

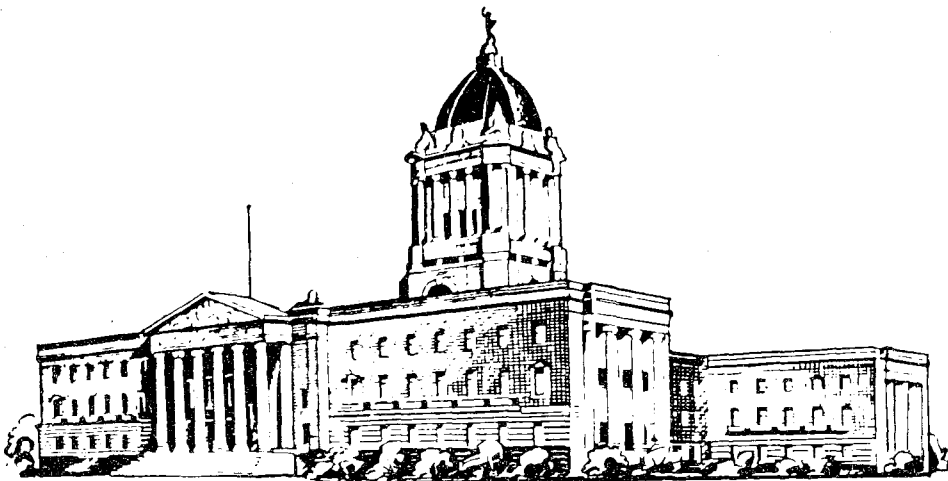


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XX No. 33 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 21st, 1973. Fifth Session, 29th Legislature.

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Wednesday, March 21, 1973

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 50 students of Grade 9 standing of the Golden Gate School. These students are under the direction of Mr. R. Collins and Mr. T. Ladyman. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

We also have 50 students of Grade 7-9 standing of the Walter White School. These students are under the direction of Mr. R. Kay and Miss F. Brownlee. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

On behalf of all the honourable members of the Legislative Assembly I welcome you here today.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills - the honourable member is absent; Oral Questions. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Northern Affairs, my question is to the First Minister. Was Mr. Morrisseau, the Community Development Officer at Southern Indian Lake dismissed on instructions of the Executive Director of the Manitoba Metis Federation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier and Minister of Finance) (Rossmere): I shouldn't think so, Mr. Speaker, but I'll take the question as notice for my colleague.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. A supplementary. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Did the First Minister receive a letter or a copy of a letter sent to the Minister of Northern Affairs from the Manitoba Metis Federation asking for the resignation of the Minister of Northern Affairs?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, from time to time letters of that kind from one group or another might be received in this or any other jurisdiction and then of course it is up to Cabinet to decide. But really, Sir, in this particular case, I have not received such a letter; it has not been brought to my attention as yet, if it exists, and I wouldn't want my honourable friend to have any expectations about it.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I will table a copy of the letter. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. This is not a debating hour, this is the oral question hour.

MR. SPIVAK: My question is to the First Minister. If the allegations are true as suggested by the Manitoba Metis Federation will he ask . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The question is hypothetical in that sense but if the Minister wishes to reply.

The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Attorney-General. In view of the fact that at least two residents of South Indian Lake have publicly stated that they were offered bribes by a government employee, is he having this matter investigated?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. A.H. MACKLING, Q.C. (Attorney-General) (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I have had no notice of such allegations. If the honourable member wants to present information to me to that effect I'll certainly be interested in it.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Northern Affairs. Where is the money coming from that your political Executive Assistant is offering residents of South Indian Lake?

POINT OF ORDER

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister on a point of order.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is an assumption in that question which implies that such is the case, which of course I'm certain that my colleague would wish to emphatically deny. And you know rumours of this kind, Sir, have been circulating on both sides of the issue, on both sides of the issue; there have been allegations that there have been bribes offered by those who wish to prevent the development of the hydro program. But, Sir, we have not had any evidence of that to date.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would suggest that in respect to the point of order there should be no question that contains an inference and therefore if the honourable member wishes to restate his question. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD cont'd

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Northern Affairs. In view of the fact that at least two residents have publicly stated that they have been offered bribes by his Executive Assistant would the Minister care to make a statement at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. RON McBRYDE (Minister of Northern Affairs) (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, there is a couple of responses that I would like to make to the separate part of the question. First of all, Mr. Morrisseau had resigned his position as my Executive Assistant in order to take a contract position with Northern Affairs so he was not my Executive Assistant when these alleged incidents took place. If certain people have alleged that happened I suppose then they have to prove that happened. It is my understanding that no such thing took place.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Northern Affairs. Did the Minister say publicly on the CBC program "24 Hours" that Mr. Morrisseau was dismissed on the instructions of the Manitoba Metis Federation?

MR. McBRYDE: No, Mr. Speaker, I believe it would be more correct to say that the Executive Director of the Manitoba Metis Federation was indirectly involved in that dismissal.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question to the Minister of Northern Affairs. Is he now retracting the statement he made on "24 Hours"?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The question is out of order. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. I. H. (Izzy) ASPER (Wolseley): My question, Mr. Speaker is to the Minister of Northern Affairs. Did Mr. Morrisseau on your instructions seek written confirmation or support from the people of South Indian Lake for the government's flooding project at South Indian Lake?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I know for a fact that he didn't do it on my instructions and I'm sure that he didn't do it at all.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Has he received a submission from the lower Red River Valley Water Commission requesting that they proceed with the Pembina Dam?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Will the government be making a grant to the Town of Sprague equivalent to the loss of revenue from the Columbia Forest Products?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I'm unaware of any such precedent for the making of such grants; I would be amazed if any such policy was ever devised. Nor have I received any request from Sprague, totally unaware of any request along those lines.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Will the government make a commitment that people will not be faced with the highest school tax in the Province of Manitoba, almost unbearable, school tax?

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MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, somebody is going to end up I guess paying the highest school tax in the province. I don't know whether it will be the people of Melita or Sprague or where, somebody will I guess have that dubious honour.

But insofar as the balance of the question is concerned I have not heard from the people in Sprague; I have read comments made by the residents of Sprague in the newspaper today and by the Member for Emerson. I would have thought that maybe they would have made some presentations of their problems directly rather than in the way that it take place.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Education and ask him if the demonstration project that was made available to the people of Ninette could also be made available to the people of Sprague?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education)(Burrows): Mr. Speaker, all schools, school divisions, school districts, are at liberty to make application to participate in our demonstration projects and if there should be a need for a similar project in Sprague then certainly it would be considered.

MR. GIRARD: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a supplementary and ask the Minister if he has had written and personal representation underlining the specific problems of school finances in that school district?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of the school finances not only in the district of Sprague but of all the school divisions in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. GIRARD: I'd like to know, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister recalls my visit to his office?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Emerson had asked me questions relative to the insurance, Columbia Forest Products, the amount of the insurance claim. The amount claimed for the particle board and equipment - \$1,087,854; claim for stock - \$100,000; claim for business interruption - \$100,000; that's the total claim. Was there a rebuilding clause in the policy? Answer: no. What are the intentions about rebuilding? There is no present intention of rebuilding. What was the legal cost of defending the court action re Columbia Forest Products? I don't have that yet.

With regard to the prospects of the claim, I would ask the honourable members to note that today the Court of Appeal reserved a previous judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench in connection with the Mercury action so one can wait hopefully. --(Interjection)-- Reversed? Yes. The Court of Queen's Bench had said that the province couldn't sue; the Court of Appeal has reversed that so we can wait hopefully with regard to the other action.

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

MR. ASPER: To the Mines Minister in charge of the Development Corporation. Now that the Minister has stated the extent of the claim, can he now tell us how much the Province of Manitoba will lose or not lose if the total claim is recovered from the Sprague plant?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is hypothetical.

MR. GREEN: Well, I think the honourable member is merely asking if we got the total claim what is our loss on Columbia Forest Products? Mr. Speaker, that type of answer will be dealt with at Economic Development Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Northern Affairs. I wonder if he can inform the House whether he has been correctly quoted when he stated that the Manitoba Metis Federation is against Mr. Morrisseau because he ran second to Angus Spence whom I believe is the president?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The question is out of order under Section 171 of Beauchesne. The Honourable Member for Wolseley, Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Northern Affairs. In view of the fact that two residents, or two people have now publicly made charges of payoffs which have been referred to earlier, is he investigating the accuracy of those charges? --(Interjections)--

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs. Order, please.

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MR. McBRYDE: I see no reason to investigate those allegations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. JEAN ALLARD (Rupertsland): I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs. Could he advise the House if he has some new information on exactly how much of the freight out of Ilford has been shipped into God's Lake and Oxford House?

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have been advised that as of March 20th, as of last night in fact, Mr. Speaker, that 86,400 gallons of fuel have been shipped to Oxford House by winter road transportation and that 26,000 gallons of fuel have been shipped by air transportation; that 394,000 pounds of other freight have been shipped by winter road transportation and 154,500 pounds by air transportation. It is my understanding that in terms of the fuel for Oxford House that 54,600 gallons of fuel are still to go to that community and that in terms of the other freight other than fuel about 60 percent have been delivered, 40 percent therefore is still to be delivered.

The road from Ilford to Oxford House is only being used at nights now, Mr. Speaker, because of the warm weather and I'm not sure even if, for example, if tonight they're going to be able to go or not on that road. God's Narrows, Mr. Speaker, has not received direct hauls there. My understanding is that the freighters are going to go in a convoy system to that community, put all the trucks on the road at one time along with other equipment and make one effort move to get goods into the community of God's Narrows.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland a supplementary?

MR. ALLARD: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell us how much freight both fuel and other kinds has to go to both God's Narrows, God's River?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I don't have those totals.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland, another supplementary?
Last one.

MR. ALLARD: To his knowledge has any freight been shipped to God's Lake, God's Narrows or God's River?

MR. McBRYDE: I'm not sure that the --I think that the winter road proposal is only to God's Narrows and that there was going to be some tractor train from God's Narrows to God's Lake. Both communities have received some goods by air. My understanding is that neither of those communities have received goods by ground transportation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture and ask him if he could advise the House whether or not the Manitoba Egg Marketing Board shipped some 36,500 cases of eggs to the United States the week of March 16th, 1973?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): Well, not having had notice of the question, Mr. Speaker, I will have to take it as notice. I wouldn't be surprised if that indeed was the case. They operate their own business, we don't try to interfere in that respect.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker. . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would take this further question. Would he advise the House at what price those eggs were sold in the United States market?

MR. USKIW: Well I'm sure whatever information the producers board gives me I can relate to the House if it's their wish that it be so done, but I'm not sure at what point or at what point they would refuse to give that kind of information. That is a jurisdiction beyond my control, Mr. Speaker.

While I'm on my feet though I would like to answer a couple of questions put to me by members opposite, one by the Member for Arthur on whether or not the department has been studying the procedures used in the United States with regards to protein grading. Let me indicate that we are aware of the procedures both in Canada and the United States but that the responsibility for the same - the authority is really the Canada Grains Commission because

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(MR. USKIW cont'd). . . . there is no provincial jurisdiction in that respect.

With respect to a question put to me by the Member for Rhineland on whether or not the department contributes to the operations of the Manitoba Seed Growers Association, which is a branch of the Canadian Association. We do, Mr. Speaker, contribute by way of secretarial services and we also provide a chairman for their Seed Growers Committee which decides on the method of distribution of pedigreed seed. That is the extent of our involvement.

On the question of whether or not the province would want to change the method of distribution, I want to say to him that that is beyond our jurisdiction and handled by the University of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable the First Minister. Has there been any follow-up on the report made to the Economic Development Committee on the feasibility study of a provincial bank for Manitoba, be it in combination with interested parties in Manitoba or otherwise?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there has been some follow-up in the sense that there have been discussions with persons who are involved at the present time with the preparations preliminary to applying for a charter to the Parliament of Canada for a bank, establishment of a bank. At this time it would be premature of course to indicate what those are, but I do believe that formal application will be made some time in the course of the next 40 to 60 days approximately and at that point in time it will be possible to give considerably more information.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. In view of the fact that serious charges of corruption have now been publicly made vis-avis the gentleman at South Indian Lake, and in view of the answer of the Minister that he has no intention of investigating, could the First Minister assure this House that he is satisfied that those charges have no substance, or that he has taken steps or will take steps?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, if allegations have been made in a form that really do hint of really in effect serious charge of corruption as my honourable friend puts it, then it will be referred to the Attorney-General's Department. If the matter is felt to have prima facie sufficient basis to proceed further it will be proceeded further with. I think there is some need to be advised by the law offices of the Crown whether the matter is of a vexatious nature or whether it is something in a prima facie sense of substance, in which case it will have to be proceeded further with.

