

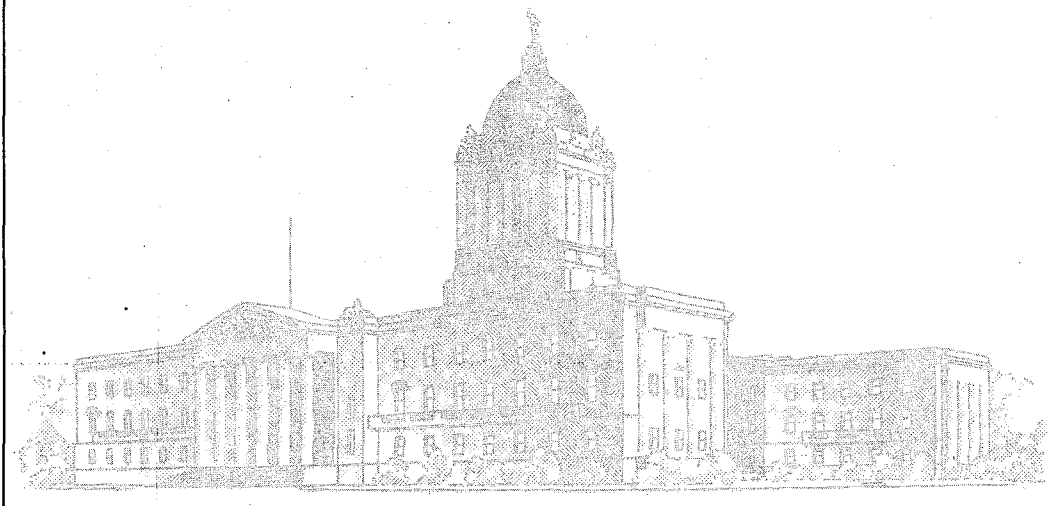


Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Monday, February 29th, 1960

Opening prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions
Reading and Receiving Petitions.
Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees
Notice of Motion
Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Member for Osborne.

MR. O. BAIZLEY (Osborne) introduced Bill No. 98, An Act to Provide for Certain Exceptions to the Lord's Day Act (Canada).

HON. STEWART E. McLEAN (Minister of Education) (Dauphin) introduced Bill No. 102, An Act to Amend The Public Libraries Act (2).

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

HON. MAURICE E. RIDLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I would like to table the first Annual Report of the Municipal Board for the period for the year ending December 31st, 1959.

MR. M. E. McKELLAR (Souris-Lansdowne): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I would like to inform this House that Saturday and Sunday the Legion curling play-downs for Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario were played in the Town of Souris with President Jim Nicholson and members of the Souris Branch #60 acting as hosts. Eight rinks representing their eight command zones played off for the Marsh Peters Trophy, and the Gordon Taylor rink from the Rivers Branch winning out. They will be the representatives from this command at the Dominion Legion curling finals at Summerside, P.E.I. I would like at this time to congratulate the winning rink and wish them continued success in their games at Summerside. Saturday evening I had the pleasure of attending a wonderful banquet in the Oddfellows Hall in Souris in honour of their guests, which is served by the Ladies Branch of the Souris Legion.

HON. GEORGE HUTTON (Minister of Agriculture) (Rockwood-Iberville): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I would like to table a motion to an address to the House of February 22nd, on a motion by the Honourable Member for St. George.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

HON. J. B. CARROLL (Minister of Public Utilities & Labour) (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I would like to lay on the table of the House the Annual Report of the Municipal and Public Utility Board for the year ending December 31st, 1959, and the report of the Workmen's Compensation Board for the year ending 1959.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to comment very briefly on a newspaper report appearing in the Winnipeg Free Press Saturday, February 17th, dealing with TV. MTS blamed for delay in north network. I bring this article to the attention of the House and wish to suggest that it's unfortunate that it has been published in view of the fact that it contains a great many inaccuracies that I feel should be cleared up at this time.

MR. D. L. CAMPBELL (Leader of the Opposition) (Lakeside):..... on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. We're quite aware I'm sure, according to the Rules of the House, that a statement by the Minister concerning government policy or something of that sort is quite in order but I would submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that if the Honourable the Minister is making a statement dealing with a newspaper report, if you allow him to make that statement that it would be only proper to allow us on this side of the House to also speak on the matter, because I'm quite sure it does not come under the heading of statements which can be brought up by the Minister before Orders of the Day.

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Attorney-General) (Fort Garry): on a point of order, of course, the Minister or anyone else may at any time on a question of privilege rise and speak to the House in connection with certain material which may have appeared in a newspaper and the contents of which he wishes to correct. Particularly is that so in the case of a Minister of the Crown. I think perhaps that is what my honourable colleague is attempting to do.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, if it is then I would submit to you that there is not a question of privilege involved.

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier) (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, if the House will hear the

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd) statements I think the Minister will conclude his comment on this by making a statement as to government policy with respect to this matter so that it would come under the rule in that case.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, I submit on a point of order that it would not come under the rule in that case. I further submit that if the Honourable Minister is going to make a statement arising out of a newspaper report then that we have the right to debate it too.

MR. ROBLIN: It's not a question of debate, Mr. Speaker. It's a question of setting the facts right and stating what government policy is in this matter. I think that it is in order on those grounds.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I'm sure that you are more familiar with this than the rest of us but the question of a statement of government policy which can be made before the Orders of the Day is a statement of government policy that has appeared for the first time and is not in connection with a newspaper report that has alleged some facts regarding a policy.

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of the CCF) (Radisson): May I suggest to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, that where the Minister rising on a point of privilege of an incorrect statement attributed by the Press to him then it becomes a point of privilege, but I must agree with the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition that in this case it would not be a point of privilege, and I also agree, however, that if the Minister wanted to give a statement of policy which may be in direct opposition to the article that appeared in the paper then it would be but on the point of privilege I think is incorrectly taken, arising out of a newspaper report of February 17th, and again I suggest that the point of privilege would be, had the paper misquoted the Minister.

MR. ROBLIN: Well in that case, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing to prevent the Minister from making his statement of policy which he could do.

MR. CAMPBELL: agree with that so long as he does not include the newspaper article.

MR. CARROLL: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the statement of policy would have very little meaning in this House if it did not refer to certain mis-statements which have appeared in the Press and I feel that this is certainly as much a part of my statement as the statement itself. Now appearing in this newspaper article it said that the

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, I raise the point of order if my honourable friend is going to continue with the newspaper report.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member confine his remarks to policy and if the policy

MR. CARROLL: I'd be very glad to confine my remarks, Mr. Speaker, to the statement of government policy with respect to television.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it was announced first in this House about a year ago that the government were pursuing a policy of expansion of television service and we would make available for that purpose the services of the Manitoba Telephone System on a long-term contract basis. And this would include the write-off of that equipment over a substantial period of time. The period of time which is considered normal by the Trans Canada Telephone System and other communication systems is a period of 15 years and this is the policy which the MTS are using in any rates which they may be quoting for the extension of television service.

In connection with the extension of this service, the CBC will undertake to provide network services, providing it meets their policy and their policy at the particular time appears to be in the order of eight to nine dollars per television home. And this is the extent to which they are prepared to participate at this time and insofar as our system will meet these requirements then we will co-operate with the CBC in the extension of this service.

Now recently it was announced that the CBC were applying for a television outlet in the City of Edmonton. We of the government have taken action on this particular announcement and have protested the extension of this service, as long as there are areas in our province which do not have the television network service. Our negotiations with the CBC have continued for the past year quite actively. We have just recently been in touch with the CBC -- in fact this morning we were discussing their policy of extension in our province and we are arranging to meet with them at an early date and we expect that within the next two or three weeks to be

(Mr. Carroll, cont'd).....meeting, possibly in Ottawa, to discuss our further actions with respect to television.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Orders for Return. The Honourable Leader of the CCF Party.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I formally moved this motion the other day and at the request of the Minister of Provincial Secretary it stood pending the return of the Honourable the Minister of Public Utilities. Do you wish me to formally make it again or....

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreeable that the order stands?

MR. PAULLEY: But it did stand pending the return of the Honourable the Minister but I can formally present it again, Mr. Speaker, if you so desire. I just don't know how this stands.

MR. SPEAKER:necessary to stand it again.

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Provincial Secretary) (Fort Rouge): I wonder if you would consider, Sir, that the motion is properly on the Order Paper following the last session of the House and that it might be in order for me to say that I have consulted my colleague, the Minister of Public Utilities; he has no objection to the return and we're glad to accept it.

MR. PAULLEY: Then I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it just pass.

MR. SPEAKER:have to put the motion again.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Fisher than an order of the House do issue for a Return showing: 1. Copies of all correspondence directed from the Public Utility Board and/or The Province of Manitoba to the National Energy Board in respect of the export of natural gas. 2. Copy of all briefs presented by the Utility Board and/or The Province of Manitoba in respect of the above to the National Energy Board. 3. Answers to the question, "Was there any representation made to the National Energy Board regarding the export of natural gas by the Utility Board, or the Province? If not, why not?"

Mr. Speaker put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the motion of the Honourable the First Minister. The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. ARTHUR E. WRIGHT (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few observations on the second reading of this Bill No. 62, especially since having heard the other night from the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. And I can well appreciate his feelings because of the constituency that he represents, but I would like to talk about my constituency in relation to this proposed bill.

When we were asked to submit a brief to the investigating commission we said at the beginning that we did it with mixed emotion because in our community of Seven Oaks we had very rapid expansion from 1946 to 56. A period in which we asked our taxpayers to provide for schools over short term; the paving of streets, sewer and water mains and the like, which placed a very severe load on them. We would appreciate and congratulate the government for their initiative in sponsoring this bill but we have certain reservations about it and this is what I really wanted to talk about. For instance, we notice at the beginning that while the government is taking the initiative it is not contributing in setting up this Metro Government, nor will it continue to contribute after it has been set up. The matter of voting too, is of some concern. I feel like the Honourable Member for St. Boniface that the multiple vote system would not be agreed to by our people -- they would prefer the single vote I'm sure. I think the matter of boundaries is of utmost importance and we await with interest to see just how these will be made up because I think that much of the success of the Metropolitan plan, especially in the immediate future, will be the wisdom with which these boundaries are arrived at.

Another matter of concern to us will be the matter of the fiscal year because it says that the Metro authority can assess any municipality at the beginning of the year regardless or not whether they have collected the taxes and have imposed a penalty of 1% per month against this corporation that fails to contribute. And we would, I'm sure, suggest that the fiscal year be changed say to April, instead of the first of the year, because very few municipal corporations ever have their tax notices out before April or May. So that would be something else that we would certainly want to look at.

In regard to the Honourable Member for St. Boniface and the attitude that he took

(Mr. Wright, cont'd)....towards this Bill, I would say this. There's going to have to be a lot of give and take in this matter and I can think of no better thing to quote than a quotation we made in presenting our brief from West Kildonan to the investigating commission, and it was, as I said before, it was with some reluctance that we were even interested in considering submitting a brief at the beginning because we had gone through such a period of building and heavy taxation that -- I might say at one time we had considered when we had practically nothing, it would have been a wonderful thing for the City of Winnipeg to simply have annexed West Kildonan, but having provided new schools, roads, lanes, and having a community which is fully improved today, it is with a lot of hesitation that we view this business of metro.

Now we know that we should have a metropolitan authority when it comes to parks because we all share them. The same applies to bridges -- we are going to use them; we wouldn't expect that East Kildonan should be the only contributor to a bridge which we are eventually going to use so we go along with that and our brief says that accordingly. Now we did use a case at the beginning of our brief which was taken -- this case in point was an application by the City of Brantford for the annexation of 7900 acres of land from Brantford Township and the Board approved the application over the strong protests of the township. "A Municipal Corporation does not exist for its own sake", and I'm quoting, "it is created primarily to provide and maintain essential local services required by the area which, for the time being, is included in its boundaries. It has no claim to the lands in that area which is comparable to the interests of the owner. If conditions in that area change to the extent that the municipal services required can be more effectively or economically provided by an adjoining municipality, nothing is lost or gained except the duty and responsibility of providing the necessary services. If the cost of supplying these services is less than the tax revenue derived there may be a loss in one sense, but is it a loss which gives the remaining municipality any just cause for complaint? In the present case the vital question is not whether one municipality or the other has a greater need for the area in question; it is much more a question of whether the area needs one of the municipalities more than the other." That was a quote from the verdict of the courts in regard to the annexation of that property. And we said in our brief that we were impressed with the wisdom of that decision and in looking at this question of metro -- as I said before, after having gone through this trial period of heavy costs we're trying to see its wisdom.

Now another thing I would like to mention, Mr. Speaker, is that in the suburbs we have had some very very dedicated and devoted public servants. I don't think we could have made the progress from 1946 to 56, those tremendous ten years, had it not been for dedicated people. And having talked to them about metro they go along with the idea very well because they realize it is an unselfish principle that eventually we're going to have to have metro as long as the cost isn't too great for the next few years. But they are very concerned as to what's going to happen to them personally -- people we have -- our Fire Chief, Police Chiefs and our assessors and that -- they're very anxious to know and I would submit that we should do everything possible to let these people know just where they are going to fit into the picture. Now I know that's difficult but I think we should make every effort to do that because it would seem a tragedy to me too, after having had the pleasure of working with these devoted people who as I said before are really responsible for the great growth around Greater Winnipeg, that we should let them know where they will fit into the picture.

