ugly urban jungles. It's sad when one, for instance, travels between Toronto and Hamilton to see the concrete jungle that has developed, has sprung up there over the past decade or two, once rich fertile farm land being emasculated. And that is a conflict in land use that we would want to avoid, and we ought to develop therefore better zoning and land development control so that the maximum use is made of our lands not only for this generation but for future generations. We should want to ensure that those land when they are developed for subdivision purposes have adequate facilities for schools, proper highway transportation facilities, into the urban centres, proper sewer and water connections or septic tank, septic field facilities. There are so many areas that have to be explored within this entire question of use of land, and I think that the challenge is before us to do a better job than what we have been doing and what has been done in prior years in this regard.

I think that there is a great deal to be said for some of the comments that were made by the Minister of Agriculture the other day that farm lands ought to be occupied by the actual users of those farm lands unless a reasonable exemption, whether it be one section or two sections; certainly anything in excess of that should be occupied by the family itself, that is realizing income from that land. We should want to discourage the ownership of farm lands by non-residents, whatever the nationality of the non-resident is, because this is not a nationality question but it is a -- let me say, a question of use of lands in the maximum way for future generations. We have at the present time the very subject matter of the honourable member's resolution proceeding to the Supreme Court of Canada for a ruling as to whether it is constitutional or not. So we do not know at this point whether the resolution as such is one that will be supported by the highest court in the land in the final analysis after the hearings are completed, which I gather will be dealt with within the next four to six weeks. So there's a legal question involved in the nature of the resolution before us.

But the intent of this resolution is a correct one, that we should want to ensure that for the present generation for our children and our children's children that the maximum utilization is used of our agricultural and recreational lands in Manitoba; that we safeguard them for the use of Manitobans in general and not for a few -- whether that few be Manitobans or non-Manitobans. It's a major challenge. There's much more to be developed by way of research and information. There is going to be large lobby and interest groups that will have to be resisted; whether those lobby and interest groups be in the nature of land speculators of a local nature or a non-provincial nature, they will have to be resisted if we are going to fulfill our responsibility to those that have entrusted us with office here.

With those words then, Mr. Speaker, I would like to amend, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rupertsland, that all words in the final paragraph following the word "That" in the second last paragraph of the operative section of the resolution be deleted and the following be substituted: "lands in Manitoba be protected for the most beneficial use by Manitobans."

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin. Before the honourable member proceeds let me again ask the co-operation of members when they are making resolutions, to at least make three or four copies so that other people will be aware of what the resolution is that's being amended or how. I'm sure the Honourable Member for Roblin will now want to speak, and he does not have an amendment before him.

The Honourable Member for Roblin,

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): That's basically my problem, Mr. Speaker, that I do want to speak to the resolution, and I think I've got it off the top of my head basically what the Honourable the Minister was trying to get across. But, Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting resolution that certainly has inspired us to debate it, and one I think that does deserve the type of consideration that the Honourable the Minister has brought. I think I likely would have amended it, because I find that, like he said, that it's too restrictive for me



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(MR. McKENZIE cont'd) . . . . to deal with, especially the last paragraph.

And, Mr. Speaker, of course, it's a matter of how you view the development of our great Province of Manitoba and how you read this resolution. If you go out into the rural areas of Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, that I represent, we are crying our eyes out for development out there and for people to come into the area to help us develop the Ethelbert, Pine River communities, Cowan, those countries up in there. There's lots of room for people out there and I find it very difficult to have to restrict the development of our province to, as the Resolution said, Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.

And let's just trace the development of Manitoba as it exists today, to some of those early settlers that came in here. An example that comes to light in my mind is the Steinbach area and, Mr. Speaker, that was sub marginal land that the average citizen that was in Manitoba in those days, couldn't handle that type of a farming operation and to make that type of an area produce. So we have these people that came in, they were Mennonite people that came in, brought all their skills and brought all their talents with them and taught us in this province how to handle sub marginal land and turned it into a Garden of Eden. Now, Mr. Speaker, in those days we had been dealing in Manitoba with that type of restriction that we were not allowed to have these people come in from other jurisdictions that have their many skills and their many talents, and can bring us knowledge in the dairy industry as an example. Look at the people, that we could get from Holland to come in here where we're having some problems today to stimulate the dairy industry, but under the resolution, Mr. Speaker, that is presented by the Liberals, that possibility would be ruled out unless we brought it in in the form of expertise, but not people that were going to get actively involved.