I might advise my honourable friend, however, that in the course of the past many months there have been all kinds of allegations with respect to interference from those outside of the community of South Indian Lake trying to persuade the people to have this attitude or that attitude. Those that are participants in Stop, Look and Listen, I don't know how many thousands of dollars are involved there, but there could be allegations of corruption in that respect as well.

MR. ASPER: Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party. Order, please. Order, please. Would the honourable gentleman state his matter of privilege?

MR. ASPER: The First Minister without putting before this House the slightest shred of evidence has made a suggestion that a committee of the Liberal Party could be categorized as being corrupt or something to that effect. Now, Mr. Speaker, I demand an apology and a retraction.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The matter is not a matter of privilege. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ASPER: When the First Minister stands in his place and suggests corruption of a Party or a member of this House it is a matter of privilege I suggest.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member will have to peruse Beauchesne to find out what a matter of privilege of this House or of a member is. In my opinion it is not a matter of privilege at the moment, it is a matter of opinion and that is not a matter of privilege. The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. I wonder if he could indicate to us if he's resolved the problem of the

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(MR. BOROWSKI cont'd). . . . Day Care Centre at Thompson and are they going to get the money?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Development)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I don't usually give a long answer but today I must. There has been an application made from the Day Care Centre in Thompson. There was a meeting held on the 15th of February 1973. There was a public accusation made in Thompson by the Deputy Mayor, Mrs. Denby, who is one of my civil servants. At the time of the meeting held on the 15th of February, Mrs. Denby was present; I asked her to retract the false accusation publicly. I had no reason to believe that Mrs. Denby was not part of the board of the Day Care Centre.

I have written a letter dated March 8th to Mrs. Denby asking for withdrawal of the statement publicly. This has not been done and I was hoping that this would occur before further negotiations take place with the Day Care Centre Board. I have been informed today that Mrs. Denby doesn't actually make part of the board of the Day Care Centre so the application for the grant of \$2,500 will be channelled through proper channels to actually be accepted or rejected depending on its merits.

MR. BOROWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Minister and ask him another question. Could he indicate what is taking place at Ninette; are they going to close it or are they going to use that building for some other facilities?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, there is on the Order Paper an Order for Return pertaining to Ninette. I can inform the Honourable Member for Thompson that we as a department have indicated to the Board of Ninette different alternatives that are available to them. The patients that we had in the facility have been withdrawn in the month of December 1972. There are certain programs going on in the facility of Ninette. I don't believe that the board has solved the problem as yet but they are discussing the different proposals made by different departments of government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson - a supplementary?

MR. BOROWSKI: No, it's a question for the First Minister. I wonder if he would indicate to the House whether it is going to be the policy of the government to ask the paying public to apologize for statements they make about civil servants?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the particular context to which my honourable friend is referring or relating his question, but it would seem to me, Sir, that as a matter of general principle that if any person, any citizen, and that includes both persons of the public service and persons who are not in the public service, make a public statement about some other person that is subsequently shown to have no foundation in fact, that sort of normal courtesy would be to have the statement corrected. And whether this relates to the Day Care Centre problem or not, I don't know, but it should apply I suggest universally.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I therefore ask my question of the Minister of Northern Affairs. Is he prepared now to apologize to the Manitoba Metis Federation - and to its President?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. What kind of jobs is the province offering university students through the Student Placement Office; are they permanent jobs or makeshift jobs?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Universities and Colleges.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Colleges and Universities)(Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, they are not makeshift jobs, they're not permanent jobs; they are summer jobs which the students need in those months that they are not attending university.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Can the Minister tell me why it is only restricted to university students and not high school students as well?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the restriction is not only to university students but the high school students are still in school until the end of the year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia. Last supplementary.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, my question is then to the Attorney-General who is responsible for the Human Rights Act. Perhaps he could check the ad in the papers and see

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd). . . . if it violates the Human Rights Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Health and Social Development which relates to the Sanatorium at Ninette. Could the Minister indicate how much money the department has spent on the renovations that have taken place in the past number of months at Ninette Sanatorium?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member for Rock Lake was more specific pertaining to the last number of months, I could take the question as notice and give him the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: . . . to direct a question to the Minister of Education and ask him if he could explain why it is that the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 is able to have 20 percent of the teachers above grant and yet levy a mill rate that is lower than most school divisions in Manitoba?

MR. HANUSCHAK: One of the reasons may be, Mr. Speaker, a difference in the tax base.

MR. GIRARD: Yes, I'd like to direct another question to the same Minister, Mr. Speaker, and ask him why it is that the Winnipeg No 1 School Division can afford to pay \$925 per pupil in operating cost while other school divisions are spending 650 in operating costs and yet have a lower mill rate than most school divisions, in the special levy?

MR. HANUSCHAK: The reason may be the same as in my answer to the previous question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GIRARD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if this would be an indication of the inequality and the disparity of our educational opportunity across the province?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I'll be very glad to debate that point during the consideration of my Estimates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, last week the Honourable Member for Assiniboia asked the question if in fact there were government vehicles that were insured registered in Brandon paying Territorial No. 2 rates that ought in fact be paying city rates - Territorial No. 1 rates in Winnipeg. All that I can do is provide him with the information that I have. At the present time there is 377 vehicles registered and insured - government vehicles in Winnipeg; 1,091 vehicles insured and registered in Brandon; and 117 vehicles registered and insured in the north in The Pas area for Territorial 3. We know of no instances where vehicles are registered and insured in Brandon that ought to have been insured in Winnipeg; whether or not the figures are reasonable. We did obtain information from the Superintendent of Insurance at the time of the inception of Autopac that 75 percent of all vehicles insured prior to Autopac were insured with rates that were attributable to Territorial No.2, so it would appear on the surface that the figures indicate a consistency with the situation prior to. If the honourable member knows of any specific examples of any abuse certainly I would be interested in receiving those instances from him.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Minister for the information and the statement, but would he not agree that if cars are used exclusively, or vehicles are used exclusively in the Winnipeg area or Winnipeg region that they should be charged the Winnipeg rate?

MR. PAWLEY: Yes, I would agree and if he has an example of any such vehicle I would like to have the example of that and I would be pleased then to refer it to MPIC because certainly MPIC is not receiving sufficient premium in the instance he would have referred to.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Then the Minister would agree that the 75 percent ratio because it was used before should not apply now - it should be where the cars are used?

MR. PAWLEY: That is the basis on which the ratio was used before, it was used before on the basis that 75 percent of the vehicles were used more in rural than in the city and likewise at the present time the figures indicate roughly the same type of ratios; and certainly if the honourable member has an instance or example of abuse of this exclusive use I wish he would give it to me one way or another and I would be pleased to look into it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

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MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable the Minister of Education. Is the government intending to follow up on the report of the Provincial Auditor's recommendation and advance moneys to school divisions on a monthly basis rather than twice a year as heretofore?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I'll take the honourable member's question as notice and answer him at a later date more precisely as to the manner of payment out of funds to the school divisions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. I wonder if he could indicate to the House whether there is any immediate action seriously contemplated by the members of the Prairie Economic Council for university rationalization of the universities on the Prairies?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition is correct in assuming that this has been a subject matter of discussion at successive meetings of the Prairie Economic Council. It is more precisely something which has been referred to an inter-provincial universities' rationalization committee and I believe that the Minister of Universities and Colleges has had more recent involvement with this than I and perhaps he can add further at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Universities and Colleges.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, this matter was discussed at a meeting of the four prairie provinces, the four western provinces - the ministers of higher education of the four western provinces; there are a number of matters under discussion; the views expressed by each province were taken into account. It's not an easy problem to resolve but it's a goal that every one of the provinces is striving to achieve.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, it's a supplementary question but I'll direct it to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Is it likely that there will be any action taken out of those discussions in the immediate future, or is this something that will be an ongoing matter of discussion for years to come?

MR. MILLER: Well certainly it's a matter for ongoing discussion for years to come because the problem is not going to disappear overnight. But it isn't something that can be easily resolved with the stroke of a pen; existing institutions and programs in every province simply cannot be ended or stopped; rather we have to look forward to new programs or new developments which instead of being developed in every province might most rationally and economically be developed in only one. At that point in time the discussions of course would have to take into account what province would do it, the method whereby the other provinces could participate.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question. I wonder if the Minister then could indicate to the House in real terms the discussions deals with new programs rather than rationalization of existing programs in the universities?

MR. MILLER: It deals with new programs, yes; it also deals with existing ones but I can't give him an example where an existing one is going to be rationalized out of existence.

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

MR. ASPER: To the Minister of Northern Affairs, Mr. Speaker, still on the South Indian Lake controversy. In view of the Premier's answer, in view of the Premier's answer which some might say bordered on McCarthyism, will the . . . will the Minister. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I believe we all consider ourselves as honourable gentlemen in this House. I would caution the honourable member that he's bordering on a matter of privilege, so he should be a little more careful in his choice of words. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I hope that admonition goes to both sides of the House.

A MEMBER: . . . well be your second name.

MR. ASPER: The question for the Minister of Northern Affairs is why was the gentleman, Mr. Morrisseau, removed from South Indian Lake and what are his new duties with the

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(MR. ASPER cont'd). . . . Department?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Morrisseau who had been at one time my executive assistant resigned the position as executive assistant because it was his wish and desire to do Community Development work in the South Indian Lake area. It is my understanding, and I'll repeat it for the honourable member, Mr. Morrisseau was in there approximately three weeks. It is my understanding that Mr. Bob Dysart returned from Winnipeg after an absence of ten days from that community to South Indian Lake, called a community meeting at which time he convinced people that Mr. Morrisseau should not be working in that community. Mr. Morrisseau, not being invited to that meeting decided that . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please

MR. McBRYDE: . . . that because of that meeting he would leave the Community of South Indian Lake. My officials met with the elected community council of South Indian Lake, of which Mr. Dysart is not one. They met with the elected community council, the community council expressed some regrets over what had taken place; they recommended to my officials that because it had taken place, however, they would not recommend Mr. Morrisseau's return to South Indian Lake in his capacity as a community development person.

Mr. Morrisseau indicated on that basis that he would not wish to work there in that capacity. Mr. Morrisseau will be meeting with the head of the Extension Division of Northern Affairs in The Pas Thursday and Friday to decide where his services will be used in northern Manitoba. In the meantime he has been doing some work in Winnipeg in terms of training, and at Gimli in terms of an instructional program that is going on there at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of who is paying Mr. Dysart to fly around the province as he is.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to defer to my leader.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, in view of the answer given by the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs, and in view of the charges which may very well be vexatious, and in view of the fact that the Manitoba Metis Federation have sent a letter to the Minister, my question is to the First Minister: Will he allow the members of the Southern Indian Lake Flood Action Committee to appear before Public Utilities to settle this matter and to explain the truth of the charges that have been made?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the question really bespeaks or belies a misunderstanding as to how committees operate. I was asked whether I would allow someone to appear before a Standing Committee of the Legislature. The committee will decide. We have had this discussion in the committee about two or three days ago at which time it was agreed that after there was a full presentation by Manitoba Hydro of the Hydro Report and related matters and questions relating thereto by honourable members, that subsequent to that we would decide as to what, if any, further action should be taken.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question to the First Minister. Would he not consider that this matter could be cleared up by allowing and using his presence to allow the committee to have the members of the Southern Indian Lake Flood Action Committee appear so that the charges that have been made can be answered and there should be no cloud with the government

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would suggest that the question totally is argumentative. I would also suggest that the question is repetitive even though it's been rephrased. The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: Yes, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities and ask him if the student employment program, the STEP program, will be operated from the same offices at 1181 Portage as the Student Aid Program, and who is the man in charge that students will be dealing with in that program?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Universities and Colleges.

MR. MILLER: The address is correct, 1181 Portage. As to who the man in charge is, I am afraid I can't give him the answer right now. I'll take it as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Honourable Minister

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) of Labour. Has the Minister received a report from the Minimum Wage Board?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): No, Mr. Speaker, I haven't received a report from the Minimum Wage Board and if my honourable friend would read the newspapers as avidly as some do, he would note that an advertisement has been placed in those papers as to hearings being held at the present time.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Will the Minister be tabling any legislation in respect to increasing the minimum wage?

