

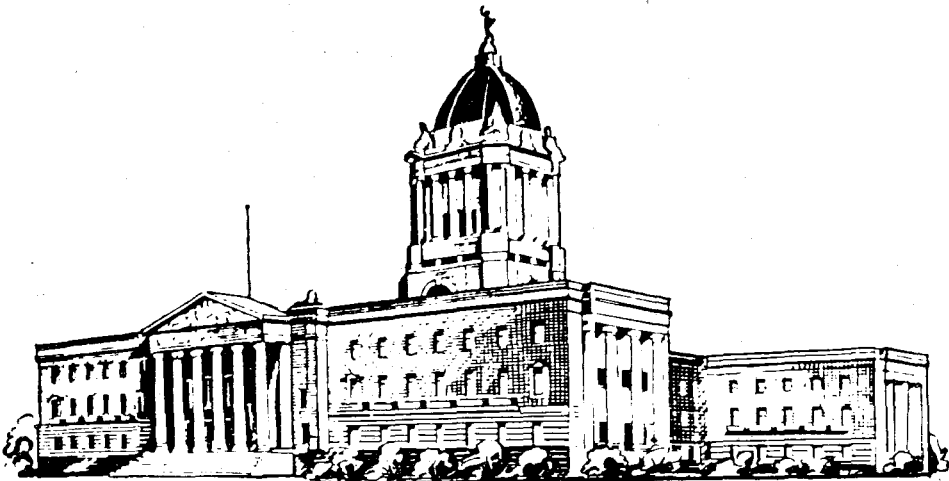


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XX No. 99 8:00 p.m., Monday, May 14th, 1973. Fifth Session, 29th Legislature.

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

8:00 o'clock, Monday, May 14, 1973

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to my gallery where we have two gentlemen from Sweden, Mr. Rune Larsson and Mr. Birger Wiklund. They're Labour Attaches from the Embassy of Sweden; they are going to Ottawa. They are guests of the Honourable Member from Transcona, the Minister of Labour. On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here today.

The Honourable House Leader.

SECOND READING - GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, would you call Bill No. 3.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, by leave I would like to withdraw this bill from the Order Paper, with the understanding that within a very short while, possibly 48 hours, or sooner if possible, another bill in regards to the Social Allowance Act will be reintroduced. The wrong bill has been actually read for first reading. There were quite a few drafts prepared and unfortunately the wrong bill was brought in the House, but by leave I'd like to withdraw it.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable gentleman have leave? The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I rise, I suppose maybe on a point of order. On a point of order, the Honourable Minister . . .

MR. SPEAKER: On a procedural matter. Very well.

MR. ENNS: . . . I was asking for leave and I certainly wish to accommodate the Minister, but I would really not like to pass up this opportunity to remind the Honourable Minister and the government in some forceful degree that if that is the case we would most certainly grant the leave, but I would ask the Minister, and the government, to reconsider most seriously whether or not they wish to introduce any particular bill under these kind of circumstances at this stage of the game. It's precisely what I referred to in my remarks to the Speed-up Motion, Mr. Speaker, that if there is indecision, or if there has been an error made, or something like that, about a bill being moved, then I would grant leave, would grant leave, but would ask the government to consider introducing any bill at this particular stage.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader wish to speak to the matter?

MR. GREEN: No, Mr. Speaker. It's over with, and we'll go on to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Now, just a minute, it's not over with until I have . . . Order, please. Do we . . . Order, please. The Honourable Minister has asked for leave to withdraw. Is it granted? It's been granted. The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, that by leave Bill No. 3, an Act to amend The Social Allowances Act, be withdrawn, and that the Order for Second Reading discharged.

MR. SPEAKER: That leave has been granted. The Honourable House Leader proceed to the next item.

MR. GREEN: Call Bill No. 44, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, Bill 44 is a bill in regards to a program to provide financial assistance to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Would the Honourable Minister introduce it as a motion first, please. --(Interjection)-- 44.

The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: While we are waiting for the Minister to have the bill . . . I indicated that the meeting of Public Utilities would meet to hear the report of the Manitoba Mineral Resources Limited. I've been corrected in that by it being pointed out to me that the legislation requires the report to be made to the Committee on Economic Development, so I'd like honourable members to be aware that it's the Committee on Economic Development that we would want to have meeting on Wednesday at 8:00 o'clock, with the House meeting at 9:00 instead of the Committee on Public Utilities, which I mentioned earlier today.

SECOND READING - BILL NO. 44

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. TOUPIN presented Bill No. 44, The Prescription Drugs Cost Assistance Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the bill before us now is a bill providing for financial assistance for senior citizens in meeting prescription drug costs. This is part of the program announced in the Speech from the Throne and the Legislative Authority to proceed accordingly. Plans for the implementation, which will be firmed up by regulations, are proceeding on the basis of the following guidelines.

(1) This will be a once and possibly twice per year payment to individuals 65 and over; and

(2) The year shall be considered the calendar year; and

(3) The reimbursement for a full or part-time year shall be on the basis of (a) for single persons, total of retail costs of drugs prescribed by a physician or dentist for the person who has reached 65 years of age, less \$50.00 and the difference will be paid on a 12-month or a 6-month basis. Anything beyond \$50.00 per year, the plan will pick up 80 percent of the cost.

For families of two or more persons, any one of whom has reached 65 years of age, total retail cost of drugs prescribed by a physician for all members of the family, less \$100.00, the plan will pick up all portions up to 80 percent. The age shall be the age of the person as at December 31.

The plan will benefit a family for any particular year if any member of that family reaches the age of 65 during the year. A family of two or more persons shall consist only of (a) husband and/or wife; and (b) sons or daughters who are under 18 years of age during the year and dependent upon and living with parents.

The plan will be implemented effective July 1, 1973 and have its first year-end on December 31, 1973 — 6 months. The deduction of \$50.00 and \$100.00 for this 6-month period will be prorated and be \$25.00 and \$50.00 respectively. There will be no paid TV, radio or newspaper advertising announcing the plan. The plan will become known to eligible persons through government news releases which will hopefully be aired, viewed and read through at least two major newspapers in Manitoba; through direct mailing to all persons 65 years of age and over either by obtaining old age security mailing lists, by insertion with old age security cheques or via the Manitoba Health Services Commission's rolls. Eligible persons can apply for assistance any time after December 31 but before March 31, 1974. Applications will be made on standard forms. We're asking that every individual keep his receipts for prescription drugs. We will not necessarily ask that these receipts be sent in but there will be checks made following the payment or before payments, so we're suggesting that they hold on to their receipts.

The forms that are suggested, the application form will be two-sided. On one side there will be the outline of the plan, the names, ages, etc. of the applicant and family, and other pertinent information. On the second side will be the list of prescription purchases, date of purchase, name of dispensing drug store, purchase price of prescription, and could include the prescription number, name of prescribing physician or dentist and the name of the drug. Persons over 65 can be supplied with handy booklet or folded pamphlet which outlines the plan and provides space to keep track of prescription information as purchases are made. Claim forms will be made on the basis of the Manitoba Health Services Commission and can be available in drug stores in the same manner as information booklets for tax rebates. Provincial telephone numbers will be established for information purposes. --(Interjection)-- Well I think we can use the Manitoba Telephone System being one of our own. Recipients of free prescription drugs under any welfare program or under any federal program, Department of Veteran Affairs, etc., are excluded from making application. Also excluded will be those persons resident in an insured nursing home in which drug needs will be part of the insured's care, the same as within a hospital setting. When I say nursing home, I mean nursing homes, hostels and all levels of care that will be covered as of the 1st of July 1973. We anticipate the full year costs for the program to be \$3.5 million.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

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MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not normally a spokesman for matters of Health and Social Development for our party, but I couldn't help but become interested in the particular plan that is now being announced by the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development, the Pharmacare plan, and to relate back and to tie that back to some of the original concepts that a previous administration, namely the Progressive Conservative administration, had for health care generally for the people of Manitoba. Because, Mr. Speaker, it is the New Democratic Party that now prides itself in being "the" Party that supplies Medicare services, or health care services, without a premium as being new and innovative, as being the first ones to suggest that to the people of Manitoba. And that of course, Mr. Speaker, is utter garbage, utter nonsense and a blatant lie, a blatant lie. Because, Mr. Speaker, the record is there, the record is there for all to know. The efforts that were made by the previous administration under the then direction of Walter Weir to provide Medicare services to the people of Manitoba without any imposition of premium, without any imposition of premium at all but, Mr. Speaker, but, Mr. Speaker, with the same mechanism, with the same tool that the Minister of Health and Social Development now acknowledges as being proper and correct and is built into his bill, namely the \$50.00 deterrent fee. The \$50.00 deterrent fee.

