



**Second Session — Thirty-Second Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

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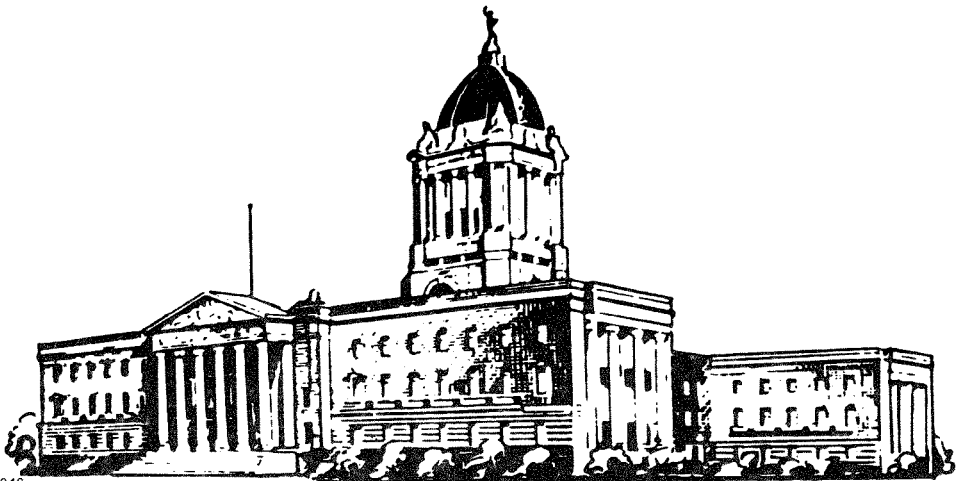
**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

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**31-32 Elizabeth II**

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The Honourable D. James Walding  
Speaker*



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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty-Second Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

Name	Constituency	Party
<b>ADAM, Hon. A.R. (Pete)</b>	Ste. Rose	NDP
<b>ANSTETT, Andy</b>	Springfield	NDP
<b>ASHTON, Steve</b>	Thompson	NDP
<b>BANMAN, Robert (Bob)</b>	La Verendrye	PC
<b>BLAKE, David R. (Dave)</b>	Minnedosa	PC
<b>BROWN, Arnold</b>	Rhineland	PC
<b>BUCKLASCHUK, Hon. John M.</b>	Gimli	NDP
<b>CARROLL, Q.C., Henry N.</b>	Brandon West	IND
<b>CORRIN, Brian</b>	Ellice	NDP
<b>COWAN, Hon. Jay</b>	Churchill	NDP
<b>DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent</b>	St. Boniface	NDP
<b>DODICK, Doreen</b>	Riel	NDP
<b>DOERN, Russell</b>	Elmwood	NDP
<b>DOLIN, Hon. Mary Beth</b>	Kildonan	NDP
<b>DOWNNEY, James E.</b>	Arthur	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Albert</b>	Emerson	PC
<b>ENNS, Harry</b>	Lakeside	PC
<b>EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.</b>	Brandon East	NDP
<b>EYLER, Phil</b>	River East	NDP
<b>FILMON, Gary</b>	Tuxedo	PC
<b>FOX, Peter</b>	Concordia	NDP
<b>GOURLAY, D.M. (Doug)</b>	Swan River	PC
<b>GRAHAM, Harry</b>	Virden	PC
<b>HAMMOND, Gerrie</b>	Kirkfield Park	PC
<b>HARAPIAK, Harry M.</b>	The Pas	NDP
<b>HARPER, Elijah</b>	Rupertsland	NDP
<b>HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen</b>	Logan	NDP
<b>HYDE, Lloyd</b>	Portage la Prairie	PC
<b>JOHNSTON, J. Frank</b>	Sturgeon Creek	PC
<b>KOSTYRA, Hon. Eugene</b>	Seven Oaks	NDP
<b>KOVNATS, Abe</b>	Niakwa	PC
<b>LECUYER, Gérard</b>	Radisson	NDP
<b>LYON, Q.C., Hon. Sterling</b>	Charleswood	PC
<b>MACKLING, Q.C., Hon. Al</b>	St. James	NDP
<b>MALINOWSKI, Donald M.</b>	St. Johns	NDP
<b>MANNES, Clayton</b>	Morris	PC
<b>McKENZIE, J. Wally</b>	Roblin-Russell	PC
<b>MERCIER, Q.C., G.W.J. (Gerry)</b>	St. Norbert	PC
<b>NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)</b>	Assiniboia	PC
<b>OLESON, Charlotte</b>	Gladstone	PC
<b>ORCHARD, Donald</b>	Pembina	PC
<b>PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.</b>	Selkirk	NDP
<b>PARASIUK, Hon. Wilson</b>	Transcona	NDP
<b>PENNER, Q.C., Hon. Roland</b>	Fort Rouge	NDP
<b>PHILLIPS, Myrna A.</b>	Wolseley	NDP
<b>PLOHMAN, Hon. John</b>	Dauphin	NDP
<b>RANSOM, A. Brian</b>	Turtle Mountain	PC
<b>SANTOS, Conrad</b>	Burrows	NDP
<b>SCHROEDER, Hon. Vic</b>	Rossmere	NDP
<b>SCOTT, Don</b>	Inkster	NDP
<b>SHERMAN, L.R. (Bud)</b>	Fort Garry	PC
<b>SMITH, Hon. Muriel</b>	Osborne	NDP
<b>STEEN, Warren</b>	River Heights	PC
<b>STORIE, Hon. Jerry T.</b>	Flin Flon	NDP
<b>URUSKI, Hon. Bill</b>	Interlake	NDP
<b>USKI, Hon. Samuel</b>	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
<b>WALDING, Hon. D. James</b>	St. Vital	NDP

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Wednesday, 27 July, 1983.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.**

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding:** 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 Economic Development.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada has recently restructured their major economic programs. This restructuring has resulted in a reduction of federal industrial development support in Manitoba.

These unilateral federal actions not only impair Manitoba's ability to take full advantage of recovery, but also impede progress in making the structural adjustments that are vital to our future prosperity.

Members may recall that in early 1982, the Prime Minister announced the reorganization of federal economic departments. There was one fundamental principle that was the foundation of reorganization. Regional development would no longer be the exclusive responsibility of DREE. Regional development was to be a federal priority and a responsibility shared by all economic departments. Mr. Speaker, that foundation may prove to be made of sand.

On June 29, 1983, the House of Commons passed Bill C-165. The new legislation consolidates the major federal economic development programs, including DREE grants for new establishments and expansions, into a streamlined Industrial and Regional Development Program.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that Manitoba's business community will be encouraged by the streamlining, the flexibility and the speed of decision-making provided for under the new program; but Manitobans will not be encouraged by the second major feature of this legislation.

The act introduced a development index which the Federal Government has advanced as an objective and equitable measure of regional disparity. Mr. Speaker, it is, in fact, neither objective nor equitable.

The development index accounts for three and only three factors: Unemployment, per capita income and provincial fiscal capacity. It ignores the real problem of long-term structural change in a regional economy. It ignores the at times persistent problem of out-migration - Manitobans leaving our province to find employment. It fails to account for those that have lost hope and have dropped out of labour force statistics. And it ignores assessments of future potential.

But based upon this inequitable and narrow development index, the Federal Government has divided Canada's 260 census divisions into four tiers. The development index determines which areas of the

country are eligible for various levels of assistance. Those areas in Tier 4 receive the maximum level of development support; those in Tier 1, the minimum.

Census divisions representing over 65 percent of Manitoba's population will receive the minimum level of federal development support under this program. The minimum level of development support applies to: Winnipeg as well as Toronto; Brandon as well as Calgary; Flin Flon as well as Edmonton; and to Selkirk as well as to Vancouver.

Federal incentives have been important to Manitoba's industrial development. The former program structure recognized the significance of Manitoba's manufacturing base, and the entire province was designated for special regional development incentives. Now new companies establishing in Tier 1 areas are no longer eligible for assistance.

Product and process development assistance has been reduced for Manitoba companies attempting to increase productivity and introduce new, innovative products. Companies seeking to expand or modernize in Winnipeg and other Tier 1 areas will have to incur capital costs in excess of one-quarter million dollars before receiving any assistance. These minimum threshold levels of capital investment render much of Manitoba's small business community ineligible for support.

Under the new program structure, over 60 percent of company projects supported by Regional Development Incentives - that's the program we've had for the past few years - would have been rejected. These accounted for approximately 35 percent of the value of projects approved. The implications of this significant reduction in federal assistance are extremely serious for future industrial investment in Manitoba. The application of the federal index has produced results that simply do not make sense in terms of what we know to be true about the development needs of regions across Canada.

For that reason I have, even before the legislation was tabled in the House, expressed my grave concern to Federal Ministers. I will table that correspondence along with summaries of federal program changes.

The mayors of adversely affected centres will be made fully aware of the changes and their implications. The Winnipeg and Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, the Manitoba Federal of Labour, and the Canadian Manufacturers Association will be briefed.

The Premier will call upon the Prime Minister to redress the fundamental contradiction that exists in this program.

A program that seeks to reduce regional disparity by reducing support to Manitoba.

A program that seeks to reduce regional disparity by increasing support to the most advantaged regions of our economic union.

At a minimum, he will seek assurance that former arrangements which have contributed to federal, provincial and private sector objectives, will not be abandoned in favour of an inequitable index.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I was to say I was pleased with the Minister's announcement, I would definitely not be telling the truth in this Legislature. This announcement is another blow for the economy of Manitoba.

We have already seen the government that's in power right now implement such things as 1.5 percent payroll tax, generally they display their anti-business approach and this announcement today, further to the developments which we have seen this government implement, is a further blow to the Manitoba business sector, and henceforth, to the jobs which we so desperately need in this particular province.

One of the questions, and the release actually begs a lot of questions, I wonder if the Minister - I know I can't ask her that now - but I guess some of the questions that flow automatically are, the Enterprise Manitoba Program, which was really based on helping small industry in this province, is that affected by this particular announcement? Or such things as the Tourism Development Agreement, which were five-year agreements signed with the Federal Government, are they also involved in this particular announcement which she makes today? Because both of those programs were geared to help small entrepreneurs, small businesses start in this province and, if indeed, the Minister is saying that the Federal Government is now going ahead and reducing the input with regard to those particular programs, it indeed is a further blow to the economy of Manitoba.

I want to say further, I note in her statement that businesses of a very large nature are the only ones now that will be helped under DREE Assistance Program. I think that's wrong-headed. Manitoba has the majority of small entrepreneurs in this province; they employ the most people, and if we're going to get anything going in this province, we're going to have to try and help the small business people in this province.

So I guess what I'm saying to the Minister, while this announcement is one which none of us are happy with, I would in the future, over the next couple of days, be asking her some more questions with regard to exactly what effect this has on some of the five-year agreements, on the Enterprise Manitoba Program, on the Tourism Development Program, which were signed some three, four years ago, and whether or not those programs are affected by this announcement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** In response to a growing need for expanded cardiac surgery services in Manitoba, and the advice of the Advisory Committee on Cardiac Surgery, I am pleased to announce the development of a Provincial Cardiac Surgery Program in co-operation with the St. Boniface General Hospital, the Health Sciences Centre and the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine. This co-ordinated approach will integrate the existing programs under a single administration.

Under this integrated program, surgeons will have operating privileges in both teaching hospitals and be able to utilize the facilities in the most effective way

possible. The program will encompass patient care, professional education and research in the St. Boniface General Hospital, the Health Sciences Centre and the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine. A division of cardiac sciences will be established under the aegis of the university.

I am pleased to announce that cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon, Dr. Jaroslaw Barwinsky, will be asked to serve as program director. Dr. Barwinsky was nominated by the cardiac surgeons and approved by the hospitals and the university.

The program director will be supported by an advisory committee consisting of one senior administrator from both St. Boniface General Hospital and the Health Sciences Centre, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, a representative from the Manitoba Health Services Commission, and four persons with special knowledge or interest in cardiac care to be selected by the chairman.

In recent years, as cardiac surgery improved in effectiveness and risks decreased, this service for adults was centralized at the St. Boniface Hospital. An increasing need for cardiac surgery has made it necessary to develop an expanded and co-ordinated service for both adults and children in the province. I would emphasize that this integrated program will make a significant improvement in cardiac surgery services for children.

The Provincial Cardiac Program, which is now being developed in concert with the two major teaching hospitals and the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine, is unique in Canada. It serves as a model in co-operative program development, and it's a sign of things to come between the two teaching hospitals in Manitoba.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Honourable Minister for this statement which has been awaited by all members of this Chamber, I'm sure, and I think by a substantial sector of the community with considerable interest. I am pleased to acknowledge and recognize the initiative and the direction to which the Minister refers in this statement, relative to Manitoba's capabilities in cardiac surgery, both adult and pediatric.

I am especially pleased to note the specific reference to pediatric cardiac surgical capabilities and the fact that they will be strengthened and enhanced. This is something that has suffered to some extent in recent years with the retirement of Dr. Colin Ferguson who had contributed so much to that field and continues to contribute to the field of medicine generally in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would have to say that with respect to the composite, co-operative single-delivery unit concept that's contained in this statement the Minister has put before us this afternoon, the professional medical jury and the medical consumer jury is still out and will be out for some time. It remains to be demonstrated that this is a more positive way to proceed than the path that was pursued in the past,

which was concentration of a continent-wide renowned capability at St. Boniface Hospital under Dr. Morley Cohen.

It's my understanding that Dr. Cohen was approached about heading up this new composite team. I would hope that he will be available for counsel and advice in the future, notwithstanding the fact that he didn't find it desirable to accept that appointment.

At the same time, I know my colleagues and all members of the House would wish to extend congratulations and certainly the best wishes to Dr. Barwinsky in the role that he assumes in this important facility.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to a forthcoming report on this subject from the Manitoba Health Services Commission, and I would conclude, Sir, by sympathizing with the Minister to a certain extent in the fact that he was confronted with a fait accompli in this area. He was also confronted with a legitimate demand and desire for more cardiac surgical capabilities in this province and that's something to which all of us would subscribe. The question was never, do we need more cardiac surgical capabilities? The question was, where are they going to be concentrated and located in terms of the most efficient use of our health-care dollars? This seems to answer that question for the moment.

We support the initiative and will approach it with confidence, sure that it will be given a good test, hopeful that it will prove to be successful, but at the same time reminding all of us inside and outside this Chamber that we have to watch very carefully against competition between our two major teaching hospitals and duplication of expensive high-technology capabilities.

So, for the moment, as I say, Sir, we welcome the announcement, but the jury is out.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Notices of Motions . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

### SPEAKER'S RULING

**MR. SPEAKER:** Before Oral Questions, I have a statement for the House.

On July 20, 1983, the Honourable Member for Inkster stood in his place to raise a point of privilege regarding words spoken in debate by the Honourable Member for Pembina. I took the matter under advisement in order to review Hansard. Since the Honourable Member for Inkster failed to show that the Honourable Member for Pembina spoke the alleged words, there is no prima facie case and no matter of privilege exists.

### ORAL QUESTIONS

#### McKenzie Seeds

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education.

As we are all now aware, Mr. Bill Moore has been fired from his position as Chief Executive Officer of McKenzie Seeds for a conflict-of-interest situation involving the leasing of a computer to McKenzie Seeds by a company which Mr. Moore had an interest in.