MR. SPEAKER: Anticipation. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify the position in respect of minimum wages, that I thought my honourable friend knew quite well. An increase of the minimum wage does not require legislation; it is done by regulation.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Will the Minister be acting on the request from the Winnipeg Labour District Council to disband the Minimum Wage Board?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . Leader of the Liberal Party's mind, I was trying to assess the import of the question raised by the Member for Assiniboia in respect of the representation made or allegedly made as to the disbanding of the Minimum Wage Board. Precisely that has not been directed to me, there has been some discussion in some labour circles that it might be advisable to disband the Board.

MR. ASPER: To the Minister of Industry, Mr. Speaker. In view of the First Minister's assurance to the House last year that all prospects for Omnitheatre Limited looked pretty good, would the Minister give us a report on how well Omnitheatre Limited is doing?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would have thought that my honourable friend was aware that that particular venture did not succeed. But that will be made fully known to the honourable member again at the Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it along with many private enterprises was one that just didn't go apparently.

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

MR. ASPER: Well could the Minister tell us how long after the First Minister told the House that prospects were good, how long after it folded?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I can't recall the First Minister's statement and I can't recall the date of the problem, but they are both on the record for my honourable friend to discover without questions of the Treasury Benches.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Is the government giving any consideration to re-structuring the Regional Development Corporations of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce)(Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, we have over the past several years been utilizing the Regional Development Corporations more effectively than they have ever been utilized before. There's excellent co-operation between all of the councils of those corporations and myself in particular as Minister and indeed, we have a joint ministerial presidential committee, presidential committee of the RDC's in effect. We decided jointly, the Presidents and the members of the Ministerial Committee, that at this time after several years of operation that it would be useful to look at the functioning and procedures of the RDC's with the view and with the objective of making them more effective.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: I have a question for the Minister of Highways. Have the contracts for Highway 30 been let, which was a program of last year - decided on last year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. PETER BURTNIAK (Minister of Highways)(Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I believe the

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(MR. BURTNIAC cont'd) honourable member asked me that question yesterday and I think I gave him the answer at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the Minister of Agriculture received any communication from Mr. Bruce Medd, The Manitoba Director of the Federal Farm Union since last Friday in respect of the broadcast over CKX Brandon on Saturday night?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I get an awful lot of communication from many people in Manitoba. It is possible that I have one from that gentleman, I don't know.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Address for Papers. The Honourable Member for Souris - Killarney.

ADDRESS FOR PAPERS

MR. EARL MCKELLAR (Souris Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Lakeside THAT an humble address be voted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying for copies of all correspondence between the Manitoba Government and the Manitoba Sanatorium Board and between the Manitoba Government and the Rural Municipality of Strathcona or officials thereof relating to the operation of Ninette Sanatorium as a Personal Care Home.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I don't see any problem in accepting this Order, Address for Papers.

MR. SPEAKER: So ordered. Orders for Return. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

ORDERS FOR RETURN

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I move, seconded by the Member for Assiniboia, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing:

1. The total number of permanent civil servants, temporary employees and contract staff working for the Department of Co-operatives as at January 31, 1973 with a breakdown as to the number in each of the above categories.
2. The total of salaries, fees and consulting contracts paid out during the month of January, 1973 to persons working for this department, with a breakdown as to each of the categories aforementioned in 1. above.
3. A list of all employees of the department during January, 1973 and earnings of each during that month.
4. The total amount of expense accounts authorized and paid to persons working for this department during the month of January, 1973.
5. A breakdown as to the total amount in expense accounts paid out during the month of January, 1973 for taxi fares, meal costs and entertainment expenses in this department.
6. Whether receipts or vouchers must be rendered by those working for the department in submitting their expense accounts and the name of the person who is responsible for authorizing payment of such accounts.

MOTION presented as read.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, we'll comply with the request.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, so ordered. The Order for Return, the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Morris that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing the following information pertaining to the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board:

1. The number of persons employed, positions and salaries of each.
2. The numbers of Directors elected. (and might I just add, Mr. Speaker, an oversight here. As of March 1, '73 in both those instances)
3. The total amount of funds accumulated as of March 1, 1973 from the 1 1/4 percent

ORDERS FOR RETURN

(MR. ENNS cont'd) levy on the total value of the carcass of all hogs marketed in Manitoba.

MOTION presented as read.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, that Order will be complied with.

MR. SPEAKER: So ordered.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, just before the honourable member gets set to read the next Order, I wonder if he would hold it for a day so that I would be in a better position to respond to it?

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? The Honourable Member for Lakeside. --(Interjection)-- In that case we move on to Order for Return by the Honourable Member for Morris on page 7.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister state his point.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, the Member for Lakeside if I might just get his attention for a moment. Inasmuch as he has agreed to hold it for a day, pursuant to the request of the House Leader, I would like to take this opportunity to ask if it is really intended here to request information which in large part, not completely I admit, but which in large part was provided only a year ago. My honourable friend will be aware I'm sure of the practice if not the rule, that Orders that request or seek information that is of inordinate length and which may be costly to provide, from time to time are not accepted. We would not like to invoke that argument but I'm suggesting that perhaps the Honourable Member for Lakeside could just perhaps review his files and see if in fact last year an identical return was not filed, in which case he could perhaps revise his Order asking merely for an updating revision rather than asking for the whole thing all over again. This is something he can consider and respond to tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside on the same point of order.

MR. ENNS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order. The First Minister knows full well my reasonableness in most of these instances and he is taking advantage of that. Certainly I'm prepared to do as he suggests and recheck the material, the information that we now have. The aim of the Order for Return is to ascertain the new Boards and Commissions and the additional Boards and Commissions that this government has added to since that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would also suggest in respect to the Point of Order, if honourable members would assist the Chair - the Chair has the prerogative of deleting those items which are repetitive, etc. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it's for exactly those reasons that I wanted a day, but perhaps in the day there will be less at issue between the honourable member and myself.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake, THAT an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing the following information concerning the appointments by each of the departments of Government since January 1, 1971.

1. The number of such appointments to each Department of Government made under Section 2 (1). And Sir, I should like to make a correction in a typographical error. That should read (e) rather than (c)iii --(Interjection)-- (e) iii yes, rather than (c) iii. Section 34 (1)(a)(b) and Section 37(1) of the Civil Service Act.

2. The name of each person appointed.

3. The contractual terms of employment of each.

4. The salary of each appointee.

5. The date of each appointment.

6. The professional qualifications of each.

7. The number and names of this group who have since moved to the permanent Civil Service.

MOTION presented as read.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, we will try and comply with all of the provisions of the Order within our competence.

MR. SPEAKER: So ordered. Adjourned Debate, Second Reading - is that the House

ORDERS FOR RETURN

(MR. SPEAKER cont'd) Leader's wish? The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, would you call Bill No. 23, please.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable First Minister. The Honourable Member for Emerson. The Honourable First Minister.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - SECOND READING

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, again on a point of order. I'm wondering if in the interval while the Honourable Member for Emerson is perhaps being looked for, that another bill could be called.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, if we could call Bill No. 2.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia is missing.

MR. GREEN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia is not here. No. 15.

BILL NO. 15

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, the Law Reform Commission is to be congratulated for having sought this correction in the Married Women's Property Act. It must have been an oversight rather than intent in the original act when it was drafted. As the law stands now apparently one of the partners could in a fit of rage or seeking revenge, assault the other, destroy their property or do untold damage without any recourse to the law for compensation. Undoubtedly some hardships of that type have been suffered. We can only approve of the provisions of this bill, Mr. Speaker, and speed it on its way.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I just wonder if you could call - Bill No. 16, the gentleman's not here; No. 14.

BILL NO. 14

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY presented Bill No. 14, An Act to amend The Soldier's Taxation Relief Act for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: It just goes to show, Mr. Speaker, one should be following what is going on rather than doing other work.

Mr. Speaker, it's a technical bill which makes provision - the bill before us is one that relates to special tax relief in the original form insofar as certain veterans and other classifications are concerned that were involved in the First and Second World Wars. This is an amendment, a technical amendment which provides for the relief as against the time by which an application must be made in order for relief under that Act. At the present time under the original frame of the bill an applicant can receive some relief insofar as the time period, the statutory time period is concerned insofar as his application is to the municipality. On the other hand however the municipality has to in turn apply to the Department of Municipal Affairs before a certain date, and failing that then the request, the opportunity for request can be rejected.

This amendment broadens the scope in order to permit for relief as against that statutory period by which the municipality may bring a request to the Department of Municipal Affairs for relief under the Act itself. Outside of that it's a technical change, it's in order to liberalize or make the bill itself a little bit more liberal and a little bit more flexible.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move seconded by the Member for Virden that the debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Osborne.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I'd like to thank the members and the House Leader for the kindness that they've just showed to me by tying me down to the Chair for the rest of the afternoon perhaps. We are on the Estimates of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, Resolution 86. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,912,400 for Mines, Resources and Environmental Management. (Passed.) Resolution 5(a)(1) to 5(b)(2) passed. Resolution 5(b)(3) --

The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: I think earlier in the debate on the Estimates of this department questions were asked in connection with the Pembina, to what extent negotiations had developed and also what agreements were reached with the state of North Dakota or the Federal Governments both of the United States and Canada. I think we would like to know on this side just what the situation is at the present time, what we can be looking forward to, whether or not developments will be made because we might be facing a row of several dry years. For a number of years now we've had a lot of moisture and the water supply as resolved in the Pembina was such that it provided water for the towns of Altona and Gretna which are relying on that supply of water, but if we should have a spell of dry years there could be difficulties developing. And I, for one, am very interested in the deal now that the State of North Dakota has decided that they will not go it alone and that there will have to be negotiations so that Canada or Manitoba will also step into the picture.

I feel it's very important that we have some development on the Pembina whereby we can store water and provide a simple water supply, and also, as studies that have been made before, certainly provide for recreation and could also provide water for irrigation as well as improving the drainage and problems that we've had. Waters coming from the Pembina, from the United States, spilling over the border into Canada and providing the problems that we've been having since a number of years. Certainly the problems at that time were quite heated and I think we should try and avoid similar situations arising. I certainly would hope that the Minister before we leave the Estimates of his department would bring us up to date on developments.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I stand to be corrected but I believe at our last sitting of the Committee of the Whole and Supply, the Minister was in the middle of making a statement regarding water conservation in the province. Maybe I'm not correct on this but if I am I again want to draw his attention to the situation in the southwest area in regard to the Patterson and the proposed Coulter dams and several other dams in that area. As I recall, the Minister was explaining that negotiations were going on with the Federal Government in regard to cost-sharing relative to the cost benefit of the Patterson Dam, I believe, and the Coulter and the whole watershed in the southwest area including the Souris Valley.

It seems to me that I recall in 1969, Mr. Speaker, and I think the Member for Lakeside will bear me out, that an agreement had been arrived at on a cost-sharing basis with the Federal Government particularly in regard to the Patterson Dam which at that time was given top priority and agreed to by the Federal Government. Since that time the priorities were reversed relative to the Pleasant Valley Dam, the Pleasant Valley Dam was given top priority and where the Patterson Dam was placed at that change in policy I'm not sure. The Pleasant Valley Dam I believe is now almost towards completion and in view of the fact that negotiations had been taken place and the studies had been carried out on the Patterson Dam and an agreement, a preliminary agreement at least had been arrived at on a cost-sharing basis with the Federal Government, I'd like the Minister to give some explanation as to why proceedings had not gone forward on the basis of the negotiations at that time and studies that had taken place between Manitoba and Saskatchewan, agreements between Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Since that time in the past four years, on both the Antler River and the South Gainsborough construction of dams have gone forward in Saskatchewan which have taken priority, apparently with the Federal Government, over the construction of dams and water conservation in Manitoba that have not put us in any better, in fact have worsened our position insofar as water conservation in the southwest area, and I would like some explanation from the Minister on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM (Ste. Rose): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just

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(MR. ADAM cont'd) wanted to bring one matter to the attention of the Minister on this particular Estimate. During the past two years I have received some complaints from people in my constituency regarding the policy or the criteria that's used for building, the construction of bridges across provincial drains. In fact these bridges have been built on roads that are hardly or never used. I have seen three such bridges and I estimate the bridges perhaps to be in -- the three bridges would be in a neighbourhood of a cost of anywhere from 30 to 40 thousand dollars.

