



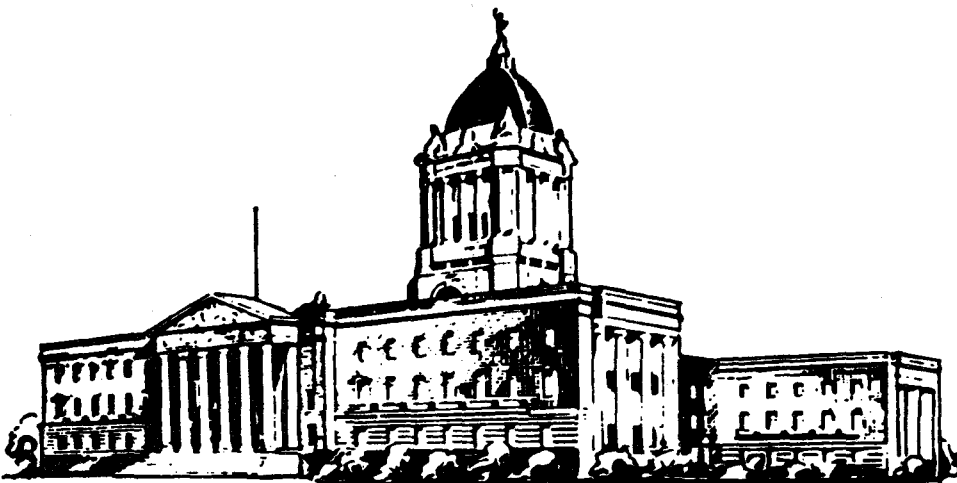
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Third Session - Thirty-Fifth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

39-40 Elizabeth II

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The Honourable Denis C. Rocan
Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fifth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	Liberal
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BARRETT, Becky	Wellington	NDP
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	Liberal
CERILLI, Marianne	Radisson	NDP
CHEEMA, Gulzar	The Maples	Liberal
CHOMIAK, Dave	Kildonan	NDP
CONNERY, Edward	Portage la Prairie	PC
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose	PC
DACQUAY, Louise	Seine River	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DEWAR, Gregory	Selkirk	NDP
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNEY, James, Hon.	Arthur-Virden	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Steinbach	PC
DUCHARME, Gerry, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	Liberal
ENNS, Harry, Hon.	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Cliff	Interlake	NDP
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen, Hon.	Springfield	PC
FRIESEN, Jean	Wolseley	NDP
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	Liberal
GILLESHAMMER, Harold, Hon.	Minnedosa	PC
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HICKES, George	Point Douglas	NDP
LAMOUREUX, Kevin	Inkster	Liberal
LATHLIN, Oscar	The Pas	NDP
LAURENDEAU, Marcel	St. Norbert	PC
MALLOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
MARTINDALE, Doug	Burrows	NDP
McALPINE, Gerry	Sturgeon Creek	PC
McCRAE, James, Hon.	Brandon West	PC
McINTOSH, Linda, Hon.	Assiniboia	PC
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold	Rossmere	PC
ORCHARD, Donald, Hon.	Pembina	PC
PENNER, Jack	Emerson	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
PRAZNIK, Darron, Hon.	Lac du Bonnet	PC
REID, Daryl	Transcona	NDP
REIMER, Jack	Niakwa	PC
RENDER, Shirley	St. Vital	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ROSE, Bob	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Broadway	NDP
STEFANSON, Eric, Hon.	Kirkfield Park	PC
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
SVEINSON, Ben	La Verendrye	PC
VODREY, Rosemary, Hon.	Fort Garry	PC
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
WOWCHUK, Rosann	Swan River	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, March 2, 1992

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have reviewed the petition of the honourable member, and it complies with the privileges and practices of the House. Is it the will of the House to have the petition read?

The petition of the undersigned citizens of the province of Manitoba humbly sheweth

THAT child abuse is a crime abhorred by all good citizens of our society, but nonetheless it exists in today's world; and

It is the responsibility of the government to recognize and deal with this most vicious of crimes; and

Programs like the Fight Back Against Child Abuse campaign raise public awareness and necessary funds to deal with the crime; and

The decision to terminate the Fight Back Against Child Abuse campaign will hamper the efforts of all good citizens to help abused children.

WHEREFORE your petitioners humbly pray that the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba may be pleased to request that the government of Manitoba show a strong commitment to deal with Child Abuse by considering restoring the Fight Back Against Child Abuse campaign. (Ms. Barrett)

I have reviewed the petition of the honourable member, and it complies with the privileges and practices of the House. Is it the will of the House to have the petition read?

The petition of the undersigned citizens of the province of Manitoba humbly sheweth

THAT child abuse is a crime abhorred by all good citizens of our society, but nonetheless it exists in today's world; and

It is the responsibility of the government to recognize and deal with this most vicious of crimes; and

Programs like the Fight Back Against Child Abuse campaign raise public awareness and necessary funds to deal with the crime; and

The decision to terminate the Fight Back Against Child Abuse campaign will hamper the efforts of all good citizens to help abused children.

WHEREFORE your petitioners humbly pray that the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba may be pleased to request that the government of Manitoba show a strong commitment to deal with Child Abuse by considering restoring the Fight Back Against Child Abuse campaign. (Mr. Reid)

I have reviewed the petition, and it conforms with the privileges and practices of the House and complies with the rules. Is it the will of the House to have the petition read?

The petition of the undersigned citizens of the province of Manitoba humbly sheweth

THAT child abuse is a crime abhorred by all good citizens of our society, but nonetheless it exists in today's world; and

It is the responsibility of the government to recognize and deal with this most vicious of crimes; and

Programs like the Fight Back Against Child Abuse campaign raise public awareness and necessary funds to deal with the crime; and

The decision to terminate the Fight Back Against Child Abuse campaign will hamper the efforts of all good citizens to help abused children.

WHEREFORE your petitioners humbly pray that the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba may be pleased to request that the government of Manitoba show a strong commitment to deal with Child Abuse by considering restoring the Fight Back Against Child Abuse campaign. (Mr. Chomiak)

I have reviewed the petition, and it conforms with the privileges and practices of the House and complies with the rules. Is it the will of the House to have the petition read?

To the Legislature of Manitoba:

WHEREAS the loss of elm trees to the Dutch elm disease is a loss of property value and beauty to its neighbourhood; and

WHEREAS in 1990 the Province of Manitoba spent over \$2 million to manage Dutch elm disease and \$700,000 of that amount was allocated to the City of Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has maintained its commitment to the management of Dutch elm disease while the Province of Manitoba reduced its support to the city to \$350,000 in 1991, half that of 1990;

THEREFORE your petitioners humbly pray that the Legislative Assembly will urge the government of Manitoba to consider restoring the former full funding of \$700,000 to the City of Winnipeg to fight Dutch elm disease. (Mrs. Carstairs)

I have reviewed the petition of the honourable member, and it complies with the privileges and practices of the House and complies with the rules. Is it the will of the House to have the petition read?

To the Legislature of Manitoba:

WHEREAS the loss of elm trees to the Dutch elm disease is a loss of property value and beauty to its neighbourhood; and

WHEREAS in 1990 the Province of Manitoba spent over \$2 million to manage Dutch elm disease and \$700,000 of that amount was allocated to the City of Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has maintained its commitment to the management of Dutch elm disease while the Province of Manitoba reduced its support to the city to \$350,000 in 1991, half that of 1990;

THEREFORE your petitioners humbly pray that the Legislative Assembly will urge the government of Manitoba to consider restoring the former full funding of \$700,000 to the City of Winnipeg to fight Dutch elm disease. (Ms. Friesen)

* (1335)

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship): I have the pleasure of tabling the Annual Report for 1990-1991 of the Manitoba Arts Council.

Mr. Speaker: I am also pleased to table the 1990 Annual Report of the Ombudsman.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Constitutional Issues All-Party Committee

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we welcome you back to our Chamber here today and hope you are feeling well. That is not intended to ingratiate myself for longer preambles which I know you will cut me off on immediately, as you should.

I have a question to the First Minister. The parliamentary committee has reported over the weekend on an extensive list of proposals to deal with our Canadian federation, to deal with a great number of proposals dealing with Canada and our Constitution.

A number of people have made comments on the proposals. A number of people are making comments as we speak. Mr. Speaker, Manitoba has had a great strength dealing with the Constitution over the last number of years, a strength where all parties work together to develop a consensus position on behalf of Manitobans and Manitobans' vision of a strong and united Canada.

Mr. Speaker, rather than each of us going off in our own caucuses tonight with our documents, I would suggest that it would be better to continue and build upon the consensus in this province.

I would ask whether the Premier would be prepared to reconstitute the all-party committee dealing with our Constitution, so that the proposals that are before us and before the country today, and I recognize they are only preliminary proposals, could be reviewed and commented on by our all-party committee, so that again we can work with the strength of all parties on behalf of Canada and Manitobans, and work together in a co-ordinated and united way in this Chamber.

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his offer of support, assistance and participation. I certainly would acknowledge that I believe it is important, for me as Premier and for us as a government, to consult and to be able to in some way involve the opposition caucuses' views in this matter.

As the Leader of the Opposition will know, I certainly have attempted as much as possible in expressing my views and concerns about the document that was tabled yesterday by the

Dobbie-Beaudoin committee to reflect the concerns that were in the Manitoba Constitutional Task Force. The concerns I believe that I have expressed are in keeping with those that the task force really laid out as areas of concern and the positions that they took, the all-party committee of this Legislature.

I would suggest to him that since he, like I, probably has not had time to go into all of the legal wording, and I am sure the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) has not as well, that this is a comprehensive document. One of things that is going to be important is that we recognize it as a point along a process and that the process will be extensive and will involve opportunities for a great deal more participation by us as a government representing the views and concerns of Manitobans.

I would certainly encourage the two opposition caucuses to be reviewing this and to be, in effect, developing their concerns and that some way we will find a consultative mechanism that will allow those views to be put into the mix as far as we are concerned. When I go forward to the next meeting, when the Constitutional Affairs minister goes forward on behalf of Manitoba, we will want to know that we have the views and concerns of both opposition parties with us when we go.

* (1340)

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, again, I would offer up our support to review the document in an all-party way, because many of the recommendations in the document we can comment on from our all-party report. There are other points of departure where we have never even discussed the proposals. I think, again, rather than each of us representing our caucuses, I think having all parties around the same table dealing with the document on behalf of Manitobans would be a valuable and continued contribution in our province.

Unity Committee Report Legal Opinion Request

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): A further question to the First Minister. He has indicated over the weekend his concern on the devolution of powers. I think that is again very consistent with Manitobans' opinions in the public hearings, wanting a strong national government, a strong federal government and not wanting to move many powers over to the provinces. I think, intuitively, we all made the same comments over the

weekend on the concepts that we had heard were contained in the report. The Premier has indicated that his legal constitutional advisers are going through all parts of this report to determine all of the potential ramifications in a comprehensive way.

I would ask the Premier: Would he agree to provide that to the all-party committee if he agrees to constitute it, and secondly, would he agree to make those opinions public in this Chamber and for all Manitobans, so again, we can be working together on the ramifications of these reports and the legal opinions would be available to all Manitobans through this Chamber?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I am not certain that we are going to have everything in detailed legal form, but certainly the principles and the areas of concern that are going to have to be addressed are ones that I will state publicly. We have nothing to hide when we have concerns that have to be addressed in this constitutional process. We want those concerns to be known and understood, not only by everybody in this Chamber, but also by the public, so we will utilize as the basis of this the advice that we get.

I see no reason why I would not share that advice with the opposition leaders or whichever representatives we want to have to ensure that all parties' views are brought together on this issue.

Mr. Doer: It is very difficult to know in this country what is the next step. Is it the federal government and cabinet making another proposal? Are the First Ministers going to be involved in it before another proposal is made? The whole issue, as the Premier said, is one step along the way, but it is very difficult to know what other steps are following from the federal government. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Constitutional Affairs have been very, very vague with Canadians on the process under which Canadians will work with their Constitution. Certainly, in this House, process is very important because, as we know, we had a very open process in this Chamber, something that was condemned by the federal government in the past and something that, I think, served Manitobans well.

Constitutional Issues Referendum

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): I would like to ask another question to the Premier. The federal document contemplates a consultative referendum on the constitutional proposal, either to

confirm the existence of a national consensus or to facilitate the adoption of a required amending resolution.

I am sure the Premier, his staff and his constitutional advisors have been reviewing this issue. Is it the intent of the Premier to have the referendum if the federal government calls one before the all-party committee will deal with any constitutional proposal? Is the timing going to be a potential referendum first and then a proposal that comes back to this Chamber after that, or can the Premier shed some light on the process as he sees it, especially considering the vague recommendation of the federal government to have a referendum nationally and how that would fit with our processes in this Chamber in terms of timing?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I must say to the Leader of the Opposition that it is difficult to be definitive about this one. One does not know what the ultimate process will lead to.

I might say that I could not just blame the federal government for not having a process in mind or having the process defined because I know that they are getting conflicting advice from other Premiers. I know that some Premiers believe that we should just simply set aside all the rest of it, get to the table and let the Premiers do what they did before and try and strike compromises.

I, for one, think that the process has to be a little more extensive than that. I think that there is a place for officials, legal and constitutional officials, along with the ministers of Constitutional Affairs to start just identifying the areas of conflict that clearly are developing throughout the country, and try and narrow down and focus in on what are the difficult compromises and those sorts of things.

Having said all that, the question on the referendum is one that again cannot be answered directly. The amending formula in the Constitution is going to require the passage of resolutions in Legislatures. This Legislature will trigger its own process, the process that our rules call for that involves public hearings and a minimum length of debate that we know is set forward and a resolution in this Chamber that ultimately will have to be voted upon regardless of any kind of referendum, whether it be a provincial referendum separately or a national referendum.

That process would still have to take place in our Legislature, in every other Legislature and the Parliament of Canada. It would only be the seven

provinces and 50 percent of the population plus the federal government that would trigger in. If there are elements that require unanimous consent, of course, again that would require a separate process of votes in Legislatures and Parliament. None of the proposals, however vague they are, could override the need to have this Legislature debate and ultimately decide upon a resolution.

* (1345)

Urban Hospital Council Budget Reduction Proposal

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lels (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, at this time last year, we raised a number of questions about \$19 million being cut from urban hospitals by this government and about the significant number of bed closures that were being extended from summer right through winter to this coming summer. The Minister of Health at that time said that we were fearmongering, that we were making up these figures and that none of this was true, all the while overseeing and authorizing these budget cuts.

I want to ask the minister on what basis he has asked the Urban Hospital Council to consider the impact of a further \$20-million cut to their base budgets for this coming fiscal year, and on what basis he has asked our two major hospitals, the Health Sciences Centre and the St. Boniface Hospital, to cut 250 beds between them.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, so pleased to see you back, Sir.

My honourable friend again is attempting to—how would I say this genteely?—obfuscate the issue—is that the proper terminology?—because my honourable friend in referring to the \$19-million, as she puts it, cut to the health care budget belies the fact that, in the last fiscal year, the hospitals across the length and breadth of this province received an increase in funding, not a decrease as my honourable friend would have you, Sir, and those casual observers in the House believe. That is not accurate, and my honourable friend knows that is not accurate.

What the \$19 million involves, Mr. Speaker, is the difference between what the hospitals requested and what we finally ended up budgeting for them. That is the \$19 million which left every hospital in the province of Manitoba with an increased budget this fiscal year over last, not less as my honourable

friend would have all Manitobans believe. The premise of her question is not correct.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Only this minister could ignore the difficult situation he has placed hospitals in.

I would like to know from this minister, given the \$20-million proposed cut to urban hospitals and the 250-bed reduction to St. Boniface and Health Sciences Centre, what impact study has he done to determine the impact that such budget reductions will have on services being delivered through our hospitals, considering the drastic—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been put.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, there used to be a member in this House in the official opposition that used to say, there he goes again. Well, I am not going to do that because the "he" is a "she", but there she goes again talking about cutbacks when I have explained to her that the hospital budgets were increased last year over the year previous.

My honourable friend can wait with some small amount of patience until the budget and the tabling of the Estimates to determine what will be the relative financial position in next year's hospital budget compared to last year's hospital budget, because I know my honourable friend would demand my resignation. I cannot share with her any more details around the budget for hospitals this year versus next.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell my honourable friend that the Urban Hospital Council is considering a number of issues, 40-plus of them, which involved some very fundamental issues on management of existing resources in the health care system, a process my honourable friend the New Democratic critic in Manitoba criticizes, but her honourable friends the New Democrats in Ontario are currently setting up as good government policy.

* (1350)

St. Boniface Hospital School of Licensed Practical Nurses

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lels (St. Johns): I have a question, Mr. Speaker, for Manitoba's Minister of Health.

I would like to ask the minister, considering last year's budget reduction resulted in such drastic proposals—he considered the closure of the St. Boniface School of Practical Nursing—I would like

to know if the minister has accepted the fact that this school has almost 100 percent success rate in terms of graduating, in terms of ensuring that graduates find employment, and will he now indicate he is prepared to keep the school open and ensure that LPNs are alive and well as a health care profession in the province of Manitoba?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I am not certain I heard in detail my honourable friend's preamble to the question. I believe she alluded that the school of licensed practical nursing training in St. Boniface was closed. I do not believe she is able to say that, because I certainly have no such request from the board of St. Boniface and I do not believe, as this question is being posed, that decision has been made.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that issue has been discussed by St. Boniface and is one of the issues that they are currently coming to grips with.

Let me tell you how government is attempting to deal with the very issue of the value of LPNs in the nursing system. Because there is some concern over the training capacity at St. Boniface, Red River Community College and elsewhere in the province of Manitoba around LPNs, we in government have decided that we should know what the current employment numbers are and what will be the future requirement for LPNs in the health care system; hence, the survey that went out in January to determine those needs so we can provide informed advice on any request when we receive it, if we receive it, about training school capacities not only for LPNs but for RPNs, for Bachelor of Nursing graduates and all nursing professionals in the health care system. We intend to proceed with this with a better information base than any government previous has had at its disposal.

Constitutional Issues Multilateral Discussions

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in listening to the Premier last evening, I thought I heard him say—and he can clarify if in fact he did not say, but I thought he said that a representative of this government will attend the multilateral talks on the Constitution.

Can the Premier tell the House today why we are prepared to go to such talks, since the Province of Quebec has indicated they will not attend?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is important for us to begin looking at proposals that presumably are going to eventually be the basis upon which the federal government will put forth a constitutional amendment to the country. I believe we ought to be in there expressing our concerns about those proposals and attempting to change them.

If indeed, as I indicated last evening, a number of aspects of them are unacceptable to us, then it is time for us to get to the table with the other First Ministers, or with Constitutional Affairs ministers, and try and influence change so that we do not get faced by the federal government with a package that becomes a seamless web and one that may be unacceptable in a variety of ways to this Legislature.

When the Prime Minister asked for us to have Constitutional Affairs ministers meet next week to begin these discussions on the results of the Dobbie-Beaudoin committee report, I said yes to it, as I believe many other Premiers across the country have, because I do not think we can afford, just simply because Quebec is not going to be there, to stay away when important decisions, judgments and negotiations are taking place. I think Manitobans expect no less.