Now the Honourable Member for St. Boniface said that he didn't think there was any room for co-operation between the municipalities and metro and he stressed the fact that we should have the inter-municipal committee. Well, we've had that for the years that I was in public life. In 1946 we had seen the wisdom of putting in the water lines from Shoal Lake -- 100 miles on an inter-municipal basis -- and I think it's wise that we should include this into the beginning of metro because we have things like the Sanitary District, the Mosquito Abatement, Civil Defence and the like now, which is practically on a Metro basis. But I don't go along with him that we should still continue this on an inter-municipal basis because after all we are growing up now and I might submit to the Honourable Member for St. Boniface that while I can appreciate his feelings in regard to his city, which he has every right to be proud of, I would like to say this very definitely, that in my opinion, had we had a Metro authority when the North Star Oil Refinery was contemplated for that area, it simply wouldn't be where it is today. Because

(Mr. Wright, cont'd).....I told my good friend the late Ed Hansford on a trip to the Mayor's Federation in Windsor, I said, "Ed, you know, you have done irreparable damage to the City of Winnipeg in the Elmwood district by placing that oil refinery there. And while you consider it to be on the outskirts of St. Boniface, had we metropolitan authority for planning in Greater Winnipeg, that would not have been possible." And these mistakes will happen if we do not have an overall metro government.

On my visit to Toronto to study metropolitan government three or four years ago I went to Scarborough and looked at some of the problems they had there. Well we haven't arrived at the point here where we have acquired all these problems, but we will, and we should learn from the experience of others. For instance, in going there I was soon to find out that Scarborough enjoys a lakefront and the water rights, so that, I believe it was York, is it -- North York, when they wanted water they could only get it at the pleasure of Scarborough. And, on the other hand, when Scarborough wanted garbage disposal sites they had to go to North York and ask them for disposal sites. So there was a continual bickering and fighting, one trying to take full advantage of what they had, until the metro authority came in and like a mother with a bunch of quarrelling children, decided what was right, and I submit to the Honourable Member from St. Boniface again, what was right for the whole area not for one or the other, but what was right for the whole area.

Well we're growing up here now, and when we see our improvement in roads and by-passes and the like in the greater metropolitan area, it seems only sensible that we are going to eventually have to have some metropolitan control. I appreciate the start that the government has made on it. I would have reservations about taking in police and fire at the present time, not because we don't think it would be the right thing to do, but because we think that by taking in police and fire immediately we would place greater financial strain upon our taxpayers who have been so wonderful in accepting these burdens of taxation knowing full well that for education and such like that we had to have these things. But we must remember too that in developing our community over the 10 or 12 years that I was there that we, in many cases, had people who had pioneered the district, had raised their families and put up with lack of sewer, facilities, roads, and then when they were on old age pension they found the community around them improving to the extent when the cost practically drove them from the community which they loved so well. I would say that having now paid for all these things and making a community of which they are proud, we should be a little reasonable. I don't think that we, at the present time, require the elaborate police requirements of the City of Winnipeg. I know we need a metropolitan detective force because we have set it out in our brief. We cannot expect local police forces to investigate such things as bank robberies or criminal cases and this could well be turned over to a metropolitan detective force. But for the ordinary by-laws of a community which is predominantly residential, I think that the present efficient forces that we have now will do until we get our bearings. Eventually I think yes, we have to have metropolitan services, police and fire, but I do think the government have, in their wisdom, not included these.

Now having said that, Mr. Speaker, I don't think I can add any more to what -- to once again appeal, especially to the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, that I can understand how he feels now but I think if he would look ahead 10 or 12 years from now that he would realize that what is best for the whole area is what we should be doing.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. E. PREFONTAINE (Carillon): Mr. Speaker, I rise to take part in this debate and I would like the honourable the members to believe that I am doing so with the full knowledge that it is a very important subject. I would like to approach it with the point of view as recommended by the First Minister that we should take a large and constructive look at this proposal that the government has before us. And it is even more so because of the fact that I happen to represent in this House a rural constituency where the matter is of relatively small importance. I realize, on the other hand, that as an elected MLA I have a duty to perform.

This is, to my mind, the most important legislation that has been brought before this House for a long, long time. It involves the way of life of more than half the people of this province. We have before us a bill that proposes to impose on the people of Winnipeg a form of government that is new, that is untried as far as we are concerned, that is costly and that eventually will lead, to my mind, to complete amalgamation. And I for one do not believe in

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd).....complete amalgamation. I have studied the reports of the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and the report of the Ontario Municipal Board when they established that system for Toronto. I have studied the report of our own Royal Commission. I have studied the brief presented by all the municipalities in this area to the Royal Commission on Education. I know that in certain jurisdictions commissions have recommended amalgamation, with respect to Calgary, with respect to Edmonton, with respect to Brantford, but, to my mind, I think that amalgamation for our situation is not good and I wholly agree with the statement made by the First Minister the other day, and I would like to quote it because I believe it is very important: "I must say that there is room for argument with those who believe that centralization in itself is a good thing, that centralization in itself is the virtue that is to be sought. Well, I can say that one must admit there is an argument for economy in complete centralization. Let's say there is an argument for economy. It doesn't necessarily follow that it will be realized and there is also an argument that a certain degree of technical efficiency will flow from 100 percent metropolitan government. But I think one has to consider very carefully whether or not that arrangement is worth the sacrifice that would be entailed in respect of the local authorities that we have now, because these local authorities are not just creations of the Legislature. In the course of time they have come to have almost a corporeal body and soul, that they have a distinct personality of their own and that they have a life and a history and a tradition which has become part of the life and history and tradition of the people that live in these particular areas. And there is a virtue in local effort and in local enthusiasm and in local sentiment which are very important human values which one does not want lightly to do away with in legislation of this sort." This is page 667. And this, Sir, I agree wholly with. It's much better stated that I could state it myself.

I would like to quote from the Ontario Municipal Board with respect to the Toronto situation. They decided against total amalgamation in the Toronto area and here is a quotation from them: "On the whole the Board must agree with the main contention of the respondents"- that's the 13 municipalities - "that although the type of government proposed by the city" - that's amalgamation - "might be strong, efficient and well organized, it would not be a local government." Before this the Municipal Board had praised the municipal men from the surrounding municipalities who had made presentations. I might quote one sentence, "Nor can the Board in any way agree with the somewhat cynical view that the appointed and elected officials of the local municipalities were, after all, merely protecting their own positions." The Board heard the evidence and observed the demeanour of a succession of apparently competent and intelligent local municipal leaders and officials and it is convinced on the whole evidence that they were all genuinely alarmed at the prospect of the complete dissolution of a form of government which whatever deficiencies with respect to the need of the larger area, was in their view, serving an important and useful purpose in providing the kind of local government needed and desired by the local communities. And I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that we must preserve local autonomy to the greatest possible degree in this metropolitan area and that we should not take at this time, a step that would lead us directly to total amalgamation and I do believe that the step we are taking now, if this bill is passed and approved, we are taking a step that will lead us directly towards total amalgamation. And this is an opinion that seems to be shared by those who have studied the bill closely. Of course if we did go into - if this means total amalgamation we can say that we were warned by the experience of Toronto. Metropolitan Toronto is bound to disappear, seems to be the opinion of many observers. When they went to the system of metropolitan government in Toronto they had nothing compared to what we have now in Manitoba. They had no single inter-municipal body to take care of water and sewage and transportation. They had nothing at all. And the brief of the City of Winnipeg presented to the Royal Commission on metropolitan government states exactly so, that Toronto was not in the situation at all that we are in over here. In no city of any size like the City of Winnipeg and its suburbs has there been closer co-operation. There are.....services that are rendered on an inter-municipal basis in this city.

And what's happening in Toronto? The first year after the plan was adopted in 1954 amendments were made by the Legislature to include more services. The second year three very important services were added and put under the powers and responsibilities of a metro government. And may I quote from the Winnipeg brief and the title is "Toronto Experience

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd)....With Metropolitan Federation." "Discussions with officials both elected and appointed in the Toronto area are very enlightening. The opinion seems to be almost unanimous that while the 1954 scheme affected improvement over the previous unco-ordinated structure, nevertheless in less than three years of operation several important weaknesses have become apparent. Many officials both elected and appointed have expressed the opinion that it will be only a few years until Toronto abandons the two-level system and sets up a single administration for the whole area. It is clear that opinion in Toronto is concerned mainly with discussion of the desirability of moving from their present structure into a complete amalgamation and that a considerable body of opinion holds views favourable to amalgamation." That's the situation down there. What prevents total amalgamation is the type of government set up under Metro Toronto because all municipal councils are represented on the administration of the set-up down there. It has a tendency to keep the thinking along local municipal lines and this is not proposed at all in our Bill. The man in charge of the metro system in this area will be elected at large with no contact, no connection at all with local councils. That means that the people of Winnipeg will be led to believe that to think in terms of the whole Greater Winnipeg area, it will slowly but surely pave the way towards total amalgamation.

I would like to quote from a member of the Conservative party, the man who moved the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I suppose he was just fresh from caucus meeting; he had something to say with respect to metro government. And I quote from page 8 of Hansard, "The government has had the courage to provide the leadership necessary to start this project, new to Western Canada, and so essential in my opinion to the long-range well-being of the people of Greater Winnipeg. The government's plan for providing Metropolitan Government to the Greater Winnipeg area is in my opinion a good one and I think one which all members of this House will approve." There was an interjection; a member said "What is it?" "Mr. Groves: That we will be letting you know later on." That we will be letting you know later on. I insist on the "we". "Improvements I am sure will come from our dealing with the details in Committee. Newspaper reports tell us that all services will not be brought under metro, that some will be left out." He knew that from newspaper reports, apparently, or he didn't want to tell us if he knew it otherwise. To carry on my quotation, "Let us however keep this in mind. If we leave out political considerations and inter-municipal jealousies and rivalries, surely we must all agree, looking at this problem from the common sense point of view, that Greater Winnipeg is not too large to be governed eventually, and I emphasize eventually, by one authority." There's one sentence that I might read but it doesn't concern the context very much. "Not amalgamation or absorption of the suburbs by the City of Winnipeg but a 50-50 partnership of both for the ultimate benefit of all." But here is the most important sentence: "I sincerely believe that, with the proposed legislation as a start," - a stage he might have said - "the benefits of one administration in time, will be apparent to all the councils concerned, and I predict their co-operation in establishing in this Greater Winnipeg area a model of municipal government that will be copied many times by others in the years ahead." This is an indication to me that at the caucuses at that party, it was evident that this would lead to total amalgamation. And I would like to quote from the Winnipeg Free Press of Thursday, February the 18th, 1960; a two-column editorial with the title, "One City". And this is after the First Minister read his announcement in the House. "The Roblin Government has taken the long step toward creating a single government for the Greater Winnipeg area." And at the last paragraph is this one: "Other metropolitan plans on this continent makes little or no provision for ultimate single city government, yet this is the logical goal and the path toward it is one which every last Canadian and American city must eventually follow if they are to be efficiently governed. Mr. Roblin and his colleagues have evidently recognized that fact and for this they deserve full marks." What fact? That all cities should lead towards this goal of one government.

I might quote also from the Winnipeg Tribune; our good friend Mr. McGillivray has something that is quite illuminating in this regard. "By giving the Winnipeg Metro Council direct election for a four year term, the Roblin plan should make Winnipeg Metro a constant reminder that all the municipalities are part of one community." To me this is the important thing. We have a system proposed to us of administration where the municipalities themselves

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd).....do not come in at all. Absolutely independent and divorced from the local municipalities. And this will make the people think in terms of a big city. This is paving the way for a big city. I agree with the Free Press; I agree with the previous speakers, the Leader of the CCF Party, that this is really paving the way. No other city has done the same and it will not be long, to my way of thinking, that we will have total amalgamation, but to my mind this will have cost the Greater Winnipeg taxpayers a lot of money because we are entering into a system which will be very costly. Within a year Metro Council will have to rent a huge building, a big building, or construct one to house all the assessment evaluators and their planners and their engineers. There might be some duplication, there is some duplication in Toronto. And this Council to be composed of some 10 members elected at large is given the widest power that I know of. The City of Winnipeg was not given those powers by this Legislature at any time. They'll be just elected, on what program I don't know, but they'll be given a blank cheque, they will be given the power to ask every local municipality to collect taxes for them. I suppose they will be subject to a certain approval by the Municipal Board but they won't have to go to taxpayers, to the ratepayers at all. And this power has not been given in the Province of Manitoba to anyone that I know of. This will be the first time. Absolute powers by 10 men. These men will be elected without consideration to local municipal boundaries at all, elected at large. And I say that this is altogether too much of a power to give to these people and it's contrary to our established system of government in this province. And I say the term of four years, it's altogether too long. We have a term of four or five years in this Legislature but we are operating under the party system which is altogether different. The Cabinet Ministers have to have their estimates approved by this House, and this is a check and this keeps the Ministers on their toes. But under the other system there is no such check; it's only the electors. We have a system now in the city, the election every two years, so that the electors can at least check the actions of their representatives. But to suggest a four year term for these representatives, representing 45,000 people. I say it's wrong. And I say that there'll be no continuation. Suppose the 10 are just defeated at the same time, what would we have? Just officials operating the Metro system? This super-government in our Greater Winnipeg area, I do not think that it is right.

