

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Tuesday, September 23, 1969

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. RON McBRIDE (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Albert Reginald Hayes and Others, praying for the passing of an Act to incorporate St. Anthony's General Hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: I should like to direct the attention of the Honourable Members to the gallery where we have 50 students of Grade 11 standing of the Louis Riel Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Miss Payment. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. On behalf of all the honourable members of the Legislature, I welcome you here today.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, if I may be granted the privilege and honour - unfortunately I was not present previously to converse with you - there is a distinguished gentleman to your right, Mr. Allan Blakney, a member of the Legislature of the Province of Saskatchewan who was formerly a Minister of Health in that great sister province of ours.

I introduce to you, Sir, and to the Assembly, Mr. Allan Blakney.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable the Minister of Cultural Affairs.

HON. PHILIP PETURSSON (Minister of Cultural Affairs) (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, in spite of headlines in the newspapers, I wish to report that the only reliable and definite information that we have about the possibility of the coming of the Queen, Her Majesty, to Winnipeg, is that an invitation has been extended to Her Majesty the Queen and to Prince Philip by the Province of Manitoba for a visit during the month of July this coming summer. The matter is well in hand and it is expected that an official announcement may be forthcoming within a very short time. In the meantime, I have neither the knowledge nor the information necessary to make any kind of a fuller announcement than this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR (Virden): In light, Mr. Speaker, of what the Minister said some few days ago regarding the farmers selling grain at such a drastically reduced price, what is his statement, what is his thoughts in reading this afternoon's headlines in the Free Press. The dateline was Virden. I am sure he has read it, but where do we stop, Mr. Speaker, on this. Will it get down to 15 cents before some real positive statement comes from our Honourable Minister? What action is he going to take soon, because it is leaving agriculture in a most depressed point of view. The people are not concerned to finish their fields if they have breakdowns and this is something that you don't bounce a way out. I want a positive statement. What action, if wheat starts to sell at these extremely reduced prices?

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): Well, I think it is a very good question. It is something that policy will have to be spelled out, but I do want to say to my honourable friend that he can appreciate the problem as one that has to be subsequently referred to federal authority.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. J. R. FERGUSON (Gladstone): I would direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Would you be in favour of compulsory crop insurance if PFAA is disposed of or done away with.

MR. USKIW: That is a very hypothetical question at the moment, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Health. Could he inform us as to first of all the progress that is taking place on the new Concordia Hospital; and secondly, what is the projected date for its completion.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN (Minister of Health and Social Services) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I'll take the question as notice.

MR. DOERN: That proves that it wasn't a plant.

A MEMBER: Are you having some trouble with him?

MR. PAULLEY: No, none at all. We know where we're going.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Could he advise the House whether the committee hearings with regard to Lake Winnipeg control are going to be called?

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources) (Brandon East): If I heard you correctly, you are wondering whether the committee which will hear public hearings on Lake Winnipeg control will be called. Is that the question?

MR. CRAIK: Right.

MR. EVANS: By all means - in due course, this is our sincere intention.

MR. CRAIK: This fall?

MR. PAULLEY: Could be.

MR. CRAIK: A subsequent question then, Mr. Speaker. There is also indicated in the Cass-Beggs report that a committee would be convened of expert interests immediately with regard to the regulation of Lake Winnipeg. Could he advise whether this committee of expert interests has been called?

MR. EVANS: Well, I am pleased to inform the honourable member that experts in our Water Control Branch are now in consultation with Manitoba Hydro officials and that they are holding informal discussions with consultants on this matter. In other words, we are considering the advisability of obtaining expert advice on this outside of the government and this is in keeping with the Cass-Beggs recommendations. But we are actively working on this.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. JACK HARDY (St. Vital): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Some few days ago I requested of the Minister a projection of the municipal debentures that will be issued to cover the approved centennial projects for 1970. Is the Minister in a position to give to the House this information?

HON. HOWARD S. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I have checked into this matter. It is very difficult to give any precise answer to the Honourable Member for St. Vital. There are a number of projects being submitted for approval by rate-payers but none of these projects are identified, as such, as being centennial projects. To date there has been one application only for authorization of a debt under the special centennial provisions of the Act, and this is in the sum of \$9,715.00.

MR. HARDY: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a subsequent question, a supplementary. Is the Minister in a position to advise the House of the total expenditure of, is it the 96 projects, that will be undertaken in 1970?

MR. PAWLEY: No, I am not, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just wondering whether the Attorney-General is in a position to say whether the province will be able to help the Town of The Pas in respect to policing?