Mr. Speaker, it has become evident by the maneuvers of none other than the Federal Government, our Prime Minister and his Cabinet, who are now maneuvering to get out of the commitment of national Medicare because of the openendedness of the check that is built into it, because they recognize, Mr. Speaker, it is these kind of policies, these kind of programs that will increase the price of hamburger, increase the price of coffee, increase the price of bread to beyond unreasonable limits and . . . become unreasonable limits, and that there's only that much time that the pseudo socialists of our country can pull the wool over our collective eyes, pull the wool over our collective eyes and think that all these things can be delivered up free, that we can just pay doctors 60, 70, 80 thousand dollars any time we want to and that that's going to be free. I ask the emissaries of Sweden to tell us how free these services are in their country.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of those services are about 53, 55 percent income tax, taxation on every dollar earned by any Manitoban working in this province. That is --(Interjection)-- No, they don't die. Oh no, no. That particular bowl of soup, Mr. Speaker, will be readily available to them, to the citizens of Manitoba, under a socialist government as they were under a Bennett government in the 1930's. And is that an improvement? Is that an improvement? Mr. Speaker, let me recall, not verbatim but the words of none other than the House Leader in a speech I think he made some time back in 1968, 1969 in this House, when he said that if he doubled the production in this province, if he doubled the wages in this province, and if he doubled everything else in this province, but that there were still 30 or 35 percent within the impoverished class in our society, then he would have to judge himself as having done nothing for this province. And that was a speech that the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources made in this House.

So, Mr. Speaker, I say to the honourable members opposite, if this government now has recognized in the introduction of this particular Pharmacare bill--which is not a bad bill, it is a good bill--but it has recognized a degree of fiscal responsibility with respect to the financing of the bill, it has recognized the fact that \$50.00, surely in our society, in our setting, will not drive any family or any individual to the pauper's house, you know, on to welfare, and indeed if there is somebody that can't raise the \$50.00, then surely there are sufficient numbers of charitable organizations working within our community that will see to it that that \$50.00 is forthcoming. But we're talking about insuring ourselves in these kind of programs. Are they still evading necessities of massive amounts of drugs, \$1,000 worth of drugs used by persons or individual families that completely destroy that family. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Minister has announced in this program a bill that is providing a degree of insurance which I applaud, which I concur with, but it has in it a very conservative feature, a very conservative feature, namely a \$50.00 deterrent fee, Mr. Speaker, I who say this to you, Mr. Speaker, and I dare to be challenged, that we can provide, we could finance a most up-to-date and most modern, most modern Medicare and complete social health services scheme in this country if we adopted that same principle and reduced our income tax and corporation tax by 20 percent. Well, Mr. Speaker, all I can say, all I can say, sure I'm making . . .

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MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. ENNS: . . . some rather outlandish statements and I recognize the Honourable Minister of Finance has his beetle brows zeroed in and he will take me to task for these and undoubtedly use this in his election material against the Conservative Party coming forward. All I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is let this be truly recognized for the move that it is. The Honourable Member for Mines and Natural Resources, the Member from St. Johns, the Member of Transcona the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Colleges and Universities has now adopted a Walter Weir program, a Walter Weir approach, a Walter Weir approach to the delivery of Health Services. They have introduced the \$50.00 deterrent fee, the \$50.00 deterrent fee as a sound way of bringing some degree of fiscal, you know, responsibility and control to an otherwise laudable social program. That, Mr. Speaker, is precisely what this bill contains, precisely what this government has done. And I think it's, you know, it's a good bill. I support the bill and I would suggest that when the bill is voted on we will all vote for the bill. This bill will undoubtedly provide the kind of insurance that it was intended to provide, that under no circumstances will the cost of drugs in this category of citizens that are involved, be of the nature that it could cripple that family or bring that family financially to its knees because of the costs involved. All the government is asking for is that the person is responsible for its first \$50.00 and thereafter the insurance scheme becomes effective.

Well, Mr. Speaker, you know, if it weren't for the anomalies that political life constantly brings forward, I would be shooting summersaults right now in my surprise. But one learns, one learns to appreciate all these things even in the relatively short time that I'm in this House. You know, when I recall the Member for St. Johns making those stringent speeches about how evil, how bad, how he never would introduce a sales tax in this province, you know, and he as Minister of Finance, he stood up and voted against this imposition of a sales tax in this House, and he as the Minister of Finance who now is the recipient of the \$95 million that that sales tax brings in, is he making any move, is he making any move to rescind it? None at all. What he is doing, of course, is using the money as any responsible government would use the money, to bring about a greater degree of social services to the people from whom the money is taken, from whom the money is taken.

But, Mr. Speaker, some consistency from the members opposite at least, some consistencies from the members opposite. Let it be known, Mr. Speaker, that it is--and it is the fact that it was a Progressive-Conservative administration that passed the necessary taxation measures, like the sales tax, like the sales tax and for which we were roundly condemned, and my then Premier was forever and finally thrown out of political office, undeservedly I might say, in a federal election, but simply because, because he made the unfortunate statement that the sales tax was dead as a dodo at one time in his political life, he was then compelled to bring in the sales tax and he was bitterly opposed by the whole New Democratic Party, every member of the New Democratic Party voted against it, every member voted against it. But, Mr. Speaker, oh now they enjoy the fruits and the benefits that that sales tax brings them. -- (Interjection)-- They do surely love how the manna falls from high. In our time it was only 50 or 55 million dollars. In three, four years it's become 95 to 100 million dollars. But there's no suggestion--one would have thought, Mr. Speaker, that if they even would have, if they would have even considered their statements that they made while they were in this House, they would now be introducing a measure to bring back the sales tax to perhaps 3 percent, maybe 3 percent or something like that. I mean, Mr. Speaker, they should at least be satisfied with just the greedy, grubby amount that the Conservatives were taking from the people of Manitoba, like 50 or 55 million dollars. But you want to double the amount. Well you've got it.

And, Mr. Speaker, there comes a time when the people of Manitoba have to be told, have to be told. For goodness' sakes, let's not be surprised that bills like this, that we are now being presented with, are in front of us. If that kind of money is being extracted from the people of Manitoba, then surely, then surely we are entitled to some of these kind of benefits. All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that I recognize in this bill what I don't recognize in so many of their other bills, that in this particular bill there is the kind of fiscal and financial responsibility built into it. Sure, you may call it and I call it a deterrent fee. Now a deterrent fee is not a kind word to members opposite. Not a kind word. --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the Minister, for the benefit of the Minister of Health and Social Development, to

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) whom it has not penetrated yet, our initial proposals, our initial proposals were for no premiums in the health care and the medicare premiums. In other words, we. . . --(Interjection)-- No, no, no, Mr. Speaker. --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we negotiated hard and seriously with the Federal Government of Ottawa to introduce a no-premium medicare scheme into Manitoba, and the records that you are in possession of will confirm that and will underline that. Will underline that.

Well, Mr. Speaker, then let me put it on to the official record, that that is the fact; that is the fact. And that it was possible and is still possible today. And indeed, Mr. Speaker, I want to be a clairvoyant for just a brief moment and indicate to you, indicate to you and none other knows better than the Minister of Finance when he sees his federal colleagues pulling out of the Medicare scheme and of the social refunded schemes, and they're putting the full 100 percent responsibility on the provinces. I want to suggest, to you, Mr. Speaker, that this is the direction that we will be heading into with respect to the funding of our social programs.

It is not a program, and it's not a direction that I necessarily find objectionable. I think it has a great deal of merit. It will provide the fundamental aims and goals of the program and seeing that our people receive proper medical services, proper social services, and yet at the same time, at the same time, impose some responsibility on the individual citizen not to abuse the plan needlessly. And surely, Mr. Speaker, that is not a reactionary position, that is not a Conservative position nor is it a Socialist position, it's a position of common sense, of realism, and anybody that is charged with the responsibility of raising the necessary taxes to provide these programs will sooner or later come to that position that that attack in that way is necessary. And I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that this government and that this Minister in the introduction of the Pharmacare Program has come to that point in life, has recognized, you know, that this is probably the correct way and that they have accepted, you know, what I would like to declare as a Walter Weir Conservative type of approach to a health . . . scheme.

--(Interjections)-- Well, it brings forth howls of indignation, it brings forth howls of indignation and woe, because they just can't conceive of the former Premier as having had that kind of vision for the future. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, really Mr. Speaker, I'll ignore those people for a little moment on that side, but did you really think a little while ago that your erstwhile colleagues would bring in a health or a social program with a \$50.00 deterrent? You know, after, you know, particularly after the stunning impact of the letter of the Premier from the Premier's office where he was removing that onerous burden of \$8.00 Medicare or Social Health Services premium, he was removing that as a major impact of his Budget, now this government a few days later, a week later, is introducing legislation calling for a \$50.00 deterrent. --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, I know that you can't acknowledge even by the slightest nodding of your head, as to the correctness and propriety of my position. But I know deep down in your heart, behind the medals, that's how you feel about it.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter stands as listed in the bill. We have a laudable program providing a degree of help to our senior citizens with respect to Pharmacare. Written into that bill, written into that bill is the \$50.00 deductible clause. --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, you know, one of the really helpful things that a member has when he stands on his feet often and long enough, is the help that he gets from members opposite. This afternoon I received some real help from my colleague the Member from Arthur. Right now I received a little bit of help from my friend the House Leader, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. And he taught me, of course, the word that is so important in that other half of the world. I won't refer to it by name. But semantics is so important in that other half, and the difference between deductible and deterrent has now all of a sudden been made clear to me. See where I've been making a mistake all along is I've been referring to something as being a deterrent and the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources has said to me, no it's not deterrents, it's deductible. Mr. Speaker, I settle with that word. If deductible is more acceptable than deterrent, then surely it should be deductible.