One such bridge was constructed last year, one mile east of Kelwood against the express wishes of all the farmers in the area, and I understand that the Council were more or less coerced into agreeing or accepting the construction of this bridge and it's hard to rationalize why the Water Resources people would want to build or construct bridges on road allowances that are very very rarely used, and, on one bridge in particular it is never used, it runs into a dead end. It's just hard to fathom why they would want to spend this kind of money. I think that money could be well used in other areas. I would like the Minister to check that out for me. If he wishes to have the exact location of the bridges I can undertake to find the legal description of where these bridges are constructed at a later date.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, before we get off the Estimates of the Minister of Mines and Resources I would like to bring to his attention once again the problem that is confronted in the southern part of the province, namely the Pelican-Rock Lake area -- the Pelican-Rock Lake Advisory Commission that was established some years ago by this government and I think that they have done a lot of work insofar as the lakes are concerned.

I think, Mr. Chairman, I should go back in history here and explain briefly what did happen and what this government undertook to do after we went out of office. In 1967 we had a --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Chairman, with distraction I could use some help I can assure you, Sir, but I don't know whether the Minister of Resources is having competition or not in trying to solve his problems. But I want to say that in '67 it was a dry summer and with the weather pattern that we're having now there's a possibility we could look forward to another dry year. I'm not saying it'll happen but there's a possibility. If my memory serves me correctly, approximately \$2,000 was spent by the municipal people in that area to divert the Pembina River back into Pelican Lake. And when the NDP government went into office they immediately welded that river shut. I would like the Minister to explain why that river was turned off. Fresh water coming into that lake is very important. I realize there is controls necessary at both ends, but I say again to the Minister that in view of the local people that were agreed to establish a commission and work with the Minister they are very very disappointed in the cooperation they've had with him and this department. And I would like to know now, Mr. Chairman, what the policy's going to be for this coming year insofar as Pembina River's concerned. The people in that area are very concerned and they want to see that water diverted back into the lake.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'll try to deal with the questions in reverse order to the way in which they were approached. I know that the Honourable Member for Rock Lake is very anxious that the province move in to try to solve a problem particularly on Pelican Lake, which is not one of provincial jurisdiction. The honourable member knows this but I assume he would like to see the province engage in a problem with either one side or the other and therefore would like us to be involved.

Let me give the honourable member the answer which he knows exists, that some years ago the problem in Pelican Lake was related to water level. The rural people in the area, the permanent residents wanted the levels higher or at least say high. The cottage owners including people from Winnipeg and the summer camps -- I have no criticism of any of them -- wanted the water low. The Minister at that time, and it was previous to our administration, in order to try to use his good offices to help the problem went in and tried to see whether a solution could be arrived at. It was at no time ever intended that the Provincial Government would assume jurisdiction over a lake which fell within complete municipal jurisdiction. However, the Provincial Government intended to help. In later years we set up, after the new administration came into power, we set up a consultative process whereby there would be a board to deal with the question. In addition we provided all of our engineering services,

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) engineering staff, and each time we did so, Mr. Chairman, we advised the people that ultimately the jurisdiction as to dealing with whatever recommendations come forward would be the jurisdiction of the people in the area. Apparently a recommendation has come forward from the Planning Board and I understand that that recommendation is now in the hands of the people concerned and they are urging the Provincial Government to implement that recommendation, which is not a Provincial Government responsibility, and if the honourable member was saying that the province should assume this responsibility throughout all of Manitoba and pay for whatever water problems or lake problems are had in other municipalities with similar jurisdiction over their own areas, then I could understand that he is making a pitch which has at least some semblance of sense to it; but if he's saying that for his area and his constituency the province has to do this and everybody has to pay, but it shouldn't happen anywhere else, then I say that he is talking not only about Blackbird socialism he's talking about Pelican Lake socialism; that it has to be done in his constituency in his area at the expense of everybody else but nowhere else.

MR. ENNS: He wants to know how you weld to the river.

MR. GREEN: Oh. Now, Mr. Speaker, he's talking about why -- apparently there were some culverts there which were put there, I don't know how and I don't know why, which were diverting water in a way which would not normally be diverted. There were complaints about this and the discretion of the department at that time, for which we have to accept responsibility, was that until this problem is resolved there is no right to divert water in one way or the other, and therefore that particular culvert was welded up. If we undid it, the honourable member would not be silent; he would have the other pressure group on his back and he would be saying, Mr. Speaker, in this House, as sure as I am standing here, "Why are you permitting the diversion of water from a place to another place when it is affecting people badly in another direction?" Mr. Chairman, there is absolutely no doubt in my mind, just as sure as God made little apples -- (Interjection) -- that the honourable member -- green apples, that's right -- that if the honourable member had this thing unwelded, do you think that the department, you know, that the Water Resources people looked around and saw some culverts there and they said, "Gee, let's weld those culverts?" No, it was constituents of the honourable member who were complaining about the diversion of water and raising this hassle which caused us to say that there should be no natural diversion until it is decided by the authorities concerned as to what would be done with that lake. Well, Mr. Chairman, that is my understanding of the problem. If I've not expressed it properly I'm sure that the staff of my department, who of course never say anything unless they think that I'd like to hear it, they will be telling me that -- (Interjection) -- yeah.

MR. ENNS: . . . traditional prerogatives as a Member of the Opposition, . . . you know that.

MR. GREEN: No, Mr. Chairman. I'm not suggesting that that is not my honourable friend's prerogative to do what he is doing.

MR. EINARSON: It's a beautiful way of asking a question.

MR. GREEN: I'm only saying, Mr. Chairman, that if he did what he said, that it would not silence the people in his constituency. Just one group would be quiet and another group would be making noise, which is the prerogative of the people and I'm not complaining about it.

With regard to Rock Lake, you know, as many times as I answer the honourable member as to the circumstances in Rock Lake, he will not be satisfied and I know that he will not be satisfied until we pay the cost of putting copper sulphate into Rock Lake, and that is not a provincial policy. Rock Lake got some particular treatment -- I won't say special treatment -- particular treatment because it was a pilot project area, that for several years it had the expense of all of the people of Manitoba devoted to a pilot project because it was going to benefit all the people of Manitoba, that that project was over, that Rock Lake then became like any other lake in Manitoba. It is no longer Rock Lake socialism; it became the jurisdiction of the people in the area. And if my honourable friend again was telling us that we should be treating algae all over the Province of Manitoba, now let him know that when we do that that it would increase . . .

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, pardon me for interrupting -- the Minister is skirting around the question that I am putting to him. I will now want to inform the Minister that I'm not a self-centered socialist, Pelican Lake is not in my constituency, and I'm concerned

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) about not only my own constituency but the Province of Manitoba. I was talking about Pembina River being diverted elsewhere than into Pelican Lake. The Minister is great for diverting his answers to me. He's not being direct and I'm not getting an answer for what I'm asking.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry. The honourable member can dictate the questions but until he is over here apparently he will not be able to dictate the answers, and I know that he would sorely love to be in the position where he can dictate the answers. But in the meantime, he can ask nasty questions or he can ask whatever kind of questions he likes and I'm not even suggesting that his questions are nasty, I'm suggesting that he can ask nasty questions, but he cannot tell me how I am to answer them, and I am suggesting to the honourable member, whether Pelican Lake is in his constituency or not, Rock Lake is in his constituency -- he dealt with both of them -- and that he is not only a Pelican Lake socialist whether they are in his constituency or not, he is also a Rock Lake socialist and he is also a Blackbird socialist.

Those are the three areas in which I know the honourable member expresses a distinct inclination to socialism, because he says that the entire cost of these programs should not be handled by the people in the area, they should be handled by all of the citizens of Manitoba. It should not be left to the individual to deal with this problem, but that the public should deal with this problem; and not only should it not be the public of the area, it should be the public of Manitoba. And I told him, whether he likes the answer or not, that this is the way in which this was handled. With regard to the diversion of the river, apparently the diversion was stopped, it wasn't started. There were culverts put in a certain area to divert water which normally did not flow that way, and if anything the diversion was discontinued. Well, the honourable member says we started a diversion of water; if anything we -- well, then I apologize -- pardon me?

MR. EINARSON: You closed it off.

MR. GREEN: Yes, well then he shouldn't say that we diverted the water; we closed off a diversion.

MR. EINARSON: That's right.

MR. GREEN: Well, but Mr. Speaker, if there is an argument and water has been unnaturally diverted and the department took the position that until this argument is resolved we are opting for the natural condition of the water rather than the unnatural diversion, then it seems to me that the department has taken a reasonable position and that a change in that position is not going to stop a complaint, it'll merely mean one group will stop complaining and another group will start complaining, and next year the honourable member will be saying to me, "What right did you have to let the water go through those culverts when it wasn't flowing there naturally? Don't you know that you've taken water away from people who were by God's will entitled to it and you have diverted it into another area, you have destroyed the natural balance which the Almighty had created." Mr. Speaker, I can hear him now. That is the kind of pitch that would be made.

In regard to the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, I would appreciate receiving further information about where the bridges across provincial drains have been put. My understanding is that the locations in each case were approved of by the municipalities in the area, and I would like to be able to confirm what I am now saying, by the honourable member giving me the exact locations that he's talking about so that I can refer to the approval of the municipality in each case.

The Honourable Member for Arthur has asked, though I've repeated on several occasions and I don't mind repeating again, about the position with regard to the Paterson dam. My understanding is that the position on the Paterson dam has never been changed, that in 1969 or 1967 and 1968, around that time, the government of Manitoba requested the Government of Canada to enter into an agreement for the construction of the Paterson dam. But at that time Canada took the position that the immediate construction or the construction indeed of the dam was not justified by the cost benefit studies; that we have continued to tell the Government of Canada that we want to proceed with the Paterson dam based on the formula of 50-50 cost of sharing, which I believe has been received for the Shellmouth dam and other dams of similar projects type, and that Canada has not changed its position on this question, that we have continued to write and ask for participation in the Paterson dam. I believe,

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) Mr. Chairman, that I filed some letters some years ago about the Paterson dam, although I certainly couldn't verify that; but whether letters were sent or not this continues to be . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Could you relate to the McEachern dam at the same time please. which was passed in '69, and if this has continued why hasn't something happened?

MR. GREEN: The Pembina dam?

MR. HENDERSON: The McEachern. The McEachern dam just east of Carman.

MR. GREEN: The McEachern dam. The honourable member can be satisfied that that too has been applied for under our attempts to obtain cost-sharing arrangements for dam projects in the Province of Manitoba. But I'm not able to tell him that it has been confirmed at this point.

So I tell the honourable member that there was no change -- I'll tell you what there was. There was a change in the style of making estimates, that it used to be or it was -- and by the way, we've changed our style sometimes from year to year in any event, but the first year that I was Minister of Mines they had listed in the Estimates Paterson dam, another -- McEachern dam, etc., and those things were put in on the basis that if the Federal Government went along we would have an expenditure estimate for those programs. When I first looked at this -- and I will admit, as honourable members can see, that I like to see the estimate figures lower rather than higher because I am naturally of a stingy variety -- that I said, if the program is not approved why put it in the Estimates and therefore have a bigger budget than is necessary? If the program is approved in the middle of the year, then we can ask for a special warrant on the basis that something which we all wanted has come true and we will spend the money, but to put in the Estimates on the basis that we are not going to be spending the money is not going to be, in my mind, a proper way of demonstrating what the department is doing.

