

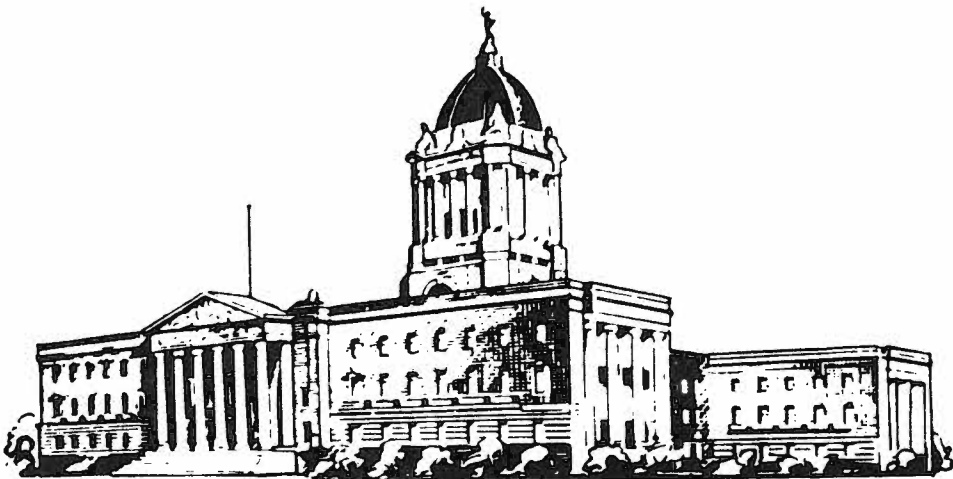


Third Session — Thirty-First Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

28 Elizabeth II

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Wednesday, February 28, 1979

Time: 2:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Before we proceed, I should like to draw the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 100 students of Grade Nine Standing from the Spring Valley Jr. High. These students are under the direction of Mr. Riches. This school is located in the Constituency of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, the Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I beg to table the Annual Report of the Milk Control Board of Manitoba for the year ending September 30th, 1978, and the Sixth Annual Report of the Manitoba Water Services Board, for the year ending March 31st, 1978.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.

HON. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Annual Report of the Manitoba Telephone System, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1978, copies of which were distributed by mail to members of the Assembly in October of last year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. GERALD W.J. MERCIER (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the 55th Annual Report of the Liquor Control Commission, for the fiscal year April 1st, 1977, to March 31st, 1978. I also wish to table returns under The Controverted Elections Act for the period of January 1st, 1978, to December 31st, 1978, from the Court of Appeal and the Court of Queen's Bench. I also wish to table the Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the year ending March 31st, 1978, in regard to the Liquor Control Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table two annual reports. One being the Annual Report for the Department of Mines, Resources, and Environmental Management, for the year ending March 31st, 1978, and the Annual Report of the Conservation Districts of Manitoba, for the year ending December 31st, 1977.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Can the Minister of Health and Social Development confirm that cooks at the Selkirk Mental Hospital had been questioned and interrogated about their meetings with a member of the Legislature?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): No, I can't confirm that, Mr. Speaker, and I can't imagine what member of the Legislature that might be.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, would the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development be prepared to ascertain whether in fact that is the case, whether questions have been raised to the cooks as to whether meetings were held within the Selkirk Hospital itself with their local member of the Legislature?

MR. SHERMAN: Certainly, Mr. Speaker' I might say that there have been two members of the Legislature in and around those facilities in the last few months, my honourable friend and myself.

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

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address a question to the House Leader who, on February 20th, undertook to see to it that his colleagues complied with the outstanding Addresses for Papers, a lengthy list of which appears in today's Order Paper. I would like to know whether he's having any difficulty with his colleagues in having them file the necessary responses which were ordered in the last session, the previous session of the Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Johns with a supplementary.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether the . . .

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): . . . my honourable friend, I wonder if he'd mind repeating the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member repeat his question.

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes, but I will abbreviate it. I was wondering, since the House Leader undertook on February 20th to see . . . to it that his colleagues would comply with the Orders for Return, the lengthy list of which appears in today's Order Paper, whether he's having any problem with them in having them comply with the decision of the Legislature of last session.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSEN: No, Mr. Speaker, I'm not having any problems with my colleagues. They will endeavour to reply to those questions at the earliest opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Johns with a supplementary.

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes' Mr. Speaker, just to have the assurance that the earliest opportunity will be soon enough so that we could deal with it during the Estimates of the respective departments, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JORGENSEN: We sincerely hope, Mr. Speaker, that that will be possible.

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

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Health. Has there been any change in the decision to close the ATU at the Health Sciences Centre, or does that decision stand?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: No, that decision stands, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister, the AFM, I believe, have 45 beds which are taken at least 75 percent. How does the Minister feel about these other 24 beds which are

practically always filled? How will they be able to give the service, not mentioning, of course, the medical part of it which they won't get?

MR. SHERN: Well, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Boniface well knows from his own experience in this particular portfolio that the member of the Treasury Benches responsible for this particular department faces a never-ending series of immediate problems, some of which are crises. There was a larger crises which we recognized in the psychiatric field. If we encounter difficulties in the alcoholism treatment field, we'll deal with them at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface with a final supplementary.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Speaker, then the Minister is in effect saying today something that we're sure that he didn't mention last time, that it's a question of priority, and this is not as high on the priority list then.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I suggest to honourable members that Question Period is the time to seek information, not to make statements, and to try and endeavour to obtain the information that they require.

The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question seeking information from the Minister of Economic Development. I wonder if the Minister for Economic Development would be able to advise me whether the program that the Provincial Government sponsored whereby people would be employed by the private sector at public expense has, in his view, been successful in employing people.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, I will have to either take the question as notice or ask the member to identify the program he's speaking of. I'm not quite following him.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster clarify.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm referring to the job employment program that was started by the administration last year whereby jobs in the private sector were financed by the government. I wonder whether he would regard that program as having successfully resulted in people being employed.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, in quickly discussing it with my colleagues, I think you're referring to the Private Sector Youth Employment Program that was put forward last year. Yes, it was very successful in employing people and it presently is administered by the Minister of Manpower.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster with a supplementary.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would know off-hand, not exactly, but how many more people that program employed than were employed in the private sector under a similar program the previous year, whether he would have a figure off-hand.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I understand that it employed more people for less money, more efficiently, than the previous one.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster with a final supplementary.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister, knowing that information, has an approximation as to how many more people were employed. How many more people were employed by the private sector at public expense this year as opposed to last year?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'll take the question as notice and certainly consult with the Ministers who handle that. It was the Minister of Education last year and it is the Minister of Manpower now. I know those figures are available and we are very proud of them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the House Leader. Could he advise whether it's in the interest of restraint on the part of his government that annual reports are not being made available to each member of the press as has been the customary fashion in past years?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSON: No, no, Mr. Speaker, members of the press will be receiving copies of all of the reports that are tabled in this Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Community Services. With the announcement of the slashing of the budget for work training programs in his department, can he confirm that this will result in the dismissal of close to 40 staff members from that program and the elimination of well over 120 participants in those work activity programs in Brandon, Dauphin and Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, only they're not staff employees, they're contract employees.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister has an interesting semantic difference, the fact that they have been employed by the province in the training of unemployed people into the work force. With that confirmation, can he or confirm again that under the work training program, the Pioneer Restaurant operated at 185 Smith Street will be eliminated from that program, and that the saw mill operated outside of Dauphin will also be closed down.

MR. SHERMAN: No, Mr. Speaker, I can't confirm either of those. In fact those are unique suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge with a final supplementary.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't want to put any thoughts in the mind of the Minister. He has enough diabolic plots of his own. I would only suggest that he should try to confirm to this House those particular conditions because of the people involved. Well, if I have a question then I have a question on the same line for the First Minister. Can he explain why it is when there is a cutback in all the social services programs, why the Estimates for his own department have gone up 33-1/3 percent for something called the International Development Fund?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING R. LYON, Premier (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I will be quite happy to deal with that at the appropriate time when the Estimates are being discussed. For my honourable friend's edification, Question Period is not the time to discuss details of Estimates.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has had three questions. Order please. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PETER FOX: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first question is to the Attorney-General. Since he took as notice last week the question in respect to the referral of the fatality case on Mission Street from the Department of Labour to his department, can he inform the House whether any disposition has been achieved in respect to that matter?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, if charges are to be laid in any case, I don't think I will be announcing them in advance in this House.

