

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Monday, April 22nd, 1963.

Opening Prayer by Madam Speaker

MADAM SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions

Reading and Receiving Petitions

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

HON. STERLING R. LYON, Q.C. (Attorney-General) (Fort Garry): Madam Speaker, I beg to present the second report of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments.

MR. CLERK: Your Standing Committee on Law Amendments beg leave to present the following as their second report. Your Committee has considered Bills No.4, An Act to amend The Civil Service Act; No.7, An Act to validate Order-in-Council 1566/62; No.19, An Act to confirm a certain agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba; No.67, An Act respecting Grants to Colleges affiliated with The University of Manitoba; No.55, an Act to amend The Jury Act; No.56, An Act to amend the Devolution of Estates Act; No.57, An Act to amend The Interpretation Act; No.58, An Act to Repeal The Acts of Incorporation of Certain Corporations; No.71, An Act to amend The Wives' and Children's Maintenance Act; No.74, An Act to amend The Judgments Act; No.80, An Act to amend an Act to Incorporate the Sinking Fund Trustees of The Winnipeg School Division No.1; No.97, An Act to amend The Virden and District Elderly Persons Housing Corporation; No.22, An Act to amend An Act for the Relief of the Estate of Charlie Young, deceased. And has agreed to report the same without amendment. Your Committee has also considered Bills No.50, An Act to amend the Mining Royalty and Tax Act; No.54, An Act to amend The Hospitals Act; No.91, An Act to amend The Crown Lands Act; and has agreed to report the same with Certain Amendments.

Your Committee recommends that the following Bills which were originally referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments for consideration, be now referred to the Standing Committee on Industrial Relations. No. 48, An Act to amend The Fair Wage Act; No.60, An Act to amend The Labour Relations Act, No.1. All of which is respectfully submitted.

MR. LYON: Madam Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Welfare that the Report of the Committee be received.

Madam Speaker presented the motion.

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of the New Democratic Party) (Radisson): Madam Speaker, just one question. We are now receiving the report. I'm wondering when the report -- concurrence insofar as the transfer, or if this is necessary, concurrence insofar as the transfer of the two bills is concerned -- On Labour.

MR. LYON: I understand that concurrence as such is not required. The report is accepted and any statement contained in it with respect to the transfer of the bills would be accepted if the report is received. I might just mention in that connection that it is our intention to ask the Clerk to designate, or give notice, of the Committee on Industrial Relations meeting Friday morning next, at 10 A.M. in connection with the two Bills.

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

MADAM SPEAKER: Notices of Motion

Introduction of Bills

HON. GEORGE HUTTON (Minister of Agriculture and Conservation) (Rockwood-Iberville): Madam Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Education, that Madam Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the following resolutions.

Madam Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole with the Honourable the Member for St. Matthews in the Chair.

MR. HUTTON: Mr. Chairman, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor having been informed of the subject matter of the proposed resolutions recommends them to this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No.1, Resolved that it is expedient to bring in a measure respecting the control of plant pests and plant diseases and providing, among other matters, for the appointment of inspectors, officers, and other employees required to administer and enforce the measure and for the payment of their salaries or other remuneration.

Resolution be adopted?

MR. HUTTON: Mr. Chairman, this revises the existing Plant Pest Act. It is a re-writing of the Act bringing it up-to-date to cope with conditions as they exist today. In 1961, we received reports of the first outbreak in this part of the country of Dutch Elm disease in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. As you know, the American Elm is the most planted shade tree in western Canada; the most widely used boulevard tree and also one of the major trees in farmstead and field shelter belt plantings on the Canadian prairies. This disease is not listed in the Plant Pests Act and arrival of this disease in western Canada could mean the eventual loss of most of the shade trees in the prairies. Remedial action on the appearance of this disease should be immediate.

The other disease and insect pests are listed in the Act and even if it were possible under the present Act to have a regulation for control of Dutch Elm disease, considerable delay would probably occur before any control measures could be implemented. It is proposed in the revised Act to remove the names of all the insect and disease pests listed in the Act and to have these put in regulations to be drawn up under the Act. The general terminology of the revised Act has not been changed materially from that of its predecessor except in the changes mentioned above and in one or two cases to clarify the meaning. Provision is also set out in the revised Act for certification of nursery stock. Up until about four years ago certification of raspberries was handled by the Federal Government and at that time it was turned over to the provinces but we have had no provision in our Act for this, although the Ontario Government has included this in their legislation. Because of this the term "certified stock" for raspberries has come to lose much of its original meaning. Certified raspberry stock is stock similar to certified potato seed and as such is subject to more stringent inspection than that required for normal commercial stock.

The Plant Pests Act governs the registration and inspection of commercial nurseries; stipulates the registration and outlines procedures to be taken for the control of such pests and diseases.

Under the terms of the present Act because it lists pests found on only fruit plants, apples, crabapples, pears, plums and potatoes and peas, there is no provision for registration of a nursery where only ornamental plantings are propagated. Some of these could have pests and diseases as serious as the ones listed. Some of the registered nurserymen are a little critical at times, and rightly so, why they should be forced to be registered while a nurseryman who does not grow fruit plants is not required to be registered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution be adopted.

MR. MORRIS A. GRAY (Inkster): .....this pest only found out recently or was it in existence for some time. If it was, why bring it up at such a late date and to what extent the damage has already been done.

MR. D. L. CAMPBELL (Lakeside): Mr. Chairman, if I heard the Honourable Minister, I understood him to say that it was proposed to take out of the Act the present listings and to make them all, put them all under Order-in-Council. Wouldn't it be better -- I suggest it would be better -- to leave the list in the Act, name the additional ones that the Minister is prepared to deal with now and provide for additions to be made by Order-in-Council. I would think there would be some advantage in having the list appear in the Act, or as a schedule to the Act, but, to make the point that the Honourable the Minister has in mind, to make provisions for additions to be made at any time by The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

MR. HUTTON: If there are no more questions I would say that this disease referred to is not a problem in western Canada at the present time. It is to shore-up our inspection and surveillance and to protect our assets that we are revising the Act at this present time. Insofar as to whether it is better to list the specified plants and diseases in the Act or whether it is better to put them in the regulations is a question that I feel ill-qualified to pass too much opinion on. I bow to the legal advisers in these matters. This matter did receive consideration and we have for one reason and another decided to put them -- provide for them under regulations. This matter, of course, I expect could be raised in the Committee stage and discussed if it is felt to be important. We felt that, and I think the Honourable Member for Lakeside recognized this in his remarks, that sometimes you want to move quickly on these matters and you should have the power, by regulation, subject to certain conditions to the surveillance of the department, but this is an open question.

(Mr. Hutton, cont'd)... We decided to do it this way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution be adopted. Passed. Resolution No.2, Resolved that it is expedient to bring in a measure respecting pensions and disability allowances for teachers and providing, among other matters for certain payments from the Consolidated Fund to the fund established for payment of such pensions and disability allowances.

HON. STEWART E. McLEAN, Q.C. (Minister of Education) (Dauphin): Mr. Chairman, this Bill provides for the new Teachers' Pension Plan. We had some discussion about this a year ago. The Plan follows the general principles that had been suggested and requested by the Manitoba Teachers' Society and the Bill which is quite extensive and will receive detailed consideration on second reading, provides for this plan. It also provides for the manner in which the funds are to be provided for the pensions. Some members may note the use of the term in the resolution on the Order Paper of Disability Allowances. I just hasten to say that that is a provision that has been in the Act for some time for the payment of the pension prior to the time when it might normally be payable under certain reasons of disability. I mention it only to indicate that it does not mean any new principle insofar as that aspect is concerned. I believe that the provisions generally will be found to be quite acceptable and I look forward to the opportunity of explaining it in detail on second reading.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, might I ask the Minister whether there's retroactive clauses in the Bill in order that some of the very low pensions now being paid may be raised to a more appreciable amount?

MR. McLEAN: .....provided for everything retroactively and whatever the word is in the future, I think, and the answer is "yes." I think we've provided for every conceivable contingency that could arise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution be adopted. Passed. Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has adopted certain resolutions and directed me to report the same and ask leave to sit again.

MR. W.G. MARTIN (St. Matthews): Madam Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Springfield that the report of the committee be received.

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

MR. HUTTON introduced Bill No.118, an Act respecting the control of plant pests and plant diseases.

MR. McLEAN introduced Bill No.133, an Act to provide for pensions and disability allowances for teachers.

MADAM SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier) (Wolseley): Madam Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, it gives me much pleasure to advise the House that word has been received that the Pan-American Games have been awarded to the City of Winnipeg for 1967. I think that in this instance the palm should be awarded to His Worship Mayor Steven Juba of the City of Winnipeg who has made this project particularly his own, but I'm bold enough to hope that the attendance of the Minister of Labour at Sao Paulo also helped in the achievement of this very desirable outcome.

MR. McLEAN: Madam Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I should like to lay on the table of the House a Return to an Order of the House made March 15th, 1963 on the motion of the Honourable the Member for Seven Oaks. In doing so, Madam Speaker, may I point out that this Order related to correspondence concerning the subject of uniformity of curriculum and which required approval of the Ministers of other provinces. All approvals were received with the exception of the Province of Quebec. I spoke to the honourable member and he agreed that it would be satisfactory to file the Order omitting the correspondence with that province. That particular correspondence is of course, identical with the other, insofar as we are concerned and I think the Order is satisfactory.

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Fort Rouge): Madam Speaker, I wish to lay on the table of the House a Return to an Order of the House No.18, on the motion of the Honourable the Leader of the NDP.

MR. LYON: Madam Speaker, I wish to lay on the table of the House, a Return to an Order of the House No.15, dated March 27, 1963 on motion of the Honourable Member for

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd)... Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Madam Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Some time ago, I believe the Honourable Minister was asked if there was going to be an extension of the trapping season and I was wondering if he could indicate in the near future the answer to this as I have had a representation from people in Portage over the week-end that were wondering if this would be possible -- to have an extension of a week in the trapping season.

HON. CHARLES H. WITNEY (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources) (Flin Flon): Madam Speaker, the matter was investigated in particular with a question that was given to me by the Honourable Member for Selkirk. They found that the muskrat population in the province is about 50 percent of what it normally is. This is apparently because of the fact that we encountered considerable low water conditions during the year of 1961. Furthermore I found that the Game Branch people were very reluctant, particularly in the Netley Marsh area to provide for any extension of the trapping season as they were concerned that over-trapping would affect the brood stocks and in fact that in other years we may not have sufficient brood stocks to carry on the level of trapping which has normally been experienced.

Furthermore, while I'm not fully informed as to the date in your particular area; in the area that was referred to around the Netley Marshes trapping has been continuing up until April the 24th, and in that particular area one of the chiefs who had been in conversation with the Game Branch people and after he had heard the facts asked that any extension for the trapping season as far as his band was concerned not be considered. We further found that at this particular time of the year that as the rats come out of their winter quarters that they are apparently quite belligerent and fight among each other extensively, so that there is damage to the pelt and some of the officials of the fur trade have indicated to us that this damaged pelt will not be of value to the industry as a whole and that it would be unwise to extend the season. So for those two reasons; basically that we want to keep the brood stocks intact and secondly, that we don't want to have any deteriorated furs reaching the market, I regret to advise the honourable member that the decision has been against any extension of the trapping season.

MR. PAULLEY: Madam Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I wonder if I could direct a question to the Honourable the First Minister. I wonder if he could indicate to the House how many more pieces of legislation which have not yet been introduced may be forthcoming before the completion of the session.