But, Mr. Speaker, and I will bring forward the working papers, I will table them in this House and I'll--because there seems to be some suggestion by members opposite that the subject matter that I speak of is not taken in all that seriousness, that it was--and I want to assure you--the most serious position put forward by the then Provincial Government of Manitoba.

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) --(Interjection)-- by the then Provincial Government of Manitoba, of which there are records abounding throughout the files of the civil service and otherwise, that it was precisely this same approach that the then administration took hopefully to the --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, again I received that help. You see, just a minute ago I received help from the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources who corrected me when I used the word "deterrent" because I was applying it to the Pharmacare program, not introduced by the NDP Party. The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources says how wrong I am — it's the word "deductible" that I should use. And now a little while later I slipped into a program that the Conservative Party was going to introduce and I talked about a \$50 deductible and the Minister of Finance says, "deterrent". So, you see, that's the difference. That's of course the finesse of the word "semantics". You know, it's deterrent, it's deterrent when a Conservative Government does it, it's deductible when a socialist government does it, and that's the fine language that members opposite use. A bunch of garbage, Mr. Speaker, --(Interjection)-- A bunch of garbage, Mr. Speaker, and I'm surprised that they should try to exercise it. I'm surprised that they should try to exercise it.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we approve of this Pharmacare program because we see it of considerable benefit to the senior citizens of our province. We also applaud and we approve of the deductible or deterrent, whichever way you want it, feature that is built into this particular program. And we suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the government will and future governments will, whether they like to or not, have to look at many of their programs in a similar light. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member who just spoke said that he wants the people of Manitoba to know, and he spoke in a tone which would make it unnecessary for electronic equipment or the press or anybody else to tell the people. He spoke at that tone which is his tone for--oh I suppose he's had training in singing, he must have had training in singing that gives him that kind of projection. And, Mr. Speaker, he has really had training in acting. He is one of the consummate actors in this House, and with his acting ability he is able to say contradictory things throughout his speech, each seeming to be equally important with that which is contradicted. Of course, I do confess to honourable members in his backbench that I consider the Member for Lakeside one of the more irresponsible members of the Legislature who is prepared to distort --(Interjection)-- ever since my wedding, ever since he talked about my wedding, Mr. Speaker, is when I first realized how irresponsible he was prepared to be in public, how prepared he was to make false statements and leave the false statement and the imputation lie without correcting it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ENNS: On a point of privilege . . .

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

MR. ENNS: On a point of privilege. Maybe I haven't had the opportunity to make this point of privilege but I want to assure the honourable member that No. 1, firstly, within two weeks of having made that statement I had the opportunity to personally apologize to the person most affected, namely the Best Man in The Pas, Mr. Stothert, first aid in front of his wife and himself with whom, who was dining in the same premises that I was dining, and latterly in the House I made that full retraction and apology to the Minister himself who was secondarily affected.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I really don't care to go too much into the drawbacks of the Honourable Member for Lakeside personally, but rather what he said. Because what he said is more important than what he is, really, Mr. Speaker, to the people of Manitoba and I suppose to members of this House.

Mr. Speaker, he spoke about the Premier's letter which seems to have upset his leader very much too. I heard them talk in terms of \$60,000-\$70,000. I've seen a report which indicates that the cost of the letter which went out was something under \$40,000, some 30-odd thousand dollars. But dollars don't mean that much to honourable members opposite. I'm sure they won't retract the statement of their 60 or 70 or 80,000 and correct it to the new amount. I did notice that the Leader of the Opposition --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: I would ask the Honourable Minister of Finance who knows better than I do,

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) what does the cost of stamps alone cost to the mailing of 600,000 Manitobans?

MR. SPEAKER: That was not a matter of privilege.

MR. CHERNIACK: I'm informed that the Leader of the Opposition and apparently his deputy seem to think there were 600,000 letters went out when indeed considerably lesser number when out. And their arithmetic may be good but it doesn't apply to the correct figures, Mr. Speaker.

But the important thing, Mr. Speaker, is that the Leader of the Opposition is reported to have said, "Why that letter should have gone over the signature of the Minister of Health or of Manitoba Health Services," Not, therefore, that he was criticizing that the letter went out and it would cost the same whether the Minister of Health or the Premier. So this bandying of moneys and saying that the letter could have gone, or should have gone from another office doesn't in itself attack the fact that money was spent.

The fact that the Premier of the Province who announced the program in the Budget is the one who sent the letter is perfectly in accordance with the fact that he is the Leader of the Government and he did make the statement in the Budget and he backed it up with this letter. But they will make all the political hay they like and the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party is practicing in this House for what he wants to say outside only here he can't get away with quite as much as he could outside where he happens to be reported and where he does not happen to be available to be called to task when he makes wild statements. That's the wrong word. I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I said "wild" I didn't mean it. I meant outlandish statements because now I'm quoting him. He admitted that he was making outlandish statements during his presentation today, and of course they were outlandish. He recognized them to be outlandish but when he was out on the hustings somewhere they will be outlandish but he won't admit that they were, because that's his style of delivery, being the actor that he is.

Mr. Speaker, for example, he spoke about our party on that side attacking the sales tax. And you know either he didn't listen, or he didn't understand, or he didn't remember, or he's prepared to deliberately distort the position we took. So let me remind him. That we took the position that to impose a new kind of major taxation, sales taxes at a time when the Carter Report was imminent, imminent, we said was wrong. We said that all of Canada was about to receive a report to review its entire taxation policy and knowing that it was coming we said this is--you will--(Interjection)-- The Member for Lakeside should learn to keep his mouth shut as long as he's sitting on his thinking apparatus. Mr. Speaker, we took the position--the Member for Sturgeon Creek is not much better than the Member for Lakeside . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. CHERNIACK: . . . although, Mr. Speaker, he's a little better, maybe because he's a little more distant. Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. CHERNIACK: . . . Mr. Speaker, the question of sales taxation which is now one of the important revenue sources of this province was clearly spelled out by us as being a form of taxation which was a proportional form, that it was not a regressive form, that it was not a progressive form and we said that until we had the Carter Commission report and the debate we should not be instituting a new form. And what interests me, Mr. Speaker, is my recollection that in the Budget Speech that I made at that time in opposition I said if we need extra money for education we should borrow \$25 million at the capital market to finance the education for a few years to come until we got over the discussion on taxation, and that that was justified because education is an investment in the future and therefore we were justified as a temporary measure to borrow the money rather than bring in new forms of taxation, and of course we said wait before you bring in sales tax. We never attacked it as a tax, we attacked the timing.

The interesting thing is that the Leader of the Opposition has proposed in this House and out on the platforms that we ought to--this is a year or two ago--we ought to borrow \$25 million to increase the old age pensions. He said let us give pensioners across-the-board increase and borrow 25 million on the capital market to do it. That's what he said. We at least justified borrowing for education as an investment in the future, upgrading of educational standards and even practically on the basis that income tax returns alone from higher educated people would be a pay back of investments. But the Leader of the Conservative Party a year or two ago had the idea that we should borrow on the capital market in order to pay current increases

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) to the pensioners, because he expressed great concern for pensioners. These pensioners who we're paying \$104.00 or \$208.00 for a family for Medicare; this great program, this Walter Weir program where Walter Weir fought his best apparently with the support of his Cabinet to see to it that there be no deterrent fees. Is that the word? Or premiums? --(Interjection)-- No premiums. That's what the Member for Lakeside said. He fought that there be no premiums — all he had. But somehow in this House when the Minister of Health I believe was sitting at the seat right to my left where it became clear that the government was forced into the whole Medicare program as we often said dragging their heels. The truth is they were forced. If it were not for the fact that they knew that Manitobans would be paying for the national average cost of Medicare in all those provinces that accepted it, this government, this Conservative Government would never have brought in Medicare. They made it clear and Walter Weir made it clear. We were forced to do it because Manitobans would have to pay; and indeed they would have had to pay for Medicare in all the other provinces. So let's not be misled by this speech of the Member for Lakeside who of course did make outlandish statements during the speech, according to his own reporting, and therefore it's difficult to sort out the outlandish from the realistic. He can be realistic but he gets carried away as he did today.