MR. FOX: No, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister of Labour. Yesterday he reported in respect

to 14 cases of diagnosed lead poisoning, but his answer left the impression that he was not accepting that that was a workplace safety hazard, because apparently his physician doesn't deem it as such until there is kidney damage. Can he further clarify that particular position?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. KEN MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, the question is so jumbled that it's rather difficult to try and sort it out. I suppose I could suggest that the honourable member read Hansard, but I'll try and answer the questions piece by piece again. I said that yes, there were at least 14 that were diagnosed by a particular physician here in the city as being people who had lead poisoning. Our department and our doctor says that if in the case of an .08, that is not acceptable, but that doesn't necessarily, when you're diagnosing it, mean that you have lead poisoning. That's the point I was trying to get across. I don't know if there is another part to your question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform the House as to how many cases of lead poisoning were reported last year to Workers' Compensation and how many were qualified as such?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. McMASTER: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is going to have to explain to me what he is talking about when he says qualified.

MR. FOX: I have no problem qualifying it it's the Minister who has it. He can't seem to tell us whether a doctor who diagnoses a case is a lead poisoning case or isn't. His department apparently tells him that it isn't. So if the Minister can come to terms with which doctor we are going to believe, then we will be able to discuss this matter. In the meantime I would like to know . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question is: can the Minister inform us how many of those cases last year lost time and what was the average lost time?

MR. McMASTER: I don't have the exact number, Mr. Speaker, but in relationship to the stumbling efforts that was made just before you so kindly interrupted . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. May I suggest to the Honourable Minister that information should be supplied in a courteous manner to all members of the Chamber. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. McMASTER: I'll attempt to be courteous and stay that particular way from this side and I am sure my honourable friends will endeavour to do the same from their side. The member is talking about medical opinions. I am not in the position, Mr. Speaker, to question any medical officers, recognized doctors' opinions in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Education concerning reports about the inadequate funding of the Faculty of Engineering. Since we have now had a public expression of opinion by the Minister of Finance who is has indicated he favours an internal investigation report that the Minister of Government Services appears to be sympathetic and lacks in . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Would the Honourable Member please state his question. The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: My question is in view of the fact that there has been an expression of support by two Ministers and a backbencher for the Faculty of Engineering, would the Minister of Education indicate his position on an internal investigation or a government enquiry?

MR. KEITH A. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, the allocation of funds at the University of Manitoba or any other university in this particular province is handled by the Board of Governors or the Board of Regents and the administration of that university. At this time, we are following very closely what is happening at our universities in that regard as far as any particular investigations or solutions to problems. I am sure these are being carried forward by the Board of Governors and the administration of the universities concerned.

MR. DOERN: I then ask the Minister whether he has any concern with the view that has been expressed that the Faculty of Engineering is in danger of losing its accreditation.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, I am sure, as all Manitobans, we would share a concern if any of our faculties were in danger of losing their accreditation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood with a final supplementary.

MR. DOERN: Then I would ask the Minister whether he is prepared to do anything about it, mainly to provide the additional funding to the University to correct these problems.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member presupposes that the problem is a matter of inadequate funding. As I mentioned earlier to him, the allocation of funds at any particular university, is a matter that is left to the Board of Governors and to the administration of the university. They establish the priorities and the allocations to each separate faculty.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Mines and Resources. The Minister took as notice I believe, Friday, a question whether the Provincial Testing Laboratory was certified or not. Can the Minister confirm whether the laboratory is certified, or is not certified, at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I took the question as notice, and I will respond when I have the answer.

MR. JENKINS: I would then direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. Since he put out this implementation plan for the Workplace, Health and Safety Act, his Element (4) says that each lead-using industry should be required to contract with a member of the medical profession to conduct routine lead and blood samples, and the samples will be analyzed by the department laboratory, which should become certified. Can the Minister explain why, at the time that he issued this plan. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. Order please. Order please. May I suggest to the honourable member that repetition of questions is not serving the interests of the House to its best. The Honourable Member for Logan have another question?

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, I have directed a question to the Minister. The Minister has stated in his plan that the laboratory should be certified. Now I am asking the Minister whether he knows if it is certified. Evidently the Minister under whose program it, doesn't know.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. I have to rule the member's question out of order as being repetitive. The Honourable Minister of Highways.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker. . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan on a point of order.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, I have only had two questions, and I believe it is the common courtesy of this House that each member is entitled to one question and two supplementaries. I still have a supplementary coming.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As is our custom, I wish to correct at the earliest possible moment, a rather serious mistake that I made during my remarks last night and subsequently placed on the public record. On several occasions last evening, I indicated that the taxpayers of Manitoba were paying some 54 millions of dollars in interest alone on our public debt to the money lenders of the world. I didn't have the benefit of the printed Estimates before me prior to that speech, and I found that that figure ought to be \$67 million, and not \$54 million. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. BRIAN CORRIN: My question is for the Minister of Tourism, Mr. Speaker. She's smiling anticipatively, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased. Could the Minister advise this House why she is proud of her government's record with respect to increasing of school grants by some \$12.9 million over 1978 levels? Could she advise us of why she is proud of that record?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

MR. JORGENSON: That question is so tactfully out of order, it should not even be entertained.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. May I suggest to the honourable member that his question is out of order and if you would care to ask another question, I will entertain another question from the honourable member.

MR. CORRIN: Is she aware of the fact that she published a pamphlet indicating that she was proud of her government's record with respect to that matter? Is she aware of that, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I also rule that question out of order. Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS: He's got a supplementary hasn't he?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East. —(Interjections)— Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a question of order, I believe that there is a member of the House standing who wishes to ask a question and I believe that he should be recognized as long as there is time left in the Question Period.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. CORRIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister of Tourism aware that the allegation she made, the representation she made in this pamphlet is incorrect? Is she aware that the \$12.9 million increase that she cited as being an improvement, only represents a 6 percent increase over 1978 levels? Is she aware that this is substantially less than the inflation rate in this province? Is she aware that this is substantially less than recently . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. May I point out to the Honourable Member for Wellington that his question is out of order.
The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address a question to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation and ask the Minister whether he can confirm that there is still a freeze on staff increases at the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation even though this House was assured last year by the former Minister that the freeze would not apply in the case of commercial operations such as the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for MPIC.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, a review is being undertaken of the operations

of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation and these matters of staffing, as well as other matters relating to the operations of the general insurance portion of that operation, are under review.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Minister for his answer. I would take it that when he says "under review," that he is confirming the fact that there is a staff freeze in existence on a commercial Crown corporation, which has to, at least in the general insurance field, compete with the private sector, which has to compete for that particular business. Could the Honourable Minister advise the House whether this restriction on staffing of the general insurance division of MPIC, is this restriction not thwarting the efforts of that organization to compete in the general insurance field?

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, the general insurance division of MPIC continues to compete in its field and when requests for staffing are received by management, they will be considered in the usual way.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East with a final supplementary.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, in my final supplementary, I would refer the Minister to the Annual Report of the MPIC which shows premiums virtually at a standstill when you consider inflation, virtually no increase in the premiums, virtually no increase in the premiums of general insurance, so is this not, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister who is from the Brandon area, is this freeze not detrimental to the increase in employment in the City of Brandon where the general division of the insurance corporation happens to be located?

MR. MCGILL: Well, Mr. Speaker, the member's question relates to the competitiveness of the general insurance division. They are competing, they continue to compete. The net profit of that particular division amounted to approximately \$800,000 in the last fiscal period for which we have a report. As additional staffing requirements are submitted, they will be considered, as are all.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Rent Review Board. Over a year ago, a Rent Review officer set his own policy regarding equalization of rents in many Edison Realty apartments. The policy was overturned by the Rent Review Board and subsequently contested in the courts. Could the Minister indicate to the House the total amount of outstanding rent rebates that the Rent Review Board is contesting in the court on behalf of the tenants?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information with me. I'll undertake to acquire it for the honourable member.

MR. PARASIUK: A supplementary to the same Minister. Since the delay in hearing the case is financially beneficial to Edison Realty and not to the tenants, would the Minister ensure that the Rent Review Board's legal counsel makes a concerted effort to have the case heard in the court as quickly as possible?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, we have no control over the courts, but we are endeavouring to do precisely what my honourable friend is suggesting.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona with a final supplementary.