MR. ROBLIN: I have it in mind, Madam Speaker, that there are around 15 new bills to be introduced to the House before the session is over. There are two important bills in that 15 that I should like to mention. One is the Wildlife Bill and the other is the one that was introduced today by my friend the Minister of Education. There is also quite a number of amendments in the Highway Traffic Act. To the best of my recollection those are the three major bills with respect to size that have not been presented to the House as yet. There are two other important bills in the Ministry of Agriculture and Conservation -- the Farm Credit Bill and a bill on Crop Insurance. Those are the main bills that are outstanding in the regular course of affairs. There are, as I say, a dozen or so bills of some importance, but not of what I call first class stature. I might say that we've had the printers working overtime on Saturday to try and get these bills completed, because all the bills the House will see this session have been sent to the printers and it is a question of prying them loose from the printer, but I think that matter is fairly well in hand.

MR. T.P. HILLHOUSE, Q.C. (Selkirk): Madam Speaker, arising out of the reference made by the First Minister to further amendments to the Highway Traffic Act, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Utilities. Is it the intention of the government to consolidate that Act this year?

MR. LYON: Madam Speaker, not this year, but it will -- I'm thinking in the ordinary course of the revision of statutes, that such a consolidation will undoubtedly be undertaken.

MADAM SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No.89. The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Madam Speaker, with the consent of the House, may I have this bill stand.

MADAM SPEAKER: Agreed. The adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General. The Honourable Member for St. John's.

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK (St. John's): Madam Speaker, I have had an opportunity on several occasions to discuss this bill with the Honourable Member for Selkirk, both before and after he spoke and since I believe that he and I agree about much of what he has said, I will try not to repeat what he said but rather to expand somewhat on it. The Honourable the Attorney-General in presenting this Bill to us mentioned that last year when he presented the Bill in its original form, there were three main purposes in this Act. The first was to inform purchasers of the cost of interest and other charges; the second was to educate the people as to what to look for in their time purchases; the third was to protect public interest and accommodate practical business operations. Now Madam Speaker, I think that the Honourable the Attorney-General mentioned in his address that he was dealing with the minority, really with infractions that took place against public conscience in the minority of cases; that most people who do business in time sales methods are people who have established a practice which is commendable, which is fair and proper insofar as their customers are concerned. But there are a minority of firms which have established a method of doing business where the actual cost of the time sale is concealed or is dealt with in such a way that the customer doesn't really know how much he is paying for the article and how much he is paying for the privilege of paying for it over a period of time. Now the Act was not -- is the word "proclaimed" -- for this last year because apparently difficulties became apparent only after the Act was passed, and these difficulties, I assume, were difficulties which were posed by the dealers in complaining that they didn't know just how they could fairly present the interest rate -- the percentage rate -- on such a basis that would be non-competitive with different methods or different basis of doing it, and the solution of the government in this case is to eliminate reference to percentage rate and speak in total costs.

Now I would suggest, Madam Speaker, that the amendment does not take care of the original purpose of the Bill, because in order to protect public interest people ought to know just what they are being charged for the privilege of paying over time, and they ought to know it in an understandable fashion which I submit can only be on the basis of an interest rate, because an interest rate if related to a per annum calculation of a known basis is something which is easily understandable. You might argue that the term, so many dollars, is understandable, but I don't think it is in relation to the cost of the article; and when the Minister spoke of his desire to protect the public interest and accommodate practical business operations I would suggest that those people who sell on time should accommodate their practices in accordance with what this Legislature feels is a fair and reasonable way of acquainting the public and educating the public as to what to look for so that although this Act must not make business difficult to operate because of the imposition it puts on business, on the other hand I think that business must adjust itself to the purposes set out by the Honourable the Attorney-General, in the desire to inform the purchasers, to educate them as to what to look for and to protect the interest of the public.

Now, Madam Speaker, I believe that there are a number of firms that have learned that they can make more money out of the interest charges in the sale than they do profit on the sale itself and in order to interest a potential customer their cash price is often set low and they hope to bring in the customer and when they sell on time that's where they make their money. I often think that really what they are doing is selling time and selling dollars, rather than selling the commodity which the customer really thinks he's buying. Therefore, I feel that it is important that the customer be made fully aware of what he is paying and the basis on which he is paying. I just point out to you that if a customer buys an article for say \$100.00 and he's told "this will cost you \$10.00 a month for 12 months", he can calculate that it means \$20.00 extra over and above the \$100.00; but I doubt very much if he realizes that the interest rate he is paying is approximately -- well is between 35 and 40 percent per annum on the reducing balance. That's a very frightening interest rate. And yet if he's told, "well it's only \$20.00 over the year", it doesn't sound like much. Furthermore, if the same article which is sold for \$100.00 is payable at the rate of \$15.00 per month and the total charge is \$115.00, which might be told to the man, he might think, "well if I'm paying \$15.00 a month, the cost I'm paying is \$15.00, it's cheaper than the cost I would have to pay at \$10.00 a month which was \$20.00." Little does he appreciate, I believe, that if he pays \$15.00 as a cost that it relates to about 45 percent per annum interest on the reducing balance. Now, these are not

(Mr. Cherniack, cont'd)... extreme examples, because \$15.00 or \$20.00 on a hundred dollar item spaced over eight to twelve months may not seem very much to the customer, but the customer is the man usually who is least able to pay high interest rates and high costs and he is the one who is least likely to assess the cost to him and to know actually what he is paying for the privilege of buying on time.

I would suggest, Madam Speaker, that the Minister who had a year in which to come up with an amendment, did not adequately do his homework. I do not believe that it is my job to do his homework for him -- and I don't say I did it, nor do I propose to continue to do it -- but I did cause a few inquiries to be made as to how difficult it is to estimate the amount of interest rate paid, and I didn't go very far to discover that actuaries believe that it's easily ascertainable and that it is ascertainable out of tables without too much trouble for anyone. As a matter fact, the Honourable Member for Selkirk, received an article just after he spoke which I'm sure he would have liked to have had in his hands before he spoke, because it's a very simple chart consisting of two discs which was prepared, I believe, by a credit union organization and from which you can very quickly ascertain both the simple interest rate and the compounded interest rate on the reducing balance and know your figures in a matter of seconds. Now it seems to me that with that type of calculation it would be a comparatively simple thing for a seller of goods to look up the rates on this chart or any other chart and give both the actual cost -- which is the intention of this amendment -- including all the other charges that are used -- the different terms that are used -- to calculate a total cost and relate it back to an interest rate on a reducing balance. As a matter of fact it is simple arithmetic to calculate a simple interest rate on the original amount and when that is done it is recognized by accountants and actuaries and anybody who deals with interest rates, that roughly, the interest on the reducing balance is roughly almost double what it is on a simple interest rate. People who travel around this city and keep their eyes out on signs, will often see a sign saying "6% interest" and I guarantee you that in almost every case if you actually calculated it out, you would find that it really means 11.2 or 11.5 percent interest per annum on the reducing balance. Now, the simplest thing that could be done and I'm not suggesting that it should be, because it can be made a little more concrete, but if it were so difficult to calculate the interest, then by taking the simple interest and stating it and then saying that approximately double this is the interest on the reducing balance, would give a customer a pretty good idea of the interest rate that he is paying.

Now, the reason I stated that I didn't think the honourable Minister had done his homework is that he did not indicate to us that he had consulted any actuaries or accountants about this problem and did not indicate to us that tables are available or could be easily prepared to give this kind of information, and I would hope that when this matter is dealt with in Committee, that there will be persons present, brought by the proper department, to indicate either why it is so difficult to do it, or what I believe is possible, to indicate that it is a comparatively simple thing to do it and to prepare these tables so that they should be in the hands of the people who want to do business on time. If there is really no solution, no easy way of calculating this, then I would think that the least we could ask of this Act is to require a statement on conditional sales contracts that the interest rate on the reducing balance is not in excess of "blank" percent per annum, and although this is a loose way of doing it I think at least it would keep the seller conscious of the fact that he must in some way indicate the maximum that he is charging in terms of percentage.

Now there was a few other points mentioned by the Honourable Member from Selkirk, which I think bear repeating and which I think should be dealt with in Committee in detail, and that is the privilege of prepayment and rebate of cost. Now, as far as I know, every reputable firm that deals in conditional sales contracts do give a rebate. As far as I know, they are not required to in any contract that I have read. These are contracts they themselves prepared. The Honourable Member from Selkirk did mention some of the terms of these contracts. They do not provide that there shall be a rebate for prepayment, but most reputable firms do give a rebate and they calculate it on a rule, whose name I know, but whose method I do not -- but it is called the "Rule of the Seventy-Eight" and it's a calculation used by accountants in computing the total of the number of the months in a year, doubling up each month, the total comes to seventy-eight, and in some simple way they can calculate the amount of a rebate to be given on the first, second, fourth, tenth month in the course of a repayment agreement. This

(Mr. Cherniack, cont'd)... is something that is done; I know it can be done and I would suggest to the House that it ought to be done and that people should not find that if they have the opportunity to repay, because they are in funds, they should not be required to continue to make payments at high rates of interest with money sitting in the bank. So that I believe that they ought to have the prepayment privilege and the privilege of rebating -- and incidentally, this rule of the Seventy-Eight's I believe, weighs the amounts in such a way so that if prepayment comes very quickly, the return to the lender or vendor is somewhat greater because of his cost of setting up the loan on his books.

Finally, I would like to repeat what the Honourable Member for Selkirk said in terms of "relief against acceleration". He explained it simply, that if you default in your payment the person who owns that contract can declare the full amount due and payable forthwith and there is nothing to say that you're coming in and making the payment that was in default, plus interest on it, will re-establish your contract. Under the terms of the contract, once you make default, then the full amount can be claimed with all the accumulated but unearned interest can be claimed. Few people do it, but those who do it create incredible harm to the persons who buy, because so seldom can they raise all this money to repay a debt whose due date has been forced on them so quickly. The principle of relief against acceleration and relief against forfeiture has been established in the Law and is not a revolutionary thing at all. The Honourable Member for Selkirk gave an analogy in other cases and I would suggest that if it is proper to protect the owner of real property who has a mortgage against acceleration and forfeiture, it is equally proper in this time -- when time sales have become very common it is equally proper for us to protect the buyers who would come under the same circumstances as would those owners of real property.

So that I would urge this House and the Committee which will deal with this, search very carefully for the original concept which the Honourable Attorney-General mentioned a year ago, and that is to reveal the interest rate to search out to satisfy itself that it cannot be done, because that is the suggestion in this amendment. I suggest it can be done. I suggest that the Committee should investigate closely and find out from those that know whether or not it can be done and then say so in the Act, and also provide for prepayment and rebate and for relief against acceleration and forfeiture.

Madam Speaker put the question.

MR. LYON: Madam Speaker, if no one else wishes to speak, I will close the debate at the present time with a few remarks, particularly in response to the statements just made by the Honourable Member for St. John's. I think there's an old axiom that "all of life is education in itself" and as I sat listening to the Honourable Member for St. John's this afternoon, I thought to approximately that period of a year ago, when I was speaking on this Bill and when a number of members of this House were speaking upon the Bill, and based upon the knowledge that we had at that time, I think most of us at that time would have agreed, in a general way at least, with what the honourable member said this afternoon. But as I said, Madam Speaker, "all life in itself is a period of education" and I've received some education in the past year and I suggest that if my honourable friend had been sitting in the House last year and had had the opportunity as I know the Honourable Member for Selkirk and a few others have of considering this matter over that period he might perhaps not come to the exact position that he does today. Because I tell him in all sincerity that really there is no difference in the outlook or the viewpoint of the government with respect to this Bill -- no difference at all from his outlook and viewpoint. The fact is that we are trying by virtue of these amendments to remedy a situation which was passed by the Legislature last year and which, on reflection, and after very serious consideration we find is impractical in some respects, and not only that but even worse, could result if the bill were left in its present form. could result in abuses springing up under this legislation which none of us in this House would wish to take place.