* (1355)

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, I could not disagree more with the Premier of the province of Manitoba. I think this is an extremely slippery slope towards the presenting of a so-called English Canada position. I think that is fraught with danger.

Will the Premier now reconsider and take a leadership role for all of Canada and say that he is not prepared to sit at a conference table on the Constitution, which affects all Canadians, without a principal player, one of those provinces not being there?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, that is an interesting point of view. I might say that I felt, when the Dobbie-Beaudoin committee report was tabled, that there obviously were three federal parties who were working very, very hard to satisfy Quebec in that report. As a result, they did a disservice to many other provinces and regions in the country, including Manitoba.

I do not think there is any question that, as long as the federal government is at that table, and it would not matter whether it was all three parties from Parliament, they would be representing very

strongly the interests of Quebec, in fact too strongly in my judgment. That is why I think it is very important for the rest of the country to be there to find some change and to effect some change in the proposal that ultimately is presented to the country, because as it stands, this proposal has great weaknesses and I do not have any fears that Quebec's views are not represented. In fact, they are too strongly represented in Dobbie-Beaudoin.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, we will agree to disagree on that one.

Referendum

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): My final question has to be asked to the Premier with respect to referendum.

The Dobbie-Beaudoin recommendation on referendum is not a referendum recognition at all. I want to quote: We recommend that a federal law be enacted, if deemed appropriate by the Government of Canada, to enable the federal government, at its discretion, to hold a consultative referendum on a constitutional proposal either to conform the existence of national consensus or to facilitate the adoption of the required amending resolutions. The copy in French makes no reference whatsoever to the word "referendum" and refers only to a consultative process.

Can the Premier now agree to at least giving the people of the province of Manitoba a referendum, as I have been recommending and my party has been recommending for some months and is now being recommended by the constituency of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness)?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I just want to refresh, for the understanding of the Leader of the Liberal Party, she should know very, very well that this province has been the leader in Canada in establishing a process for public consultation and public input that every other province followed following the Meech Lake process. We were the ones who said, no, we have rules in our Legislature that will require a very extensive public hearing process and then a lengthy debate in this Legislature constitutionally mandated on all constitutional amendment proposals. That is now being emulated by people right across the country.

Although I do not throw out mechanisms for further public consultation, the reality is that, by the amending formula in our Constitution, votes in every Legislature in Parliament will still have to take place

and the decisions still have to take place there. By our own process, a vote in this Legislature will have to take place after further public consultation. In all those areas, we have done everything and more in order to ensure public input to it.

If the further taking of a poll, or whatever you want to call that consultation, will help, I have not ruled out any of that. I do believe that ultimately parliamentarians and legislators are elected to exercise judgment and make decisions. None of that should in any way take away from our necessity to do that. That is one of our prime, if not the prime, responsibilities that brings us here.

Bristol Aerospace Environmental Concerns

Mr. Gregory Dewar (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Environment.

Dr. Lockhart Gray, head of the province's ground water section, has said in reference to the aquifer contamination near Stony Mountain, and I quote, this is probably the worst water contamination situation in Manitoba.

Another official from the minister's own department termed the contamination an environmental disaster, yet we have a situation where Bristol Aerospace is investigating itself and proposing its own questionable solutions.

Given the evidence that the contamination is spreading with reports that contaminated wells have been found in the Selkirk constituency, will the minister heed my request of last November and that along with residents of the area and call now for an independent public inquiry into this problem?

* (1400)

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if the member is indicating that there are residents in his constituency who have not been involved in the discussions or who feel that there is some information lacking. Certainly, we have moved very quickly, as additional information became available, to make sure that we supplied potable water, that we are exploring alternative sources, and that we are working directly with Bristol to make sure that all possible and up-to-date processes are put in place to make sure that we contain the damage that has already been done and make sure that the health and the safety of the people in the district are taken care of.

Chemical Burning

Mr. Gregory Dewar (Selkirk): The minister just seems to be content to protect the images—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Selkirk, kindly put your question, please.

Mr. Dewar: Can this minister tell the House why Bristol Aerospace is being allowed to burn hazardous chemicals at its propellant plant in an uncontrolled environment, given the possibility of dangerous emissions passing into the surrounding atmosphere?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): This is a most difficult situation, where the material that is being produced is classified as explosive and cannot be easily transported, unfortunately. The site where Bristol is requesting to resume burning on site has been improved by the implementation of a pad to make sure that there is no possible additional ground water contamination. We are looking at all other options that can be possibly implemented to deal with this material, Mr. Speaker.

The unfortunate part about it is that, while the production of the material is being dramatically reduced, we do not at this time have viable alternatives, while at the same time, we are receiving advice that the potential problems with it being stored in large volumes may very well lead to a very dangerous situation.

We are assessing all possibilities, but we are also discussing with the advisory group, and they have concurred that we need to re-examine this option.

Mr. Dewar: Is this minister able to ensure that the health of the residents of the area and the health of the employees will not be compromised during this burning process?

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Speaker, this is a process that has been used for some 30 years at the site, and we are doing everything we can to make sure that, as I said, we explore all possible options for dealing with it. At the same time, I want to assure the member and assure the residents of the community that we are going to put additional high volume samplers on site and in the area to make sure that we can determine if in fact there is anything that could be dangerous to the population. The burns will be of a test nature until we have satisfied ourselves that this is not causing an unsatisfactory situation.

**Repap Manitoba Inc.
Cutting Area - Swan River**

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, in March of 1989, this government dealt a devastating blow to the community of Swan River by signing the Repap deal and expanding the cutting area so that they are putting an end to the wafer board proposal, a proposal that would have resulted in 200 jobs, turning down \$15 million in Western Diversification funds.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), have been to Swan River to admit that they have made a mistake. Since the Minister of Finance, in his letter to Mr. Kass states that the government has sole discretion to remove the southern forest licence from the original agreement, can he tell this House if he is prepared to renegotiate the cutting area for Swan River so that Swan River will have a chance for some real jobs, or is this renegotiation going to result even with a stronger deal for Repap of a larger cutting area?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I was in attendance with community leaders of Swan River on Friday, at which time I tried to give greater detail with respect to the restructuring process that we are about to embark upon. Mr. Speaker, hindsight, of course, is perfect. The member says that there could have been 200 jobs today from another alternative. Let me indicate that, at the time that the proposal came forward, two-thirds of the financial support for that endeavour was expected to come from government. Let me say also that a significant number of wafer board plants and plywood board plants are a strong competitor to OSB production. I am led to believe that a significant portion of them have gone out of business over the last two years.

It is easy to say, of course, that if we had followed a different course, events may have allowed for greater production or greater employment. I am here standing saying that would not have been the case.

Ms. Wowchuk: There are no jobs in Swan River—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member kindly put your question, please.

Ms. Wowchuk: Since the minister has been to Swan River, there has been a decision to hold a public meeting on March 14. I would like to ask the minister if he will be attending that meeting to hear

the concerns of the people of Swan River? Will he be taking their recommendations seriously—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been put.

Mr. Manness: My first awareness of the meeting on the 14th comes from the member opposite, although I feel that our visit on Friday was probably the rationale for the calling of that meeting. I asked the community at that time to try and bring their thinking as to whether or not they wanted to be part of the Repap restructuring. I am led to believe also, Mr. Speaker, that as of today, as a result of Repap being involved, there are 60 to 70 jobs that are in the Swan River community today that would not be there. The member says no. I had two individuals at the meeting who told me that right in front of all of the town councillors.

I am wondering then who is going to resolve the dispute. There are 60 to 70 people being employed today. There has been some loss of activity as a result of Abitibi no longer buying out of that area. There are some other people in Saskatchewan no longer buying forest product out of that area. If it were not for Repap, there would be no jobs in the Swan River forest at all.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister again: What commitment is he prepared to make to the people of Swan River? What initiative is he prepared to take so that there will be some real investment, since it was his doing that resulted in the collapse of the wafer board plant and no real jobs for Swan River?

Mr. Manness: Again, there is a little bit of revisionist history being spoken here, Mr. Speaker. The reason that the wafer board plant did not go forward is because the proponents of it wanted two-thirds of the funding to come from government. Manfor told us that \$250 million were lost when government got involved in the forest product industry. That is what happened.

With respect to whether the community of Swan River wants to continue to be involved with Repap or not, that was the question that I asked the community. No doubt, over the course of the next number of weeks, they will tell us whether or not they feel there is still some continuing benefit beyond the 60 jobs that exist today with respect to being actively involved and committing the southern wood forest to Repap.

* (1410)

Health Care System Cataract Surgery

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health.

Almost two years ago, we asked the minister to address the issue of the lengthy waiting period for eye surgery. Today 2,600 Manitobans are waiting for eye surgery, and the waiting period is anywhere from six months to one year. While these individuals are waiting, there are private eye clinics who are charging \$1,000 per patient as a facility fee. They are coming up because this government has failed to address a very serious problem.

Can the minister explain why the waiting list is so long and why this government has not addressed this very important issue?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I presume my honourable friend is deriving his information from the February 25 letter from the president of the MMA which in an apolitical way, with carbon copies to both opposition critics, was pointing this issue out to me.

The waiting list as surveyed by the MMA may be accurate because I believe it was obtained by their internal survey of practitioners. However, my honourable friend, not that I am trying to diminish the waiting list, et cetera, but even Dr. Ross indicates that there may be a 25 percent overlap of patients on the waiting list, and they are unable to determine that.

It presents a problem in terms of using waiting lists to establish what might be the impression that there is less service being done in a given area of service delivery.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to share with my honourable friend, because I know he is deeply interested, that since we came into government, the number of cataract surgical procedures has increased by 21 percent. That is a service of just under 4,500 procedures in the last full year that I have numbers for compared to just over 3,500 in '87-88.

Hip and Knee Replacement Surgery

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Mr. Speaker, we do have an aging population then. First it was hip surgery, knee surgery, now it is eye surgery. Can the minister tell us today why he is appointing another committee to study the problem of hip and knee surgery when on January 14 he said that he

will come to this House and tell the people of Manitoba what is the cause of the delay of surgery? Why another committee to study the problems of your department? It is really sad that this minister does not address the simple problem.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, when my honourable friend describes those issues as simple problems, I presume he has a simple solution that he would refer to the House.

My honourable friend says absolutely, and I would like to ask my honourable friend if his simple solution is simply asking government and the taxpayers of Manitoba to put more money into the delivery of health care services. If that is the simple solution that my honourable friend offers as the Liberal critic for this House from opposition, he might want to discuss that with four provincial governments who have Liberals in government making those decisions, who are saying, addition of money is not the answer, that it is management of the system.

Cataract Surgery

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Mr. Speaker, one of the ways is to have the out-patient expand its surgery. Can the minister tell this House today if they would expand the day surgical procedures so that at least these 2,000 people who are on the waiting list can get surgery done? It is an economical issue. These people are suffering, and the taxpayers are suffering because—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I know that my honourable friend sincerely wants to seek solutions to this problem and indeed so do we. That is why I take his advice very seriously, because that is exactly what we have done over the last three years. That is why we were able, since 1987-88, when there were some 3,500 cataract surgical procedures done in the province of Manitoba, through an enhancement of out-patient procedures, we have been able to increase that to just under 4,500 in the last fiscal year, an increase of almost 1,000 based on budgetary increases and out-patient surgery.

I thank my honourable friend for his suggestion, and we will continue to work on it as we have for the last three years.

Rent Regulations Rollbacks

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, it is appalling to me and to thousands of tenants in Manitoba that three Conservative cabinet ministers responsible for housing legislation have failed to proclaim The Residential Tenancies Act, unlike the NDP government who proclaimed The Rent Regulation Act and amended The Landlord and Tenant Act within one year of assuming office. In the meantime, The Rent Regulation Act is still in effect. Under The Rent Regulation Act, landlords have the right to rent increases based on legitimate expenses.

What is the policy of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs when a landlord submits expenses, has a legitimate rent increase approved and subsequently expenses go down? Do tenants benefit from this by having their rent rolled back?

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if this occurs in that year, they may have that rollback occur. With all of these issues, it is all tenant initiated. The tenant brings forward the concern by application, and the response is made.

Mr. Speaker: Time for Oral Questions has expired.

Introduction of Guests

Mr. Speaker: I would like to draw the attention of honourable members to the gallery where we have with us this afternoon six visitors from the Bemidji State University. They are under the direction of Mr. Timothy Ball.

On behalf of all honourable members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

Speaker's Ruling

Mr. Speaker: On Wednesday, February 19, 1992, the honourable member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) raised a point of order which was taken under advisement by the Deputy Speaker. The honourable member for Thompson alleged that the honourable Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) had obtained the floor, had not indicated that he was rising on a point of order, but that the Chair had assumed that the minister had risen on a point of order and had made a ruling to that effect.

I have reviewed Hansard, and it is very clear that the honourable minister did indicate he was rising

on a point of order, therefore, the honourable member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) did not have a point of order.

Nonpolitical Statement

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, may I have leave to make a nonpolitical statement?

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable minister have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? Leave? It is agreed.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Speaker, the Assiniboine Memorial Curling Club has an outstanding record for excellence in this province. Eight times in the last 14 years they have produced the junior men's curling champions.

Last night, in Virden, this year's winning team from the Assiniboine was Scott McFadyen, Kevin MacKenzie, Ross McFadyen, and Chad McMullan. They, along with their coach, Don Harvey, deserve congratulations and commendations. I am very proud to be the MLA wherein this curling club exists, and I am also very proud to be related to one, and perhaps two by marriage, of the participants on that team.

I am pleased to enter commendations to the Assiniboine Memorial Curling Club into the record and to wish the junior men's curling champions all the best as they proceed to the nationals.

* * *

Mr. Speaker: Prior to Orders of the Day, I would like to advise the House that at five o'clock when we get to Private Members' Business, Resolution 4, I have not dealt with this matter yet, and I will not come down with a decision at that time, therefore we will be dealing with Resolution 5 at five o'clock.

* (1420)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, would you call second readings, Bill 48, to be followed by adjourned debate on second readings starting at Bill 6.

SECOND READINGS

Bill 48—The Personal Property Security Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: Second reading, Bill 48, The Personal Property Security Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les sûretés relatives aux biens personnels.

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), that Bill 48, The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, be now read a second time and be referred to a committee of this House.

Motion presented.

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Speaker, the amendments proposed to The Personal Property Security Act are needed to eliminate the impact of a recent Court of Appeal decision on the operations of Manitoba's Personal Property Registry. This registry provides a central place for recording of interests in property other than real property. It makes it possible for someone planning to buy an article like a car to check and ensure that there are no outstanding liens or other restrictions against it.

The Court of Appeal ruled that a requested search should cover not only a person's actual name but also variations of the name. However, this raises two types of problems for the registry and potentially for Manitoba taxpayers.

First, the registry's computer system is not set up to produce the kinds of search certificates required by the decision, and it is not technologically possible to develop the kind of system that would identify all possible variations of a given name.

Second, the registry is exposed to compensation claims from parties who receive a registrar's certificate showing only those registrations against the individual name spelled out exactly as in the request for service with no variations.

At present the registry issues every year about 15,000 certificates concerning individual debtors. The Personal Property Security Act provides for payment of up to \$25,000 compensation per certificate to anyone who suffers loss or damage because they relied on a certificate that was invalid through error or omission.

The amendments add a new subsection to the act. It will specify that an error in the spelling of any

part of a debtor's name, set forth in a financing statement or document registered in the registry, invalidates and destroys the effect of the registration unless a judge believes the error has not actually misled someone whose interests are affected by the registration.

Finally, the amendments are retroactive. We have been advised that if they are not made in this form an increase in compensation claims from the registry should be expected.

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister might answer questions on this particular amendment.

Mr. McCrae: I suppose, Mr. Speaker. It depends on the question, but normally I take note of comments made by honourable members at second reading debate and prepare myself to answer questions at the committee stage. If it is something that I can easily answer, I would attempt to do so.

Point of Order

Mr. Steve Ashton (Opposition House Leader): On a point of order, it has been the practice, although never enshrined in our rules, to allow questions on second reading. The minister might not be aware of that.

For a time period, I believe, if memory serves me correct, leave was not required in recent years because it has not specifically been in the rules. We have been doing it by leave.

I believe the proper way, until this matter is resolved by the Rules committee, would be to ask leave of the minister. I do believe it is fairly routine practice on second reading.

Mr. Speaker: The minister has indicated that he would attempt to answer the question of the honourable member.

* * *

Mr. Chomiak: Mr. Speaker, my question is relatively straight forward. With respect to the submission of the name on the financing statement, will that include errors by the staff at the personal property registry or does that only include errors, as I suspect, that relate to the individuals who actually fill out the forms to submit to the personal property registry?

Mr. McCrae: I believe, Mr. Speaker, the case that we are talking about in this matter relates to a

mistake made by a person filing a document. I expect to have staff available to me at the time we do discuss this, and I can perhaps get informally, between now and the time of committee perhaps, for the honourable member the precise answer to that question.

Mr. Chomiak: I thank the minister for those comments.

I move, seconded by the member for Selkirk (Mr. Dewar), that debate on the matter be adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the honourable member for Kildonan, seconded by the honourable member for Selkirk, that debate be adjourned. Agreed? Agreed and so ordered.

Order, please. I would like to clarify, on the point of order raised by the honourable member for Thompson, he did not have a point of order.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to the bill standing in the name of the prior speaker.

I would like to comment on this bill at this time.

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave for this matter to remain standing in the name of the honourable member for Kildonan? Leave. It is agreed.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, I think that this is a deceptively short bill in the sense that it has I think quite significant results. I appreciate the minister's comments which he has just put on the record about the difficulties the branch is having as a result of the Court of Appeal decision.

Mr. Speaker, I have the same concerns that the member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak) had, that is I wonder if this is an exoneration or if this deals with both mistakes made by the registrant himself or herself and the staff at the department themselves. That is an important point because, of course, this section purports to invalidate any such registration done with even the slightest deviation which would mean that it was not the actual name of the debtor. It is not always easy to get the exact spellings, and it is an unfortunate regular occurrence that people file in the wrong names and that misleads any potential creditor who searches these goods and then, of course, according to this would invalidate the registration. It is a concern, however, I think that the proviso, that actual misleading, is still the key and if actual misleading has occurred then the registration in fact remains valid.

Mr. Speaker, with those comments I do not intend to object to this bill going forward to committee

stage. I simply indicate that I too share the concerns of the member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak). I am concerned that this addition to The Personal Property Security Act has been done with full consultation with the bar. The minister did not mention such consultation, but I would hope that has occurred.

I will look forward at the committee to hearing from his staff as to what consultation with the members of the legal profession has occurred, what the response has been and whether or not they are supportive of this. I do not know that at this point. I look forward to that information at the committee stage.

Mr. Speaker: For clarification purposes here, the matter had already been adjourned by the honourable member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak). Leave was needed to allow the honourable member for St. James, and I think I inadvertently said leave to remain standing—just for clarification. I appreciate that from the House.

DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS

Bill 6—The Denturists Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), Bill 6, The Denturists Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les denturologistes, standing in the name of the honourable member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis). Stand?

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I believe the member for St. Johns wishes to speak on this. I would like to speak prior to that.

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave to have this matter remain standing in the name of the honourable member for St. Johns?

An Honourable Member: Leave.

Mr. Speaker: Leave. That is agreed.

