

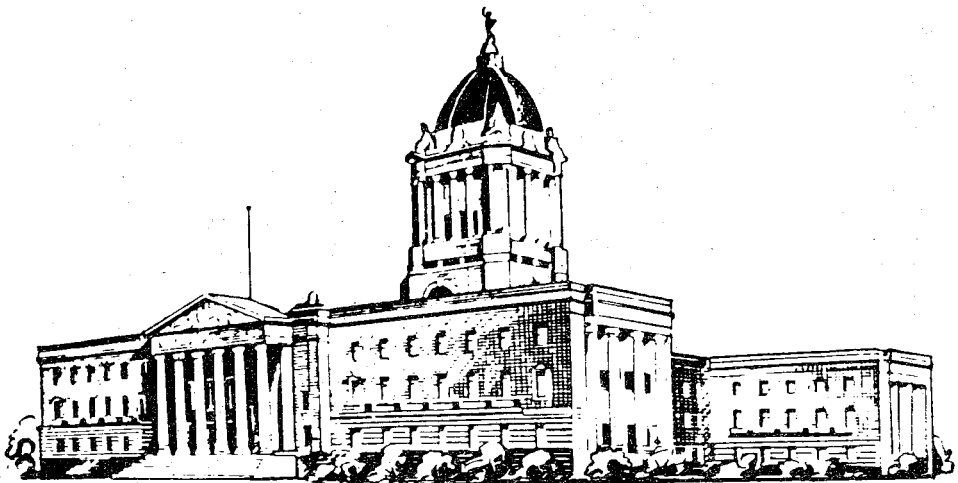


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Ben Hanuschak



Vol. XVII No. 98 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 2nd, 1970.

Second Session, 29th Legislature.

ELECTORAL DIVISION	NAME	ADDRESS
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	Reston, Manitoba
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	10 Red Robin Place, Winnipeg 12
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	Binscarth, Manitoba
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon, Man.
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	11 Aster Ave., Winnipeg 17
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg 20
CHURCHILL	Gordon Wilbert Beard	148 Riverside Drive, Thompson, Man.
CRESCENTWOOD	Cy Gonick	115 Kingsway, Winnipeg 9
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtniak	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ELMWOOD	Russell J. Doern	705 - 33 Kennedy St., Winnipeg 1
EMERSON	Gabriel Girard	25 Lomond Blvd., St. Boniface 6
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	Cranberry Portage, Manitoba
FORT GARRY	L. R. (Bud) Sherman	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg 9
FORT ROUGE	Mrs. Inez Trueman	179 Oxford St., Winnipeg 9
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.
GLADSTONE	James Robert Ferguson	Gladstone, Manitoba
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
KILDONAN	Peter Fox	627 Prince Rupert Ave., Winnipeg 15
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	Woodlands, Manitoba
LA VERENDRYE	Leonard A. Barkman	Box 130, Steinbach, Man.
LOGAN	William Jenkins	1287 Alexander Ave., Winnipeg 3
MINNEDOSA	Walter Weir	Room 250, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	Box 185, Morris, Man.
OSBORNE	Ian Turnbull	284 Wildwood Park, Winnipeg 19
PEMBINA	George Henderson	Manitou, Manitoba
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	361 Burrows Ave., Winnipeg 4
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Room 248, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RADISSON	Harry Shafransky	4 Maplehurst Rd., St. Boniface 6
RHINELAND	Jacob M. Froese	Box 40, Winkler, Manitoba
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	2 River Lane, Winnipeg 8
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	1516 Mathers Bay, West, Winnipeg 9
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	Inglis, Manitoba
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	Glenboro, Manitoba
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RUPERTSLAND	Jean Allard	602 - 245 Provencher Ave., St. Boniface 6
ST. BONIFACE	Laurent L. Desjardins	357 Des Meurons St., St. Boniface 6
ST. GEORGE	William Uruski	Box 629, Arborg, Manitoba
ST. JAMES	Hon. A. H. Mackling, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johannson	15 - 500 Burnell St., Winnipeg 10
ST. VITAL	J. A. Hardy	11 Glenlawn Ave., Winnipeg 8
STE. ROSE	Gildas Molgat	463 Kingston Crescent, Winnipeg 8
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SOURIS-KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	Nesbitt, Manitoba
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
STURGEON CREEK	Frank Johnston	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg 12
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	Swan River, Manitoba
THE PAS	Ron McBryde	531 Greenacres Blvd., Winnipeg 12
THOMPSON	Hon. Joseph P. Borowski	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	Kenton, Manitoba
WELLINGTON	Hon. Philip Petursson	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
WINNIPEG CENTRE	J. R. (Bud) Boyce	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg 3
WOLSELEY	Leonard H. Claydon	116½ Sherbrook St., Winnipeg 1