MR. PARASIUK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if the Board intends to make up the interest losses to the tenants if the court rules in favour of the tenants.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to answer that question because I think it has some fish hooks in it that I would like to investigate before I have given my honourable friend a reply.

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

MR. BILLIE URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Some time ago, it was reported that the systems of quotas for the delivery of grain to the elevators was under review and that the Canadian Wheat Board was studying changes in a quota system that had been recommended. Would the Minister advise whether or not the Canadian Wheat Board had asked the Minister and his department to submit any suggestions or recommendations that he might have with respect to the delivery quota system?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I received a form letter that was sent out by the organization and did not send back an official reply but gave it consideration within the department.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister indicating that he has not filed any suggestions or recommendations to the Canadian Wheat Board with respect to the quota system?

MR. DOWNEY: Not any written recommendations, Mr. Speaker.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, if the Minister has had correspondence with the Canadian Wheat Board, would he be prepared to table copies of that correspondence in the House?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I would give consideration to tabling the letter that I received from the Wheat Board on the quota review.

MR. URUSKI: No, no, no, your answer to them. What do you want, oats and barley . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. THOMAS BARROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I address my questions to the Minister of Labour. Could you inform the House if you've had any reports on high and unacceptable levels of lead in the air with the HBM&S Company?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: I don't believe so, Mr. Speaker, not really.

MR. BARROW: Could you inform the House how many cases of high lead blood levels, or lead poisoning were reported to your department from that particular company?

MR. MacMASTER: I don't believe there has been any, Mr. Speaker. I can certainly check it out for the Member for Flin Flon.

MR. BARROW: Has the Minister, who supposedly has unionism in his blood, contacted — (Interjection) — Later on we'll tell you what's in his blood, later on—has the Minister contacted either the union or the Safety and Health Committee at HBM and S, in reference to his so-called lead control program?

MR. MacMASTER: No, I haven't, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Labour. Yesterday the Minister confirmed that his department has put together a lead control program to meet the lead prices in the province and he said that that program was put together and accepted by the workers and the workers' organizations and the companies. Can the Minister now confirm that there has been no tripartite meeting of those three groups for the purpose of putting together a lead control program to this date?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: I can confirm, Mr. Speaker, that the industry, unions and employees, there's been meetings with them and they have concurred an acceptance of the program.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a supplementary to the Minister's answer, can the

then inform the House as to which specific workers' organizations have notified him that they have accepted his lead control program?

MR. MacMASTER: In the shops where there was no unions, there was representatives of the employees present, and the shops where there were unions, there was a union representative present.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps my question was confusing. The question to the Minister was, can he indicate which of those workers' organizations, whether they be union or non-unionized, have indicated to his department that they fully accept his lead control program as it has been presented to them?

MR. MacMASTER: All the organizations that were present at the particular meeting supported it, Mr. Speaker.

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 respect to the present conditions of snow clearing and the pileage of snow on city streets in Winnipeg. Has the Minister received reports from members of his department that the present condition has completely impeded or handicapped the ability to deliver services to senior citizens and to those who have problems of mobility or handicaps, and that if those investigations have been undertaken, could he confirm that those programs are having difficulty in being delivered at the present time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have had no complaints of that nature, none whatsoever, but I'll check with my department officials to see if any have come in.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, that is based upon the assumption that the programs are still remaining, that they would be available, but I would then ask the Minister responsible for Urban Affairs whether he has had occasion to discuss this particular problem with city officials concerning the difficulties now being encountered by senior citizens, people with handicaps in getting any kind of access to out of doors, or delivery as a result of the snow pileage problem on streets.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I have not discussed with city officials, they have not brought to my attention any problems related to senior citizens and the winter conditions. They have, however, advised that this is apparently the second worst winter experienced in this province and the continuous cold weather, below zero weather since November has handicapped their usually excellent snow clearing service, the best in the country, Mr. Speaker, and I don't think there should be any suggestion from members opposite that the city is at fault here. The weather conditions have been extreme in not having any thawing weather which is usually quite normal during December or January or February.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I'm not suggesting that the city is responsible for the weather —(Interjection)— that's right, it may lie closer to home — but the question I would raise with the Minister is this, that considering statements made by city officials, that they've now exhausted their snow clearing budget there still is probably a full month, heaven forbid of winter weather left, would the Minister undertake to raise this matter in a discussion with the City and also be prepared to see if any supplementary support from the province over and above that generous \$30 million block grant could be given to the City in order to overcome the problem.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, it is impossible for the City to have exhausted their budget when they have not yet approved their budget for this year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. CORRIN: In discussing snow jobs, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. Last week I asked the Minister a question respecting the treatment

of child tax credit rebates and the calculation of social assistance benefits. Could he now advise whether his government has made a decision and communicated that decision to the federal Minister of Health and Social Welfare?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: No, Mr. Speaker, that's still under study, largely under the area of responsibility of my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CORRIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the honourable minister if he is aware and if it is correct or incorrect that — I'm now referring to a document from the office of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, dated February 2, 1979, wherein she relates that only the position of this province, Manitoba, is unknown in this regard and that all other provinces, with the exception of Quebec, have decided now to pass on full benefits of that program to their citizens. Is he aware of that? And when will he return the decision of this government to Ottawa?

MR. SHERMAN: Well, obviously Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of it now. I'm sure that my colleague, the Minister of Finance will be very interested in that.

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

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to follow up a question that I posed earlier of the Minister of Agriculture and his reply to myself. He indicated that he would consider tabling a letter that he received from the Wheat Board. Is he prepared to table his response as well to that letter that he received from the Canadian Wheat Board or has the Minister got any position with respect to the quota system under review at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I believe I stated that I did not send any written response to the Canadian Wheat Board.

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

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then, is the Minister indicating that this government has no policy with respect to the quota system presently under review?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, my colleague from behind me has made a comment and I think we could agree with it, that an open quota system would be the most satisfactory.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for questioning having expired, we will proceed with Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would proceed with the bills for second reading as they appear on the Order Paper.

GOVERNMENT BILLS — SECOND READING

BILL NO. 4 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE TESTATORS FAMILY MAINTENANCE ACT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General with Bill No. 4.

MR. MERCIER presented Bill No. 4, An Act to amend The Testators Family Maintenance Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of The Testators Family Maintenance Act is to ensure that adequate provision is made for the proper maintenance and support of dependants of testators. The amendments in Bill No. 4 extend the definition of child to include an illegitimate child. Where relief is sought, it would have to be established to the satisfaction of the court that the person was in fact the illegitimate child of the deceased testator. The bill will come in force on the day it receives a royal assent, and Section 2 provides that an illegitimate child cannot attach any assets that have been distributed prior to the act coming into force. Mr. Speaker, the other three western provinces, and the Province of Ontario, all provide similar relief to illegitimate children.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PETER FOX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. George, debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 5 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION ACT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General with Bill No. 5.

MR. MERCIER presented Bill No. 5, An Act to Amend The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, presently The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act requires applications for compensation to be made within one year from the date of injury or death. The Board may extend the time for applying for compensation where it is satisfied there are extenuating circumstances. We found that some persons have not filed an application with the Board until after the person who caused the injury was convicted of a criminal offence.

In one particular case, an applicant was injured in September of 1976, but the assailant was not convicted until February of 1978. The proposed extension of time to two years within which to make an application for compensation, should cover virtually all of the cases where the victim does not make application until after a conviction. The proposed new two year limitation period will be consistent with the limitation period for commencing action in motor vehicle accident claims, actions for damages or trespass to the person, assault, battery, wounding, or other injuries to the person.

Further, Mr. Speaker, in considering compensation to be granted to an applicant, the Board is authorized in the present legislation, to consider the character of the applicant. In cases where compensation is based on death, the applicant is usually the spouse or dependant of the deceased person. In these situations, the Board is not authorized to consider the character of the victim and the Board has to point it out, this anomaly.

Mr. Speaker, there are further amendments which adopt the same principle as in The Workers Compensation Act, to provide for recovery of costs in those matters. The last section of the bill merely makes the extension period to two years retroactive from the day the Act comes into force.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Elmwood, debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 8 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 8 — The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER presented Bill No. 8, An Act to amend The Mental Health Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. MERCIER: This is a really a housekeeping bill, Mr. Speaker. The amendment to Section 82(7) will give the public trustee additional power to commence legal proceedings on behalf of the estate of a mentally disordered person.