Mr. Ashton: Mr. Speaker, I just want to indicate the reason I have asked for leave of the House to speak currently is that when the member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) does speak, she will be closing debate from our side and perhaps the government members might wish to advise the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). I do not know if the Minister of Health has any comments, but the Minister of Health might be advised that the bill will potentially be passing today depending, I believe, on whether the Liberals have any—

An Honourable Member: We have spoken.

Mr. Ashton: The Liberals have spoken, so the bill will indeed be passing today.

It is a very straightforward bill, Mr. Speaker, but in the true tradition of this House, as members of the opposition, we have reviewed it because sometimes there are straightforward bills—or at least those that appear on the surface to be straightforward—that prove to be quite complicated and controversial for reflection and particularly upon consultation with groups involved.

* (1430)

This is fairly basic in terms of dealing with the composition of the disbarring committee in terms of denturists, and as the bill itself outlines, would change that and bring it more into line with other similar bodies, Mr. Speaker. We could talk at quite some length, I am sure, about how this fits in in terms of overall government policy with regard to the dentistry profession, denturists, dental assistants.

There certainly has been a long history of that in this province going back to the Schreyer government which brought in a child dental care policy in this province, the movement on behalf of the then NDP government in terms of establishing a role for paraprofessionals, dental assistants in particular, the move of the then provincial government of Sterling Lyon in the late '70s to essentially kill a lot of the progress in that area—many of the people who trained for that found that they were no longer in a position to be able to do that—the move by the previous NDP government under Howard Pawley to strengthen the child dental care program, and the unfortunate moves on behalf of the current provincial government in terms of restricting the role of that program which has provided excellent service in rural and northern communities, in particular, where there is not the same kind of access to dental resources that we have in other areas.

This was brought to my attention most recently by a constituent, and I wanted to raise this because I think it shows the kinds of problems we run into in assuming that we have a system of adequate dental care.

When this constituent of mine, Mr. Manaire, had the unfortunate situation develop of a major problem that began with a dental matter, dental surgery, and later progressed to problems that infected his jaw, he had to pay for the entire cost of going to

Winnipeg, including air fare, hotel, \$652, and was unable to get any of that back from the Northern Patient Transportation Program, which even with the \$50 user fee brought in by this government, he had hoped to receive some type of assistance from the government.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, once again was, here was a procedure that I believe is medical—and I will be taking up the specifics of this case with the minister—but which had dental complications in the initial stages, the type of facility that is not available in northern Manitoba, the type of procedure not available in northern Manitoba. I think it is important to reflect on that because I think one of the unfortunate aspects of health care in this province is the fact that, despite the progress that has taken place, we still do not have adequate dental care available to all Manitobans.

Many poor Manitobans, particularly the working poor, find themselves particularly in difficulty, Mr. Speaker, often in a real dilemma because if they are on social assistance, dental fees can be covered. I have talked to many a working Manitoban, not making a particularly exorbitant salary, not covered by dental insurance, who often asked the question whether they would not be better off on income assistance, particularly when they have children.

As I said, there is an excellent program in place, the child dental care program, although it is unfortunate that the government, instead of attempting to build on that, is essentially eroding it with the restriction they brought in in terms of the application, in terms of ages, because it is one thing that is particularly noticeable in northern Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, particularly in remote communities. It has become an increasing problem in all communities. The degree of junk food consumption is horrendous. I know of many communities of children as young as four and five years old, the vast majority of their teeth having gone rotten because of the consumption of highly sugared foods, and there is not that kind of care available.

I am raising this matter in the context of this bill because we want to see, I know in terms of the New Democratic Party, continuation of the types of policies established under the Schreyer government. The bottom line is we want to see more accessible dental care. We want to maintain the advances that have taken place. It is a combination of using professional care in terms of

dentists, but also using the care of dental assistants and denturists.

I think this is, in many ways, parallel to the kind of developments that we are going to be seeing in the health care area in the next number of years in terms of the role of not only professionals, but paraprofessionals, Mr. Speaker. I think it is interesting in a way that the situation in terms of dental care in many ways provides some lessons for medical care in establishing a very clear role for paraprofessionals and also for preventative dental care as we have seen in the child dental care program.

I think it is important that when we pass any bill such as this, we reflect on that and also bring the government to task for really essentially putting us back in terms of the situation in terms of dental care in this province, particularly in terms of child dental care.

It may not be a matter of concern to members of this Chamber personally. Members of this Legislature have insurance for most dental costs. Many people who are fortunate enough to work for major employers may have that kind of insurance, although it obviously does not cover all the costs. There are many Manitobans who are in the position of having no insurance whatsoever. In many ways, I think it parallels the situation prior to medicare, Mr. Speaker, when many Manitobans, many Canadians, did not have medical insurance, the situation in the United States in terms of health care currently, where 40 million people do not have medical coverage.

It is the same people who suffer. It is the working poor in particular. It is people on low and modest incomes. It is for them that we should be, I think seriously, when we look at health care reform and particularly preventative health care reform, not just look at traditional medical practice, but also in terms of dental care.

When we are looking at the kinds of models that are available, I look not only at Manitoba, but I look particularly also, for instance, to Saskatchewan at some of the programs that are developed based on the community clinic model. Those I think are the roads, the directions in which we should seek to go.

It is very, very sad, Mr. Speaker, in this province, I believe, that we can have a medical system that up until recent years certainly was fairly universal, but a dental care system that I believe is very much an arbitrary distinction from what is traditionally

considered health care, which has many, many major gaps.

This individual I referenced earlier ran into that when he had to have surgery, but because it was dental in terms of origin of the original infection—I could go into the details but I will take that up with the minister—that individual found that the costs were not covered at all by the government in terms of transportation. He was fortunate enough to have dental insurance for at least the procedure itself.

It shows the kinds of gaps that exist in society. That is why while this bill is fairly straightforward, it does deal with denturists and the role of denturists, I think it is important to put it in the broader context, the principle, I think, that this act and other acts represent and a principle that has to be built on, and that is improving the access and the quality of dental care in this province.

With those few words, I know our Health critic has a few more words to offer on this particular bill, and then we will be passing it through to committee, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Leave has already been granted for this matter to remain standing in the name of the honourable member for St. Johns. Now I would like to ask leave of the House to reverse their decision on that to allow the honourable member for St. Johns to speak at this time.

An Honourable Member: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: That is agreed.

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lels (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the will of the House for giving me leave on this matter. We are, as my colleague the member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) indicated, certainly prepared to have this matter moved to committee for deliberation at that stage, knowing that there will be full opportunity to hear from the denturists' association itself, to hear from interested members of the public and any other representatives of organizations concerned about matters in this bill.

* (1440)

Based on the Minister of Health's (Mr. Orchard) comments on Bill 6 and the actual wording of the bill before us, it would appear to be a matter of routine business and of a housekeeping nature. We will be assessing the bill at committee from that perspective. It would appear to us that this bill does bring the denturists' association in line with other

bodies who have the ability to license and discipline their own members.

Mr. Speaker, it is certainly in all of our interests to pursue this matter further at committee stage. I would, however, just like to make a few comments about the broad area of dentistry since that is the topic at hand and put three concerns on record and make inquiries about government actions to respond to those three concerns.

The first, Mr. Speaker, has to do with the state of the children's dental program. We all expressed concern on this side of the House last spring when news was received that this government had moved to cut back the children's dental program by reducing the age for eligibility. That cutback, that reduction in service to children throughout rural and northern and remote Manitoba, caused us all a great deal of concern. It is our view that the children's dental health program is an important preventative aspect of our health care system and that, in fact, this program does save money for taxpayers in the long run.

The program was initiated to ensure that children who did not have regular access to good dental hygiene and dentistry programs would have such access. The program was intended to ensure that problems pertaining to children's teeth were identified at an early stage to prevent much more costly investments at some point in the future hence representing a saving for individual families and for taxpayers as a whole.

(Mr. Ben Sveinson, Acting Speaker, in the Chair)

So, Mr. Acting Speaker, we became very concerned when this government moved to reduce, to cut back this program, to reduce the numbers of children who would be eligible for service under the children's dental program. It is, in our view, a step backwards. It is a move to be penny-wise and pound-foolish because certainly any savings now to the government—and they are small savings—will mean astronomical costs in the future for all of us. So we feel it is in the best interests of the government of the day, however difficult the economic realities are for it, to act responsibly in the interests of future generations and not to be simply addressing matters from a very pragmatic, practical, daily point of view.

It is, furthermore, Mr. Acting Speaker, a concern of us that this cutback of this past budget reflects a sign, is a signal, of things to come, of very worrisome things to come. There is certainly speculation and

concerns coming out of the Department of Health which give us reason to believe that this, in fact, was the first stage in a deliberate plan to phase out the children's dental health program. There are concerns about filling staff vacancies in this branch of the department. There are concerns about this government's intentions to follow the footsteps of the Province of Quebec when it recently phased out entirely its children's dental health program.

Mr. Acting Speaker, as I have already said, we recognize these are difficult times, that changes to our health care system are in order, but it is our view that changes and cutbacks which get at the very heart of health prevention and health promotion do not make sense and should not be considered a part of health care reform, and in fact, really do indicate that this government is really using the words, the title, the rhetoric around health care reform to disguise and camouflage its real intention, and that is straight health care cutbacks, without worry, without concern, about the full impact that such decisions will have on people today and on generations to come.

So, Mr. Acting Speaker, I put that concern on record and attach to it a plea that this government not cut back any further the children's dental health program, and in fact ensure that the program as it is, remained intact and that it rededicate itself to restoring the program to its previous criteria and, when possible, to move beyond that and consider expanding the children's dental health program to all parts of the province of Manitoba.

The second concern I have is with respect to the long-standing request before this government from the dental association. The Manitoba Dental Association has been seeking for well over a year now changes to The Dental Association Act which would allow the Manitoba Dental Association to order upgrading or remedial retraining for its members.

I refer members of this Chamber to an article in the Winnipeg Free Press of Tuesday, May 21, 1991, when Dr. Michael Lasko of the Manitoba Dental Association indicated that it had been asking for some time for the province to provide to the association the power, and I quote from this article: to abandon secret disciplinary trials and order incompetent dentists back to school.

The concern was raised at that time that the government was not moving expeditiously to make necessary changes to The Dental Association Act,

and I believe that those concerns are still outstanding. Given that the minister has indicated that the Manitoba Dental Association is co-operating with the government, and with the denturists association in supporting Bill 6, I would hope that the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and this government gives us some indication soon about its intentions with respect to the long-standing request from the Manitoba Dental Association.

Finally, Mr. Acting Speaker, we have a concern to raise at this time during this debate on dentistry with respect to the dental auxiliaries of this province. Members of this House will all be familiar with requests, letters, calls and pleas from representatives of the different dental auxiliary associations in Manitoba for legislation that recognizes dental auxiliaries as a profession unto its own—an association, a discipline that, hence, requires and needs the ability to license, set educational standards, and discipline its own members.

The move to recognize dental auxiliaries is not uncommon in this country. It has happened in other jurisdictions. It has been commensurate, it has taken place in line with health care reform throughout this country because it recognizes a more cost-effective, more efficient approach to the provision of dental hygiene and work provided by dental assistants.

Mr. Acting Speaker, along with this legislation that we have before us today, we are anxious to receive a progress report from the government, from the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), about this long-standing request from the dental auxiliaries. There is some concern on their part that this government is not moving as quickly as possible and has yet to give a sign, a signal when concrete action will be taken to address the outstanding concerns of their members and their associate members.

While we support at this stage the general provisions of Bill 6, The Denturists Amendment Act, we are concerned that this act is before us in isolation of any other attempts and moves and initiatives to redress some wrongdoings and some gaps in policy in other parts of the field of dentistry.

* (1450)

We would have hoped to have had at this point in our legislative session, at this point of the government's term in office, a package of legislation pertaining to denturists and dentists and dental

auxiliaries, because, in fact, Mr. Acting Speaker, there is much that needs to be done in all of those areas.

We hope that very shortly we will see a sign of such action being taken in these areas of outstanding concern, and above all, we hope that this government is prepared to rethink its reduction in service under the children's dental health program, is prepared to put any thoughts, any plans for a further cutback in that program, or in fact, the cancellation of that program, on the shelf, on hold, out of sight, and, in fact, move toward redressing inequalities in this area and expanding a much needed service that provides cost savings and better health for all in the long run.

On that note, Mr. Acting Speaker, I am prepared to indicate that we, at least on this side of the House, are prepared to see this bill proceed to committee for further deliberations. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Sveinson): Is the House ready for the question? The question before the House is the second reading of Bill 6 (The Denturists Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les denturologistes). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Sveinson): Agreed and so ordered.

Bill 9—The Economic Innovation and Technology Council Act

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Sveinson): On the proposed motion of the Honourable Mr. Filmon, Bill 9, The Economic Innovation and Technology Council Act (Loi sur le Conseil de l'innovation économique et de la technologie). The honourable member for Transcona (Mr. Reid) still has 35 minutes.

Mr. Daryl Reid (Transcona): Mr. Acting Speaker, I am pleased to rise again today to continue my remarks about this Bill 9, and the impact it is going to have on the province of Manitoba. I started my remarks last sitting with some comments about northern Manitoba and the Port of Churchill, and I would like to pick up from there.

I hope the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Driedger), who is with us here today, will listen seriously to those concerns and carry forward with the recommendations that we made to the federal

Minister of Transport some week and a half ago, when we met with the two ministers in Ottawa.

At that time, Mr. Acting Speaker, in meeting with the federal Minister of Transport, we put forward the proposal of a partnership arrangement that would see the stalemate broken that is currently in place in the province of Manitoba today, where it would allow us to move forward with revitalization of the bayline to the Port of Churchill through the various communities along the way. That includes communities such as The Pas, Wabowden, Pikwitonei, Thompson and others.

We think that this revitalization of this rail line is very, very important to the province of Manitoba, and that is why we wanted to break that particular stalemate. We knew at the time that if we did not go forward with our meetings with the federal Minister of Transport with some concrete proposal or some new ideas to break that stalemate, the minister would just see us as another lobby group. That is why we carried forward with these recommendations. For Manitoba's Minister of Transport's information, the federal Minister of Transport looked very favourably upon those comments and those suggestions and thought there was some merit in them.

That is why I had the opportunity to ask questions of the Premier (Mr. Filmon) of this province, to ask whether the Premier and his government would be willing to take part in the sharing or the partnership arrangement that we had proposed. The Premier unfortunately did not see fit at the time to commit his government to that partnership, and I am asking the Manitoba Minister of Transportation (Mr. Driedger) if his department would see fit to undertake a role in that partnership. The partnership that we proposed to the federal Minister of Transport was one that could take the form of a four-partner arrangement, and that four-partner arrangement would include the province of Manitoba, possibly the province of Saskatchewan, the federal government and the railway, CN Rail, that is responsible for the rail line currently.

CN has been very reluctant to undertake any upgrading of that rail line to Churchill and through the communities along the way because they feel that there is not, in their words, sufficient revenue to support that revitalization of that rail line, even though the railways receive hundreds of millions of dollars in benefits from the grain subsidies that they receive to transport grain over these lines that are

deemed grain dependent. With that, I think that the railways have a role to play in that, and that is why I included them in the partnership arrangement.

Now what I am asking of this Minister of Transport is to take a very small sum from his overall capital expenditures that we see his department expending in this province on a budgetary year, and committing those funds toward the revitalization of that rail line.

There was a report that was released by the province of Saskatchewan in August of 1991, and the figure that was used in that report was some \$35 million that would be required to upgrade that rail line to full main line status; in other words, to improve the roadbed that would allow that rail line to carry the presently used standard hopper cars in the grain system today.

If you had taken that \$35 million, which I must add is a figure that was proposed as well, taking into consideration cost of living increases over the time since the Manitoba IBI study was done, and they had similar recommendations on the funding that it would require, it comes nowhere close to the estimates that CN Rail has been saying over the years and the \$100 million that they figure would be required to upgrade that line, so the Manitoba IBI study and the SAL Engineering study for the province of Saskatchewan have recommended that funding of \$35 million would be required to upgrade that rail line. If you broke that \$35 million down over three years or four years and broke it down over the four partners who would be involved or could be involved in this suggestion and this upgrading of the rail line, you would see a very modest investment by the province of Manitoba to the sum of some \$3 million per year over that three or four year period.

To my way of thinking, Mr. Acting Speaker, that is a very modest investment for us to have in our own province and for our own port in this province. We want to see opportunities in the North expanded. The government has talked from time to time, and I know the Minister of Transport here had talked about the reactivation of the rocket range at Churchill.

All members of this House know full well that without that rail line to Churchill, that rocket range is not going to happen. We are not going to see any opportunities develop there. That is why it is so important for us to make an investment in our own province. That is why we have come forward with this recommendation to make this modest investment in our province.

I ask the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Driedger) if he will look at his budget for this year and see if he can secure the funding from his capital portion to invest in that rail line, and at the same time to initiate the process of communicating with the federal Minister of Transport to strike that partnership, to sit down at the table and talk about how we are going to accomplish this task, not just merely to let the status quo remain, because if we sit like that, the Port of Churchill will die and will never make any steps forward, and the north of our province will suffer as a result. I ask the minister to undertake that, initiate those meetings, so that we can improve the opportunities for northern Manitobans.

Bill 9 itself, there is quote I would like to pull from the news release which the government released on November 8 of last year, where it says, and I quote: "Now it is time for government to put its energies and priorities towards economic growth and development."

I think that is a very important statement for the government to release, and I could not agree with that more, but if we do not seize on the opportunities, as I spoke about a moment ago, to invest in the north of our province, we are never going to see those economic growth and development opportunities in northern Manitoba. That is why it is so important to take those steps today, to invest in those opportunities as they come forward.

In the same news release, November 8 last year, it also talked about important transportation links. The transportation links do not just occur on the highways and the rail lines and the airlines in the southern portions of our province; they occur all over the province. It is incumbent upon this government to recognize that fact and to make the investments where it is important to retain the delivery of services to the portions of our province which find themselves isolated, more importantly, as well as to the other areas, not just to build the highways so that we can link our communities together by a better structure of road systems.

The northern part of our province is presently faced with an unemployment rate, I believe it is near 25 percent, and that is a very serious position I am sure the working people in northern Manitoba find themselves in.

* (1500)

I believe that if we undertake to invest this modest \$3 million per year, we will secure job opportunities for these peoples in our northern part of our

province. We will secure the opportunity for the rocket range in the community of Churchill. We will improve the export of our grain products through the Port of Churchill because I believe that would be hinged on this deal as well, and this would create the economic wealth which we so much want for our province.

In talking with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism's (Mr. Stefanson) department, they have made us aware of how this rocket range is going to impact or could impact upon us in this province economically and for the job opportunities. It is my understanding, in talking with the various people in I, T and T and the mayors of The Pas and Churchill, that this rocket range could employ some 200 to 350 people, direct jobs opportunities for Churchill.

As a result of those direct job opportunities, there are also the spin-off opportunities, anywhere between three and five to one, which means that those 350 jobs potentially could create between 1,000 and 1,500 new job opportunities. That would see a doubling of the employment opportunities in Churchill. The current population I believe is somewhere between 800 and 900 for that community, down significantly from the 7,000 figure which had been there some years past.