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Tuesday, June 2, 1970

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At this point I should like to introduce to the honourable members our guests in the gallery. There are 75 students from the Bedson Elementary School and the Minnedosa Elementary School. All students are of Grade 6 standing. Bedson School is the host school and the students are under the direction of Mr. Friesen, Mrs. Stephen and Mrs. Hearsberg, all of the Bedson School. Bedson School is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia; Minnedosa School is in the constituency of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Also in the gallery are 60 students from Clifton School and Minitonas School. These students are also of Grade 6 standing. Clifton School is the host school and all students are under the direction of Mr. Falconer and Mrs. Hodgson. Clifton School is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs; Minitonas School is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Wellington.

Also in the gallery are 60 students from Cecil Rhodes School, Binscarth and Elphinstone Schools. Again Grade 6 students. Cecil Rhodes School is hosting the other two schools and all are under the direction of Mrs. Reynolds and Miss Dickson, both from the host school. Cecil Rhodes School is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Logan; Binscarth and Elphinstone Schools are in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

On behalf of the Members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you here this afternoon.

I also wish to direct the attention of honourable members to an omission on my part last Friday which I discovered upon checking Hansard. In introducing the sons and daughters of the honourable members assisting in the reception for the Junior High School students, I had omitted to introduce Miss Kim Patrick, daughter of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia. For this I sincerely apologize.

Orders of the Day.

MATTERS OF URGENCY AND GRIEVANCES

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Arthur, that the House do now adjourn to consider a matter of definite public urgency brought about by the impasse in negotiations between trustees and teachers in Winnipeg School Division No. 1 and the inaction of the Minister of Youth and Education to assure orderly progression of the negotiating stages as defined in the Public Schools Act.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to thank the Honourable Member for Riel for having complied with the rules in giving me opportunity to peruse the motion. May I refer honourable members to Citation 100 (1) of Beauchesne 4th Edition, which reads in part as follows and I quote: "A definite matter of urgent public importance for the discussion of which a member may ask leave to move the adjournment of the House must involve the administrative responsibility of the government." I interpret the aforementioned citation to mean the involvement of the administrative responsibility of the government at the time the motion is made.

The Public Schools Act spells out the procedure for negotiation, conciliation and arbitration. My information is that the negotiations between the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 and the Winnipeg Teachers Association had reached the stage where a conciliation officer was appointed and that he failed to bring about an agreement and that he so reported to the Minister of Education.

The Minister of Education is now faced with Section 379 of the Public Schools Act which reads as follows: "Where a conciliation officer fails to bring about an agreement and so reports to the Minister; and (a) the employer or the bargaining agent, in writing, requests the establishment of a board of arbitration, or (b) in the opinion of the Minister a board of arbitration should be established; the Minister shall appoint a board of arbitration as hereinafter set out.

(MR. SPEAKER cont'd.)

The most recent information supplied to the House indicates that a request for the establishment of a board of arbitration has not been made. Therefore, the matter does not become one of administrative responsibility of the Honourable Minister until application for arbitration is made. At this point it is still in the hands of the negotiating parties. It is true that the Minister has the discretionary power to appoint a board of arbitration. Now surely honourable members would agree that this House could not interfere with. . . .

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order -- (Interjection) -- well, Mr. Speaker, I believe it's customary for any member to debate before you make your ruling and I would like to speak on a point of order.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources)(Inkster) Mr. Speaker, with deference to my honourable friend, we have been through this once in the House and we have been through this last year, and much as I argued to the contrary, the rule in our House is that an hour's notice is given and there is no debate. Well, Mr. Speaker, we've been through this once this session and I don't want to go through it again.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, as I understand our rules - I'm speaking to a point of order, Sir - as I understand our rules, once you have given your ruling there can be no debate, and I would like to speak on a point of order before you give your ruling.