There are other objections that I would possibly like to bring. The power with respect to this area of 5 miles surrounding Winnipeg, with respect to the use of the land. It seems to me that it's illogical that Metro should be given the power to tell the farmer that he cannot build this or that building on his farm, that he cannot sell this land or at least the purchaser will have to before buying the land, go to Metro and find out whether he can build something, a motel or something on that land. Is not a man the master on his own land, in his own home any more in this province? This seems to me a very arbitrary power that is given to this Metro. The Metro, it is made clear in the Bill, that it will be super other municipalities with respect to finance. Financially independent of local authority, but local authorities will not be financially independent, because they won't be able to borrow money without going to the municipal board and at that time Metro will be there and raise objections. Suppose they wanted something which to them is just reasonable but it might appear to be unreasonable to Metro. They will have, in a sense, in a way, the power of veto. With respect to schools, the school board will not be able to build a school where it wants to at all. It will have to get the approval of Metro. And it will not have the power to build the type of school they would like. Of course they have to submit their approval to the Minister of Education if they want to get grants, but now with respect to money, they will have to go to Metro and Metro might say well, this school would cost too much; our ratepayers, because they are ratepayers of Metro, are at the same time the ratepayers of the school boards and the municipalities. Metro will have priority over every municipality in this Greater Winnipeg area with respect to finance. And it will have that power without going to ratepayers at any time, according to the Bill; can do it on their own. And I think this is going too far, Mr. Speaker. I do not approve of that.

With respect to assessment. That might entail the curtailing of the powers of the municipality, the assessment and the powers these parties have now to relief from taxation, certain buildings at their pleasure. Now they will be deprived of that authority. Metro alone will be able to do that. Mr. Speaker, this Bill goes much further than many people in this province think, many people in this area. And I say that we should not pass it lightly. I say that it

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd).....should not be compulsory on the people of this area. Now, it might be that the representatives of Greater Winnipeg might have something to say or might be called to order or their conduct on this vote now might be challenged by their electors when the time comes. But what about the rural MLAs taking upon themselves the responsibility of saying to 450,000 people in this area, that's what will take place - a second level of government and aren't we governed already enough in this country of ours? Federal government, provincial, municipal government, school boards and how many others? Oh I know, there's an answer to that but I say that there is a cure to the certain difficulties which are not so great and this cure has been recommended by the 10 municipalities in their brief to the Royal Commission on Metro. And I will discuss this solution in a few moments. And there is another way out to my mind, and I am speaking, truly recognizing my position in this House. I'm not tied up with respect to my constituents, with anything they might say to me. I am facing the problem as I see it and I say that we should not approve of this bill, at least in third reading, before we provide a chance to the people of this Metro area to express an opinion because this is grave responsibilities, it leads directly to total amalgamation and that will come about before very long. I said I was against total amalgamation. I'm against taking a train that leads me directly to some spot if I don't want to go there, because after we have passed this legislation and started the Metro system it will not be possible after four years to retract and go in another direction. We'll be in it for good. And I am sure every member of this House knows it, that we won't be able to retrace our steps. And I say that the 10 municipalities who presented a brief, and a good brief, to the Royal Commission, recommended a plan. You will see it on pages 43 to 50. A proposal for metropolitan administration of certain services. First paragraph, first chapter, "Services which should be administered by metropolitan authority. That would mean that these municipalities would delegate their powers. Subscribing municipal corporations" -- I am quoting -- "are prepared to agree to delegating the administration and control of the following services to such an independent metropolitan body. "They had recommended a metropolitan body to replace the present commissions in those administering on a metropolitan basis certain services. It's no use to recall all these services. The members know what these services are. Chapter 3 - proposal for the structure of a metropolitan authority. Now this is a proposal that does not deserve the status quo. It is something new, something better than it is at the present time, something that I recommend to all the members of this House to read and study before they vote on this bill, if there is a chance to do it. It's a fully digested and considered suggestion for the administration of these services, and I say that this is what I would prefer if I were a taxpayer in this metropolitan area. Common services to be administered by common municipalities with common assent of the people in the area. And I think that would be the solution that would solve the problem the best as far as I am concerned.

And I think the people of this area should have a chance; there should be a referendum in this whole area; three questions should be asked. Are you in favour of amalgamation now the City of Winnipeg plan? Are you in favour of amalgamation eventually, the Roblin plan? Are you in favour of common services by common consent and common administration, the plan of the ten municipalities? I say this is not the status quo. It is something better and something that we should give the people a chance to decide for themselves especially us members who come from rural Manitoba. Now I said that this should go to the people, after we have tried to improve the Bill, because I am concerned, four year term for these ten people I am dead against. I say it's totally wrong, bureaucratic, dictatorial.

Our leader and my leader has suggested that we should try and improve the bill. And then he suggested there should be a referendum. I agree with him fully. And I would like to quote from a presentation made to the royal commission by the rural municipality of Assiniboia: "The report states that its recommendations should be carried out without a referendum." And in support of this it says that "a referendum is merely the means of passing the buck on the part of those elected to office." Referendum is defined in the Oxford dictionary as the referring of certain political questions or of such questions under certain circumstances to the electorate for direct decision by a general vote on a single question - on a single question. What more important political question could there be than the type of local government that should be established in a metropolitan or amalgamated area of Greater Winnipeg? This method of a

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd) referendum in determining political questions of such magnitude is a common practice and is well known in Canada, and particularly in this province. It is by way of referendum that the people who have a stake in a particular question are informed and it is in this way that elected officials who proposed the referendum are required to provide the information to the electorate in order that an informed vote can be made.

"I do not think --" and this was the reeve speaking, "I do not think I would be in error to state that 99% of the people in the Greater Winnipeg area do not know what is contained in this report" -- by the way, he was addressing himself in that report. The same thing would be true if it was addressed to the bill before us and more so -- "and have no realization as to what the result would be if the recommendations of the report were to be put into effect. The municipality of Assiniboia therefore emphatically states that no changes should be made as contemplated by the report." I would repeat, if he were speaking today he would say -- "the Bill, without a referendum being held. In this way members of the various municipal councils would be required to inform the residents of their respective municipalities as to what is contained in the report and how it would affect them." I would say the municipality of West Kildonan took the same stand, suggesting a referendum too. And I would say that it is most important that matters of such magnitude should go to the people.

And I would like to bring the House back to you the year 1951 when there was a big question before the people of the City of Winnipeg, the question of Plan C. The older members will remember that at that time the Government of the Province of Manitoba was dealing with the City of Winnipeg, after it had received a recommendation from Dr. Hogg, famous Plan C -- the City of Winnipeg was ready to go ahead without a referendum. (Interjection). Yes, let's see what happened then. A great paper, the stand a great paper took at that time, a great paper that today says that there should be no referendum on this more important problem, I should say. The Free Press paper of 1951 - "Unworthy Excuses" is the title, and editorial: "Before discussing the various excuses being made for not submitting the proposed purchase of power facilities, transportation and garage utilities to the electors of this city either by way of a by-law or a referendum, a plain statement is in order. The public should be under no misapprehension as to what is involved. These dodges for going over the heads of the electors are evidence that there is an understanding between the Provincial Government and a group of members of the City Council to set aside the provisions of the city charter, put there to prevent this very kind of thing from happening and to shove through the largest and costliest deal in the history of this city. This is indeed important business. If ever the electors of Winnipeg should insist upon exercising their sovereign rights under the charter of Winnipeg to pass upon such expenditures, the time is now. Surely", continues the article, "no sensible person on or off the city council would suggest seriously that a delay of thirty days in the present power proposals will make any appreciable difference." The same thing applies here. My suggestion to this that we might need a referendum will not delay anything. "Mayor Coulter takes a somewhat different position. He declares that the power proposals are so complex that it would take a very long time to educate the public for a referendum. The average citizen, he says, has little understanding of what is involved. This is indeed a surprising statement, and if Mr. Coulter were not well and favourably known, it might be regarded as an affront to public intelligence. But, surely again, Mayor Coulter is not speaking seriously. If he is, then there would rest upon himself and his colleagues the heavy burden of responsibility. Upon his own testimony of Tuesday they have been dealing with this matter for a long time. Why in all this time," says the Free Press, "have responsible members of council been going about with adhesive tape fastening their lips? Why was council engaged to create their decision on the power deal as late as last Friday? What sort of government are we getting in this community? Is it responsible government or is it a form of dictatorship? Who is the boss, the electorate or a junta of know-it-all at City Hall?

(Interjection - "or the Free Press?")

"A referendum by a by-law or a by-law on the power proposal is essential", says the Free Press.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Is the honourable member expressing his own opinions, or the Press' opinions?

MR. PREFONTAINE: I am corroborating my opinions by I think I have a right

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd).....to do that. And two days after, lo and behold, City Council changes it's mind. It agrees with the Free Press and by a majority of 10 to 5 decides to call a referendum on the matter. I will quote shortly, but this is to corroborate my opinion: "For reasons which will enlist the firm support of a great majority of the electors of this city, the power issue proper must stand aside until the City Council's recommendation for a referendum to the ratepayers has been confirmed. Until this point is reached the question in this issue is not power but rather a respect for the rights of the people. The 10 to 5 majority for a referendum in the City Council at the emergency on Thursday was by no means a vote on the power bill. Some of the members who comprised a majority declare they are in favour of the policy of the Provincial Government, and other considerations apart, would gladly see it adopted forthwith. Their vote for a referendum was a recognition by them that under the charter of the city, and in keeping with sound principles of government, it would have been an indefensible abuse of power to pass over the ratepayers. Thus the vote in City Council was really a vote for good government and in this regard it should be said that never since the inception of Winnipeg has the City Council done a better day's work than it did on Thursday.

"So much for the 10 members of council who carried the referendum. What of the others? The 5 members of council who voted to commit the citizens without their approval to an outlay of from \$25 to \$30 millions" -- this is small potatoes with respect to the amount of money that Metro would spend in four years -- "in addition, would have delivered the consumers of electricity into the hands of a complete and irresponsible provincial power monopoly, were -- those who were responsible -- were either CCF'rs or communists. The communists, of course, are invariably on the alert to cause as much trouble and dissatisfaction as possible. Their votes are quite in character. But the CCF might have been expected to have more appreciation of the rights of the citizens and of the fundamentals of good government. These CCF votes go to show how devoid of common sense socialists are whenever their particular bee starts buzzing in their bonnets. These are times of war and near-war when people tend to become tired and apathetic. These also are times when principles of good government are under constant attack all too often by our all responsible public leaders. Therefore all the greater responsibility rests upon elected persons to apply and to defend sound principles of government. The consequences of failure are certain. Our institutions and our way of life increasingly will become undermined. The majority of the City Council earned the respect and gratitude of all for their decision on Thursday."

There is another step that I would like to tell you about what happened. The Chamber of Commerce of Winnipeg passed a resolution at that time recommending to City Council that they should ignore the rate payers and just go ahead with Plan C, and the paper says May 12, 1951, "This is an astonishing position for the council of the Chamber of Commerce to take."

MR. SPEAKER: Order. You are going pretty far with The Free Press. You're going quite a long way with the Free Press articles. Yes, but you should debate your own opinion of this, not the Free Press' opinion.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Will the House give me the privilege of just one more quotation? (Interjections) "There can be but one reason for this resolution. The council of the Chamber of Commerce is of the opinion that the electors of Winnipeg are unfit to govern themselves, too stupid to understand the issues involved in this power problem. The Chamber council lacks faith in the intelligence of the capacity of the people of this city to rule themselves in the traditional democratic way. The council in this resolution urges the City Council to violate the very provisions of the Winnipeg charter which were placed there for no other reason than to protect the people in just such matters as this power deal." Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to speak, or to read this.