In two recent cases, the mentally disordered patient passed away at a time when the public trustee was preparing to commence legal proceedings for personal injuries. While the present provision requires the public trustee to gather in the assets, the amendment will clarify that the public trustee has the authority to commence legal proceedings on behalf of the estate of a mentally disordered person.

Section 2 of the bill is procedural matter, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. George, debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

**BILL NO. 9 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE CROWN LANDS ACT
AND THE REAL PROPERTY ACT**

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General. Bill No. 9.

MR. MERCIER presented Bill No. 9, An Act to Amend the Crown Lands, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, these amendments are proposed to deal with land that has surfaced from a body of water, from a river or lake. The owner of the adjoining land may obtain title to this land which has surfaced. At present, an owner of accreted Crown land cannot obtain title to the land unless he establishes his right thereto by a court order. The purpose of the proposed amendments is to provide a procedure whereby such an owner can obtain title without the trouble and expense of court action. The owner of the adjoining land must make an application in the appropriate Land Titles office supported by either an order of the court, declaring that the accreted portion of land is to be vested in the applicant, or a certificate obtained pursuant to the new section 24.1 of The Crown's Land Act, where the Minister of Renewable Resources issues a certificate under this section and consents of the adjoining owners of waterfront land must be obtained, except where the District Registrar is satisfied that the adjoining owners are in no way adversely affected. Where an owner of an adjoining waterfront property does not consent, notice may be served upon that person requiring him to take court action within 30 days if he disputes the right of the applicant to acquire title to the accreted land. Failure to take the action and file a certificate of this in the Land Titles office within the 30 day period will estop and debar the adjoining owner from taking any further action.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask the Honourable Minister a question in relation to his comments. I would like to know whether this Bill is designed to deal with a specific problem that has arisen in order to cure it, and if it's just a general matter, whether he could indicate the extent to which it has been a problem in the past.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a matter that has been under general consideration for sometime now by the Land Titles Office.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Just another question, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable Minister could undertake to let us have more specifics either during the debate or during the committee stage as to the nature and to the extent of the problem.

MR. MERCIER: I certainly would undertake that, Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Member for St. George, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 11 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE PROVINCIAL JUDGES ACT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney General.

MR. MERCIER presented Bill No. 11, An Act to amend The Provincial Judges Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Attorney General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, the Civil Service Act does not apply to provincial judges and therefore provincial judges are not entitled to the benefits under the Collective Agreement or under the regulations made under the Civil Service Act. This amendment to the Provincial Judges Act will simply authorize payment of severance pay to provincial judges on retirement, permanent lay off, or death in the same basis as Manitoba Government employees.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: I beg to move, seconded by the Member for Burrows, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 12 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE CORPORATIONS ACT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN presented Bill No. 12, An Act to amend The Corporations Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, as honourable members will recall the present Corporations Act came into force on November 1st, 1976. And since its enactment there has been one amendment being Bill No. 44, passed at the last session and assented to on July 20, 1978. As my predecessor in this office mentioned when introducing the Bill last Session, the economic climate in Canada and Manitoba undergoes rapid changes which makes it somewhat difficult for Legislation such as Corporate Law to keep pace with some of those changes.

The tax laws in particular are constantly changing and the Federal Budget of late last fall introduced further amendments which in several ways affect corporate law and it is therefore essential to amend corporate law from time to time accordingly. The 1976 Corporation Act was patterned after the federal statute which came in to force some ten months previous. And you may also recall that the two main objectives of the new Corporations Act were to permit more efficient administration and utilization of the Act, and at the same time achieve more uniform corporate

law for Canada.

There has been considerable progress towards the latter goal as the federal jurisdiction along with Manitoba and Saskatchewan have basically similar uniform business statutes. The provinces of New Brunswick and Newfoundland have introduced new Corporations Act into their Legislatures, while Alberta and Quebec have committees studying their Acts based on the uniform corporate law jurisdictions. All of which should result in further uniformity.

The goal of more efficient administration in the Corporations Branch appears to have also been achieved as the estimated number of new incorporations for the year ending March 31, 1979, is estimated at around 316 for 1976, 3,200 compared with 2, with no increase in staff.

Bill 12, which is therefore before you today consists mainly of amendments which are merely housekeeping matters. These amendments are rather technical in nature and for the most part clarify certain areas which experience has shown present problems in interpretation. The amendments were considered by a special committee on corporate law which are instrumental in preparing the 1976 Act. The Chairman is Irvin Dorfman with Martin Freedman as Vice-Chairman. The more active members of this committee include Professor Art Braid, Mel Neuman, Abe Anhang, R. Taylor, Allan Cantor, Dave Sokolov, Clive Tallin and of course, departmental representatives. This committee recommended the attached Bill to the government and to the House.

I would also like to mention that similar amendments to The Canada Business Corporations Act were recently passed by the Parliament of Canada, and proclaimed in force on December 27, 1978. . And also that Saskatchewan has an amending bill before their Legislature amending their Corporation Act along the same lines. This Bill introduces no changes in substantive law but rather corrects inconsistencies that make more understandable the provisions of the statute.

There are two sections to the Bill, namely Sections 24 and 25 which amend the provisions of the part dealing with trust and loan corporations. Here again, it is a question of interpretation, and with the exception of Section 24 of the bill which is new, the amendments are merely declaratory.

Manitoba trust and loan corporations appear to be at a disadvantage in the financial world in which they operate when competing with those incorporated under federal or Ontario law, which already have provisions similar to these sections. These amendments bring our provisions in line with other jurisdictions but do not grant any powers not commonly permitted such classes of corporations.

I mentioned that Section 24 of the Bill is new. It is new to Manitoba but has been in both in the federal and Ontario statutes for a number of years. These provisions empower Manitoba trust companies to invest in or set up subsidiary corporations in related fields such as foreign trust companies, real estate development corporations and mutual fund management corporations, etc. Trust corporations over the past decade have expanded into these other fields and our legislation must keep abreast of the changes in the financial community.

The purpose of both the aforementioned sections is to give our trust and loan corporations additional flexibility and thus enable them to compete more effectively with extra provincial companies which already exercise these powers. Generally the amendments should improve the administration of the Act, correct a number of drafting anomalies and at the same time pursue the goal of uniformity with other jurisdictions. I therefore, with those explanations, recommend the Bill to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. CORRIN: I have a question and I would appreciate it very much if the Honourable Minister could address himself to the question with a response, Mr. Speaker. He may have to take this as notice because it is a detailed, not a detailed, but it will require some detailed research perhaps.

The question I put to him is, could he establish for the members of the House how many corporations of the sort that he describes are actually operative within our province and are holding only certificates of provincial incorporation as opposed to federal incorporation, I would be interested to know what number of such companies then operate under solely provincial charters as opposed to federal charters. Could he table that information prior to debate on second reading commencing?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, the custom of this House normally is that debate takes place on second reading and following that debate, then the Bill goes into committee. And it seems to me that it is far more proper to be asking questions of that nature when the Bill is in committee.

Now that our honourable friend has asked those questions, I will ensure that when the Bill comes before committee they'll be available for answering.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for St. George, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 15 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE GARNISHMENT ACT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER presented Bill No. 15, An Act to amend The Garnishment Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

BILL NO. 15 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE GARNISHMENT ACT

MR. MERCIER presented Bill No. 15, An Act to amend The Garnishment Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, the amendments to The Garnishment Act in this bill follow closely the recommendations of the Manitoba Law Reform Commission in their report No. 28, dated January 8, 1979, before the new Chairman was appointed and I'm sure the Honourable Member for St. Johns is as confident as I am that the new Chairman will perform very well in his new role. —(Interjection)— Then you don't have any worries at all.

Section 5, Mr. Speaker, of the Act is amended to provide that service of the garnishment process will attach all wages that become due and payable at any time within one month, commencing on the day after service of the process, presently the section that will attach wages that become due and payable at any time within seven days after service of the process. By making the order effective for thirty days rather than seven days, the Commission indicates that this will reduce costs and inconvenience to the creditor, employer and debtor alike. Furthermore, the Commission notes that the debtor will benefit from the greater exemptions that they have recommended.