I was having breakfast the other morning in the hotel and a young gentleman about 28 or 29 years of age, an American, a very sharp young gentleman wants to come up here and farm. He looked to me to have all the talents and the ability to be one of us and to help us develop the part of Manitoba that I belong to, and I certainly said to him yes, I think we would welcome young people like you that are interested in coming up here -- not because he's an American, but because he's interested in coming in, because I don't think Manitoba is near ready for this type of resolution. --(Interjection)-- Yes, lives on the land. Right. And I think that we want to encourage young people to come in here and help us get back on the land where we've had this shift for the last few years and help to make the full development, especially of our rural areas.

The other thing, Mr. Speaker, that I often, you know, get hung up with this type of resolution, we're living in a continental type of world today; I don't see how it's possible to isolate ourselves from our neighbours. We can pass zoning by-laws, we can restrict people to things that they can do, we can pass legislation to control people and that, but how can we be so -- so -- to our American friends to the south, when here we are, you know, just across the border from them. In the estimates that we are dealing with with Hydro in the questioning in the House today, it was already revealed in the committee that we are going to be selling power to our friends across the border. Now how could we possibly negotiate with them for some of our surplus energy and at the same time restrict them coming into our country, and this is where I find it difficult to . . . I agree that we should regulate and control the resources, but it's very difficult, and the resolution I think too restricted for me to be able to support. Mr. Speaker, it is certainly well known that in our urban communities today that we do need this type of control, because as the Honourable the Minister of Highways revealed, some of the problems that we have in our urban communities today are most difficult ones and ones that had they had some zoning regulations or restrictions placed in those days, we mightn't have had some of those concrete jungles that are there today.

But, Mr. Speaker, the people in rural Manitoba are basically on the horns of a dilemma, with that type of resolution, and it's certainly in our rural areas, some of those horns are cutting fairly deep, because we are needing people to come out and to go on farms today. As I mentioned I believe in one of my speeches last year in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, an area from, I believe it's from Ethelbert, you drive up towards Camperville -- there used to be 35, 40 families in there; I think there's only three left in that area today, it's three or four. Now it would be most unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, if we were to pass the type of resolution and restrict that to, it had to be people that are Canadians or landed immigrants.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would think that the resolution is a good one, Mr. Speaker, it's one

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(MR. MCKENZIE cont'd) . . . . that certainly has inspired us to debate -- and I find it rather difficult to support the Liberal resolution, because of it being too restricted and tying us in too tight. But I see no problem, Mr. Speaker, in supporting the amendment that was presented by the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs, where he amends the last part of it there and says that: "Be it resolved that the Government of Manitoba consider the advisability of introducing legislation that will have the effect of restricting the sale and purchase of Manitoba farms and recreation lands in such a way to insure that lands in Manitoba be protected for the most beneficial use by Manitobans." The recreational aspect of it, Mr. Speaker, is one again that certainly has merit. I think that the programs of government being involved in our parks and the development of our parks and the control and the restriction of our parks has been a good program, and it's an on-going thing that I think most members in fact all members in the Legislature support.

On the other hand, I see nothing wrong with a private person, if he wants to develop a little recreational area on his property, why should we restrict him? Some of the people that have locations -- the Honourable Member for Swan River has a lovely location where his home is located on the bank of a river, an area that could be developed for recreation and for -- and I don't think the government should lock him in and tell him that he can't develop that for a recreational area if he so desired. I think they could restrict him, what he could do and what he couldn't do by regulation or law, but I think that he should have the right to do it if he so desires, but in the main I don't think that there's anything wrong with --(Interjection)-- Well there's nothing wrong with the government providing park space as well in our recreational areas, but in the cities -- again where you have as we have in the city here, half a million people -- and certainly I think we have to provide them for recreational areas in the city and the province, together and with the community clubs. And so therefore that part of the resolution, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't give me that much problem, so Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I would be in support of the amendment that has been presented to this resolution by the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

QUESTION put. Amendment CARRIED.

QUESTION put. Amendment on resolution CARRIED.