Mr. Speaker, and members of this Legislature, this is a very important issue. As far as I am concerned, I do not know whether by voting for second reading I would vote for the approval of this bill without a referendum because I would vote "no". If this is a major or essential feature of the bill -- and I would like the First Minister to tell me so before I have a chance to vote on this bill because as far as I am personally concerned I'm speaking for myself alone -- I say that if the "no" referendum, the compulsory feature of this bill is essential to this bill, the First Minister told us the two essentials, the central planning authority and the central control of certain services -- they are "musts" and will not be considered law amendments --

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd.)...but if this angle, the vote of the people, or doing away with the vote of the people is also an integral part of the Bill, I say that I will vote "no" when the time comes. Otherwise, I would be willing to let it go to the Committee, let us improve the Bill as much as possible and then let us give a chance to the electors. And I feel they are not informed at the present time about this Bill. They have a general opinion. They read the newspapers, both newspapers of favouring this Bill. They don't want the status quo and I am not supporting the status quo, I'm supporting the recommendation of the 10 municipalities ... But these people of this Greater Winnipeg should have a chance and must have a chance to express an opinion. I don't see it in my heart to just ram this thing down their throats because they are the people who will have to pay, and not myself. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. DAVID ORLIKOW (St. John's): Mr. Speaker, this is a very important Bill, important to the people of Greater Winnipeg area, important to the members of various councils who represent them, important to the members of this Legislature from the Greater Winnipeg area, and indeed, important to the people of the whole province. I think there is nobody in the Greater Winnipeg area who has thought about the problems of growth, who has not realized that we cannot any longer continue with the divided jurisdiction which we have had up till now. There are today as there never has been over the years, serious division of opinion as to whether we ought to move now into total amalgamation with one government or whether we ought to move into some form of metropolitan government. These differences have existed. They still exist and I suggest to this House, Mr. Speaker, that they will continue to exist. I think that this Bill which is proposed by the government is a first attempt to meet the problems which have arisen and which must be met. I think to suggest that none of the answers are given as the member who has just spoken seems to suggest, is nonsense. I think that there will be many people who will disagree with some or many of the provision of this Act. I for one have a number of questions which I will want to have answered. I have a number of suggestions which need to be made. I am certain, Mr. Speaker, that the municipalities will not be quiet. I am certain that when this Bill comes to the Law Amendments Committee that far from being quiet, we will find it difficult to give them the time to make their representations which they will want to make. I want to suggest to the Honourable Member who has just finished that they will be there and that they will tell us what they think, so that I am not worried that this thing will be rushed through without the knowledge of the people. I want today, Mr. Speaker, just to deal with one question which the honourable member who had just finished spoke, and that is the belief on his part that a referendum is a "must". And I want to go back to the matter which the honourable member raised the illustration he used, and I do it because I was a member of city council at that time. I was one of the five members who had the courage not to be stampeded by the Winnipeg Free Press, and I want to say, Mr. Speaker that I have never regretted the position which I took because the arrangement which had been made at that time, the tentative arrangement which had been made between the government in which before, -- the member who just spoke before was then a Cabinet Minister; and the committee representing the city council of Winnipeg, was an arrangement which have brought benefits to the people of Winnipeg and to the people of the whole province. And because the city council of Winnipeg lost its courage in the face of a few editorials by the Winnipeg Free Press we are suffering today and have suffered every day since we had the stupidity to permit a referendum on this question.

Now I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that I do not believe in referendums. I never have and I don't today and this is why I voted then against a referendum and this is why I reject the suggestion made by the member from the Liberal group. Surely, Mr. Speaker, the whole essence of parliamentary democracy as we know it in the western world and in this country is that the people elect government, they elect representatives to represent them, to decide issues, and the whole purpose of elections at intervals of one, two or four years is that if the government of the opposition members make mistakes, and undoubtedly they will make mistakes, that the people can register their disapproval by eliminating those people who have made mistakes and electing new members. Mr. Speaker, we have a Federal Government, we've had Federal Governments which took us into war. I suggest to the honourable member that the question of war or peace is far more important than the question of metro government for the Greater Winnipeg area. Is there anybody here who would suggest that every time we get into difficulties on the federal field -- we got into two world wars in this part of the century--is the honourable member suggesting every time we get into a possible war that the government should call for

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd.)..... a vote or a referendum of the people?

MR. PREFONTAINE: May I ask the member a question? Does the honourable member not know the difference between the party system which applies to a sovereign government and the municipal system of administration?

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest first of all there is no basic difference in the principle and secondly I suggest to the honourable member, Mr. Speaker, that I reject completely his suggestion that municipal government necessarily must be non-partisan. Now I think that in this country we could well follow the example of the British where on the municipal field just as on the national field, the parties nominate and elect candidates.

I want to get back though, Mr. Speaker, to this question of the referendum. The Federal Government spends billions of dollars, I forget just exactly what the budget this year is, and nobody suggests that there be referendums before the Federal Government spends money for current or capital expenditures. We here in this province are going to spend something over \$100,000,000. The government is proposing this Legislature will approve or reject it, and at sometime in the future there will be in the normal course of events there will be an election and the people of this province will decide whether they are satisfied with the government factions or not. And I suggest that a very similar case can be made in reference to this particular matter. This government is proposing a Metro Bill. The members of this House on that side and on this side will be called upon to vote on it. I'm a member from a Winnipeg constituency, Mr. Speaker, I presume that if I run again, one of the questions on which I will be called, on which I will have the work which I have done evaluated will be this question. If there are people who feel that my vote hurt them my vote apropos metro, they have the option when I run again to elect another member. And it's part of my record and part of the record of every member in this House. There are members in the municipal council who will be making representations to the Law Amendments Committee if this Bill goes to the House. They will be speaking for this Bill or they will be suggesting what we need a total amalgamation, or they will be suggesting that we continue with the status quo as it has been up to now. They won't have to wait till three years from now. This fall, this fall, Mr. Speaker, some of them, if not all of them will be up for election again, and people who disagree with the stand they have taken will be able to nominate other candidates and to elect other candidates. And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I for one say that it is the duty, the responsibility of an elected representative whether he sits in Ottawa or whether he sits in the Legislature here or whether he sits in one of the municipal councils to face up to his responsibilities, to vote the way he believes, and to go to the electors and justify it. And I for one do not intend to shirk my responsibility, to be afraid that I may not be re-elected or that I may be defeated by asking the electors to instruct me. I will vote on this matter or on any other matter, Mr. Speaker, as I believe it is right and proper, and the consequences will follow naturally. And I suggest to the members on that side, Mr. Speaker that they follow a similar course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. MORRIS A. GRAY (Inkster): My leader and the other members of our group have made our position very clear and I have very little to add with one exception. I feel that this metro -- at least I feel and hope -- will succeed. And I would not want my grandchildren to ask me later if it is a success, or a failure, where were you at the time this matter was discussed? Now, it is the duty of a government -- and we cannot quarrel with them -- to submit any kind of legislation which in their opinion they feel is essential and for the welfare of the people of the province. So after study they have recommended this famous Metro Bill. They were perfectly right to do it. And it's worthwhile trying. If it succeeds, it will be history making for at least half of the population of the province, and the half of the population in the industrial area and half of the population where they have so many sections of government and industry and condensed population. In other words I think that the government has a full right to do it, and as outlined by my leader, I'm going to support it. And if it fails, it is not the Law of Moses, even the Law of Moses has been changed from time to time, and I think it is worthwhile giving it a trial, worthwhile to experiment. And I think it will be a change, in my opinion, to the good. My only hope is that this will not now, and in the future eliminate to some degree the election -- the opportunity of giving the people to elect and be elected, because as after all as my colleague from St. John's has said a minute ago, it's the people that are judging their representatives, and the representatives of course, are here for the purpose of using their good judgment in

(Mr. Gray, cont'd.) everything that in their opinion is good. And I hope that this will go to the committee and I also have marked down a number of questions as to each section, or to some of the sections. But impressive, I'm going to support this to go to second reading.

MR. E. R. SCHREYER (Brokenhead): Mr. Speaker, I don't rise to take part in the debate. I merely wish to ask the First Minister when he thinks this Bill will reach committee as it's rather important that if I could find this out.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I will answer my honourable friend in reply to the debate that has taken place in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: closing the debate?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I might say this then that I understand that the First Minister would like this Bill to get to committee by Wednesday. I hope this isn't the case -- because two municipal councils have asked me to plead with the First Minister if necessary, to try to postpone this until at least Friday or Monday of next week.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could yes.

MR. JOHN P. TANCHAK (Emerson): I was going to adjourn it unless---the Leader of the House doesn't permit that so I'll be very brief. I want to express my opinion of this. I wish to congratulate the Honourable the First Minister for providing leadership in this House. He took a definite stand in this matter as Leader of the Government and Leader of the Party and I think it's his duty to provide leadership and it is the duty of most government men and even the legislative members to provide leadership to a certain extent but sometimes this leadership may lead the people astray; I do not say that the leadership of the Honourable Minister -- I'm not referring to him but we know that in the past we have had leaders in different places, different states, some of them were good, some led their people to prosperity and freedom; others led their people to oblivion and into slavery, but I'm sure however that the honourable the First Minister is very sincere in what he -- in his leadership and I wish to congratulate him on that again.

But there are 57 of us members here in this House and we are being asked to impose a new plan of government on the people of the Metro area of Greater Winnipeg. Now out of these 57 members as was stated before by the Honourable Member for Carillon there are only some 20 odd that are directly -- I'll use the word 'directly'--responsible to the people of the area concerned but we are all asked to decide on that and to provide leadership in the House. If the electors feel that members of this House did something that they did not agree with then they have the privilege at the next election to show their displeasure with actions of the MLA's but I am in full agreement with the Honourable Member from, my colleague from Carillon, that they are not, they cannot show the same displeasure as regards rural members are concerned because on an election count they can't as easily get at them as that. Now for this reason, this is one reason that I feel that although we are asked to provide leadership, I feel that we are not directly responsible to these people and I feel that we should -- that the people should be given a chance of a referendum a vote on this. That's one reason and another reason which I think was also mentioned by our leader, the official leader of the Opposition is that we are taking away from the people of this area the privilege which they have had in years, the privilege on voting on a money referendum, money by-law referendum. We are taking it away from them almost forever. It has almost become a tradition with these people, the people of Manitoba and I wouldn't speak for the rest of Canada, so for these two reasons unless there's a change made in committee, for these two reasons, I feel that I'll have to oppose this bill unless these changes are provided for. I thank you.

MR. J. M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I would like to support what the Honourable Member for Brokenhead says that this matter of closing debate on this Bill be delayed. I, too, would like to discuss the Bill with some people yet and I haven't had a chance to do that, therefore I would like to see that this adjournment be delayed yet.

..... continued on next page.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, in closing the debate, I should like to first of all to answer the questions that have been put to me about timing, and say that officially we are hoping to send the Bill to Law Amendments Committee for Thursday because I believe that there may be some people who will be prepared to make representations in the committee on Thursday and it is our aim to give the longest possible period of time in committee to make sure that all who have an interest in this to have a chance to say what they think. Now because it goes to the committee on Thursday doesn't mean it will be disposed of on that day. Far from it. It is my view that it will probably remain in committee for a number of days. Who can say? Offhand, possible a week or ten days. I fully expect that it might well prove to be the case. Certainly I can give an undertaking that it will not come from the committee, provided that the committee agrees with this view--that it will not come from the committee this week, so that anyone who has representations, we'd like those who are ready to speak on Thursday, but we will hold it in the committee over the weekend at least to make sure that people do have time to prepare what they have to say. And my guess is that if we have the number of representations which I am led to expect we will have, that it may be in the committee for some time so I trust that meets the point of view that was raised by my two honourable friends across the way. Now Sir, I would ordinarily have adjourned this debate in order to perhaps reflect a little longer on some of the comments that have been made but as I will not be able to attend the House on Wednesday this looks like--seemed to me that it's desirable that I might perhaps proceed right away, although we've had some very weighty and interesting arguments adduced in connection with the matters in the Bill. And perhaps it would suit my purpose here if I were to start with some of the comments that were made by the Honourable Member for Carillon. Now let me say that for the edification of members that have not his experience, that there were two rules of the House which I think he breached and I thought it was not advisable to interrupt him at the time because it might be thought that I didn't want those points discussed, which of course that is not the case, but I think that he breached the rules in referring to a debate on the subject already concluded in this House previously, namely the speech by the Honourable Member for St. Vital. I also think he breached the rules in quoting an editorial, a recent editorial reflecting upon the debate now in process in the House. The old editorials I think were quite all right to read but I do not think it was right and in accordance with the rules that he should have read that one because we are not allowed to read newspaper comments reflecting on debates in progress in the House. So while those points are really not terribly important I think that for the sake of the record that it's just as well that we try to observe those two rules in the future. Now I think the Honourable Member for Carillon's contribution to the debate is valuable because he has, I think by what he says, forced us to go back to the very beginnings of the development of the policy that we have before us now, because he has challenged the very basic assumptions on which this legislation is proposed and I can't see how he can possibly bring himself to vote for it no matter what promises I might give him. I think we may confidently expect that he will oppose it and in view of the statements that he has made, I certainly think he would be right to do so. But he goes back to the first principles of this piece of legislation and as I stated on introduction, those first principles are that there should be a centralized planning authority for this area and that there should be a centralization of certain services which were themselves essential for the carrying out of that planning authority in the correct way.