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, on that very point of order raised by the Honourable Member for Portage, I recall very clearly that a matter of just weeks ago I was prevented from offering any comments on a motion just like this, and at the time I did say that I didn't find it to be a particularly sensible rule. I have to agree with the Honourable Member for Portage that it would be desirable for members to put forward their arguments before the ruling is given, but apparently this is what the House in its wisdom decided one or two years ago. I agree with the Member for Portage but that is not the rule.

MR. CRAIK: Regarding the positions in the House, I do believe that you are about to give an interpretation of legislation, and I think that in all fairness to us here that your interpretation should be of the rules.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, which comes in the middle of a ruling, which I would suggest is itself out of order, I think that my honourable friend the Member for Riel is now in effect debating the middle of your ruling, and I suggest that the Speaker now proceed to deal with the ruling in the manner which the previous administration set by the rules and which I argued against, and I know the member for St. John's argued against it, but it was insisted that this is the rule and that was already found this year.

MR. SPEAKER: Surely honourable members would agree that this House. . . .

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker -- I wish to speak on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Other than the member who hands in this type of a resolution, no one else in the House has the knowledge that the resolution is in, and how can anyone speak to a point of order with this sort of an arrangement?

MR. SPEAKER: May I remind honourable members that there is no point of order on the Speaker's ruling. Surely honourable members would agree that the House could not interfere with a discretionary power granted the Minister by its own legislation in any manner other than by way of amending the relevant legislation. Therefore, I rule the motion of the Honourable Member for Riel out of order.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I regret I must challenge your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. CRAIK: Yeas and Nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members. Order please. Shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained?

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Allard, Barrow, Borowski, Boyce, Burtniak, Cherniack, Desjardins, Doern, Evans, Fox, Gonick, Gottfried, Green, Jenkins, Johannson, McBryde, Mackling, Malinowski, Miller, Paulley, Pawley, Petursson, Schreyer, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, Uskiw and Uruski.

NAYS: Messrs. Barkman, Beard, Bilton, Claydon, Craik, Einarson, Enns, Froese, Girard, Graham, Hardy, Henderson, Johnston (Portage la Prairie), Johnston (Sturgeon Creek), Jorgenson, McGill, McKellar, McKenzie, Moug, Patrick, Spivak, Watt and Weir.

MR. CLERK: Yeas, 28; Nays, 23.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the ruling of the Chair sustained.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister. Last week I asked him if he would give consideration to calling the Economic Committee of the Legislature to meet with the chairman and members of the Fish Marketing Board to discuss the question of the location of the fish plant. At that time I understood him to say that he would give an answer at the beginning of this week. Could he give the answer now?

MR. SCHREYER: No, Mr. Speaker, but I can give it tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Youth and Education. I asked him two or three days ago whether he could provide information on the status of negotiations between the various school boards in Manitoba. Has he got this information available for the House yet?

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Youth and Education)(Seven Oaks): Not yet, Mr. Speaker. I have asked for the returns on all of Manitoba and this is taking a little while to accumulate.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I have a further question for the Minister of Youth and Education. Can he advise the House approximately how many students are absent from school today as a result of the conflict in Division No. 1?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, that information is not available to me at the present time.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. We are now into the month of June and to my knowledge there has been no information yet on the proposed rates of hail insurance under the crop insurance plan. Has the Minister any information as to when we can expect some information on the hail policy of the crop insurance?

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): Well, I think my honourable friend ought to know that the subject matter is before the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Youth and Education. When does he intend to stop watching the chaos going on in Winnipeg schools at the present time and do something about it?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the questioner, I think it's a matter of policy as to when and if I'll act on the discretionary powers granted to me.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, a further question to the Minister of Youth and Education. Can he advise the House of the date on which he received the report of the conciliation officer regarding the negotiations in Winnipeg Division No. 1?