HON. AL. MACKLING (Attorney-General) (St. James): I've heard by way of the media prior to the honourable member bringing this question that the Mayor of The Pas will be in Winnipeg and endeavouring to see me. I have had no formal commitment or communication with him, but I will make myself available and speak to him and find out what the problems are.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Transport. Is the Minister considering a complete review of grants to Metro Transit System in Greater Winnipeg which has been running a deficit for the last four or five years?

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Transportation) (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of policy, and as soon as we can get out of this House we will deal with the many matters facing this department and other departments.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I may be permitted, grants were increased by legislation at this session.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I realize that, but I asked the Minister not about the grant but will he review, because it seems the grants may be not sufficient.

MR. PAULLEY: He has answered that the other . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I see one of our former page boys is back in the House today and I think I welcome him on behalf of the members.

A question to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I understand that hearings were held by the Manitoba Water Commission regarding the levels of Lake Winnipeg and a report was filed with the Minister. Could the House be expected to receive a copy of that?

MR. EVANS: I am sorry I didn't hear the last part of your question.

MR. McKENZIE: Could the members receive a copy of that report?

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not as conversant as I perhaps should be on the legality of this. I don't know whether it's a confidential report to the Minister subject to government review or whether it is for public, you know, or for the consumption of the Legislature. I could look into this.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources undertake to clarify this particular point on the matter of the report referred to by my colleague and at least classify it as to whether it is going to be a secret or hidden report, or just what kind of report it is so that we will know.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might have leave to make a short statement. Mr. Speaker, approximately ten days ago a report appeared in the Winnipeg Tribune that the Liberal Party had produced a report with respect to the further development on the Nelson River Power complex, and since that time in debate in this House it was suggested that this might have been some sort of a secret report that members did not have access to. I might say at that time Mr. Cam Osler and Dr. Allan Lansdowne, who had helped members of our Party in the debate last spring, have written a final draft proposal for the government to consider with respect to the high-level diversion, or something in lieu of it in the construction facing Manitoba Hydro. I would like at this time to table in the House a final report prepared by these two gentlemen with a copy to all parties, with a view that it may be of some assistance to the government and to opposition members who may be called upon to make a decision at a future date.

MR. EVANS: On behalf of the government, I thank the consideration of the Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party. I for one, and I can speak for my colleagues, will read with interest the contents of the report and I am sure there may be some useful information in there that will be of value to the people of Manitoba. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Could the Chair have the opportunity to check into the propriety of a private member tabling documents -- before the page boy distributes the documents.

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Lest there be any question on this point, I would say that the government has no objection to the tabling of it and, if necessary for your purposes, it can be considered as being tabled with government approval.

MR. CRAIK: The last time that this happened in the House, which was about two or three weeks ago, somebody filled the breach and invited that the report be tabled. If such an invitation is required, I would like to extend it.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I might say that . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I take it that the honourable member has the approval of the House to table the document.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, one final word. I might say that this is a final report, not the exact copy that was given to my honourable friend the Premier last week.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, in the light of all this discussion, plus another report tabled, can the Honourable the House Leader indicate to us when the Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources will be called so that we can examine these matters.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time, I would like to thank the Leader of the Liberal Party. I was the member who asked the question in the House and at that time the First Minister indicated that it was a private document, but I compliment the Leader of the Liberal Party for making it public.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance) (St. John's): Mr. Speaker, some days ago the Honourable Member for Rhineland enquired as to the surplus that was left with the government at the end of the fiscal year March 31, 1969. I am advised by my department that the surplus for the year ended March 31, 1969, is \$1,400, 277.65.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Having passed this part in the estimates of agriculture last night, I wonder if the Minister has had time to reconsider the changing of interest rates on credit union shares, and has he by now received requests from the credit unions that this change of legislation is necessary.

MR. USKIW: The answer to the last part of the question, Mr. Speaker, is that I have not received any request for a change. I may point out that it is within the bounds of the Act to permit the bonus feature to be implemented. As I understand it, few banks are paying more than the six percent interest on savings unless it is a term deposit, and I understand that this is equally possible for credit unions to engage in.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Health could give us a schedule of the increases in the allowances that are now being made available.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the increased allowances are not now being made available. They will take effect as of November 1st. They will be enacted by regulation; the regulation will be available for my honourable friend.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Some time ago I asked him whether he could obtain information as to the percentage utilization figure in connection with the Medicare program as compared to what it was originally proposed or forecast. Has he that information now?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I now have the information for my honourable friend but I don't have it in the House with me. I'll have it tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. HARDY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct this question to the Honourable the Minister of Social Services. In view of the announcement of the increase, and presumably this is at the provincial level for welfare recipients, is it the intention of the government to increase the percentage payable to the local municipalities?