I believe that is why it is important for us to take the steps to invest in that rail line, so that we can create those 1,500 new jobs, those jobs that are so hard to come by in the northern part of our province, to reduce that 25 percent unemployment level in northern Manitoba, to give people a sense of pride, give them their sense of pride back. That is why I ask this Minister of Transportation (Mr. Driedger) to take those steps, to secure those opportunities for Manitobans.

As well, that rocket range will create job opportunities for us, I am sure, in communities like Winnipeg where we have plant operations here which produce the products that would be necessary for the range. There are a lot of spin-off services that go along with that rocket range.

The government talks about the research and development in our province, how important it is and the role which it plays in our province. Had they been so seriously concerned by that, Mr. Acting Speaker, I believe they would not have cut back on the grant assistance to the Manitoba Research Council.

This new Economic Innovation and Technology Council I believe is window dressing, nothing more

than that. You cannot strike this council and give it a modest budget as they have with no long-term commitment—I believe it is \$10 million for one year—and expect it to perform the miracles that the government wants it to perform.

I do not see that there will be any lasting benefits come as a result of this Bill 9, or what it was intended to create for our province. Unless you make a long-term commitment and attach the necessary funding to support that, we will not have that long-term commitment to research and development in our province.

To get back to the grant assistance to the Manitoba Research Council, in 1990-91, the government had granted some \$2,714,000 to the Manitoba Research Council. That council provides and maintains a technology transfer infrastructure and related services for Manitoba industries using the Canadian Food Products Development Centre and the industrial technology facilities.

What the government has done since that time, in the current budget which we are operating under, the 1991-92 budget, is reduced that grant assistance by some \$700,000 to the Manitoba Research Council. Now if they were very serious about research and development in this province, they would not have cut back that grant assistance to this organization because we need to have those opportunities made available through research and development to create the job opportunities for us here in the province of Manitoba.

Manitoba, of course, finds itself in the unenviable position of having 57,000 unemployed. That is a very serious position which we find ourselves in. We have not seen any actions on the part of this government to recognize the seriousness of this situation. They seem to sit there and wring their hands and not be too concerned because it has not impacted personally upon their lives.

I invite them, if they want to see the impact on what this means to the various communities, come out to my community of Transcona, and I will take you to one of the food banks. I will let you talk to the people there. I will let them relate to you how it impacts upon their families when they had their jobs eliminated. They were laid off, their unemployment insurance has run out, and they are forced to go on welfare. They do not want to be on welfare. They want to have job opportunities. I have people calling my office nearly every day asking me if there are job opportunities available, if I can assist them

in some way. [interjection] I tell them that if this government was serious about creating economic opportunities they would have done it a long time ago, but they do not recognize the 57,000 who are unemployed. They have no long-term commitment, no strategy to deal with this situation as we find ourselves in.

They prefer instead to offload the responsibility onto the world economic situation and the high interest policy created by the federal government. I do not think that is the right position to take. We have to seize the initiative in our own province, to make those opportunities for our people in this province, not just the Grow Bond opportunities that we see in the communities in southern Manitoba, but all over the province of Manitoba.

Do not just draw that imaginary borderline above Roblin-Russell there and say that the rest of the province does not count. We need to take the steps to create the employment opportunities that these people so desperately need. I do not see the government taking this action. We have hundreds and hundreds of families in my community that desperately want to have jobs. They do not want to be on welfare.

We had in this province profitable government agencies, and I talk particularly about the Manitoba Data Services. The Manitoba Data Services, of course, had created some high quality jobs for us in this province. Then the government, in their wisdom, took this agency and they sold it.

That business, on top of the job opportunities that were created, created wealth for us in this province. We created revenue for us that we could have taken and invested. The revenue that it had created for the government was some \$3 million per year. That ties back to the figure that I was talking about in my comments to the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Driedger) here.

If we had had that \$3 million from the Manitoba Data Services company, we would have been able to take that \$3 million and invest it on a yearly basis over the next three or four years to upgrade the rail infrastructure on the bayline to the northern parts of our province, yet we sold off that opportunity and we no longer receive the revenue for it.

That was an opportunity that we could have had that would have allowed the northern part of our province and northern Manitobans to prosper, but we no longer have those revenues available to us.

The National Research Council building on Ellice Street is a nice building to look at, but other than that I do not think it performs the function that it was intended to perform. It was intended to create research and development opportunities to allow research and development to be ongoing, an attempt to create new job opportunities, new technology for our province.

It is unfortunate that the provincial government, in conjunction with the federal government, has not undertaken to see that industry has filled this office space to start with the research and development that is so necessary to create those opportunities in this province. Of course, it is attempting to change the mandate of the building, to do more primary research in the health care field.

* (1510)

We all feel that health care is very important for us here in the province, and there is obviously going to be ongoing long-term research and development opportunities that are going to be needed. I do not believe that will ever disappear.

We need to do more than to just hang our hat onto one peg. If we put all our eggs into that one basket, and that one basket suddenly has a downturn, those opportunities in that basket have a downturn, the whole province will have a downturn. If we diversify and spread those opportunities out amongst other areas in our province, then we would have created more opportunities in the province of Manitoba.

I do not think the government has done enough activity in this area and I would like to see more opportunities created. I hope that by this Bill 9, The Economic Innovation and Technology Council Act, that the government will seriously bring forward the research and development that we so desperately need, and so seriously lack in this province.

By the same time, we have to have opportunities in our colleges, our universities and our high schools to give our young people the opportunity to become involved in this research and development. If this government is not willing to make that investment in our young people, then we are not going to see those opportunities develop, and our young people are going to be destined for a life of poverty because the job opportunities are not going to be there for them.

That is why I hope the government is serious when they bring forward this Bill 9 and that they are going to make more than the \$10 million investment

into this fund, and that they will make it a long-term ongoing structure that will look into the research and development needs for the province of Manitoba, and create those desperately needed economic opportunities for Manitobans so that we can reduce the 57,000 unemployed who we have in our province, and to improve the quality of life for all people, so that we no longer have to have the food banks in our communities as we find them today where we have hundreds of families that make use of these food banks, to create these new opportunities for these people.

With that, Mr. Acting Speaker, I would like to conclude my remarks. Thank you for the opportunity.

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): Mr. Acting Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to make a few comments on this bill that we are discussing now, and to talk a bit about the economy of our province. I believe that we all want to improve the economy of the province and we will all admit that we have serious problems here in this province at the present time with the high unemployment rate that we have, with the large number of people we have on social assistance, with the problems that we are having in the farming community.

We have to look seriously at what we can do and I would be more than supportive of a government that would show some leadership in these areas, particularly in the area of creating jobs, and something that would help our province, but in particular our rural communities, because that is where I am from, and I am sure that there are other members in this House who realize the devastating things that are going on in the rural communities at the present time when we have no job creation.

I would like to relate this a little bit to my own constituency, this issue that hits very much at home with the people in the area, and it is something we mentioned earlier in the day. That is the lack of employment in the Swan River area and the lack of initiative and leadership on the part of this government to have any commitment to the Swan River community. I refer to what I spoke about earlier in Question Period, and that is the Repap deal, and when the government signed the Repap deal, the devastating effect it had on the Swan River community.

When the NDP was in power, they were working very closely with the Swan River community and a company by the name of Penn-Co group that had

an excellent proposal put in place that would have created many jobs and a market for a lot of material, material that could have been sold, not material that had a large amount of chlorine bleach in it. There was a market. If we look at the draft proposal, we are told that markets had been identified in north, central and western United States where few Canadian plants were expected to be active. There was a real market.

All it would have taken was a little bit of initiative on the government's part. They could have followed through with the Western Diversification funding that was in place for the agreement. We could have had real jobs in the area instead of having the deal we have now that is hurting not only the Swan River area, but the whole northern area when we have such uncertainty with a company that is not quite sure where they are going. I hope the government can address this matter and also address the needs of the Swan River people, so that we can have some economic growth.

Mr. Acting Speaker, the other area that—there are many people who are suffering, and the government has not chosen to address them—and that is also the fishing community. The members of the fishing community have petitioned this government many times to ask them for assistance to improve markets, also to give them assistance with various problems that they are having on the lake, but instead, the government just sets those things aside and has no idea of what level of poverty these people are living in. They must show leadership to get some jobs into those areas.

As I said, we have very high unemployment rates, very high numbers of people on welfare. There are people in my constituency who have come up with very good ideas, particularly in the area of tourism. They have proposals that would take numbers of people off welfare and invest the money in the community and create jobs. I think that this is an excellent idea and one that the government should give very close consideration to. I know that they have written to the Premier (Mr. Filmon) on the matter, and I hope he will follow through with his commitment to look at it and hopefully develop some economic growth in that part of the province to help those people, because as you know, Mr. Acting Speaker, the majority of people would rather be working than having to wait for a handout from the government in the form of welfare.

There are times when people have no choice, but there are times also when government can step in and deal with those issues. They must show the leadership and must be prepared to invest in people. I do not believe, at the present time, that we have a government that is prepared to do that. They seem not to be too concerned when we have 54,000 people unemployed in Manitoba, when we have the number of people on welfare double since this government came into power.

Part of the economic growth of this province is also in the farming community, and I hope that the government will continue through with some of the promises they made that would help the rural communities grow and have some diversification on economic growth that would be a spin-off from the farming industry. We very much need, in many parts of the province, to have gas distribution. I know the previous Minister of Rural Development had indicated at the municipal convention that he was prepared to look at that and look at ways that we could get services brought to different parts of the province.

* (1520)

The Swan River area has been talking about this a long time. They have written to the minister. They have lobbied the Premier (Mr. Filmon) on this matter, and I hope that the government will show leadership and take that initiative forward so that there can be growth in that part of the province as there is in others, but it is not only the Swan River area that needs natural gas. There is the Interlake area where there is an excellent proposal. Again, the government must show leadership and look to bring these services to different communities, and I hope that that is what we will see by this new council.

I know we have the Economic Development Board that the cabinet has put in place, and I have talked to some people who are on that board. I hope, as a person who is on the board said to me, that this just is not going to be another bunch of paper shuffling and another report that is going to sit on a shelf. They are very much prepared to work with government, to come forward with ideas that will result in development in the North, but I would hope that when people come forward with ideas that this government will take those ideas seriously and not just put forward a committee that is a figurehead, one that is going to shuffle paper and write another report that is going to just sit on the shelf.

We must have economical growth in all parts of Manitoba, in the North. We must have economic growth in the rural community, and the government must be prepared to invest. We must be prepared to provide services for the people. That does not mean selling off every Crown corporation that is there because it is not needed anymore in the government's mind. There are many corporations and things that this government has let go of, thinking that we do not need them. I would hope that they would show more leadership and support to keep these corporations in their place.

We also have to have research for us to have development in the province. When I see that the government has cut back the budget by approximately \$700 million in the last budget, it disturbs me that we, on one hand, could talk about economic growth and technological change and then cut back on the research that is required for a province to keep up with the changes that are going on in this world.

The other area is the Manitoba Data Services. It provided the province with much revenue, \$3 million in fact, that could have been put into research and other areas of development, but instead the government has chosen to sell off the data services branch and now has lost the revenue from that.

So, Mr. Acting Speaker, I hope that, in passing this bill, that the government will pay more than lip service and go forward and have real initiatives that will help the economy of our province and create jobs for Manitobans and show leadership in the field, so that we are able to show leadership in the field of technology. With those words I will close.

Point of Order

Mr. Jack Penner (Emerson): Mr. Acting Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Leader of the Liberal opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) referred on Friday to comments that were attributed to the honourable member for Portage and myself. I want to just correct the reference that the member made in this matter.

I did not indicate that the Dutch elm disease was a total economic failure. I did say that in the Red River Valley, south of the city of Winnipeg, we had lost the Dutch elm disease battle, and I maintain that that is the case.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Svelnson) I thank the member for his comments and I will take that under advisement.

* * *

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Mr. Acting Speaker, I am rising this afternoon to speak on Bill 9, The Economic Innovation and Technology Council Act, which we are debating in the House today, and I am sure for several days in the future. As colleagues of mine have indicated before, we on this side of the House have absolutely no disagreement or argument with the need for economic innovation.

We certainly need a stronger Manitoba economy. We certainly need to put our Manitoba house in order. We certainly need to be innovative, to look at new technologies, to look at the ways that we as Manitobans work and live together and the impact that the economy of our communities, our cities, the provinces within the country, the country as a whole, North America and the world as whole operate in conjunction one with another.

I think that today, perhaps more than any other time in the history of North America, we must look at ideas and at thinking and at ideologies and at concerns and at values that we have taken for granted over a long period of time. We have, certainly in North America and certainly in the northern half of the North American continent, for a very long time, as long as there have been people who have come from other areas across the sea, always had as one of the things that we have brought with us as new Canadians, as we all were when we first came to this land, some of us newer than others.

Speaking as a new Canadian, we all brought from, certainly from the European continent, an idea that progress was in and of itself good, that movement was in and of itself good, that change and forward motion would be the end result if we only worked hard. If we only planned and were careful, we as individuals, we as families, we as communities, we as nations would move forward and would see progress made. I think that, in the last few years, and longer than that for some of us—but I think everyone now understands the fact that we have to rethink all of those values and those assumptions in the light of our economic and social, financial, historical and cultural current situations in our entire society.

We do need to be innovative. We do need to look at technology. We do need to look at ways that we in Manitoba can better work together to provide a quality of life for our families, ourselves, our children and future generations. As other members of my caucus have stated, we agree with the need for innovation and a need to look at technology, the role of technology in our society, what do we need to do in order to make Manitoba a more productive, higher quality province within which all of its people can live.

We need also to look in the long term. Again, we have historically been able to look more or less from budget to budget, from government to government, at the most, at the outside and, in some cases, go fairly smoothly from budget to budget and government to government. In other cases, we would lurch a bit, but we always had the idea and the sense that, if we did something, if we made some changes, if we put this in place or did that, we would be able to come out at the other end in a more positive economic situation and with a stronger base for our members of society, our members of the province, of the city, of the continent.

* (1530)

Governments for a long time have always said that they wanted to put a long-term economic plan into place, and statements like that have been made by governments for a very long period of time, of all political stripes. It has been very difficult for all governments to implement those long-term plans for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is that we are a political group as legislators, as member of a government. We are a political group. We are responsive, one would hope very responsive, to the needs, wishes and desires of our constituents.

However, we also must be aware that periodically, as a government, we are obliged to go to the people for either a renewed mandate or, in cases which all members in this House on both sides are very familiar, a sharp slap on the wrist, if you will, by the voter saying, no, we are not in favour of the way you are approaching the situation, the way you are approaching government now; we want to give another government the opportunity to govern.

While we always talk as government, opposition and members of the Legislature about the need for a long-term development, it is very difficult for us to actually implement that. As I said before, in the past, it has not been as urgent as it is today. We

could go from one election to another stating and restating the same kinds of ideas that we had in the past and more or less get away with it.

Today we are not allowed to do that. Today our society, municipal city-wide, provincial, nation-wide, continent-wide and globally will not allow for us to be that complacent, will not allow for short-term strategies in and of themselves, short-term strategies, strategies that deal with the immediate issues. The medium-range issues as well as the long-term issues and problems all need to be addressed. We cannot address the short- and medium-term issues without a long-range strategy.

Again, Mr. Acting Speaker, we on this side of the House applaud the concept of a long-term economic plan, applaud the concept of innovation, applaud the concept of working together to come up with a response that hopefully includes short-, medium- and long-term elements to the crisis that we are facing in our world today.

We are in a crisis. The debate is going backwards and forwards and to and fro as to whether we are in a worse recession than we were in the early 1980s or whether we are not in a worse recession. I think it is almost a debate that begs the question, while the recession did not get as deep, the trough did not get as deep this time or has not gotten as deep as it did in the 1981-82 recession, the recovery, if you could call it that, has been very slow, very sluggish, and we are facing the possibility, if not the probability, of a double dip, of the economy going back down again. The lines are quite graphic, if you will, showing the '81-82 recession having a very sharp drop and then an incredibly fast improvement.

The economy by the mid-80s had gone past, had recovered up to above where it had been in the late 1970s when we went into the recession. This time, the economy has been in a recession for up to, if not longer than, 18 months. While the depth has not been reached of the earlier recession, the line is less sharp in its recovery. As a matter of fact, it has not recovered at all, and there are many economists who believe that we could very easily be headed for another dip in the economic indicators. We have many indicators that show that we are in the midst of a crisis. We have talked in this House a great deal. It does not appear to have been heard, but we will continue to talk in this House a great deal about the scourge of unemployment. I choose that word

very carefully. I do believe it is a scourge in the most biblical extensive use of that word.

There are a million and a half Canadians who are unemployed. The figure is much larger when you take into account the hundreds of thousands of Canadians who have given up even looking for a job because they know there is no job to be had. The figures become even more reprehensible when you look at the fact that there are people who are working part time who want and need and should be entitled to full-time employment, who are not working part time out of choice, are working part time because there is no full-time employment.

If you added all those statistics together you would get well over 10 percent of the entire population of Canada and an enormously high percentage of the adult population, the population from 15 to 64 who should be able to be in the work force, unable for one reason or another to participate to the full extent of their abilities and the full extent of what they would like to be able to do.

In Manitoba, we have 57,000 Manitobans unemployed. Again, Mr. Acting Speaker, that is only the tip. That does not include those Manitobans who have given up looking. It does not include the Manitobans who are underemployed. It does not include the Manitobans who have not only given up looking, but have not begun to look because they know there are no jobs available.

We have put on the record, on this side of the House, the enormous unemployment statistics for the northern part of this province, highest in the country. We have put on the record the enormous unemployment statistics for people in the inner city of Winnipeg, for the youth of Manitoba.

The unemployment statistics, Mr. Acting Speaker, I would suggest in the rural areas of Manitoba, the devastation that has visited itself upon the rural areas of this province probably is still not completely felt. I would hope that members on the government benches, many of whom come from rural constituencies, are talking to their constituents and finding out exactly what kind of blow the current economic situation has dealt residents of rural Manitoba.

Another indication is the housing starts in the country. The housing starts in Manitoba are dismal. The housing starts in the nation as a whole are dismal. I would say that the federal government in its latest budget on the surface made a stab at doing something about the construction industry, which

provides an enormous number of jobs throughout the country, by freeing up to \$20,000 of RRSPs to be able to be used for purchasing a home. There are a couple of problems with that program and problems that are a good indication, I would suggest, of the lack of innovation, the lack of a long-term economic strategy that the current federal proposal states. We are not opposed to individuals and families being able to use RRSPs on purchasing a home, but because the RRSPs can be used to purchase either a new or a used home, the impact on the construction industry will be diluted.

* (1540)

There will be many people who, I am sure, will choose to purchase with their RRSPs homes that have already been constructed. The spin-off of those purchases of used homes as opposed to new homes is much less in the economy. You lose the appliances purchased. You lose the curtains and draperies, all of those kinds of things. You lose all of those kinds of economic spin-offs that this federal government proposal does not allow for.

Also, Mr. Acting Speaker, when you put this proposal, which allows for up to \$20,000 of RRSP money, side by side with the same federal budget which cut the co-op housing proposal, you see a true picture emerging of the lack of long-term strategy on the part of the federal government, the lack of any concern or caring about Canadians who do not have access to large sums of money.