Mr. Speaker, he got involved in what he calls semantics, and semantics of course involves a study of the true meaning of words. And then he started playing with the words "deterrent" and "deductible" and to him they mean the same, and maybe they do, maybe they do. So maybe we ought to tell him something about the difference. A "deductible" fee is a minimum fee that has to be paid by a person before the other fee comes in, and in this case at a time when this government this year removed the Medicare premium completely from pensioners and from all people in Manitoba, three to four years after we had removed half of it — not just Medicare but hospital as well — from all the people in Manitoba, recognize that we don't want people to stay out of hospitals or to avoid going to doctors because they are unable to pay anything. A "deterrent" fee is used to deter someone from taking advantage of a service. And therefore if you say to a person, go to a doctor and we'll pay all the costs after you pay \$1.00 or \$2.00, the suggestion to that person is don't pay the \$2.00 because you are poor, you can't afford it. Of course the wealthy man he can afford it so he can pay the two bucks. That's a deterrent fee to deter him from going to the doctor or going to hospital. That's a deterrent. Now the lesson in semantics says that a deduction, a deduction recognizes that a certain cost to an average or a low income person is an acceptable one that he can handle. And therefore we say in this program and in this bill, and the Member for Lakeside still wants to make a speech although he's already made it and he is now going through . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. CHERNIACK: . . . he's now going through the act which — and I do recognize he's one of the better actors in this Legislature — he's now going through the act of claiming that he doesn't know the difference so I'll carry on. And I'm sure he understands. I'm sure he knew the difference before he even made it appear as if there were no difference. And what I'm saying to him is really not for his benefit because he knows the difference, but I'm saying it for the benefit of others who may not know.

The deductible fee is a recognition that a person in his budgeting can handle a certain amount of burden, and in this case it is assumed that a person who is a pensioner who has been paying Medicare premiums, who has been relieved of paying Medicare premiums, can handle in his normal budget the requirements of his pharmaceutical needs in a year of up to \$50.00. After that amount it becomes a burden. And don't we all know that? Don't we all know people who have to take drugs regularly, insulin, so many other kinds of drugs in a regular way at a very high cost. And those are the people that really are to be covered under this program. This is not a universal program, that's obvious. But it is clearly stated that we assume that they can handle \$50.00 a year, we also assume they cannot.

The Minister of Mines said, while he was seated there, that the big difference --(Interjection)-- Well universal for that age group. But there is a difference between deterrent and deductible and the mere difference is shown in this very program which contains both a deductible and a deterrent. --(Interjection)-- I thank the Minister of Mines for reminding me of it and now I think anybody should be able to understand the difference. And as I say, the Member for Lakeside I believe always understood the difference. The deductible portion of \$50.00 a

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) year is an amount which it is assumed a person can handle in his budget and everything over that will cover every person over the age of 65 regardless of his ability to pay. So it's universal for that age group. But there is a deterrent involved, and that is that the government proposes to pay 80 percent of the expenditure in excess of \$50.00. That 20 percent is a deterrent. For that 20 percent cost the patient will know that he's got to pay a fifth, of every buck over \$50.00 he's got to pay 20 cents, he knows the government will pay 80. So there is a deterrent factor in it and that's vastly different from the deductible which is assumed that he can handle himself.

We talked about auto insurance; we talked about whether there should be a deductible of 25 or 50 or 100 in automobile coverage. Members opposite understood. They knew that if they were in an accident and had a \$50.00 deductible they would pay the first 50 and the insurance the rest, because they felt they could assume the first 50 but they wanted insurance for the rest. That's what deductible is. So any effort to try to make deductible and deterrent a play of semantics is something where the Member for Lakeside does not give credit to the intelligence of others. And I give full credit to his intelligence, Mr. Speaker. I give him full credit for understanding the import of everything he says, and that's why I called him irresponsible because I believe that there are times where knowingly and deliberately he will say certain things which he called today outlandish statements in order to get effect and I felt that it was only — well I felt that I wanted to have the opportunity to at least say in words what I believe he knew all along, to say clearly what our position was on sales tax, to say what we felt about the Premier's letter. But all these red herrings — because in the end, Mr. Speaker, from the moment he rose till the moment he sat down he had every intention of supporting this bill. He had every intention of seeing to it that this bill went through, all the time. But he used the opportunity to carry himself away as I say in his dramatic vein, and I do give him credit for his acting ability, in order to be able to confuse the issue somewhat.

Mr. Speaker, this is clearly a step in a direction, and I don't know if the Minister of Health said it, but let there be no mistake about it, that with this experience this government will be able to learn a great deal more about costs, about the ability to control the cost of drugs, about the ability to — well to get the experience of how to handle this kind of program. Because, Mr. Speaker, this program is one of the programs that our Party has supported for many years. But we are careful in what we do and we are not prepared to say we're going for the whole program because it's right, but we are getting our tippytoes wet in the water to see just what we're going to learn from this experience. Hopefully, hopefully we will learn sufficient that we will be able to come back with extended programs along this line; hopefully we will be able once we have the experience which is vital to be able to remove that deterrent, which I remind members opposite is the 20 percent, and if necessary, and if the experience shows the advisability of it possibly we can move to remove the deductible as well recognizing that there are two such features; all this is a matter of experience. We know we can handle the program that we are presenting today. Having acquired the information, having made a real effort let me say, Mr. Speaker, it is vital for this kind of a program that we have a much better handle on the costs of drugs because the cost of drugs, not at the retail level but at the manufacturing level, is one which is high, produces high profits and produces a stimulus somehow to become involved in very expensive drug use.

So, Mr. Speaker, along with the Member for Lakeside I support the bill. Along with him I urge other members to support the bill, see that it gets through speedily, see to it that we derive the benefits that we look forward to seeing. I'm sorry I can't go along with him with some of the other things he said but I think that — part of the game he plays and that I have been playing with him is to get involved in these kind of outlandish remarks.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside have a question?

MR. ENNS: Would the honourable member permit a question?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Would the honourable member in accepting the fact that this Pharmacare becomes a universal program after \$50.00 I believe, after . . . between . . . to \$50.00 in these cases, limitations, it then becomes universal, would he then not also so describe a Medicare program that had a similar \$50.00 deductible or deterrent, that it indeed would be universal after \$50.00.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

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MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, in response to the honourable member. A premium is a deductible in a way. A premium such as was imposed by the Conservatives is a first cost charge. The only difference of course is that some people have to pay the premium without making use of the doctors at all. So it becomes a tax because it is compulsory that they pay it whether they use it or not. A deductible is only charged when they find it necessary. If a person who is over 65 — and this is a direct answer to the question — every person over 65 will be able to collect from the program 80 percent of the costs that he incurs over \$50.00. He doesn't have to pay \$50.00, he only has to pay up to \$50.00 only to the amount he uses. And that's a deductible. If he uses more than \$50.00 worth in a year then he pays 20 percent of that excess which is a deterrent in effect; it means that the more he spends the more he pays out of his own pocket proportionately. Now I think that should answer the honourable member. I do say that it's universal because it's not related to ability-to-pay. The only other factor of course is that those who pay more taxes on the ability-to-pay, taxes that we have as our base for our revenue, will of course be paying more money. And they I believe will be satisfied to do so because the program is right.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lakes.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments on this bill having listened to my colleague from Lakeside and now the Minister of Finance, and the introduction that the Minister of Health and Social Development gave on this bill. He is making legislation that covers the entire population of senior citizens 65 years of age and over. When he was describing this bill I was wondering, Mr. Speaker, for those who now have a Medicare card, and a Medicare card, Mr. Speaker, is something that the government I was a part of for almost four years was brought in to those senior citizens who couldn't afford to pay their medical bills, their dental bills, their optometry bills, etc. I think there were at one time around 30,000 citizens, senior citizens in the Province of Manitoba, that held a Medicare card, and as the Minister introduces this measure does this mean that those people holding a Medicare card, after July 1st they will be nil and void, or will then continue to hold those Medicare cards? This is the matter that I was concerned about because when the Minister of Finance stands up and says, well, we're speaking in one tone of voice as to the words that are being used here, deductible and deterrent, and he talks about the cost of drugs that we've got to look into the cost and probably take some controlling measures, and the controls he's talking about in many other fields, I'm wondering when we're going to start talking about controlling the fees that lawyers are charging in this province, I think the Minister of Finance could have well mentioned, even if it is his own profession, because they're getting into so many other fields.

And who are they, Mr. Speaker? Are they such righteous people that they know what is best for the people of this province? I am one, Mr. Speaker, who believes in assisting those senior citizens who are unable to afford to pay for the bills to maintain their health in all respects. But the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker, is bringing in the kind of legislation that makes it so binding that there's no way we can afford to vote against it, because we could be voting--if we did vote against it, voting against assisting some senior citizens who are rightfully and should be getting assistance. This is the problem as I see it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The hour is 9:00 o'clock. I realize that the motion has been passed but the House Leader said it would start tomorrow or does he have consent to go on tonight? I'm not aware.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I think I would leave it to the will of the members. I thought that what we were talking about starting tomorrow would be the sittings, but if there is a disposition on any member to have a private members' hour tonight then we will not object.

--(Interjection)-- The Honourable Member for Assiniboia is talking about some bills, some private members' bills. The bills are second on the list. We would have to go through all the resolutions so we wouldn't get to the bills in any event. Now if there is a disposition, if somebody says they want a private members' hour--they do? Then I would be willing to say okay.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, in an effort to be helpful to the Honourable the House Leader, why not do it the traditional way and go down the Order Paper? Call the items as they are called and if there is an--if indeed there is a willingness then we . . .

MR. GREEN: That is agreeable to me and it will be taken for granted that we will close

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) at 10:00 o'clock. We won't go beyond the hour of 10:00 tonight.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake spoke for four minutes. He will be speaking again on this bill and he will have the remainder of the time but I am informed now that I should go down the Order Paper for Private Members' Hour.

