



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 25

THIRD SESSION, THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

On motion of Hon. Ms. ALLAN, Bill (No.17) – The Workers Compensation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les accidents du travail, was read a First Time and had its purposes outlined.

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mr. SCHULER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request that the Minister of Transportation consider the immediate twinning of the PTH #15 Floodway Bridge for the safety of the citizens of Manitoba. (C. Carswell, E. Prysizney, N. Garand and others)

Mr. DYCK – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Health to strongly consider giving priority for funding to develop and staff a new 100 bed long-term-care facility so that clients are not exposed to unsafe conditions and so that Boundary Trails Health Centre beds remain available for acute care patients instead of waiting placement clients. (B. Rampton, B. Billing, L. Thiessen and others)

Mr. LAMOUREUX – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request that the Premier of Manitoba consider how important it is to have the Seven Oaks Hospital provide full emergency services seven days a week 24 hours a day. (P. Sousa, R. Mouton, K. Mercado and others)

Hon. Mr. ASHTON, the Minister responsible for Emergency Measures, made a statement regarding the flood conditions throughout the Province of Manitoba,

Mr. MCFADYEN and, by leave, Hon. Mr. GERRARD commented on the statement.

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Mrs. ROWAT, Ms. BRICK, Messrs. EICHLER and WHITEHEAD and Hon. Mr. GERRARD made Members' Statements.

Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK presented:

Sequence for consideration of the Estimates by the Committee of Supply, both in the Chamber and outside the Chamber.

(Sessional Paper No. 39)

The House resumed the Interrupted Debate on the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER:

THAT this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

And the proposed amendment moved by Mr. MCFADYEN as follows:

That the Motion be amended by deleting all the words after "House" and substituting:

therefore regrets that this budget fails to address the priorities of Manitobans by:

(a) increasing our province's debt to an all time high of \$21.1 billion, which creates a credit card bill of \$18,380, for every man, woman and child in the province. Hard working Manitoba families will be forced to pay off this bill in the months and years ahead; and

(b) gambling with incomes and social programs by increasing our dependence on Ottawa handouts to a record level of \$3.8 billion, more than double the handouts we received in 1999, which is like a family with a \$60,000 income relying on neighbours for \$22,000 a year, when those neighbours are now in serious financial trouble; and

(c) running a deficit, and misleadingly calling it a surplus, by using the misleading accounting practise of calling Crown income "revenue" when in fact that income is not available to government because it is required to meet obligations such as Manitoba Hydro's record \$7.4 billion long-term debt; and

(d) attempting to introduce a new misleading accounting practise with a proposal to reduce by over 80 percent the minimum payment on Manitoba's credit card debt, taking that repayment to \$17.54 per person this year on a bill of \$18,380; and

(e) failing to announce a plan to tackle corruption, waste and mismanagement within government by:

(i) endorsing the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority "brown envelope" tendering scheme; and

(ii) failing to repeal the "vote tax," leaving the New Democratic Party in line to pocket one million dollars over four years at the expense of Manitoba taxpayers; and

(iii) failing to cancel the reckless and environmentally harmful west side BiPole III project and instead proceed with the east side line, which is supported by the vast majority; would protect the Boreal forest; would protect the Riding Mountain UNESCO biosphere reserve, provide a far more reliable back up to BiPole I and II; save forty megawatts of line loss which will allow for the closure of a coal-fired power plant and save Manitoba Hydro ratepayers a minimum of \$640 million or \$2,000 for every family in the province; and

(f) failing to offer a plan to create opportunity and wealth, so Manitobans can feel hope that we will one day emerge from the hole of debt and dependency and see a brighter future.

As a consequence, the government has thereby lost the confidence of this House and the people of Manitoba.

And the proposed sub-amendment moved by Hon. Mr. GERRARD as follows:

THAT the amendment be amended by adding thereto the following words:

And further regrets that this budget fails to address the priorities of Manitobans by:

(g) failure to put patients first by continuing to base RHA spending on global budgets rather than services delivered; and

(h) failure to provide full emergency services at our community hospitals, including Seven Oaks; and

(i) failure to account for the health care costs of the diabetes epidemic; and

(j) neglecting the need to address the diabetes epidemic facing Manitoba; and

(k) failure to consider historical recession data from the 1990s in projecting corporation income tax levels; and

(l) continuing to ignore the need to set targets for cleaning up Lake Winnipeg and other Manitoba lakes suffering from toxic alga blooms; and

(m) failure to address climate change by running a carbon-neutral government; and

(n) failing to mention rapid transit in the budget speech; and

(o) failure to implement a plan to reduce child poverty rates in Manitoba; and

(p) failing to create an adequate action plan and funding for early childhood education in Manitoba; and

(q) failure to support the agricultural sector by refusing to fund eco-friendly farming practices such as a province-wide ALUS program and;

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- (r) refusing to acknowledge the damage the payroll tax has on economic growth; and
- (s) failure to act on economic development for First Nations and rural Manitobans; and
- (t) failure to support reductions in wait times for post-secondary institutions; and
- (u) failure to recognize the need for, and address the establishment of, a Manitoba Science, Engineering and Humanities Research Council; and
- (v) failure to address Northern Manitoba housing issues;

And the debate continuing on the sub-amendment,

And Mrs. ROWAT, Hon. Mr. BJORNSON, Mr. LAMOUREUX, Ms. BRICK, Mr. HAWRANIK and Ms. SELBY having spoken.

And Mrs. TAILLIEU speaking at 5:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in her name.

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 16, 2009.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.