

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of MANITOBA
Thursday, June 16, 1977

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Honourable Peter Fox (Kildonan): Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 15 students, Grades 7 and 8 standing of the Ninette Elementary School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Tom Emslie. This school is located in the Constituency of the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney, the Leader of the Opposition.

On behalf of the honourable members, we welcome you here.

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.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. STERLING LYON (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Mines. Can the Minister advise whether or not the announcements of determinations by the Congress of the United States yesterday with respect to Garrison will result in any change with respect to the events as he was forecasting them to us the other day with respect to the IJC report and what may follow thereupon?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HONOURABLE SIDNEY GREEN (Inkster): No, Mr. Speaker, I've tried to indicate from time to time, and I think the Honourable Leader of the Opposition's question is really intended to highlight it because I'm sure he understands it, that we are before the International Joint Commission on the proposal that we all have had the same objection to. That has never been changed and that is what the IJC will be ruling on.

In the meantime, from time to time the legislative and political process and executive process in the United States is fighting about this program. That is not a matter which is taken cognizant of by the IJC unless they receive notice thereof from the United States, and that is a particular area which I have studiously avoided commenting on or participating in because I don't think it does us any good.

Naturally I expressed some satisfaction about what President Carter was doing but I carefully avoided the dispute between himself and Congress. It doesn't change our position and to my knowledge the last I heard, the report from the International Joint Commission which deals with the entire program which we find objectionable, will be forthcoming in the month of July.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney-General. In view of the public announcements that there are two or three crime families operating in Toronto, I wonder if the Attorney-General can indicate whether there are any crime families operating in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HONOURABLE HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, all that I can base my reply on is the advice that I've received from those that are engaged in the investigation of crime, and they have advised me that there are none.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Minister for Renewable Resources. I wonder if the Minister could confirm that the barge or ferry constructed by Purvis Boat Works at Selkirk for use on Lake Winnipeg is now completed and sitting in the Selkirk slough.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Renewable Resources.

HONOURABLE HARVEY BOSTROM (Rupertsland): Mr. Speaker, the craft has been almost completed. There are still some minor works to be completed on the super-structure before it can be fully put into operation. It will be put through certain trial tests on Lake Winnipeg before moving to its final destination, that is Cross Lake, Manitoba, it will serve the community of Cross Lake as a link between the all-weather road and the community of Cross Lake.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. I wonder if he could advise the House if the ferry service between Hecla Island, Black Island, Hole River run this summer will be underway or is it under way now?

MR. BOSTROM: That service will be available, Mr. Speaker, hopefully, around the first week in July and will operate for the months of July and August.

MR. BLAKE: Is there a vessel available to provide this service or is there another vessel under construction?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Speaker, there is a vessel available which is presently being used to provide

service to the communities of Princess Harbour, Bloodvein and Matheson Island, and will be operating there until approximately the end of the fishing season. It will serve during the months of July and August for the run between Hecla Island and Hole River; and in the months of September until freeze-up it will operate again at Bloodvein and Princess Harbour.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HONOURABLE SAMUEL USKIW (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments to Bill 56 are being distributed. I want to advise the House that His Honour has been advised of the proposed amendments and recommends them to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HONOURABLE SAUL A. MILLER (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, if you have got Bill 87, there are some amendments which I would like to distribute to the House. These amendments don't change anything substantive but they come about as a result of discussions and advice from the assessment people, both municipal assessors and city assessors. It is their advice that the wording is being changed. I'd like to distribute it to the House so they have it before Committee of the Whole House deals with it.

ORAL QUESTIONS (Cont'd)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Is the Minister aware that his department is notifying residents who occupy Crown summer lots that they cannot have tents on their summer lots in the summer months?

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

HONOURABLE BEN HANUSCHAK (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice. I'm sure that there must be, and only makes sense that there be certain restrictions as to the use to which some residential property be put, and I will check into that particular matter.

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

HONOURABLE LEONARD S. EVANS (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, with leave I would table a Return to an Order of the House No. 40.

ORAL QUESTIONS (Cont'd)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN: My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development, Mr. Speaker. Some time ago I asked the Minister whether a decision had been made on whether a personal care home was going to be constructed at Pine Falls and he took the question as notice. I wonder if the Minister could give me some answer on that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Health.

HONOURABLE LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, it's so noisy in here that I'll have to guess at the question. I heard part of it. The Pine Falls personal care home, I've asked for some information, I haven't got it yet. But I might tell my honourable friend if the Pine Falls wasn't on the list that I gave him, the five-year program, there probably won't be anything going at this time. But I'll have a definite answer for him tomorrow.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, before Orders of the Day, I have some substitutions on Law Amendments.