Now that's the first decision you have to make when you approach this legislation. Do you believe that the situation has reached the point where those two principles apply to the problem that we have in hand? I don't think my honourable friend does. But, all the best advice we could obtain points in the other direction. We've had a Royal Commission that sat for three and a half years; we had a Royal Commission which heard the most voluminous comment from all who were interested particularly the municipal governments concerned. We had a conference of municipalities. One that they convened themselves; one that was convened by the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. Prior to that we had a provincial-municipal committee set up by the previous administration which suggested something like this should be done and following directly on that there was the Metropolitan Investigation Committee composed of the very municipal bodies who are concerned in this Bill themselves. And that is something we must not lose sight of, that the initiating force that started this whole proposition going was the municipalities of Greater Winnipeg themselves. They are the people who said some changes are necessary.

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . They are the people who tried to solve the problem themselves and failed. They are the people who said there should be a Royal Commission. --(interjection)-- They have a plan, too, and I'll come to the plan before I'm through, but we must admit Sir, that no one disagrees, as far as I can see, no one, except my honourable friend, disagrees with the two principles of this Bill that there should be a centralized planning and that there should be a centralized control of services. Now I see he shakes his head. Well I'm going to ask him about that, or perhaps I can deal with his possible objection that I can see forming in his mind before I'm through. But I want to say that we accept that principle. That's the first thing we do. Now when we've done that we have to decide whether this principle shall be mandatory or whether it should be voluntary and that's the second great principle that you must face up to when you deal with this problem. And again we have to consult the nature of the problem, the recommendations of the Royal Commission and everything that's concerned in it. And we find out that had it been possible to make a voluntary arrangement why would we have had all this trouble? These problems aren't for you. Why would we have the Royal Commission? Why wouldn't the municipalities have settled it among themselves? Heaven knows they had the opportunity to do so. The years rolled by and on each one of those occasions they had the opportunity to introduce the voluntary principle into these particular things. And they came to us and they said in effect, we agree on the principles but we can't agree on how to implement them. We can't agree on a voluntary basis as to what should be done. We can't solve that problem and I think that fact in itself makes it evident that if the legislation is to be worth the paper that it's written on, if it really is to be a contribution to the problem that faces us, we have to decide right at the beginning whether it's voluntary or mandatory. And I think that when we consider the experience of the last few years, the difficulties of the municipalities, the fact that they themselves have asked us for the solution to this problem, being unable to find it themselves, I think we have established a pretty fair case that the thing won't be worth the paper that it's written on unless it is a mandatory plan rather than a voluntary one. So that's the second decision you have to make, and that's the second principle that's in this Bill, and I say to the honourable gentleman opposite that if there are any there who believe that the voluntary principle should rule, vote against this Bill because the voluntary principle is not in it. It is mandatory insofar as these certain services are concerned. And we might as well face right up to that.

All right, Mr. Speaker, if you followed my logic so far you arrive at the next big question you have to settle. What machinery will you use to give effect to this mandatory plan. Well Sir, if you reflect upon that for a minute or two I think you will see that every democratic principle there is tells you that it should not be the commission form that my honourable friend suggests opposite. Now I want to say, and I say to him frankly that I appreciate his point of view because I'm opposing it does not mean that I do not recognize the sincerity of what he has to say and the consideration he has given to this problem and I want to tell him frankly that we had the same debates ourselves as to whether we could possibly arrange it by a commission rather than in the elected form that we have decided upon. But we didn't see how that could be possible because how can you give to a commission who is not responsible to the electorate the wide powers that this Bill contains? How, for example, could you entrust them with the expenditure of public funds whether it's by borrowing of money or in any other way unless it was by the elected form of government? There had to be some way that the people of this community if they did not like what was being done could make their will effective insofar as this municipal organization is concerned. And it seems to us that we had to insure that the membership to that body that was in charge of this matter should be an elected one, and that is why we've had it in this way in the Bill.

MR. L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Would you, the Honourable Minister permit a question please? What would be wrong with an inter-municipal committee composed of aldermen elected in different municipalities. Those people to be elected Mr. -- ?

MR. ROBLIN: Well, Mr. Chairman, haven't we got something much the same in many of our boards and commissions today? I think we have, and if my honourable friend will turn to the Royal Commission investigation they will find a very thorough consideration of whether or not we should continue with that form of administration. A very thorough consideration and it seems to me Sir, that if that plan that my honourable friend speaks of was working, why on earth did the municipalities come and bother us at all? Why did they come to us in the first

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . place to say that something better had to be devised. It seems to me that that question must be faced. Why did these people come when they had in effect what my honourable friends are asking for in certain important services? They came because it didn't work to their satisfaction. That's why they came, and that's why we've had to develop something else. My honourable friend says "no" but there they are and the Royal Commission goes into this in a very thorough fashion indeed.

Now Sir, I think I dealt with the main points that my honourable friend asks us to consider and I think they are extremely important points and that anyone who wants to understand the Bill and the policy has got to face up to them and decide how he stands on them. The first is that the principles on which the Bill rests, the principles which I have stated are the ones which guide us. There is no quarrel--I can find very few--perhaps my honourable friend who don't believe in that. The second thing is should it be mandatory or voluntary? I've given the arguments as to why we have said it must be mandatory. And the next thing I would like to say, once having decided that, what type of machine would you use, the commission system or the direct election? And I've given you the reasons why we think the direct election system is one that must govern in this case.

Now my honourable friend also raised a number of other important points and I may not cover them all but I would like to just refer to a few that I noted as he spoke. First of all he speaks of the enormous powers entrusted to this board. Well I think members should recognize this, that what has actually happened in this, that the powers of the City of Winnipeg for example or of other communities like that, had been split in two generally speaking--had been split in two, one layer has been peeled off and given to the metropolitan body; one layer remains and is the responsibility of the present municipal structure, so that in our view that we have not devised a whole set of new powers and authorities which we of the Legislature are delegating or giving to this metropolitan body, nothing of the sort at all. What we have done, and I think I can say as a general statement this is correct, what we have done is split the powers in two and one set we have transferred to the Metro, the balance we have left with the present municipal authorities. And in these questions we have in that way I think one can say that generally speaking the powers that are conferred on the metropolitan area as a whole are much the same as the powers they presently have and are presently available to them. I don't make that as a sweeping generalization applicable in all cases, but I do say that it does have merit and should be considered when discussing the question of the powers that have been devised for this metropolitan body. Now, there are a number of other points that my honourable friend raises but I won't cover them because they're really--if one deals with the main principles that he was attacking, one covers the other powers that are in there as well. But I suppose I should say a thing or two about the point that was raised by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable Member for Carillon and others on the question of the referendum. Now again, Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it. This is a very difficult question to decide and to be sure of what the right answer is. A very difficult question indeed, and this is one to which we, too, have given the most careful consideration as to what course that we should follow should be the best one. And we have decided and I must say that I've heard no arguments to convince me that we are wrong so far though there may be arguments that I have not heard, we have heard nothing so far that convinces me that we should abandon our present plan and that we should include a provision for a referendum in the present legislation. Reference has been made to Plan C. Well you may have your view about Plan C, but I can say this that as far as my memory goes Plan C resulted from a Royal Commission that was developed by a technical study of certain matters and that technical study was evolved within the bosom of the Royal Commission more or less and became their recommendation to the government of the day.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Question. What about the referendum with respect to the establishment of school divisions in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. ROBLIN: That's a very good point, and I'll come to those types of referendum in a minute. Under this Royal Commission there was however a most thorough examination of a public kind where we had an opportunity to fully inform ourselves on those particular matters and it seems to me that there was a full enquiry not merely from the technical point of view as to whether amalgamation or any form of central management was a good thing economically or from any point of view like that, but a thorough development of all the powers that were involved

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . of all the matters the public wanted to speak about and the honourable members will know of the very elaborate briefs that were presented representing all points of view on this particular matter. Now it seems to me that if we have followed the line of logic I'm trying to lay down about the principles on which the bill is based and the question of mandatory versus voluntary and on the question of elected versus commission form of government, that you should then follow on to make the next decision. And that is that we should do what is normal and usual in a legislative assembly of this kind and that is take the responsibility for the measure that we produce and for the measure that is put before the public. And I'm certain that if they don't like it they'll have an opportunity to make their voices heard, firstly when they elect the body that is going to run this thing and secondly, when the provincial election comes along. And it seems to me that most of the points made by the Honourable Member for St. John's in connection with the theory and practice of responsible government which my honourable friend the member for Carillon is well versed, indicate that we should accept our responsibility in this matter, place it before the public, and give them that considered opinion of this House in respect of these important matters. And I do not think that this is something that we should place before them by form of a referendum.

Now there may be other arguments which I have not heard in respect of this matter and perhaps reasons can be adduced that have not been presented to us so far, but at the present time I think we should adhere to our usual responsibility in putting this forward as a responsibility of the Legislature.

My honourable friend said something about the school question, and it's perfectly true that we had a vote but I think there are some issues on which one has to decide that a vote has to be taken. Schools are one, liquor is another, because of their particular impact on the character of the community and matters of that sort and it seems to me that the same kind of reasoning does not apply to the type of legislation that we have before us at the present time.

Now Sir, I'm going to see if there is--oh, yes, you can't get at the rural members, says my honourable friend from Emerson. Well on that line of argument, what do we do? Every time we have a good piece of legislation that affects one part of the community only, do we refuse to deal with it or say it's your responsibility, or have a referendum? We pass measures affecting agriculture here, the city members haven't the slightest objection so far in voting in respect of that matter. We have matters affecting northern development, we don't say that we should have a referendum or only the people in the north should vote, because you can't build a province that way. You can't build the community of Manitoba that way. You can't build the community unless we sit in here not only as rural and city members, not only as the representatives of our own communities, but the representatives of a whole province and I would say that any member should think carefully when exercising his ballot as a member of the whole province as the counsel of the Province of Manitoba rather than primarily the member or representative of his own area. Now there are pressures of that sort and I would be the last one to deny them because I feel them as much as anyone else, but I think Sir, that we should do our best to deal with these matters as the representatives of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Manitoba, and that it would be wrong to follow the theory that my honourable friend is advancing to the effect that just because some of this legislation only affects part of the province, that we should have a referendum on it.

Now Sir, I want to deal with a speech which did not appeal to me nearly so much as the one made by my honourable friend from Carillon. I really wonder whether most of it was necessary and I'm referring to the statements put before us recently by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. I want particularly to say that his reference to me, not to play God as the creator of municipalities and things of that sort was not only offensive but I would say tactless and rude and I'm very sorry Sir, that a member representing such a distinguished constituency as his should have found it desirable to use language of that sort. No one, I trust, will impute to me the thought that I am the creator of the municipalities. How absurd! How silly! If municipalities are created and created they are, it is by this Legislature, of course, and we delegate part of our responsibilities to the municipalities. And because of that does that mean that I am the creator or attempt to stand up as the *deus ex machina* for the community of St. Boniface, representing as it does the cultural cradle of French-speaking Manitobans, and I'll go farther, French-speaking people in western Canada? What a presumption, and one which I

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . Sir, would never, never take upon myself. The Honourable Member for Carillon at least did me the courtesy of reading my speech which dealt on that particular point. My honourable friend from St. Boniface listened to what I had to say but it was obvious that he didn't understand it. I'm sure that I couldn't say the same thing of my honourable friend from Carillon.

MR. DESJARDINS: Sir, on a point of order, I think I made it very clear, I even said that I was sure the First Minister did not mean it like that, and I said my first impression, my first thought was to say a word of advice please don't play God, but I did say that I was sure he didn't mean it like that and you can read Hansard if you wish. I tried to make that very clear. I just said that that was the first thing that came to my mind. "Please don't play God", and I said that that was the word, understand it wasn't created--using that word like that--but I, as soon as I heard "creator" that's the first thought I had in mind. I made that very clear. I wasn't trying to insult anybody.

MR. ROBLIN: I accept my honourable friend's apology. It's a little--

MR. DESJARDINS: It's not an apology, it's a correction.

MR. ROBLIN: At the time that my honourable friend was speaking, Sir, I took the opportunity to interject that he had misinterpreted me and he did not at that time acknowledge that he had misinterpreted me in any way. He--

MR. DESJARDINS: He said I certainly did not want to. I said I remember of one word that was definitely said because I wrote it down and it was the word "creator" and I just expressed my feelings and I think I'm entitled to that. I tried to make it clear that I wasn't trying to offend anybody.

MR. ROBLIN: Why did my honourable friend not pay attention to the rest of the words of my speech in that case? He finds it very convenient to pick one out but he should look at the rest and they were read and I don't intend to--

MR. DESJARDINS: I did, but I didn't have a copy and there's no Hansard on television and I didn't have a recording machine either. I tried to remember as much as I could. I remember the words that affected me, that made me think of something.

MR. ROBLIN: Well Mr. Speaker, I'm not referring to my speech on television, I'm referring to the speech in this House when I referred, and which was read to us this afternoon by the Honourable Member for Carillon when he referred to the matter of creation, but I'm not going to allow my friend to interrupt me anymore. I'm getting on with my speech.

MR. DESJARDINS: All right, but I mentioned television and I also mentioned the date of that television.

MR. SPEAKER: Order! Order!

MR. DESJARDINS: It's a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order! Order!

MR. DESJARDINS: I referred to a TV speech, nothing else.

MR. SPEAKER: Order! You must accept the honourable member's explanation.