The Co-op Housing Program would, in Manitoba, have meant 200 additional housing units. Two hundred additional housing units in a province where last year the new housing starts were something like 1,700, almost a 50 percent reduction over the last few years, would have meant a large percentage increase in the amount of home construction that could have been undertaken. It could have had an enormous positive impact on the construction industry and the spin-off industries that go along with new home construction.

On the other side of that, the Co-op Housing Program would have provided 200 Manitoba families with decent, reasonably priced housing, something that is sorely lacking in this province. But the Conservative government, while they gave with people who have money on the one hand, took away from people who do not have money on the other hand. They cut a program that would have provided social housing—this federal government. It would appear from the bits and pieces that we have seen

from the provincial government, the word "social" is turning into being a dirty word as far as Conservative governments are concerned. The last thing they are concerned with is social programming.

Another thing that has been undermining the economic situation in this province, and which I am not sure Bill 9 adequately addresses, is the whole area of consumer confidence. Unemployment has a major role to play in consumer confidence. If you have 57,000 unemployed Manitobans with tens of thousands more underemployed or not even looking for work, you have a very high percentage of the adult population in the province not having any financial resources with which to spend. Of course, consumer confidence is going to go down. Of course, consumer spending is going to go down. Any number of economic innovation councils and other pronouncements on the part of the government that are not followed by action are going to be looked at and are being looked at more and more by the people of Manitoba with a great deal of well-earned suspicion.

Is this just another shuffle? It would appear on the surface that it might very well be just another shuffle in this government's long line of using working groups, committees, advisory committees, support groups. You name it, there is a group that this government has put into place to advise, to work with, to make recommendations to the government, and they do not listen.

The people of Manitoba are justifiably skeptical about the role that this Economic Innovation and Technology Council will actually have. They are not skeptical about the people on the council. Please let it not be stated that I have anything but the highest regard for the names of the people who are on that council. I do think it is a bit light in the number of consumers, in the number of people who are most affected by economic strategies and plans, and it certainly is light on the labour side. The people who are on this council, whose names have been put forward at least on paper to sit on this council, are very well-respected members largely of the business community. They certainly are not lacking in expertise and, perhaps, very good ideas as to what to do about our deepening and ever-expanding economic crisis, but back to the consumer confidence.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Sveinson): Order, please. All honourable members wishing to carry on conversations, please do so at a very low level

or move into the loge or outside the Chamber, please.

Ms. Barrett: Mr. Acting Speaker, I would like to put on record that the conversations are a lot less loud than they have been at several times when I have spoken in the past. [interjection] I certainly hope I am provoking debate. I think that is the point of this whole process.

I was speaking about consumer confidence. In the last eight years, since the federal Conservative government was elected and the last almost four years since the provincial Conservative government has been elected, the people of this province have had very little positive as an outcome of any actions taken by either level of those governments. I am not talking about the higher income levels; I am talking about the people—[interjection] I seem to have engendered some debate here which is well and good, but I would appreciate some quiet.

The people of Manitoba and Canada, who have been hardest hit by the policies of the federal and provincial Conservative governments, are the people who I represent in Wellington. They are middle-income families, they are senior citizens, they are new Canadians, they are young families, they are families with teenagers, they are families whose children have left home and are trying to make their own lives with their own families, they are people who live modestly, they are people who have worked and who want to work all of their lives, they are people for whom work is a productive, necessary part of life.

These people, to use a very trite phrase but one that I think has a certain degree of currency here, are the backbone of our nation, the people who have come here over the last 300 to 400 years, who have worked hard, who have said all along that they are more than willing to pay their fair share. They understand the role that each of them must play in a co-operative society, that there are always going to be requirements that the society as a whole needs to put into place.

As we as Canadians have over the years evolved, those requirements that individuals and families are willing to pay their fair share to ensure are things such as medicare, a public education system, a basic system to provide for individuals and families who for one reason or another largely, vastly the majority of which are legitimate reasons, cannot pay for their own basic necessities.

* (1550)

To that we have also recently added the sense that Manitobans are willing to pay and see the importance of a clean environment so that we can pass on to the future generations a world that is worth living in, a world that we actually physically can live in. There is some grave doubt as to the ability of people in the next generation or two to be able to have a world such as that.

These are things that Canadians in general and for sure residents and people in my constituency of Wellington say are vital and of major importance to them. All of these areas are under attack by the Conservatives in this province and by the Conservatives in Canada. All the economic innovation and technology councils in the world are not going to have a positive impact on that as long as the provincial government and its Tory cousins in Ottawa continue on their road of goods and services tax, of the Free Trade Agreement, of strongly supporting the North American free trade agreement, of deregulation, of privatization, of saying, no, we all do not have a responsibility one for another, no, government does not have an active role to play in ensuring that the things that Canadians feel are important are available to all Canadians.

This government and its Tory counterparts across the country and in Ottawa are saying, hands off—the best government is the least government. We are not concerned basically with the people who are most impacted by our legislation, our values and our ideology. We are not concerned with those who have worked for years and who see their savings eaten away, whose children are unable to find jobs, whose families and grandparents are under threat of not having adequate housing, of not having an adequate pension income, of not being able to take advantage of what is rightfully theirs and for which they have put years of work and years of taxes into the system.

This is why the government can come out with all the economic, innovative technology councils it wants to. It can have working groups on a range of things. The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has an enormous number of working groups. We have seen very little, if any, impact that those working groups have had on the health care system, other than in a negative context.

The Department of Family Services has had several working groups, one in particular, a working group on daycare that for 18 months believed what

the Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer) was telling them that the government was going to listen to what they had to say, was going to take into account what they had to say because they are the people who are working in child care. They are the people who know what the needs are. They are the people who are actually doing the jobs. They are the same kind of people that this government is saying they are going to consult and use in the Economic Innovation and Technology Council.

I suggest that the people in Manitoba take a really close look at what happened with a working group on child care because the same thing might very well happen with this council as well, which is, they bought off the child care community for 18 months and then they totally, virtually disregarded the recommendations and the timetable that the working group had implemented, had made recommendations to.

Since the restructuring in the child care system, the government has not listened one iota to the thousands of parents, child care workers and boards of child care agencies, family daycares who have come to the minister, who have said publicly and in letters and in presentations to the minister, we cannot live with this restructuring that you have put in place over the recommendations of your working group.

I say to you, if this is an example—which it is only one—of what this government has done in its use of advisory councils, in its use of supposedly listening to the people who are the experts, then we do not hold out very much hope for this particular council either. The only positive thing, the only possible reason why this council may have more of an impact on the government, is that it is made up largely of people whom the government already listens to. It certainly is not made up largely or even remotely proportionately of working Manitobans working for a salary, people who work in the middle- and lower-paid occupations. It is made up of CEOs and heads of corporations, a very valuable input but certainly not balanced and complete. It is not made up of members of the labour movement who have a great deal of input and should have a great deal of input.

This government and its Tory counterparts talk about a level playing field, talk about the need for us to be competitive, talk about all kinds of ideas that on the surface would appear to be positive, or at the very least, innocuous; but what a level playing field

really means to this government is low wages, nonunion, high unemployment, so that there is a wage pool just ready for the corporations to take advantage of, an economic climate very much like the economic climate in the southern United States.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I watched Venture last night after the national report on Sunday evening, which I am wont to do on occasion, and found it was a very interesting story about a garment manufacturer who had just moved from Winnipeg to southern Florida. He was asked very clearly by the Florida business community to relocate his operation in Florida. He went down there, assuming there was going to be a lot of trained skilled workers, that there would be bank loans necessary for him to operate. There would be all kinds of positive things there. He was given that to understand. He gets down there and finds out that is not the case. The work force is untrained. There are no bank loans that are guaranteed to him. There are major problems with this supposedly wonderful move.

This program then talked to several manufacturers in Canada, part of whose manufacturing had been removed to the United States. What they said, Mr. Acting Speaker, was that far from being the answer to a corporation's or a manufacturer's dream, much of what goes on in the United States is a nightmare, because the basic thing that any manufacturing sector, any technology sector, any business needs in this day is to be productive. If you are productive, then you are competitive. If you are productive, then you can live in this very tough economic climate.

You know what these people said was part of the productivity? They were saying that you have to take into account the fact that if you pay low wages, you are likely to get a high turnover in your employed work force. If you pay higher wages and give benefits, you are likely to have a stable, well-educated work force. That is what we in Manitoba have had over the last years, a very highly educated, stable, motivated work force with, up until this Tory government came into power, one of the lowest days lost to labour stoppages of any government in the country.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I would suggest that one of the things that this new Economic Innovation and Technology Council should take a very close look at is what some of those business people are saying, that truly to be competitive you need to have a well-educated, motivated, stable work force. We

on this side absolutely agree with that. Do you know how you get a well-educated, motivated, stable work force? You provide the social and educational infrastructure that allows for that.

What has this provincial government done? Not very much, I will tell you, Mr. Acting Speaker. They, through their restructuring of child care formulas, have made it impossible for many of the middle-income families who used to be able to afford child care who no longer can afford child care, so they have—[interjection]

* (1600)

The Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer) is talking about the situation in day care in Toronto, and I would like to say that that is exactly my point. There the system that was brought in by the former Liberal government in Ontario is exactly the kind of system that this government has brought in here, and every child care worker has told the Minister of Family Services that that is going to be the outcome.

There are also, Mr. Acting Speaker, cutbacks in education. This government talks, all the time, about the need to be competitive, how we have to have an educated work force, how we have to increase our competitiveness in the global economy and our level playing field, and all those kinds of things, while on the other hand, what does it actually do? Not what does it talk about it? Not what kind of working group does it put in place, but what does it actually do?

It provides virtually no increase for many school divisions in this province. It cuts back the training programs, it cuts back access programs, it cuts back BUNTEP programs, it cuts back social allowances for students, it cuts back the programs that are specifically targeted to the people who need to be educated and retrained so that they can be productive.

On the third hand, what the provincial government has done, as a job training exercise, it has created a heck of a lot of jobs in provincial social assistance—\$30-million increase for social assistance in the last budget. An acknowledgement of failure, an acknowledgement that there is no job creation program, there are no education programs, there are no upgrading programs to allow the youth of this province, the new Canadians in this province, the people who have been through deregulation and privatization, kicked

out of employment at the age of 40 and above, there is nothing for them in this government.

There is not a thing for them in this government, except a \$30-million increase in social assistance. What kind of long term economic planning is that? Not very good economic planning.

If you are a single parent in this province, woe be to you to try and get off social assistance, to try even to do something as simple and basic as to have some prevention programming put into place, like the parent-child centres, an excellent program that came in under Core Area Initiative. Very low cost, five years of good solid programming, basically run by volunteers, basically run by the people who are the users of the service.

This government talks an enormous amount about the role of volunteers, while it cuts back child and family service volunteers, while it eliminates 600 volunteer positions from the 98 housing authorities.

(Mr. Jack Penner, Acting Speaker, in the Chair)

What this government really wants to do is to get out of the job of helping people entirely unless they are wealthy corporations, and then it is more than willing to help.

What has this government done to the farm economy? What has this government done for rural development? What has this government done for people with mental and physical disabilities? What has this government done for anybody other than Great-West Life and Investors—not much, not much.

Yet the government talks about economic innovation and technology. I would suggest, Mr. Acting Speaker, that the government take a look at its overall strategy, its overall programming, its overall budgeting, and broaden its focus from a narrow definition of economic development and strategy and actually start doing something for all Manitobans instead of putting into place, yet again, another council made up of people that the government already listens to.

It should start listening to 57,000 Manitobans who are unemployed. It should start listening to the tens of thousands of Manitobans who are on social assistance and govern for all of the people of Manitoba and not just the narrow elite who already have, at least, their fair share. Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker.

Mr. Cliff Evans (Interlake): I move, seconded by the honourable member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak), that we adjourn debate.

Motion agreed to.

Bill 10—The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister responsible for The Manitoba Hydro Act (Mr. Downey), Bill 10, The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act (Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Hydro-Manitoba), standing in the name of the honourable member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie). Is there leave to allow the bill to remain standing?

An Honourable Member: Leave.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Agreed and so ordered.

Bill 11—The Bee-Keepers Repeal Act

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), Bill 11, The Bee-Keepers Repeal Act (Loi abrogeant la Loi sur les apiculteurs), standing in the name of the honourable member for Swan River.

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): Mr. Acting Speaker, it gives me pleasure to raise a few points about this bill today. We will not be passing the bill today. The member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohan) has indicated that he would like a little bit of time to consult with a few more people. We will be doing that, but we will be prepared to pass the bill shortly.

(Mr. Marcel Laurendeau, Acting Speaker, in the Chair)

As I said, I would like to say a few words about the bill, but I would also like to take this opportunity to make a few comments about the orderly marketing system and supply management and the beekeepers who are also impacted by this type of system.

I guess when I look at this bill, I wonder, if the bill was only passed in 1987, why we are in such a short time coming about having such changes made. I did not hear the comments from the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), but if he has consulted and this is what the beekeepers want, then we would probably be prepared to support, but I wonder and look forward to hearing what the impacts of this bill

will be. What will be changed as a result of it? I look forward to going to committee and hearing what they have to say.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I guess the other comments that I would like to make relate to the other jurisdictions as well as honey that are controlled by marketing boards. Marketing boards play a very important role in the economy of our country and in the economy of Manitoba. We have many, many commodities that are managed by marketing boards, and we have heard a tremendous amount about them in the last little while, particularly in light of the fact that our marketing boards could be in danger as a result of the GATT agreement. I think that we have to work very hard to see that our marketing boards and supply management are protected and that we do not lose this through the GATT negotiations.

* (1610)

It is very important that Canada take a very strong position at GATT to have Article 11 strengthened rather than weakened. If we lose supply management, there are many people who are going to lose our marketing boards as well. There are many people who are going to be affected, and it is going to have a devastating effect on our Manitoba economy.

I was at a meeting in the Interlake just a few weeks ago and talked to some people who are not beekeepers, who are not under the honey marketing board but are under different marketing boards, and they are very concerned about what is going to happen to the economy of this province if we lose our supply management and our marketing boards. The government has done a good job of setting up one group of people against the other saying they cannot take a position on supporting the marketing boards because it would then hurt the grain sector of the industry.

The comments that came from these people were very interesting, and that is the fact that they have said, if we are not going to any longer raise chickens or raise turkeys or produce eggs, who is going to buy all of the grain that we are now buying? We, in turn, are going to start growing grain and flood the market. It all ties in to marketing boards and supply management and I think that the minister should think very carefully about not supporting the supply management and the marketing board people when he refused to sign the document submitted by the Agriculture ministers.

I think that supply management and marketing boards are something very unique to Canada and we have to be sure that they are protected, and I think that it is very important that this minister take a strong stand on it and that Canada take a strong stand on all of these marketing boards that so much affect our economy here, in Canada.

There are, as I said, thousands of people who are employed in the industry, thousands of people who are concerned about it. In fact, yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with three people from the Maritime provinces who are here visiting in Manitoba dealing with women in the rural economy. Two of them were in the potato industry and the other was in the dairy industry in their province. They have marketing boards there just as we have here in Manitoba. They also are very concerned about what is going to happen to their economy.

It is a big issue here not only in Manitoba, right across Canada, that we protect our supply management industry. They also indicated, as many people here in Manitoba have, that if we do not have marketing boards to control the prices, if we do not protect our borders through marketing boards and have tariffication, we will see a real influx of product, as we will see with the honey industry if tariffication is put in place. If we do not have the protection of our product, the market will get flooded, and for a short time prices will come down, but in the end it will be the consumer who will pay the price. We will lose a large industry here in Manitoba and across the province.

Mr. Acting Speaker, as I said we will in a few days be prepared to pass this bill. There are still a few people whom we would like to talk to. In fact, the previous Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Bill Uruski, is someone whom we will be talking to and have talked to him because he was an excellent Minister of Agriculture. He implemented this bill in 1987. We will be talking to him about what his feelings are on why this has changed. We will also be talking to honey producers. There are many producers who produce honey only as a sideline, as a hobby. We would want to know whether this is going to have any impact on them.

We will continue to consult, and in a very short time we will be prepared to pass this bill, and then look forward to what the producers have to say at the committee hearings as to whether or not they are satisfied this is a good move. Again, Mr. Acting Speaker, I would like to reinforce that I feel

marketing boards are a very important part of our economy, and we must make every effort not only to protect them here in Manitoba, but our government must take a strong stand at GATT on this.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

I am a little skeptical about this government taking a strong stand, because it is my understanding that at one time Canada proposed that marketing boards be removed and was not in support of them. Canada was not taking a strong position on them and now to be sending these same people off to the GATT conference to defend the marketing boards is in a sense like sending the fox into the henhouse to defend the chickens. I hope that this Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) has taken a strong position and given a strong position to Ottawa that we want those marketing boards protected. I trust that he has, but I wished that he would have shown that he had a strong position on it by signing that document that other ministers signed to support the marketing boards. He has given us an explanation on why he has not signed that document. We have to take his word on that.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed very important that we continue to protect the marketing boards, because, as I said earlier, if we do not have marketing boards, if we change not only particularly the honey industry but if we lose our poultry producers, if we lose the right to protect our turkey producers, our egg producers, our dairy producers, it will have a devastating effect on the economy here in Canada. I think we should be doing everything we can to protect something that is looked at as a model.

There are dairy producers in the United States who would dearly love to have the same system that we have. In fact, many of those producers were in Ottawa at the rally a couple of weeks ago offering their support to the Canadian people to protect the marketing boards. I think that is a very good sign that we have a good system, and people in Canada not only want it protected but people in the United States look at the systems that we have here and admire them and would like to have the same kind of thing.

Rather than going to GATT with a weak position and saying, well, what the heck, we have to have an agreement so let us sign, even if we are going to give up the marketing boards. I think what we have to do is fight for those to protect them and take a leading role that other countries can follow and help

other countries establish a system such as we have, so that they can raise their standard of living and raise their quality of life rather than trying to take something away that is very good here in Canada and lower our standards.

Again, I find it very disappointing that the government would try to set one group of people against the other saying that, if they protect marketing boards then the grain producers are going to suffer; if they protect the transportation systems, then somebody else is going to suffer. I think we have to look at the best things that we have in our system and do what we can to protect them.

Mr. Speaker, just on that I would like to reinforce and encourage the minister to do whatever it is he can to protect our marketing boards and protect all of those people who now make a very good living and have a quality of life within the community. There are a large number of producers who are involved—in fact, I believe there are over 450 million—no, I am sorry, 800 producers in that part of the industry that we must look at protecting. I would hope that government would continue to do that.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks and—

An Honourable Member: Pass it on to committee.

Ms. Wowchuk: No, Mr. Speaker, the member for Portage (Mr. Connery) asked if we were ready to pass it on to committee. I had indicated earlier that we are not prepared to pass it on to committee. We still need the time to consult. There are a few people who want to get back to us. I think it is very important that we listen to all people who might be impacted by this legislation. As the minister has said, it is very minor legislation, but it also is an opportunity to—[interjection]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

* (1620)

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Speaker, the member across the way has indicated that the bill was introduced some time ago, and I have indicated to him that the member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) will be very shortly prepared to let this bill go to committee. With that, I will conclude my remarks. Thank you very much.