We substitute the name of Mr. Banman for Mr. Graham; Mr. Enns for Mr. Johnston; and Mr. McGill for Mr. Brown.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed. The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. THOMAS BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a change on the Law Amendment Committee, too.

The names of Pawley, Howard; Barrow; Jenkins; Walding; Doern and Malinowski will be replaced by the names of Hanuschak; Bostrom; Toupin; Peterson; Desjardins and Miller.

ORAL QUESTIONS (Cont'd)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister indicate whether the Member for La Verendrye has land leased from the Crown? I mean the Member for Gladstone.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I think the Member for Radisson should refresh his memory by checking a document that was tabled in Committee or in the House a year or so ago listing all of those who have a contract or lease of land with the Province of Manitoba. I believe that it is correct that the Member for Gladstone as well as Lakeside did have an arrangement with the province a year or two ago. I don't know if they still do.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: A supplementary question. Can the Minister indicate whether those deals were under-the-table type of deals that the Member for Gladstone alleges has been done in a case in the Gladstone area?

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, I really don't have that kind of information in that those particular arrangements were entered into before I had any jurisdiction.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone. Order please. The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: Yes, can the Minister indicate what was the political party in power and what was the political strength of those members opposite who had leased land from the Crown?

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

MR. FERGUSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. As I understood his answer was that I have a lease on a certain piece of land, then I would like to ask the Minister who has possession of that lease? I am not denying the fact that I do lease land, but I haven't got it leased at the present time.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I said in my answer to the Member for Radisson that as far as I was aware a year or two ago the Member for Gladstone had a lease contract with the Crown. I don't know about his present status.

MR. FERGUSON: Then I would direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Is it customary when a person is leasing land that a lease is not issued to them and the thing is kept on a current basis? What are the terms on which these leases are granted?

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of different transactions involved. There are annual leases or annual permits and there are five and ten-year ranch leases. I am not familiar with the particular arrangement that the Honourable Member for Gladstone had with the province at the time.

MR. FERGUSON: Well, to refresh the Minister's mind, mine would be a pasture lease on one-quarter section, and I would like to know what the arrangements are on leases of this type?

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, I just indicated to the Member for Gladstone that we have annual permits and five and ten-year ranch leases.

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

MR. WALLY JOHANNSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. Can the Minister confirm or deny that a senior Manitoba Government employee from his department has been reassigned to work two or three days a week for the office of the Premier?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Public Works.

HONOURABLE RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chomiak is not what I would call a senior Manitoba Government employee as made out by certain segments of the media. He is a young man, who was hired as my executive assistant, who has been seconded by the Premier's office.

MR. JOHANNSON: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm or deny that his salary is estimated at \$27,000 a year?

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, no executive assistant receives a salary of that kind. He was hired at \$15,300 and I believe still obtains that salary. I would also like to add that all Ministers are entitled to an executive assistant. If a Minister has more than one portfolio he is entitled to several, let's say two executive assistants for two portfolios. In the Premier's case I think his work load warrants more than that, and he does not have that kind of a complement of staff.

MR. JOHANNSON: Yes, a final question for the Minister. Would the Minister be prepared to offer a brief course in journalistic accuracy and truth to the members of the Free Press when they are reporting on future stories?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I really didn't have an opportunity to discuss with the House Leader whether there will be a disposition to go into Law Amendments Committee. There is. Well, then I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we go into Committee on Statutory Orders and Regulations in Room 254. I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I want to beg the members of that Committee not to blame it on me,

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but the Clerk's Office says 200 for Statutory Orders and Regulations; 254 for Law Amendments Committee. And when we get to Law Amendments Committee we will defer to the members of the Opposition as to which bills they are prepared to deal with.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't see any possibility of determining our activities before 5:30 p.m. Therefore, I would want the House to meet at 8:00 p.m. this evening on the supposition that the House may have something to do at that time. Well, we'll take a chance, Mr. Speaker, we will not convene the House tonight. We'll convene the work of those two Committees that have not yet completed their work.

If Statutory Orders and Regulations are completed by this afternoon then we would want to have Law Amendments convene on the City of Winnipeg Act. If not, then we will continue with Statutory Orders and Regulations, we will not convene the House tonight, and we'll convene tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.

So, I would move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the Honourable Attorney-General, that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.