Some time ago the government appointed Mr. Moore to the Board of Governors of Brandon University, no doubt because of his long association with the NDP Party, most recently as a candidate in the Brandon-Souris federal by-election.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** This morning, Mr. Speaker, I indicated to the Minister of Education that in quoting two sets of Minutes from the Board of Governors' meetings at Brandon University that Mr. Moore had urged Brandon University to use the same computer which had been leased to McKenzie Seeds. Can the Minister of Education now tell us whether she has been able to verify the authenticity of the information which I provided this morning?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Education.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Speaker, in regard to the question that was raised by the Member for Turtle Mountain this morning, I have reviewed the issue of Mr. Moore's continuance as a member of the Board of Governors of the University of Brandon.

I want to take just a minute to talk about the importance of the work that is done by the boards of governors of the universities and how difficult it is today. They're facing a lot of very difficult issues and very difficult problems, and I believe that it is important that they not be embroiled unnecessarily in controversy, nor have their time and effort that they should be expending on programs and on important university matters that are facing all of them, including Brandon University; that their attention not be diverted from dealing with the large enrolment increases that - Brandon University is particularly facing the largest enrolment increase of any university, the building of new facilities, the carrying on with programs.

I think it is also important, very important, that members of boards of governors enjoy the confidence of the entire community. This has led me to the conclusion that Mr. Moore should be removed from the Board of Governors, effective today.

### Main Street Manitoba Program

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. In view of the fact that approximately 10 days ago, the Minister of Municipal Affairs made a major announcement of the inclusion of the Town of Morden under the Main Street Manitoba Program with the expenditure of approximately \$447,000, I would like to ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs whether the Town of Morden can complete the Main Street Manitoba Project as announced?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**HON. A. ADAM:** Mr. Speaker, in response to the question from the Member for Pembina, when the

application was received it was noted that major reconstruction would be required to Stephen Street, which is the main street of Morden, Manitoba. Because of the fact that there was major reconstruction required and the town wanted to proceed with their Main Street Project, we agreed to accept their application based on conditions that the private sector could proceed and the public sector, the municipality could proceed on whatever portions that pertain to the application that were not part of, or adjacent to, the reconstruction of the highways or the main street.

The Council of Morden agreed to proceed with their application, and it was accepted that we would agree that they would phase in their program and they would proceed with what they could this year. The balance would have to wait until their reconstruction of their main thoroughfare was completed.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, would he not consider it rather inappropriate to make a grandiose announcement about a fifth community being involved in the Main Street Manitoba Project when he had the knowledge that project could not proceed without substantial reconstruction being done on Stephen Street by the Department of Highways, which had not approved that project for construction this year?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. I wonder if the Honourable Member for Pembina would wish to rephrase his question so that it asks for information and not for opinion from the Honourable Minister.

The Honourable Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister was about to answer the question I phrased to him. If he wishes it rephrased, I will do so.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. I believe the Chair indicated that the honourable member should rephrase his question.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, my rephrased question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, why did the Minister of Municipal Affairs approve with much fanfare and announcement the Main Street Manitoba Program in Morden when he had full knowledge that major reconstruction of Stephen Street, which is involved in the Main Street Program, was needed and would not be undertaken because the Minister of Highways had not included that project for reconstruction?

**HON. A. ADAM:** Mr. Speaker, the Town of Morden, I am advised, were informed as far back as January that there would be no funding this year because of the shortage of financial dollars for highway construction; that there was no possibility of this year for reconstruction of the main street. The Town of Morden wanted to proceed with their application, and I am a Minister that's very easy to get along with, Mr. Speaker. Normally, we would not accept . . .

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**HON. A. ADAM:** I'm a very amiable fellow, Mr. Speaker, and . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**HON. A. ADAM:** . . . normally we would not accept . . .

**A MEMBER:** Call him the Marc Lalonde of Manitoba.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**HON. A. ADAM:** Normally we would not accept an application that wasn't begun and completed, but under these circumstances where the town wanted to - they had a very exciting program. It was a very exciting project for their town with approximately three blocks involved. They were advised that there would be no possibility of highway reconstruction this year. Because of the unique situation and the uncertainty of the reconstruction of their highways, we agreed that we could phase it in. The private group could begin to do their storefronts and, when I was there on the Thursday, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Friesen, the Mayor, indicated to me that there was a possibility that they could begin on some of the public works as well. Now there is perhaps a problem of the widening of the sidewalks which may affect the drainage in that particular area of town.

So they were aware that reconstruction would not begin and they agreed to go in with a phased-in operation or construction of this application. I would be very happy to table the comments that I made in the Pembina paper, I guess it is, on July 20th, where I stated categorically that the . . .

**A MEMBER:** Table it, table it.

**HON. A. ADAM:** Mr. Speaker, "Mr. Adam went on to say that the town has been discussing the future of Stephen Street with the Department of Highways, but noted that any decision on reconstruction of the street is up to the Minister of Highways," and that I could give no commitment in regard to the reconstruction of Stephen Street for this year.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister for his very full answer.

The Honourable Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that the citizens of Morden can sleep at night, knowing that the government is in well-organized hands of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, I should like to pose a question to the Minister of Highways and Transportation, Mr. Speaker.

To the Minister: Are plans available for the reconstruction of Stephen Street - Stephen Street being the street on which his colleague, the Minister of Municipal Affairs has made a \$447,000 Main Street Manitoba announcement - are plans for reconstruction ready, and can that reconstruction be undertaken in this calendar year?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**HON. S. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, I have not had an opportunity to look at the state of readiness with respect to that particular program. I know that in February or March, I had indicated to the Morden Council that we were not able to proceed this year because of a reduction in Highways programming this year, and that we would look at it again for the next fiscal year. It could be that we may have to wait that long. I'm not sure, because of that decision, whether the department had finalized all of their survey work, design work and so on, although I'm prepared to take that question as notice.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister.

My question to the First Minister is, has he been able to get his Minister of Highways together with his Minister of Municipal Affairs to assure that when the Minister of Municipal Affairs makes an announcement regarding Main Street Manitoba in Morden, that that program can be co-ordinated without the wastage of taxpayer monies by having one program undertake work, to have it destroyed and ripped up by the highway reconstruction, whenever that occurs?

Can the First Minister provide the promised answer to the Mayor of Morden? Can the First Minister provide the assurance that he and his staff promised to the Mayor of Morden about a decision on the reconstruction of Stephen Street by the Department of Highways this summer, that answer being promised by Thursday of this week?

Mr. Speaker, can the First Minister confirm that himself and members of his staff indicated to the Mayor of Morden on Wednesday of last week that they would provide him an answer as to the reconstruction of Stephen Street by this Thursday, after having gotten his Minister of Municipal Affairs together with the Minister of Highways to co-ordinate the announcement of Main Street Manitoba and the subsequent requirement of reconstruction on Stephen Street?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, certainly, I was not in conversation with the Mayor of Morden, but indeed an indication can be given to the Mayor of Morden without any difficulty by this Thursday.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs has dealt with it very very clearly. He read indeed — (Interjection) — Well, the Leader of the Opposition likes to laugh at that which, I suppose, only he knows what he is laughing at.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs has read the contents of the announcement that he made at the time of the announcement in Morden. I heard the announcement as the Minister of Municipal Affairs read same from the Pembina Times, and I'm sure that the people of Morden that read the announcement, that heard the announcement, understood the contents of that announcement maybe better than the member for the constituency.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**HON. A. ADAM:** Yes, just to clarify a bit further. When I was in Morden, Mayor Friesen inquired as to the

possibility of reconstructing the three blocks that would be part of the Main Street project.

I undertook to inquire into that. I have asked the Minister of Highways to have his engineers express an opinion as to the feasibility of reconstructing just the three blocks that would be part of the Main Street project. That information hasn't been received as yet, but we would like to have an engineering comment on the feasibility of reconstructing only part of the highway, if that would cause any problems to the drainage and so on.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister. In view of the fact that the Minister of Municipal Affairs' announcement of spending on Main Street Manitoba in Morden cannot be completed without a commitment by the government to reconstruct Stephen Street in Manitoba, will the First Minister, as chairman of the Jobs Fund, which has robbed from the Department of Highways some \$20 million of highway construction funds, see fit to reallocate a small portion from the Jobs Fund, of the \$20 million that were taken from the Highways Department, and have the Minister of Highways able to undertake the reconstruction of Stephen Street in advance of the waste of money by the Department of Municipal Affairs, the Town of Morden and the business people who will be involved in the Main Street Manitoba project?

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the Minister of Municipal Affairs will be able to work out a progress in line with the announcement that he made in Morden itself. There's a clear understanding, if I understood the words from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, that there would be a staging of the program. The Minister of Municipal Affairs made that very very clear in Morden. The program was accepted by the Town of Morden with that understanding, Mr. Speaker, and knowing the good people of the Town of Morden, maybe they're more understanding of announcements and the contents of announcements than unfortunately their member in this House is.

### Bilingualism - advertising

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable First Minister. Today we have seen the beginning, I assume, of an advertising campaign in the newspapers, a very slick advertising campaign following on many others that the government has been introducing, in which there are more than half-page ads being taken out in the Free Press and Sun to promote the government's bilingual agreement.

My question to the First Minister is: I understand that there may be some advertising on television as well connected to this. What is the budget that the government has for this campaign to tell Manitobans about the bilingual resolution?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.  
The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** The Attorney-General accepted that question as notice yesterday.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, we have been told that the agreement is going to save Manitobans a great deal of money. The Premier, I assume, and he can correct me if I'm wrong, is still in charge of the Information Services area and the area of publicity for the government. My question to him is: What is the budget that has been struck for this campaign? There are folders going out for \$28,000, we were told yesterday. There is a new advertising campaign. What will it cost Manitoba taxpayers?

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Again I refer you, Mr. Speaker, to the fact that the Honourable Attorney-General was asked this question yesterday, and accepted the question as notice. The information will be provided by the Attorney-General.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in the first place, I don't know why the government would undertake ads to tell people about a folder that they're all receiving. My question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker, is, is this his signature that appears on the ad? I won't question about the figure that appears on the ad, because . . .

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. G. FILMON:** . . . Mr. Speaker, it appears as though the Premier was coiffed with an airbrush rather than a hairbrush in this ad, but I would like to verify whether . . .

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. G. FILMON:** I would like the Premier to tell us whether or not this is indeed his signature on the ad. Mr. Speaker, if the Premier prefers not to answer that question, we will assume that it is his signature, and I would like to know whether or not we can have any more confidence in the truth of the statements in this document signed by him, than we have had in the statements that were contained in this document, "A Clear Choice for Manitobans," which he signed in the fall of 1981.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The honourable member was not asking for information.  
The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. G. FILMON:** I would like to ask the Premier then, Mr. Speaker, what is his middle name?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I'm glad we're trying to get out of this House. I'm glad we are.

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now that we have all had a good laugh, does the honourable member have a proper question?

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that, according to the information we have on official file, the Premier's

middle name is Russell. I would like to know why the name shown in this ad is Howard A. Pawley. What does the "A" stand for in Howard A. Pawley, I would like to know?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**A MEMBER:** Gary, you're getting a lot of TV time. Keep it up.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. R. DOERN:** I would like to direct a question to the Attorney-General on the question of these ads and pamphlets that are appearing in Manitoba. I would like to know if he can indicate the cost of these particular advertisements. The one in the Free Press appears to be \$1,000; the one in the Sun appears to be \$500.00. Neither of them, Mr. Speaker, are as good as the front page of the Winnipeg Sun. The question was, what was the cost of those advertisements?

**A MEMBER:** No answer.

**MR. R. DOERN:** No answer?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**HON. R. PENNER:** I took the question as notice yesterday and when I have the information collected on the question, as asked, I will give that answer to the House.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I just say in passing, I did not ask that question yesterday. I asked today what the cost of those ads was.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask the Attorney-General whether he could indicate the number of inserts being planned for the Winnipeg dailies, and if he could also indicate whether these ads will be appearing in the weekly newspapers of Manitoba? That has nothing to do with - it has to do with how many insertions.

**HON. R. PENNER:** I take that as notice, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I would then ask the Attorney-General, in view of his criticism about advertisements and pamphlets that have been distributed in opposition to the government's bilingual policy, and in view of the fact that there are almost no references whatsoever in this pamphlet, or the blue and white one which has been distributed to Section 23.1 and Section 23.7 - there is almost a total reference to those particular sections, only a reference to where there are certain areas that have a heavy French-speaking population - will there be a third pamphlet or distribution containing that information for the people of Manitoba?

**HON. R. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, I'll take that as notice, and trust that the Member for Elmwood will hold his breath until I come in with the answer.



**MR. R. DOERN:** My final question, which I know the Attorney-General can answer is, has this brochure been printed in French? If not, when will it be, and if so, at what cost?

**HON. R. PENNER:** Consideration is being given to translating both the "Constitutionally Speaking" and the brochure into the French language. I think, in fact, preliminary translation is under way on both of them.

### Beaver control program

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the questions I raised regarding the beaver problems of last week, I wonder, can the Minister now tell me if he's studied the problem, if he's met with the Federal Government, and he's satisfied that the three-year program that they have signed with the feds is not working? In fact, the beaver population has escalated, and the losses are staggering of crops and hay losses and property damage in the area.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is quite right. The story that appeared recently in the Press appears to be accurate. The beavers have been eager in their activity, and the results are a matter of concern, not only to the surrounding agricultural interests, but to the department as well. We have ongoing concerns in that matter. We have talked to the people in the Federal Government. We have the Riding Mountain Liaison Committee and they continue to monitor that question. There are strong feelings about doing more than what is being done by the Federal Government, but it is a matter that is not in our jurisdiction, it is a matter that deals with the animals in the park and we cannot interfere with that policy. We hope that the Federal Government will continue to recognize the concerns we have and participate in that program and hopefully do more to reduce the effect on the neighbouring farms.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Honourable Minister for those comments, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding and it's the understanding of the people in the area that there is an agreement in place between the Federal Government and the Province of Manitoba to control the beaver population. Can I ask the Honourable Minister, is he prepared to take some of his top staff and go out into the area tomorrow or the next day, at least this week, and take a look at the serious losses and damages to property and crops and hay that's taking place around the periphery of Riding Mountain especially? Those people shouldn't be asked to bear those costs, and I'd ask the Minister, can he take a few hours to fly out there and take a look at the problems?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, the department does have staff that are fully aware of the problem and they let me know about the initiatives that are necessary. I do not think it's necessary for me to go out personally to get the information that the honourable member is talking about. We have the benefit of the telephone; we have the benefit of Her Majesty's post; we are aware of the impact on the community and we have brought those concerns to the attention of the Federal Government.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Speaker, I'm getting the runaround this week like I got last week. That's not going to satisfy those people out there. The answers I'm getting today are almost identical with last week, which is a runaround. Can I ask the Minister then, is he satisfied that those people should be compensated for their losses, either by this government or the Federal Government? It's not their fault, they didn't put the beavers there. Those beavers are the ones that are causing the problem. I'm just asking him, as the Minister of the Crown, to help those people out and solve their problems.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, there's been a beaver problem in the vicinity of Riding Mountain for some time. It's nothing new. It existed when the previous administration were charged with responsibility of that area, and certainly we are not ducking the problem, we are aware of the concerns and we will respond to them.

### Wayside Parks

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** I thank the Honourable Minister for those sentiments, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that he will react.