The Law Reform Commission recommended that the minimum exemption be increased from \$100 per month in clause 6(a) to 50 percent of the minimum monthly wage in effect at the time. Similarly, they recommended that the \$165 exemption in clause 6(b) be increased to 70 percent of the minimum monthly wage in effect at the time. We have opted to express the exemptions in absolute dollar terms in order that creditors, debtors and employers will all have no difficulty in determining what is the exemption and what wages are subject to garnishment, Mr. Speaker, so those figures are increased from \$100 to \$250 and from \$165 to \$350.00.

In Clause 13, the amendment, Mr. Speaker follows in part the recommendation of the Law Reform Commission that notices be printed on all garnishing orders advising judgment debtors of Sections 9 and 10 of The Garnishment Act which set out the procedures for the Clerk of the Court to increase or decrease the exemption allowed to a judgment debtor.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Burrows, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 16 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE REAL PROPERTY ACT

MR. MERCIER presented Bill No. 16, An Act to amend The Real Property Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, this amendment to subsection 166(5) of The Real Property Act will permit the department to use excess funds in the assurance fund for the purpose of paying for the cost of special surveys. The use of the excess funds in the assurance funds is proposed with a view to protecting the assurance fund from claims caused by the deterioration of the survey fabric and inadequate legal descriptions. The present provision provides that when the fund reaches \$75,000 the excess may be transferred to the Consolidated Fund. Over the years, governments have transferred hundreds of thousands of dollars from the assurance fund to the Consolidated Fund. The funds in the assurance fund are generated wholly by fees paid on applications to bring land under The Real Property Act from the old system to the new system.

Presently there is approximately \$125,000 in the assurance fund and an outstanding claim of \$10,000 which would leave a balance of approximately \$65,000 for use in the funding of special surveys. The fund has been generating approximately \$35,000 to \$40,000 per year from fees for Real Property Act applications.

It is recognized, Mr. Speaker, by the Land Titles Office over the years, and particularly during the depression years, they issued titles in many instances without requiring plans of survey, out of sympathy for the financial plight of the individual landowner, and over the years there has been a general deterioration of survey monuments. There is concern that fences, and in some instances, buildings do not conform with title limits because a proper survey has not been made of the particular area.

The proposed funding will not satisfy the need for all special surveys required in the province, Mr. Speaker, but the funding will permit some long overdue restoration of the survey fabric.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. SAUL A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, just a question to the Minister. What is the system now for the payment of these special surveys? Is it paid by the applicant or by the government, or by the Assessment Department?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Generally, Mr. Speaker, costs are presently requested by municipalities and apportioned by municipalities and landowners. The municipalities have become reluctant to request special surveys and in many, many cases landowners who are not affected by the special survey, when requested to pay for the survey that may be in their area but not affect their title, have no interest in paying for the special surveys. Because of this, Mr. Speaker, there has been a lack of proceeding with special surveys which are required and have been recommended on numerous occasions by the Land Titles Office and are recognized as real problems in many areas of the province.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I have another question to ask in line with this. I would like it to be a question, although if you want to call it a speech, I'll give up my right to do it further. But I'm trying to ascertain more clearly just why this is being done. So my question is, that in light of the fact that the existing law appears to provide that the excess over, I think it's \$50,000, shall be paid into general revenues of the province, why can't the province just proceed on an administrative basis and pay for these surveys, rather than go to the extent of setting up some sort of a special fund to giving up the revenue from general revenues and putting it into a special fund to accomplish the same purpose that I believe could be accomplished by the government if it wants to do so. That's the question that's not clear to me.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, that is another alternative to the manner in which we are proceeding. We have chosen to proceed in this manner because these are funds that are generated in the Land Titles system on applications to change land from the old system to the new system. This is the manner in which we've chosen to proceed to limit the funds to this particular amount that is derived

from the Land Titles Office each year. I might say, Mr. Speaker, that the previous government did receive numerous requests in this particular area and did not choose to provide any funding, but the situation has reached the point where it's necessary to proceed with some additional funding in this area, in fact to protect the assurance fund.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Logan, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 17 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC PRINTING ACT

MR. JORGENSON presented Bill No. 17, An Act to amend The Public Printing Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, these amendments to The Public Printing Act are not dramatic. They are largely designed to allow the administration of the Queen's Printer's office to become more efficient. Basically, three amendments are being recommended:

(1) We are more clearly defining the role of the Queen's Printer within the government structure. For instance, micrographics is a duty that has been performed by the Queen's Printer's office for many years but has never been included in the Act. We are now including this duty in the Act.

(2) Those sections of the Act which relate to the financial operation of the Queen's Printer are being updated to allow the Department of Finance the ability to change accounting systems to meet the changing needs of government if and when required. The present wording in the Act is too restrictive to allow for changes in the accounting systems.

(3) We are removing from the Act the qualifications for the position of Queen's Printer. We believe that the responsibility for establishing qualifications of all Civil Service positions are covered under The Civil Service Act. The present Act outlines that the Queen's Printer must be a practical printer within a minimum of 5 years' experience. In the context of a day's operation in the Queen's Printer's office, the Queen's Printer is better qualified as a capable administrator, but this does not exclude a printer from the position, but emphasizes the need for administrative ability to hold this position.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Vital, debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Attorney-General, that Albert Driedger, Esquire, Member for the Electoral Division of Emerson, be Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Tourism, 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 to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY — MINES, NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Abe Kovnats: I would direct the honourable members to Page 63 in the Main Estimates, the Department of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment. Resolution 81. Administration — (a) Administration (1) Minister's compensation.

The Honourable Minister.

HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a pleasure for me to be first off the mark, Mr. Chairman, in the presentation of the 1979-80 Estimates. I look forward to answering questions from the honourable members opposite and to engaging in debate over programs and philosophies.

I would like, at the outset, Mr. Chairman, to acknowledge the work of my staff in the department, the work that has gone into not only the preparation of these Estimates but in their service over the entire year, Mr. Jarvis, being Deputy Minister, and the others I guess too numerous to name, Mr. Chairman, but they have served well under what remain to be rather still difficult circumstances in that the final organization of the department has not been worked out yet. I acknowledge their excellent work.

I also would like, at this time, to acknowledge the contribution of Mr. Jack Roper who recently retired and had served for about 11 years in different capacities with the department, had been Director of Mines and a policy advisor under the previous administration. He had served as my Acting Deputy Minister under the Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, and had recently served as associate Deputy Minister. I would like to acknowledge that Mr. Roper was a man of the highest integrity, was a loyal civil servant and is a fine gentleman.

I refer briefly to the amalgamation of the department taking components from some other departments, Mr. Chairman, in that in the re-organization of our government last October, the following components came into this department from Northern Affairs, Renewable Resources and Transportation Services. There was a portion of the administrative services and executive administration components, the entire Lands and Surveys division, the entire Fisheries and Wildlife division, the entire Forest division, the entire Southern Field Services division, a portion of Northern Field Services division, a portion of the Development Resources division and, of course, the relevant portions of the Acquisition and Construction of Physical Assets.

From the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs came the entire provincial parks system, a portion of the administrative services component and, again, the relevant portion of the Acquisition and Construction of Physical Assets. Of course, the Mineral Resources division, the Water Resources division, and Environmental Management division of the previous department remain as part of the new Department of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment.

As I said initially, the reorganization of the department has not yet been completed. At present it is functioning largely in the units that existed in the previous Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management and with the units that were transferred in from the other departments. Parks division, for instance, remains largely operating as a division as it did within Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. We expect that the reorganization will be completed within the next few weeks but the Estimates as presented, of course, will reflect the present structure.

If I could just point out a few changes that have been made since those components were transferred into the department. We have had one staff man year transferred to the Department of Finance. That person is now working with the Treasury Board. We have had the grant payment for the Assiniboine Park and Zoo transferred to Municipal and Urban Affairs. That will now be handled through the bloc funding for the City of Winnipeg. The Fishermen's Freight Assistance Program and the special ARDA programs have been transferred back to Northern Affairs for administration.

A couple of other items in terms of the presentation of the Estimates. The Minister of Finance made reference last night to some of the cost-shared projects where 15 percent of an amount budgeted has been transferred into the Enabling Vote administered by the Department of Finance so that when an amount of money is budgeted within our Estimates, there will be an additional 15 percent that exists in the Enabling Vote. I believe the purpose of that was explained adequately by the Minister of Finance last night.