MR. GREEN: I think what the honourable member is saying, that I should keep calling things in the order that we want to call them and if we get to the other material we'll get there.

MR. SPEAKER: Well I think someone is confused and it possibly is the Chair. The Order Paper says Private Members' Hour.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. I recognize the difficulty of my socialist friend the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources to recognize a traditional approach to this Legislature. The traditional approach is that you say it is now Private Members' Hour and you now read the Orders on the Order Paper that are listed for the Private Members' Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Number 12.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I misunderstood my honourable friend. Then we go to Resolution No. 12, yes.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

MR. SPEAKER: No. 12. The Honourable Member for Osborne is absent. 13. The Honourable Member for Riel. Absent.

No. 17. The Honourable Minister of Mines or the Honourable Minister of Finance has seven minutes on No. 17.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, we have to deal with Resolution No. 13. We have to deal with Resolution No. 13. The Member for Riel is not here but we have to deal with the resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER put the question on the motion as amended.

MR. ASPER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Are we voting on the amendment?

MR. SPEAKER: On the amendment. That's right.

MOTION as amended carried.

MR. SPEAKER: No. 17. The Honourable Minister of Finance has seven minutes left.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, at the time I was involved in discussing this some time ago, we were dealing with issues that were current at the time. I do not feel at this stage that there is any advantage for me to go back to what we said then in order to continue and I'm prepared to let this matter go to a vote.

MOTION on amendment to Resolution 17 presented and carried.

MOTION as amended (Resolution 17) presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: No. 14. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: On a point of order. On the previous motion we just voted on the amendment, not on the resolution as amended.

MR. SPEAKER: I took two votes, therefore there was an amendment which carried. The second vote was the motion as amended and that also carried. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Yes, Sir, on a point of order. We just had one vote, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: No. 14 — the question is open. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak on this.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I think that this motion has been fairly well canvassed both in private members' hour and with regard to, with regard to various other debates that we've had in the House because the Member for Wolseley, the Leader of the Liberal Party, introduced this concept in various ways which got some public attention, although I don't think it received nearly the kind of support that the Member for Wolseley was hoping for. But I really believe, Mr. Speaker, that there are two interpretations that I could put on this particular resolution. One would be a charitable one and that would be that the Member for—the Leader of the Liberal Party just is not aware of the fact of how legislation works and what availabilities there are to debate various questions that come before the House, and in doing that I make this presentation because I think it would be inconceivable to the public of Manitoba

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) to be told that one could proceed, for instance, with a hydro development project involving the expenditure of \$2 billion and that there would be no opportunity for the public representatives of the Legislature to either debate the question or to prevent the program from going ahead, which is what is implied in his resolution and I think is what he said in various remarks that he made with respect to the program or any other, Mr. Speaker, expenditure of public moneys which I think the honourable member referred to from time to time.

I think that the citizens of Manitoba would be shocked and would be bewildered to hear that these things can occur without public debate. And therefore, Mr. Speaker, the charitable interpretation that I place on my honourable friend's motion is that he is just--or when he put it or still at the present time that he was just not aware of the opportunities and as a matter of fact the necessity of public debate and the approval of the Legislature for almost everything that he spoke about. And if the honourable member was unaware at the time that he put this resolution, perhaps having sat through the legislative session he would now be aware that the horrendous suggestion that he was making is just not possible, that first of all if the honourable member felt that the government or agencies to whom the government--which are responsible to the government, were proceeding without the legislative debate or without legislative approval, then, Mr. Speaker, his first opportunity to debate that question is of course during the Throne Speech Debate when he says, and he did say it, that there is a want of confidence in the administration. And if he can convince through debate all of the honourable members that there is indeed a want of confidence in the administration, then the administration can't continue and no moreys could be spent, and therefore the confidence in the administration is one of the ways in which debate takes place on the expenditure of moneys that he is referring to.

But, Mr. Speaker, if he doesn't have his opportunity or if he used that opportunity and was not successful in the first instance, of course, during the Throne Speech debate he has an equal opportunity of both debating those questions, debating the expenditure of money, and again saying that the treasury benches do not have the confidence of the Legislature and should not be permitted to spend that money. And those, of course, are the two main legislative debates which take place in the House. But if we ignored those two, Mr. Speaker, there are opportunities for debating these questions and they have been debated on the Estimates, they have been debated in the Committee of Supply with regard to Capital Estimates, and it shouldn't surprise the honourable member to know that every penny that Hydro has spent up until this time was thoroughly debated in the Legislature between 1966 and 1972. Of course the honourable member wasn't here and doesn't know that that occurred or at least is not aware that that occurred.

But, Mr. Speaker, that's the charitable position that I would put on this resolution to my honourable friend. But I don't think that I should be that charitable. I think that my honourable friend is not quite as ignorant as it would appear by the resolution that he makes himself out to be, that he knows very well that the debate that he is talking about is available under our system of parliamentary democracy, and that he was doing what he was doing, not for the purpose of gaining debate but for what he thought happened to be a good issue. And, you know, I really think he recognized that it wasn't the kind of issue that he thought it was and that he would sooner people forgot that this resolution was brought up, and that his real position, Mr. Speaker, if I say that the other position is a charitable position, that the next position that I'm going to put is not so charitable.

. Continued on next page.

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(MR. GREEN cont'd)

I believe that the honourable member is thoroughly insincere in the presentation that he makes, that if by chance a miracle, or from my own subjective point of view a disaster took place and the honourable member became one of the members of the government benches in the Province of Manitoba, that he would not govern that way. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, he would not be able to govern that way because I would assume that he would come to power by virtue of having told the people of Manitoba that his government when it came into power was going to do certain things. And one of the greatest frauds that he could perpetrate on the people of Manitoba is to have gone to them on the basis of doing things, become the government and then abdicated that responsibility by saying that he wouldn't do these things but he would hold public hearings to see whether or not they should be done. Except, Mr. Speaker, if we went through the further political cynicism of imagining that the honourable member would want to go ahead and do these things, would have it in his mind to do them, but would hold these public hearings as a facade to give people the impression that he was trying to find out what he should do. And I suppose one could make that interpretation of political cynicism. But, Mr. Speaker, it wouldn't be enough to merely make these observations on the basis of my own intuition and speculation and I should have much greater proof for the charges that I am making. And, Mr. Speaker, I think I have that proof and I'm going to put it to the honourable members in two forms.

When the honourable member referred to public hearings with regard to South Indian Lake, the Stop, Look and Listen Program, I'm sure that at the time that he did it, and that the people he spoke to, that he gave them to understand that there would be some sort of independent inquiry commission that would hold the hearings and would report to the government on the basis of their objective assessment of the situation. I think that that's what he was giving people to understand. Now, Mr. Speaker, somebody got to the honourable member and told him that this is an impossible situation, that the government would not be able to operate its program and it would not be able to assess its hydro development plan if it had to do that type of thing. And therefore, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member slipped by, almost unnoticed, a remark made in this House approximately two months ago, and I'm going to paraphrase it, and if my honourable friend wants me to prove it I will definitely get the Hansard from which it occurred, where he was talking about public hearings and he said, "Of course, these hearings should normally occur in the Public Utilities Committee, but because the Member for Osborne and the Member for Crescentwood have been taken off that committee, it would appear that that committee is no longer an objective committee, there is nobody going to listen on that committee, and we have to put it in some other committee." That's what the honourable member said and I'm paraphrasing him. So let the world know, Mr. Speaker, that when the Member, the Leader of the Liberal Party, talks about public hearings, he is not talking about some objective independent non-governmental board, he is talking about the Public Utility Committee which would have on it the majority of government members and would make the decision as a decision of responsible government, not a decision which was taken out of the hands of the elected representatives.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that first of all, the insincerity of his position is demonstrated by that remark because that remark he made, he made in this House and --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, he said put it in its context. The context of the remark, Mr. Speaker, was that he said we should be holding public hearings, that normally these public hearings should be held at Public Utilities Committee, but seeing that the Member for Osborne, and I'm quoting from memory, and the Member for Crescentwood --(Interjection)-- well we will be able to compare my remarks with Hansard -- are no longer on the committee, it would be useless to go to that committee and we have to go somewhere else. But if presumably he was in government and we went back to the statement on public meetings, the Member for Wolseley would pull out Hansard and say, yes, I said public hearings, but I said clearly here that the correct place to hold those meetings is the Public Utilities Committee on which I have a majority of members, and that this decision will be made by responsible government, which is exactly what the New Democrats said when they were in power. Now that is the context in which the member made his statement but he doesn't think that that is proof sufficient. So Mr. Speaker, I'm going to introduce more proof. And Mr. Speaker, I would say that on this issue I would be able to satisfy every member in the House, including the three Liberals, with the exception of the Honourable Member for Wolseley.