If I may say so I think my honourable friend has overlooked, or perhaps disregarded what I did say in my opening remarks on the second reading of the Bill; namely that one of the basic problems in consideration of this matter is to determine what is interest. Interest and finance charges are two expressions that we bandy about quite freely and with some gay abandon from time to time. But really what are they? Because commercial people, those in the mercantile world will tell you that they sometimes are unable to draw the line between the actual

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd)... interest they charge or the finance or carrying charge that they impose for the administrative problems that result from time-sale agreements. And they can say "yes", we can come up with an interest figure; we can come up with a figure that we think is interest, but at the same time there will be a finance charge here." Another company can come up and say, "Yes, our interest figure is, say, 5 percent, or 7 percent." And yet the two companies could be selling precisely the same article at exactly the same total cost to the consumer, and yet you would have a situation, and quite a lawful situation, and one where no misrepresentation was intended at all, but where the two vendors, the two sellers of the article would be quoting a different interest rate on the sale of this article, even though the ultimate cost to the consumer was exactly the same in both cases. Now this may not be a bad thing, says my honourable friend, but I suggest that we are spawning, or we would be opening ourselves to the spawning of a type of competition in the quotation of interest rates which certainly would be of no benefit to the public whatsoever. It would be extremely contrary to the public interest if this type of thing were to be done.

Now, hence we have tried to come up with an alternative approach to the legislation, keeping in mind all the time, as I'm sure my honourable friend will, that in attempting to deal with a rate of interest, even when you mention rate of interest you must chart a legal course between the shoals of the intra vires or ultra vires of the legislation that you are proposing to the House. The constitutional question here is an extremely grave one I'm afraid and I'm sure if my honourable friend will take a look at some of the recent decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada he will be impressed with the type of problem that the drafters of the legislation have had in mind coming up with the amendment that we have before us now.

I refer him in particular to the case which was in the Supreme Court of Canada only two months ago in re "The Unconscionable Transactions Relief Act of Ontario" which was a statute wherein the Province of Ontario attempted, as they thought, within their jurisdiction, to prohibit the type of unconscionable transaction that was taking place, I believe it was in the second mortgage field in Ontario. And they were told by the Ontario Court of Appeal and by the Supreme Court I believe unanimous, in both cases, that careful as they had been, or as they thought they had been in the drafting of the legislation, the legislation itself was ultra vires the powers of the Province of Ontario, and they didn't do much more in terms of mentioning the rate of interest, or they tried to steer by this shoal as neatly as they could, but they floundered off. And so while this question has not been mentioned in the debate this year, I know it was last year, I commend that particular consideration to my honourable friend. Being a lawyer I know he will be cognizant of the fact that there is a serious constitutional problem and it's not just as easy as it might appear at face value, or at first blush, in order to get around and to do what you're attempting to do.

Now, as an example, however, he says, "Why don't we say in the contract, something loose like this: 'that the rate of interest charge is not more than a certain percentage each month, or whatever the period the rate is provided for.'" Well, I suggest, Madam Speaker, that the minute we try to do that we would flounder ourselves upon the same rock that has caused the trouble in Ontario, the rock of the constitutionality of the whole proceedings. I can refer him, although I don't necessarily defer to this opinion, I can refer him to an article which appeared, I believe, only a week ago in the New Journal of the Manitoba Law School in which one of the writers in that journal saw fit to disagree with the Legislature of Manitoba and to tell us that the Act as at presently it stands unamended is ultra vires the powers of the province. Now I don't ask that my case stand or fall on that problem but I do commend this matter to his consideration because certainly it is one matter that we have had to be very careful about in drafting the legislation that is before us.

Now, he states the general proposition that business should accommodate its practices to legislation laid down by the Legislature. I don't think anyone will seriously argue with him about that proposition. I don't think it is the intention of this amending bill that is before the House at the present time to necessarily lighten the load on business at the expense of the public interest. That is not the case at all. Rather the attempt of this bill is to build that protection around the consuming public which cannot be utilized in some other way by that minority group of the mercantile field who are willing to misrepresent their actual finance charges and their interest charges to the public. So we're trying to build this wall of



(Mr. Lyon, cont'd)... protection around the consumer, without at the same time imposing upon the mercantile field conditions which will be unreasonable having regard to the frequency and the volume of these transactions in that field. So I wouldn't want anyone in the House to be left with the impression that the Bill that is before us now has any prime purpose other than that stated originally; namely, the protection of the public interest.

I believe there were one or two other points that he mentioned that can be dealt with in Committee. I certainly appreciate the comments by the Honourable Member for Selkirk and can tell him that we are, and will be looking at the suggestions that he has made with respect to accelerated payments, and with respect to rebates, or refunds, under time-sale agreements. It was not our intention in the original drafting of this Act to get into this very related field, but nonetheless newer venture of attempting to lay down what exactly would be in the contract, because of course, whether or not there is a rebate, is a matter of contract between the vendor and the purchaser. But as he quite correctly points out, other parliaments have seen fit to intervene themselves into what is ordinarily thought to be a matter of contractual relationship between vendor and purchaser if it was felt that the intervention was necessary to protect the purchaser. So we are taking a look at that but I can make no categorical statement at this time as to whether or not these suggestions would be acceptable at this time. I appreciate, however, the constructive nature of the criticisms and comments that have been made with respect to the bill and certainly when it goes to Law Amendments Committee we can look forward to hearing any representations that may be made by, or on behalf of any parties who are interested in the amendment or in the original bill as it was passed.

I close by saying that I do not intend at Law Amendments to parade a series of actuaries before the Committee. I tell my honourable friend that I received only this morning that very interesting little wheel with the two rates of interest, the simple and the compound interest on it. I remind him that there are seven, at least seven different ways of computing interest known to the actuaries; I have tables which account for, I think, three or four or five of the different ways, and each one of the tables shows figures that with respect to figures given in other tables are slightly different. So he can see exactly what I'm getting at when I tell him that there are ways, enumerable ways of computing interest, and the whole purpose and substance of this legislation is to bring home to the purchaser in the truest way that we can, and in the truest sense as we have found from our own consideration, the truest sense that we can the cost of the time-sale agreement to him, that is, by expressing that cost in dollars and cents. You can argue about five percent or seven percent; whether it's compounded; whether it's simple interest; whether it's on a declining balance and so on, and you can get into a series of permutations and combinations that would drive any actuary out of his mind, but you can't argue with dollars and cents. If you're told that a contract is going to cost you \$20.00 for the privilege of buying it on time-sale and that the purchase price is \$100.00, it's really immaterial to you in a sense as to how the vendor computes the rate, because you're not going to be paying him the rate, you're going to be paying him the \$20.00, and it doesn't matter how he tries to manoeuvre or misrepresent \$20.00, \$20.00 remains \$20.00. There's only one way of computing it; that's by adding up the dollars and the cents and coming to that figure. And so we feel that by putting a re-emphasis in the Act upon the dollars and cents value of interest and finance charges, that we are serving the public interests in the best way that this Legislature can, remembering of course, that we are all human, subject to all human foibles, and that nothing we do in this Chamber, nothing is probably going to be perfect.

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

MR. PAULLEY: Yeas and Nays, please, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Call in the members.

The motion before the House, second reading of Bill No.58, an Act to amend the Time-Sale Agreement Act.

A standing vote was taken, the results being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Alexander, Beard, Bilton, Campbell, Carroll, Cowan, Desjardins, Evans, Groves, Guttormson, Hamilton, Harrison, Hillhouse, Hryhorczuk, Hutton, Jeannotte, Johnson, Johnston, Klym, Lissaman, Lyon, McDonald, McGregor, McKellar, McLean, Martin, Moeller, Mills, Patrick, Roblin, Seaborn, Shoemaker, Smelle, Smerchanski, Stanes, Steinkopf, Strickland, Tanchak, Vielfaure, Weir, Witney and Mrs. Morrison,

NAYS: Messrs: Cherniack, Froese, Gray, Harris, Paulley, Peters, Wright.

MR. CLERK: Yeas: 42; Nays: 7.

Madam Speaker declared the motion carried.

MADAM SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 88, The Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Madam Speaker, I would request the indulgence of the House to allow this item to stand.

MADAM SPEAKER: Agreed.

HON. ROBERT SMELLIE (Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Birtle-Russell) presented Bill No. 106, an Act to amend The Metropolitan Winnipeg Act (1) for second reading.

Madam Speaker presented the motion.

MR. SMELLIE: Madam Speaker, this amendment removes a section from The Metropolitan Winnipeg Act that will no longer be necessary because of the amendments to the Municipal Act. Last year there was an amendment made to the section of The Metropolitan Winnipeg Act concerning assessments, to make it clear that neither the Corporation nor the Director of Assessments was responsible for the preparation of local improvement charges but the amendment didn't amend the definition of assessment in The Metropolitan Winnipeg Act and this will be looked after by this amendment. The remaining part of this Bill is to clear up the present Act; there has been some question as to whether or not persons are liable for business tax -- the matter has come before the courts; some people from the City of Transcona appealed to the Court of Queen's Bench. While the court ruled against their application the court did criticize the construction of Section 66 of the Act. This amendment would clear up the construction of that particular section; and the last part here would make it clear that it was not intended by The Metropolitan Winnipeg Act to freeze all assessments -- not assessments -- to freeze the tax picture as it was before the incorporation of Metropolitan Winnipeg, that the municipalities were still free to amend by their own by-laws the provisions, particularly dealing with business tax assessment. It has been argued for example that Section 72 of The Metropolitan Winnipeg Act could be subject to a rigid interpretation by the courts and any amending by-law introduced by the municipalities concerning business tax would be ruled invalid by the courts if this interpretation was placed on the present section. It was felt desirable as some of the municipalities do now wish to make such changes, to make it clear that Section 72 wasn't intended to have that rigidity.

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

MR. McLEAN presented Bill No. 93, an Act to amend The Public Libraries Act for second reading.

Madam Speaker presented the motion.

MR. McLEAN: Madam Speaker, there are just one or two things in this Bill as the matter of the principles involved. The trustees of the Manitoba Libraries -- they have an association of library trustees -- suggested some time ago that it would be helpful if the provisions in the Act could be altered to permit larger boards, both with respect to municipal and regional libraries. This request is incorporated in the provisions of this bill which indicate the possibility of increased membership on the boards of either a regional or a municipal library is permissive, I point out, depending upon the wishes of the councils concerned. There is an alteration of a word; there is a provision in the present act which allows the members of the Library Board to remove an employee. I had always thought that that must surely mean dismiss the employee if that was their wish. Apparently however this matter has come under some dispute and so it was suggested and we have incorporated in this bill to substitute the word "dismiss" for the word "remove". It still comes out at the same conclusion as far as I'm aware.

The principle change or rather the principle sections here which deal with matters of substance in this bill are provisions which would permit the merger of two regional libraries or the merger of a municipal library and a regional library and the members of the House will note that the general procedure is that upon resolutions being passed -- yes, resolutions being passed by the board of directors of two or more regional libraries or a municipal library and a regional library -- the municipal councils concerned may -- and I emphasize the word "may" -- may in effect take the steps which would have the effect of merging two existing regional

(Mr. McLean, cont'd)... libraries or have the effect of merging a municipal library with a regional library. I should say that this is a matter which is of some interest and concern to people who are directly associated with the work of libraries, many of whom feel that we might be better served by having larger libraries. I note however, or point out for the benefit or the information of the members of the House, that the legislation that would permit this is permissible only and in the final analysis is dependent upon the decisions made by the councils of the municipal corporations who are members of the respective libraries that might become involved in such a move.