Can I ask him another question? I thought last week that Mafeking Park was the only place that were getting their toilets and tables removed and their barbecues. Asessippi Provincial Park had some of the municipal people camping there the other day. Staff moved in, cleaned out the toilets, the barbecue and the table and they left, can I ask the Minister, will he check that out at Asessippi Provincial Park?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.  
Order please.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, we are enjoying a very very high visitation rate at Asessippi Park. Mr. Speaker, the probable reason for that is that there is a very high record of success in angling in Lake of the Prairies, and we have spent a considerable amount of money in reflecting the higher need and we will continue to do so. It's true that there may be changes made from time to time in connection with facilities there. We have an ongoing concern and we will be meeting with the municipalities to determine how to best control the very large numbers of people who have been camping in places other than the official campgrounds because of the high need and we're looking at further camping developments there. I can assure the honourable member that we are concerned to provide the best services we can in the area.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Minister for those comments because one of the reeves was the one who was camping there when the incident happened, that he's going to call the municipal people together and discuss this matter.

The second thing, Mr. Speaker, in contacting the staff in the area, I'm told that directive came right out of his office in Winnipeg. It wasn't the local people, the directive came out of his office. I'm asking him, what's he trying to do to rural Manitoba with these directives that are coming out of his office as to Mafeking and now Asessippi in telling people you don't have the right to camp there and use those facilities that have been there for years?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member must be reflecting back on previous times because I know this Minister of Natural Resources doesn't give that kind of autocratic direction to staff. Now that may well have happened in the past under the previous administration, Mr. Speaker, but it doesn't happen at this time.

### Law Courts Building - sculptures

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for St. Norbert. — (Interjection) —

Order please, order please. I think the Honourable Member for St. Norbert is quite capable of asking a question without vocal help from his colleagues. The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Government Services, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the art program for the new Law Courts Building. The sum of \$48,000 was designated for sculptures on two exterior sites adjacent to the new Law Courts Building, can he advise this House whether or not the Arts Advisory Committee recommended the names of persons to him to do those sculptures?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we can confirm that there were some recommendations from the Arts Advisory Committee, a committee of Cabinet made up of the Minister of Cultural Affairs, the Attorney-General, whose department the Law Courts building is being constructed for, as well as myself, have reviewed that. We would like the Arts Advisory Committee to consider alternatives and they are currently proceeding to give us some alternatives that could be considered. We felt that we would like to see other alternatives besides the two that were recommended and as soon as we get recommendations we will follow up on that.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that a number of people in the arts community, including one of my constituents, went to a great deal of work to prepare submissions to the government for this work, they have apparently been rejected by a committee of Cabinet after the Arts Advisory Committee has made certain recommendations. Could the Minister advise as to the criteria that he and his Cabinet colleagues

used in rejecting the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Committee?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I should point out that those artists who were asked to submit proposals were paid for that work. Secondly, we have not rejected the proposals that came forward. We merely asked for other alternatives to those that were sent in.

That does not mean that there's any final rejection, Mr. Speaker. We want to consider all alternatives; we feel it's important. It is a significant piece of work and, as has been mentioned, the \$48,000 that the honourable member has mentioned, we feel that is a significant expenditure and one that should be done with a great deal of thought. We want to take that thought and take the time to do it.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the Minister didn't answer the question. Could he advise the House as to what criteria or what reasons he and his colleagues rejected the recommendation to the Arts Advisory Committee, or at least set aside and deferred them? What criteria or reasons did they use in order to at least set aside or defer the recommendations of the Arts Advisory Committee? What concerns did they have with respect to the recommendations?

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I made it very clear that these were not rejected, that we merely postponed a decision on that until we have other alternatives.

I don't know whether the honourable members feel that they are able to make those kinds of decisions in a rush, Mr. Speaker, without having seen all the alternatives. We want to see them; we think it's an important decision and not one to be taken lightly. We would ask that the opposition would also consider that as well. We have considered the aesthetic principles, how it fits in with the overall building design, and we want to make sure that whatever is chosen, the sculpture that is chosen does indeed fit in and is accepted by the public as such as well.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. R. PENNER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, with respect to House business - I've conferred with the Opposition House Leader - you will note on the Order Paper there is scheduled for tomorrow, in the morning, a meeting of Law Amendments, with the possibility of Law Amendments meeting again tomorrow evening.

There is, Sir, but two bills awaiting deliberation in Law Amendments, and only one, in fact, really ready for consideration. In view of that fact, I am announcing to the House that Law Amendments will not be meeting tomorrow and will be scheduled for sometime next week, depending on the progress made with bills and business of the House.

That the House will sit tomorrow in the afternoon at 2:00 and in the evening at 8:00 to consider business on the Order Paper.

That the Standing Committee on Regulations and Orders, meeting tonight in committee to consider representations on Bill 60, will meet again tomorrow morning at 10:00 to continue consideration of public input and, if possible, to begin clause-by-clause.

There's the possibility, not yet finalized in discussions with the Opposition House Leader, of the committees meeting Friday afternoon, but that is to be determined.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Will the Government House Leader indicate the next item of business?

**HON. R. PENNER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, would you please call the adjourned debate on the referral motion, moved by myself and standing for consideration on Page 10 of the Order Paper.

### ADJOURNED DEBATE ON RESOLUTION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RE: OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

**MR. SPEAKER:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General and the proposed amendment thereto by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

The Honourable Member for Virden.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was heartened, Mr. Speaker, by the words of the Honourable Minister of Government Services just a few minutes ago in question period when he pleaded for co-operation from the opposition in the House dealing with matters respecting art and the law building that is being presently constructed. I think that was a very reasonable approach by the Minister of Government Services and I commend him for it. I think that anything in government has to be done in a spirit of co-operation and understanding, and it requires the work of all members of the Assembly if we are going to achieve what is in the best interests of the people of Manitoba.

I start off that way, Mr. Speaker, because I think it is fundamental that when you're dealing with a matter that is so crucial to the affairs of the people in Manitoba, namely, the changing of the Constitution that affects our province, then it should be done in a matter of complete understanding, of absolute fairness and co-operation from all concerned, so that the long-term benefits, if there are to be any benefits, will accrue to the people of Manitoba from the decisions that are made at this particular time and in the very near future.

It's not my intention, Mr. Speaker, to talk today about the intent of the resolution, but I want to talk more so about the mechanics of dealing with the proposal that is before us. My colleague, the Honourable Member for Fort Garry, put forward a proposal to the House just the other day, suggesting what we on this side of the House consider to be the very minimum requirements necessary for the people of Manitoba and the elected representatives of the Manitoba Legislature and other elected representatives in Manitoba to deal with an issue that affects each and every one of us. I think that's important that that consideration be considered by all members.

That was why I raised the issue of the request made by the Honourable Minister of Government Services,

because he was appealing for co-operation. I suggest to him and to all members, that is a two-way street, and that this House can achieve much more for the interests of all concerned if it's done in a spirit of harmony and co-operation where a mutual agreement can be worked out to the benefit of all Manitobans.

I say that, Mr. Speaker, because I think there is room in this Chamber for some semblance of sanity to be used. Mr. Speaker, it was only a matter of three hours ago - well, less than three hours ago - when there was only 15 minutes left before adjournment and I stood in my place and asked that the debate be adjourned, and the Acting Government House Leader at that time said, no, but we found out 10 minutes later that he changed his mind and said, yes.

So we find it very difficult, Mr. Speaker, when you are dealing with important matters, when you find complete turnarounds in a matter of a few minutes in decisions that are made by this government, or agents acting for this government, to get any semblance of direction that this government is going. A complete turnaround occurred in a matter of 10 minutes, and I would suspect, Mr. Speaker, that you can draw your own conclusions as to why it occurred.

There is one possibility that the person speaking in the beginning, even though he was acting as a Deputy House Leader, did not have the support of his party. That's a distinct possibility, Mr. Speaker. There is another distinct possibility that maybe it's wishful thinking on his part that he would like to be the permanent House Leader and really show everybody what power he has, but we see that any course of action in that direction would be absolutely disastrous.

There is a third possibility, Mr. Speaker. That is, because of his actions, and they were visibly demonstrated, that he is totally unfit to act as a Deputy House Leader and possibly as a Minister of the Crown. I know that the Honourable Premier certainly had some doubts about his capability when he formed his Cabinet, because his first move in forming a Cabinet did not include that individual. I would suspect, Mr. Speaker, that it was only after continuous pressure from sources unknown to me that the First Minister reluctantly agreed to add him to his Cabinet ranks.

So, Mr. Speaker, when I talk about co-operation in the method that is going to be used to bring about constitutional reform, I raise these issues to show that if there are any errors, any inconsistency, any doubt or any lack of leadership, they exist on that side of the House.

We find, Mr. Speaker, in this procedure that we are going through to bring about changes in the Constitution that after the ballgame has started, suddenly things change. The Attorney-General has made suggestions of possible amendments. We find out that suddenly maybe things aren't going right for him, so he starts his advertising campaign. We know now that there have been three pieces of advertising; indeed four, because I should include the visual media as well. We have seen advertisements in the local papers, the daily papers; we have seen the printing of coloured brochures; we have seen his "Constitutionally Speaking" newspaper; and we have listened to the radio and seen the visual on the other media.

Mr. Speaker, members on this side of the House have asked what the budget of the government is for the

advertising program on this. Mr. Speaker, we have been refused that information.

**HON. R. PENNER:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The Honourable Attorney-General on a point of order.

**HON. R. PENNER:** That is a palpable misstatement. Just 15 minutes ago, when this question came up in question period, I said that I have taken that as notice. To say that they have been refused is a distortion unworthy of that member, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Virden, could you account for that explanation?

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Speaker, I fully agree. I apologize to the House; I apologize to the Attorney-General. There was no refusal. There was no answer. There was no knowledge given to this House, no evidence of any knowledge of what their budget would be.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we sit in this Legislature from time to time studying the Estimates of Expenditure, the Budget of the government not for today, but for a year from now. Governments must operate on budgets. They must be accountable; they must put forward their programs and tell us how much they intend to spend for this thing and that thing. So far, Mr. Speaker, that information has not been forthcoming from this government.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, and I could be wrong, that a diligent search of the present estimates of this government will find uncovered no item to cover that advertising. I would believe, Mr. Speaker, that if the Attorney-General can identify it for me in the current estimates of this current year, then I would be thankful to him because we want to know where this government has budgeted for that money.

It seems rather strange, Mr. Speaker, and I know it's something that we have lived with for many many years, we spend a great deal of time in this Assembly dealing with the Estimates of Expenditure for the coming year; we spend a great deal of time in committee examining the Public Accounts of the past year, but we have very little means other than the question period or active debate in this House to establish what is currently going on today in government.

Government has traditionally - and I don't point the finger at this particular government; I point it at all governments - had that freedom of movement of the current day-to-day affairs, of not having them available for public scrutiny even though the public wants to know. We have a longstanding tradition in this House, Mr. Speaker, that members can ask questions, and it is the prerogative of government to decide whether or not they wish to answer. They can refuse to answer them as has been done, or say that they will attempt to get the information as has been done in the past, and in doing so, they can prolong indefinitely providing that information.

It is something, Mr. Speaker, that has caused a lot of concern to a lot of members in this Chamber. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that some of the things that have caused concern aside from that is the matter of how this government intends to proceed.

We've had the Attorney-General take his road show out; they've held four public meetings. We have seen some enthusiastic support for it at the final meeting. At the first and second meetings they held, that enthusiastic support was not there. It may have taken them a little longer to drum up the troops and get them out to show the colours to the public, but in doing so, Mr. Speaker, do they help their cause, or do they hurt it?

If the public perception is one that shows doubt and skepticism about the activities of the government, the manner in which they are doing things, then I suggest they are doing more harm than good. Just little things, for example, Mr. Speaker, a little thing like putting an ad in today's paper, publishing a picture of the current Premier of the province, and the semblance of recognition to the Premier today is one that begs a lot of imagination if you look at the picture that appears in the ad. Little things that lead to doubt in the eyes of the public about how honest and straightforward this government is on this particular issue.

I want to go back, Mr. Speaker, to the manner in which this thing is being handled. We have suggested that it go to a committee to sit in between Sessions and report at the next Session of the Legislature.

From the very beginning, from the time this resolution was first introduced, the position of the Conservative Party has been consistent and steadfast. We want the best that is possible for Manitobans and we want it to be done after thorough investigation, after the public has had all kinds of opportunity to take part in the debate and to have the opportunity to study and get the feedback that is so necessary when you're making a decision as important as this, in an unhurried way. We believe that is important.

The fact that the Attorney-General wants to make a deal shouldn't have any effect at all on any constitutional debate or any constitutional amendment.

Mr. Speaker, there has been in the past I think a Canadian of some renown who has created a rather famous name for himself when he hosts the TV show, "Let's Make a Deal." But, Mr. Speaker, he's not in politics, and I would suggest to you that he would never, if he was in politics, adopt that kind of philosophy in dealing with affairs that are so important to the lives of every single individual. Private deals are not the best way to amend constitutions and private deals are not the best procedure to use, and here, Mr. Speaker, we're talking about procedure and how we're going to handle this thing.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the record of this government in how they have handled the affairs of this province, in particular in this Session, then the procedure that they're using becomes more suspect day by day.

We have seen the Government House Leader firmly in control for the first part of the Session and then during the Session trying to shuffle off that responsibility to others and in doing so, I don't really know what his purpose is. Is he trying to make himself look good in doing that? - because his image is certainly not that good, but he's saying - compared to others, look how good I am. Now, I don't think that's the best way to go.

I'll admit, Mr. Speaker, that from what I have seen the present Attorney-General appears to be doing a

better job as a House Leader than anybody that he has appointed to act in his absence. I wouldn't consider that to be a compliment. — (Interjection) — It all depends on the scale you use to measure it. On a scale from one to 10, where would he rate?

But, Mr. Speaker, those are just some of the small games that the Attorney-General is playing in this. It is interesting, Mr. Speaker, to note that throughout this whole thing whenever the Premier is involved in this constitutional debate, he is doing so on behalf of his colleague, the Attorney-General.

So that begs another question of who was really the person most concerned about having this proceed immediately and in the manner in which it's doing.

**MR. G. FILMON:** The members are a little thin over there.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** I would think it's the Attorney-General who is calling all the shots. I would have to ask myself, why? Because there's no doubt, in the eyes of the public, that the present Premier's time in office is limited. This government has created so many errors that any chance they have of re-election has long been gone.

So I would think probably the Attorney-General is saying, well, here I am standing in the wings. I can try and appear to be the good guy and there's a possibility that people will forget my background and my former political ties, and I may possibly be considered as the most logical leader of a really left-wing NDP association.

**A MEMBER:** I can't wait for the day.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** It's a possibility. But I have to ask then if that's not the purpose, then what is the purpose? What is the purpose of the Attorney-General? Is it really to live up to terms of an agreement that he made, when really he had no business in my opinion making private deals?

I know of no case in my knowledge where constitutional amendment is brought forward because of a private agreement signed between the Attorney-General and a group purporting to represent a small segment of society. I know of no deals where a constitutional amendment is proposed because of an unwillingness on the part of the Attorney-General to take his case before the Supreme Court. All of the procedures that have been used in this thing, Mr. Speaker, beg scrutiny.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that in all of the activities this government has used in bringing forward this proposed constitutional amendment they have gone wrong in every single step they have taken. And in doing so, they have created an even greater error in that they have appeared arrogant, unwilling to listen, unwilling to change and unwilling to be forthright.