MR. MILLER: I can't recollect the actual date offhand, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I gathered from that that the Minister has received it adequately. Would it be in the first part of May?

MR. MILLER: I would hate to speculate without knowing for sure, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. LEONARD H. CLAYDON (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, on a matter of privilege, I would like to draw the Speaker's attention to an error that appears on Page 2331 of Hansard. The 12th line from the bottom of the page the word "Transcona" appears there; the word should be "transformer" to make it read "a local transformer manufacturer". I wonder if we could have the correction. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I would direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. In the Throne Speech it was indicated that legislation with respect to the Wildlife Act would be forthcoming. I have been withholding a resolution that I intended to place before us dealing with compensation in respect to wildlife losses and did not wish to have it ruled out under the rule of anticipation. Can the First Minister or the Minister indicate to me, should I proceed with the resolution or are we expecting the wildlife legislation?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the honourable member that the legislation is ready and it will simply be a question of printing and clearance as to whether the bill will come

(MR. GREEN cont'd.). . . . before the House, so I have to say at this point that it is still expected that the legislation will be brought before the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I direct a further supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture, supplementary to that directed by the Member for Birtle-Russell. The Minister indicated that the Member for Birtle-Russell should know that there's legislation before the House. I ask the question, should he know what the rates are or should the farmers of Manitoba know now what the rates in hail insurance are going to be?

MR. USKIW: The farmers of Manitoba would like to know when the bill will be passed first.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I have no difficulty in understanding what the term "printing" means, but I have a little difficulty with the term "clearance."

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, to be quite specific, the legislation is sitting in my office; it has been approved in principle; it's a question of getting it printed and then presented to the House. The word "clearance", my procedure has been to clear the legislation prior to it being in the state that it's in now, so my understanding is that if everything that has been done has been done regularly, it's ready for printing and I'm just checking that at this moment.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, if I may. Perhaps the Minister would describe it somewhat in the position that perhaps I was with Bill 17.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I intend at some future time to try to explain what I think occurred with regard to that bill and I hope it will clear up any differences that exist between my friend and myself, because I think that we both believe that we are right on this question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister from Crescentwood. I'm wondering when the Minister can indicate to the House. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order.

MR. SCHREYER: May I -- why I just take it that that question was put in a bantering manner.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder whether he would be prepared to table today, before we reach the estimates this evening, the letters of commitment in connection with the Western Flyer Coach with respect to the purchase of the share equity.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce)(Brandon East): Well, Mr. Speaker, I think it may be more proper for him to file an Order for Return.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is it not a fact that you were prepared to file and table in the House the letters of commitment and letters of intent in connection with Versatile without an Order for Return being filed or asked for?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, there's a substantial difference. In one case there was a firm agreement between the M, D, F. and Versatile for such information to be tabled. This was not the case in the last mentioned agreement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister. There were comments that he made in the paper which are the basis for the question, which would indicate a government policy, a government policy to the Manitoba Development Fund. And my question, Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister would be prepared to present this House, or table in this House the document or a document which would indicate the policy that he announced outside of this House so that we would be in a position to debate it during his estimates. That is, the policy that he referred to in an interview with respect to government guidelines for the Manitoba Development Fund. Would he be prepared to table it for our consideration this evening?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I have suggested in the early part of the debate on my estimates some of the guidelines of economic development policy that this government was following and I've enunciated on several occasions in answers to questions and so on, and I suggest that these general policy formulations are nothing new to the members of this House or to the people of Manitoba.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Are you suggesting that the policy guidelines that you gave in the interview are matters that have been previously discussed by you in this House? Are you suggesting that, that they've been discussed already by you? That's the question. Are you suggesting that this has already been discussed by you in the House?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I suggested that I have indicated to the members of this House in various discussions - of course the honourable member isn't always here at the various discussions we have and he doesn't always know what's going on - but I have indicated quite clearly our concern. I issued a very general and very important policy statement with regard to our concern for creating quality jobs, to creating high wage jobs in the Province of Manitoba and the like, and our concern about helping Manitoba-based companies, small to medium size companies, and to cease and desist with giving away funds to foreign companies. I've indicated this time and time again in debate, and therefore what the honourable member reads in the newspaper, he could also read in the Debates of Hansard.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Is it going to be the policy of the government to let the company they are negotiating with regarding the purchase of equity to decide whether information will be given or not?