RESOLUTION No. 22

MR. SPEAKER: Resolution No. 22. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON JOHNSTON: Mr. Clerk, may I have the resolution? Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Assiniboia:

WHEREAS it has been traditional in this Legislative Assembly that Members of the Executive Council are required to present their Estimates for approval by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS this government has presently a Minister in this House who is not required to present his Departmental Estimates for approval by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba taxpayers are required to pay taxes, premiums, surcharges and penalty premiums to cover the ten million dollar deficit incurred by Autopac for which the Minister has responsibility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House instruct the Minister responsible for Autopac to present a set of Estimates for the examination by this House.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. GORDON JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the annual report of Autopac is the only annual report that cannot be discussed in this House. I believe it's the only one, I could be wrong, there may be one or two others -- but I believe any annual report that's required by statute and brought into this House and tabled, there is a method and a manner in which it can be discussed. Now we have, with the situation as it is, a Minister who has a responsibility, but he does not have the responsibility of presenting a set of estimates in the House -- and I would think he himself does not think this is very desirable, because how can he carry out his responsibilities as a Minister for a department when he doesn't have to answer to the House?

I know my honourable friends are going to say well, you'll have all sorts of time and latitude in Committee, and you can examine the General Manager of Autopac and the Minister can sit there like a glorified office boy and allow a civil servant to carry the ball. Well that isn't my idea of democracy, and I hate to see this precedent started, because once

## RESOLUTION 22

(MR. JOHNSTON cont'd) . . . . it's done with this -- well, the next piece of enterprise that the government wishes to go into, they can set that aside and away from the elected members also, and they can say: Well, you can come for an hour or two to a committee and ask some questions of the General Manager and that's the end of it. So I think that it's a very dangerous precedent that we allow this to happen, that it's taking away from the parliamentary process in Manitoba. And as far as I can recall, and I haven't researched it all the way back to Day One, but it's the only instance where we have a department of government with the spending that in this case, \$40 million of spending and a ten million-dollar --(Interjection)-- or a \$40 million business. Well, I wish the Minister for Autopac would do me the courtesy of listening, because I hope he's going to come into the debate and say what he's saying from his seat now. I would like to have it on the record.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I think again, that, whether this corporation is showing a profit or a deficit -- in this case it happens to be a deficit of over 10 million -- it's the people's business, and the people's business should be discussed in this Chamber. The only method by which we can now approach the Minister in this House is by probably some complicated parliamentary procedure, speaking on a grievance or by the odd question or something like that -- the Minister doesn't have to answer. He doesn't have to explain, he doesn't have to account. You know, some harsh words have been used by members in opposition of actions of members of the government. Well this is not democracy, it's the furthest thing removed from democracy, when the government can run a business and not answer to anyone except themselves.

So -- I don't have a set of facts and figures before me. I'm talking about the principle and the idea, that it's not right; it's just not right that government should be able to unilaterally take an action, do what they're doing in this case and answer to no one, answer to no one. The Member for Souris-Killarney in an aside to me a few minutes ago, he said: "If a private corporation had the kind of an experience that the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation has had, that company would go out of business, it couldn't last, it couldn't last. To lose \$10 million, it couldn't last." --(Interjection)-- Well the Minister will have his opportunity, I'll hope he'll get in the debate and tell us what's on his mind.

So I'm suggesting again that the Minister should bring in a set of estimates, it should be examined in the traditional way and then the resolution should be carried or not, depending on of course the government's majority. And I really think that if the members opposite upon reflection who say that they are trying to do everything in the democratic manner, would examine this closely and see if they really think it's right. I know they're afraid of some debate that will maybe make them look bad, but I saw them operate before, they've never really backed off. I admire my honourable friends opposite, they're not afraid to debate. Well why don't they say: Let us have a debate on this. Because they have the majority and they can vote this down or amend it to mean nothing, but is it democratic to do that? Is it really?

So I'm asking my honourable friends to give the members of the House the opportunity to debate their actions, because after all it was them that pushed this through -- it was opposed 100 percent by members on the opposition -- but now that it's through, surely there should be a responsibility continuing year after year for the Minister to stand up in this House and defend his estimates and put them through the House. Now I'm sure that he'll agree with me. I don't see how he can do anything otherwise than to agree that as a responsible Minister he should answer to the House and not answer to his party and caucus only. Because if that's the way you think and do it with the one, Mr. Speaker, if the NDP government can do it with one, they can do it with everything, they can do it with every annual report.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hour of 5:30 having arrived, the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 tomorrow afternoon, (Thursday)