We have asked that this thing, this whole subject be referred to an inter-sessional committee, and I think the Honourable Member for Pembina, earlier today, put forward a very positive and useful suggestion. He suggested that that committee not only include members of this Assembly, but also members of two other assemblies in Canada, namely, members from the House of Commons and the Senate. I would think

that all Manitobans would want to see that happen. It would be in the best interests of the province, if we had our elected members of Parliament, our elected MLAs, and our Manitoba Senators sitting together on one joint committee, dealing with amendments to the Constitution that affect every single Manitoban. I think that procedure would be an excellent suggestion and I would hope that the government considers it seriously.

The other thing that we have to be concerned about, Mr. Deputy or Acting Speaker, is what will happen if the government proceeds in their bullheaded manner and refuse to listen to any suggestions that come forward, which we believe are in the best interests of Manitoba? If this whole thing goes before a committee of this Assembly at the present time and there is a rush, and they want that committee to report within a matter of days, are we going to hear the logic and the level-headed thinking that is necessary to come forward and be heard at that time?

A second thing and I think probably the most important thing, is that we have heard the Attorney-General state there's a possibility of changes in the agreement. I would suggest to the Attorney-General, if he has any changes to propose to that agreement, that they be heard before we go to the public, so the public will know what his proposed changes are and not bring in through the backdoor after public representations have been cut off, changes that would significantly affect a decision.

Mr. Speaker, I know that our House is not perfect. I know that the federal House is not perfect, but I know that the manner in which the federal House of Commons moves in a seemingly unhurried way on constitutional change is one that does not go to the public once and hear their thinking and then ram it through. They put forward, they listen, they bring forward suggested changes, and they have a second round of discussions and sometimes even a third and fourth round, before any final change is made.

So I would suggest possibly that suggestion for that course of action would be extremely beneficial to Manitoba at this time. I think it's important that the public know the intentions of the government, if there are any suggested changes; and after public representations are heard and the government does make any further changes, then I think those changes again should go back to the public, so there's an ample opportunity for the reaction of the public to be heard to a decision that is made after the initial presentation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have been in this Assembly for quite a number of years. This, in my opinion, is the most single important factor that we are going to be dealing with in those 14 years that I have spent in this Assembly. I have seen other issues; an example is the proposed change to the assessment practices in this province that has taken years to bring into effect. Yet, here we are dealing with something much more important, and trying to do it in a matter of days. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the approach is wrong; the position of the government is not good; and the interests of the people will not be served by this process that the government is presently trying to impose.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation in supporting the amendment put forward by my colleague, the Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, Mr. P. EYLER:** Are you ready for the question?

The Member for Emerson.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to make some comments in support of the resolution, as amended. In getting together my notes, the theme that I want to concentrate on, why the rush? And that's what it is all about. It is a very important issue that we are dealing with.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, here we are at the end of July; the best part of the summer has already gone by us. We are already establishing a record in terms of the time that we are sitting in this Session, and we still have to deal with the total bilingual issue, plus the many controversial bills that are still on the Order Paper. Here we are having this crammed down at the tail end. It's the process that I am concerned about at this stage of the game, and I intend to deal more with the process than with the issue of the bilingual thing itself.

What bothers me in establishing the process aspect of it, for example, in the resolution itself it indicates, and I think it makes sense, that we go out; we have hearings with the people. Finally, it says, "sit during recess after prorogation of the House and report to the next Session of the Legislature." That makes sense.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we could deal with the bills that are on the Order Paper. We could get out of this House. Those of us that have families, even those that don't, would probably want to have a bit of a holiday, enjoy some of the nice weather that we're having at this time; but, no, we are here in this House and, by the looks of it, we'll be here for a long time yet.

Why is it so important to rush this bilingual resolution at this stage of the game? I've been out attending on weekends, every weekend, centennials, fairs, sports days, all kinds of functions, two, three, four on a weekend. What people are saying, are you still sitting in the House? They compare us with federal members who have already had a holiday for a month, and say, what are you doing there? Then when I have a chance to elaborate a little bit and indicate what is going on and what the big issues are, why we're still here, the bilingual issue; many of them said, I don't care how long you sit, you sit. You sit until you resolve this in a proper manner for the people of Manitoba.

First of all, the whole process, the way it has been developed by the Attorney-General, the deal that was struck, the agreement of which I, personally, have not seen a copy. There has been reference made to an agreement made between the Federal Government, the Provincial Government and SFM, but I haven't seen any portion of that agreement. I have looked through all the various advertising that has taken place - and I would like to make some comments on that - but there is no agreement in that.

The other day when the Member for Elmwood raised a question to the Attorney-General about his ad that he had in there and questionnaire, the Attorney-General said, it's not even fair because you don't have a copy of the agreement in there. Well they certainly don't have any copy of the agreement in their advertising as it is right now.

**A MEMBER:** Double standard.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** In reading this brochure - actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I got one at home today in the

morning, yesterday one here - it says, "Saving your tax dollars," is what the advertisement is about. It indicates, "... and the province saves \$1.5 million in translation costs." When I look at the kind of advertising, when the Attorney-General indicates to this House that he can send out a brochure of this nature with these kinds of colours on there - we've all sent out pranking pieces from time to time - if he can send that out to a million people in Manitoba for the cost of \$28,000, I would want him to my campaign manager next time because I dare say it is impossible that can be done.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not debating at this time the issue of bilingualism itself, because I would have to be very careful if I got into that subject. I think it has been well illustrated by some of our more capable people in speaking on it, our Leader especially. The thing is, when you consider the Emerson constituency, it is the second-highest populated French constituency in Manitoba if I'm correct. I have had occasion - even as late as last Sunday we had a fun golf tournament at Rat River Golf Course at St. Pierre. The majority of the people that were participating, because it was in that area, were of the French-speaking people. I have many on my executive, very good people. They're not concerned about the issue itself, have never been concerned about the issue. They are wondering what we're doing.

One thing that bothers me, as I indicated before when this was brought in, the process, the hearings for example; four hearings, boom, boom, boom, a promotional type of hearing. We had no chance to get involved in these things. They rushed them through, gave a limited time for people to come and make representation. You know, two hours at a meeting, bang, that's it, out to the next one. It gives the impression that they are trying to - I'm not saying that they are - but it gives the impression they're trying to float something through; the concept is there. Actually by doing it that way it's now starting to surface, the swell is developing among the people in the area.

It bothers me that this is happening that way. If we had done this in a proper manner, set it up properly - we still can. We can still get out there after proroguing the House, and let people know what it's all about. The Attorney-General has indicated he is already prepared and looking at maybe making some changes, and if we had a good discussion with the people out there, let this thing brew, let this thing move along, let people understand what it's all about.

I think that is why it is an important issue for us to debate here in this House; that's why we are digging in our heels, because the people should be able to be made aware of what is happening. Because the lack of understanding in the whole thing is going to create acrimony among many people, and it's going to be a dangerous thing for the people that are living in communities side by side, of various ethnic backgrounds.

For many years - I'm getting into the issue itself a bit, which I hadn't intended to do - but, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what has happened over the 116 years, this country was built by people of ethnic backgrounds living together, working together, participating in sports, one community against the other, and I'm concerned with the process that we're going through right now that

we can possibly destroy that, we'll be setting one person against another; in fact, we have to some degree. Even within this House there is a certain amount of acrimony developing because of it and it should not be; you know, it's happening though. In a young country of this nature it should not be that way because we're from all mixed backgrounds, most certainly we are.

Another thing what bothers me, in talking about the process, the issue is important, as I have indicated, it's very important, to cram this through at the tail end now, without a proper understanding. I have no objection to what happened last night when the committee sat until 3 o'clock to deal with the agricultural bills. Hey, I don't have any big problem with something like that. That is a process, I don't like it necessarily, I don't think anybody likes it, but those are things that we can turn around and after the next election we can change those things again; we can change that. The things that the Minister of Agriculture is destroying now we can build up again; it's going to cost the farmers a lot of money, it's going to make a lot of people unhappy, but we can change that when we get back into government.

But, this, in my opinion, you cannot change that fast. It is a constitutional change; it has to go through a complicated process and that is why I fail to understand the rush. The Attorney-General has never laid out the time frame why we have to have it this fast, and maybe I haven't followed it that closely, but is there reason why it should have to happen in this Session? Does it have to happen by the end of the year, necessarily? Can it happen next year when there has been a full understanding of it all and the full implications of it have been studied? I don't know, the Attorney-General has never indicated, I think, to the House or anybody that there is a crying rush to do it. I wish if there is a deadline that has to be met with the Federal Government, you know, in terms of changing this, I would like to know. Then we can understand it, but that has never been explained, it has never been brought forward that there is a deadline that has to be met.

I want to make some reference, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the position taken by the Member for Elmwood - and I have found it very interesting how an individual who has been within the party for that many years is prepared to have the guts to get up and take an anti-position against what is sort of the norm on that side. I want to compliment him really, and for an individual who has taken that kind of position, the kind of publicity that he has received is something that I certainly wouldn't mind having somewhere along the line, maybe not along the same terms, but I find it very interesting the position that has been taken by him and by none of the others on the other side. I'm sure as we, on this side, are getting a feedback from the people out in the country, members opposite must be getting feedback. I'm sure there are members there that are getting a lot of pressure because finally the swell is developing out there. People are finally starting to realize something is happening and many don't know yet what is happening.

When we talk of, for example - I'd like to come back to the brochures - the advertising. I got a sort of chuckle out of this one here. The Member for Tuxedo already made mention of it. One would almost wonder if that

man there is the one that is our Premier when you compare it, a very *saucy* looking individual, anybody that would see the Premier at the present time walking down the street would probably not recognize him from the picture here, at least, he looks a little haggard and worn out.

The question, the Member for Virden dealt with it to some degree, about the cost of the brochures. When we consider the little things that have happened in this House, for example, the mixup with the program between perfect Pete and the Minister of Highways, in terms of the money that was involved in a program there. When we consider - and I am annoyed by this - when we consider that this government has cut down expenditures in Highways, and Agriculture, and Natural Resources and drainage - they've fudged the funds, so to speak, to a degree. In agriculture, for example, we decreased the funding for the 4-Hers. We decreased that kind of funding and we say, you know, there is no money for this and that, still we have money to fund things like the Marxist-Leninist Conference and we don't have money for things that are meaningful in terms of building up this province. \$1.5 million, it says in here is what we will be saving.

I think there is a reluctance on behalf of the government when we consider the extensive advertising that is taking place to promote this, just like they do with their spraying program.

**A MEMBER:** Don't you want the people to be informed, Albert?

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Oh yes, but we have lots of time to do that. We don't have to do that by rushing it through the way we do at this stage of the game. Why the rush? Why the rush is what I ask again? When we look in the brochure it indicates that by 1986 is when the translations will have to take place - 1986. What is the rush at the present time?

When we look at the extended program the way it has been set up here, the effect of it, where it says: Background 1983 agreement. Then in 1986 it starts and I'm not quite sure of the date after that - 19 whatever - anyway it's a prolonged type of program; and here we're going to cram it through at the end of July with all kinds of work left in this House; now the push is on. That is what bothers me. We're pushing because seemingly if we can do it fast, do it under the heat of the tail end of the Session, people will not know what's going on.

I found it interesting that in the designation of the various municipalities, in the resolution itself, that 30 municipalities were designated, by option, you know, they could proceed with the Bilingual Services or not. I don't know, I can't see what was wrong with the system till now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because I have, within my constituency, have places like the RM of De Salaberry, it's always been bilingual. The Village of St. Pierre has always been, works well. Those people who are coming there, it's no problem, it works fine. From the RM of Ritchot the same thing, there is no problem. For example, the RM of Hanover, they have people who speak German in there because they serve more of a German community there.

There's never been a problem, it's been working well, but the turmoil that we are creating is starting to create

a problem now, and it creates suspicion and fear in people's minds because they don't understand what is going on. By pushing it and ramming it at this stage of the game, and no reason has ever been indicated why it should be rushed, people get more suspicious of it.

I don't know, Mr. Speaker, whether it necessarily just indicates the incompetence of this government, because we have had chaos in this Session from the start and we are not finished yet. We see that every day in the way the House is run, the way things have been organized; it's a disaster. This government, in a record Session right now, we're looking at 114, 115 bills that have been dealt with, and controversial ones, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a lot of them very controversial.

Then they hear this resolution in here, figuring that we'll buckle and we'll give up, but they don't know the mettle of the crowd on this side, because what we believe we are doing is right and for that reason we are still here. Why don't we just pack it up? Why don't we just pass everything and get out of here because you are destroying yourself; but we have a responsibility. We saw that yesterday, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the passing of Bill 90 in Law Amendments, they are intent on destroying themselves and we should allow them, really, but we have a responsibility to the people that we represent; we can't do that. It is our obligation to fight these things — (Interjection) — It is.

Yesterday we saw a prime example in Bill 90, because less than 10 percent of the people of the beef growers in Manitoba are opposed to the MCPA, less than 10 percent. Still they insist on hammering it through. The majority of the people don't want compulsory seat belt legislation or helmet legislation. They insist on hammering it through, and me thinks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think it's maybe part of a plan, with all the controversial legislation we have, that this would sort of slip by, the issue itself, and they'd be home free. When you consider that the date is 1986 when this is supposed to be effective, they probably assumed they could say, after this was through, nothing has happened, see? Come the next election nothing has changed because the translations won't come until 1986, or the effects of the services that have to be provided.

Or, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is strict incompetence of the way they're running the government, this province, or the way the Attorney-General is running this House. We've seen that time and time again. It's actually almost embarrassing what happens to our government from time to time. I get annoyed with the Acting House Leader from time to time because he'd botch up - pardon the expression - the Lord's Prayer. The House affairs have been a terrible disaster and we can see that even in their advertising. Howard A. Pawley - you know it must be embarrassing the kind of things that are happening on your side, really it must be. It embarrasses me, it must embarrass you, too, and it embarrasses the public out there. They ask what is happening there?

**A MEMBER:** Just another typo.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** What is happening out there?

**A MEMBER:** The library says his middle name is Russell.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** The McKenzie Seed thing blew up today; again, a reflection on this government. It can't help but be a reflection on this government. A candidate that ran for them in the last federal election, that ran I think provincially, as well, appointed to key positions, you know, caught, has to be fired, has to be removed; but three of them and then we can't help but be suspect of the Minister that is representing the area.

**A MEMBER:** Hand in the cookie jar.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** And the public has to hold that Minister suspect. How else? And I'm just wondering if our House Leader and the people that were involved in digging out this thing hadn't found out, you know, where would it have ended? The people knew, somebody knew what was going on. I don't know, but they insist on keeping and heaping more problems on themselves and it's getting worse.

**A MEMBER:** That's good, some day they'll suffocate.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** I dare say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if an election was called today, not even on the bilingual issue, just on issues alone, there would be very little opposition left on that side. We would be forming the government and they know it. If you look at your polls you know what's happening, and you insist on doing these things. It's going to get worse; it's going to get worse unless you listen to the opposition from time to time. It is an obsession that they will not give in, especially the Minister of Natural Resources, he cannot accept the fact that there could be any good advice coming from this side.

**A MEMBER:** Kamikaze pilots.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** He digs and he makes a fool of himself by doing that because there is good advice coming, from time to time. Our advice I think is very sensible, it's a little change in the resolution itself. It says, let's wait, let's do it, let's finish up the House business, it's already a tremendous heavy Session. There's still lots of work left, let's finish up the House; leave this issue; go out to the people; let's have some more meetings; let's inform them; let's do away with the acrimony that is developing because of the way you're handling it; let's inform the people what is going on.