Then some projects under the Manitoba Northlands Agreement. The funds are shown within this department. We are responsible for the delivery of the programs but they will be paid for under the Northlands Agreement through the Minister of Northern Affairs, so while he has responsibility for administering the Northlands Agreement, we are delivering certain portions of it.

I should also point out that within the total amounts shown as requested in 1978-79, as opposed to 1979-80, the requested figure for 1978-79, shows a \$68,181,800 and the requested amount for the upcoming year shows \$56,715,100, or a decrease of \$5,466,700.00. Any decrease shown is actually due to some \$6,725,600 which had been capital carry-over from 1977-78, and the honourable members will recall the discussion and exchange in the Chamber last year over the status of that carry-over. On in the Estimates' discussion last year, there was an amount tabled, I think in the neighbourhood of \$30 million, so that has been allocated to the departments to show where in fact it was spent. If we ignore that amount of \$6 million-and some, Mr. Chairman, then the actual increase in the Estimates of my department would be in the range of 2.3 percent over last year.

With those brief introductory remarks, Mr. Chairman, I think I would let my remarks rest there rather than making statements about the various divisions. I think as we get to those divisions it might be more appropriate to deal with the policies and philosophies as we come to them. I would be quite prepared to engage in discussion and debate with the honourable gentlemen opposite and I look forward to responding to their questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Minister for his brief introduction. I want to congratulate him on assuming additional responsibilities. I think, Mr. Speaker, that you will be able to confirm that under the previous administration, I was never one to hang on tenaciously to any part of my department which I don't think that I would be unfair to others if I say is usually the characteristic of a portfolio, particularly the bureaucracy within a portfolio, that when it was suggested that the Resources Branch be parcelled off, there was absolutely no difficulty in that respect. So I would think, Mr. Chairman, that the essential difference between the Minister and myself is that he is an empire builder, that he has now brought under the umbrella, that part of the department which seemed to have moved under the previous administration.

Mr. Chairman, I expected the Minister today to make an entirely different type of speech. There is a story, Mr. Chairman, about a young Jewish child who was going to be bar mitzvahed, who was going to be 13 years of age. When a Jewish child is bar mitzvahed, which means that he becomes an adult, he gets called to the Torah to participate in prayer, which is the sign of an adult. That's the coming into adulthood. But it usually, in modern days particularly, has become quite a celebration although it never was the origin of it, and generally the relatives and the friends lavish gifts upon the 13-year-old and, of course, he is expected to make a speech. For six months prior to the bar mitzvah, the parents were telling him, "You'll get presents." His friends were telling him he'll get presents; his relatives were telling him, "You'll get presents." When the day finally came, he stood up to make his speech and he said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, today I am a fountain pen."

I expected the Minister to get up, Mr. Speaker, and say, "Today I am a Bolshevik."

A MEMBER: A what?

MR. GREEN: "Today I am a Bolshevik." Because, Mr. Speaker, I heard not five minutes ago, and I gather it is reliable information, that today, or almost immediately, the government, wearing two different hats, under the Manitoba Development Corporation, which is the owner of Tantalum Mines, is transferring to the Department of Mines and Natural Resources its shareholding in Tantalum Mining so that rather than the mine being owned by the MDC, it will be owned by the people of Manitoba under the aegis of the Minister of Mines, or the Department of Mines. Mr. Speaker, if that's not accurate information, it doesn't change my position with regard to the Minister. It just means instead of him saying, "Today, I am a Bolshevik," if it's not under his department but is under the government generally, then the statement I would have expected is, "Today, we are Bolsheviks." Because, Mr. Speaker, the Conservative administration, or the Minister of Mines, will now be in the position — and I congratulate them — of owning a very very good piece of property, one, by the way, which only became efficient under public ownership.

Well, Mr. Chairman, the honourable members just, they just, I mean it hurts them to hear that type of thing. It bothers them, the fact that that mine was going broke, that they were desperate, that they couldn't get money from anybody, that they had to crawl on their hands and knees, all over to every private sector financial institution and be refused, and then came to the public of Manitoba, and we didn't leap, Mr. Speaker, we didn't leap. We wanted to make sure that we were

secure and got warehouse receipts on the concentrate as security for our money, put up \$1.5 million, and subsequently became shareholders for \$1.5 million so that we were 25 percent shareholders in that mine. If you do not believe me, then you can go ask Mr. Williams, Dibs Williams, who is the managing-director of that mine. He said that it was public involvement. He told me this personally. I believe Mr. Williams; I believe that he will not retract it. I believe he will tell it to the Minister, that it was public involvement that made that mine a success and that it operated very much better with the public involvement — and we were only 25 percent — than it did under private ownership.

By the way, if the member who represents Carman finds that so difficult to believe, then I can tell him that with regard to Morden Fine Foods, the manager gave me almost identical information, but I won't misrepresent him. He worked for the Canadian Canneries that left Manitoba high and dry as soon as they got all the tax concessions that they wanted, and left the people of Morden with an empty cannery. The public came in and saved it. I went to speak to this manager, and I said, "You know' my Conservative friends tell me that now that you are working for the public, you have become lazy and inefficient and you don't want to do anything and you've lost all your initiative." He looked at me as if I was crazy. He said, "I have no different attitude towards producing than I did when I worked in the private sector."

Mr. Chairman, there is a gentleman sitting in the gallery, he works for us — all of us. He used to work for the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Corporation. He is the president of the Manitoba Mineral Resources Limited, the exploration company that we operate. He is as rugged an individualist as you will meet; he is as anti-bureaucratic a person as you will meet; he has absolutely no philosophical direction in terms of socialism or the New Democratic Party and, as a matter of fact, I would venture to think that in his years in the private sector that he would have made more fun out of the public than most of you guys are able to do. He retired from Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting and we were starting a mineral ore exploration company. I said to him, "Albert, we ask you for no ideological commitment. I will ask you one question. You, for 35 years, worked for Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting as their exploration division head." I don't know if it was 35 years. Is that right, Albert, 35? It was a long time in any event. I said, "I only ask one question. Will you find it just as easy to do for us, for the public generally, what you did for them?" And he said, "I see no difference whatsoever," and he's been doing it ever since, under the New Democratic Party administration and under the Conservative administration.

Now, Mr. Chairman, with regard to Tantalum, let me say this, that this process of taking something out of one pocket and putting it into the other, ostensibly changes nothing, and I don't criticize it. I, and my fellow Manitobans, are just as much owners of Tantalum today as we were yesterday, because we are equal shareholders in the Manitoba Development Corporation and we are equal shareholders in the Province of Manitoba, something Mr. Bennett has never understood.

You know, Mr. Bennett, the Premier of British Columbia, he has a corporation which is owned by all the people and he says that in order for it to be owned by all the people, who all have equal shareholdings, he has to give these people each five shares in the corporation, and went through, Mr. Speaker, the elaborate procedure of saying that any citizen of the Province of British Columbia — just listen to the stupidity of Conservatism, of Conservatism — that he would distribute five shares to every man, woman and child in the Province of British Columbia. What happens to the person who is born the next day? He ceases to be a shareholder. But, more important, Mr. Speaker, which system guarantees ownership? The Honourable Member for Lakeside knows which system guarantees ownership, because if you distribute it amongst the two million people of British Columbia, five shares each' and they all had that hot little share in their hand, we're going to be at a party next week. We're going to be there. You're going to be there, Mr. Chairman, and several members of this Legislature are going to sit down with their shareholdings in their hand, and at the end of the meeting, at the end of the evening, there's going to be fewer owners than when the evening started.

And sure as God made little apples, Mr. Chairman, the shares of that company in British Columbia will not be owned by the people of the province, because some people, whether by ingenuity, by stealth, by aggressiveness, by whatever positive or negative attitudes you want to attribute to them, are going to be able to get some people's shares for themselves. Now, that hasn't happened with Tantalum yet. I'm waiting for those financial geniuses on the other side to decide that they're going to distribute, if they own this mine, a million and a half shares maybe to each person in the province of Manitoba. Maybe that's what they're going to do. But they haven't done it yet.