Mr. Conrad Santos (Broadway): Mr. Speaker, I would like to place a few remarks on the consideration of Bill 11, The Bee-Keepers Repeal Act. The purpose of this legislation is to transfer the assets and obligations and liabilities of the Manitoba

Bee-Keepers Association to the Manitoba Honey Marketing Board. It is a case that by consolidation and integration of the activities of one association there will be more efficiency in the administration of its affairs. The important consideration in the transfer of assets and liabilities from one organization to another organization is the protection of the interests of all the parties concerned. In the transfer of assets and in the transfer of obligations and liabilities, all the interests should be protected.

It is very important that, when arrangement of organizational structure is being done, the people who are primarily affected will be consulted. We need to consult all the interest groups that are involved in this kind of activity. [interjection] Well, nobody is an expert on bees. You always hear about bees and honey and things like that.

An Honourable Member: Conrad, have you heard about the birds and the bees?

Mr. Santos: The birds and the bees? Yes, I have, but these are fairy tales, and you have to sometimes talk about the reality of life to the children other than the bees and the birds.

We are talking here about the consolidation of the administration of the affairs of an organization. It concerns the integration and unification. All I am saying is that if we are trying to rearrange the affairs of an organization and transfer the assets and obligations of one group from one organization to another, all the various interest groups should be able to willingly consent to that transfer by process of consultation so that the interests can be protected. That is why we have to consider and debate this legislation in more detail and look at all its implications. We have the moral obligation to consult with the people who are affected. There might be some economies of scale and some kind of efficiencies that can be gained in this consolidation, but those are factual, empirical investigations that can only be determined after some kind of experience in this matter.

I would not prolong my analysis in a subject matter of which I am totally ignorant, so I am going to say my piece and take my seat.

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak), that debate be adjourned.

Motion agreed to.

House Business

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I only ask that you do not call Bill 20 at this time as you move toward the list of bills that you are calling. We will call that bill at this evening's sitting.

Bill 12—The Animal Husbandry Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay), Bill 12, The Animal Husbandry Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'élevage, standing in the name of the honourable member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman). Stand? Is there leave that this matter remain standing? Leave? It is agreed.

Bill 14—The Highways and Transportation Department Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger), Bill 14, The Highways and Transportation Department Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur le ministère de la Voirie et du Transport, standing in the name of the honourable member for Transcona (Mr. Reid). Stand? Is there leave that this matter remain standing? Leave? It is agreed.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise and speak today on Bill 14, The Highways and Transportation Department Amendment Act. I have had the benefit of the minister's comments, which I found very helpful, as well as my own analysis of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, I am going to conclude my remarks by indicating the Liberal carcass is willing to see passed to committee stage. [interjection] Caucus—caucus. The member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Connery) wants to put words in my mouth. He has been thinking about bees or other animal husbandry or something, but I am talking about the highways and traffic act. Our caucus—caucus—is pleased to see this bill go to committee.

I always have some concern when higher levels of government discretion are being given out of the parliamentary procedure by way of regulation, but further in this bill, out of the realm of

Orders-in-Council and simply into the hands of departmental officials. Of course, that is the major thrust of the amendments here, to take the ceiling from \$5,000 to \$25,000 that can be done without Order-in-Council, that is, departmentally.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I have said, I generally like to preserve, as I think many parliamentarians do, as much control in the hands of the Legislature. However, I do recognize that in a department such as this where there are many leases, many land acquisitions to be done in any given year, we do have to place trust and faith in our senior officials.

(Mrs. Shirley Render, Acting Speaker, in the Chair)

In this case, I think it is not unwarranted to expand the \$5,000 to \$25,000. This, of course, in this bill not only deals with land which is to be let, but the value of property to be sold, so that the minister on his own will be able to sanction, and his departmental officials, his delegates, sell land up to the value of \$25,000 without an Order-in-Council.

The bill also, I note, provides for land that has been acquired for departmental road, airport or docks, to be leased out when it is not immediately needed for the purposes of the province and the public good. That, I think, is relatively minor and, I am sure, important in the ongoing workings of the Department of Highways and Transportation.

There are, of course, other components to this act. I note that it is being brought into line with The Public Works Act with respect to the \$25,000 value. There is no reason to think that The Public Works Act in that regard has been unworkable. I have not heard any indications from members of the public or members of the civil service that we should not go to this \$25,000 limit.

The Public Works Act has been there, and I do not have any information that it is out of line. The other parts of this bill I believe are relatively minor, and I note that the minister has said that he welcomes any questions at committee stage on the remaining parts of this bill.

I have reviewed them. I do believe that in keeping with his indication, they are relatively minor housekeeping amendments. The major amendment is to take the higher level of discretion departmentally to \$25,000. We are prepared to pass this to committee on that basis, to hear members of the public at that point—if there are any, and I do not know that there will be speaking to this issue.

With those comments our caucus, as I have said, will allow this bill passage to the committee stage where we can have a fuller discussion with the minister on the finer points of this bill.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Mr. Speaker: As previously agreed, this matter will remain standing in the name of the honourable member for Transcona (Mr. Reid).

Bill 15—The Highway Traffic Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger), Bill 15, The Highway Traffic Amendment Act; Loi modifiant le Code de la route, standing in the name of the honourable member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton).

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Stand? Is there leave that this matter may remain standing?

An Honourable Member: Leave.

Mr. Speaker: Leave, it is agreed. The honourable member for St. James (Mr. Edwards).

* (1630)

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, this is another Highways department bill. This one is somewhat lengthier. I was not particularly concerned with the bulk of the amendments which are proposed in this bill.

(Mrs. Shirley Render, Acting Speaker, in the Chair)

I must thank the minister for his very helpful spreadsheets which the minister hands out and I find particularly useful in analyzing this bill and others. I think it is a practice which I simply want to speak to as thanking those departmental officials who prepare these, because I find them generally candid and I find them thorough. They are extremely helpful as they show what the law has been, what it is going to be, with an explanation. It is very useful. I want to start with those comments.

Madam Acting Speaker, I note that this bill does make some very important amendments, I am sure, for the people it affects, specifically at the outset, the war veterans. There is an amendment in here that ensures disabled war veterans may be exempted from the registration fees for trucks. I gather that is without controversy and that is relatively minor, I

think, probably important to those whom it directly affects.

There are other relatively minor changes. The only one that I wanted to flag for the minister at this point that I would like to comment on at the committee stage would be the proposed Section 319.1 which is a new section. That section, Madam Acting Speaker, ensures it is indicated that Manitoba meets a national commitment made by every Canadian province to introduce a periodic vehicle inspection program for commercial vehicles by September of 1992. My only comment for the minister is, why are we not introducing that same mandatory vehicle inspection program for all vehicles?

Now I know that this was an issue dear to the heart of my predecessor critic, the former member for Assiniboia, who spoke at length and quite eloquently, I must say, on the issue of vehicle inspections, the point being that we must ensure insofar as is possible—and it really does not take much to do it—that the vehicles on the road are safe. We know they are safe when they are sold, certainly new vehicles. We hope that there are adequate protections in place for the sale of used vehicles, most of which occur privately or at least those that do occur privately. We have some concerns about the safety of those vehicles. I, having lived in Ontario, know that they do have a far more sophisticated vehicle inspection program for vehicles ensuring that we do not have older vehicles that are simply unsafe.

I suggest, Madam Acting Speaker, that the vehicle safety system breaks down if we do not ensure through regular inspections, increasingly regular inspections as a vehicle gets older and older, that these vehicles are in fact safe. I do note that Manitoba has been inspecting truck trailers and semitrailers on a regulated basis since 1989 and that we are broadening that eventually to include all vehicles over a certain limit, but that at this point we are giving to the registrar the ability, by regulation, to prescribe the standards and the inspection procedures which will be put into place.

Madam Acting Speaker, with those comments, we are willing to have this bill passed to committee. I do note that there are further amendments dealing with the wearing of seat belts. I intend to question the minister at committee stage on that and on the proposed exemption for individuals who are travelling in the care of peace officers. I am not

sure—I would like to have an explanation as to why we need that.

I have personal knowledge of individuals who were travelling in a vehicle driven by a peace officer and who were involved in an accident, the peace officer himself driving and being seriously injured, in which they were not with seat belts and, of course, it was not held against them because the car, in the back seat, did not have seat belts. They were very, very seriously injured.

I do not know why we would exempt necessarily people who are being transported by peace officers in all cases to be exempted from wearing seat belts. I note that some individuals who are intoxicated, violent, unco-operative, difficult to force to buckle up—of course, there are exceptions, but I am not sure that we should be exempting as a matter of course people from wearing seat belts while travelling with peace officers. I look forward to some questioning on that.

Madam Acting Speaker, with those comments, I look forward to a more thorough discussion of this bill at committee stage. Again, let me say that I have found the minister most forthright on this, and I think we can clear up some of the questions I have. I am sure my colleagues in the New Democratic caucus will have similar concerns. I flag the ones that I will look forward to discussing at the committee stage where the officials, I am sure, will be present.

Madam Acting Speaker, with that, our caucus is pleased to see this bill pass on to committee stage.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Mr. Speaker: As previously agreed, this matter will remain standing in the name of the honourable member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton).

Bill 21—The Provincial Park Lands Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns), Bill 21, The Provincial Park Lands Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les parcs provinciaux, standing in the name of the honourable member for Interlake (Mr. Clif Evans).

Some Honourable Members: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Stand. Is there leave that this matter remain standing?

Some Honourable Members: Leave.

Mr. Speaker: Leave. It is agreed.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, this bill, in fact, has provoked some controversy, and I want to acknowledge the work of the group that has come to me with complaints about the effect of this bill.

I do not pretend to be an expert at this point on the finer details of what park areas—what residents in what park areas in this province have experienced difficulties and what they pay and what they do not pay in local taxes. I can assure the minister that I have encouraged the members of the public who have come to me on this bill to make their views known at the committee stage. I warn the minister at this point that there will be some serious debate at the committee stage on this bill, because very strong feelings have been brought forward to me about the level of ministerial discretion which is built into this bill and what the future will hold for the residents of provincial park lands.

I start from a fundamental principle which was the genesis of the American Revolution, that no taxation without representation was the battle cry. Anybody who purports to tax, any authority which purports to tax, must expose itself to public scrutiny and must be accountable to the public through the democratic process. That is a principle upon which we have based our democratic system. To allocate to the minister the discretion which is embodied in this bill, to set taxes over people at no prescribed rate but simply through regulation, in my view, takes us some significant distance from the direct accountability which we have come to enjoy as citizens of this city and this country over our elected representatives.

* (1640)

Of course, there is an indirect link in the sense that the government of the day sets those amounts, and the government of the day is ultimately accountable to all citizens of Manitoba, but there is no direct link between the residents who will be paying these taxes and the tax imposer. There is certainly no guarantee that the minister of the day will represent an area that he is taxing through this. In fact, there is no way that he would represent all areas that would be affected, so the link is indirect, and I am not sure that is good enough.

I want to raise for the minister now, that there will be some serious questions to be asked at the committee stage, in particular by the members of the association of private landowners in Manitoba's provincial parks, who have taken the position, I think

quite responsibly, that they are willing to pay their fair share of taxes for the services which they receive, but to allocate at this point this level of discretion to the minister, leaves a potential for abuse. I am not suggesting this minister would exercise it, but I am simply indicating that one of the protections we all have come to rely on is a direct link to those representatives who do impose taxes. That is a problem for this association; that will be a problem at the committee stage. I look forward to some assurances from the minister, some amendments perhaps, to assuage the concerns of this group.

Mr. Speaker, the powers which are allocated to the minister are quite clearly general in nature and sweeping in nature in terms of imposing taxes on these landowners. We will want to find out exactly what the minister is intending by the word "fair" which is in this legislation. What is "fair"? That is a nice concept, but I think if we are talking about taxation we have to be a little more specific than that. We will have to know, at least, what the criteria are that he is intending to use.

As well, within the boundaries now considered Manitoba provincial parks, we know that there are several distinctly different categories of rights to property. There are private, fee simple ownership, there are leasehold estates, there may be others. What effect will that distinction have is a question left open. As well, Mr. Speaker, I am advised that there have been various discussions between this group and the Parks department and the provincial government for years.

These individuals have been promised on several occasions, indeed, by the current minister and the current director of Parks, that this group, that is the private landowners' group and its executive, would be involved in the analysis studies relating to existing real or claim services that are provided to the cottagers; that, likewise, regarding any other objectionable policies including planning and development, this group would be involved, and that the minister advised the private landowners that complete revision of existing parklands act was planned for March of 1991, and that group would be invited to participate in that and then have input into the final drafting and that none of these promises were kept.

That is the allegation and a serious one indeed. There were discussions leading to a framework of development dealing with this issue that the private

landowners were brought into, were kept abreast of it and went along with the process, and then see this legislation come forward and tell us, as members of the Legislature, that none of the commitments of the senior officials and the minister of the day were kept.

The minister will have to answer to that at the committee stage. I was hoping he would have answered at the time that this bill was dealt with, but he did not. I can tell him that there are going to be strong felt feelings, because when people start to see that they are going to face unspecified taxation without direct ability to control the political masters who imposed that taxation they get upset.

I agree it is a leap, but the principle is the same, as did those who started the American Revolution. It is a fundamental principle that people want control over those who tax them. I do not think it is taking too much licence to suggest that principle is an important one for this minister to respect in this circumstance. We will want some assurances that what he is proposing has limits, has criteria, that there is a framework for discussion and for input from those affected and that there are some guarantees that any minister, not necessarily this minister, any minister in the future, will have curtailments on their ability to tax these individuals and remain accountable to them.

Let me be clear, let me represent the private landowners correctly. No one is saying that they should not pay their fair share of taxes—no one. The only issue is how do those taxes get set, and what is the accountability for the politicians that he uses to set those rates? It is a grave concern that the minister seeks through this legislation to confer upon himself and his department the unnecessary and, some say, unwarranted privilege to apply those taxes without restriction.

Mr. Speaker, we obviously have these very serious concerns. I think there is probably a better way to deal with taxing these individuals, so they have the assurances they are asking for which are reasonable indeed. I am going to, prior to this getting to committee, give some serious thought to how that can be done because the minister obviously has not. I hope that the minister, by the comments I have put on the record today, will come to that committee prepared to meet these people on the discussions and deal with their allegations of his promises over the last months, if not years. I hope he will be coming prepared to answer them and their concerns and accusations that he has not lived up

to the promises because I anticipate they will be there. I will certainly be listening closely to what they say, and I will use every opportunity that I have, and our caucus will, to give them sufficient protection and political accountability for taxes which the department seeks to levy on them.

This minister does not operate, this government does not operate, no government should operate to impose taxes on individuals, on citizens without being willing to make itself directly accountable to those that it taxes. That is the essence of the system that we live under, and I am very concerned that this bill takes us well beyond that both in practice and in principle.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: As previously agreed, this matter will remain standing in the name of the honourable member for Interlake (Mr. Cliff Evans).

Bill 22—The Lodge Operators and Outfitters Licensing and Consequential Amendments Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns), Bill 22, The Lodge Operators and Outfitters Licensing and Consequential Amendments Act; Loi sur les permis relatifs aux exploitants de camps de chasse et de pêche et aux pourvoyeurs et apportant des modifications corrélatives à d'autres dispositions législatives, standing in the name of the honourable member for the Interlake (Mr. Cliff Evans).

Is there leave that this matter remain standing?

An Honourable Member: Leave.

Mr. Speaker: Leave. It is agreed.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that this is yet another bill which gives a very high level of discretion to executive authority in this province over people trying to earn a living as lodge operators and outfitters.

Again, I think it is important for the public of this province, regardless of what government is in power or may be in the future, that we respect the right to know what the law is, to have it set out clearly and to know exactly the rules under which someone is expected to operate, and further and most importantly, to have recourse, to have direct, political recourse for those who seek not only to tax us in the past legislation that I talked to, but who

seek to regulate through licensing and inspections and going to get warrants to come into somebody's lodge to tell them how they should operate. That may be a very valid purpose in ensuring that certain standards are met, but it is not without restriction. We have rules governing that.

As I read through this bill, I became increasingly concerned that the framework for licensing, the framework for examination of how someone runs their business is there, but there is no detail. There is no setting out what exactly we are looking for. I mean, it just goes on and on about, well, the allocation of licences the minister may limit the number of licences. The minister may do this. The minister may go and get a warrant. An inspector may at any reasonable time—listen to this: "The inspector may, (a) at any reasonable time, enter any premises and make any inspection that is reasonably required for the purpose of enforcing this Act or the regulations."

* (1650)

What are the standards in the act that he is going to enforce? I do not have a problem perhaps with some of the goals that the government is seeking, but what are they? What are the regulations then? What are the standards we are looking at? What is the terrible thing that we are going to send inspectors into somebody's lodge to solve and give them these quite substantial powers, Mr. Speaker. We need to know, we need to know in the detail of this bill. It is not too much to ask the government to come forward with the criteria to limit itself to, in exercising these powers. I know that many of the members of the government have been in business. I look at the benches of the government. I know they have been in business themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I know that they would be the first were they lodge outfitters or lodge operators and outfitters, they would be the first to say what are you doing? Why should we submit ourselves, exempt ourselves from the normal course of business because we happen to be running these lodges? Why are we asked to submit to this very substantial governmental incursion in the operations of our business?

Now, I am sure that there are reasons, and I look forward to hearing them. There are reasons for this, I am sure. You know, we want to maintain certain standards. I personally am not aware of what they are, and, boy, if I sat and read the bill, I sure would not know.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to hearing exactly what the terrible, terrible sins that lodge operators would be foisting upon the public that would require an inspector to have the ability at any reasonable time to enter any premises and make any inspection that is reasonably required for the purpose of enforcing this—(interjection)

Yes, I mean, you know, what exactly is the problem that this bill addresses? I searched every line of this bill for an indication of what these substantial and very, very serious rights which are given to the government. I searched for a reason for those, and they may well be there, but it is a mystery to me and anyone looking at this act, what they might be.

I can tell you I have received numerous calls. I have a meeting tomorrow with these people, and they are upset. I can see their point. I am looking forward to hearing their point of view, and I am sure the minister is going to hear it loud and clear when this bill gets to committee.

An Honourable Member: It is the War Measures Act for lodge operators.

Mr. Edwards: Yes, it appears that we have a serious problem with the lodge operators and they are out of control, and who knows what is happening up there? It could be terrible. Well, boy, this is the first I have heard of it, and I think it is the first a lot of lodge operators have heard of it.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about this. Boy, you know it certainly goes into detail on the offences. I mean, there is no mistaking just what the result of failing to let the inspector in your door is going to be. You fail to let the inspector in the door, we do not say, they do not leave you in any doubt about what the penalty is. The penalty in the case of an individual is up to \$2,000; in the case of a corporation, up to \$20,000. There is no lack of specificity there.

By the way, where any contravention of Section 2 which sets out the licensing requirements and all of the conditions which may attach to a licence—and who knows what those would be—but where you happen to be in breach of one of those, each day will qualify as a new offence, each day. You could be in serious trouble here, were you to breach one of the unknown licensing requirements under this act.

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): We would not do that.

Mr. Edwards: The minister just says, we would not do that. Were I inclined to agree with the minister that he would never do that, and I might be inclined to do that, I would not say that any member of the government would abuse this authority. That is not the point.