If changes have to be made, the Attorney-General has indicated he's prepared to make changes, and I think if he went out and listened he would be making those changes. That is why we are suspicious and the public is becoming more suspicious because, why the push? Why the rush? And that is what this resolution is all about, the process; and we will keep on raising concerns. If you insist, as government, to keep on pushing this thing through in this Session there will be much more suspicion raised by us than you can ever live down. It'll be with you for a long time.

Again, I want to raise the questions once more, the ones that get raised to me when I get in my constituency. Why is it necessary to rush it at this stage of the game? Is there a deadline? If you made a deal, you've made a bad deal if you're boxed into this kind of a corner,



and I suspect that is what happened. The Member for La Verendrye said yesterday, I think the French-speaking people have made a good deal; they were good bargainers and the government was not. Now you're caught in your own mistakes, again, your inefficiencies and that is why the problem is here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't know how long we'll be sitting here in this Session yet, but we know that if you keep on operating the way you do we'll be here a long time. We can handle it; we can handle it better than they can, this government, and we will soften them up. There are some major issues still to be dealt with and they have not seen our mettle yet.

Anyway, in closing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would just like to indicate it makes a lot of sense, the resolution, as amended; sit during recess and report to the next Session of the Legislature.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** Yes, I move, seconded by the Member for Roblin-Russell, that debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Acting House Leader.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I believe the House Leader has talked to the Opposition House Leader and indicated our concern that we want to move this referral motion, and while we will not oppose an adjournment today I wanted to indicate that out of a concern to get this matter, so that it is possible for the public to make representation before the committee, we will call it tomorrow. We would not welcome any adjournment. We will not accept adjournment on that at that time.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Would the Acting House Leader indicate the next order of business?

## ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING

### BILL 48 - THE ELECTION FINANCES ACT

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Bill No. 48, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General, standing in the name of the Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. S. LYON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the opportunity to continue and, I hope, to conclude my remarks on this piece of highway robbery that the NDP are trying to push through the Legislature in the dying days of the Session. I am going to continue to point out to them the error of their ways, Mr. Speaker, to indicate to them that this kind of grand larceny is not going to be permitted to the people of Manitoba and that we, as I have said before and will say again and again throughout Manitoba, guarantee that when the government changes - as it will after the next election - that this odious piece of legislation, if by

chance it is passed, will be repealed and repealed retroactively. If anyone has taken 5 cents of the taxpayers' money under this legislation, he will be required to pay it back into the public treasury.

Now so long as that position is clear; everybody understands how we approach this piece of legislation, I'll continue with my remarks. I continue, Mr. Speaker, in the hope that there may be some conscience on the other side of the House which will cause them to reconsider the action that they are proposing to take in this bill, and that will cause them to recant their intentions which are set forth in this bill to cause the taxpayers forcibly to underwrite the election expenses of their party, and God knows what other groups might qualify under the generous rules that they have applied.

I said, Mr. Speaker, the other day in connection with another bill, that if such a law as this were to pass, I can quite easily visualize a form of taxpayer revolt against it. One of the members from the government side said the other day, oh well, he said, it would only amount to about \$2 per head. Mr. Speaker, we're talking here about principle in addition to the amount. The principle is that the taxpayers of Manitoba should never be required compulsorily to subsidize a political party for which they may have contempt.

Mr. Speaker, I have contempt, as I have said, for the NDP, because I believe they represent a silly doctrine which has been proven by history to be unworkable. I, on the other hand as a democrat, Mr. Speaker, realize and recognize their right to run candidates even under a funny banner, and to be from time to time, if they can kid the people long enough, to slide into government. I recognize that right, Mr. Speaker, but I will never recognize the right of requiring a taxpayer to pay for the electoral processes for that particular election, whether it's for the NDP, for our party, for the Conservatives or whatever.

I recognize that there are people in Manitoba who, misguided as they may be, will not ever support the Progressive Conservative Party. I recognize that, Mr. Speaker, and I support the right of people not to support the Progressive Conservative party. Mr. Speaker, I support their right as well to say to the Government of the Day, I will not allow any of my tax money to be used for the purpose of supporting the Conservative Party or the Liberal Party or the NDP.

That, Mr. Speaker, is why I suggest - not with tongue in cheek at all, but as a matter of real concern for this government to ponder - that they could well, if they see fit to push this bill through, be stimulating a kind of taxpayer revolt of a kind that has never been seen before in this province, a kind of taxpayer revolt that will tell them better than anything that I can say from my position here in the House that the people in Manitoba have had enough, they have had enough of NDP plunder, enough of NDP highway robbery of their tax pockets and that they will not permit it; that this goes too far. Mr. Speaker, that principle, I think, should be known even to my honourable friends opposite.

It is accepted, Mr. Speaker, in an ordered, parliamentary democracy that all people, subject to the rules that we apply, are allowed to run. It is unacceptable that merely because they run and by fair means or foul, by honour or by trickery - and my honourable friends are best equipped to judge trickery, because it's usually trickery that gets them into power - if they

attract only 10 percent of the vote, they then become eligible to receive tax dollars - for what? - to allow them to finance the communication of their policies.

Mr. Speaker, as I called them the other day, these toadstools of illogic erected by the Attorney-General in his attempt to make a logical basis for this piece of plunder which he is pleased to call an election expenses act, those toadstools of illogic fall apart. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Attorney-General and the socialists opposite are heading in quite the wrong direction. Public financing is kind of a faddish trend of the '70s.

You know, a lot of people in Canada haven't yet caught on to it. I mentioned it a few years ago in the House, Mr. Speaker, that I objected with every fibre of my being, with all of the marrow of my bones to paying any tax dollars whatsoever that would ever go to help Ed Broadbent propagandize the position of the left in Canada. There is no reason why, so long as I am sane, Mr. Speaker - and I expect to be in that condition, God willing, for a long time - there is no reason why any sane person would ever agree to compulsorily contribute money to the federal NDP Party. Yet, that is being done. My honourable friends, Mr. Speaker, are trying to make that a precedent that we should follow.

Mr. Speaker, I have said before, I say again, the Federal Government and any of the Provincial Governments that are directly subsidizing political parties are committing a wrongful act. It is a faddish kind of a trend that I think will be coming to an end very shortly as people who are out of work, people who are on the lower ends of the income scale particularly see that their tax money is being taken and dedicated for the purposes of paying for political parties' electoral expenses. That's an outrage, Mr. Speaker. It is an outrage that should not be permitted.

I mentioned the other day, Mr. Speaker, that 37 percent of all of the income tax collected in Manitoba came from people earning zero to \$20,000, and that something in the order of 67 percent, I believe the figure was, Mr. Speaker, came from people earning from zero to \$30,000.00. So it's the people at the lower end of the tax scale who will be helping to subsidize the NDP for their electoral expenses and that, Mr. Speaker, is not permissible. Those figures by the way are taken, Mr. Speaker, from the latest figures that are available from Stats Canada, and they are from the 1980 Stats Canada figures that I have drawn the percentages of taxes that Manitobans pay.

Mr. Speaker, I say we're heading in quite the wrong direction if we agree to this wrong-headed principle. Mr. Speaker, we should be, instead, returning to the system whereby we require deposits from candidates to ensure that they are not in the race merely for frivolous purposes, or indeed if this law was ever passed, if they were just in the race to take a chance on taxpayer financing. I can think of no better justification for reinstating candidates' deposits than the passage of a bill, an iniquitous piece of legislation such as this, because then of course there would be a built-in incentive for people, Mr. Speaker, to run in order that they might cash in on this plunder that the NDP are hoping to accrue to their party and they don't care much what other parties get so long as they get their hands on 50 percent of the loot that is required to run their campaign. That's all they're interested in, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned the other day, these modern

day Jessie James are not going to be allowed to get away with this kind of plunder of the public purse.

So they are heading in quite the wrong direction. If this bill passes, I suggest that they are going to have to put in a requirement, reinstitute a requirement for deposits from candidates to ensure the integrity of people who are running in the elections for which they will then become eligible for taxpayer subsidy.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister, when he was introducing this legislation as I have mentioned, made a number of statements that do not bear any relationship to logic, to reason, to order, to the public good or anything of that nature. The matters that I have referred to, the four toadstools that I have referred to, of illogic I have read now into the record.

The Attorney-General, in introducing this piece of legislation, said that the taxpayer subsidization of election expenses was only a continuum, only a continuation, said he, of a process that we had started when we permitted deductions to be made for the purposes of voluntary contributions to two political parties. That process was started in Manitoba in 1980 and it has followed in a number of other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker, across the country. The statement that he made in that respect, and it appears on Page 4 of his printed statement, the second last paragraph on that page, is an outright falsehood. It's a piece of patent misinformation that could only emanate from the fevered brow of somebody from the left wing who espouses the kind of lunacy that the Attorney-General apparently has believed in all of his life, and it often characterizes the policy anomalies not only of this Minister, but of this government.

To suggest, Mr. Speaker, that by authorizing tax receipts for political contributions is to use his words "public financing" betrays a mindset, Sir, that is alien to our whole system of parliamentary democracy and to our whole system of parliamentary freedom. If you believe that the state should own everything, and dispense all income to all people, then you can easily adopt this funny approach that was made by the Attorney-General. But, Mr. Speaker, voluntary contributions by a citizen or by a co-operative or by, Sir, a business group to a political candidate or a political party of his or her choice does not represent public financing merely because a tax credit is given.

Do we say, Mr. Speaker, that churches, synagogues, the Red Cross, the Israel Bond Drive, the YMHA, the YWCA and all of these other charitable and philanthropic organizations are publicly financed merely because they give tax receipts? Of course not, Mr. Speaker, no. These groups, many at the heart of volunteerism in our province, and in our country; these groups on the spiritual side maintain the churches, the synagogues, the other places of worship so that our people can have a spiritual and a moral basis for our society, who carry on as private, as opposed to tax-funded good works on behalf of humanity and their fellow citizens. Mr. Speaker, all of these philanthropic, all of these church organizations, all of these organizations that do good for fellow citizens, for the animal world, for wild-life organizations, for the spiritual life of our community here and around the world, they operate on private funds that are given to them voluntarily by individual citizens of this country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, income tax - my honourable friends probably like to think that its been in existence longer

than their funny ideas have been around - but income tax actually is a fairly relatively new concept in our society. It came in during the First World War in Canada. Mr. Speaker, public subscriptions and contributions to good works are as old as man himself. Since income tax came on the scene earlier this century, government has merely acknowledged the existence of private and voluntary giving to societies and organizations carrying out works deemed to be beneficial to the world or to the country, or to the community, or to a particular religious group or whatever qualifies under the income tax law.

All that our government did in 1980, Sir, following the precedent established by the Federal and several Provincial Governments, not all, was to name political parties as a worthwhile private organization who should be able to give tax receipts for tax credits against their provincial income tax under certain stated conditions. That's all that was done in 1980, to include provincial political parties in that broader group who have been able for years and years to give tax receipts for voluntary contributions.

Mr. Speaker, contrary to what the Attorney-General said, that is a far cry from public financing. That's not public financing at all. But, ah, the socialist mind says with its tormented version of life and its fevered brow, if citizen A had not given \$100 to the Progressive Conservative Party, and, Mr. Speaker, I'll use the example of the Conservative Party. It's always the Conservative Party in the fevered minds of my honourable friends opposite who get contributions even though the NDP provincially did get very, very substantial contributions under this same provision that was enacted in 1980. The NDP don't like to admit it, but they got large corporate donations, they got nice donations from individual citizens, a number of whom have since been rewarded with positions on boards and commissions and so on. Some have even been removed, Mr. Speaker, after having been put onto the boards. One of the more notable ones was removed today and there may be others of that ilk later on.

But, Mr. Speaker, let's use the example, the man who gives \$100 to the Conservative Party gets back a tax credit for a certain stated amount. And ah, they say, you know, if that \$100 hadn't been given to the Conservatives, and the tax credit given, the Treasury would have received it. Mr. Speaker, what kind of a piece of nonsense is that? What kind of a mental arrogance is that that presupposes that if somebody gives \$100 to the Conservative Party, and gets a tax receipt, that that's a loss to the Treasury because that \$100, otherwise, according to them, would be going to the Treasury. They say, Mr. Speaker, the Treasury is \$100 short of what it would have been.

Indeed the computation can be made, and I know the computation can be made, as to what the cumulative total of such tax credits would be annually to all of the registered parties. We all know that such a figure is around as to what that cumulative tax credit will be. It's an easy but a faulty conclusion to say that the state would have received that money if it hadn't been given to a political party. An easy, Mr. Speaker, but I say a faulty conclusion because it just doesn't work that way. I can't, even though my honourable friends across the way have a kind of intellectual arrogance that sometimes astounds me, I can't make that judgment about my

fellow citizen. I don't know what he would have done with that \$100 if he hadn't given it to the Conservative party. I know that there are literally 100 different ways that he could have spent it, however, to avoid the taxation.

If a citizen, Mr. Speaker, is not concerned to give \$100 to the Conservative Party there is no guarantee that the Treasury is going to get its share in extra income, none at all, Mr. Speaker. The man could just as easily have given it to a church or any other charitable organization and got a receipt. He wouldn't get as good a tax credit, Mr. Speaker, as he gets from a political party because the tax credit is better but, at the same time, there is a very strong ceiling put on the tax credits that any contributor can give in Manitoba to the point where he soon runs out, he soon runs out of any tax benefit if he gives, I think it's over \$500 - that figure is subject to confirmation, but I think that is the figure, and he soon runs out of it. But, Mr. Speaker, the man who doesn't give to the Conservative Party isn't going to put that money, necessarily, into the Treasury of the Province of Manitoba; he may give it to some other group entirely divorced from a political party and get under a tax umbrella by that giving.

So, let's not try to adopt this easy kind of logic that the Attorney-General tries to stuff down our throats and say, well, if this money wasn't given to the political parties it would reinforce the revenues in the Treasury; not so, Mr. Speaker. I can't make that kind of arrogant presumption as to what people would do with what is obviously money that is extra to their own requirements and they give it to a political party.

Mr. Speaker, there are dozens of different ways that have tax shelters of one sort and another under which people can voluntarily contribute or pledge their money with respect to political parties, with respect to MURBS, with respect to Canadian investments in Canadian shares, or whatever. There is a myriad of ways, so there is no guarantee to use kind of slipshod logic of the Attorney-General, that the tax credits that are being given, Sir, by political parties to voluntary contributors, would in any way directly flow back into the Treasury. Mr. Speaker, that argument fails. Giving tax receipts for voluntary political contributions is not a form of public or taxpayer financing any more than any other charitable or tax credit contribution is a form of public financing of the Red Cross, of the Roman Catholic Church, of the Labrador Dog Association, or whatever the charitable group is, the Humane Society, or whatever.