MR. ROBLIN: I would like to say Sir, that I made specific reference when I spoke in this House giving a statement of the government's policy in respect of the municipalities, I made specific reference to the fact that while they were the creation of this Legislature and certainly they are. They also are communities with character and a sentiment and a personality of their own. My honourable friend, the member for Carillon did me the credit to read that. I wish my honourable friend for St. Boniface who spoke after I did had given me the credit not only to hear what I had to say and he was here, but also to give me some credit for meaning what I had to say in respect to that particular matter. I do not believe Sir, that this Bill is going to destroy the character of the French-speaking community of St. Boniface and Manitoba. I have seen the vigour and the character is the self-confidence with which that group properly conducts themselves and their affairs and I think that they will be able to deal with whatever meets them in this particular way. I would like--(interjection)--we will come to total amalgamation if my honourable friend will just restrain himself for a while. I wonder why, if he was trying to represent fairly, the people of his community, why he did not deal with the powers that were being transferred in the first instance. Why he did not explain to us why the transferring of powers with respect to waterworks and that for headquarters only; or powers in respect of sewage and that for headquarters only; or powers in respect of parks or of civil defense,

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . or of floods, or of mosquito control, or of assessment, or of planning. How those were going to destroy the character of the French-speaking community of St. Boniface. I said before and I say it again that I do not think those things will follow. "Ah," but he says to me, "this is just the opening wedge". He says to me, "this is just the beginning, wait and see what will happen". Well, Sir, I want to tell you what the policy of the government is in respect of that matter. I can only speak for myself and for the government which I have the honour to lead, but I think that I can very well repeat what is the policy of the government because I gave it to this House in my opening remarks and I regard it rather as a pity that some members didn't pay more attention to it.

When my honourable friend the Member for Carillon was speaking, he stopped just before he came to the statement of government policy, which I'll repeat, and starting where he left off I added these words: "We have taken the view that unless we were thoroughly satisfied that it was essential in the common interest that a particular service should come under central control then we should leave it where it is now. If we were satisfied that it should come under central control then we have placed it within the ambit of the legislation". That gives the statement of the government's policy in this respect. --(interjection)--Now just a minute, you can ask me questions when I'm through. Now I want to go on and say something about what happens after this. Where do we go from here? Well, Sir, as I explained in the House on opening day, that is provided for in the Bill, and that is, if municipalities wish to centralize their services to a greater degree than provided for in this legislation it can be done by voluntary method--by voluntary method. We have laid down, we have stopped at the limit of what we think to be mandatory and included that in the Bill; but if next year some municipality wants to amalgamate its police services or its fire services it can be done by voluntary method; but we are not making that compulsory. I want to say that I have every confidence that the French-speaking community of this province will continue for many years--for many years to be a cultural force as they ought to be in the life of this province, and perhaps even long after they have sent a more perspicacious member to the House than the present one which claims to represent them--(interjection)--I would say well that would help. I would say--(interjection)--I doubt it. My honourable friend is very fond of words like "rubber stamp"; he's very fond of words like "dictatorship"; he's very fond of matters of that sort. That's because he simply seems to lack the understanding, Sir, of how representative parliamentary institutions work, but if he wants to listen; if he wants to find out how it should be done; if he wants to find out the theory and practice on which parliamentary government operates instead of using his emotions when he could very well use his brain, because I know he has one; he could consult with his leader who can give him as well as anybody in this House, I think, an authoritative statement as to how parliamentary government works. And I say that I am convinced without ever having any conversations with my Honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition about it, that he will give him a fair and accurate statement of the facts. I'm convinced of that and my honourable friend will find out that these charges of dictatorship and all that sort of thing have no place, no place in the House, and no place in fact when referring to the processes of parliamentary government. And if he had the honour to be a member of this caucus, which he has not, he would have an opportunity to learn that that is not the case and that members on this side have minds of their own and haven't the slightest hesitation in informing all and sundry how they think on the various matters that are before them.

Now, Sir, I'm going to leave my honourable friend from St. Boniface because I really don't think he's worth all the time I've taken on him, but there are one or two other things--

MR. DESJARDINS: We'll check on that. Maybe he should know an election runs too in St. Boniface. They elected the man they wanted not yours.

MR. ROBLIN: He seems to forget that--

MR. DESJARDINS: you give him all the credit in the world.

MR. ROBLIN: St. Boniface, Mr. Speaker, he chose two other gentlemen rather than himself. I think that the Honourable Leader of the CCF Party can claim to speak for part of St. Boniface and the Honourable Member for St. Vital has a claim to speak for part of it.

MR. DESJARDINS: and for the caucus too.

MR. ROBLIN: All right. Well my honourable friend is entitled to say whatever he likes, but I think, Sir, that he would serve his interests of his people better if he would serve them

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) .. perhaps in the way that the Honourable Member for Carillon has done over many years. He would serve them better if he applied the forces of reason and the forces of calm reflection to these problems rather than the type of address which he has been giving to this House on the occasion which he spoke a few days ago. Now, Sir, I'm going definitely to leave him this time--I'm going to pass on--and I'm going to try and see if I can find what some other honourable gentlemen had to say in connection with this piece of legislation.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Will the Honourable First Minister permit a question now?

MR. ROBLIN: No, wait until my speech is over and then I'll try my best to deal with your question.

I want to deal with the question raised by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition when he spoke of the necessity for continuity in municipal government. His suggestion was that we should elect some every year. Well now, I'm not going to make any categorical expressions of opinion as to the wisdom or unwisdom of that statement. There may be some merit in it and we'll have a chance to talk that over. At the present time I'm inclined to think, at least for the beginning of this operation, that it would be better to proceed with a lengthier term of office because the men concerned are not going to bring about these changes overnight. In fact I think it's going to take them all of their first four-year term to get the feel of things and to put these matters into their own hand, and if we have a changing membership with elections at short intervals we may find that there's a lack of continuity in policy in respect of these matters which, while not dangerous perhaps, nevertheless might not really yield much good to the public interest. So while there may be an argument for having this staggered election perhaps sometime in the future, I'm really not convinced that a pressing case has been made out for it at the present time.

Now some honourable gentleman said, "yes, and another thing you ought to do is to turn over these wards, these municipal boundaries to the Electoral Boundaries Commission. We did that in the province and we should do it in this case as well". Well again I admit there is a superficial logic in the argument that's presented, but I'm really not entirely convinced that the logic is as sound as it might be. The reason why we use the Electoral Boundaries Commission is because to do otherwise would place the government of the day in charge of a matter in which they are politically and in a party sense directly concerned, namely the election of members to this House. For that reason, and I think it's a rather good reason and I must again compliment the man who made it possible, I think that for those reasons that it was wise to have the Electoral Boundaries Commission. But we are dealing here with a level of government in which we have no political interest of that nature. We are dealing here with another level of government altogether and one which in due course may very well set its own boundaries, so that if we work on the right principles, and I think the right principles are representation by population; the right principles are a balance between urban and suburban members in this House; the right principles call for a cross-section of membership across municipal boundary lines; if we stick to those principles it really becomes a rather mechanical thing to do. And those are the principles which the administration proposes to follow when setting out these municipal boundaries. It's difficult to see, if we accept them and stick to them as closely as we can, how we can get into trouble or why it would not be satisfactory to leave the delineation of those boundaries as they are in the Bill. Now there's room for argument but I say that on the face of it I rather think that there is not the weight in the objection that one might suspect at first glance.

Now there were points raised about the excessive powers entrusted to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, and there may be some room for change there, but if you analyze the kinds of powers which are in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council I think perhaps they sort of provide their own justification. I mustn't refer to sections but in connection with the question of electoral divisions--we've covered that. There are 11 sections I might say, 11 different ways in which the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council can interfere with the goings on in the Metro council. Six of them, Sir, have to do with procedural matters like organizing the first elections and detailing the procedure in which they're to follow; guarantee of metro debentures; and all that kind of thing which are perhaps normal in the hands of a Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. There's some ones that might be objected to, the change in municipal election dates, but I think the answer to that is obvious. It's merely to meet the convenience of municipalities. The equalization of commercial revenue--well, that's going to be a pretty big

(Mr. Roblin, cont'd.) . . . change and I think probably the power of the government that sets up this mechanism should take some responsibility for seeing that it is done correctly, on sound principles in the first instance. You might make an argument for retaining those for the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council; you might send it to the municipal board. On the other hand, the municipal board is an elected body and the people can get at us every four years. We are more directly responsible, but there's an argument there.

On the question of bringing the various sections of the Bill into effect and that kind of thing, I think that those, in view of the nature of the case, that those should be left to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to satisfy themselves that all is well before those powers are exercised. So that while I'm not going to say that there isn't some room for adjustment here, I think that prima facie there is a case for the type of power that is left in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

Now on the question of appeal to courts. Members will notice that there is an appeal to the Municipal Board and Utility Board in many instances. There may be the odd place where an appeal is not provided where it ought to be. We'll look into those when we come to the section. The main place where there's no appeal to the Municipal Board that members might object to is in connection with the planning powers, but after all I think you can make an argument that when you have replaced the present planning board in the City of Winnipeg, which is not really responsible in the sense that the council is and which are the last court of appeal except in matters of law at the present time, if you do away with that and say well we take it one step beyond that and go to Metro Council, who are elected, who have to face the displeasure of the electorate, and there'll be displeasure when you bring in a planning measure of this sort, perhaps it just as well to give them the responsibility for the appeal and deciding on these matters. I don't say that my argument is conclusive. I merely say that at first glance there's a strong point for it and that we'd want to take a very close look at it before we made any changes.

Now the Honourable Leader of the CCF Party made a point about the valuation of property in respect of non-taxable areas and I think there's no difference of opinion between us. Perhaps the Bill is not correctly worded. And we can certainly correct that because we agree with him on the principle.

The question of personnel and security of tenure is an important one. We believe we have covered it in the Bill, however, in committee if members can show where we can strengthen it or improve it in any way, naturally we'll be very happy to see that consideration is given to those matters.

Well I know, Mr. Speaker, that I have not covered all the points that have been raised. I have however given priority of place on this occasion to the speech made by the Honourable Member for Carillon because I think it was in his speech that we had the most considered and reasoned opposition to the essentials and fundamentals of this Bill, and it seemed to me that while the other matters perhaps could be left to committee, that I would be unfair to the House if I did not do my best on hearing his speech to give him the reasoning and the logic that lay behind the course that we have charted and the plan that this Bill provides for. In my own mind I believe that the case we have made, while not perfect and open to improvement, demonstrates that the general line of policy employed in this Bill is one that the House ought to vote for. I do not think that my honourable friend has made his case that we should junk the structure of the Bill, which is really what he's asking us to do, and go back to some other form of government or import into the Bill principles which are not there at the present time.

So with all those things considered, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Legislature will in its wisdom allow this Bill to go to committee. I hope that it will be on the agenda Thursday morning and we'll have a little time to decide how best to deal with it in committee in order to ensure that there is the widest possible representation of those municipal men and members of the public who want to have their views put forward, because I'm certain that regardless of anything else, we all agree on the need and the necessity of having that thorough and careful hearing in the Law Amendments Committee. I'm convinced, Sir, that this piece of legislation is, in the main, sound and worthy of the approval of the House.

MR. PREFONTAINE: May I now ask a question of the First Minister? He told me he would answer the question after.

MR. ROBLIN: I'll listen. I hope I can answer it. I'm not sure.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Well I would like to know whether, when the First Minister stated that I had stopped in my quotation of his speech, whether he was insinuating that I had purposely stopped at that particular place in order to misinterpret or give a wrong opinion of what he had said.

MR. ROBLIN: No. I would make no such imputation because my knowledge of my honourable friend leads me to think that he is punctilious in trying to give the fair representation of the matter and that he would not lend himself to any such manoeuvre of that sort. All I wanted to say is that in my opinion it would have set forward the whole of our position if he had continued the statement a little further, but I impute no ulterior motive whatsoever to him.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Honourable the First Minister? I wonder if he recognizes that some objections might be valid for St. Boniface only. I never said that I was against the principles of this thing.

MR. ROBLIN: Well that brings up an interesting point. In answer to that question I think my honourable friend has got a point there and I hope that we don't overlook that, that the City of St. Boniface has a special character in the Province of Manitoba which must be fully recognized in this House, and I for one trust that it has been recognized also in the legislation because I want to assure my honourable friend that when this Bill was drafted the situation in respect of the City of St. Boniface was foremost among the considerations which prompted my colleagues and myself when we drafted this Bill. Had it not been for that situation perhaps we would have brought forward different recommendations, but I want to assure him that this has been done in good faith and in the agreement that the values represented by that community are values which are important in this community and which we wish to retain, and which we have no desire whatsoever to circumscribe in such a way as to make it intolerable for those who are concerned in this particular problem. And that's the point where I feel my honourable friend has done me less than justice in his speech. Had he listened carefully to my remarks on that point perhaps he would not have said some of the things he did say.

MR. DESJARDINS: Could I ask this other question then? Is it possible, before voting I'd like to know, that this is second reading, that this could be just mandatory except for St. Boniface. That St. Boniface could be It's a question I'm entitled to.