MR. SPEAKER: I would remind the honourable members that questions related to the Department of Industry and Commerce may more properly be pursued during debate on estimates. There have been a fair number of questions presented to this point. The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. EARL MCKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. As Spruce Woods Centennial Park is in operation, when will signs be placed on Highways 1, 2 and 258 to indicate that the park is open to all tourists?

HON. PETER BURTNIAK (Minister of Tourism and Recreation)(Dauphin): I think that the information I gave some time back, I believe that the opening date was scheduled for the 20th of June. I didn't quite catch the other part of your question. When will some signs or something.

MR. MCKELLAR: On Highways 1, 2 and 258.

MR. BURTNIAK: Well I'm not aware of the date or time but I'll check this out and see if there will be signs placed -- (Interjection) -- Right. Officially on the 20th.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I'd be permitted to make a few brief comments concerning the dairy industry. I wish to remind members of this Legislature that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture has designated this week, or the first week of June as Dairy Week. Living in the heart of Manitoba's dairyland, whose farmers supply about two-thirds of all the milk consumed in Greater Winnipeg, I would like to ask each member and their families, for that matter all the people of Manitoba, that they have that extra glass of milk and that extra piece of cheese on behalf of all the dairy farmers of Manitoba who think that this is one of the greatest industries in the world.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, would it be in order for me to direct my question to the Minister of Crescentwood through the First Minister -- or the Member from Crescentwood rather. I would ask the First Minister when we can expect the legislation that the Honourable Member from Crescentwood is bringing before the House.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member from Roblin knows full well that it is not in order on Orders of the Day to put any questions to a member other than a member of the Treasury Bench. He knows that and therefore I just assume that he is putting it forward in a jocular and bantering manner.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. BUD SHERMAN (Fort Garry): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps we could ask the First Minister whether.

MR. SPEAKER: another question?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, it's another question, Mr. Speaker. Can the First Minister give us any indication whether or not situations in the administration may shortly change so as to make the kind of question asked by my colleague in order - in order.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Youth and Education. I'm wondering if the Minister has received a submission from the Manitoba Camping Association in regard to the program that the department is intending to go into.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, yes, the department and I did receive a submission from the Manitoba Camping Association some time ago.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Has the Association received a reply from the Minister in this regard?

MR. MILLER: Well, whether they received a reply directly from me I'm not sure, but I know that members of my department were in touch with them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I note in the paper that M&P Industrial Mills Limited have...

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there is an example of the kind of formulation of a question that is out of order.....

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question.....

MR. SCHREYER: questions that ask for an expression of opinion relating to a hypothetical situation or which are argumentative are out of order. The honourable member should know that.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable First Minister has anticipated a question, and he's very bright but he's not bright enough to know what's in my mind.

MR. SCHREYER: On a point of order -- (Interjection) -- I'm on a point of order.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, it's my.....

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

MR. SCHREYER: The Honourable Member for River Heights was suggesting that I was anticipating the question and in such a way that I couldn't possibly know what his question might be. I am not speculating as to what his question may be, I rise merely to point out to you, Sir, that it is just not in order to start out a question with any kind of prefix which is other than in the interrogative.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Industry and Commerce would indicate whether he's been in contact with the ten officials of M&P Industrial Mills Limited whose announcement of appointments have been placed in the newspapers today.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, no.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is it the intention of the Minister of Industry and Commerce to be in contact with the officials who are involved in the management of the mill at The Pas?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, if it's in the interest of economic development of Manitoba I will do so.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the press reports last week of mercury contamination or residue in flour milled from Manitoba wheat, I wonder if the Minister could indicate what steps, if any, he has taken to find out if it's true that it is Manitoba wheat and Manitoba wheat alone actually that is contaminated with mercury?

MR. USKIW: I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Government of Canada is looking into the question. My department has done some checking and it is true that it was found in Manitoba. I don't know if it's Manitoba wheat.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Adjourned debates on the proposed motion of the Honourable.....