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(MR. GREEN cont'd)

Mr. Speaker, there was a Red River Valley Water Commission that made a submission to the Manitoba Water Commission with regard to the Pembilier Dam. The Pembilier Dam is a program that has been studied from 1962 to 1969; that every study on the subject, Mr. Speaker, showed negative cost benefit returns; that the Manitoba Government went, in 1969 the previous administration went to Ottawa, asked the Federal Government to go ahead with the Pembilier Dam; the Federal Government at Ottawa said with these cost benefit studies it is not viable to proceed with that project. But there was a bit of an uproar; the Member for Rhineland spoke on it, the Member for Pembina spoke up on it and the Commission made a presentation and there appeared to be some activity against the government on the Pembilier Dam. And there's nothing which the Leader of the Liberal Party sees as more of an issue, is any outcry any complaint, Mr. Speaker, against what the government is doing. If there is a line of people marching in the streets against the government, on whatever issue, I am sure that the honourable member would not even look at their placards, he would walk out in front of that line and say, "I am the leader. I am furthering your cause." Because that's what he did, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the Pembina Dam project. If he is properly quoted in the paper, and this was a release which is indicated was submitted by the Liberal organization, the Leader of the Liberal Party said the following things: "This project has been studied to death. What we need now is action not studies." Mr. Speaker, this is in the middle of the Water Commission holding public hearings to determine whether the cost benefit studies can be altered from previous studies which showed that it wasn't a viable project. But the Leader of the Liberal Party, seeing that there was some activity with regard to the Pembilier project, said that this matter has been studied to death. That what we need now is action, not studies, and that he would proceed with the Pembilier Dam project immediately, or that the Pembilier Dam project should be proceeded with immediately. Without hearings.

Mr. Speaker, now we've got a 46 - Mr. Speaker, --(Interjections)-- Oh, he says we had hearings. But the hearings said that you shouldn't proceed with it. Mr. Speaker, the hearings showed cost benefit studies which said that you shouldn't proceed with it. Now he would proceed with it Mr. Speaker, even though the hearings showed net cost benefits, even though the studies that we have showed net cost benefits, even though the Federal Government with - 68 - still a Liberal Party government, even they refused despite the delegation from the Province of Manitoba. Going down--a Conservative delegation I admit but a delegation of the government nevertheless--going down to Ottawa with various people presenting the position and the Federal Government saying no, he says that this matter has been studied to death that what we need now is action. No hearings. In the middle of hearings he has said that. The Water Commission is now studying the problem. They are now in a much more logical situation, because don't forget we have never said that we are going to hold hearings to find out whether we want to go ahead with the project or don't want to go ahead with the project. And by the way, Mr. Speaker, that project will involve ecological change, Mr. Speaker, it will involve ecological change, Mr. Speaker, it will involve ecological change. The honourable member says, not damage. Well I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that there are some people who would say that any ecological change is damage; that anything that disturbs, you know, if there's going to be a goose that can't live on the Churchill River because of the change in the ecology the honourable member calls that damage. Well I assure you that there are going to be some ants that can't live on the Pembilier Dam; that wouldn't be a problem to me, that's not the reason why we're not going ahead. But I am really dealing with the sincerity of that man's position, because in the middle of this stop, look and listen campaign, he goes out there, or if he doesn't go out there he makes a statement which is designed to arouse the people there in that area to show that he is their leader. By the way, they wrote me a letter and I'm going to paraphrase their letter, I think they gave it to the newspapers so I'm not revealing any secrets. They said that all kinds of politicians are now jumping on the bandwagon. So I think that the honourable member should be aware that that is their feeling about that kind of political character that the honourable member assumes. That they said that all kinds of politicians are now jumping on the bandwagon and that was kind of - I don't remember their exact words but they conveyed to me that that was an embarrassment, that they said they weren't looking for that kind of assistance from the Honourable Member for Wolseley and that they were asking the government to do something. But his words were, "this matter has been studied to death, what we want is action."

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(MR. GREEN cont'd)

Mr. Speaker, the Churchill River Program has been studied, not to death because I think that there will continue to be even after the existing Federal/Provincial study, that the Federal/Provincial study will tell us that there were some things that you still don't know which you should continue to study, so that the studies will probably not die for a very very long time. The Churchill River Diversion Program has been studied, that the studies do not show net deficiencies or cost benefits of a negative variety. They show cost benefits of a positive variety. And in spite of the fact that in one case we have studies which have cost many many millions of dollars and which show the viability of the project, because it suits my honourable friend's particular position at the time, he says, oh on this thing we have to have hearings, we have to stop, look and listen and that if I am the government we will not proceed unless it's absolutely necessary and then the proper place for hearings to be held is in the Public Utilities Committee where I have a majority of members, presuming that he could get a majority of members in the House which I doubt very much.

But in the other case, Mr. Speaker, this matter has been studied to death and we want action. In the middle of a Water Commission hearing to determine what the Water Commission should do. Now, Mr. Speaker, who is the man who predetermines or pushes a commission around? I am criticized by the honourable member because I refuse to enter into a collusive arrangement with the chairman of the Water Commission, to conduct one form of hearing while saying it is another form of hearing, not one word of criticism ever from Cass-Booy or Newbury that I told them what to say or I was requesting their help or I was requesting their assistance or I was somehow influencing their judgment. The honourable member accuses me of having suppressed these people, but what he would do is say to the Water Commission that is now studying this question, "we don't care what you say, we want action." Well Mr. Speaker, of course the answer and the conclusive answer to my argument is that the honourable member wouldn't say that, in the unlikely event that he was able to form a government, he wouldn't say it anyway; and of course in the more likely event that he either doesn't increase his strength or stays where he is or reduces his strength, he's not in a position to say it. And I think that the people of Manitoba are fortunate for that.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I'm rising to close debate, but if my honourable friend . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The motion has been amended therefore the honourable member would not be closing debate.

MR. ASPER: Very well, Mr. Speaker, I'll touch briefly on the subject matter.

Mr. Speaker, I want to respond partly to the circus performance we've just had from the Honourable Mines Minister. We're getting a little tired of having resolutions that are of moment, resolutions which are of serious intent treated as though we were in sort of a Barnum & Bailey environment and the Mines Minister perpetually denegrating the sincerity, attacking the integrity, smearing the motives of anybody who dares to propose a new, a more relevant form of open government.

Mr. Speaker the gang across the way seems to be in a mood of uprising. I wonder, Sir, if you can invoke some order so that I can make my few remarks in the time I have.

Mr. Speaker, the bulk of the Mines Minister's comments dealt with legislative debate, and he took pains to show where there are opportunities for legislative debate; and with his characteristic sarcasm, treated the sponsors of this resolution as though they were children incapable of understanding even the most elementary form of legislative democracy. Mr. Speaker, not a word was said about the right of the public to make its own submissions, and I thought that was quite characteristic of the Mines Minister because his whole style, aside from the scare and the terror and the green herring is to take a syllable, turn it into a monument and then manfully destroy it. And I've said this in this Chamber very often and that's why I rarely respond to the ravings that we get from the Mines Minister when he feels defensive. And make no mistake, Sir, he is defensive, because when in 1969 it was his role to sit on this side of the House, he was a very different man, Mr. Speaker. We used to see him in 1969 and we used to hear him in '68, '67, '66, about his pious view of democracy. I can go to those days when I used to encounter the Mines Minister and here, especially in the '69 episode when he appeared it was like he'd obviously prefer to forget. Because it is an area where he was standing in this Chamber, and I don't care how he subdivides his words, the people of Manitoba,

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(MR. ASPER cont'd) the people of his own political party understood him to be in the vanguard of those who said that you do not proceed with massive programs on which you have no mandate from the public. You do not proceed with major changes in environmental conditions, in human rights, in legal rights, in economic terms, in resource terms without the Legislative Assembly being given the benefit of independent advice through hearings. No matter how he covers his tracks, no matter how he proves over and over again that he didn't do it, that is the position the people of Manitoba believe he took, that's the position we who were not in the House in '69 believe he took, and that is the impression in much of his own party, that he took.

And he talks about the leadership issue, the Leader of the Liberal Party doesn't speak for his party. Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the Mines Minister would know about leadership. Having made I believe three unsuccessful attempts to have the leadership of his own party and having three rejections, I'm not sure that he's really capable of speaking about what leadership is all about. And, Mr. Speaker, he may want to psychoanalyze the intent, subdivide it, create a fictional monster and dragon and then slay it, but the issue remains the same. We are talking about the making of major decisions, primarily where there is no mandate from the public, by the party in office, on a matter which arises mainly after an election and perhaps which was not an issue in an election. We are not talking about minor day-to-day affairs. The resolution speaks for itself. It is a statement of principle. The government should be responsive and sensitive and that the public must have access to the process, direct access. Now if my honourable friend doesn't agree with that, as he doesn't; he believes, and I've heard him say, he believes if he was elected and that divine right somehow was bestowed upon him, omniscience, omnipotence, and your sole, your sole remedy if you disagree with him is to throw him out.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member have a point of order?

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do have a point of order. The honourable member has said that he has heard me say that I believe that divine right has been bestowed upon me. I've never said that, I've never said that.