MR. ROBLIN: I made a full statement on this matter, Sir. I've said that the government had said that the powers that are in this Bill are those which they deem must be mandatory, but when one talks about extending the Bill, then we say the voluntary principle is one which is brought into play specifically in the structure of this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. ROBLIN: Yeas and nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members. The question before the House is second reading of Bill No. 62, an Act to establish The Corporation of Metropolitan Winnipeg and to provide for the Exercise by the Corporation of Certain Powers and Authority.

A standing vote was taken, the result being:

YEAS: Messrs. Alexander, Baizley, Bjornson, Campbell, Carroll, Christianson, Corbett, Cowan, Evans; Mrs. Forbes; Messrs. Gray, Guttormson, Hamilton, Harris, Hawryluk, Hutton, Ingebrigtson, Johnson (Assiniboia), Johnson (Gimli), Klym, Lissaman, Lyon, McKellar, McLean, Martin, Molgat, Orlikow, Paulley, Peters, Reid, Ridley, Roblin, Roberts, Schreyer, Seaborn, Shewman, Shoemaker, Smellie, Stanes, Strickland, Thompson, Wagner, Watt, Weir, Witney, Wright.

NAYS: Desjardins, Froese, Prefontaine, Tanchak.

MR. CLERK: Yeas, 46; Nays, 4.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion carried. Second reading of Bill No. 48. The Honourable the Attorney-General.

Hon. Sterling R. Lyon (Attorney-General)(Fort Garry) presented Bill No. 48, an Act to prevent Discrimination against any person with respect to the Provision of Accommodation, by reason of Race, Religion, Religious Creed, Colour, Ancestry, Ethnic or National Origin, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on one of those happy occasions when I can

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd.) . . . present to the House a Bill which I would hope would receive the unanimous consent and approval of this House, for it is a Bill the fundamental principle of which is to enshrine and to protect the right of all citizens in a democracy, namely equality of treatment in respect of public accommodation and admission to places to which the public generally have access. Race and religion, religious creed, colour, ancestry, ethnic or national origin are not factors which should or ordinarily do affect this right among citizens or visitors to this province. Nonetheless, there are those rare instances where bigotry and racial or religious prejudice are manifested, and it is against such instances that this Bill is primarily directed.

We are very fortunate in this province, Sir, to have a heritage of freedom which has come to us over centuries of development under the British system and under the rule of law. We are particularly fortunate to have among our present citizenry that diversification of racial and religious background which can be claimed as one of the real strengths of our provincial society. While not so cosmopolitan as other large areas or centres on this continent, Manitoba, and indeed the City of Winnipeg, have become the home of persons from practically every country of the world holding religious convictions which embrace the whole spectrum known to man. It is, therefore, only fitting and proper that we should, by this Act and others of its kind, acknowledge and take a firm stand against discrimination toward our fellow men--that is discrimination which has no foundation or justification when examined by any impartial mind. Furthermore, we are living today in a shrinking world, a world in which the national capitals of Europe and indeed the national capitals of the east are only a few hours removed by modern transportation. I would venture to say as well that we are living in a world and in times when discrimination of the type which this Bill attacks is an unwarranted luxury which cannot be tolerated.

Now having outlined all of these facts which I consider, Sir, to be rather axiomatic, I must say as well that discrimination and other similar aberrations of the mind are not subjects which legislation alone can cure. We all wish for example that men and nations might be law abiding, but no matter how much we legislate, man and nations will continue to do illegal acts. But this hard fact does not prevent us and should not deter us from taking those steps, however inconsequential they may appear against the world background, to create by law that atmosphere in which mutual acceptance and understanding among men of varied racial and religious background can be expected to improve. With the passage of this Bill, Sir, Manitoba will become the fifth province in Canada to enact legislation of this kind. In drafting our Bill we have drawn heavily upon the contents of the Bills which are presently extant in our sister provinces. Some say that this Bill does not go far enough; others may say that the Bill goes too far. Actually, Sir, it is a distillation of the thoughts and of the legislation which has appeared in other provinces and which certainly has commended itself to this government and I hope to all members of the House. With these few words, Sir, I do commend this piece of legislation, this Bill and its principle, to this House.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Speaker, first let me congratulate the Attorney-General for bringing in this resolution although, in my opinion, it is not complete. I also wish to call the attention of the House that I had the honour on behalf of our group to introduce a Bill of Rights about eight or nine times which included identical--similar resolutions, and it couldn't even pass second reading. But since then, since we have introduced a Bill of Rights here, this province has on its Statute Books three of the main sections of that Bill. At all times I have asked and begged this House, not necessarily this government, to let this Bill go for second reading, and then in committee some of the sections which perhaps cannot be passed could be eliminated, but as I say, that was a voice in the wilderness. But finally to our surprise, years after asking, it had very important resolutions placed in the Statute Books which were contained in the Bill which we had submitted here about 16 or 17 years ago. Everything comes late, but better late than never.

My beef now--not a beef at all, but I have suggested to the Attorney-General, I think when he introduced the Bill, or asked him whether this would include housing accommodation, blocks and so on. This applies to hotels only. I am rather surprised that the others were not included. What difference does it make whether a person is not permitted to enter a hotel or is not permitted to rent a suite for a certain period of time or permanently? I think perhaps this Bill could have been stronger, more effective if the other section would have been included. But as I have stated, we have been accepting piece-meal legislation for a quarter of a century.

(Mr. Gray, cont'd.) . . . We will still keep on fighting for improvement and we hope that in the very near future that the original Bill which we have suggested, a Bill of Rights, which included all these sections which are not on the Statute Books, will be realized. I do not want to suggest an amendment to this resolution because we want to get as much as we can. If we make an amendment it would likely be defeated. The government decided. We congratulate the government for doing it but we do hope, either in this session or in the very near future to make this complete and include housing accommodation.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Speaker, I join with the Honourable Member from Inkster in congratulating the government for introducing this important Bill. As he has already said we had proposed similar measures in previous sessions. In introducing this Bill the government is moving, I think as other provinces already have done and as the Attorney-General has mentioned in his introduction, is moving to help eliminate discrimination in a field in which we have had evidence that discrimination exists. To mention just one place, the report on Indian and Metis presented to this House made mention of this fact.

The Honourable the Attorney-General says that this Bill follows the provisions of other Bills which have already been passed in four provinces and I am certain that this is so. I, Mr. Speaker, would like to urge the government--I am not going to move an amendment--I would like to urge the government, Mr. Speaker, to give consideration for once not just to following the example of other provinces, but this time and in this case to give leadership. I know, Mr. Speaker, that there will be representations made to the Law Amendments Committee in which evidence of discrimination in the field of housing will be given. Concrete evidence of certain surveys which have been made. And in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, this is the most prevalent form of discrimination which exists in this province at the present time, and yet it is the one facet of discrimination which is not dealt with by this Bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it so happens that last week the Governor of New York State, Governor Rockefeller, a good Republican I think, proposed a similar proposal to the state legislature, the State Senate of New York State. I have it with me, Mr. Speaker, the New York Times, Wednesday, February 24th, and I want to read several paragraphs to the House and to urge the Honourable the Attorney-General to give some consideration to this matter before this matter is finally disposed of. In the message with which the Governor sends his proposed Bill to the State of New York he says as follows, and I quote: "Our system of government of laws is based upon recognition of the worth of individual responsibility and initiative; to protect the individual in his manifold private activities; but when private activities because of their nature and scope affect the welfare of large numbers of citizens they cease being matters of purely private concern". Further he says, "It would prohibit discrimination in the sale or rental of any housing accommodation in a multiple dwelling or in the sale or lease of any housing accommodation where the owner controls the sale or lease of ten or more contiguous accommodations". And in the proposed Bill, Mr. Speaker, and I will read you two sections--this is the section in which he deals with the purpose, and I quote as follows: "It shall be deemed an exercise of the police power of the state for the protection of the public welfare, health and peace of the people of this state, and in fulfillment of the provisions of the constitution of this state concerning civil rights. And the Legislature hereby finds and declares that practices of discrimination against any of its inhabitants because of race, creed, colour or national origin are matters of state concern, that such discrimination not only threatens the rights and proper privileges of its inhabitants but menaces the institutions and foundations of its free democratic state and threatens the peace, order, health, safety and general welfare of the state and its inhabitants. A state agency is hereby created with power to eliminate and prevent discrimination in employment and places of public accommodation, resort or amusement, and in publicly assisted housing accommodation and in commercial space because of race, creed, colour or natural origin, and to take other action against discrimination because of race, creed, colour or natural origin as herein provided. The commission established hereunder is hereby given general jurisdiction and power for such purposes".

That brings me, Mr. Speaker, to my second suggestion--not a criticism and certainly not an amendment. We have had on the Statute Books in this province, Mr. Speaker, for some years now a Fair Employment Practices Act which prohibits discrimination in the field of employment. It is a good Act; and excellent Act; and, Mr. Speaker, it can help eliminate

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd.) . . . discrimination if and when the people of this province, those who work and those who hire, know that the Act is in effect and know what the provisions are. The Federal Government offer it , passed such legislation, Mr. Speaker, provided that the department which administers the Act shall carry on a program of education through radio, through newspapers, through posters, and various other means which I am sure the Minister will know. Certainly the Minister of Labour will know what the Federal Government is doing. I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that we have not done this in this province apropos of the Fair Employment Practices Act and I am afraid that we will follow the same procedure with respect to this Act. I think the Act is fine as far as it goes, but it seems to me that if it is to be made effective the people of this province ought to know about the Act; and that the government, in introducing the Act, ought to make some provision, not necessarily in the Act but in the administration of the Act, so that the provisions of the Act and the rights of the people and the responsibilities of those who are covered by the provision of the Act will be made known to the people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these are two suggestions which I would urge the Attorney-General and the government to give consideration to. I certainly have no intention of moving an amendment. I certainly intend to vote for this Act, Mr. Speaker, but I think that it could be strengthened if the government would give consideration favourably to the two suggestions which we have made.

MR. J. M. HAWRYLUK (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some contribution to this Bill. I wish to commend the Minister and the government because, being a member here for the past 11 years, we in the CCF have attempted to introduce similar bills which we felt there was a great need for in this province. I feel that this Bill will have a major effect on the people of the province--the fact that the makeup of the province is made of dozens of varieties of different nationalities of people who came from various parts of the earth.

For years I think the teachers in this province have done a wonderful job in teaching tolerance of opinions, of religion, of nationalities, of culture and tradition. I'll give you an example of a situation where I taught in a school of 400 youngsters where we had 53 different nationalities in that school. I had Japanese, Chinese, I had a couple of negro boys, and all the other type of European youngsters. And yet it is an amazing thing that these youngsters could get along until the time they started to work for a living. With no idea or conception as to who you were or what you were; who your father was; where you came from; they got along. They played together; they took part in sports; and as a result they were brothers under the skin. And yet it's the insidious way in which public opinion has sometimes aroused the feelings of certain peoples, and as a result, we found that there were differences of opinion, particularly I recall when we attempted a Bill in which people of different ethnic groups were given some protection as far as applying for positions. Time and time again I used to come across an application form which wanted to know everything about the person's educational ability but, unfortunately, even though you had a half a dozen applications in front of you it seems that they still asked for your religious background; they still asked for your ethnic background; or if they omitted that very cleverly, which they did in the last particular time when the Fair Employment Practice Bill was passed, there was just an item--they didn't ask for your nationality but they asked for the origin of your parents. Well that was very smart and I couldn't understand that at all. I'm not worried about the children of today or the children of the past, I'm worried about the adults and the children who become adults, and by means of devious ways in which unfortunately this discrimination has come about.

I again wish to commend the government. I think it is an excellent step in the right direction, and any time an employer should employ a person he should judge that individual for what he and she can offer in the field of their profession rather than their background. And once again I wish to commend the government for this step because it has been a longtime coming.

MR. J. M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Honourable the Attorney-General a question. I am wondering in my mind whether the complaints that have been received to date warrant legislation of this type. Maybe the Minister could tell us how many complaints were received within the last year. Further, will it prevent occurrences of this type or will they have other means of circumventing of admission of undesirables? To me it seems that ways and means will be found to get by and around this Act. And then I feel very strongly that it infringes on the rights of the individual, and further to that, where do we go next?

(Mr. Froese, cont'd.) . . . After this Bill we legislate against discrimination of this type, what legislation will be next on the books to prevent discrimination against other people? Could we have an answer to that question?

MR. SPEAKER: the honourable member's closing the debate.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, reverting first to the question by the Honourable Member from Rhineland. Of course being a member of the political party to which he attaches himself I can understand his concern with some of the questions that he asked. Infringing on the rights of individuals--I can see no infringement on the right of any individual in this Bill, Sir. The only infringement here if it can be called an infringement at all, is that the owner or operator of premises to which the public customarily have access is by law made to open these premises to all persons regardless of their racial or religious background. I fail to see how that constitutes an infringement of any basic right. If a person holds premises open for the public then he certainly must expect all members of the public to take the opportunity to use these facilities.