I think perhaps there are places in Manitoba where the merger of two existing libraries might be usefully carried forward and perhaps other instances where it would not be advisable in the public interest. This legislation would only permit it if all of the conditions -- necessary conditions -- were satisfied. I would point out that this of course does not apply to libraries other than those which are established under the provisions of the Public Libraries Act. We do have in Manitoba, I think, altogether three libraries which are established outside the ambit of the Public Libraries Act and which would not be in any way involved in this legislation.

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

.....Continued on next page.

MR. ROBLIN: Madam Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Welfare that Madam 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.

Madam Speaker presented the motion.

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): . . . . Speaking on this motion, I wish to bring in an important matter -- The unfinished business of a Royal Commission's report. I am referring to Chapter XI of the Report of the Royal Commission on Education, and this chapter, as we well know, deals with public aid to private schools. In view of the fact that I consider this so important, Madam Speaker, and that I have certain quotations to make, I intend to follow my notes rather closely and I hope that this will be acceptable to you. I have learned that while speaking on this subject two different points should be discussed separately; one point is the principle involved in state aid for private schools. It is in studying this point especially that we should be tolerant and free of all prejudice. Our main approach to the subject should not be as a protestant, catholic or jews; as liberal, conservative, NDP or Social Credit; as Christian or atheist, but rather as free man living in a free world and believing in the freedom of the individual.

Then, of course, there is a second point: the lack of leadership of a government who has received the unanimous report from a Royal Commission, four years ago, and has yet to act on its recommendation. It is important, not only for the members of this House, but mostly for the reporters that I give the following explanation at this time, and I think these gentlemen of the press and radio should set the records straight. In the past, the impression has been left with many that I was bitterly opposed to all those who did not agree with me. This is completely false; I have always recognized the right of everyone to make up his or her own mind. But it is true that I've had little patience and that I've criticized those who duty it is to decide on way or another -- but to decide -- and have delayed, while thousands of Manitobans wait for the promised decision.

On the question of principle, I have elaborated in the past on the reason why I favour aid to private schools. Those who are interested can read the speech I made in this House on February 21st, of 1961; it can be found on page 129 of the 1961 Hansard. I will not take the time of this House to repeat everything I said, but I would like to touch on a few points. I know that private schools include schools of all denominations. I certainly recognize this fact, but as I am more familiar with Catholic schools and since many oppose state aid because of the Catholic Church and also in view of the fact that catholic parents usually feel morally obligated to send their children to catholic schools, I will refer mostly to the Catholic parochial schools and the ten thousand or so children attending them. But again, let me repeat, that I certainly do not limit parochial schools to people of any religion.

As I have said in the past, I believe that every man is born free. That freedom is his right; not a constitutional right, Madam Speaker, but a God given right; a right that comes from natural law. He does not owe this gift to the state, but to the Creator, and the state is duty bound to protect this right. Now if every man has a right to freedom, it should not be a freedom in theory only, which in this case would be useless, but it should be a right to practical freedom. I do not intend to argue at this time that catholics are right or wrong in wanting a certain kind of education for their children, in feeling morally obligated to give them this kind of education. I say to you, Madam Speaker, that we think that we are right; you might believe that we are fools for thinking this, but this will not change the dictates of our conscience. We are not demanding that you agree with us; we simply ask that you respect our freedom to choose for ourselves the kind of education we feel is best for our children, just as you wish, I'm sure, that we respect your choice. This is not a privilege that we want. It is not a privilege either that you want, that you desire; it is our right. These rights belong to those of a majority and also to those of a minority. This freedom should be respected as long as it doesn't threaten the freedom and the rights of others. It is as simple as that. For, if in our separate schools, our children are not taught to be good Canadians; if the teaching they receive is instrumental in hurting society, well why are these schools allowed to be opened? Madam Speaker, I say to the members of this House, you are the lawmakers, let us not be hypocrits; if this is the case, close these schools; they are either harmful or they are not, but they must be one or the other.

(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd.)

I still feel I was right a few years ago when I classified those opposing state aid to private schools in the following category: First, there were those who are bigoted. Those who are prejudiced, mainly against the catholic church; those who do not even want to look into this matter, but would sooner oppress a minority -- for those I have no contempt, only pity, because I feel that they are sick. Then there's the second category, those who are trying very hard not to be guided by their prejudices, although at times they find it difficult; those who are sincere, who are trying to be fair; either they are not familiar enough with all sides of this question or they haven't been successful in eradicating all prejudices. They might have been brought up to fear the catholic church, but these people are fundamentally honest. I pray for them; by co-operating with them I'm sure that we will help them see that our cause is just. It is true that at times the catholic church has been a little too dictatorial; has lacked understanding; but this is changing, especially since His Holiness, Pope John XXIII has invited members of other churches to his council. Now, more than ever there is movement for all Christianity to live and let live. Madam Speaker, I have much hope for the members of this category.

Then, there is the last category, those who believe that some help should be granted to private schools, who believe in the right of this imposing minority, but who will not admit or do anything about it because of public opinion; because of political and financial fear. In this group we will find many businessmen, but mostly politicians. I have never had too much patience or respect for this group because I feel that they know better, and especially with the politicians who are the lawmakers and should show more courage once they have accepted their responsibility; they should remember their oath of office.

Madam Speaker, are you wasting your time every day when you open each Session by leading us in prayer? How can we repeat this prayer daily asking God to help us make equitable laws, if we do not mean this; if we haven't the courage to follow the dictates of our conscience. In the past, I have criticized the Premier and his government for lack of leadership in this matter. Madam Speaker, I've done this sincerely; I've done this as a member of the opposition; I've done this as an elected representative of the people of St. Boniface; I've done this as a member of a minority group most affected; I've done this as a member of the Roman Catholic Church. I felt that I have co-operated in this; I tried to be fair with the government and give them ample time to decide. It was not until last season really, that I started criticizing the government, and what I criticized was always the lack of leadership.

Let me turn back to May 15th, 1957, when under a Liberal Government the Royal Commission on Education was set up. This Commission was told to study everything and anything pertaining to education. At the following provincial election a Conservative Government -- and I mention Conservative or Liberal to show that they are in this as much one as the other -- a Conservative Government was elected. One of its first acts was to ask the Royal Commission on Education, that was then sitting, not to wait until the whole report was complete, but instead to deal first with the financial and school district organizational part of the study and report on it as soon as possible. This the Commission did with amazing speed and submitted an interim report with its recommendation for secondary school divisions and teacher grants. This interim report was released in August of 1958. Following up quickly the government which had come to office only on July 1st of that year called a special Session of the Legislature that fall to get authority for enacting the Legislation to put into effect, the recommendation of secondary divisions and teacher grants. This was fast work. It was not until a year later that the Royal Commission brought down its final report, the part dealing amongst other things with public aid to private and parochial schools. The final report was released on December 1st, 1959. I must emphasize at this point that the report was a unanimous one -- a unanimous recommendation. The newspapers had much to say and were instrumental to a great degree in forming public opinion. The Free Press was most unfair and we might say, fanatically opposed to state aid. The Tribune treated the subject with much more charity and fairness, but it never actually came out for or against the recommendation. All eyes were then turned to the Provincial Government; many rumours leaked out. I received some information from reliable people and even from some Cabinet Ministers. Unofficially of course, Mr. Roblin himself had promised leaders of the Catholic Church that if they helped him pave the way to put into force some of the recommendations that came out of the interim report his government in turn would grant aid to

(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd.) . . . private schools; if of course, this was the recommendation of the Royal Commission; especially if the report was a unanimous one.

MR. ROBLIN: . . . . refute the Honourable Member's statement. It is not accurate.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well if the Honourable Leader wants to publically deny this, that is fine with me. Madam Speaker, I am sure that the Premier himself is in favour of granting this aid. Two Cabinet Ministers now sitting in the front seats told me that the Cabinet was in favour of granting such help. It was felt that the government would bring in something in 1961, but apparently it was at this time that a few members of the government -- the government caucus -- were opposed and threatened to resign from the caucus if this was done. In the meantime, most of the Catholic clergy believed in the government . . .

MR. ROBLIN: Madam Speaker, I must also correct the last statement about the government caucus. It is not correct.

MR. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, as I said before, this is information that I've received from cabinet ministers and from a reliable source. This is as far as I can go; this is as far as I can say.

MR. ROBLIN: . . . . stated, it is not correct.

MR. DESJARDINS: All right. Before the 1960 Session, the Free Press had this bit of information. "Manitoba's education costs have risen so high in the last year, that the Provincial Government will delay action on the Royal Commission Report until 1961. It was learnt today, a government spokesman said, 'the cost of education forecast by the experts for the coming year have gone completely haywire and far in excess of the absolute maximum predicted by departmental officials. So severe is the increase that the department wants more time than the six weeks remaining between now and the Session of the Legislature to estimate the cost involved in the new report released last week'. On January 26th, 1960, on the CBC radio program entitled "Legislature in Review", Mr. Roblin made these statements: "The government will take a stand as a government on the private school question." He expected the Liberals to take a stand as a party. When asked what his personal position was, he replied: "As Premier, I could have no private opinion, my opinion would be assumed to be that of the government. I must tell you frankly that the government is not prepared at this time to state its policy on this matter. We recognize our responsibility to do so and that is what we will do in due course." He was then asked if he agreed with Mr. Campbell's -- the then Leader of the Opposition -- Mr. Campbell's contention that the government could not deal with the matter as a private vote." We have no wish to shirk our responsibility, but I would add that the same responsibility holds good for the other political parties as well."

Then came the 1960 Session and in The Throne Speech Mr. Roblin only repeated that the government policies would be announced in due course; but it wasn't prepared to do anything at the moment. Nothing was said by any member of the opposition, or any member in the House, nothing was done to embarrass the government or Mr. Roblin, personally; everyone began to look forward with optimism to the 1961 Session. No doubt, that Mr. Roblin, and his government as well as all members did much soul-searching during the recess. In May of 1960, a woman working for a Toronto firm, which in turn was working for the Provincial Government, was making a survey in St. Boniface on public opinion on a variety of matters including the private school grant question.

MR. ROBLIN: Madam Speaker, the statement is not accurate.

MR. DESJARDINS: At least six of the questions refer to the question of provincial grants to private schools which one could intimate in two instances as specifically Roman Catholic. The government did deny this but with not too much conviction at the time.

MR. ROBLIN: Madam Speaker, I've denied it now and I wish that fact to be recorded.

MR. DESJARDINS: Fine, this is what I want. Maybe we'll get the story straight once and for all. . . . -- (Interjection) -- I beg your pardon? -- (Interjection) -- Madam Speaker, is this allowed? Is this allowed?

MADAM SPEAKER: Will the honourable member continue, please.

MR. DESJARDINS: I don't know who's in the gutter. Before the 1961 Session I personally felt that the government should be given another chance, but that I should be ready with a motion in case nothing was done. I prepared one, and it was my intention to wait and see if there was any mention in the Throne Speech. If so, I would forget my motion. If not, I would

(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd.) . . . immediately turn over my copy of the resolution to the Clerk of the House. A day or so before the opening of the Session I received confidential information that the government would not do anything at this time. I was also informed -- this might be denied again -- but I was also informed that the Premier suspecting that someone might bring in a motion had threatened to move a referendum to my move as an amendment. Because of the emotional nature of this matter, . . .

MR. ROBLIN: Madam Chairman, I have not made any threats in connection with this matter.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, we may call it another name, but apparently this is what happened.

MR. ROBLIN: Madam Chairman, my honourable friend is obliged to accept my statement. I made no threats in this respect of this matter.

MR. DESJARDINS: I'm also expecting the information that I have received, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member should accept the word of the First Minister.

