



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA**

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 6**

**FIRST SESSION, THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE**

**PRAYER**

**1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**

On motion of Hon. Mr. GERRARD, Bill (No. 203) – The Phosphorus-Free Dishwashing Detergent Act/Loi sur les détergents à vaisselle sans phosphore, was read a First Time and had its purposes outlined

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mrs. ROWAT – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation to act on this situation by considering the construction of a 4-lane highway that would bypass around the Village of Forrest. (J. I. Hamilton, P. Bray, B. Phillips and others)

Mrs. TAILLIEU – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Family Services and Housing to consider re-staffing the Social Worker position(s) in Lynn Lake in order to provide needed services to Northwestern Manitoba in a timely manner and to consider mediating outstanding accounts payable due to the Lynn Lake Friendship Centre by Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency in order to allow the Designated Safe House and Receiving Home to resume regular operations and services, and continued utilization of these operations and services. (C. Sewap, S. Sewap, A. Campbell and others).

Mr. CULLEN – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Minister for Infrastructure and Transportation to consider implementing a speed zone on Provincial Trunk Highway #2 adjacent to the Village of Glenboro. (V. Young, J. George, N. Patterson and others)

Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK presented:

Annual Report of The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation for the fiscal year ending February 28, 2007.

(Sessional Paper No. 11)

Hon. Mr. SELINGER presented:

Annual Report of the Crown Corporations Council for the year ending December 31, 2006.

(Sessional Paper No. 12)

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker made the following ruling:

After the Prayer on June 6, 2007, the Honourable Member for Inkster raised a point of order regarding circulation of copies of the Throne Speech and asked whether it was the proper procedure and tradition of the House for the Throne Speech to be circulated before the Throne Speech has been completed. I took the matter under advisement in order to consult the procedural authorities.

The Honourable Member for Inkster has raised an interesting point, and I would like to share with the House the dilemma that the Speaker is facing regarding this matter. Generally, when items are distributed or made available to Members, they are items that in fact have been tabled in the House, and once tabled, copies are officially available to Members. Examples of items that fall into this category include legislation that is introduced, annual reports of crown agencies and government departments and special operating agencies, annual reports of Independent Officers of the Legislature, tabled papers and sessional papers. Even in the case of the budget, copies of the budget address and the departmental estimates are tabled in the House and provided to the caucus offices for Members as soon as the budget address is completed.

Yet, in the case of the Speech from the Throne, this item is a bit of an anomaly in that no copy of the Speech is officially tabled, though the speech does appear verbatim in Hansard and in the Votes and Proceedings after the fact. As a courtesy, a copy of the Speech from the Throne is provided to the Leader of the Official Opposition and to the Honourable Member for River Heights after the Throne Speech has been presented by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, but no other copies are provided to Members.

I am aware that the government may also be providing copies of the Throne Speech to the media, but this distribution to the media is not carried out by the House and is not done by House staff. In addition, there are no formal rules and practices of the House that dictate when the government is free to release the Throne Speech.

In the past, I ruled on March 21, 2005, that copies of legislation should not be provided to the media before being provided to Members in the House. I also ruled on September 8, 2003 that although it was not a matter of privilege that the media appeared to have copies of the Auditor General's report on the Dakota Tipi First Nation Gaming Commission, I did take steps with the Independent Officers of the House to ensure that Members received copies before the media and that 9 copies would be provided for tabling instead of the customary 3 copies. Again, I note that in the case of the Throne Speech, copies are not tabled or given to Members, so I must rule there is no rule or practice that the Speaker could be enforcing in this instance; however the government might wish to reflect on this for the future. In addition, if this issue is one of concern to Members, it could be raised at a meeting of the Standing Committee on the Rules of the House.

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Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Messrs. MAGUIRE, MALOWAY, PEDERSEN and JHA and Hon. Mr. GERRARD made Members' Statements.

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The House resolving into Committee of Supply. The Proceedings, by leave, were temporarily interrupted to permit Mr. Speaker to resume the Chair.

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**Wednesday, June 13, 2007**

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And the House continuing in Committee.

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By unanimous consent, it was agreed that the House will not sit on Thursday, June 14, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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The House then adjourned at 5:27 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Thursday, June 14, 2007.

Hon. George HICKES,  
Speaker.