Now -- (Interjection) -- pardon me? Mr. Chairman, I assure the honourable member that there are standing applications with regard to the programs that he is referring to. We did not apply for the Pembina dam. As a matter of fact, we wrote the Federal Government saying that that is one program which we don't see the possibility of being achieved. and my friend does have the correspondence on that program, but we did not do similarly with the Paterson dam or the McEachern dam, so that we have standing positions with regard to those two proposals. What we did, I tell the honourable member, and this is out of memory, is that we took those out of the Estimates so that they would not appear as a budgetary expenditure, we did so with the full knowledge that if somehow approval came during the year we would spend it, either take it from another appropriation or ask for a special warrant for the proceeding of that. Well, I tell the Honourable Member for Pembina that that is what we did. Now if he's saying that we are not applying I just had to tell him that we are, with the exception of the Pembina dam. But with regard to the Paterson and the McEachern. I am advised, we have standing applications, we have taken them out of the Estimates.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's a question of psychology. I remember one year we put the Precambrian Centre in the Estimates to try to demonstrate to Canada the money was there and we were ready to go ahead. The next year we took them out because there was no chance of getting it. We continued to go to the Federal Government and ask them for the money, knowing that if they came through with the money we would put in a special warrant. So we did those things, but there's been no change of priority in trying to get the programs. and I tell the honourable member that there was no agreement that I am aware of between Canada and Manitoba before 1968 confirming that the Paterson dam would proceed and that cost-sharing was approved of, that there is no such agreement that I am aware of. If the honourable member was told that that was the case. then the person who told him was trying to make him feel good or misunderstood himself the position with regard to the Paterson dam; or and a third alternative is that I am not being properly apprised of the subject -- and I don't think that that is the case. My information is that there was no agreement reached for the construction of that dam.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for -- no, I dealt with Rock Lake. The Honourable Member for Rhineland asked what is the position with regard to the Pembilier dam, is that correct? Well, you know, the honourable member comes from a party that says

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) whatever is physically desirable is financially possible; that is the tenet, that it should be made financially possible whatever is physically . . . and he is now really expressing that position, that it is physically desirable, therefore, it should be made financially possible. And it is a fact -- well, Mr. Chairman, let us assume for the purpose of argument, which the Honourable Member for Pembina would never accept, that the Lake Winnipeg regulation has desirable features worth \$2 million a year. Let us assume that it did. He may not agree but let us assume that it did. If it has benefits worth \$2 million a year, then I assume that if you're spending, if you're working on a 10 percent figure that it's worth spending \$20 million on it, because you put away \$20 million and you get \$2 million a year in return, so you're getting 10 percent on your discounted capital and you could say that there is a benefit from it. And he would go ahead and produce it. And let's say that it produced benefits of \$2 million a year and it cost \$100 million to do. Well, if I know the Member for Pembina he would say, "Don't you dare go ahead with that program."

Now the cost benefit studies of the Pembilier dam were looked at, not by this administration but by the previous administration, and they came to the conclusion that for the dollars spent you were getting 80 cents in return -- and I'm talking from memory -- but it certainly was not a one to one relationship; there was a net less benefit rather than a net surplus benefit. It did not have a cost benefit balance. It had a cost benefit deficit, and on the basis of that cost benefit deficit, Mr. Chairman, it is my feeling, and I will not be definite on this, but it is my feeling that the previous administration was not prepared to proceed with a program which had a net benefit deficit, which makes some good sense, which indicates that the previous administration, you know, didn't do everything wrong. I've never ever said that they've done everything wrong. -- (Interjection) -- Pardon me? Just practically. Oh yes. I would have to say that my general opinion -- that's being a bit facetious. The fact is that, you know, about 95% of what a government does, in my opinion it does by inertia, that it does because there is general agreement as to the ongoing program and that a different administration changes, at most, five percent of the direction of a government. It may change it a little more, a little each year, but certainly if the Conservative administration was elected, despite the illusions of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, the machine would move much as it is moving now and there would be some minor changes in a different direction. If she has any illusions about this let her look at Great Britain, where they go from a Labour Government to a Conservative Government and they have done that several times. And you take -- (Interjection) -- oh lately, you know, it was only in the last election that they went Conservative and the next one coming along, it doesn't look very good for Mr. Heath, but nevertheless, even if the Labor Administration comes in, if they have a budget, ours is half a billion dollars, I suppose there may be 30 million people in England so it would be at least 30 times that high -- maybe I'm wrong, maybe it's 40 million -- so it's \$20 billion or so, that I would say that if they changed one billion of the twenty billion in direction, that they are making a big change in administration.

Now with regard to the Pembilier dam, there has been essentially no change. Again, I can see the Honourable Member for Rhineland, the Honourable Member for Pembina, representing their constituents, exercising the prerogative, as the Honourable Member for Lakeside says, as an Opposition member to push the government for a program in their constituency, but the fact is that it did not have the benefits which justified the expenditure, and despite the fact that the Member for Rhineland would say that if it has some benefit it must be done, because that was his argument today: that there is some benefit, therefore it must be done. We can't operate that way, Mr. Chairman. Maybe when the Member for Rhineland becomes the administration he will spend money, no matter what the amount, if he can see a benefit; that if there is a \$2 million benefit around Lake Winnipeg and it costs \$200 million to regulate the lake, and I'm now using a figure to show, Mr. Chairman, that these things are so unpredictable, to show how unpredictable they are, to show how unpredictable they are . . .

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly rise on really just about a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. Order, please. Is the honourable member rising on a point of order or not?

MR. ENNS: Yes I am, Mr. Chairman, and my point of order is this, that the Minister has several times referred to the position of the previous administration as being so, and I think it is a point of order, Mr. Speaker, in our rules that if you think that you are being

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) misrepresented or your position is being misrepresented, then that is a legitimate point of order. I was, I said, reluctant because things aren't always that black and white, and I would suggest to the Honourable Minister and to his department that rather than accepting that status quo position that I think he accurately describes as being the position at that time, he must also recognize that at the latter years of our administration -- and surely he recognized the acceleration, what has taken place in this area in the last three or four years -- that the cost benefits that showed up in initial studies on such projects as the Pembilier, are rapidly changing; the values placed on recreation which is a hot subject these days; the values placed for additional improvements, towns

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. Order, please. I think the honourable member is now departing off into a debate. For his information I shall read him what constitutes a point of order from our House Rules.

MR. GREEN: This side yields to the honourable member so we're not worried about the rules. (Interjections.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: . . . and I'm not speaking on a point of order and I recognize that these other gentlemen have raised a question. I find myself with some responsibility as having been a Minister involved, and I'm merely suggesting to the Minister that he is not really being quite fair with the honourable members that he is answering his questions to in leaving the impression, as the government so often wants to do, that because the previous administration was at point (a) in their deliberations on a certain subject matter, that that's where it stood.

Things don't stand still, they move on, and I suggest, particularly in this aspect, Mr. Speaker, the cost benefits that would now be thrown into the development of such a scheme as the Pembilier could be considerably changed. The value for recreational purposes, the drought kind of conditions that that area has always been subject to, their own priorities, as were our priorities of rural development, particularly development in that most productive part of our province, were rising, which in my judgment, had I been Minister at that time, I want to assure the Honourable Member for Inkster and the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, would have significantly changed the ratio of costs to benefits in my judgment sufficient to have considered not just standing still on the subject matter and resting on the fact that that's where the matter rested four years ago, but would have moved along with it. Surely, Mr. Speaker, the lesson and the debates raging around the present development of Southern Indian Lake and so forth, should have taught us that by now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I really welcome the honourable member's remarks because it almost confirms exactly what I said before, that other than whether or not, you know, the public is going to use some initiative in the economic areas, that when it comes to whether or not you build a dam, then there's very little difference between the Conservatives and the New Democrats. We both say that we have dam socialism in Manitoba because we don't say that the dam is going to be built by an individual, we don't say it's going to be built by an individual, we say that society gets together and says that here is a benefit that will accrue to the Province generally and therefore we're going to build it. And to indicate to the honourable member that what he says makes so much sense, I told the Member for Pembina, I told the Member for Rhineland, that we have not stood still on this, that until a year ago we were satisfied that the cost benefit picture was not going to change, but then the considerations that have been mentioned by the honourable member did come forward. We've done two things. We have referred the entire cost benefit problem to the Manitoba Water Commission, and I think that the Commission is so constructed that we will get good advice, and in addition to that we have an International Committee of Manitoba and North Dakota is it, North Dakota Committee, which is now studying to see whether the cost benefits have changed in relation to the item, to the way in which my honourable friend has discussed in order for us to reinitiate the program, so if that's what he would have done, if that's the kind of action that he was taking, then let me say Mr. -- (Interjection) -- The honourable member says that he wouldn't have even let the Commission report to him as to the cost benefits, that he wouldn't have even let the Committee decide whether it did have cost benefits, that he would have proceeded immediately.

He really didn't say that and I won't even carry that forward seriously, but I am telling

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) him that, Mr. Speaker, he is now assuming the posture of a New Democrat in a hurry. We are proceeding with the kind of thing that he is talking about. We are doing it at a pace which takes into account that there are one or two other things that we have to do in the Department. I hope that we are giving sufficient consideration to this program, but I want to remind the honourable member that while I've been Minister, except for last year when I was not in the portfolio, that the cries were of a different type. The arguments across the floor; the Member for Pembina: the United States is proceeding; they're going to go ahead. We're going to have our water rights prejudiced. And we were attempted to be pushed into this program by some type of shuntage, some type of suggestion that we were losing something, and of course it was right for the Americans across the border to try to make us think that we should be scared into this program because they were to get the greatest cost benefit out of it, and we were not scared into the program and they did not proceed by themselves, and we were continually watching to see whether there was anything in these things, and what they had, you know, they had public hearings at Walhalla -- I presume that somebody in the South Dakota Legislature said that we should have public hearings, that we should listen to the public, that we should Stop, Look and Listen or something to that effect, and they did have some public hearings and they didn't do anything. -- (Interjection) --

With the Liberals it's a little different. With the Liberals, they will have public hearings and then they will divert the lake, because the Member for Wolseley, the Leader of the Liberal Party, has so qualified himself on this case. He said, "first of all we will not flood the lake. We will not do it -- we will stop it." His next statement was that we will not flood the lake unless it's absolutely necessary. Then he said, "We will have public hearings with the biased against flooding." And his most recent statement, Mr. Chairman, and I wish he were here, his most recent statement is that we have a bias against flooding; we believe -- I think we can get away without it or words to that effect. "I don't think it will be necessary."

Now take that remark, Mr. Chairman, the remark "I don't think it will be necessary." Compare it to a remark that I made in 1969: "We have reason to believe that this program can be proceeded with without flooding the community." Now -- none at all; none at all. Now the Honourable Member for Assiniboia has picked it up. That means that in two years' time if there was a Liberal administration, and you found that it was necessary, and I went back to the Leader of the Liberal Party's remark and said that he went to the public and said, "We do not think it will be necessary," or, to change the words, "We have reason to believe that it can be done without flooding," and you proceeded, the honourable member has already characterized that type of statement as a betrayal on the public, as a betrayal on the people of South Indian Lake, because he said that when I sat in the House we had reason to believe that the project can be proceeded without flooding of South Indian Lake, and I was talking, I believe, about the community, that our now program constitutes a betrayal on the people because I made that remark. Therefore, when he says, "We do not think it will be necessary," he is saying that if he now proceeds with the flooding, it will be a betrayal of the people.

Well it will be a betrayal because, in my opinion, as I have watched the honourable member, he has no intention of paying any attention to the public hearing. It's like I said before, the survey will be held, the results will be tabulated, and the seats will be removed. In this case, the public hearings will have no effect and the public hearings in Walhalla apparently did not have any effect. Eventually some money-spending agency which is responsible to the people for the money that they spent, is going to have to decide: not a public hearing; that the amount of dollars you have spent is justified by the amount of benefits that you get, and then go back to the people and say, "We made this decision; we are the ones who will have to stand or fall on the basis of it."

Dr. Newbury will have his job at the University whether the money is spent or not. Dr. Booy will have his job at the University whether the money -- and their position doesn't depend on whether they've done something. The members of the government benches are in a different position. We are answerable for what we do, and therefore, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that we are the best people in terms of being forced to come to a responsible decision which is consistent with listening to people, that it's the elected representatives who are in a much stronger position than anybody else -- but of course that's the principle of democracy itself and the Honourable Member the Leader of the Liberal Party has never understood that principle, and from my impression in watching him never will.

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(MR. GREEN cont'd)

Now what is desirable, what is desirable should be made physically possible. It's a good Social Credit theory that when Social Credit becomes the government of Manitoba -- what they are saying is that whatever is desirable no matter how much it costs, it will be made available. I cannot give the people of Manitoba a similar commitment, and if the people of Manitoba are to proceed on the basis of that type of commitment, then I say it's the democratic process that they elect Social Credit, but when they do so, let them understand that Social Credit says that if something is worth a dollar you should be willing to spend \$100 for it, because it's good, because that's his position with regard to the Pembilier dam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I asked for an up to date, bringing us up to date on what was done and what had been done, and in turn we get a lecture. Just this last Monday, a brief was presented to the Manitoba Water Commission at Morden and it just came on my table this afternoon. This is the presentation that was made by the Lower Red River Valley Water Commission to the Water Resources Commission and I would like to read some excerpts of this to acquaint the Minister, if he has not read the presentation -- well, it says here that -- (Interjection) -- well, I just have the one copy. Maybe I should put the whole thing on the record so that the Honourable Minister would know just what was presented to them, and maybe I should do that, although I don't know whether time will permit me to read the whole thing. It's really not that lengthy. -- (Interjection) -- Well in ten minutes I can't do that, so I'll just take some of the important points.