MR. DESJARDINS: That he made no threats? All right, that he suggested then that there would be a referendum if a motion was brought in. Now, because of the emotional nature of this matter, because so many people do not understand the problem, and especially because of the stand taken by the daily papers, I felt that to bring in a motion at this time I could only hurt the cause that I was trying so much to help. During the 1961 Session, Mr. Campbell, who was then Leader of the Opposition, in his reply to the Throne Speech charged the government with dereliction of duty for its failure to state its policy on aid to private and parochial schools. After all, in 1960 the government had said that it would announce its policy in due course. Mr. Prefontaine and myself -- the Member for Carillon and myself -- made speeches advocating state aid. We asked questions of the First Minister and the Minister of Education. The Leader of the Social Credit Party went on record as favouring state aid, but the government refused to answer most of the questions. After the Session the Liberals held a leadership convention. The question came into the open. Some members of the Party wanted the Liberals to go on record as favouring or being against state aid. I, for one, opposed this. I felt that no party should take a stand and that this should be above partisan politics. If not, it would be detrimental to all Manitobans if those favouring aid should line up in the one party, and those opposing in the other party. I felt that although it was a difficult thing to do, those who had accepted the responsibility to govern this province should do something about a unanimous report of a Royal Commission. The government had promised several times to act but it did nothing. This is one of the many reasons why I'm always accusing the Premier and his government of lack of leadership.

MR. ROBLIN: Madam Speaker, . . . . . my honourable friend is wrong again. We made no promises of the kind he suggests.

MR. DESJARDINS: The government had made that promise several times to act but did nothing. In the Throne Speech the government said that it will act in due course. And this -- I will not accept that explanation, Madam Speaker. I will get the Throne Speech if you wish and I will read it that the government promised to act in due course.

MR. ROBLIN: It said that policy would be announced in due course, and it was.

MR. DESJARDINS: What was the policy? You're the only one that would know, Madam Speaker.

MR. ROBLIN: You were here.

MR. DESJARDINS: That's right. I never heard any policy. Then came the 1962 Session which followed the same pattern as the 1961 Session -- still nothing. Now just before this last election that we've just had, I won't say the government -- it will be denied -- but some members of the government tried to give the impression that it wanted to help the Catholics so very much, and we know of some of the things that happened just a day or so before the election. But, Madam Speaker, the people of Manitoba understand the privilege of democracy. We know our rights, and we don't believe that we should sell ourselves.

A few days ago the Honourable Member for St. Vital said the Member for St. Boniface was a bit chicken. My first reaction was to laugh it off. This was indeed a joke and surely all

(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd.) . . . the members of this House know it. After all I was a tough guy in this House; I would be remembered as the unpolished rookie, who liked to mix it up in verbal battles with the giants of this Chamber, such as the Premier, the Attorney-General, the Minister of Education and the Leader of the NDP. Everyone knew that I was fearless in this House, in caucus, everywhere. For all that I cannot forget this accusation. "You are chicker" the honourable member had said, "if you feel that McDonald and Cartier would not be satisfied with the last hundred years since Confederation. Tell us why. You say that we must admit our prejudices, recognize them before getting rid of them", he continued. "Well go ahead; why don't you?" Madam Speaker, the honourable member is right. I realize that I have been chicken. Oh it is true that I often speak out against injustice, what I consider injustice, but too often, I also, with my hand on the safety catch. I do believe what I say, but too often I feel that I must apologize for feeling as I do. I live in constant fear of not being understood; of being branded a "do-gooder;" of being considered a fanatic; a despised man like Governor Faubus; and when I read about men such as Judge Wright, and many other federal judges in the States saddled with civil rights burdens; southerners whose personal emotions ran contrary to what their consciences dictated them to do; men who acted at great sacrifices of friendship and political hope; and who collectively launched one of the great orderly offences in legal history -- when I read about such men I'm filled with emotion and admiration, and I want to follow their footsteps, Madam Speaker, but I also do not like to be criticized and I want so much to be popular with everyone.

Yes, Madam Speaker, I talk big in this House. I accused members of lacking courage when I wasn't any better. I've been afraid to let the public know, for instance, that I was financially interested in business, in a predominantly Protestant St. James. I, too, have been afraid of my convictions and I did not give credit to others for respecting a man of principle. You see, Madam Speaker, I pointed an accusing finger at the Premier and others when I had no more courage than they. The only difference was that politics did not mean as much to me as it did to them. I did not realize it at the time -- one of the reasons probably being the fact that my political star was somewhat dimmer than theirs; that my political future was somewhat less promising. I sincerely thank the Honourable Member for St. Vital who was instrumental in my taking this long look at myself, and if it's not too late I wish to let my hair down; to make another appeal to each and every member of this House to forget the past; to look into the future; to remember our oath of office; to bring in equitable laws that will relieve an oppressed minority. Let me say, Madam Speaker, that I do not intend to be partisan when speaking on this. Let me say that I went as far as to offer to resign my seat in this House if it was felt that it would help this cause. Then, during the last Session I thought that the government might be more inclined to look favourably upon a motion from me if I was not a Member of the Liberal caucus. It was then that I thought of becoming an Independent, Madam Speaker. I had most of my speech prepared for that occasion when with the help of some independent advisers I realized that it would serve little purpose; it would not help the cause.

Madam Speaker, this is indeed an important matter because a great injustice is allowed to exist. Again I repeat that I realize how difficult the position the Premier is in, part of it through his own fault; but I say to him that if he doesn't want history to forget the good work he has done in this province, only to remember his lack of courage in difficult moments, if he wants to be able to look at his son that he loves so much without being reminded of other sons and of other fathers, it is true that he could probably be present in this position as he said for many years to come. It is also true of Governor Faubus. Is he contented with this? It seems to me that he was given too much talent for this. There is a good chance that he might be asked to serve his fellow man in a more important position. Should his lack of courage rob the Canadians of his services, place him in a position where he could not be accepted because he would not be one who could direct Canada to the real meaning of Confederation that it needs so much at this present stage. Madam Speaker, this man hasn't the right to allow himself this one weakness. His energies, intelligence, belong to all the people of Canada. Rather he should look to the leadership of another Conservative Premier, the Honourable Mr. Robarts of Ontario, who is not shirking his responsibility, even if he faces the same problem. Let him take courage from the fact that things are changing; that most people understand much better now.

The Minister of Education is another one who should not mar his record by keeping his



(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd.) . . . eyes and his heart closed to a minority. Let him mean it when he says that there are no second-class citizens. How can he talk about the classrooms, the schools that he has built, that his government has built, the millions spent on teacher grants, on books, when there isn't a cent spent for a certain minority group? The two Ministers who told me confidentially that they are in favour of correcting this injustice, let them also do their duty in caucus, Madam Speaker.

The Honourable Member for St. Matthews, who has much experience, who only a few weeks ago talked about seeking freedom and security in this western world, talked about a fair deal and square play for the young, for the aged, who said that his government stood for a square deal and fair play for all the people in every walk of life -- let him help his government bring in a square deal and fair play to everyone, even though it might embarrass him in some circles.

Many members such as the Member for St. Vital, Wellington, Brandon, Morris, often speak about justice. I challenge them to show by their action that they mean it.

The Member from Kildonan might very well ask himself why providence allowed him to squeak through the last election. Could it be that as a member of this oppressed minority he has an important role to play in the Conservative caucus?

Let me ask the three members who belong to the Jewish faith to ask themselves if they are sincere when they speak of discrimination? Do they themselves, do the members of their minority deserve to be accepted as first class citizens if they help to oppress another minority? I would like them to think about this very sincerely, Madam Speaker.

The Leader of the NDP, the Honourable Member from Elmwood, the Honourable Member from Logan and the others of that group, who like to classify themselves as friends of the underprivileged, have an opportunity for one to be instrumental in helping people who are treated unjustly. No, Madam Speaker, I will not forget the members of our group. Our Leader is on the same hot seat as the Premier of this province. He also must co-operate and help to bring in fair legislation. The Honourable Member from Selkirk for whom I've always had the greatest respect, a man noted in this House for his fairness, his compassion for under-privileged children, I beg of him to look into this question without prejudice so that he might help, through his prestige. The fine new members of our caucus and other new members of this House have an advantage, Madam Speaker; they do not have to forget the past but only to look at the future. Let them start their years in politics on a good note.

Madam Speaker, this state of affairs cannot continue to exist to the shame of Manitoba. I wish to give the Members of this House, especially the government and the Premier, another last chance to do what is right. This is the reason why I haven't brought in a resolution during this session, but Madam Speaker -- and I am speaking as a true Independent at this moment -- I wish to serve notice to the Premier, the Minister of Education, the members of the government, to all members of the opposition including the members of my own caucus, that next year if I'm still a member of this House I expect to see reference to this problem in the Throne Speech, or I will bring in a resolution somewhat along the lines of this resolution; "Whereas separate schools are permissible in this province; and whereas the financial hardship to these schools has been made much greater by the implementation of the increased grants to other school divisions and teachers; and whereas the teachers teaching in these schools as well as students attending these schools should receive the same advantage now given other teachers and students of the province; Therefore be it resolved that this government consider the advisability of: 1. Making teacher grants available to all teachers of the province. 2. Amending The Public Schools Act so that all teachers could then join the M. T. S. and therefore qualify for all normal benefits. 3. Making all fringe benefits such as free textbook, transportation to and from school, etcetera, available to all students of Manitoba.

I think that this should come, and I think that this would be fair, even if we don't get all what has been recommended by the Royal Commission. I hope, Madam Speaker, that this notice will serve to give the members of this House a chance to look at this problem in a sincere and unpartisan way, and not only as a chance to prepare a motion or amendment that will be meaningless, that will be purely political, purely the same thing.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the Leader of my Party and all the members of the

(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd.) . . . Liberal caucus that this is the reason why I did not give them advance notice of this, and I wish to say that today I am acting solely as an elected member of this Legislature and not as a member of any political group. In closing, I beg the members of the press not to be vindictive because of my talk about referring to the way they have hurt in this instance, but only to remember their great responsibility in a democratic country where the freedom of the press is recognized. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for St. Matthews in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which department is it, Labour or Welfare?

MR. ROBLIN: Welfare, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Department XV - Welfare. (1) Administration.

HON. J. B. CARROLL (Minister of Welfare)(The Pas): Mr. Chairman, I would like on this occasion to say a word about the staff in the Department of Welfare who have been so helpful to me in my short period of time as the head of that Department. I must say that the Deputy Minister of Welfare and those directors in the Department have been most helpful during this short period of time. I have found them to be enthusiastic and dedicated civil servants, certainly interested in those responsibilities which have been charged to the Department, and they are willing to work far beyond the normal call of duty in performing these services in the public interest.

And now I would like to make these very brief opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. We're all very conscious as legislators of the great increases in expenditures in the Department of Welfare in recent years. We're all also very conscious as taxpayers of these changes in expenditures, but we're probably not quite so conscious of the way in which these expenditures touch the lives of those who are vitally affected and vitally dependent upon these for their well-being, how it affects the lives of the aged and infirm, the disabled and the blind, the widows and orphans, and those less fortunate than ourselves. We're also not conscious of the effects of the contribution of this Department towards the rehabilitation of people in order that they may return to make a full contribution towards the economy of Manitoba.

I'd like very briefly to sort of review the annual report of last year, and in doing so, I'd like to point out that there are some 50,000 Indian and Metis in this province, not all of whom are affected by the community development services, but all of whom are indirectly affected by the work of this department. It's interesting to note the great interest by Indian bands throughout the province in their own well-being and what they themselves can do to help to resolve some of their local problems and to solve these things, and any who have ever attended the Indian and Metis conferences here in Winnipeg know the wide-spread parts of Manitoba that are represented there. It will be of interest to know that similar conferences have been held in northern Manitoba at both The Pas and Churchill, and certainly the work of this Department is being felt across the province and is having an impact on the total group even though the direct services are performed for a very few.