He raised the question as to complaints. I don't receive the complaints personally. I know that they come occasionally though--the odd time to my department--I am sure more often to the Department of Labour. I haven't made any tabulation of these. I have heard complaints personally as a citizen of Manitoba from one or two people. I recall in particular students who came here from Trinidad, and this was a number of years ago, I recall them saying to me that they found it difficult on one occasion when they first came to get a hotel room in the City of Winnipeg. Now these people subsequently became residents of this community and some of them from ten or more years back have stayed and become a part of our community, have married here and are teaching or conducting other activities in the Province of Manitoba. But the fact remained that in years gone by this type of complaint does come up. I think I said in my opening remarks that rarely, only rarely do we find it, but then that may be because the person who has been refused accommodation doesn't wish to make an issue of it. He doesn't go to the authorities or to anyone else. Certainly we know that it goes on.

He says that perhaps ways and means can be found to circumvent this legislation. Well I would say this, Sir, that if ways and means cannot be found to circumvent this legislation then it will be the first piece of legislation on the Statute Books of any province or of any country in the world for which ways and means cannot be found to circumvent it, because the legislation is only as perfect as we are and as the honourable member knows, why of course humans are the most imperfect creatures when it comes to drafting and to conduct and everything else. But certainly ways and means could be found by those persons to circumvent this legislation as they can be found to circumvent any other piece of legislation. But the purpose of the Bill is to place an Act of this type on our Statute Books so that it will become known, as the Honourable Member from St. John's has pointed out, it will become known to the people of this province as it has become known to the people of Ontario, or the people of Saskatchewan, the people of Nova Scotia, the people of New Brunswick. Three of the four, I might mention for the edification of the Honourable Member from Rhineland, being Conservative provinces when these bills were passed. It will be remembered and known in all of those provinces that this is a right granted by the legislature of this province, not dependent on any common law which was taken over in 1870 or anything like that at all, but a statutory right, the correction of which lies within the power of the Legislature and the machinery for the correction of which lies within the Act itself. Certainly it probably will be circumvented from time to time but that doesn't erase the desirability or the need, as I suggest, for a bill of this type in our statutes.

Now the Honourable Member from St. John's mentioned the question of housing accommodation, I think it was, in the Bill that was being brought in by apparently--or being suggested by Governor Rockefeller to the House in New York State. I haven't had the opportunity to see that Bill as yet, Sir, but as I did attempt to point out to the House when the Bill was introduced in my earlier remarks, this represents the best thinking that we have on the subject so far in Canada. Now it may well be that there are further extensions that can be made from time to time as the need presents itself and as we determine what the jurisdiction is. Certainly in the field of landlord and tenants there can be no doubt that the province has suitable jurisdiction. But I would say to him, Sir, and to the other members of the House, that is certainly something that can be looked at. I don't accept his criticism that the province is not taking the lead in the field here. I think that the province certainly is going as far as any other province in this

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd.).... country has gone, and we do it not grudgingly and not haltingly but we do it willingly and gladly. I point out the same fact to the honourable member that four of the five provinces which will have implemented this legislation when this Bill passes will of course be Conservative provinces where the legislation was initiated by Conservative Governments.

Now as to the publication of the Bill. I agree with the Honourable Member for St. John's that there should be a fairly wide distribution of this Bill to the places which will be primarily affected by it, and I am thinking primarily of course of restaurants, hotels, meeting halls, and so on and so forth. But notwithstanding any publication that the government may give, the primary weapon, the primary weapon in this Bill is given to the average individual citizen, who when he feels himself aggrieved contrary to the principles of this Act, he will then bring it to the attention of the authorities as set forth in the Act and the machinery is then set into operation to redress that grievance. And so while I agree that as much publicity as can be considered reasonable should be given with respect to the Bill, still the ultimate enforcement of it is dependent upon the individual who feels that there should be some redress of grievance in respect of an act of discrimination against himself or an act of discrimination against some friend or acquaintance in something that has come to his knowledge. So that is where the power of the Bill lies, Sir, with the average individual and if he will use the power that is given to him here I think there is ample room for redress or grievance.

Now those are about the only remarks I would care to make in response to those that have been made on second reading.

MR. GRAY: May I ask the Honourable Attorney-General a question? I mentioned something about if it applied on housing. You haven't answered it. This includes only hotels, what about (Interjection). That was answered, I'm sorry.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Committee of Supply.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Health and Public Welfare that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Honourable Member for St. Matthews please take the Chair.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, before we start, I have just sent a note to the Leader of the House at the present time in the absence of the First Minister. It's now a quarter past five and I made the suggestion to him that he might call it 5:30 so that we will have a start right at 8:00 o'clock. Fifteen minutes-- we'd just get started and then we'd break off. I don't know what the Honourable the Minister of Health and the Leader of the House may think of that. I'm not attempting, in any way, may I say Mr. Chairman, to suggest that we should forego 15 minutes of deliberations, but I think it would facilitate the committee.

MR. EVANS: I am sorry that I hadn't read the Leader of the CCF Party's note by the time I rose to move the motion and that's why I looked a little surprised. -- (Interjection)-- Oh yes, well it would have been right to move into committee anyway. It does seem to me however, Mr. Chairman, that there must be some honourable gentlemen on the other side who would require less than 15 minutes to make a comment on what the Minister of Health and Welfare said in his last statement. I would think that we would require strong reasons for not continuing on to the regular 5:30 closing hour for the adjournment for dinner.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I could see by the expression on the Minister's face that I think he would be agreeable at least on this, but however I am not pressing the point at all. I thought that it would not hurt the committee at all and we'd start right out at 8:00 fresh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Health Division (2) (a) Passed. (b) Passed.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a very slight complaint to my very good friend the Minister of Health and Public Welfare for whom I have all my love and affection and respect. It seems to me that sometimes I am treated by the Ministers as an orphan. It happened with the Minister of Agriculture and it happened with the Minister of Health the other day. I don't care what the question is, whether it's foolish or otherwise, and let me assure you, Mr. Chairman, and the Minister that I am being paid for asking questions and the Minister is being paid for answering it, so let us do our job right. I've asked the possibility of the Health Department having a department for itself on alcohol education -- not on education but

MR. CHAIRMAN:more attention to the Minister. The fact that now we are dealing with the psychiatric hospitals and I think that will come under the proper heading.

MR. GRAY: At any rate I'll be through in a half a minute. It's the same thing. I intend to speak on the other -- and not only on temperance and education and prohibition -- on any other phase of alcoholism. Also the rehabilitation and work that's being done by the different organizations now, and to whom we are contributing certain sums of money. The results of the different organizations, and I am not naming any one, is not too encouraging. Perhaps they are not receiving sufficient money to carry on their work, and as I suggested on several occasions that as the government derives a revenue of about \$12,000,000 this year -- I don't know, I hope so -- they could easily spend more money for the purpose that of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission has been organized for the purpose for which they have taken over the liquor industry in this province. They have not taken it over to make a profit at that time because the profits were small. They've taken it over of the control. Now in one way we have different outlets increasing it, more accommodation for those who want to buy the liquor, more profit; on the other hand, we only hand out 160 or \$170,000 to old organizations. So the question I have asked is whether it is possible to give consideration either this year or next year to establishing a branch of your department and take over all the work necessary that is now being done by different organizations. This question I have asked and I don't suggest that I've been ignored but I have not been answered anyway.

HON. GEORGE JOHNSON (Minister of Health and Public Welfare) (Gimli): Mr. Chairmen, just to clear the Honourable Member for Inkster's mind, I didn't mean to ignore him the other night. It's just that this comes up for rather a full discussion under the Welfare estimates, under the Alcohol Grant of this year. However, I think there's really enough, Mr. Chairman, in this department now without adding the whole field of alcoholism to it. I'm not trying to be sarcastic or anything when I say this, but I want my honourable friend to understand that the treatment of the acute alcoholic requires all the facilities that you have in an acute general hospital. You don't want to duplicate all that when it isn't necessary. I'm not saying that it isn't necessary to have facilities for these people but this can best be done through existing facilities. And talking about alcohol education, as he knows, there are really three compartments where money is spent in disseminating alcohol education at the present time. But I'd rather, if I may, leave that for a fuller discussion at the time of the Welfare estimates.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to repeat the speech which I made the other night on this. But at the same time I would like to ask some questions with regard to the Brandon Hospital, but what I'm saying I won't repeat under the Selkirk Hospital or the Manitoba School. We are given here, Mr. Speaker, item (a), an item of \$1,458,000 for salaries. We are not given the number of people on the staff; we are not given a breakdown in terms of category; we are not given a statement from the Minister as to the training and qualifications of the staff; and it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that this is extremely important.

I have with me, Mr. Speaker, a pamphlet published by the American Psychiatric Association, called "Standards for Hospitals and Clinics, Revised as of June 1958." On page 44, and I'll be glad to give the Minister a copy of this because I happen to have two, the page is headed "Personnel Ratios for Public Mental Hospitals," which is precisely what we have at Brandon and at Selkirk. Here's what they say for physicians, Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to talk about the admission or the intensive treatment service because I realize that we don't really have an intensive treatment service as of now in the hospitals, but here's what they say about the continued treatment service. For physicians, 1 physician to 150 patients; for clinical psychologists, 1 for 500 patients; for registered nurses, 1 to 40 patients; for attendants, 1 to 6 patients; for hydrotherapists, 1 to 250 patients; for psychiatric social workers, 1 to 80 new admissions per year; 1 to 60 patients on convalescence status or on family care; 1 supervisor to every 5 case workers. Now I realize that this is what they propose and I realize that there are probably few, if any, state or provincial institutions which have attained this standard, but I turn, Mr. Speaker, to the estimates for last year of the Province of Saskatchewan, and in the Weyburn hospital which as I remember has just about the same number of patients as our institution, the permanent positions listed 640. Now I'm sorry I can't tell the Minister how many are psychiatrists, how many are social workers and so on, but this is what they list;

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd.) at the North Battleford hospital, permanent positions 633; at the Saskatchewan Training School in Moose Jaw which is similar to our Portage School, permanent positions 505. I raise this, Mr. Speaker, because I think it's crucial in the whole question of treatment and in the question of successful treatment so the people can be released to go home to their families to live a normal life.

Now it may be, Mr. Speaker, that it's almost 5:30 and that the Minister wants to hold this until tonight. That's all right with me. I don't intend to make any more long speeches; I don't intend to be critical. I merely say, Mr. Speaker, that here is what the American Psychiatric Association suggests is a standard which we need. I give a few figures as to what they are doing in Saskatchewan and I would like the Minister, if he could, to tell us what we are doing here.

One other question, Mr. Chairman, and then I think I will be through as far as the psychiatric services are concerned. The Minister said, and the newspapers I think correctly quoted him, to suggest that the new approach will be to treat people who are not in the institution through community services. I presume this means that trained personnel from institutions like Brandon will go out to towns and cities in the neighbourhood of Brandon, or possibly also from Selkirk. I would like the Minister to tell us whether in the estimates for this coming year there are personnel who will be able to make a beginning on this proposal which the Minister reported on the other night.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask just one question. I don't know whether the Minister is going to attempt to answer now or not or whether he will at 8 o'clock this evening, but I would like to suggest this either to you, Sir, or to the Minister I guess, that because of the fact that we have not got the salaries on this, that is the number of personnel on each of these items and they are considerable, for the purpose of our record for future years I would appreciate it as a member of the Committee if before you pass an item, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister inform us, or as an alternative, if the Minister would supply to the committee, rather than speaking on each particular item, a list of the salaries for the respective items. If that would facilitate the passing of the items on that understanding it would be perfectly agreeable to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . refer to the items and come back to salaries later?

MR. PAULLEY: No, what I would suggest, either at the time we're at an item the Minister informs us, or in the alternative, that after we have passed them without coming back to them, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister supply us with the number of employees or salaries in each of the items. That might be the better way and then we won't ask, at least presume we may not ask the questions on each individual item. I'd leave it up to the Minister.

MR. G. JOHNSON (Gimli): Mr. Chairman, I am ready to go ahead. Now I can give those in advance. I have them all here and will be only too glad to pass them on to you, this year's and last year's, and the increase. I'll give you last year's too and this year's -- (Interjection) -- You've got last year's.

MR. PAULLEY: but if we had them, say when we resume -- if we just have a rundown on them. . . .

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): I'll give you just the -- before we adjourn now at 5:30, and I'll answer those questions at 8 o'clock -- I can give you the numbers of people in the salaries this year. Brandon 473, that is under (a) Salaries; farm salaries 20, same as last year; Selkirk 364 as compared with 353; farm salaries, same as last year, 17; Manitoba School for Mental Defects, 322 as it was against 314; farm salaries, 10 as against 10, Broadway Home for Mental Defectives 9; administration of health services -- what was it last year 5 or 6 -- six this year, I guess; 39 under Environmental Sanitation; 3 under preventative medical services; 5 under VD control; 3 under TB service; 2 under Internal Hygiene. That will keep us going for awhile starting at 8 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is 5:30. I shall leave the Chair until 8 o'clock.

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