But what they have done, Mr. Chairman is — and the only thing that they have done — the Conservatives have a problem, a terrible problem. If there is anything that is operating publicly and doing well, it is a tremendous embarrassment to them. They walk around with red faces. They

try to hide it. They say, please lose money so we can show that we are incompetent when we are dealing with the public money. So what have they done in this case, Mr. Chairman? They're winding down the Development Corporation, that's their right. It doesn't mean that they won't continue to advance money. You don't need a Development Corporation to do it.

As a matter of fact, a Development Corporation is kind of a problem. You have to bring in a report, you have to have a financial statement, you have to answer questions. There are no questions being asked about CCIL. \$1.8 million was advanced last year. No questions will be asked if tomorrow, Mr. Chairman, you have another case like Versatile Manufacturing where these private geniuses — and I will say, using your language, incompetence, we're going broke, and they were hateful of everything in the public sector except money, and when they were desperate and none of the private agencies would give them money, they came to the public of Manitoba and we made a success out of that company. It's the biggest manufacturing concern in this province, I think in terms of sales, and it owes its existence to the people in this room. Aren't you proud? Mr. Chairman, they're not proud, they're embarrassed. When you say something like that, it embarrasses the Conservatives no end.

So what happened with Tantalum? We bought shares for \$1.5 million. Last year, 50 percent of the shares sold for \$6.2 million. Correct? \$6 million. \$6.2 million. It means if you have 25 percent and it's the same price that they're worth \$3 million. Are my calculations wrong, \$3.1 million. Divide \$6.2 million by 2, \$3.1 million. And by the way, when Hudson Bay pays \$6 million, it means they're worth more. And they are worth more, Mr. Chairman.

Now, the Conservatives have a problem. The Manitoba Development Corporation just showed an appreciation of \$1.5 million, plus the fact that they're worth more and the company is making money. In order to prevent any suggestion that the Development Corporation showed a profit on anything, because the Premier has to show they're losers, they're losers, they're losers, they transfer it out of the Development Corporation, put it on the books of the province, and the Development Corporation will not show a profit on any of the Tantalum shares.

A MEMBER: That's exactly what I said you'd say . . .

MR. GREEN: You know why the Minister knows that I would say that? Because he knows that's what was done. That's why he knows.

HON. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye): You just said we had some competent people in Manitoba in the mineral resources. You just said that.

MR. GREEN: Pardon me?

MR. BANMAN: You just said we had some competent people in Manitoba mineral resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, then the Manitoba mineral resources should pay the Development Corporation \$3 million plus. And the Development Corporation will then show a realization of \$1.5 million.

MR. BANMAN: It belongs to the people regardless.

MR. GREEN: Of course. Mr. Chairman, I have said that. I have said that. There is one thing, you know the Conservatives can do nothing but they are good book cooks. They are chefs. They are chefs, Mr. Chairman. Nothing has changed. I agree nothing has changed. But they are gourmet chefs when it comes to books. And that's exactly what they have done. The member admits that that's what they have done. He has said that the people own it both ways, that there are competent people in the Manitoba minerals, but there must have been competent people in the Development Corporation to have made that investment.

And interestingly enough, Mr. Chairman, interestingly enough, my fellow Bolshevik and myself, the Member for St. Boniface, you see, this was a Part II investment. This was one of the investments — the Development Corporation had a right to make two types of investments. One is if the board of directors, given its terms of reference, decided to proceed, they had authority to do so. If they didn't want to do so, or did not want to accept responsibility, the government could still proceed — and by the way, it's not socialism. You know who voted for that? That the government under Part II of the Development Fund Act could require the corporation to do it. You know who voted for that? Sterling Lyon, the Bolshevik, Duff Roblin, the Bolshevik, Gurney Evans, —(Interjection)— no, Harry Enns didn't vote for it. It was before Harry Enns —(Interjection)— It was B.E. There is B.C. and there is B.E. And it was B.E.

So Mr. Chairman, we have this mine under the aegis, and I have no difficulty whatsoever, about it being a part of the government. I, as a matter of fact, was more friendly in all cases to direct public ownership rather than ownership through a Crown Corporation. And there are reasons for that which I'm not going to go into, Sir. That's not my problem. I'm suggesting to the Minister who says he knew exactly what I would say. You know, the Minister reminds me of Harvey Banman, who knew exactly what I would say. Mr. Banman was the head of the insurance agents. —(Interjection)— Benham? Yes. He spoke for that group. And by the way, this fellow Stupidly at the Free Press says that I brought in Autopac. This goes back to the Autopac debate, it's related to this subject. Banman went out of the House, in the middle of the debate, at the height of it and he said, the New Democratic Party in seeking to underwrite automobile insurance, is looking for a licence to steal.

Mr. Chairman, I took my place in the House that night and I told a story which my friend, the Member for Morris knows, which I won't repeat now, the one about the pills, and then I said, "Mr. Banman says we are seeking a licence to steal". How does he know that? Because he had the licence and he didn't want to make an assignment of it, Mr. Chairman. That was his problem. So when my honourable friend says, "I knew exactly what you'd say", what he is doing, Mr. Chairman, is revealing that he knew exactly what they did. And that's all they did. There is nothing else accomplished, Mr. Chairman.

You're telling me that you're getting the expertise? I assure you, Mr. Chairman, that the Manitoba Development Corporation could have and would have said that we are going to ask Manitoba Mineral Resources to act for our agent in dealing with the Tantalum Mine. It would have been the same thing. Only one thing changes, Mr. Chairman, that on the books of the MDC, you will show a receivable of \$1.5 million, you will not even show interest on that money for the years that it was out, and you will present a picture which is prepared by a gourmet chef of books, which all of them have become, and one has learned from the other. And we had more of it last night.

So I expected the Minister to get up, if the department is not under him, the mineral resources corporation is under him, is that who it's been transferred to? If so, then I'm right. Today, I am a Bolshevik. And I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, because you've got a good piece of property. I want you to hold on to it, I don't want you to dispose of it. I don't know what you've done with our other piece and we'll get to that during these Estimates, but I say, Mr. Chairman, I will repeat what I said last year. If I have anything to do with it, if I have any influence at all, and I intend to try to have, then when this government returns to power, that portion of Tantalum Mines which the Conservatives let slip out of their hands, will be repurchased, the owners, Hudson Bay will be treated very fairly, they will get their purchase price plus interest on the money for the length of time that it was outstanding, and the 50 percent in shares will come back to the people of the province of Manitoba.

Mr. Chairman, I have absolutely no difficulty in saying that that is what anybody who has got an unjust enrichment should expect should happen. By that time, and I don't expect that that will be very far away, by that time we may have disposed of the other million and a half, the other shares that are now being dealt with by the mineral resources exploration company. But Mr. Chairman, howsoever, if it's going to be the 50 percent that we have to get back, we'll get that back. If it's going to be 75 percent because you're going to dispose of the other 25, then we'll get that back too. And my Conservative friends, —(Interjection)— well, Mr. Chairman, we were partners with Kawecki Berylco and I found them to be decent partners. They participated properly and you will not find anybody in the province of Manitoba anywhere, and I was in government for eight years, where we said that despite your position, we are going to take property from you and we are not going to — we never even took anything, never took a thing, but Mr. Chairman, we did say that we will start underwriting automobile insurance, which wasn't taking one cent worth of real or personal property. We just decided to deliver a service ourselves that used to be delivered by somebody else.

There is nobody in this society who is guaranteed — as my friend knows, I have a situation which my friend knows about of a person who is engaged in a particular type of service. A road is built, he can't do it anymore. Does that mean that the state owes him a living? Is that the proposition that you're advancing?

Well, Mr. Chairman, with respect to Tantalum and with respect to the other property in case you're thinking of letting the private sector get their greedy hands on it, on our work and that is share in Granges Exploration, that if that is also privateered in favour of some friend of the private sector, then I say, Mr. Chairman, if I have anything to do with it, and I intend to try to have some influence, then I am going to say that those people had better watch out. They had better, when they are making their purchase, calculate, Mr. Chairman, that they're not going to get any good will when it comes back to the public. They're not going to get any goodwill. They will get their money back. They will get a fair rate of interest, but they're not going to get what we earned. And it was us who earned the share in that operation.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicates in his report that Granges is continuing to work on that particular development. That development, which by the way will more than pay for every penny that the public put into exploration, which pennies wouldn't have been available if we didn't have a sensible mining taxation policy, which the Minister is going to undo, and put us completely at the mercy of the private sector. I ask the Minister, I ask him, what if, after he gives everything that he has promised to give them, after he undoes the taxation program and puts them in a preferred position, after he says that he will give them roads or anything else, what will he do if the private sector says, well, I'm sorry Mr. Minister, mining is still not a very attractive thing in the province of Manitoba, and you've got to sweeten the pill.