MR. GREEN: There is no government intention that has been formulated in that regard.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the House Leader. I wonder if he can inform the House not when the Standing Committee on Economic Development will be formed and meet, but will it be formed and meet this session?

MR. PAULLEY: My answer to my honourable friend is that I'm just in the process of compiling terms of reference and a resolution which will be placed on the Order Paper I hope within a couple of days. I have received, Mr. Speaker, from all parties of the House of the personnel of the committee and the committee will be formed.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, that answered the first part of the question. The second part was, will it meet this session?

MR. PAULLEY: I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, there will be provisions in the resolution for the committee to meet at this session to organize or to do whatever business they so desire, and to make provision for the subsequent meetings.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry that I have to put the question in a supplementary form again. In view of the fact that we now have before Law Amendments representatives of the fish processing industry, and in view of the fact that the Law Amendments Committee is not going to be in a position unless the rules are changed for the proper examination of the

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.) department people involved to be able to elicit the information for a proper determination of a decision in this respect, may I humbly suggest that either the authority be given to the Law Amendments Committee to be able to -- (Interjection) -- Yes, I'm asking the House Leader that the Law Amendments Committee be given the authority that the Standing Committee on Economic Development would have been given for a proper evaluation of this phase of the economic life of this province. If the committee is going to be formed and we are going to meet this session, then it can wait until we have the committee formed.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member debating the point or is he . . .

MR. SPIVAK: No, I'm asking the House Leader to allow the Law Amendments Committee to be able to operate in the event the Standing Committee will not be meeting this session.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, in answer to my honourable friend, as he well knows - or should know if he doesn't, possibly he doesn't - since he becoming a member of this Assembly, what Law Amendments Committee does is within their jurisdiction. I have assured my honourable friend that there will be established, providing the House agrees with it, a resolution that I propose to introduce to the House for the establishment of a Committee on Economic Development in Manitoba. As far as the matter of the Fisheries Act, I consider that this is only part of the overall picture of the economic development in Manitoba. The Law Amendments Committee has its jurisdictions, and when the Committee on Economic Development meets they will have terms of reference that can expand even from there.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Transport. Has the Minister in the last few days received any complaints from our senior citizens in respect to the method used by Metropolitan Corporation qualifying our senior citizens for reduced bus rides?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry to say I haven't, although I think I should have.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Private Members' Resolution.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, if we have now reached the end of the questioning period, it was indicated this morning at Law Amendments Committee that we had unanimous approval of the various members of the Assembly that you, Sir, should now leave the Chair in order that we go into Law Amendments Committee to consider further representations in respect of the Fisheries Act. If we now have that agreement, Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully suggest that you, Sir, do now leave the Chair until 8:00 o'clock this evening in order that we may hear further representations in respect, I believe it's Bill No. 10, and hopefully that you, Sir, would return to your Chair this evening at 8:00 o'clock, at which time we would hear the contribution of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition on the budget debate, or the Committee of Ways and Means.

I put one caveat, if it's indeed a caveat suggestion, that the government may ask the House, or order the proceedings of the House this evening, that after hearing the contribution of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition and the possible adjournment by the House Leader of the Liberal Party, that we may go back into Law Amendments Committee following that debate this evening in order to hear further representations. I'm sorry that I cannot inform the House as to what the disposition for this evening will be other than that, because I'm not aware of whether or not we might complete the representations on Bill 10 this afternoon.

So I ask, Mr. Speaker, whether the government may have leave to forego Private Members' resolutions at this time, and I want to assure the members of this Assembly that there is no intention of the government to curtail full discussion of the Private Members' resolutions that now stand on the Order Paper. If this is agreeable, Mr. Speaker, I'd suggest that you do now leave the Chair and we go into Law Amendments and you come back, Sir, at 8:00 o'clock this evening.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

MR. G. JOHNSTON: We are quite agreeable to that course of action on this side. I would just like to remind the Government House Leader that when it comes the time in his opinion to introduce the speed-up motion that he takes into account that we readily gave up one Private Members' Day.

MR. PAULLEY: If the Honourable Member for Rhineland will allow the progress of the resolution referred to by my friend from Portage la Prairie I'll be happy, the government

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd.) will be happy, and I'm sure all the members of the Assembly will be happy.

MR. SPEAKER: In that event, I'm leaving the Chair to return at 8:00 o'clock tonight.