In the field of elderly persons' housing since it was implemented a few years ago -- it's having a great impact on the health and well-being of hundreds of our senior citizens in Manitoba. There are over 10,000 of our senior citizens who are receiving supplementary assistance from the Department of Welfare; 2,000 of these are in elderly persons' housing institutions or others, and are receiving supplementary benefits which average not the \$10.00 a month which has been requested in a resolution that was before this House, but who are receiving an average of \$80.00 per month under the Social Allowances Act, and in addition to this they're receiving medicare benefits. Receiving essential medical treatment -- eye-glasses, dentures and things of that kind. There are some 19,000 reported in the annual report as being in receipt of medicare services. There's 1,700 families of bereaved and dependent children who are receiving Mothers' Allowance; some 1,500 cases receiving direct aid in unorganized territories. There are 2,200 children who have been declared wards of the Director and who for all intents and purposes are being treated as children of the government, or of the Director, until such time as they enter into permanent adoption homes or are returned to their own families. There are 5,000 elderly people between the ages of 65 and 70 who are receiving old age assistance; 1,400 in receipt of disabled persons' allowances; 400 in

(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd.) . . . receipt of blind persons' allowances. There are thousands who are in receipt of municipal assistance for which the province pays either 40 percent or 80 percent in accordance with the formula.

The Fitness and Amateur Sport program is just nicely under way and at the present time has had little impact on the people of Manitoba, but will have much greater effect in the years and months to come.

There are many other thousands of people who receive indirectly aid through the province as a result of our donations to our various charitable institutions.

I'd like now just to touch upon those items that are under the vote -- 96 under the Executive Division -- and will make a very brief statement on some of the other items as we proceed through the estimates. The first is elderly persons' housing, and since this Act was proclaimed in 1959, we've had a great deal of interest expressed from many parts of Manitoba. In 1962 we consider that we have had a bumper year in the field of new construction, with some 392 new units having been completed during this year; 216 of them were hostel units and 176 were housing units. An additional 279 units were under construction at year end. The total grants for those units that were completed amount to \$426,770 and the grant potential for those still under construction is \$373,564 making a total of grants earned and grant potential of \$872,520 during the fiscal year just passed. I'd like to say that this represents in additional capital investment in housing of this kind in the province, something like \$3-1/2 million, which is a very sizeable addition to projects in those communities which have participated in elderly persons' housing, and it also provides a very substantial increase in the number of units which will be available for our older citizens.

These projects enable our elderly people to live independently and, in many cases, on very limited means, and every effort is made by the Department and by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to keep these costs down within the reach of most of the people who will be using these facilities. These projects have been described as a prescription in preventive medicine for our Manitoba pioneers, because they help the old people to overcome loneliness and there's actually a kind of competition between them -- a competitive spirit to remain healthy and independent, to get out and get about their daily activities, to attend meals and things of that kind. It's a very real tonic for these people who live in these institutions. Some research is taking place into the needs and the architectural requirements of our senior citizens for housing accommodation. We're learning to design these institutions to meet the physical shortcomings of our older people. Handrails and grab bars in the bathroom facilities; accommodation with doors sufficiently wide to accommodate wheel chairs and things of that kind, will enable these people to live in residential accommodation for a much longer period of time rather than force them into greater dependency by going to nursing homes or other facilities which are much more costly and which deprive them of their independence which they cherish so much.

We're placing greater stress in the Department on the independent kind of housing as opposed to the hostel type units. We're encouraging the building of these facilities along apartment lines, with central corridors so that there can be a complete circulation of inhabitants regardless of weather conditions. We feel that this will contribute a great deal more to the mobility of these people and to their happiness. We're encouraging the provision of central lounge facilities and kitchenette facilities so they can get together in the evening, to spend the evening chatting and make themselves a cup of coffee in central facilities. And these are developing some of the best clubs for older people in the world. I'd like to say at this time, we have also had very excellent co-operation from those organizations which have been sponsoring these projects, and I think the people of Manitoba owe them a great debt of gratitude for their public contribution.

Under our community development program, which also comes under the Executive Division, Item No. 1, I think we've had a fairly full review of these activities in each year since Dr. Johnson introduced this program in 1959. For some of the new members, it might be interesting to know that this program is the application of techniques which have been used by the United Nations in helping to develop underdeveloped countries, and we're applying these techniques to our Indian and Metis communities and economically depressed areas. The program recognizes that these people are basically no different from those of us who may live

(Mr. Carroll, cont'd.) . . . in more sophisticated surroundings. They have the same desires that we have, and they have the capabilities to improve their situations, and we believe that through the community development program we can help them to accelerate their rate of achievement and their rate of development within these areas. This program involves assistance at the local level. It's assisting them to attack some of their local problems, and they may seem rather simple to us but to them they are real problems; problems such as school attendance and delinquency; providing ordinary community services like wells and roads and recreation facilities and things of that kind. We're helping them to achieve economic goals at the local level; helping them to assess their local situation, to recognize local opportunity, and helping them to get in and develop these opportunities. We feel that by helping them in this way to solve problems at the local level it will be of assistance to these people, those of whom must leave to seek employment elsewhere. It would be much easier for them to fit into the normal pattern of living having had this experience at home.

I'd like to mention the experience which we have had in Norway House, and to say that if any have a special interest in any of the other areas where we have community development programs at work, I'd be very pleased to outline some of the activities in these other locations as well, but we think Norway House is a sort of a common pattern for the development of communities under the leadership of our community development officers. This area was opened up for community development at the end of 1959, so it's been in progress now just slightly over two years. They've established a consumers co-operative in that area with 130 members; they've been successfully managing this business enterprise and accepting the responsibility for management. We think this is a good thing in basic education and business principles. They've established a fishermen's co-operative and have some 60 members in it, and last year their production of fish was 125,000 pounds, which I understand were sold at good prices and gave a good return to the members of that co-operative. Their aim for this year is to double their production of last year. They have built ice houses, putting up their own ice and managing the whole operation. We think this is very good training for those people in this area of producers-co-operative.

They've also initiated and conducted adult education classes in six different subjects with some 85 people attending. They've established a recreation club and have raised some \$2,000 towards a building fund project. They stimulated some local initiative with one individual contemplating the establishment of a bakery at Norway House; another interested in chicken farming and cattle farming. There also is a group considering a pulpwood cutting operation and a fish box factory. There's a great deal more interest in the growing of produce in the area and we think this is a very good thing. I would like to say that I think that very little of this kind of progress could have been achieved except for the leadership and guidance and assistance which has been provided by our community development officers.

Another new program implemented this last year is in the field of the distribution of unconditional grants to Indian bands throughout the north. Now formerly these grants were given to the Indian bands to be deposited in trust accounts in Ottawa, which took away from the band organization itself the sole discretion with respect to the spending of these funds. They had to be spent partly under the administration of the Indian Affairs Branch. We've been negotiating with these bands now for several months to establish a procedure through which direct payment can be made to them. We're wanting to make certain that proper signing authorities are established; that projects are planned well in advance and that they have certainly a procedure worked out through which they can spend these monies themselves in the same way that other organized communities in Manitoba are doing, and we think this is a good thing for them to be able to accept responsibility and be treated the same way as any other group of Manitoba citizens in an organized area.

One other program that was brought to conclusion last year was the distribution of the surplus buildings at the Kelsey Hydro project. Several bunkhouses were taken down and re-assembled at many locations along the Hudson Bay line, to improve housing where inadequate housing existed, for use as curling rinks, community clubs and things of that kind. In this project, one bunkhouse went to Wabowden and one to Thicket Portage, with two each going to Gillam and Ilford. There were five houses dismantled. One went to Wabowden and is now being used as a nursing station; another to Thicket Portage for the same purpose, and one to

(Mr. Carroll, cont'd.) . . . Pikwitonei, also as a nursing station. Two other of the houses from Kelsey went out to replace inadequate housing along the Hudson Bay line. Last year the province, in co-operation with the Friendship Council at The Pas and the Federal Government, helped to establish a friendship centre at The Pas, and the local initiative there is trying to establish a program by which they encourage the white and the Metis and the Indians to get together for better understanding, for educational purposes, to provide a home for Indians from northern Manitoba -- at least a place for them to come in and to find a place of welcome. We think that this is a very good project. Some of the programs that are being implemented there -- they have a handicraft program under way for native people; they have social evenings; adult education classes; study periods for high school and other students who have inadequate facilities in their own homes -- they find that they can go to the Friendship Centre, get a quiet place to sit and study -- and we think this will contribute very substantially, not only to better understanding, but to the integration of our Indian and Metis population. I would also like to mention that Friendship Councils were established this last year at Swan River, at Churchill and at Brandon.

One other new program that was started last year, and a very small beginning it was, but I think it was a very important one, and that is in the Employment Placement Service. In co-operation with the Sanatorium Board of Manitoba and Indian Affairs, we hired our first placement officer last year and assigned him to the Sanatorium Board operation in Brandon to help to place Indian and Metis people in employment. The original idea of the Sanatorium Board was to give pre-employment training to convalescent tuberculosis patients. This has been expanded now to include non-convalescent Indians and Metis as well. Two hundred and fifty people have been placed since the commencement of this service, and they also provide a follow-up service to make sure that they're doing well in their employment. We realize that Indian and Metis are one of the fastest-growing groups in our population. We recognize too that there are very few job opportunities in some of the communities from which these people come, so that we recognize that this kind of service will assume larger importance as time goes on, as these people are encouraged to leave the underdeveloped areas of our province and to seek employment elsewhere.

An example of the way in which Indians are moving out into employment more quickly, I can recall just prior to the war that there were probably only a half a dozen or so Indians on The Pas Reserve, who were in anything like full-time employment, and today I venture to say that at least half of the population are engaged in full or part-time employment out off the Reserve, and we think that this is a very important thing and indicates the kind of movement of these people that will have to take place if we're going to integrate this population into our society.

In January of this year, an Indian and Metis Advisory Council on Employment was established by the former Minister of Welfare and arose out of discussions with some employers for employment opportunities for Indians in the far north. This is a representative group of employers in manufacturing; in commerce and in industry. It includes a labour representative; and the purpose of the group is to advise on ways and means by which we can encourage employment for Indian people. At the present time this group is studying the implications of the COMEF report that deals with Indian and Metis employment. A further meeting has been laid on for May 6th and we hope that concrete proposals will be put forward by this Committee in the near future to help in the problem of employment for these people.

I would like to stop here, Mr. Chairman, and say that I will have further remarks to make on other headings. I would also like to say that there has been an error in the printed estimate figures under the Welfare Services Branch. We might correct that now if you would. It's under the Social Allowances 2(c). That figure reads now -- \$8,531,741 and it should read \$8,831,741.00. It's an increase of \$300,000 there with a corresponding decrease of \$300,000 under Item (e), Assistance for Municipal Aid Expenditures, which should read now \$2,150,000.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . follow the suggestion of the Minister to deal with each section of the department -- No. 1 now, Executive Division -- and deal with any remarks on the other sections as we come to them.

MR. N. SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank you for your

(Mr. Shoemaker, cont'd.) . . . suggestions. You may have some difficulty with me in keeping me to this, but I will strive to follow your suggestions. Mr. Chairman, I would like at this time to congratulate the Honourable Minister on his program. I suggest that he will probably have as many problems here as he had in his former post, but I do recognize that it is a promotion, and I want to sincerely congratulate him on it and wish him well, and I would like to pay tribute as he did to the very large staff that he must have in this department.