In the state . . . it says, on January 29, 1969, "Our Commission met with the cabinet of the Manitoba Government, who agreed that the Pembina River Basin project was vital to both countries and that early agreement between Canada and the United States should be sought. The premier said at that time that this project . . ."

MR. GREEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I don't mind the honourable member reading that as somebody's statement but I would -- what is the date that they met with the Cabinet? May I have the date again?

MR. FROESE: Is he speaking on a point of order?

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm speaking on a point of privilege, not on a point of order. I don't want it assumed that by my silence that I accept the fact that the Cabinet agreed that that program was vitally necessary.

MR. FROESE: I wasn't finished with the paragraph, Mr. Chairman. This was of January 29, 1969. These people weren't in office.

SOME MEMBERS: Oh! Ha, ha!

MR. FROESE: I think they should pay closer attention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. The Member for Rhineland.

A MEMBER: Read on Jake, read on.

MR. FROESE: I will continue then, ". . . that early agreement between Canada and the United States should be sought. The premier said at that time that this project would be given top priority in Manitoba provided a satisfactory financial cost-sharing arrangement could be concluded with the Federal Government." So I am -- I don't know whether he takes exception to that statement but I don't think sufficient consideration was given at that time to a drought situation.

At that time we had had flooding occur in a number of years and the matter of flooding was uppermost in the minds of the people in that area, but since then times have changed and especially this last year, and I would like to read under the particular section of this brief dealing with drought, and it says here: "Drought or even dry spells of short duration could spell disaster to this area.

"1. It would shut down our agricultural processing plants from both lack of product and from lack of water to operate the plants," and I should remind the Honourable Minister that they have a cannery at Morden which also would be affected by this very thing.

"2. It would cut off portable water supplies and create untold hardships for households, schools, hospitals, commercial and industrial concerns.

"3. It would create massive unemployment.

"4. It would decrease supplies of small fruit, vegetable and root crops to rural and urban areas and increase the importation of these foods into Canada.

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(MR. FROESE cont'd)

"5. It would greatly reduce the production of beef and dairy cattle as well as other livestock and poultry.

"6. It would in many cases write off the Pembina triangle as a producer of speciality crops and the processing thereof.

"7. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the towns of Morden, Winkler, Altona and Gretna are now using up their maximum available water supplies and that further progress will be restricted in these communities unless these water supplies can be substantially increased."

This is substantiated by the Manitoba Water Supply Board -- and I hope the Minister pays attention because both the Villages of Gretna and Altona get their supply of water from the Water Supply Board. And that there is a certain amount of responsibility with the government and its agencies to provide this water supply. And therefore I feel very strongly that they should give more consideration to the whole matter of the Pembina River and providing water supplies in that area.

Under 8 there's one further point. Many of the farmers in this area rely on dugouts for their water supply. These dugouts have run dry and farmers are hauling water from long distances for their cattle, poultry and hogs. These farmers are much concerned that their livelihood will be taken from them for lack of water. Creeks are running dry. The Morden reservoir has not been filled by the 1973 spring run-off. Sloughs have dried up and the water table has dropped drastically in some areas as much as 16 to 30 feet. This is actually the case today, that the water table is way way down and that supplies of water are getting very scarce; that people are hauling water that haven't hauled water for years for their livestock and for cattle and poultry and so on. So that this is no joke, Mr. Chairman. And if the Minister thinks that this is a joke, it's not a joke with the people back home and I can tell him . . .

MR. GREEN: Who says it's a joke?

MR. FROESE: Well you, just laughing at it, at my remarks. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The honourable member address his remarks to the Chair. Order. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: The brief goes on. "This area is noted for its special crops, vegetables and other row crops that have been intensively cultivated and provide a good part of the food supplies for the urban areas, crops which cannot be grown in other parts of the province because of climatic conditions."

Then it carries on with flood controls and I won't take them over that. Maybe the Honourable Member for Pembina can do that because I won't have enough time at this time to do that.

Then I would like to briefly touch on another two paragraphs. It says here, and I continue on Page 6 of the brief: "Some of us recall the 1930s when wells were chained and locked and guarded at night so that neighbours could not come and steal even one pail of drinking water; when the CPR hauled tank cars of water daily to this area for household use. Taxpayers cannot stand for a repetition of this situation. We are desperate. The Morden Dam is four feet below the level after the present run-off. The water table has done down as much as 16 to 30 feet in the area. Creeks above the escarpment, which have always had a flow of water and sloughs, have dried up. In our opinion severe dust storms experienced this spring are an indication of a recurrence of a drought cycle similar to that experienced in the 1930s."

There is also the matter -- the irrigation is mentioned in the brief, recreation and rural living, and then also the benefits, and I think I should mention, read the benefits because this is the main point in question by the Minister.

Under benefits the brief has this to say. "An ample water supply such as would be contained in large reservoirs would provide many benefits to Manitoba generally.

"1. It would help increase the per capita income of the area which is now designated for assistance through special programs administered by the Area Development Agency. The savings that would result to the Federal Government might easily equal the total cost of the Pembina River basis project.

"2. The Pembina triangle has lost a number of large potential agricultural processing industries in the past years because of a lack of an adequate and dependable water supply.

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(MR. FROESE cont'd) One large potato processing plant moved into Winnipeg because of an inadequate supply of water.

"3. The availability of water would attract new industries and existing industries would be able to expand.

"4. Such foods processing industries would promote the further production of speciality cash crops, providing more employment throughout the area.

"5. The employment created would stop the population drains out of the province or even to other countries, helping to create a more stable economy in Manitoba."

I think this is something that the government has stressed from time to time to keep and promote rural development. And this certainly is one area in which it could be done.

"6. It would attract tourists, provide recreational facilities which are now not available in the area to any large extent for camping, swimming, boating and fishing. The proposed reservoirs on the Pembina River would provide water for an expanded livestock production and other farm use as well as for irrigation for alfalfa and canning crops.

"8. It would provide great social, esthetic and other benefits to the 48,000 residents in the Pembina Valley. This is an area about 300,000 square miles which has a population, an assessment much in excess of any other rural area in Manitoba."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The hour being 4:30 and the last hour of every day being Private Members' Hour . . .

MR. FROESE: Two points if I may, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Leave? (leave).

MR. FROESE: "The ninth point. It would assist in the commercial development of the area which now lacks many service industries, professional personnel and other facilities.

"And ten, it will provide water for more adequate fire protection and help decrease insurance rates. The governments of today have offered no good reason for the delay in negotiations since the IJAC recommendations were made in October 1967."

There are further quotations but . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has directed me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Vital, that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and passed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The first item on private members' hour is those papers transferred for debate and the resolution before us is the one proposed by the Member for Lakeside. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture was up, he has seven minutes left.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Lakeside when he introduced his motion tried to imply that there is some sinister reason why the province, or the government, refuses to give away information that is normally categorized as confidential because of the business nature of the very transaction involved and because of the impingement on any future possibilities of entering into contract with the marketing of Manitoba pork within Canada, in North America, and outside of North America.

I want to say that there is a very interesting point that has been missed in this whole debate and that is that members opposite really know that we are in no position to give that kind of information, and that is the very reason why they ask for it, Mr. Speaker; they know the answer before they put the question. And hopefully they feel that that will bring about some degree of negative feeling on the part of the people in this province towards the government for not being able, or for not providing the kind of information that is being asked for. It's really a major smokescreen, Mr. Speaker. Now, if it isn't then I have to say to my honourable friend that they have themselves an ulterior motive, and that is to destroy the possibility of producers ever achieving a reasonable bargaining position for their own

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) production in this province. And I would hope that that is not their motive, Mr. Speaker, but it's one of those two. I would prefer that it is the first one because I can understand the first position.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that one should also draw our attention to the fact that the news media as well is involved in this whole game in trying to draw to public attention the fact that food prices are escalating rather rapidly, in particular the area of red meats. And I have here an interesting document, in fact it's a comment by Harry L. Mardon, the Associate Editor for the Winnipeg Tribune, dated -- the article is dated March 20th, wherein it is suggested here, and I quote, Mr. Speaker, "that since the Hog Marketing Board was reorganized," it says here: "Since it came into existence it has set delivery quotas which deliberately restrict the supply, thus forcing prices to an all-time record." Well, Mr. Speaker, everyone that has any knowledge of the operations of the Manitoba Hog Marketing Commission knows that that is a complete falsehood, and an attempt by the Opposition and the media, I might say, to distort the whole picture.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Lakeside state his point of order?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I have no objections to the Minister making a correction on the part of somebody in the media but his combining the media with the Opposition in this instance is uncalled for.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order . . .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I indicated to the House that there are two possible motivations that my honourable friends opposite have, and surely he isn't suggesting to me that it's the second motivation that brought about the resolution on the Order Paper that we are now debating. So hopefully, Mr. Speaker, in a lighter vein it is the first point that I made, and in that context I would assume that I can attach that kind of incredible posture on the part of the members opposite, and indeed the incredible posture on the part of the media, in not determining the true facts in the whole business of food pricing and providing to the people of Manitoba an extremely distorted picture.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the members opposite know that there are no quota restrictions on production, that the values in the marketplace have been on the increase all over the world; there is a huge demand for feed grains all over the world; a huge demand because of escalating consumption trends in red meats; a huge demand for more meat products that has created a somewhat short position, and we have as a result, Mr. Speaker, higher prices. And I don't want to apologize for that from the producers' point of view because it is long overdue.

There is an interesting document here that I would like to refer to, Mr. Speaker, and it is a clipping from the Wall Street Journal of March 5th, and I want to quote one paragraph here in particular. It says here: "The prime pusher is something seldom mentioned in relation to food costs. It is simply the huge growth in the number of dollars American families have to spend on food and everything else. If food prices have indeed gone through the roof, the level of personal income is some 20 feet above the roof." That is the commentary of the Wall Street Journal dated March 5, 1973. And here it gives a table on food prices and per capita disposable income from 1965 to 72. And they're using the year 1965, or 1967, as 100 on the index. In 1965 the index was 94.4 while per capita disposable income was \$2,436; in 1972 the food price index was 126, while per capita disposable income was \$3,954.00. Retail food price in that period was up 33 percent, per capita incomes up 62 percent, hence a larger, more heavy push on consumption.

Mr. Speaker, that pretty well tells us the story as to why we have high prices in meat products these days and I would hope that members opposite would not resort to the kind of tactics that will result in a lowering, artificial lowering of prices to the producers of Manitoba.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: We've heard a characteristic turnabout in positions now expressed by the Minister. You recall, Sir, when the Hog Marketing Board was set up, was imposed on the producers a year ago, just a few months later this House met and contained in the Speech from the Throne was these immortal words: That as a result - - and I'm just going to paraphrase them - - that as a result of the setting up of the Producers Hog Marketing Board the prices went up. Well you can't have it both ways, Sir. He now denies that it was the actions of the Hog Marketing Board that raised the prices in the first place and he blames the Editor of the Winnipeg Tribune for implying that. Well, Sir, that is characteristic of this socialist mentality. All through this debate on the part of honourable members opposite, Sir, - - (Interjection) - - There is no point of privilege, Sir. The Honourable . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Minister state his point of order?

MR. USKIW: My point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, is that I did not suggest what the honourable member has just said. I suggested that the report in the Tribune implied, in fact stated, that there are marketing quotas established by that board which is not true.

MR. JORGENSON: Well that of course is not a point of privilege as you, Sir, will know. They also - - and when the honourable gentlemen opposite, those that spoke on this measure, suggested that we had no right to ask questions on the Hog Marketing Board because if we did that would be implying that we were against the board, and heaven forbid that we should do that. Sir, we heard that for 25 years with the Canadian Wheat Board, it was the sacred cow that was set up and anybody that dared criticize the Canadian Wheat Board was characterized as someone who was attempting to destroy the Board, and I say to you right now, Sir, that had there been more criticism of the Canadian Wheat Board at that time it would have been a far better board than it is today. It would have done a far better job.