The point is not the individual involved, the government involved, and what they are going to do, and what they are not going to do. The point is that the public deserves clarity in exactly what the government is seeking.

What we have here, just like we had in the last piece of legislation I just spoke to, is the government consistently—and it is a pattern—granting to itself larger and larger amounts of discretionary authority, which will not enter this House and be the subject of debate and public scrutiny, no, but which will be done in the offices of the ministers and just sent out as edicts.

I am very concerned that this government is going on a power trip, both in the prior legislation which I spoke to and in this one. You look and you say, well, look, I am sure they will say, why are you getting so upset? It is a little piece. It is a lodge operator. Why are you getting so upset?

You know what? If I was a lodge operator, I would be very upset. This is your livelihood. You are giving the government here powers, which in my experience are unknown in other acts, in other industries—powers to walk into your business and to essentially demand compliance with inspectors who are going to walk in at any time they please, and tell you, and review your property. I mean, you would think these people were running some kind of illegal activity. That is the assumption here. The assumption is here that we have to keep them in check because they must be running some kind of bad operation, and, boy, you just want to have that power to send in an inspector at two in the morning, you know.

Mr. Speaker, I do not see the need for these kinds of Draconian powers in government. I look forward to the minister telling us exactly what the blight is that he is trying to cure. Even if there are, and there may well be, problems which he needs these powers for, I look forward to hearing from him, but if they are there, they should be in this legislation. They should be there so that everybody knows what the problem is that will warrant an inspector coming any time, four in the morning, any place, and making any inspection.

Further, one thing I left out, it is not just a physical inspection, no, Sir, this inspector has the right to examine or audit any documents, any records, any books of account, or—listen to this—it is not just books, audits, records, he has the right to examine any thing found in the premises. There is no other power left to be had. He has the whole shooting match. He can come in any time, any premises and examine any thing.

We cannot tolerate this level of executive discretion in a province and call ourselves a representative democracy. We cannot tolerate that unchecked.

This legislation must have limits, and we must know from the minister exactly what he wants from this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, while I note that the government, I am sure, wants to promote these activities and harness our natural resources so that they are used effectively for the purpose of tourism. There may well be some reasons for some government regulation in this area. This goes way too far, Mr. Speaker, without clarity or specificity. We will be looking for those answers as this bill makes its way through the Legislature.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: As previously agreed, this matter will remain standing in the name of the honourable member for the Interlake (Mr. Cliff Evans).

* (1700)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. Speaker: The hour being 5 p.m., it is time for Private Members' Business.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 5—Crime Prevention Council

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux)

WHEREAS the province of Manitoba has consistently had a crime rate substantially higher than the national average in recent years; and

WHEREAS crime prevention must be supported by the whole of society, and political leaders must encourage the development of a feeling of solidarity among community members; and

WHEREAS the community is the focal point of crime prevention, and governments at all levels

must nurture community based anticrime efforts; and

WHEREAS society must go beyond a response by our criminal justice system of law enforcement if we are to prevent crimes in our communities, and develop a long range approach to dealing with crime which will be responsive to immediate needs; and

WHEREAS fear of crime is a serious problem for all law abiding Manitobans, in particular women and the elderly; and

WHEREAS the government of Manitoba has failed to respond to the desire of Manitobans to be leaders in the area of crime prevention.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba recommend that the Minister of Justice consider striking a Crime Prevention Council for the Province of Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Minister of Justice to consider appointing experts from the areas of housing, social services, education, the police, and the courts, who represent insofar as possible Manitoba's ethnocultural and geographical makeup, to this Crime Prevention Council.

Motion presented.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, this issue of crime prevention, I am sure, my colleagues are becoming tired of hearing me speak about. Every opportunity I have gotten since coming into this House in 1988, I have used to encourage this minister to get serious about crime prevention.

Now he knows, and you will hear today, I am sure, he knows all of the buzzwords, he knows all of the catch phrases. A crime prevented is a victim saved. He says that all the time. Crime prevention is the way of the future. We have to act on crime. He knows all of those phrases and all the catchwords, but what has he done, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, it has been a legacy of inaction. It has been a legacy of turning a blind eye to the real benefits that crime prevention can bring. I am becoming increasingly concerned and increasingly disillusioned that this minister does not really understand crime prevention. He got bogged down in a morass of confusion when he was issued the report a couple of years ago. His department came up with the victims' services fund and they floated an idea that they were going to split the funds and send some into crime prevention and some into

victims services. That was shot down by just about everyone who saw it. He was wanting to abandon victims services in favour of taking some money to crime prevention. That will not do. It is necessary for this minister to come to grips with crime prevention as a separate and equally important aspect of his role as the Attorney General in this province.

Mr. Speaker, we have no better evidence than the various cases we have seen recently and indeed in past years wind through the courts that violence is still a very large part of daily life for thousands and thousands of Manitobans. It is simply unacceptable and when the minister has done something about it, I have applauded him. When he came forward with the family abuse paper and the Pedlar report and commissioned that, I applauded that. Now since it has come out, he has not done anything. The committee which was supposed to have gotten together after the report has not even met yet.

The Aboriginal Justice report that he came out with was one of the most pathetic examples of political inaction and about-face from the pre-report rhetoric that anyone has ever seen. There were national reporters there when this minister came forward with the Aboriginal Justice report who were shocked, who could not believe that after three years and \$3 million this minister just flapped his lips. He had nothing to say about the Aboriginal Justice report. Well, this is not an opportunity to say anything about it. This is just an opportunity to release the report. Well, he had had it for a month.

An Honourable Member: That was when he was wearing those Mickey Mouse socks.

Mr. Edwards: Yes, that was when he was wearing the Mickey Mouse socks.

Did he say anything about it? Did he even appoint a committee which was recommended by the AJI to oversee and prioritize and be involved in a consultative process? No, he had to keep it all in-house. Oh yes, we have a committee in-house. We have some bureaucrats looking at this thing. Well, Mr. Speaker, that is not good enough, and he has been the subject of ridicule in the aboriginal community every since. He will continue to be, because the rhetoric which was associated with this report and with the grand work of the commissioners led a lot of people to believe that this minister might actually do something when the report came down. As with the Pedlar report, so with the Aboriginal Justice report. The point is, this minister always has

great things to say before he sees the report. Once he has seen that, action is way behind the rhetoric.

Mr. Speaker, this minister knows that some time ago there was an international conference. Hundreds of delegates from around the world came to talk about crime prevention. He knows, and I am going to refresh his memory, that the international body which co-ordinated that brought together politicians, elected officials above and beyond those who had sat in at the plenary sessions to have an executive session for the last day and a half. He was invited and did not go. He did not bother to attend the international gathering which brought people from around the world. He did not think it was important to talk about crime prevention. We did. We went down and we listened to what these people had to say. I can tell you that I have gone to crime prevention breakfasts—how many?—three, four years in a row, and I have heard this minister every time.

He always rolls out the same speech. Oh, I am sorry, no, no, I am sorry, one year he gave it to the Premier (Mr. Filmon), but it was the same speech. He says the same thing every time. Oh, Crime Prevention Month, good work, get out there, secure your homes, crime prevention is a wonderful thing.

The rest of the world is just passing this minister by. He does not have any ideas about the way that France is dealing with this, the way that Denmark is dealing with this, the way that Sweden is dealing with this, the way that many of the American jurisdictions are dealing with this.

You know what they say to us, you know what the American cities say to the Canadian cities? They say, you are just so fortunate to have cities that are not at the level that some of the American cities are. They say, we are now spending millions and millions and millions of dollars which, if you were smart, you would not ever need to spend. They are saying that we should be acting now.

That is the lesson from the American cities, that Canadian cities still have an opportunity to preserve and enhance inner city neighbourhoods and, in fact, all neighbourhoods in cities as safe places to live.

This minister has turned a deaf ear and a blind eye to all of that consistently year after year after year. Mr. Speaker, the point is that there are many communities, whole communities in this province, and I know that The Pas is one that is often singled out. I think things are somewhat improving there, but The Pas, as a city, as a community in this

province, has had in the past the highest violent crime rate, one of the highest in the nation for a community, and have had to tolerate that. No citizen should have to put up with the crime rates, the violent crime rates that people in that community and indeed many others in this province have.

* (1710)

There is a better way. The better way is the establishment of a crime prevention council which brings together people from the various disciplines, the various professions, the various levels of expertise in any given community and draws upon that volunteer effort. I emphasize for this minister that I have proposed, and I have on many occasions, and I propose again, this effective tool which, Mr. Speaker, I suggested could be set up for no cost at all. This is a no-cost proposal.

If you look at the models in France, there is no cost associated with setting up those crime prevention councils. They have found people have responded to the desire, the call to participate in their communities and to stand up for the safety of citizens on the street. Mr. Speaker, that has been a volunteer effort. There is no question that we have had some of that. We have Neighbourhood Watch, we have Crime Stoppers. There are some volunteer things which are doing very, very well and are laudable.

An Honourable Member: I hear you had to go to jail the other day.

Mr. Edwards: Yes, I did have to go to jail for the fourth year in a row at the Crime Stoppers Bail-a-thon. I think the minister did as well—no, he got someone else to go for him.

Mr. Speaker, those efforts are laudable. I do not mean to demean or diminish them. What I do say is that this minister has to become sophisticated about this issue. The rest of the world is passing him by. He has every reason in this province, which suffers from unreasonably high violent crime rates, to lead in this country. The people of this province deserve better.

The various organizations and project prevention, with whom I discussed this resolution before putting it forward, I have had no organization, none, do anything but express support for this resolution. I have consulted with the existing organizations in the crime prevention area. I have consulted with existing professionals in the area, and not just in this province but elsewhere. This is the way to go. It is

time that this minister used his authority to act in what is so clearly the best interests of this province.

I again draw to his attention that I am not proposing something here which is off the wall and has not been tried and is a spurious recommendation. I am proposing something which has worked, which has the proven ability to work without being a cost burden on the government. That is what I am proposing.

I take seriously the government's indications that the province does not have funds available for new programs. I take that seriously, because I believe in being honest to the taxpayer and in not spending future generations' monies. I believe in that. That is why I am one who suggests that it is not untoward, and it is not deserting one's responsibility to call on the citizens themselves to come forward. We want to facilitate that, but let us not turn a blind eye to the volunteer efforts and the volunteer ethic which is there in so many of our communities. I am constantly surprised and encouraged by the volunteer ethic which we all see, I am sure, in our communities. What it requires is some leadership, and in this case—not always, not all cases—the leadership should be political.

An Honourable Member: That is why we have Jim McCrae.

Mr. Edwards: The Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae), just as he went out and went on a campaign to work against drinking and driving—and he and I have had lots of debates over how he did that—

An Honourable Member: You opposed it.

Mr. Edwards: But no one has ever opposed the fact that an issue was done. In fact, it was our party that raised the issue, and he responded to it two weeks later, in June of 1988. That is what happened.

This party proposed a drinking and driving initiative, and two weeks later the minister came up with one which looked like it had been put together in half an hour, and it turns out it had. Three months later, he had to bring in twice as big a bill to fix it up, and then he goes around saying, Bill 3. Well, what he did not tell the public was it was not Bill 3, it was Bill 3 and Bill 54. Bill 54 was twice as long as Bill 3 and was there to fix up Bill 3, because he did such a hack job at the outset.

Eventually, they all got around to fixing it up, and before it ever came into power they brought in Bill

54. Lo and behold, the recommendations put forward at committee were by and large there, Mr. Speaker.

This minister sees his role in crime prevention as only enforcement, and he is missing the boat. Let him not rely on the punitive measures of drinking-and-driving legislation which are important. Let him not confuse enforcement and punishment with the role of crime prevention, which is positive and proactive and is not of the same nature as the punitive measures which this minister so dearly clings to as so-called crime prevention. They are not. They are one aspect of the law enforcement area, and he has concentrated on that, I believe, and neglected the preventative, proactive approach to crime in this province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise on behalf of the government to respond to the resolution of the honourable member for St. James (Mr. Edwards). There is no doubt that every member of this Assembly can support a great deal of what we find in the honourable member's resolution. In part, that is because the resolution is couched only in generalities. The crux of the resolution, however, is to be found in the call on the Assembly to recommend the striking of a crime prevention council, which would have appointed experts from the areas of housing, social services, education, the police, and the courts, while representing Manitoba's ethnocultural and geographical makeup.

We on this side of the House, however, recognize that what is required in crime prevention, as in so many other fields, is a judicious use of the taxpayers' dollars to ensure that the people of Manitoba get effective programs. We are far more interested in practical results than we are interested in theory or philosophy. What is notable about the resolution brought forward by the honourable member is the way it takes a leap from premises, which I am sure we can all support, to a condemnation of this government, a government which in the last four years has repeatedly shown its decisive leadership in crime prevention.

The Department of Justice has many ways of developing crime prevention policy. In some cases a council as proposed in this resolution would not be a useful tool. A clear example of this is the government's anti-impaired driving program. Even

the honourable member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), despite his initial opposition to Bill 3, will admit that this program has been a success. That anti-impaired driving program would, I submit, probably never have come out of a council as is being proposed in this resolution. Policy development for this program was almost purely internal. A small working committee consisting of officials from the Department of Justice and the Department of Highways reviewed programs across the continent, and indeed around the world, to find the programs that had been most effective. We adapted to Canadian circumstances the American administrative licence suspension program, which has been most effective there, and is turning out to be most effective here in Manitoba.

At the same time we developed the impoundment program in an effort to make the punishment of having a licence suspended far more effective and, therefore, a far better deterrent. We also strengthened the hands of the police by providing a stop-check van for the RCMP. Our antidrinking-driving efforts were reinforced by a public education program.

When we look at the appalling problem of spousal and child abuse in our society, we immediately realized that it cannot be attacked in the same way that we have attacked impaired driving. These crimes occur behind closed doors, in private homes. This a field where the real key is changing public attitudes.

To deal with the appalling crime of domestic violence, I commissioned Winnipeg lawyer Dorothy Pedlar to examine how the justice system responds to domestic violence. Ms. Pedlar's report, which I released in November, offers a comprehensive blueprint for government action.

* (1720)

While we have and will continue to move ahead on improving the justice system, the real challenge rests in changing public attitudes. There is a role for the whole of society in working to reduce domestic violence. However, in the case of family violence, I submit that handing the problem over to a crime prevention council, as suggested by the honourable member, would seriously delay taking decisive action.

This government has been very proud to work with community groups such as Block Parents, Neighbourhood Watch and Rural Crime Watch in launching successful community-based crime

prevention programs. There is a great deal of very worthwhile work being done in crime prevention by groups throughout this province. This government intends to continue to work with these groups and to continue to foster their activities as being the basis of successful crime prevention programs.

A perfect example of the role of community in the prevention of crime can be found in The Pas. I met with representatives of the Town of The Pas, the reserve, the Metis community and the LGD to address increasing crime rates in their community. In consultation with them, a community consultative group was developed. This group, which is solely run by The Pas community, has proven to be very successful.

In fact, last November I was pleased to present the mayor of The Pas and the chief of The Pas Band with crime prevention awards for their efforts. There is a place for experts, of course, but I believe the best results will always be achieved by involving the general public. Strong community and family values are irreplaceable.

Crime grows where parents do not inculcate in their children respect for themselves, respect for their teachers, respect for the law. No experts and no council can replace this vital role of families. Therefore, this government will continue to do everything within its power to strengthen family and community values, including fighting pornography and prosecuting vigorously cases of domestic violence.

What I noted in the resolution put forward by the honourable member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) is a complete lack of facts to support his proposal. I am concerned that even with the best will in the world, a crime prevention council consisting of experts from various areas will not act as a deterrent for Manitobans getting involved in crime. Do we want our tax dollars to be used for a council or do we want to use the money directly to support proven crime prevention initiatives and programs?

Finally, I believe the honourable member for St. James is, regrettably, still trying to play politics with crime prevention. As an early opponent of our anti-impaired driving program, as a critic of our reorganization of the Prosecutions department to eliminate the backlog of trials, the honourable member has consistently preferred to try to score political points rather than analyzing critically the government's program.

A perfect illustration of the attitude of the honourable member is in the last WHEREAS of this resolution and indeed in his speech moving the resolution. This government has done much to fight drinking and driving, to prosecute pornographers, to overhaul the Prosecutions branch, to break the cycle of domestic violence and to support community and crime prevention organizations.

I have no doubt that the honourable member for St. James will continue to take cheap shots at the government and will continue to put forward impractical ideas. We will not be deflected from our programs and we are prepared to be judged by the actions we take.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, it is with regret that we must reject, in its present form, the motion put forward by the honourable member. We reject it because we sincerely believe that a council composed of experts would be a hindrance to real, community-based crime prevention efforts. We prefer to see these efforts arise from the grassroots and to use government funds to support those ideas rather than using government funds to support a council of experts.

Now, I know representatives of the New Democratic Party are going to speak on it today, and—

An Honourable Member: How do you know that?

Mr. McCrae: Well, they usually get involved in all debates in this House, and that is appropriate—

An Honourable Member: Very constructive, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McCrae: But I want them, as the honourable member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett) suggests, to be constructive, and I want them to address the issue of Daryl Bean and the—

An Honourable Member: What did Daryl Bean say to the . . .

Mr. McCrae: Daryl Bean, Mr. Speaker, has his own ideas about how to deal with certain people in our society.

An Honourable Member: No, that is Jack London saying that.

Mr. McCrae: He has adopted Jack London's ideology about hanging people or drowning them for their activities in our society, and I want the honourable member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak) or the member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett) or the member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), or whoever it

is who is going to be addressing this matter this afternoon, to deal directly with the issue of Daryl Bean, because the issue of Daryl Bean has a lot to do with crime prevention.

Instead of having a man who represents 170,000 federal public servants in this country out suggesting violence against grandmothers—it is contrary to everything the honourable member for Wellington talks about in the House. When have I ever heard her speak out against the attitudes portrayed by Mr. Daryl Bean, the leader of the Public Service Alliance of Canada? I have not heard that, Mr. Speaker, I have not heard that from the honourable member for Wellington or any other member on that side, including the member for Broadway (Mr. Santos) or the member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis). I believe we need to hear from those honourable members. They need—[interjection]

The honourable member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett), in protecting Daryl Bean and those people who portray his type of attitude, wants to get involved from her seat. Well, I am asking the honourable member for Wellington to get on her feet and have the strength of character to say something about Daryl Bean and to say something to Daryl Bean about his attitudes towards grandmothers working in the federal public service.

I do not think it is right to suggest that grandmothers working in the federal public service who want to work ought to be drowned or hanged, and I would like to hear the honourable member for Wellington say that and join me in calling for the resignation or removal of Mr. Daryl Bean. Mr. Bean is a very powerful individual. He represents many hundreds of thousands of Canadians—does not represent the point of view we on this side of the House want to put across. Does he represent the point of view of the honourable member for Wellington? If not, let the honourable member say so. We have not heard from her today about Daryl Bean.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to move, seconded by the honourable Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ernst),

THAT the Resolution be amended by deleting the first "WHEREAS" clause and deleting all the words after the 5th "WHEREAS" clause, and substituting the following:

WHEREAS the government of Manitoba has introduced such initiatives as the toughest

anti-drinking and driving legislation in North America; and

WHEREAS the government of Manitoba has supported community-based initiatives that focus on and promote the involvement of the community in the fight against crime.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of the Legislative Assembly encourage the government of Manitoba to continue its cooperative efforts with the community at large to reduce and prevent the incidence of crime in Manitoba.