Hence, Mr. Speaker, this provision of taxpayer subsidy contained in this bill is not an extension of the present election law at all. No, it is an entirely new and, may I say, Sir, reprehensible concept which this left-wing group, temporarily in government, is trying to foist on the people of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, we are here to ensure that doesn't happen or, if it does happen, to repeat myself again and again and again, as I will and as my colleagues will throughout Manitoba. If it does, if they are able to bulldoze this kind of public plunder through, they will never receive a nickel of taxpayers' money under this reprehensible legislation because we will repeal it retroactively, and they will be forced to go throughout Manitoba and admit, Sir, the cupidity of their ways when they tried to get the taxpayers to pay for their election expenses.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we won't let this open robbery of the taxpayer to benefit the NDP, or any other political party, including our own, take place. As I've said before, and I repeat, Mr. Speaker, we intend to fight this bill to the utmost of our powers. We're going to use every legitimate parliamentary device to stop it, and there are some that we have, Mr. Speaker, that my honourable friends haven't even heard of yet. If we still cannot stop this greedy bunch of political pirates across the way, Mr. Speaker, from passing this act we promise, as I have said before, to repeal the legislation retroactively when they are turned out of office, to recover any taxpayers' money paid over to any candidate or to any political party, under this iniquitous legislation, and to return it to the provincial treasury.

Mr. Speaker, we put everyone on notice that we are going to fight this provision because it is bad, it is wrong, it is not in the public interest. If the socialist majority try to impose their will and try to make it law we will slay it, just as St. David slew the dragon, and they have full notice of that right now. If, by some trick of fate, this legislation were ever to slip through I don't want there to be any whining or silliness across the way from left-wing members or from their sycophants in the media, or wherever, or talk of rights being taken away when this bill is withdrawn and killed by us. You're on firm notice, you're not going to be able to benefit from the taxpayer's pocket on this one; you're on firm notice. Everyone in Manitoba is entitled to know where we stand, and we do not stand for taxpayers' subsidies of parties or candidates.

Mr. Speaker, this is only one of a series, this is the grand larceny, as I have called it, in this legislation. There's other petty thievery that they've proposed in Bill 55 and I've already spoken about that.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the people of Manitoba are now coming to understand the sheer crass cupidity of the NDP. Here is a government, Mr. Speaker, that as recently as today has added scandal to its incompetence, to its inability to govern, to its inability really even to run a government. Mr. Speaker, this is without question, as the Leader of the Progressive Party has said, and I give him credit for initiating the statement: "This is the worst government that the people of Manitoba have ever had to labour under, bar none." Mr. Speaker, the incompetence of this government, the incompetence of it, its inability to get anything organized, its inability to negotiate anything on behalf of the people of Manitoba economically, or even in the field of language rights. It is a total failure. It is a nothing. It's a collection of people, Mr. Speaker, with no leadership, no ideas for Manitoba, no sense of where they want to go except into further nationalization, but fortunately they can't finance it. It's a leaderless, rudderless group of incompetent people. Today they have added scandal to the litany, Mr. Speaker, of sins that they bring to the Treasury Bench in this province.

This bunch, this group of incompetents who can't even carry out their oaths to the people of Manitoba to administer the affairs of the people of Manitoba, they want the taxpayers to pay for their constituency offices. They want the taxpayers to pay for the printing of their propaganda. Now, Mr. Speaker, in this bill, they want the taxpayers to pay for half of their election expenses.

I don't think I have ever seen an example of such cupidity, an example, Mr. Speaker, of such brass in my life where a political party which is already, as I have said, on its way out of public office - they're getting the same polls that we are; they know how far they are down. Here they are grasping and clinging, trying to scratch some money out of the taxpayer's pocket before they go down to ignominious defeat. That is all they can offer to the taxpayers.

They can't offer a power grid. They can't offer an aluminum smelter. They can't offer a potash mine. They can't offer jobs. They can't even offer mediocre administration, not even that, Mr. Speaker. But all they can offer is an attempt to purloin the pockets of the taxpayers of Manitoba for their own purposes. What a cheap, unworthy bunch, Mr. Speaker, to form a government in any part of this great country of ours, and there they sit across from us, the shame now beginning to show on their faces, the idea becoming apparent to the people of Manitoba that, as I have said before and to quote the Leader of the Progressive Party, this is unquestionably the worst government that has ever occupied the Treasury Benches at any time in the history of our province.

Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend, the Attorney-General, when he introduced this piece of grand larceny, purported to criticize the tax credit scheme that our government had brought in. Then he turned around, Mr. Speaker, and said that we're going to continue them. Not only are we going to take 50 percent of the costs of our election campaign out of the taxpayer's pocket compulsorily, we are also going to continue the tax credit system which the Conservatives brought in. Well, Mr. Speaker, you can't on the one hand criticize the tax credit system, and on the other hand say, but we're going to continue it. It is that same kind of illogic that we have been hearing from our honourable friends across the way for, lo, these many months that they have been burdening this great province with their incompetence and in their attempts to give some administration to the public affairs of this province.

Mr. Speaker, he compares the totals of money that were contributed, in his remarks he compares the total, but he doesn't add together and thereby indicates that they really don't believe, they can't believe that public funding arises under the tax credit system. I don't think they believe that at all. That was just, to use the words that the Attorney-General is so fond of, a smoke-and-mirrors argument that he was trying to put up.

He says, this will only cost about \$1.7 million to the taxpayers. Mr. Speaker, if the NDP in their last gluttonous attempts to cling to power and to office, if they spend less than a million dollars, I will be very, very surprised. They are going to spend more, because if they get this bill through, they'll have the guarantee that the taxpayers will have to pay less unless, Mr. Speaker, they get less than 10 percent of the vote. And the way they've been operating for the last 18 months, Mr. Speaker, that might become a very real threat to them. That might well become a threat to the NDP in this province.

Mr. Speaker, they talk, as I have said before, about the precedents across Canada. I don't care about the precedents across Canada, because two wrongs don't make a right. This is no time, Mr. Speaker, for any government of conscience to be exacting unjustified charges on the taxpayers.

As I conclude, Mr. Speaker, let me just cite a few reasons in support of that argument. This government has presided over the first reduction in the credit rating of this province since the '70s, brought about through their mismanagement, their inability to control expenditures, their idea that if they just borrow enough money abroad, they can cover up all of the mistakes that they have made, whether it's in an MGEA negotiation, the loss of the Western Power Grid which would have supplied thousands of jobs, the loss of the Alcan smelter, the potash mine or any of the other sins of omission and commission that this government have perpetrated upon the people of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, all of that is looked at by the credit-rating people and they say, this government doesn't measure up; Manitoba isn't being well governed and we're reducing the credit rating, so the credit rating is down.

Mr. Speaker, unemployment is 20,000 - 30,000 more than it was when they came into office. No, they say, Sir, that doesn't matter because that's really part of the international condition and there's nothing we can do about it, they said, Mr. Speaker, nothing we can do about it. But at the time when there are thousands more Manitobans unemployed than there were when these incompetents came into office, they then want to take money from the taxpayers, some of those taxpayers being unemployed, having to pay the sales tax - to do what? - to finance their election campaigns, to pay for their election propaganda, to pay for their smart constituency offices that they want to have. No, Mr. Speaker, that's bad public policy and they're not going to be allowed to do it.

At a time when we're running deficits that are practically out of sight in this province, this year they're banking on a deficit of in excess of about \$600 million; probably it's going to run more to \$700 million because this is the kind of a government that, when it prophesies that its deficit is going to be \$325 million and it ends up coming in at \$455 million, they say, aren't we a great bunch because it isn't \$490 million. That's the kind of nonsense that you have across the way.

At a time when the deficit of this province, the unpaid debts that the people of Manitoba are going to have to pay because of the incompetence of this temporary bunch of left-wing people being in office, because of their incompetence, at a time when that deficit is running so high, they want to claw some more money for their own selfish, greedy purposes, for their own movement, for their own party, Mr. Speaker. That's the kind of morality that we see across the way and that's no morality at all; that's amorality. That bespeaks a group of people, Mr. Speaker - I thought before I said this, but I must say it - it bespeaks a group of people who don't know the difference between right and wrong. It's one thing to know the difference between right and wrong and then to commit a wrong knowing that you're committing a sin; it's another thing when you don't know the difference between right and wrong. Mr. Speaker, that's what we're looking at across the way.

My honourable friends are so caught up in their own cupidity and their own greed and their own willingness to rob the taxpayers of Manitoba, they don't care whether this is right or wrong. It serves the cause, it serves the movement, therefore we're going to push it through and it doesn't matter what the Tories say. Well, they had better be listening, Mr. Speaker, to what

the people of Manitoba are saying about them. This is the straw, this is the kind of a straw that breaks the camel's back. As I said to them the other day, Mr. Speaker, I'm not making this speech, and it's an extended one, I'm not making this speech to help to take further seats away from my honourable friends if they insist on proceeding with this bad legislation. I tell my honourable friends, and repeat again today, they've already lost the election; they're not going to win on any event. What we're talking about now is whether they're going to have 18 seats or 14 seats or 12. If they proceed with this kind of open cupidity, this kind of open robbery of the taxpayer's pocket, I rather think, Mr. Speaker, that the lower figure will be the accurate one after all.

So, Mr. Speaker, at a time when the deficit is at the highest level it's ever been in the history of this province, they want to take more money from the taxpayers to finance their own election campaign, their own political propaganda and their own constituency offices. No, we say. At a time, Mr. Speaker, when we have a socialist government in office which has done nothing but increase taxation since it came to office, and never said to the people of Manitoba would ever do it; no, no, no. They put on the most horrendous tax of all, the 1.5 percent payroll tax. This is the government, Mr. Speaker, that said it's in favour of small business; 70 percent of the employment in Manitoba is provided by small business. So 70 percent of the tax that they're collecting, under the employment tax, comes from small business.

Then the First Minister, on one of the few occasions when he stood up and said anything of note in the House, said, ah, but look, we really love small business. We had the Summit Conference with labour and small business, and we actually reduced, said he, the corporate taxation rate on small business this year. Well, Mr. Speaker, he got away with that for about 30 seconds until the small business people realized watch these socialists. They reduced the corporate taxation by about 1.5 million or 2 million, at most, and they put on \$70 million worth of taxation on our payrolls, whether we were making money or not, whether we were making money or not, Mr. Speaker.

So the people of Manitoba are coming to understand, the small business people, the farmers, the people in the unions, the people who work hard in labour to make a decent living in this province, they're coming to understand what a greedy amoral bunch of people we have parading under the banner of socialism in Manitoba. They see it in the public policies of this government and they're beginning to see it now in the policies wherein this government, this party - it's not a government, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't deserve to be called a government, it's a collection of people in a party, leaderless, rudderless - where this party is now trying to enrich itself at the cost of the taxpayers. I suppose they think that because they're committing the robbery openly, because they're doing it here in the Legislature in front of everybody, that they're going to get away from it and that they won't be indicted for it. Well, Mr. Speaker, the indictment's already laid. The people of Manitoba, the jury of Manitoba, can hardly wait to come back with their verdict.

**A MEMBER:** Guilty.

**HON. S. LYON:** When they do come back with their verdict on this government, Mr. Speaker, it's going to be a verdict that will resound throughout the left wing, the corridors of this country for sometime to come, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, at a time in this province when our spending is out of control, literally, some 18.5 percent in present expenditure this year over last year. 18.5 percent when all other sane governments are trying to keep expenditure levels down well below 10 percent, this government's its spending is totally out of control, and now it wants to add to that spending, albeit a small amount, but it wants to add to that spending another few million dollars to do what? To enrich its own party, to enrich its own candidates.

Mr. Speaker, that's scandalous. That is scandalous that a government would try to foist that kind of robbery and purloinment upon the people of Manitoba at a time when it can't even control the public spending, and wants to add to public spending merely to enrich its own party coffers. Well, Mr. Speaker, that won't happen, we won't permit it to happen.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when the management of government departments is chaotic, there's no other word I can use. We've got in the Department of Natural Resources some crew that's going around the province wrecking barbecues. My God, Mr. Speaker, what have we come to? We've got, in the First Minister's office, a propaganda department, they're making Dr. Goebbels look like a piker. Mr. Speaker, they're making the big lie look like a piker. Every time this government gets into trouble what does it do? It runs to an ad agency and says give us an ad program.

The government, finally, you know, Mr. Speaker, came onto something the other day that they thought they could control, the mosquito problem. What did they do? The first thing, they ran to an ad agency and said, we're going to spend a \$100,000 to tell the people of Manitoba about mosquitoes. Now, Mr. Speaker, they're into the bilingualism program and they've handled that very very badly in the interest of Manitoba. What do we find yesterday? A piece of four-colour advertising that's going out to every household in Manitoba at a cost, the Attorney-General says, of \$28,000, and I believe what the Member for Emerson says, if he can get that kind of printing and mailing costs, then we'd sort of like to hire him in the Conservative Party to do all of our advertising for us because that's a rate that's cheaper than any I've heard of in a long time.

Well, Mr. Speaker, they say they're going to send this little piece of puffery to all households and business places in Manitoba at a cost of \$28,000.00. Then they have to run an ad in today's Winnipeg Free Press, and an ad in today's Winnipeg Sun, and I'm sure in all of the weeklies, in all of the ethnic newspapers, in La Liberté I'm sure, as well. The ad is saying, ladies and gentlemen, we're sending out a piece of puffery to you which was announced yesterday in the House.

The ads, Mr. Speaker, the ads, if we can believe the figures given by the Attorney-General, the ads that they're running in the dailies and the weeklies and the ethnic press and so on may cost more than the piece of puffery that they're putting out. Mr. Speaker, constitutionally speaking, which is now we understand being translated into French, along with the puffery they put out yesterday announced by the expensive

ads in today's newspaper. What is all of this costing the people of Manitoba, because this government has no sense of policy, no sense of negotiation, no ability to do anything; but rather, Mr. Speaker, feels that when it gets into a problem it has to run to an ad agency and spend the taxpayers' dollars in order to try to prop up, prop us this government that has already lost the election.

Mr. Speaker, they thought they could even control mosquitoes, but they have to run to an ad agency to run ads on TV and radio and they print newspapers with pictures of what? Pictures of mosquitoes. Well, you know most Manitobans that I know, Mr. Speaker, know a fair amount about mosquitoes. Some of us have been swatting them for about 56 years; we know a fair amount about them, we don't have to have an expensive government ad program to tell us that you have to swat a mosquito; or you listen to the very careful words of the Minister of Health, when you go out into your garden wear long pants and a long shirt. Well, you know, my mother taught me that when I was three years old and I don't need a government ad for \$12,000 a day to tell me what my mother taught me when I was three years old.

I'm not denying that there may be a few people here and there who don't understand that if you wear clothes it's harder for mosquitoes to bite, and if you swat the mosquito before he gets he gets the stinger into you that you've got a pretty good chance of not being stung by it. That's pretty basic information but I think most Manitobans are up to that, although we're running a big multithousand dollar campaign now at the expense of this government, \$100,000 to tell them a lot of facts of life that I think most Manitobans already know.

When I say, Mr. Speaker, we've got a government administration and government management in a state of chaos, I speak from knowledge and as one of my colleagues says, I haven't even touched on the Jobs Fund. I haven't even touched on all of the maladministration that's going on. I haven't touched on why babysitters have to be paid \$4 because we've got a lady as Minister of Labour who hasn't figured out yet that you can make a legislative distinction between a babysitter and a domestic. I haven't even talked, Mr. Speaker, about the fact that they've robbed the highways program this year of \$20 million and put it into the Jobs Fund and as a result one of the most labour-intensive industries in Manitoba, namely, heavy construction is laying off people right now because this incompetent government can't come to grips with the fact that the construction industry is a good employer of people, and we have to stand in this House, embarrass them, cajole them, Mr. Speaker, in order to do what is right and what is honourable and what is in the public interest and still they don't respond.