Sir, it's interesting to read their words back to them. And the Member for Lakeside asked a very simple question and one that can be easily answered if the Minister chose to do it. If it wasn't for this crutch that they're leaning on, this crutch of secrecy, and I'd like to read back to you the words of the First Minister when he said, quoted in Page 119 of the Hansard, August 21, 1969. "We shall in fact, Mr. Speaker," said the First Minister with a great deal of emotion, "try much harder, much much harder. We shall try to get away from this great reliance in secrecy as a crutch for government to take the easy way out." Sir, how these words have come back to haunt them because there never has been a government in this province and in any other province that I know of that has relied on the crutch of secrecy as much as this one. Sir, he denies any responsibility. This is not a producer's marketing board, and he'd better get that through his thick skull, because that is an appointed board. In the Gazette, and in the regulations setting up the Board, and I'll read it to him in case he hasn't looked at it. "There is hereby established a Producer Board to be known as the Manitoba Hog Producers' Marketing Board which shall consist of eight members, who shall at all times be registered producers to be elected by the registered producers." They have not been elected, Sir. They have been appointed by this government, with the exception of two. Now that does not constitute an elected board.

A little later on in Section (5) Administration By-law: It goes on to point out that within three months after coming into force of this plan the Provisional Board, that's the one that they appointed, shall pass an administrative by-law which shall provide for the election of members of the board and may establish districts, sub-districts, and method of holding meetings, the election of delegates for annual meetings, notice required for meetings, and other such matters relating to the conduct of the meeting and the democratic control of policies by the Producer Board that appear necessary and convenient to the proper administration of the plan.

Sir, that was a year and three months ago.

A MEMBER: Unbelievable.

MR. JORGENSON: A year and three months ago and they are still dragging their feet on the election of the remainder of that board. It can in no way, no way, Sir, be declared a producer's marketing board and the Minister of Agriculture better start recognizing that fact right away. He disclaims any responsibility. He tries to slough it off on the Hog Marketing Board. But now, Sir, when they made the sale to Japan, when that sale was made to Japan, Sir, he was very quick to rush to the podium at the NDP convention and make the announcement. Why didn't he let the Hog Marketing Board make that announcement? Oh no, that sounded at that time, Sir,

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(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) as though it might be a very politically convenient thing for him to do. Now, now the tables have turned. -- (Interjection) -- Well this is how they attempt to silence opposition, to silence the legitimate function of opposition, which is to ask questions and get some information, squeeze some information out of the government, which is becoming increasingly difficult; but we're getting to hear the same thing now about this Board, as we heard about the Canadian Wheat Board, and that Board is not an elected one either. And so it is right, and it is proper, that the Minister who is responsible for that particular section of the Act, be answering questions in this House as the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board answers all questions in the House. He tries to convince us that he is not going to answer any questions. Well, Sir, the Minister himself -- it's rather interesting, the First Minister made an interesting statement in 1964 when he was speaking on the report of the Shewman Marketing Commission plan, and he says, "I found myself quite in sympathy with the idea of a voluntary hog marketing commission or agency and I was one who voted for this particular recommendation." And then he goes on to say a little later, "I suggest that we should make it clear in the report that if a vote is asked for, that it be arranged, that it be granted. In our opinion, in the committee's opinion, this was not acceded to by the committee as a whole, and my worst fears have taken place." And then he goes on a little while later to say, "I am disappointed and sad to see the report being used to thwart the hog producers in their attempt to get a formal vote. So sure was I that this might happen that I tried to prevail on the chairman at the time, late fall, late last fall, or perhaps I should say last winter, to do his utmost to see that this report would not be used as an excuse for not granting a vote should one be asked for by the producers."

Now then, Sir, what did the Minister himself say in the Hog Producers Marketing meeting in the Ramada Inn on December 9, 1971? -- this is the Minister speaking as reported in the Tribune of December 10th. "The Hog Producers Marketing Board has been appointed to set up districts to enable producers to elect board members within a year." Within a year, the Minister said, the Agriculture Minister said Thursday. Then he goes on to say, and then it goes on to report at what happened at that meeting. "The Hog Producers voted in favour of a resolution to ask the Provincial Government to take no action on the implementation of a compulsory marketing bill until a two-thirds majority is voted in favour of the bill."

A MEMBER: And what did they do?

MR. JORGENSEN: He refused, Sir, to give him that opportunity to vote, in spite of the sanctimonious words of the First Minister, in spite of his own words, they have been denied the opportunity to vote on whether or not they want a Hog Marketing Board, denied the opportunity to elect members to that board. -- (Interjection) -- Sir, no I won't submit to a question because I have only got a few minutes as my honourable friend knows and I want to complete the remarks that I have to make, because I'm sure he'd be very interested in listening to those remarks.

Now Mr. Speaker, -- (Interjections) -- and now Mr. Hoffard speaks to the meeting, and he says -- (Interjection) -- Well that's Mr. Hog Marketing Board himself. He says "Ideas should shift from the bottom up to the top. That's why I want a marketing board," he said. "A Marketing Board is a monopoly, but it is your monopoly not Swifts or Burns." But, Sir, the members of that board, the members of that board don't even know the details of this Japan deal. The only one that knows the details is Mr. Hoffard and the Minister himself, and this is supposed to be an appointed board. What a travesty, what a travesty!

A MEMBER: Dictatorship.

MR. JORGENSEN And he has the supreme audacity, Sir, to stand up in this House and say that it would be wrong, it would be a denial of the responsibility of the producers if they disclosed the Japanese deal. We must not disclose prices said the Minister, but what did he do; there's a letter that went to the plant managers of all the packing plants in this province, and this is what it said: "Manitoba Marketing Board has passed the following directive effective immediately. Directive of the Manitoba Marketing Board made pursuant to the Natural Products Marketing Act and Manitoba Regulation No. 10167; any person engaged in the processing of hogs in Manitoba shall file with the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board the prices at which pork and pork products are sold to retailers in Manitoba by Monday of the week following the week in which such sales take place."

Sir, two standards, two standards, Sir.

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A MEMBER: Who signed it?

MR. JORGENSEN: It was signed by Craig Lee, Secretary of the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board. Two standards, Sir. They insist that the private operators must disclose their prices, but not the government. Oh no! They have an entirely different standard for themselves.

Well, Sir, what has happened in other provinces? In the case of Alberta, and the Minister had some unkind things to say about the way the Alberta people were operating their hog marketing board. I have before me an article that appeared in the Calgary Herald the week of March 7th, 1963. An article by John Schmidt, who is a well known agricultural writer for that paper, and he goes on to outline the Alberta plan and what they've done - - and there's nothing secret about the Alberta plan, nothing at all. He said what it means, and this is the proposal, what it means is that production for the domestic market will go on as usual. The hogs will be sold by the Marketing Board for the highest dollar they will bring for the producers. However, if any producer wants to expand their operations to produce hogs for export contracts at a different price than the domestic market, they will be offered at a price for production for several years ahead of the Japanese or other markets - - which means, Sir, that if there is a five year contract signed with the Japanese any farmer who wants to take advantage of that contract can do so by simply signing it, and he has then a firm price for the life of that five year contract. Anybody who doesn't want to do that can take his chances with the Hog Producers' Marketing Board. Full disclosure, Sir; full disclosure and open government. Which is certainly opposite and certainly not what we're experiencing in this province.

Now he goes on in this article to say and the heading is entitled "None of their business" which is, guess who he's talking about? He said, "Then Agriculture Minister Sam Uskiw rushed over to Japan and made a big deal to sell 100,000 hogs a year for three years through the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board. He rushed breathlessly back to a big NDP political convention to tell them all about it."

A MEMBER: That's right, that's right.

MR. JORGENSEN: But he didn't tell them all about it.

A MEMBER: He didn't tell the hog producers about it.

MR. JORGENSEN: When the hog producers from Manitoba and other provinces asked for details on prices to be paid producers, he told them it was none of their business. However, Mr. Berg and some others smoked out the facts at a Canadian Pork Council meeting in Winnipeg last week. The hogs for the export order are selling at about the 36 cent level. - - (Interjection) - - That is a straight guess, but it's close. This price is then pooled with the price on the domestic market and the average is paid to the producers. However, with the domestic price up now over \$50.00 per hundredweight in Manitoba, the producers are dropping a bundle on that export order. I mean they can't refuse to sell on the export market that Sam, or Uskiw committed them to. Mr. Berg and others estimate that the producers will be subsidizing the export order to the tune of a million and a half dollars a year, if present domestic prices hold. If the government of Manitoba makes a miscalculation in its hog deal with Japan it needs only to dip into the treasury to pay for it.

However, when the Manitoba government involves farmers in a deal where it's they who pay, that's a different story. Farmers must be profit-minded to be able to stay in business and pay taxes. The difficulty with pooling prices on a domestic and export deal or pooling prices on any kind of a deal, it is hard for the individual farmers to bring authorities to account - - and isn't that so true in this particular province, Sir.

We have a situation in this province where the Minister disclaims any responsibility. He says that is up to the Hog Producers' Marketing Board since it is a producer's board, knowing full well that it is not a producer's board. He's dragging his feet on the election of the members of that board; deliberately, I suggest, dragging his feet on the election of members of that board, because he's afraid of the kind of people that may be elected to that board. It's not the kind of people that he wants. He wants - after all, Sir, after all, Sir, when you elect people democratically, when they elect people democratically it's not possible to get relatives appointed to these positions.

A MEMBER: Do as you say.

MR. JORGENSEN: The Minister stands in this house and tries to convince members of this Chamber, and the producers of this province that they have a democratically controlled hog marketing board. Sir, that is not the case. They have a one-man board who makes all the

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MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) decisions in concert with the Minister himself, or with Bill Jensen who seems to be the inspiring mentor behind all the Minister's moves, who makes all the decisions for him, and we know enough about Red Bill Jensen to know that this man, that this man is perhaps, perhaps the ultra socialist of this province and as long as the Minister is getting advice and counsel from him, we know full well that the producers of this province are never going to know the details of that particular deal with Japan. Consumers are not going to know, the taxpayers are not going to know, and the producers themselves are not going to be able to have any kind of an opportunity to make any decisions on their own in respect to the operations of the Board.

Sir, I draw to his attention, I draw to his attention, the manner in which the Egg Producers' Marketing Board was set up and the manner in which the Turkey Producers' Marketing Board were set up. These people were given the opportunity to vote and to elect their members. They run their own show. They run it the way they want to run it - not the . . .

MR. ENNS: Who set up those boards? Which government set up those boards?

MR. JORGENSEN: Well my honourable friend from Lakeside is posing a question to me and I'll answer it. He asks who set up those boards, and they were set up under the previous administration in case my honourable friend wasn't aware of this. -- (Interjection) --

The Minister of Agriculture again interjects. -- (Interjection) -- Well my honourable friend, -- (Interjection) -- the Egg Board pretty well runs its own show without any direction, without any direction, and the Hog Marketing Board is a year and three months old and they still haven't got an elected board -- and that's just the point we are attempting to make on this side of the House, Sir. My honourable friend for some unaccountable reason refuses to grant the hog producers of this province the opportunity to elect their own board. They deny this House the information that they should have; they deny the producers of this province the opportunity of running their own business. That, Sir, is the kind of totalitarian thinking that is characteristic of my honourable friends opposite and particularly characteristic of the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Would the Member submit to a couple of questions?

MR. SPEAKER: One minute left.

MR. USKIW: Does the honourable member know that the resolution passed at the convention of the Pork Producers Association asking the government not to implement compulsory hog marketing was never referred to me, nor did they lobby me to implement that decision.

MR. JORGENSEN: My honourable friend was at the meeting. He knew that the resolution was passed and yet he - he now uses this, Sir, as an excuse for the action that he took. Boy, it's a shameful display of arrogance as far as I am concerned.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker . . . that they had specifically asked me not to implement the resolution. -- (Interjection) -- No, the Pork Producers Association executive.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris. Order please.

MR. JORGENSEN: The Pork Producers at that convention passed that resolution in the hope that it would be acted upon. -- (Interjection) --

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member's time is up. By leave. The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: Do the members opposite know that so far not one hog has been delivered to the - subsequent to that contract having been signed.

MR. JORGENSEN: Then, Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend is misleading everybody in this province because he's led us to believe that there was a contract signed and that deliveries were taking place. My honourable friend is going to be swallowed by his own words if he keeps talking.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have leave to make a very brief correction on something that was said during Question Period. I should have said that, that the, that I was not sure who was . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Member have leave? The Honourable Minister.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I should have said that I was not sure who was paying the expenses of Mr. Bob Dysart, I left out the word expenses I understand.