What will he do? He's disclosed his hand. He's told them, I depend on you, I bow to you, I go to you with my hat in my hand. Under no circumstances am I going to do anything by myself. Under no circumstances will the public do any exploration work. What will he do? Mr. Chairman, he'll give them more. He has told them that he will give them more. He has told them that the development of minerals in the Province of Manitoba depends on the private sector and that if they don't do anything, we beg, or we pay; that's what he has said.

There is, Mr. Chairman, the notion, and it has been repeated ad nauseam, in the face of the fact, that mineral exploration went down under the New Democratic Party administration. The fact is, that in the last year of our administration, mineral exploration reached its highest peak in history. It went to \$16 million and, Mr. Chairman, I have some of the names of partners with whom we were involved during that period. But in any event, it was the highest dollar value in history and I will make a concession to you. I can't say it was the highest activity year in history, because dollar values don't have much cents last year. We were dealing with \$16 million, that was highest, but \$16 million because of inflation might have been lower than what we were dealing with before.

But certainly, Mr. Chairman, there was no reduction in mineral activity, and all of those who say that, in particular, my friend, and I will repeat, Ted Stupidly, who wrote an editorial in the Winnipeg Free Press this week, saying that I introduced Autopac in the Province of Manitoba. Well, I would like to take the credit for doing so. He said that I said, and you people were here, and I would like them to find one statement, that when we have Autopac, there will be a paradise on earth, you will not have to sue to get your claim, that claims will be based without any fault. Well, Mr. Chairman, I never said —(Interjection)— I would challenge my honourable friend to find one thing that is even paraphrased into that remark. As a matter of fact, the field of third party liability was to stay exactly as it was, and I said I hope our insurance company is very careful about who they pay, and if somebody is making an unjust claim, they have to sue. And if you think that there is something wrong, then you should appeal. That is exactly the way any insurance company would operate, and that is the way we were to operate.

But there is a continued suggestion which flies directly in the face of the facts. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, Dave Thomas, president of Sherritt-Gordon Mining, made a statement last year, which they would like to burn. They would like to burn every copy of the Winnipeg Free Press that contained the statement, but I have saved a copy. And the statement, Mr. Chairman, is to the effect, and I don't have it right here, but I read it to my friend last year, that there has been a reduction in Sherritt-Gordon's activity last year, because the province pulled out its 50 percent share, and that therefore they have reduced the level of activity.

Mr. Chairman, even the report submitted by my honourable friend — I have that report someplace — you know, even my honourable friend is not so naive or vain about himself, that he would attribute mineral exploration, either in the oil area or the other area, to himself. I have heard statements about oil exploration on that side, that it has gone up since the Conservatives, because of the fact that there is a government that is friendly, the oil exploration has increased. Am I unfairly attributing statements to the other side? If I do, I will withdraw. I guess it's not unfair. Would you make that statement, that oil has gone up because of the Conservative administration? —(Interjection)— Pardon me? All right, Mr. Chairman, yes, but that is not why your report says it's happening. Your report is much more sensible, Mr. Chairman.

You know, there will be no oil exploration in Kenora. We have a good Tory government there. They will give allowances to anybody who is stupid enough to look for oil, and I am sure that will give them incentive, but there will be no oil exploration. There will be oil exploration in Alberta even though Premier Lougheed is not so stupid as the present administration. Lougheed said, "No sir, you're going to develop the tarsands? We are a partner, an equity partner." You know, that's Bolshevik Peter Lougheed. He taught me the way. He said, Mr. Chairman, you develop the tarsands; we are a partner. The Government of Canada is a partner, and you want to know something? To show you how pragmatic Lougheed is, he sent me a letter, sent the Government of Manitoba a letter. I don't know if I got it or the Premier got it, but it certainly referred to me because I answered it. And he said, we'll let you be a partner too. He wanted Manitoba to be a public ownership partner.

He wasn't so stupid as what I hear from members opposite. He said we could be a partner. I will tell you how I answered it. I said the Government of Canada represents me in this deal, and I am a partner in PetroCan — in PetroCan, and, in the development of the tarsands.

But, Mr. Chairman, his annual report makes much more sense than the guys who say that oil exploration has developed because of the Conservatives, of Lyon. All development has taken place because of oil, and if I was the Minister, and suddenly they found all kinds of oil in the Province of Manitoba, I can tell you they would be coming to me. They will sup with the devil even without a long spoon, on the basis that there is oil there. Here is what the report said: "An announcement in October of 1977," now I bet you guys are thinking, that announcement was the election of the Conservative government, that happened in October of 1977, n'est-ce pas?

(Text spoken in French. Translation not available).

Mr. Chairman, I digress by saying there is a case before the court, which if it goes in a particular way and I hope the government is thinking about what they are going to do. We may have to have instantaneous translation on every seat in this Legislature, because it is presently before the Court of Appeal. In any event, an announcement in October, 1977, of a major deep oil discovery in North Dakota, approximately 25 miles southwest of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan-North Dakota boundary, resulted in renewed interest in Manitoba's potential as evidenced by a significant increase in both the leasing of freehold oil and natural gas rights and in geophysical activity. So even the department itself is not so outrageous as to attribute this activity to increased incentives. They attribute it to the right price; they attribute it to increased oil possibility. And that, Mr. Chairman, is what has resulted in this increased activity. With regard to the rest of the activity — I am not sure and we'll find out more during the Estimates, but my inclination is to think that it has gone down, not gone up, gone down because of the policies of this government. And it will go down still further and, Mr. Chairman, if conditions are right, the companies will approach the Minister and other Ministers in this country, and say, we will not develop your mineral resources unless you sweeten the pill. And the reason, Mr. Chairman, that I know that they will say that, is that is what they have said everywhere they have gone and that is what they said to us. And they are not surely going to tell us anything differently than they are going to tell the Conservative administration.

So today, I congratulate the Minister. Today he is a Bolshevik. Today he is the owner of a mine. Take care of it, Mr. Chairman, if you don't, —(Interjection)— well, maybe tomorrow, Mr. Chairman, he will be a believer in some other proposition. See what he does. —(Interjection)— Pardon me? I'm sorry, I didn't get the remark of my honourable friend. He'll vote for me? I would think that the possibilities of that happening are greater — if my honourable friend wants to try to make personally embarrassing remarks — are greater than the possibilities of anyone on that side voting for the honourable member for leader.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour being 4:30, and in accordance with Rule 19(2), I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour.

The Chairman reported upon the Committee's deliberations to Mr. Speaker and requested leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. ABE KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Portage, that report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

MR. SPEAKER: We are now in Private Members' Hour. The first order under Private Members' Hour is Resolution No. 1 — the Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I did intend to speak today, but I believe there has been enough heard from me in the last two days and I would like to introduce this Resolution at another time, stand it down for one day. To one day I am entitled.

MR. SPEAKER: We then proceed to the second item under Private Members' Hour — the Honourable Member for Transcona. The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, there is one more item under Private Members' Bills, and that is Bill No. 10. Perhaps the Member for Radisson would want to proceed with second reading of that Bill.

MR. KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to let this Bill stand. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well then, Mr. Speaker, since there is no further business under Private Members' Hour, we then revert back to consideration of Supply.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't wish to be uncooperative. We have done this, and it's perhaps my fault and therefore I will accept responsibility. We have usually sent a message over to the House Leader telling him whether anything is going to proceed with Private Members' Hour, and if nothing was going to proceed, then the House just continued. I do not know whether we have ever gone into the House and back into Supply. I am not saying we can't do it, and I would be prepared to agree to it but I don't think it has ever happened and I will accept the fact that I did think that I was going to go ahead with that Resolution today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSEN: I endeavoured to determine whether or not my honourable friend was going to proceed with that Resolution, and so we would do exactly that, and since I was unable to get any kind of a response, we simply went into Private Members' Hour. The Committee has arisen, and according to our rules, the Committee can't reconvene itself, so if there is no further business before the House, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Highways, that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House adjourned until 2:30 Thursday afternoon.