You have heard me say on more than one occasion that I question whether there was another member of this House that wrote as many letters to the Department of Health and Welfare as I do, and it is in the field of welfare that I seem to receive, certainly the greatest number of inquiries, and I want to thank the Honourable Minister and the staff for the co-operation that I continue to receive from them, from their social workers, welfare workers and indeed, all of the staff. This is a very large department as the Minister has indicated. I think dollar-wise it is the third largest in the estimates -- the first being Education, Health and then Welfare. In the supplementary supply that we voted on two or three weeks ago certainly nearly all of it had to do with Welfare -- about three-quarters of the amount voted had to do with Welfare -- so it does indicate that not only is it a large department but I'm sure that the Minister is finding that it will probably get larger every year. It is one of those departments that tends to more or less snowball.

Now I was a little bit disappointed, Mr. Chairman, when the Minister spoke about Elderly Persons' Housing that he did not make an announcement concerning a change in the Act -- That is, The Elderly Persons' Housing Act -- because you will recall when we were dealing with the Health Estimates, I spoke at some length -- too long I know many of you will say -- on the Health Estimates, on the subject of nursing homes, and the Minister suggested, that is, the Minister of Health suggested at that time, that I was really talking in the wrong department, that I should be talking about nursing homes under the Department of Welfare and I took from his remarks that we could expect some major changes in this particular field. I do not intend to tell the story all over again about the problem that they have in Neepawa in regard to a proposed nursing home or a combination of an elderly persons' home and a nursing home, and I hope that the Honourable Minister might be able to tell the House what provision there is in the existing legislation for grants to these alternative type homes, if any, or a combination of an elderly persons' home where say, 50 percent of it is designated for what we call alternative care, to relieve pressure on the drastic shortage of hospital beds.

I hope, too, Mr. Chairman, that he might have something to say about the licensing of private nursing homes and to give us a list of the number of private nursing homes that are presently operating. I note as late as April 11th, the Winnipeg Tribune has quite a story there about a convalescent home ceasing operation at the year's end -- after it has been in operation for some 50 years I believe. It has closed its doors. And I was very sorry to learn of that. I know that the Minister will agree with me that the private nursing homes all over this province -- and I have no idea what numbers there are -- but they are serving a very, very worthwhile purpose and thereby relieving pressure on the hospitals.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think that when we are considering nursing homes that we should consider that they must be placed pretty generally throughout the province and localized. The Honourable Member for Virden the other day, speaking on the Bill for the Elderly Persons' Housing accommodation that they turned the sod on the other day, told the House how important that it was that structures of this nature be placed locally, that is, the people who spent their entire lifetime in a district certainly want to spend their golden years in the same locale.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether I should deal with Social Allowances now. The Honourable Minister touched on it -- (Interjection) -- Keep it for another item, eh?

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that inasmuch as the Minister touched on these others, that it would be only fair to allow the members who wish to do so, to do the same thing. Now, I realize the Minister said that he would be speaking on the various branches later on, but the Minister himself ran over the Welfare Services, The Old Age Assistance and Blind people, even down to the physical fitness; and while he did it, I admit, rather quickly, and I gathered with the suggestion that he would deal more fully with them later on, yet the fact is he did mention them. I think under those circumstances it would be only fair that members of the House, if they wished to, follow that procedure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . perhaps we'd save some time. It worked to advantage on Friday night and inasmuch as the Minister said he was going to speak on these various items again, it might save a little time, but there's no ruling against speaking on any item at all if you wish.

MR. CAMPBELL: Are you sure that it wasn't the fact of the lateness of the hour that worked to advantage on Friday night?

MR. EVANS: . . . . the tightness of the program for the department that was being presented.

MR. SHOEMAKER: . . . . to do with Friday night. Well, I'll tell you, Mr. Chairman, I will speak briefly on it and then we will deal further with it. I will limit my remarks to the Social Allowances Program for the time being, just to make a couple of statements, and then I will go into it in more detail when we get to that item in the estimates.

But I would like to say this, that I think that in order to carry out the content of the various Throne Speeches that we have had before us in the last five or six sessions, and certainly in order to carry out the promises made by this government, both before and after elections, that it is now the time to declare all of those sections of the Social Allowance Act that have not been declared to date -- declare them all. I suggest that you cannot carry out the promises made by the government unless they do. Now I have before me one of the election propaganda papers that was put out in 1958 and one in 1959 and they talk about human resources, social allowance, elderly persons housing and flood control and all the rest of it; and in regard to Social Allowance, this is what they said they were going to do: "An Act to insure that no resident of Manitoba lacks essential food, clothing and shelter or medical, dental or optical care." Now there are lots of people in Manitoba who are lacking these services under the Act because I think there's only about 50 percent of the Act that has yet been declared. I would be very interested, Mr. Chairman, to have the Minister tell us when he rises to speak again, just what sections of the Act have been declared to date, and has any of them been declared since the first sections were declared? That is, have they declared them in different stages?

I suggest, too, that the Bill that we passed in this House back in July, 1959, nearly four years ago, in regard to Elderly Persons' Housing -- and I have before me Hansard of July 15th, 1953 -- Mr. Chairman, we were in Committee of the Whole discussing it on second reading, and the Minister of Health and Welfare, because as you remember it was all in one department at that time, had this to say about the Bill. Mr. Johnson speaking: "Mr. Chairman, this Bill provides for the expenditure of public funds to non-profit voluntary and charitable organizations and to municipalities to encourage them by way of grants and guarantee of loans to increase accommodation required for elderly persons' housing, both in housing units and in hospital type accommodation." Now that's what he said on second reading of the Bill. "The grants are both new construction and renovation and reconstruction of existing facilities. The aim and object of the Bill is to try and encourage the development of adequate low-cost housing accommodation for elderly people." And he specifically mentions here, "hospital accommodation" in the Bill. That was in 1959. Now I hope that my honourable friend will be able to tell us more about that then.

Now as regards the Social Allowance, I would be interested to hear more about that when we get to it. I suggest that there are many, many persons in this province who cannot qualify for total disability pension for one reason or another. There's plenty of them. Plenty of them who are unemployable but are found under the Act to not qualify. I have said before, Mr. Chairman, that to qualify for a total disability pension that you had to have one foot in the grave and another one on a banana peeling -- it may not be quite that bad, but it's pretty near it. Now if under the present sections declared in the Social Allowances Act they're not in receipt of Social Allowance -- and you've pretty near got to be presently in receipt of some kind of a pension to qualify for Social Allowance, I understand it -- and I suggest that there are plenty of unemployable persons, probably of low L.Q. and for a number of reasons who are left out in the cold. Now Mr. Chairman I will have a great deal more to say about this when we reach that item and I will try and comply with your request for some order.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, I also wish to congratulate the Minister -- the new Minister of Welfare in his introductory remarks and his willingness to help and improve conditions,

(Mr. Gray, cont'd.) . . . but with all the nice accomplishments to date, it is still not sufficient because the misery and the pain of those who are wards of the welfare is not yet eliminated. All the improvements came in later years but however we are thankful, better late than never. The Welfare Department is the most important department in the province. As I said it deals with hardship, misery, pain, suffering of helpless people. It deals with Mother Allowances; it deals with the future of children -- orphan children and neglected children -- and it deals with practically everything that is costly, not only to the people themselves, not only to the patients themselves and not only those who have to apply for it, but it's costly to the state, and the sooner we can remedy this -- the sooner we have more rehabilitation, the less costly it will be and it will leave us some money or some funds for improvement.

Now in connection with the -- later, in the last two years, in the last two years we have an all-cure remedy called The Social Allowance Act, and everything where there is a shortage; everything where it has to be an improvement, they tell the people to go and apply for anything that's necessary. But we forget to realize that first of all it's a means test and people are not those professional beggars; people are not professional men and women who apply for help, and if after living for years with their families and have security and have independence and all of a sudden they've got to go down with their hands stretched out to the office of the Social Allowance Agency, "Please Mister or Miss I need some money" then the enquiry, the inquisition I think this, although the Bill is partly good, but they should not depend entirely on everything. For instance, has the Department recently checked the cost of living for the Mothers' Allowance, under The Mothers' Allowance Act and to find out whether the amount they are now receiving is sufficient or not. I don't know if any are rechecked. The only thing we can do when a Mothers' Allowance case comes up, either to an M. L. A. or to the department, we try to find out and help. But that isn't the business of the members of the Legislature during the year. It's the department. Now not a word was said by the new Minister that the Mothers' Allowance Act is in perfect condition, we are checking the cost of food; we are checking the cost of living; we are checking the situation in the home; we have social workers to go into the homes and find out how they live, how they behave and what can be done for rehabilitation; what can be done to take them off the Mothers' Allowance list. Mothers sometime go out to work because the amount granted is definitely not sufficient.

So while we appreciate very much what they are doing and the improvements of the housing conditions for old age pensioners and the improvements of other items, still there is a lot that needs to be done, and the Minister should, in my humble opinion, tell us at the same time -- all right you've got a housing situation, you've remedied but so much. What are you going to do tomorrow? What are they going to do after tomorrow? What are your plans in the future?

He told us about the situation of the Indians. It's well known, but so far there is very little improvement and I don't think that much time is being given to study the situation in connection with rehabilitation and bring those Indians back into society, bring them back to so-called civilization. Let them consider they're human beings as good as anybody else. Let them train them to take their position in the employment world; in the industrial world. Take them out from the so-called Ghetto, unless they wanted to stay down there. If they do, let's do for them the same thing as we do for anybody else. You talk about creating industries in the rural districts; their's is a rural district. Why not plan to have an industry down there where they can be employed? All we do now -- the Minister has shown that a few things have been done, but their situation is still as miserable, still as hard as it was years ago. My point is that we're dragging along -- all governments -- dragging along the improvements of health, of welfare, which is absolutely essential and necessary -- drag it along too long and it takes too much time to do it. Once in a while we threw them a candy and we think that this candy will keep them sweet for years.

And the old age pensioners probably come under the heading, but it won't help anything there either. Take the old age pensioners. There are over 50,000 in the province. I do not know how many have more than \$65.00 a month. I do not know -- maybe half; it may be more than half, but thousands have to exist on \$65.00 a month and then queue for all remedies. The social security or the social allowance comes in and says: "Well if he's hard up, if he's short of anything, let him come." Don't forget that the old age pensioners are respectable people.



(Mr. Gray, cont'd.) . . . They have their homes. They have their own lives. They didn't suffer; they didn't beg; they have contributed to the welfare of other people. Why should they go again and ask them for another \$5.00? That's the only answer we have all the time about them.

We have the crippled children -- for instance the incurables are now lodged in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Winnipeg. The hospital is full -- that's one. A lot of them are not admitted and many of them that cannot go home are being asked to be discharged. I'm speaking from a couple of cases which I definitely have, and I could tell the Minister about it. A man who had a heart attack, half mental, diabetic and he was asked to move in the next week or two from the hospital. If there's no room in the hospital, why cannot we develop and pay to the nursing homes? There are many homes in Winnipeg today that -- they either have to be destroyed or they're only good for that particular purpose -- either boarders or a nursing home. Why could not we either help or direct those owners of the nursing homes to become more equipped and get some training to keep those incurables there. You can't bury them, it's against the law while they're alive, but you've got to look after them. They have paid to society for the amount that we have to spend to them now; and, on the other hand, it's our own interest to ensure them for their sake and for the sake of the expense of the state. So while we are not dealing with details now, I'll probably have another one. In the meantime, the Minister's address today, while I welcome it very, very much, I show that he has a great interest in it. I have no doubt that he'll do his best but this was only a cup of coffee to keep him alive, to not to die for another day.