With those brief comments, Mr. Speaker, I would commend this amendment to the attention and support of all honourable members, and I invite honourable members in the New Democratic Party to put Daryl Bean in his place.

Motion presented.

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): I note, Mr. Speaker, with a slight bit of dismay, that the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), as he does on occasion, has managed to crank up the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae) on this particular matter, or perhaps the member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), in some of his comments, but I am approaching this matter in a very serious vein because I think that the resolution was introduced in a serious vein and deserves some serious discussion.

It is regrettable that the particular debate on this particular issue has degenerated to a partisan debate. I believe that the resolution was put forward by the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) in a serious vein, and that the minister's proposals and his amendment were also put forward in a serious vein, but I note that politics has superseded the process in this case.

That is regrettable, because, Mr. Speaker, this is one issue where I thought we could deal with it in a largely nonpartisan sense and perhaps could hear some constructive comments from members on all sides of the House with respect to the issue of crime prevention in general, and the recommendations of the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) dealing with the crime prevention council.

At the onset, I can indicate, Mr. Speaker, that I have been active in politics for well nigh of 20 years, and I have door knocked on a regular basis, and I was struck by an observation I made on my regular door knocking that now when I go door-to-door knocking in my constituency, I note that almost

every single residence and every single habitant has a security system and/or a dog.

It is interesting, because I did not note that even 10 or 15 years ago, and it speaks volumes about the impression and the impact that violence and crime in our society has had on the average citizen. Not only have I noticed it in terms of the observation of the security systems, but I note it in conversations with people, particularly, elderly, that there is a climate of fear.

It may not be as profound or as widely held as in American cities, for example, but because of the effect of the media, because of the effect of particularly gruesome crimes recently, Mr. Speaker, and some of the publicity attached to them, there is a conception and there is a perception of fear. It is particularly felt amongst the poor, and amongst those who have difficulty getting about, and amongst the elderly. I think that is tragic in our society, a society that has prided itself for years on providing a safe environment. I think it is sad and tragic. It is an issue that we have to address as a society as a whole, and we must address in a creative fashion and in a co-operative fashion and not one dealing in a partisan sense.

* (1730)

I too could speak about the recommendations of the AJI and our disappointment about the response of the government, but I will refrain from that for purposes of getting into some of my comments dealing with the resolution and amendment as proposed by the minister.

I do want to touch upon the Pedlar Commission report because it was mentioned by both the minister and the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards). I note that there were a number of recommendations in the Pedlar report with respect to the prevention of crime. I believe that there is truth in the statements of the member for St. James, but that there tends to be a reaction on the part of this particular administration to deal with the enforcement end of crimes or perhaps a preoccupation to deal with the enforcement rather than dealing with some of the preventative measures in dealing with crime. We see that in the Pedlar report.

I just urge the government that they should move quickly to deal with the recommendations, particularly those dealing with a preventative sense. The one that comes to mind most notably is the entire question of counselling and preventative

services provided to individuals who might perpetrate crimes or repeat those very same crimes. We do not go any further ahead by incarcerating someone and then having to go out and incarcerate them again, et cetera. We are not doing justice to society in a fair sense, Mr. Speaker, if we continue that cycle of violence. There are recommendations that we are pleased to have moved on the Pedlar report, but I would certainly urge the government to look at the preventative aspects of the Pedlar report with respect to the prevention of this terrible scourge on our society.

It is ironic today that in the Winnipeg Sun there should be mention of the number of incidents involving handguns in the city of Winnipeg this year: January 6, January 7, January 7—that is twice—February 2, February 8, February 8 and February 13, and an entire two or three pages devoted in The Sun to the issue of violence and weapons in our society.

This only serves to generate fear amongst the public and to be counterproductive to our pulling together and working co-operatively as a society in dealing with violence and in dealing with the perception of violence in our society and adding to this perception of fear that is being felt by many members of our society.

I think as members of this Legislature we should look at these things very, very seriously, because they deal with so much that is entailed in the social fabric of our society; so much of our beliefs have grown up on the basis that we are safe from physical and social harm as well, Mr. Speaker. When that breaks down, the reaction as we have seen in many other jurisdictions, most notably the American South and other jurisdictions, can be tragic.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would approach this particular debate with an open mind. I believe that there are seeds of positive recommendations in what the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) has called for in terms of a crime prevention council, but I am also disappointed that the member spent more of his time criticizing the minister and engaging in rhetoric rather than dealing with the substance of his particular resolution. For example, I do not have a lot of details of this particular council. I listened very closely to the comments of the member for St. James in order to ascertain specifically what he was moving towards.

Unfortunately, he got caught up in the rhetoric; admittedly, I have done so myself in the Chamber,

but he got caught up in the rhetoric, and I was not able to ascertain some of the roles and responsibilities of this council. For example, in his comments, he made mention to the Swedish model and other European models in other jurisdictions. I was hoping, in fact, going into this debate, I had made a note to listen carefully to hear what other jurisdictions were doing, and that is one of my specific questions. What are other jurisdictions doing? What are the experiences that we in Manitoba can learn from in order to implement better approach to crime prevention. Unfortunately, I did not hear what those particular recommendations were. All I heard was, unfortunately, as I indicated earlier, rhetoric.

Further, as the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) predicted, the response from the minister was, as well, predictable, dealing with the whole question of the drinking and driving legislation. I have been in this Chamber now for a year and a half, and I admit to hearing the government response to almost every single initiative. Every single issue of the government response is to come back with their drinking and driving legislation being the toughest in North America.

We admit that. We are supportive of the government's measures. We have gone on record on many occasions in this House of doing that, but let us move on. We can move on. There are other initiatives that can be taken. By falling back on rhetoric, by falling back on what we have done and what the government has done, it does not serve to move the process forward. It does not serve to foster proper debate; it does not result in any progressive or any innovative new approaches to take place.

From my perspective, we have a situation of a relatively valid suggestion from the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), a council which would be of some assistance to the government, I would presume, in terms of crime prevention. We have the government's response saying that money is already funneled in other programs. As I understand, from the minister's comments this afternoon, we do not want to channel money from the actual enforcement and the actual implementation of other government measures into this particular crime prevention council.

Somehow, I think, Mr. Speaker, there may be some answer in the middle. I am not certain if the member for St. James was advocating any great

deal of expenses or money would be spent on this crime prevention council, but, again, the member did not elaborate. I saw it as an advisory body to the minister or to the department, which would be an assistance, an advisory body of experts, who would provide and assist the government with some understanding of other jurisdictions and other measures which might assist in crime prevention.

On its surface that bears some scrutiny, and that bears some positive evaluation because, unfortunately, we have seen in government, with the reduction of government and its employees, an undercutting of the services available to government for things like analysis on a comparative basis. We have seen a mistake, I think, the government has fallen into by eliminating research and policy areas of the government in terms of saving costs. The government has prevented itself from having any kind of insight into other means, into policy analysis or into perhaps policy alternatives that were formerly available to them. The government really has no alternative suggestions available to them other than their own bureaucracy, which has been reduced and which is already overloaded doing other things, and/or members of this side of the House who make suggestions to government, which we know, for the most part, the government generally does not listen to.

By cutting out the infrastructure of government, the government has hindered its own efforts to approach the matter in a creative sense. I think the idea that a type of advisory council, which would be, as I gather, not a major expense item, would be of assistance to the minister in providing him with policy alternatives and suggestions for dealing with crime prevention.

* (1740)

On the surface, again subject to specifics from the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), we do not see any difficulty, particularly because of the fact that the council would bring together experts from the area of housing, social services, education, police and the other individuals involved in the area of justice.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, I think I would go further in terms of the body. I am a little bit suspect on occasions of bodies that are only comprised of "experts." I would see on a council of this kind, again subject to elaboration, because I do not understand precisely what the member had in mind—but this is only my own belief as to what he

was proceeding to do—representation from members of the public, from affected groups, from victims groups and from other interested individuals. There are enough of them around and other members of the public who would provide some kind of meaningful input and assistance to this group to deal with crime prevention.

Mr. Speaker, we see the suggestion, we see the refutation from the minister, but we are in a gray area because we do not have elaboration from the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) as to what the crime prevention council would do. We have only refutation from the government, and dealing with its past practices, we do not have any innovation from the government. I am suggesting that the idea be explored further, particularly if ideas and innovations can be brought to light, can be provided to the government that would allow it to implement new policies that in fact may not cost anything at all, may cost just effort and a little bit of energy. It is certainly worth looking into. I would be interested in hearing what happens in other jurisdictions.

Clearly, though, I would think that, whatever the basis of it, it would have to be community based, it would have to be empowering of the community and it would have to deal with the general public and would not simply be captive of experts at a community council. It would deal with more of a grassroots kind of response, because that is where we are seeing the difficulty and that is where we are hearing the complaints. That is where the problem must be dealt with.

I see that my light is flashing, Mr. Speaker, and on that note I will conclude my comments.

Mr. Edward Connery (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a very short few comments. The member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) wants to close debate on it and he would like about 10 minutes, so I would just have a few comments on the NDP form of justice, what the NDP called justice in their words.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP wax eloquent, they wax pious when they get up in this House and talk about justice, and yet the member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett) obviously does not want to hear the comments about brother Daryl Bean, so one must rush off and not hear it. I think the member for Wellington, who is the critic for the Status of Women, should listen to the comments because they are very pertinent to her critic portfolio.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the NDP talk about members of the unions and themselves as brothers and sisters and embrace each other as being very close to each other. They talk about brother Daryl Bean. The unions do not understand what freedoms and rights are in this country, and the NDP, who are funded by them and actually controlled and run by the unions, embrace their ideas and their doctrines. They do not allow for freedoms within the union movement.

Let me just make a little, short quote here. Actually on October 10, Daryl Bean, president of the 170,000-strong Public Service Alliance of Canada, wrote the same letter to three women, all grandmothers, in which he called them scabs. He called them scabs. The three women are public servants who chose to exercise their freedom to earn a living during the recent nationwide strike by PSAC. Bean's letter quoted this passage—this is a passage from Jack London—to three grandmothers and this is what the quote is. He said: After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad and the vampire, he had some awful stuff left with which he made a scab.

This is a union member who chose to exercise their rights and their freedoms. He says: A scab is a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul and a waterlogged brain and a backbone of jelly and glue. Where others have hearts he carries a tumour of rotten principles. No man has a right to scab as long as there is a pool of water to drown his carcass in or a rope long enough to hang his body with.

Mr. Speaker, when the NDP get up in this house and talk about justice and rights—and the member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett) talks about, the critic for the Status of Women—did we hear one condemnation of that letter that Daryl Bean wrote to three grandmothers? We heard not one comment.

I want to save time for the member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux). I just wanted to put on the record what the NDP feel are rights and freedoms and privileges, but they embrace that sort of viciousness. We saw it in eastern Europe, where they finally threw out the barbarians who acted in this way. There were no freedoms in eastern Europe under the communism regime, and we see people up in the ranks of the NDP who profess Marxism, and so forth, who profess communism. They do believe in it, because this is the same thing we see from Daryl Bean who says you do not have any rights if you are a union member. You have to listen to the dictates of the

leader or else you are a scab. What did they do to them? They even said, you are going to have to pay back the money you earned because they ostracized them out of the union. They ostracized them out of the union for exercising their own freedoms and their rights to earn a living.

Mr. Speaker, when we see the kind of diatribe we get from the NDP, I get pretty upset. I think it was just important that we put back on the record once more the kind of people that they support. Not all union members are this way, but they do. Yes, the member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) sits there and smiles and thinks it is great. Well, this is what they enjoy is when they have control over people, but people do have rights.

I thank you for those few moments to put on the record once again the Daryl Bean story, the man that they call brother, just so that the people of Manitoba know that we on this side of the House, and I think the Liberals also, respect the rights of people. Thank you.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): . . . in terms of Mr. Bean and Mr. Bean's comments, but suffice to say—and I can assure the Chamber that in fact the first opportunity that I do get to debate it at length, possibly on a piece of labour legislation, Mr. Speaker, I will be more than happy to give my opinions and the Liberal Party's opinions on Mr. Bean. Suffice to say that we were less than impressed and would have hoped that Mr. Bean would in fact have done the honourable thing and retracted and, in fact, because he has not done that, the New Democratic Party would have at least disowned Mr. Bean and at least distanced themselves away from those types of comments.

I do want to get to the resolution at hand. You know, Mr. Speaker, at different times—[interjection] I did want to talk about the resolution, and the New Democrats are encouraging me to talk about other things. I do feel that this is an important resolution to talk about.

On numerous occasions the Liberal Party has brought forward recommendations, things that the government could in fact act upon. I take very seriously what the dean of this Chamber, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) and to some degree, maybe not quite as much, but the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), when they talk about it is important for opposition parties to bring forward positive ideas, to bring solutions to problems that we have. I was very encouraged

when the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) was introducing the resolution that in fact the Minister of Health was applauding. The member for St. James has the Minister of Health's support, because I saw the delight and how pleased the Minister of Health was when the member for St. James was introducing the bill. You know what, Mr. Speaker? I think that the Minister of Health would be very disappointed because I did not see him clap when the amendment was brought in.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): I was not here.

Mr. Lamoureux: The Minister of Health says that he was not here. I cannot say that because that would be unparliamentary so I will not say that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Orchard: So I am going to applaud now.

* (1750)

Mr. Lamoureux: He would like to give a retroactive applause. Well, you should hear the amendment before you applaud, to the minister.

As I was saying, the Liberal Party, whether it is through resolutions, whether it is through bills have brought in a number of good ideas. In fact, many would argue—myself and my colleague from St. James—that we have more ideas and more of an agenda than the current government does. We take a look at the throne speech and we do not see anything in terms of ideas.

We are a humble party. We would be more than happy for the government to adopt some of our good Liberal ideas. After all, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice, as the member for St. James pointed out earlier about the drinking and driving legislation, a couple of weeks later he noticed a good thing. When the Liberal Party made a good statement he acted fast. We applaud him for taking that good Liberal idea.

We have yet another good idea relating to that particular department. I would encourage the Attorney General to take it seriously—

An Honourable Member: Absolutely.

Mr. Lamoureux: He says he does—and to support the resolution. It is not necessary, Mr. Speaker, for him to move amendments, to pat himself on the back, because even if we look at the amendment itself, what does he include in the WHEREAS? He talks about the popular Bill 3.

All three political parties in this Chamber support anything that would ensure that we have less people drinking and driving on our roads. There is no doubt in that. The minister himself brought that particular legislation, after it was enunciated from the member for St. James on behalf of the Liberal Party. Then when he brought in the legislation, because he had to do it in such a hurry-up fashion, known as Bill 3, he had to bring in a follow-up bill, that was Bill 58. What was Bill 58? It was in fact all the amendments that the member for St. James proposed, but the minister did not want to give the Liberal Party too much credit so the next time round he brought in a new bill.

I do not know if the member for St. James received any form of remuneration. I would suggest to you that he should have because he put in a lot of time. [interjection] Okay, some say that it might be a conflict. I will withdraw whatever might have been a conflict. It was not my intention to say something that would in fact be a conflict.

Suffice to say, on this particular resolution, that is another good, solid Liberal idea. You know what, it should appeal to the Conservative Party because it is not going to cost them a dime.

Mr. Orchard: There you are.

Mr. Lamoureux: The Minister of Health says, there you are. I really do believe that the Minister of Health supports the resolution as the member for St. James originally proposed it.

I think I believe that had the Attorney General brought it to cabinet or brought it to caucus and debated it, it would have passed, because I have heard the Minister of Health speak inside this Chamber. In listening to the Minister of Health—and I will give credit where it is due—he is a very good speaker. He gets his points across. He gets his message across. He dislikes the New Democrats much in the same fashion as I do. That is not to say that I am a Conservative. I do not want to say anything of that nature or that I would endorse him.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is in fact a good resolution. What does it really do? It brings together a number of volunteers. We have an idea that has really no cost to it. We have other countries, whether it is the United States or France, that are using this idea. France is one of the leaders with the whole concept of a crime prevention council. All we need to do is to look at what is happening in France where we see that the

committee works within the different systems, whether it is education or social services.

Mr. Speaker, the member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak) in a very serious fashion commented in terms of, well, what type of things are actually done? What type of ideas or examples could the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) have cited? I wanted to refer to one, and if you would look in terms of what some of these councils have done and you look in terms of housing—housing is something that I have a major interest in, because it is something that I hold very close to my heart. If we take a look in terms of what some of the recommendations are coming from some of these crime prevention councils from abroad dealing with housing, they talk about nonprofit housing and how you can develop or integrate nonprofit housing so that it will prevent crimes or minimize the amount of crime in the areas.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of things that an organization of this nature can do. We need to have experts coming from the housing and social services, education, our court systems. The member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak) made reference to the average person. I think that we have to look across board at all sectors. We have to take into account that there is an ethnocultural factor to it, that there is a geographical factor that needs to be taken into account.

An Honourable Member: Put it on paper, Kevin.

Mr. Lamoureux: The Attorney General (Mr. McCrae) says to put it on paper. In fact, it is on paper.

An Honourable Member: It looks good on paper.

Mr. Lamoureux: He says it looks good on paper. It would have been more productive for the Attorney General to tell us why it looks good on paper but in reality it would not work, but we did not really hear those comments. Rather, Mr. Speaker, we heard more of a confidence that, as the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) alluded to, in terms of those buzzwords, the things that in fact the minister claims that he has been doing. I trust the member for St. James, who, I know, has done a lot of work and watches very closely what the Attorney General does; and, when he says that he is fairly disappointed, I think that he likely says it with just reason.

I know that the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has asked if he would be able to have a minute or

two to speak on this resolution, and I am somewhat reluctant to give up the floor—[interjection] Mr. Speaker, I know there are other things. There are other good ideas that have been brought forward. I would encourage the government to take all of the resolutions more seriously.

I have said this so many times. It seems every time I stand up to speak on a resolution I am telling them to stop patting themselves on the back, to give some credibility to the resolutions by allowing them to be thoroughly debated, allow them to be debated so the parties can take a position on them, that they do not have to change them, feel free to take hold of the good Liberal ideas. We do not mind even if you want to attempt at taking credit to it.

There are other programs that I would like to talk about. I do want to give the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) at least a minute and a half to be able to say a few words. Having said that, I will conclude my remarks and hope that next time this resolution comes before us, the resolution as proposed from the member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), that it will be voted upon.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, I always want to speak on these resolutions, when they are such good resolutions, that have been proposed by the Liberal second opposition party, but more importantly, when they are so significantly improved by the Justice minister in the crafting of a modest amendment which makes a good resolution even better.

I was greatly disappointed that the member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett) was not able to share with the House, particularly on such an important topic of crime prevention, that she would not express the disgust that she holds for Daryl Bean and his comments of hang 'em or drown 'em when it comes to three grandmothers that dared to contravene the union. I mean, where is the New Democratic Party when it comes to crime prevention, when one of their soul mates, union leaders, are advocating violence against people who happen to disagree with them?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. When this matter is again before the House, the honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) will have 13 minutes remaining.

The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now recessed until eight o'clock.

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Monday, March 2, 1992

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