Mr. Speaker, it's the small things very often, that prove the mettle and the integrity of a government. Here's the government that announced in that propaganda sheet that was chock-full of lies that they turned out in the last election campaign that it was going to build a new school of music in the City of Brandon. Mr. Speaker, I just say, as an aside, they now want us to pay for that kind of propaganda, as I said, making Dr. Goebbels look like a piker, these people, in terms of not only propagandizing the people of Manitoba but then having the affrontery to ask the

people of Manitoba to pay for their propaganda. That's even worse.

Here they are, Mr. Speaker, running big ad campaigns but they can't get a road contract let that would cause people to be employed in Manitoba. Here they are, Mr. Speaker, running a campaign on the bilingual program that is not necessary to run if they would just have intersessional meetings of the House, instead of trying cynically to ram that resolution and that process through the House. Why? Because they think, Mr. Speaker, that within two years this is all going to be forgotten. Yes, they think it's all going to be forgotten and they've put a long enough date ahead for the coming into force of the compulsory French language services in the departments. They think they're going to kid the people of Manitoba; they're going to fool the people of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, they really think they're clever on this and to resurrect a statement I've used about them before, they're not too clever by half, they're just not half clever enough, that's the problem with the NDP. They suffer, Mr. Speaker, from a lack of swiftness collectively and very often individually.

So, Mr. Speaker, instead of trying cynically to kid the people of Manitoba about the bilingual program and using a very expensive ad program to undergird, to finance and to nourish that cynicism of theirs, why don't they just abandon that, do the reasonable and honourable thing - and I know that's a strange word in their lexicon - have the committee sit after prorogation, during recess and report back before the next sitting of the Legislature. But, no, that's too reasonable, Mr. Speaker. That might suggest that there's some element of common sense over there, that there's some element of management technique over there. So while they're giving in their sworn jobs to try to give sane administration to the people of Manitoba, they are giving us instead chaos. While they're giving us chaos they say, but we want to rob the taxpayers to pay for our election expenses.

Mr. Speaker, that's why we're not going to support this because they're not giving good government to the people of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, at a time when we have one of the most antibusiness governments that this province has ever seen; no real growth taking place in the province at all; you're having the Federal Liberal Minister running around with pails of borrowed taxpayers' money, throwing it out for the redirection of Portage Avenue and this government grabs onto it immediately and says, isn't that a marvelous idea, with never a thought, Mr. Speaker, as to where the money is going to come from - either the provincial contribution, the city contribution or the federal contribution and they call that real growth, they call that progress, Mr. Speaker.

They think that by robbing the taxpayers of more money, by borrowing more money in their name and then spreading it around in ventures of that kind of dubious background and dubious genesis, that they're doing something meaningful. But where they've got something within their power and within their control to create jobs and to leave something that will be of lasting benefit to the people such as the four-laning of No. 75 Highway down to Morris, which was on the books when they came in - they didn't have to use any brain power, all they had to do was just carry on with the program that was in place. It would provide jobs;

it would leave something useful for the people of Manitoba; it's the kind of public work that everybody supports. What do they do? Oh, no, they take money away from that project, Mr. Speaker, so that they can give it into the Jobs Fund so that the Minister of Cultural Affairs or one of his colleagues can hire a Mariachi band to play somewhere and they call that progress. At the same time they're doing all of this, Mr. Speaker, they want to pass a law to have the people of Manitoba, the taxpayers, pay for half of their election expenses, to pay for their constituency offices, to pay for their propaganda. No, Mr. Speaker, even a good government, and some of them have seen a good government in action, even a good government couldn't do that, but a bad government never, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when this province can't afford to finance roads, can it really afford to finance the NDP? I don't think so. At a time when we're cutting back 4-H contributions but it's got money for a Marxist conference and it's got money, it says under the bill, to finance the NDP election campaign and to pay for their constituency offices and to pay for their propaganda, that's the kind of a government you've got in office.

You've got a government in office, Mr. Speaker, that can't begin to pay its share out of the provincial treasury and the costs of education for the taxpayers of the City of Winnipeg. No, no, they can't do that. The cost to the taxpayers of the City of Winnipeg has gone up more in the last 18 months than they did in the four years that we were in office. Yes, Mr. Speaker, that's what's happened, but at a time when they can't afford to finance education for our children in Manitoba they say they've got money to finance the election campaign of the NDP and they've got money to pay for their constituency offices and they've got money to pay for their propaganda. Well, what kind of a government is that, Mr. Speaker? It's priorities are all skewed, all mixed up. It's a bad government, I repeat what I said before, it's a blasphemy on the name government to apply to these people. They're not a government; they're a collection of partisans, of the left, no rhyme or reason - nothing that unites them at all. They fight and squall like a bunch of monkeys in a cage and they're not giving good government to the people of Manitoba.

At a time, Mr. Speaker, when they can't afford to pay for proper hospital care for the people of Manitoba, they've got money to finance the election campaign of the NDP, to provide money for electing the NDP in the next election. At a time, Mr. Speaker, when they haven't got any money to put into wayside parks, but are rather, in the constituency of the Member for Roblin-Russell and in the constituency of the Member for Swan River, going around and knocking down barbecues and wayside parks; they've got money to do that. But, Mr. Speaker, they also want to take money from the taxpayers of Manitoba to fund their election campaign next time around, to pay for their political propaganda, and to pay for their trite little constituency offices. Need I say more? I think the examples are clear for every Manitoban to see and to make a judgment upon himself. This government, this group of people who call themselves a government, are not governing Manitoba in accordance with the public interest. Even in their public policies they're doing a bad job.

Mr. Speaker, even the polls tell them that, and they must be seeing the same polls that we're seeing. They're

running out of sight; anybody can beat them now, so they know that their primary sworn function as members of the largest group in the House; that's what we'll call them now, temporarily the largest group in the House, they're not a government any more they're just a disorganized group. The largest group in the House, Mr. Speaker, are not giving good government, they're not giving any government at all.

So I say that a government that is not giving government, the largest group in the House that is not giving government to the people of Manitoba, has no moral right to go to the taxpayers of Manitoba and, by statute, order the taxpayers to pay half of their election expenses next time around. No, they haven't, Mr. Speaker, they have no moral right to do that and they won't be allowed to do it, and we give that firm promise to the people of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, this commission that they have done away with is not a perfect commission, but it has functioned well. This commission has worked with representatives of the Conservative Party, representatives of the New Democratic Party as it then was, instead of this odd collection of people we now have, and under a Chairman, Walter Ritchie, Q.C. who was appointed by our government. I rather suspect that the reason they're changing from a commission to an advisory board is that they want to get rid of Mr. Ritchie as chairman. I rather suspect that, or they may come up with the argument that the individual commissioners are being paid too much. Well if they are, then reduce the amount that they're being paid, but why do away with something that's working; and does the Chief Electoral Officer agree with this funny plan of an advisory group? I don't know if he does or not, but I think when this bill goes to committee, if it ever does, that we must call him before the committee and ask him that question, because it puts an awful lot of authority onto the Chief Electoral Officer which I would think any senior civil servant, in a responsible position such as this, would not mind sharing with an appointed commission, such as, is in the present legislation. So why are they doing away with it? I think they're doing away with it, Mr. Speaker, because it's uncomfortable; it's been doing its job; it works. Anything that works the socialists always try to fix, and when they try to fix anything that works you usually know what happens to it. I'm not even going to tell Mr. Churchill's story, in that context, with Mr. Attlee, but I think my honourable friends know of that story, as well.

Mr. Speaker, this advisory board that they're attempting to set up, to repeat what I said earlier, is going to be under the control of all of the parties who run five candidates. Every group, legitimate, illegitimate, right-wing, left-wing, Ku Klux Klan, any group at all that runs five candidates - or the communists, to suit the Member for Radisson, that's the party he would probably sooner belong to - any party like that, any kook group of the left will automatically become a member of the advisory commission to run elections in this province. That's not right, Mr. Speaker, all they have to do is nominate five candidates.

I'm sure the Member for St. Johns didn't realize what the Attorney-General, the man who ran against him for the nomination, I'm sure he didn't remember he wasn't told what this government's trying to do. They're trying

to make a seat on this advisory committee for the Communist Party; they're trying to make a seat on this advisory committee for the Maoist-Leninist; they're trying to make a seat on this advisory committee for the Marxist-Leninist Party, and I can't see that the Member for St. Johns would willingly support that kind of nonsense, but that's what the Attorney-General's doing in this legislation. And we know what the Member for St. Johns thinks about the previous political affiliations of the Attorney-General, he's told us before on many occasions. — (Interjection) — Yes, and we'll keep saying it because all honourable members need to be reminded of the truth of various situations from time to time. So why do they want to kick out a working commission and substitute for an advisory board made up of God knows who. Why, Mr. Speaker? No good reason has been advanced at all.

Why, Mr. Speaker, would they want to put people on this election advisory board without members in the House? I say that it could result in a kind of chaos. If you get enough kook groups - and God knows the bushes are full of them, especially when the NDP are in office, they come up something like toadstools, they come to life when the NDP are around; they keep their heads pretty well down when there's a sane government around but they spring like toadstools when their fellow socialist get into office - any kook group in the world will automatically have a seat on this advisory committee. I don't want some run-of-the-line communist telling the Chief Electoral Officer how he thinks an election should be run, I know how the communists want to run an election. They want to run one election and then have no elections after that at all and I don't need that kind of advice, nor do the people of Manitoba need that kind of advice on their advisory committee.

So let's take another long, hard look at what the Attorney-General's trying to slide through under the guise of being oh so democratic, oh so democratic, Mr. Speaker, that he wants to have them on the advisory committee. He wants to make them eligible to receive taxpayers' money. Oh, Mr. Speaker, come on, I don't give my honourable friends across the way too much credit for collective wisdom, but I didn't think that they were so naive as not to see the kind of a con job that's being done on them in this piece of legislation. Mr. Speaker, the Attorney-General says the present make-up of the commission is discriminatory; discriminatory because the Legislature says that the members on the commission shall be members who are nominated by any party in the Legislature which has four or more seats. What in God's name is discriminatory about that? If you believe that's discriminatory, then the Attorney-General's next logical toadstool would be to say, well, it's discriminatory against the communists because they didn't elect anybody in the last election, that's discriminatory, too; so we'll just give them four seats so that we won't be called discriminatory. What kind of nonsense is being paraded in Manitoba in 1983 under the guise - God knows what guise it is - but by this Attorney-General? Who does he think he's kidding? Discriminatory, indeed, that the NDP and the Conservativists would be the only ones to be represented on the election commission if they're the only ones in the House. It makes an awful lot of sense to me, Mr. Speaker.

I don't see any communists or Maoists or John Birchers on any of the committees of this House. Is it



discriminatory? No. I don't know that there are any open communists. There are probably a few veiled ones with some of the appointments that my honourable friends have been making on any commissions and boards in Manitoba. Is that discriminatory? Is it discriminatory because the Ku Klux Klan isn't represented in this Legislature or on the advisory committee? I don't think so. I think it's a good piece of business if these fringe groups of the right or left aren't represented in stable democracies on boards and commissions that run the electoral process in this province. I think that's rather good. What kind of skewed, fevered thinking are we getting from this Attorney-General when he says that we've got to abolish the commission because it might be discriminatory not to allow members of other parties to sit on the commission. That is nonsense.

Mr. Speaker, the final piece in this legislation that is absolute nonsense is the so-called prohibition on government advertising. Mr. Speaker, if you read that section of the bill, you'll find that's about as big a fraud as the Jobs Fund. Just a fraud, Mr. Speaker, because they say if a program has started, well, of course, that's different. This government tries to be all things to all people. It tries to legislate in areas where fools fear to tread. Well, Mr. Speaker, they're fools alright, and they certainly tread in areas where they shouldn't be involved. All governments from time to time are going to run advertising campaigns of one sort or another. This government is making all previous governments look like pikers. As I've said before, they make the Minister of Information in Germany in the 1930s look like a piker. They're perpetrating the big lie in about the same way that he did too. Mr. Speaker, the prohibition on government advertising as contained in this legislation is very simply a fraud. This is the same legislation whereby they want to claw money out of the taxpayer's pocket.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I come to a summary. We do not support this law. We will use every legitimate parliamentary technique to defeat it, because it is a bad law. It represents the cupidity and the greed of the NDP trying to enrich their own party and their own candidates at the expense of the taxpayer. That is not in the public interest. It must be stopped, and it will be stopped.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of public financing, I don't care if it's done in West Germany, I don't care if it's done partially in Ontario; I don't care if Ed Broadbent and the crew talked them into it in Ottawa; it's still bad. Public financing at this time, at any time, I suggest, is not justified, but particularly at this time in the economic development of this province, it just isn't justified at all to be asking the taxpayers to bear a further burden.

I call, Mr. Speaker, on the government to withdraw this piece of perfidy which they're pleased to call legislation. It's a piece of grand larceny under the guise of doing something that's in the public interest. I call on the government, as I have throughout my remarks, to withdraw it. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, we undertake, as I've said before, to use every parliamentary device at our command to fight this legislation throughout the summer if necessary. We do make the solemn promise that if this government has no conscience, no honour, no integrity, and passes this legislation, that we will repeal the legislation immediately on coming into office

after the next election and they will never take a nickel out of it.

So, I say, Mr. Speaker, appealing to the only interest that this government seems to understand, its own political self-interest. I say to them, Mr. Speaker, appealing only to their own political self-interest, why put yourself through the political agony of passing this legislation when you know you're never going to collect a nickel under it? Why would you do that? That's a form of masochism, I would say. That's a form of self-immolation. I really don't think that you've even gotten to that strait yet although God knows you're in the depths of despondency right now. You're disintegrating; you have no leadership; you don't know what you're doing on a day-to-day basis, so God knows what level of despondency you're in at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, only a government that has reached the lowly estate of being referred to as the largest numerical group in the House - not a government - only a group of people who are totally bankrupt of ideas, only a group of people who are amoral, who do not know the difference between right and wrong, would try to foist this kind of larceny on the people of Manitoba. Only a government, Mr. Speaker, teetering on the brink of dissolution, and that's what's happening to this government. We could be into an election much sooner than the people of Manitoba perhaps anticipate, because this government is racked and torn by internal dissension, Mr. Speaker, and it's facing an early, probably, dissolution of whatever holds them together other than cupidity and greed and the movement.

So, Mr. Speaker, a government that's on the brink of dissolution, a government with, obviously, greed as its main motivation having sunk to this depraved situation in its political life, only that kind of a government would even propose this kind of legislation at a time when the taxpayers of this province are facing the problems, many of which have been caused by this government.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the beginning, it's not only a sign that this government is on its way out, it's a sign that this government has already, for all practical purposes left office, because it is not functioning as a government any longer. I asked them before they dissolve, before they disintegrate, to do at least one honourable thing, to withdraw this piece of legislation and at least try to restore some honour, some integrity, some dignity to their actions.

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding:** The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Virden that debate be adjourned on this bill.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Acting Government House Leader.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Yes, pursuant to our understanding, Bill No. 55, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General, second reading of Bill No. 55, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. S. LYON:** Mr. Speaker, at the supper hour closing the other day, I had concluded my remarks on this bill, thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Pembina that debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

### COMMITTEE CHANGE

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

**MR. D. SCOTT:** I have some committee changes, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to report at this time.