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

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm giving my interpretation of what I have heard the gentleman say, just as he gave his interpretation of what he thinks I said in this House. --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: I gave an interpretation of what I heard my honourable friend say on television, and the honourable friend said that he didn't say it, I immediately retracted and then I got the disposition of what he did say. I did not make the remarks that he has referred to. I ask him to retract the same way as I retracted when I misquoted him inadvertently and was misled by his colleague, a television announcer who attributed remarks to him.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I have not said that the Mines Minister has described himself in the terms omnipotent or omniscient, but if I have said that I certainly withdraw it. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that is the posture that he takes. That is what he has in effect said to this House and said in committee and said on public platforms, that if you don't like the way we do something, you have your option, every four years or four and a half years; you can throw us out. We can flood 100 percent of the province, we can sell bonds at low prices, we can do anything we want. We can wreak whatever havoc we want, to your economy, and your redress is to throw us out.

Well, Mr. Speaker, in my judgment some things--the Honourable Minister is saying that he never said that. I don't say that that's what he said. Of course he wouldn't dare say that, because he would be in serious difficulty with his own party if he would have said, but nevertheless, that is the effect of what he says. Because he refuses access by the public to the process at every turn. If this were some isolated event, the Churchill River Diversion for example, which is not so much a quarrel on good or bad project as it is a quarrel on open government, and let the Mines Minister understand that very carefully, that the position that the Liberal Party has always taken is that the issue is open government. It is exactly what this resolution is all about, that governments come, governments go, the victims or the beneficiaries remain, and they must have input into the major things that government does during the process of governing, particularly where issues were not part of an election mandate, but particularly

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(MR. ASPER cont'd) when it is believed by a very large section of the public of Manitoba in the issue that my honourable friend raises, South Indian Lake and Churchill River diversion, that the position the government now takes is a contravention of the position that is believed to have been taken by them in 1969 and on which they got a mandate. That makes it something else, Mr. Speaker. Words like "betrayal" become more relevant. But, Mr. Speaker, I don't intend to read the record of the New Democratic Party. I intend to deal only with the issue: "Should there be public hearings on major government events?"

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are many forums and I want to make it clear that I never said what my honourable friend suggested I did, that the public hearings on the Churchill River diversion should occur in the Public Utilities Committee and that they should not occur there because of a change in membership. I was responding, if my honourable friend will check Hansard, to a comment made by my honourable friend the Member from Riel suggesting that the hearings be in the Public Utilities Committee, and I said that may in fact be under normal circumstances something we could do but the committee has been changed in composition; it is packed and therefore this will not satisfy as a compromise. But, Mr. Speaker, that was a compromise and I am not prepared to accept that compromise ever again because of what my honourable friend said to me on the way out of here at 5:30 tonight, and it was this: "We are sitting, the Budget finished, Speech from the Throne finished, Estimates finished," and my honourable friend keeps assuring there's plenty of time to debate all kinds of things. No opportunity whatever assured for the public to make a submission to this Legislature, none whatever.

And as we walked out, I asked my honourable friend, "Can we assume that there will be continued public hearings at the Public Utilities hearings or the Economic Committee hearings?" My honourable friend said, "We can make no such assumption." I think that was the essence of what he said. What he was saying, Mr. Speaker, is he got his speed-up motion through the House and even that avenue of the public being able to make submissions has now been, at least if not foreclosed, put within his palm. And we have a motion in Public Utilities Committee calling for the public to come and make submissions, table them. We have no way of having any of the experts who have written, spoken, lectured, taken positions on the CRD project. We have no assurance, in fact we have every indication that that Committee will never meet again, or if it meets will never be structured in a manner to permit the public to make submissions.

Now where is open government? Where is participatory democracy? Where is the right of the public to reach the Legislature? Well, we have the Economics Committee; we have statements telling us that ten Manitoba corporations, I think eight of which were commercial corporations, or seven, all showed losses and that the aggregate loss, in my opinion, Sir, is multi-million. We would like to have submissions made; we would like the public to be able to come to that committee; we would like to have the Institute of Chartered Accountants send representatives down to let us know what they think of the statements; we would like to question members of the management of those corporations. No assurances whatsoever there.

We have an anachronistic and an archaic system operative today, Mr. Speaker. We have no way that the public can make submissions, make its advice, make its expertise known to this House, unless it is the will of the government. There is no right. There is no privilege. There is a licence sometimes granted by the government, but no right. And if my honourable friend thinks that this is what engenders respect, this is what creates a sense of relationship between the elected official and the public, then he is as myopic as he is vitriolic. Mr. Speaker, the cynicism in this debate, the cynicism in this debate lies not in our position, the Liberal Party position, which has never varied and which is consistent and simply evokes the principle that the public has a right to make submissions on major issues, and the closed door, closed eye, closed mind policy --(Interjection)-- Unfortunately no. The Honourable Member for Flin Flon adds the adjective closed mouth. Unfortunately no. The government is not close mouthed. It talks down its opponents; it talks out the clock. It amends resolutions beyond recognition so they can't have any meaning and, Mr. Speaker, the abuse is well known to all members on this side. The raising of the other green herring, the Pembina --(Interjection)-- No, green herring, I said it correctly, green herring. It's the same thing only it has a more peculiar twist.

The Pembina Valley development dam, the position I take and have taken since 1968 is not at all inconsistent with the position we have on the public hearings in general. Yes,

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(MR. ASPER cont'd) Mr. Speaker. In 1967-68 the Pembina Valley was studied by the TED Commission, of which I was a part, and we heard submissions and we heard our evidence and we reached a conclusion not unlike one might expect my honourable friend's party to have reached, and that is that there was economic doubt but there was major social benefit, major recreational benefit and major equalization of opportunity benefits involved. And no ecological damage so that the matter was a very simple matter of doing justice to the people of that part of Manitoba. And there was no issue, but to suggest that this is even comparable, that this had something to do with the idea of public hearings on massive projects is ludicrous. Now, Mr. Speaker, to suggest - as my honourable friend does - that the Liberal Party, or anyone else for that matter, waits for public opinion to form and then jumps any issue against which there is public feeling against the government, is so cynical, so inaccurate and such a distortion of the truth, Mr. Speaker, that I can't believe my honourable friend could mean it, because this party, the Liberal Party, has never been afraid to stand up in this House and vote with the government and support many government issues and compliment the government when it was right. But we will not be browbeaten. We will not be twisted and contorted by my honourable friend's ballet work with words into supporting or abandoning principle, and the principle here is very simple: Major issues must be heard in areas, in arenas in which the public can make submissions. If my honourable friend denies that principle, he denies the whole thrust of modern democracy, which I suspect he does.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I want to speak briefly on this resolution and the amendment to it. In reading through the resolution, Mr. Speaker, it's difficult to find exactly what the Member, the Leader of the Liberal Party, is after in presenting it. He has mixed up here two arguments, economic arguments and environmental arguments, and appears not to separate the two either in his resolution or in his presentation to the Legislature. The amendment to the resolution, Mr. Speaker, falls in the same category as all the other amendments that have been presented, and of course the question is, why does the government not, if they don't like the resolution in this case, why did they not just vote against it? Mr. Speaker, because there are good reasons for looking at the resolution itself and voting against it. I think that, first of all, on the straight grounds of economic development that power is within the power of the government and has to remain with the power of the government, in the power of the government. The question that has to be before the Legislature is whether or not the mechanisms that the government has set up, adequately can assess the value or the impact of the development of Manitoba. And of course traditionally we're supposed to have more means of evaluating economic impact because almost everybody understands that aspect of it, but we have more recently on the horizon and on the local scene in Manitoba the burning question of environmental impact, and that is totally different, Mr. Speaker, in assessing whether or not we're capable of predicting what the environmental impact is. Now if we look alone at the Churchill River diversion, over the last five years, apart from our partisan political position, I would hope that all of us have learned something out of the lesson that has been learned by government.

Now I have to come to the defence of the Minister of Mines and Resources in the last argument. As I recall his position, when he stood on this side of the House it was not in opposition to what was happening on the Churchill River. He simply stood up and he said, "Why should I go for one option when I have two? Therefore I'm opting for two options and I'm keeping my options open." And that was his stand and he took it. It was after the election that the statement was made, not by him, but by the First Minister, "We are not going to flood South Indian Lake." That was never said, to my recollection, by the Minister of Mines and Resources. So all due credit to him. He went into the last election from his position having presented, I think, an honest position in the Legislature, that he felt his options were still open.