Now there is another point in connection -- the Minister mentioned about housing for the old age. I think in addition to housing, which is necessary, something has to be done, something has to be done very very soon to take the single men out of the dilapidated rooming homes where there's fire hazards and it's not sanitary. At the same time, while the old age pensioners are alive, whether they have sufficient to exist or not, but they have to have a certain amount of recreation. Years ago there started to develop Golden Age Clubs, where they can meet down there and they have concerts, can read and play cards and carry on conversations. It brings a little bit of sunshine in their lives. Most of them, or many of them have no children or their children are away; they don't communicate with them. They are lonesome, and I have not yet heard in this House where the government directly tried to encourage and also to finance to some extent all these Golden Age Clubs. Many of them are in existence here in Winnipeg, and if you could come in, I could take the Honourable Minister, on a Wednesday for instance, to a certain Golden Age club on Selkirk Avenue and let him for himself see the smile and the bright eyes and the pleasure that these old age pensioners get from this social club; and what they get from being associated with others instead of sitting in their rooms and thinking about the end of their days.

So at the moment all I can say now is this, that while we appreciate very much what the Honourable Minister has given -- the information given us of improvement -- I personally believe that it is not sufficient. I have many individual claims as examples, but I'm not going to mention it now. I'll wait until the separate items will be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 1 -- pass?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to say a word or two in connection with the administration of the Department of Welfare. May I, first of all, join in a tribute that has been made by members who have spoken to the administrative staff of the Department of Welfare. I've had some differences of opinion on a few occasions with them but I think this is only natural, Mr. Chairman, but even notwithstanding these differences of opinion with them, I've found that they are a very capable people and very efficient people nonetheless.

Now I don't know what to say really about my honourable friend the New Minister of Welfare. We have had two or three exchanges, I think, annually in the past since he became a Minister of the Crown, and there again we've had considerable differences of opinions as in other departments, but I do, Mr. Chairman, wish him every success in the Department of Welfare. I think, sir, that this is one of the most important departments in the field of government today. It is one that is becoming ever more a department that is involving more and more of the people in the Province of Manitoba. There was a time when we considered using the word "welfare" that we were referring to real indigent care. We recall that back in the

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) . . . old days when we spoke of welfare, we were thinking of those people that were at the last stretch of their financial resources, but I think now we have come to realize and recognize that in the field of government that we more and more are truly approaching what so many refer to as the welfare state. So I suggest, Mr. Chairman, there has been a change in the definition of "welfare" and it's becoming more and more all-embracing.

I want first of all to say to the Minister, as he is starting out in his new venture as Minister of Welfare, I would respectfully suggest to the Minister of Welfare that he looks over The Social Allowances Act and the regulations pertaining to the Act itself; and try and impress upon his colleagues in the Cabinet the necessity, the desirability of completely bringing in to operation all of the regulations under The Social Allowances Act. I think the member for the Liberal Party speaking here, the Member for Gladstone speaking a few moments ago made reference to the fact that only about 50 percent of the statutory provisions in respect of The Social Allowances Act have been brought into being at the present time. I'm particularly concerned with the fact that the government has not seen fit to bring under the regulations one of the clauses of which I'm sure that they received the support of the people of Manitoba back in 1958-59; namely, the provision that under The Social Allowances Act those under 65, their long-term difficulties will also be covered.

I realize, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister can turn around and say to us of this Committee that this will be a rather costly item to proclaim, but I do respectfully suggest to him the necessity of it, that these people who are down on their heels, figuratively speaking, still have to be taken care of. I think that it's advisable for the costs of provision for these peoples should be taken under the general provincial field, whereas at the present time they have to revert to that old archaic method, in my opinion, of begging of their municipal council for welfare aid. I had hoped that when the new government came into office, back in '58-'59 that the whole attitude to welfare and aid would be changed. As a matter of fact, as I mentioned a moment ago, the government did promise this, but I think that I can in this instance say that the government has failed badly.

I'm particularly concerned, Mr. Chairman, with the cut-off aid at 65 between municipal and provincial aid in respect of widowed persons. Now quite frequently -- quite frequently, now that it's generally accepted that the retirement age for industry is now 65 years of age, we find the situation, all too often regrettably, that people who retire on pension at 65, the breadwinner, usually the man, is on pension after 65. I think it's pretty well a fair statement, Mr. Chairman, to say that usually, or quite frequently, the widow or the female to the marriage union is a few years younger than the male, and the net result has been in many cases, and it has been drawn to my attention, that the pensions do die in some cases with the death of the original pensioner and then we find that the woman is without aid, other than going to municipal aid. I think that it's time that we recognize that there is this difference in age between married couples and that the legislation that we were so pleased to accept -- if I remember correctly, Mr. Chairman, even by unanimous vote a few years ago -- I think that it is time that that was brought into operation.

Now I want to say a few words too, Mr. Chairman, in connection with the provision of medicare cards. The reason I want to do it now on Administration, Mr. Chairman, is because it also touches on the question of another department, namely that of Health, where it appears to me from reading the records that many people in the Province of Manitoba who are eligible to receive freedom from hospitalization premium payment as the result of tax, do not qualify for medicare cards. Now I appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that this is an item that I have raised on previous sessions in this House, but I feel that it must be raised again because the situation still prevails.

Now I haven't got the figures before me at the present time dealing with those who are exempted from premium payment insofar as hospitalization is concerned, but I note that at the present time, or at least for the month of December in 1962, there were 20,796 medicare cards in effect in that month; and I believe, Mr. Chairman, this only amounts to about half or two-thirds possibly, subject to correction by the Minister, of the numbers who are exempt from hospitalization premium payments under our regulations in effect. I maintain, Mr. Chairman, and I think I'm on firm ground when I say this, that if any person on a means test is excluded from the necessity of paying hospitalization premiums, they must of necessity establish their

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd) . . . financial position as being that they were not able to pay, and therefore I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that they're in the same position in respect of medicare cards. Surely, Mr. Chairman, if an individual cannot pay \$4.00 a month for a hospitalization premium, how can they look after their own health, dental and optical care as they're having to do at the present time?

So I suggest to the Minister, as I have suggested in past sessions, that this is a matter of serious concern for many of the people in the Province of Manitoba. I would suggest to the Minister -- and I know that he'll have to do a little persuasive arguing with some of his colleagues in the Cabinet -- but I would suggest to the Minister that the Minister of Health and the Minister of Welfare get together, and when the Minister of Health, through the hospital commissions, decides that a person's income is such that they are not able to pay for hospitalization premiums, that the Minister of Welfare should say, "I agree with your contention and therefore I will also issue a medicare card to the individual concerned."

Also, Mr. Chairman, and I don't think this is an item that I could mention under any particular item at the present time, but only under Administration. We from time to time have discussions in this House on the question of a compulsory over-all medicare system for the Province of Manitoba. It was the original intention of my group to propose a resolution calling for medicare of a comprehensive nature in the province for consideration at this session. This may not be done due to other matters at the time. However, I do want to take this opportunity of pointing out to this Committee that the Department of Welfare recognizes the necessity of a comprehensive medicare system, or coverage, in the Province of Manitoba. While, as I say, at the present time that there are some 20,700-odd that are in receipt of medicare cards, these people are in receipt of cards that make provision for dental, drug and optical, as well as medical care; but under our present MMS system that we have in the Province of Manitoba, coverage is only made for medical care. It is my considered opinion that the government has established the necessity of an all-embracing scheme for some people. I suggest that there are many citizens of the Province of Manitoba who, while they may be covered on a premium basis with MMS, would be happy and would be glad to be able to make contributions on a premium basis to an over-all comprehensive health insurance scheme.

It is my understanding that under the medicare card system at present in vogue in the Department of Welfare, that recipients of medicare cards are entitled to chiropractic service; they are entitled to services by optometrists; and the auxiliary fields of care as well as those of straight medical care. I think that this is pin-pointing, pin-pointing the necessity of complete coverage in all aspects of health care in the Province of Manitoba and coverage for all of the people of the Province of Manitoba. I'm fully aware of the fact that in certain jurisdictions in our great Dominion that there has been some controversy in the field of medicare on a comprehensive basis, but I do say, Mr. Chairman, that notwithstanding this, we all have to realize, those of us who are charged with the responsibility of legislation; those who are charged with the responsibility of the provision of services, I think that we are only shutting our eyes to reality when we continue our opposition to such an all-embracing scheme of comprehensive medicare, comprehensive health insurance. So if the Honourable Minister of Welfare can extend in his department medicare coverage to those who are exempt from hospitalization, I think that this would be a step in the right direction and would assist many people.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I had before me a few -- or had hoped to have before me a number of matters pertaining to the matter of our Indian and Metis friends in the province, but I'll try and remember without those notes some of those matters because this is under the Executive Division that we're dealing with, Mr. Chairman. I will recall to your attention the fact that just prior and during the last provincial election there was a considerable amount of publicity given in the media of the press, some of it emanating from a press in Toronto, of the ill-treatment that was being accorded to the Indian and Metis in northern Manitoba. I appreciate, and I realize that some of this was given sort of -- I'm trying to think of the right word to use without being unparliamentary -- what I'm thinking of, Mr. Chairman, it was blown up in the press beyond some proportions that apparently eventually were revealed. Nonetheless, Sir, the fact of the matter is, that notwithstanding the flowery orations that we've heard in this House from members opposite, the treatment of our Indian and Metis friends is still a problem and a great problem in the Province of Manitoba. It is a problem in northern Manitoba. It is a problem in southern Manitoba as well. And while the Minister briefly referred to the

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) . . . question of the Indian and the Metis in his opening statement, I would like to hear him develop more fully the situation as it was revealed in northern Manitoba at the time of the election; the situation as it was revealed in the eastern part, south-eastern part of Manitoba following that; and the situation that has been revealed insofar as the Indian and Metis in the City of Winnipeg.

I have affirmed in this House, and elsewhere, that we've been more concerned with simply providing for hand-outs than we have for looking at the basic problem, which is the provision of help on a self-help basis. We are pleased to talk in this Legislature of increasing industrial development and expanding school facilities, including our Indian and Metis, but we've been very negligent in providing them with the tools in order to work and to put their knowledge to useful purpose. I have found on numerous occasions that young men and women have come into the city; trained in some of our trade schools, our technical institutes; given employment in some instances of a mediocre nature in the City of Winnipeg; and then, depending on employment circumstances, they are the very first that are let out of employment by their employers in the City of Winnipeg, with the net result that they have been here long enough to become accustomed to the ways of we whites. I think, Mr. Chairman, if they had of been directed back to the communities that they came from to use of their talents in those communities, aided if necessary by government industries located there at the cost of the government; the setting up of factories, and such items; that they would have been able to lend assistance to all of the people within their community. After all, I do not believe that the Indian and the Metis basically want hand-outs. I think they do want an opportunity to serve a useful purpose within the confines of their own communities.

I have been informed that in many instances in some of our garment industries here in the Province of Manitoba, that the Indian girl who learns dressmaking is used in the way that I suggest they have, to their detriment, and left here on the loss of employment to shift for themselves. How better it would be, Mr. Chairman, not only for the young boys and girls who come in here and learn the needlework trade for instance, that if, having completed their training here, they were able to go back to their communities in properly provided factories and use of their talents for the development within their own community area.

I respectfully suggest to the Honourable Member the Minister that this is a more realistic approach. I appreciate that in the department we have capable men, particularly in John Legasse who is attempting a job for our Indian and Metis, but I suggest that he may not have quite as free a hand as he would like to have in order to accomplish for the Indian and Metis those things that are desirable. So I say to the Honourable the Minister that this is a big field and I would like to hear more from him. But having said this, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that the Honourable the Minister of Welfare has only been in his position for a relatively short period of time and may not be able at this Session to fully develop those thoughts that I am at least trying to place before him for his consideration.

I will have a few other items to speak of later, Mr. Chairman, but I thought that on this particular item of Executive Division that I should raise these matters at this particular time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I call it 5:30 and leave the Chair until 8 o'clock.