On the Standing Committee of Municipal Affairs, the Member for River East for the Member for Gimli; the Member for Dauphin replacing the Member for Thompson.

On the Standing Committee on Statutory Regulations and Orders, the Member for Lac du Bonnet for the Member for Brandon East; the Member for Logan for the Member for Fort Rouge, and the Member for Radisson for the Member for St. Johns.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I have some changes on the Standing Committee on Statutory Orders and Regulations; Orchard for Mercier.

### BILL 102 - THE TEACHERS' PENSIONS ACT

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Acting Government House Leader.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 102.

**MR. SPEAKER:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Bill No. 102, the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I adjourned this debate in favour of my colleague, the Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In speaking to this bill I will be very brief. Our intention is to refer the bill to committee so that representations can be made by interested parties. This bill, which amends the Teachers' Pensions Act, Mr. Speaker, is one that has a good deal of technical and minor administrative changes involved. They deal with corrections of wrong references, repeal of inoperative sections, attention to oversights in previous amending legislation, and also redirecting sections that were affected by amendments to previous bills.

I thank the Minister for giving me a good deal of background information, including a section-by-section commentary that was prepared by the Legislative Counsel. I've also taken the occasion to speak with Legislative Counsel to assure that I understand many of the changes that are proposed to clear up these anomalies. So, having said that, I say that there may be some actuarial and investment people who may wish to appear before committee, and others who are involved with the changes that are being proposed. But, aside from that, I'm prepared to have the bill proceed to committee along with another bill that, I understand, will be introduced rather shortly that also deals with teachers' pension funds and, hopefully, we can deal with it expeditiously at that time.

Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

**QUESTION put, MOTION carried.**

### BILL 110 - THE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Acting Government House Leader.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Bill No. 110, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Bill No. 110, the Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. In this case we have before us a rather short bill, An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act, which contains a number of provisions that were outlined in the introduction in second reading by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and we're reinforced by a news release which he issued upon introducing the bill for second reading. I suppose that at first glance, as one reads through the news release and the Minister's information, members of the government are of the opinion that what is being done is relatively minor and straightforward, and that what is being done, in essence, provides protection for the consumer against the potential loss of their deposits, in putting forth a deposit on a major purchase of any sort in the province. I say, Mr. Speaker, that those provisions, at least some of those provisions, are indeed ones that we will support and, indeed, a number of them, as outlined in the Minister's news release, are not matters that ought to be of great concern to consumers in the province or, in fact I think, to business people dealing in the province.

The fact that we are now requiring deposits in excess of \$50 to be put in a trust account and to be treated separately and apart from the normal cash flow and operating funding of a business, I believe, is probably the best solution that is available at the present time to accomplish the purpose that, I believe, the government has set out to accomplish, and that is, they say to insure that consumers' deposits are protected specially, and that they are not subject to a substantial loss as a result of a business failure. I say that this has led up to, over the past number of years, as a result of a number of major bankruptcies that occurred where consumers who had put forth deposits on the

purchase of furniture, for instance, on the purchase of automobiles, on the purchase of, in some case, motorcycles, were left in the lurch, were left high and dry as a result of business failures. I know that the genesis of this originated with our government, in 1981, as Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister, I instructed the department to look at a way in which we could protect the consumer from loss of their deposit and that was carried on, and last year the former Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, now the Minister of Urban Affairs, was looking towards a similar solution. It has finally resulted in legislation this term and, as I say, it's not something we find opposition to here.

Fact of the matter is that there may be other solutions and other ways that members of the retail business community may have to propose to us, and perhaps some will appear at committee and have alternative suggestions, but I know that we, on this side, have given a good deal of thought to it and, in the final analysis, the trust account provision is probably the cleanest and simplest and easiest method for dealing with this. I would hope, and I will stress that I would hope, that the manner in which this is actually set up in future is not one that requires a good deal of red tape and regulation. If it is a simple, clean trust account situation with the provision for perhaps a periodic audit, something of that nature, then I for one would think that it's probably the least onerous type of provision that can be made that does, in fact, accomplish the purpose of the protection of these deposits against loss due to bankruptcy or business failure.

On the other hand, if the Minister in putting forth any regulations that need to be enacted in order to define the method by which these trust accounts must be handled, if the regulations are too cumbersome and unnecessarily onerous and require a good deal of bureaucratic red tape then we might have some natural disagreement with it and I'm sure that merchants might. As I see it there are simple ways of accomplishing it and if the Minister sticks to that intention and is able to accomplish it in that way then we would not be opposed to it.

Some of the requirements for additional details in advertising of credit and how loan agreements are struck between consumers and lenders certainly are not things that I would, for one, be opposed to. The provisions for ensuring that certain direct sellers must be licensed and regulated - and there was a grey area there before and some questions - that too, I would have no quarrel with. The credit grantors maintaining records and the requirements of those records to be maintained for possible future inspection, again is not something I would be opposed to.

Mr. Speaker, all of those aspects of the bill we, for one, are certainly prepared to allow to be enacted, but I say that the Minister has come a cropper in one particular aspect of this bill. I say that there is one aspect of this bill that is totally uncalled for, that is totally inappropriate, and that is going to have a severe negative affect on the relationship between consumers and sellers in the sense of retail selling organizations. In that aspect, Mr. Speaker, which is totally ludicrous in my view, totally inappropriate, is the aspect of saying that you shall not or may not have a deposit in excess of 5 percent on any transaction, on any purchase that you're going to make in the future.

I say that that, in fact, has a potential to drive out of business a good many Manitoba retailers who are in specialty stores, who are in specialty operations, and is an unwarranted intrusion in the relationship between the consumer and the retailer in Manitoba. I don't understand it at all. In fact, I wonder where the idea come from and I wonder who amongst the government or its advisors or the bureaucracy - if indeed the origin comes from the bureaucracy - who thought of it and who did they talk to about it, because it seems to me so straightforward and simple that I didn't have to talk to any retailers or merchants about it. I'll tell you that I've had a flood of phone calls from them now over the past week since it has become public knowledge. They're up in arms about it, and they will be out to committee without question and briefs will be presented and so on. It seemed so straightforward - when members on this side received the bill and those of us who have some knowledge about the conduct of business in the province, some of us are in businesses that involve retail sales. My colleague from La Verendrye will speak to the bill from his own personal experience and vantage point, but it is just absolutely ludicrous to say that there is some reason why the government should step in and limit the amount of deposit that a retailer can ask from a consumer in order to obtain specially produced goods for that consumer.

Indeed, I'll start to give you some examples because the more I talk to people, the more examples they give me of how it is a basic necessity of their business to be able to ask for a deposit in excess of 5 percent. Let's take, for instance, the situation in which somebody goes to a tailor and wants to purchase a \$300 custom-made suit. All they can get in deposit is \$15.00. Now, if that suit is going to be ordered on behalf of somebody such as the Minister of Urban Affairs, well, I can tell you that it's not going to fit other people in this Chamber or other people around. What you're saying is that you cannot be in business as a tailor anymore if all you can get is a 5 percent deposit. What good will \$15 do you if the person cancels out and reneges on the arrangement that they've got with you. How can you do it?

Well, the Member for Elmwood says, what if they gain weight? Well, you just can't retailer a suit that is specially made for an individual. The same thing has to do with special orders for women's clothing, for children's clothing, any numbers of things where you're asking for somebody to specially make something to your needs. You're saying to them that they might as well be out of business because if they have to take the risk that you are going to renege on a specially made order, they simply aren't going to do it. They can't. Okay, that's number 1, and that seems so straightforward.

Number 2, somebody in the automobile business - it's not unusual for someone to come in and order, let's say, a vehicle that they want to go over rough terrain and northern roads and that, heavy-duty suspension, heavy-duty transmission and that sort of thing. Those are special orders that they have to get from the factory. The retail seller of that automobile may in fact end up ordering things that bump up the price 20 percent or 25 percent. If someone reneges on that order, and they all have to lose is a 5 percent deposit and it's \$500 on a \$10,000 vehicle, that retailer

is out of pocket a good deal, because he's now got in stock something that is 20 percent more expensive than the normal automobile that he's going to have to sell and he's not going to be able to find a buyer for it, I suggest to you. So it's wrong-headed; it's inappropriate and it is going to destroy the relationship that must exist - because therefore the only response that that retailer has, that that auto dealer has is to say, no, I won't take your special order. No, I can't order that in for you. You can't have what you want because I can't take the risk.

Mr. Speaker, home draperies, people who are in the business of selling draperies have phoned me, home furnishings and draperies. Somebody orders pink chenille drapes for their house - you know, I'm giving you . . .

**A MEMBER:** Gary, that's not in style anymore.

**MR. G. FILMON:** The Minister of Labour doesn't like pink chenille. Well, maybe I don't either, but that's the point. Some people do. Some people do. They want all sorts of weird and wonderful materials and colours to decorate their rooms and their houses in the style in which they would like it to be. Now, they can't do that because nobody is going to take and manufacture some special order that fits in only sized and shaped and made out of material to fit that one particular purpose. Their not going to do it anymore because they can't take the risk on a 5 percent deposit. That's it, they're out of business. They can't be in business with this kind of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Furniture - it's not unusual for people to order special fabrics. You know, you get leopard skin fabrics and all sorts of designs in corduroy, in leather and fancy pieces of furniture. They're made to order for people. Well, today, if they're going to have to take a \$500 deposit on a \$10,000 order of furniture and sometimes when you get into these fancy custom-made things, that's what happens - they can't do it anymore. I was talking to furniture manufacturers and furniture retailers throughout Winnipeg as a result of their calls to me and they take, depending on how unusual the material, the style and everything is, anywhere from a 20 percent to a 50 percent deposit in order to get in, to bring in this specially manufactured furniture for people. That's not unreasonable.

I say to you further that the consumer doesn't object to it. The consumer hasn't demanded that you put this limit on the deposit. That has come from some mind of some theorist. I don't know who you've got out there, but they're coming off the walls with this kind of suggestion, Mr. Speaker. The government is just getting into engineering the lives and the relationships of individual people with this kind of legislation. It is totally inappropriate. I don't know where they come up with these ideas but they obviously aren't spending any time in the real world listening to people who are dealing every day with consumers and retailers, who know that there has to be a reason why people should put down a deposit that is in excess of 5 percent from time to time. What you are saying, Mr. Speaker, or at least what the Minister is saying with this legislation, is that he doesn't want all of these speciality stores, and all of these speciality manufacturers, to be in existence

in Manitoba. He is wiping them out of business, and I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that there are many, in fact, Manitoba is a province - and we've said this over and over - largely made up of small operations, small manufacturers, small retailers, independently-held operations that over and over again are doing a good business, meeting the needs and desires of their customers, and that's the whole goal of selling and marketing, is that somebody is fulfilling a need and a desire of a customer, and they are doing a good business. The boutiques, the speciality stores, the small manufacturers are doing a good business and they're productive members of society, of the business community, in this province, and they are being told that they can't be in business. With this little 5 percent regulation, this little 5 percent provision in the legislation, they are going to be forced out of business, because what you're saying to them, Mr. Speaker, and I don't understand why the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs wants to, I don't understand why he's making it his business, but what he is saying is that now, in Manitoba, we are dictating that, off-the-rack, off-the-floor merchandise is all that is going to be sold. There's no freedom of choice any more; there's no opportunity for individual decision-making and discretion in purchases; it's cash and carry and we're going to appeal to the big manufacturers, the mass producers, because that's who we believe obviously suits the needs of the community in Manitoba.

Nobody anymore is going to be able to . . . I have a son who's into size 13 shoes and is still growing and we're at the point where we have to order in specially-made shoes. Well, you know what chance I'm going to have to bring in a pair of size 14 Adidas for him? None, not with this provision; nobody's going to do it on a 5 percent deposit; crazy, absolutely nuts. And the interesting part of it is that a retailer told me - and I guess I should be more familiar with The Retail Sales Act in Manitoba - they have to, as soon as they enter into an agreement with somebody, they take a deposit, an invoice has to be struck, they have to pay 6 percent sales tax to the government as soon as that invoice is written, even before the goods are brought in and delivered; so they take in 5 percent and they pay out 6 percent to the government. How ludicrous can that be? Do you realize that? The 5 percent goes into trust so they're out-of-pocket on this whole thing. What absolute nonsense. I can't believe what the Minister is doing, but this is one more indication of how out-of-touch this government is with reality and with the community of people who live and work in Manitoba today.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Social tinkering.

**MR. G. FILMON:** The Member for Roblin-Russell says social tinkering, social engineering. They are trying to reshape the whole realm of society and the relationships between consumers and retailers and merchants in some image that some theorist out there has brought it forward for them, and saying, that would be great. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could restrict these people to a 5 percent deposit, we're really doing something on behalf of the consumer. I'll tell what you're doing on behalf of the consumer; you're restricting their

freedom of choice; you're restricting their opportunity to get specially-made goods brought in; and you're wiping out a certain class of merchants and business operators out there in one fell swoop. That's what you're doing with this kind of provision, Mr. Speaker.

I don't understand how they can possibly justify it and it's evidence to me of one of many pieces of legislation that they've brought in this Session without thinking. It's just like the amendments to The Landlord and Tenant Act that were brought in by the Minister of Housing that were so ridiculous and so preposterous that he had to bring in three pages of amendments to a five-page bill to try and make up for the stupidity of the original drafting of that bill.

I want to know what difference does it make to the government to try and do this on behalf of a consumer. Well it seems to me that it's just one more indication of how the government takes only one side in an issue when it comes to a business transaction, and it's anti-business. What have they done since they've come into office? They've assaulted the business people time after time after time in only two years of government, only two Sessions, we're not even through the second one. They've assaulted the business community with any numbers of burdens - the payroll tax, the 1.5 percent that they brought in last year; they increased the sales tax this year; they increased the minimum wages the first year; they're paying greater property taxes. They didn't realize that the merchants, who are the people who had to go and have a line of credit and were suffering under the penalty of the high interest rates that we had a year or so ago, when they brought in their Interest Rate Relief Program, all of the retail merchants in this province were disqualified by a \$300,000 gross sales limitation on the program, so all of them couldn't qualify. No matter how badly they were suffering under high interest rates, the retail merchants in this province were automatically

disqualified in one fell swoop because this government doesn't understand business, doesn't know what its needs and desires are. There's nobody over there who understand it and there's nobody, obviously, in their advisory group who understands it or they would never bring this kind of provision in, never. It's just a wonderful, woolly world out there of theorist who have no idea what goes on in the real world of dealing between people and merchants.

Mr. Speaker, this is the sort of thing that is going to harm, for all time and future, many many businesses, countless businesses. The government is going to have to reconsider, there's no two ways about it. The government will have to reconsider this provision or it stands to drive out a whole flock of small manufacturers, small producers, and small merchants, small retailers in this province. Of course, this is the government who says, ah, we don't like big business but we really like small business; that's who we support. That's what they say, that's what they said before and, of course, a number of people on our side have said, well when does a small business become a big business and you start to dislike it? It's quite obvious now that they, not only dislike big business, they don't like any business at all. When they're going to drive out small retailers and small manufacturers and small merchants in great number, out of the province, as a result of this provision, they obviously don't like any business at all. There is no two ways about it, it's quite obvious from the kind of thing that they're doing.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. When this bill is next before the House, the honourable member will have 20 minutes remaining.

The time of adjournment having arrived, the House is adjourned and will stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow afternoon (Thursday).