MR. SPEAKER: The resolution before the House, are you ready for the question?

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

MR. ENNS: Ayes and Nays, Mr. Speaker, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. All those in favour of the motion please rise.

A STANDING VOTE WAS TAKEN, the results being as follows:

YEAS

Allard
Bilton
Blake
Borowski
Craik
Einerson
Enns
Ferguson
Froese
Girard
Graham

Henderson
G. Johnston
F. Johnston
Jorgenson
McGill
McGregor
McKellar
Patrick
Spivak
Trueman
Watt

NAYS

Adam
Barrow
Boyce
Burtmiak
Cherniack
Desjardins
Doern
Evans
Gottfried
Green
Hanuschak
Jenkins
Johannson

McBryde
Mackling
Miller
Pauley
Pawley
Petursson
Schreyer
Shafransky
Toupin
Turnbull
Uruski
Uskiw
Walding

MR. CLERK: Yeas 22; nays, 26.

MOTION lost.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR - RESOLUTION No. 1

MR. SPEAKER: Private Members' Hours. We have the next item Resolution No. 1. The Honourable Member for St. Johns has 15 minutes left.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, we were discussing this interesting resolution and I want to remind honourable members that the Member for St. Matthews spoke at some length and spoke I think - covered the subject very well. I entered into the debate only because I wanted to make some comments about the heart of the resolution, which I still intend to make, and because I thought that it would be a good opportunity to raise a question which I think is worthy of discussion. I was not surprised but maybe disappointed to note the reaction that I received from some honourable members to the mere fact that I had the audacity to put a question in the minds of people and suggest that it be discussed. If they didn't want to discuss it, they didn't have to; but to challenge me on merely raising it, I thought was a peculiar thing to do, especially in a forum where we are all involved in determining policies that affect people for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I had five minutes then to pose the question - I knew it wasn't sufficient time, but I did get started - - and several persons on the other side who I should have known would either deliberately or ignorantly distort what I have said, did indeed distort what I have said and came to conclusions which were not based on what I said. So naturally I had to go back to Hansard and firstly express pleasure of the fact that Hansard is available. Mr. Speaker, without repeating all the five minutes' worth of talking that I did the other night on this resolution, I want only to bring out, quote certain of the statements that I made, because I wanted to

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) discuss on a philosophic basis a certain question. I said I don't think I have the answers but I do think it's worthy of consideration. There's a great deal of lip service played - I should have said paid - in this province by our people on all sides of this House that home ownership is desirable and should be encouraged. So I'd like to discuss that for a few moments because I'm not sure that that's right; I'm certainly not sure that it's wrong. I said further on on Page 426: "I just want to suggest that maybe it's not so important that a man should carry all his savings, all his motivation in life into paying for a home." And just before we concluded at 10:00 o'clock I said, "I'm raising to you a question as to whether or not this is so desirable." I can see that all members present across the way are convinced that it is highly desirable without discussing it, eh!

And I mentioned that the Member for Swan River wouldn't discuss it; and I mentioned also that the Member for Lakeside hadn't indicated he's prepared to discuss it. Maybe he is prepared to discuss it, I don't know. But I know that there was screaming from the other side, a man's home is his castle, and freedom of choice, and all that's very well, and I agree that there should be freedom of choice, and a man's home is his castle if he wants it to be so; but I got the impression that they didn't want to discuss it and that you know, I felt kind of hurt that the subject I thought was worthy of discussion wasn't worthy in their minds. After all they're entitled not to discuss it and may not think it worthy of discussion, but of course when the Member from Wolseley spoke - - I don't know whether he was present or not when I spoke - but he said, and I quote now from Page 688: "Homes that" and he's talking about homes of senior citizens "in spite of the former Minister of Finance, the Member of St. Johns, is of real value to them." I never suggested it wasn't. Now I was, and I quote again, "Now I was shocked as many members of this side were when the member questioned, or appeared to question, the value, the historic customary value of home ownership a few evenings ago." The Member for Wolseley is shocked that I raised the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. It's very difficult to hear over the noise. The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It may well be that honourable members really don't think it's that important to discuss this point and maybe that's why they're not listening - - (Interjections) - - It is peculiar, Mr. Speaker, that we are so partisan-oriented that when I made a statement which was both factual, both self-serving and that I hoped that I could get attention, that immediately the Member for Riel shouted out, not even from his own seat - - but that doesn't matter, he has no right to shout from any seat - - but even from the seat of his Leader he had to shout it out and point a finger and say "I am innocent." For the moment he was innocent; at other moments he's not innocent. But it really has nothing to do with what side the talking is because all of us are . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel state his matter of privilege?

MR. CRAIK: What I was attempting to tell the good Member for St. Johns, was that I was merely interested in what he was saying; I couldn't hear it for the noise coming from his side.

MR. SPEAKER: That's not a matter of privilege.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that the honourable member having that great interest should have been the one, and not to wait for you, Mr. Speaker, but to stand and say, "I really am interested and would like to listen and I can't." But instead of that, instead of that he felt it necessary to call out as he did. But that's fine.

I'm still quoting from the Member for Wolseley, who said, "I won't comment on the Member from St. Johns. I find surprising statements about - and Hansard says "ejecting" and I suppose it should read "rejecting the value of home ownership." He won't discuss it. The Member for Wolseley is not prepared to discuss it and that's his privilege not to discuss it. I thought it was a matter of interest. I still think so. Of course the Member for Assiniboia may be following in the lead of his Leader or following the lead of his Leader. He already knew what I was going to say and he was already drawing conclusions, and as I pointed out to him both in the House and privately, he misrepresented completely what I had said because he wanted to, he really wanted to be able to say that I am attacking that grand and glorious principle of home ownership. So he said, now I'm quoting from Hansard Page 695: "I'm inclined to believe that the member did speak against home ownership because from this side we were saying and calling at least" - - and I interrupted by saying "you weren't listening" which I think was a true statement. - - (Interjection) - - No, we were, because everybody on this side "let the people have

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) the choice; let them have the option if they wish to own a home, " which means that he and others on his side wouldn't let me continue my discussion either. He had already concluded that I was opting to bar people from owning their homes, and I suppose he was all ready to say "socialism will take away the homes of the individuals." I can interpret what the honourable member might have said as easily, and more easily than he is able to interpret what indeed I did say.

He went on to say on the same page: "I'm inclined to believe that the member was stating that it would be better for many people not to own their home and I strongly disagree with that. He knocked at freedom of choice." All right, Mr. Speaker, I just did that in order to go through the exercise of indicating that some members don't take the trouble to listen to what is said, or don't take the trouble to read what was said, or choose to misinterpret, because when I introduced the subject, this aspect of the subject, I said "I don't know the answers but I'd like to hear discussions."

I think that it's worthy for all of us on occasion to challenge a number of concepts that we have all grown up to believe are right and proper and good and they may well be right and proper and good, but every so often let's challenge them and evaluate them in terms of today's society and today's needs because times change. There was a time of course when very few people owned their home; only the man who owned a castle owned his home, and then he owned the homes of everybody else who were under a fiefdom to him; they were serfs, and they had no homes of their own at all, and things changed, and then it became good and proper in the concept of society that a person should own his home. I'm saying, let's for a moment not be blinded or prevented by old ideas from revealing them. And I then developed some - I reported on some experiences that I have had on behalf of clients where I have found cases where people have denied themselves either luxuries or necessities in order to make payments on the home which was, or was not, paid for by the time they died, and when they died they left an estate which was not really needed by their heirs, by their children, who were then self-sufficient. I've seen many of those. I would think that most people in society have seen them. And I said, that's one side of the coin: should a person save all his life speculating on land, which indeed he is doing because when he sells, it depends on the market at the time. I did not, but I want now to consider some of the other points. To me, I think, the most important factor in owning your own home is the security of tenure, that you're not being, you're not liable to be pushed out by a landlord, or by a person who wants to buy your home from a landlord, or from a speculator, and wants to take over the home and kick you out. Well, long-term leases help but then leases expire, so that a person in rented premises does not have security of tenure, and I think that society being what it has been up to now there is a great deal of need for a person to feel secure that he is not going to be moved out of a home which he occupies, which he wishes to occupy.

I think another very desirable factor in home ownership is pride of ownership, pride of maintaining your home at its best level, being able to keep it in a good condition, thinking in terms of an investment and keeping it good. There are some tenants who have no regard at all for the condition. But regardless of what is the answer and I still don't know the answer, and I don't think we'll arrive at one, but I'd hoped we could discuss it. Aside from what I think is that we should start thinking in terms of homes being a stock of a community for housing the community. I would like to think that we recognize that our neighbour's house should be kept in good condition in the interests of the community of which it is part, and we've discussed in this House whether we should make compulsory on a person that he shall decorate his home. We now do make it compulsory that he shall keep it in good condition as far as fire, safety, health measures, but we also discussed whether we should actually make him paint up and clean up every so often, because his home may be an eyesore. And so that once you start thinking in terms of buildings, which are just material things really, being not some dream concept of some kind but being a practical need for a community to have in good condition. And so now I come back for the last few minutes to the resolution itself, and indicate that in order that you will not be attracted to keep a home if indeed the taxes you pay, or the interest you pay on the mortgage on the home, is taken off your income and therefore reduces your taxable income and therefore reduces your tax. That's a very roundabout way of dealing with the problem.

In our government, and now I become very partisan, in our government we have recognized the need for people to be able to keep their homes and keep them in proper repair by

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) recognizing firstly a direct contribution out of the Provincial Treasury, which indeed this motion calls for is out of the Provincial Treasury to rebate income taxes, but to do that on the basis of two very important factors. One is real property taxes paid; two is taxable income, which is ability to pay. And on that basis we're not saying we'll permit you to take a charge off your income before calculation of tax. We're doing it the other way around, we're saying, we are making it possible for you to receive actual dollars which is a reduction of tax not a reduction of income, I hope I make that clear. This proposal is only to reduce income, taxable income. But in our plan we are actually reducing taxes by rebating actual dollars of taxes paid and when we have contributed to old age pensioners' ability to repair their home, to renovate their home, it was by direct grant of dollars saying to a person, "fix your home, here's the money; this is good for you and your community; it's good for the economy." We've proven that it's good for the economy.

So what we have done is immeasurably better than what is suggested here in this resolution. Aside from the fact that the resolution itself covers all areas, covers homes of \$50,000 with \$40,000 mortgages, covers homes in areas where people can well afford to pay the need for servicing the homes as they wish it, and it is inequitable in that it recognizes all people of all incomes, and I don't think particularly it's important for high income, it also discriminates against tenants. Now I posed a question earlier which, whether or not it's desirable to have home ownership but we all recognize that it is desirable to give people the right to be tenants rather than owners. Certainly we don't want to impose a hardship on the tenant simply because he chooses to be a tenant. But in effect what this resolution says, we'll take the tax dollars paid by all people, which includes tenants, and we will rebate the taxes in this indirect and very difficult cumbersome way, we'll rebate the taxes to homeowners, which means that tenants in effect will be asked to contribute to the reduction of taxes for homeowners. I think it's a non-sensical way to approach; there are better ways; this government has shown better ways, and will continue to show better ways.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland. I would call it 5:30 and have him debate next time.

MR. FROESE: I think I would just like to remind the Honourable Member for St. Johns of what the NDP government in B. C. is saying.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. If the honourable member wishes to debate it tonight I'll give him the two minutes.

MR. FROESE: I'd like to get this statement on the record. The B. C. government under their new Premier has this to say and I'm quoting from his report: "We certainly agree with the principle of aiding our citizens to obtain homes by providing them with financial assistance. We therefore intend to maintain the Provincial Home Acquisition Fund and I'm recommending an additional 50 million be placed in the fund from current or surplus revenues." This government is questioning that very aspect of it yet they are following the Social Credit principles out there and supporting them. - - (Interjection) - - Yes, certainly this program was started in British Columbia by the Social Credit government and they have assisted many people in getting their own homes. And I for one am in full support of the resolution because I've had too many arguments with teachers who say because they are on a salaried position they cannot deduct the mortgage and their taxes on their homes as a deductible item for income tax purposes. And I think we're discriminating against a certain group of people in society in Manitoba by not accepting this very resolution that is before us.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The hour being 5:30, the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 Thursday afternoon.