So, Mr. Speaker, all I'm trying to say here is that we should have learned, out of the last five years, that we still do not know how to assess environmental impact. But we certainly should have over the last 50 years of Manitoba experience, and more recent, with all the expertise that exists around and the background and experience, learned how to assess economic impact. Mr. Speaker, is there any reason, if you isolate economic argument from this, apart from the environmental argument, is there any reason why, if you were going to look at

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) Churchill River diversion and Churchill Forest Industries, why you should not look at the Seagram's plant at Gimli and, for that matter, Canada-Manitoba Distilleries at Minnedosa, both of which came into Manitoba, the first time in Manitoba's experience that it ever loused up its environment with a distillery. Is the Member for Wolseley going to say that he would advocate that a resolution be presented to this House to examine in detail the financial and the environmental impact of the Canada-Manitoba Distillery at Minnedosa? Because that's what this resolution says, Mr. Speaker. So we could expect, if this were accepted, that we would have a bill presented to this House that would say:

Whereas it is desirable to produce whiskey at Minnedosa;

Whereas it is desirable to consume "X" bushels of barley per season;

Whereas it is valuable to Manitoba to pollute our atmosphere with "X" pounds of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and all the other products that come of making whiskey; and

Whereas it is resolved that the province is going to put up "X" dollars;

Whereas XYZ group is going to put up "X" dollars;

Whereas this is going to produce a profit for Manitoba entrepreneurs of so much;

Therefore this is in the best interests of the Province of Manitoba and this Legislature should debate this? Because that's what this resolution says. Mr. Speaker, if we debated things that were of impact in Manitoba we'd have no alternative but to take Canada-Manitoba Distillery or Seagram's, whichever was first and I think maybe the Minnedosa one was, they're both about the same year, this is brand new in Manitoba. What's it going to do to the economy? What's it going to do to the land? You're going to farm different crops. What's it going to do to the atmosphere? What's it going to do to the economic situation in Manitoba? Who's going to make money out of it? What's the likelihood I'm going to be able to sell that off and make a fortune out of it? Are all these things going to be debated? Mr. Speaker, I guess if we do that we might as well really plan on MLA's going on twelve month salary like my leader suggested this afternoon, and figure on being here for the full twelve months because we're going to be fully occupied. And if we're going to look at all the economic developments that are new in Manitoba, new because they're unique, then we have to look at all those things whether they're a forest industry that's going to cut down the trees, whether it's going to be a flooding project that is going to affect the Churchill River or the Pembina Dam. There is no justification for proceeding with the Pembina Dam without an environmental impact statement. If you're going to require it elsewhere, you have to. If you're going to set up the rules of the game you've got to play by them. Mr. Speaker, obviously the initial resolution, if you base it on economic argument, is not valid. You can't have a bill in this House every time you're going to have an industrial development.

Now I want to isolate that from the environmental argument. We're going through a phase in our development of humanity in Manitoba, as everywhere else in the world where people are suddenly realizing that every time you have a development you're going to have an impact on the environment and we still don't know how to assess it. Mr. Speaker, the traditional argument that's presented by the Minister of Mines and Resources in this case, I don't think are valid. He is the Minister in charge of Environment. I think his position on this is archaic. He says in effect if you don't like what the government does you kick them out of office.

Mr. Speaker, that's not good enough in this society. Nobody's suggesting that we abort the parliamentary system. All that's being suggested here and I'm sure would be provided for somewhat in the public hearings advocated in this resolution, is that somehow these outcries that we hear, that come from very legitimate people which we have now in the case of the Churchill River diversion, are brought to the table and cross-examined validly by those who wish to cross-examine them. And we haven't found out how to do that, Mr. Speaker, but they have in other jurisdictions. They've crossed this long ago.

Long ago, I say, they've crossed it in the last half a dozen years because other jurisdictions are bringing in legislation that requires for a standardized form of an environmental impact statement, and when that impact statement is developed it contains four major ingredients, the impact, the mitigating measures, the alternative and the necessity, the four aspects of it. And all of those have to be justified, the biology, the alternatives, the alternative impacts, the whole works. We don't seem to realize, in spite of our experience in Manitoba in the last five years, that our machinery for handling environmental impact is inadequate, and we're going to completion of the Churchill River diversion plan right now with an environmental

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) assessment that is incomplete, and we know it. And we're stuck. We're stuck because a decision has been made - the decision is going to go ahead - by the government. We can't say we're going to turn it back because we don't know what's going to happen to the economic aspects of it in Manitoba if we do. What we have said is that the hearings are incomplete and the mechanisms for having the hearings are incomplete as well. So from that point of view the resolution has validity. Our mechanisms for handling impact assessments are incapable of doing a job, and the sooner we get to the point where we can lay out the ground rules, the requirements of an environmental impact statement, and then have that go to hearings, you can have it; you can have the cross-examination; you'll know. You'll know what your costs are, you'll know what your benefits are, and you'll know what the humanity is paying on impact to the environment for the economic return it's going to get.

But I don't advocate for one minute that all this should come into this Legislature for debate. Because we're not any of us capable of debating the major basic things that have to get debated. It has to be done by people who have the capability, and unless somebody is elected in here as a biologist with a background of 30 years' experience in that particular area, it can't be done. But what we do want to see is provision within our whole parliamentary process of having those environmental impact statements go to a proper hearing and from that point of view, hearings are not an abortion of the parliamentary responsibility of the Minister on the government side to make up his mind. And that is essentially what the Minister of Mines and Resources has been saying for the last two or three years: "The decision is mine and the decision is mine alone."

Mr. Speaker, let me use the McKenzie Valley Pipeline as an example. This is no abortion of the parliamentary process. There have been years of work gone into study on that; it will go to the National Energy Board and to other agencies on formal hearings that are set up by the Federal Government. The environmental impact table will be laid out, it'll be shot down, it'll be torn to pieces, it will be cross-examined, and when it's all done a board of qualified people will make a recommendation to the government as to whether it should go ahead or not. From that point of view, the hearings that are asked for in this bill could be arrived at quite simply by taking the Manitoba Water Commission Act and changing the "may" to a "shall". You could take the--right now. The provisions were put into that Act by the former government. The Manitoba Water Commission "may" hold public hearings. That should not be a "may", it should be a "shall". And if those public hearings require that more work be done so be it. Let them decide. Let them then advise the government and not the government advise them, to start with, whether or not more hearings are required.

Mr. Speaker, further than that, the Manitoba Hydro Act should be amended as well so they are not exempt from the requirements of the Manitoba Water Commission Act. At the present time, as the government well knows, there's a provision in the Manitoba Hydro Act that says they do not have to conform to any requirement, the environmental requirement, if they do not wish, of the Manitoba Water Commission. And to get at that problem it could simply be handled by changing the Manitoba Hydro Act.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me say again here, speaking to the amendment, that there is enough in the resolution here to make the resolution, the initial resolution inadequate. If it's talking about economic arguments, there's no place for it in here. If they're talking about environmental argument, certainly there is. There's a lot that has to be done and the government, if it has any criticism coming to it, it is that it has not learned the lesson, not only during its tenure of office but from the former government as well, to lay out a proper procedure where the hearings part of this are held in a manner where the information is cross-examined and where the experts can deal with one another directly across the table rather than through the newspapers, as we have right now. We have the Churchill River project going to completion with the information almost entirely inadequate from having not been cross-examined in this whole project. This in itself surely should recommend to the government that it reconsider this business of hearings, and it's no criticism, it's no demeaning of the parliamentary process to have the hearings held in an adequate manner in light of the experience of other jurisdictions in North America who occupied the same position of being in a problem, and have gone a long way, a long way towards solving them by having the requirement for public hearing.

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd)

So Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us - you can't support the amendment to the resolution, and the original resolution is inadequate. There's no problem voting against both of them.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment? All those in favour please say aye. Does the Honourable Member for Rhineland wish to speak on the amendment? Order please. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I haven't spoken on the motion nor on the amendment and I thought I should place a few points on the record as well.

The resolution originally dealt with the matter of hearings and we had three different "whereases" in the original motion and by the amendment two of the "whereases" will be deleted and the resolution will then read: "Whereas the Government of Manitoba or corporations and agency of the Government of Manitoba spend vast sums of money and make other long term commitments." And then the Resolved part. And the Resolved part of the amendment if passed will read: "that the Government of Manitoba continue the practice permitting open debate in the Assembly on all matters referred to above, and continue to require management of Crown corporations to appear before Standing Committees of the Legislature." This certainly is the practice now with Hydro and Telephone and the MDC. --(Interjection)-- Pardon? Well, again we are getting a lot of Crown corporations. I think it's a matter of defining Crown corporations because we have a number of financial statements there that are being considered by the Economic Development Committee to which the MDC is reporting, and some of these corporations, we as a government have equity in them yet the reporting is done by the MDC and not by the corporations themselves. I think we should have a proper definition here when we make the sweeping statement that Crown corporations are to appear before the Standing Committee of the Legislature, that this should be a matter of fact. This is what the amendment says and I am not quite sure whether that is fact, that the Crown corporations do appear. Certainly we have some that appear before the committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hour is 10:00 o'clock. But before I make the adjournment, I should like to inform the House that there is a meeting scheduled for 10:00 o'clock. Would the House Leader want to indicate what he wants done?

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think that what we would like to do is to meet tomorrow in the House at 2:30 rather than wait around while the meeting is going on until it closes, which is sometimes the practice. So if we could adjourn now until 2:30 we could have the meeting on Public Accounts tomorrow at 10:00. Mr. Speaker, I'm rather embarrassed. I announced a meeting for Wednesday and changed the committee, and now I find that there is some difficulty in having that committee meet on Wednesday at 8:00 o'clock so I'd like to deal with this matter tomorrow at 2:30.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? (Agreed). The hour being 10:00 o'clock the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 tomorrow afternoon. (Tuesday).