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I wonder if the Honourable Minister can inform the House whether the department, the government is now completing or in the process of completing a major study on who would be contained within the poverty level in Manitoba - on poverty in Manitoba.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Services)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Youth and Education. In

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.). . . . answer to a question yesterday to the Leader of the Liberal Party, the Minister indicated that he could take action in arbitration if he had letters from one of two parties. Would the Minister care to clarify this and give the other side of the picture which puts the -- would he confirm or deny. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the question is, would the Minister confirm or deny that the onus of responsibility after a point, as laid out in the legislation, is on his shoulders and he is denying this right of the Minister to invoke his decision?

MR. SPEAKER: Order. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Has the Government of Manitoba made any studies respecting cost and benefits of locating the fish processing plant in Selkirk?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I indicated to the House, I believe it was only last week, that the Department of Industry and Commerce conducted two feasibility studies with respect to the location of the Fresh Water Fish Marketing Processing Plant comparing various locations, Metropolitan Winnipeg versus the Town of Selkirk.

MR. FROESE: A supplementary. Will these be tabled before we finish the estimates of the department?

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I answered a similar question last week also, and that is, that it's the normal practice for studies conducted for individual corporations to be provided to those corporations and not to be provided to members of the general public or to members of the Legislature, unless the corporation or the. . . .

MR. GREEN: To clarify, we also indicated that it was being requested from the corporation whether they would consent to their tabling, and if there's no difficulty in that connection they will be provided.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, just a supplementary question. Has the corporation agreed to have the studies tabled?

MR. GREEN: I'm not, Mr. Speaker, able to say what stage that is now at.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question will be addressed to the First Minister rather than the Minister of Industry and Commerce because he'll have to answer. I wonder if he can indicate to the House whether it's the intention of the government to call the Standing Committee on Economic Development this session?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I should think that there is enough business to occupy this House and honourable members during this session, however, I think that it is altogether likely, in fact virtually a certainty, that the committee will be authorized to sit between sessions and a resolution to that effect would be brought forward this session.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question. Is the First Minister aware that it was the intention of the previous committee who sat to be able to meet during the session to be able to review items that were referred to it for the purpose of discussion in the session as well.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's a matter of time availability itself. I can take this up with the Minister of Industry and Commerce and members of caucus, and for that matter on the other side as well, to try to determine whether there is likelihood of enough time being available for this committee to meet, but honourable members know full well that there are a number of committees dealing with actual legislation that we'll have to find time for them to meet as a matter of priority. Furthermore, may I say that the number of committee meetings held intersessionally last year, and in all probability this year, the number of meetings will far exceed those that the previous administration saw fit to call by order of about 500 percent more.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: May I ask the First Minister when the Special Committee on Agriculture will be called?

MR. SCHREYER: I think, Mr. Speaker, that that is a question that could better be placed before the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. MCKENZIE: get no answer.

MR. USKIW: My honourable friend hasn't put the question. My honourable friend ought to know that legislation that was either passed or in the process of being debated in the House

(MR. USKIW cont'd.), . . . is being referred to the Committee on Agriculture. When we are ready to proceed with our legislation in committee we will have it constituted.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the House Leader. It is my understanding that the Member for Ste. Rose was paired with a member of your group and he may have voted inadvertently, but I want to know if pairs are arranged, do they stand? It's very important with the close number of members.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is referring to a practice which is of time-honoured significance to people who are engaged in Parliament. I understand that the honour of the members is concerned and I will not comment on the honour of the members themselves, that's a matter of personal conscience which I'm sure every member in the House respects for himself and I won't comment on that. -- (Interjection) -- Well then, the member will deal with that himself.

I'd like to, while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, indicate that I did canvass various of the parties yesterday to see whether they would rather sit all day on Thursday and not sit Thursday evening in view of the fact that we are off on Friday. There was a desire to do that. I now find that the Committee on Professional Associations is meeting on Thursday morning, therefore Thursday will have to be a normal day rather than what was hoped could take place. I understand the Member for Winnipeg Centre wants to speak relative to the last question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BUD BOYCE (Winnipeg Centre): By leave, I would like to answer that, Mr. Speaker. It was through inadvertence; I am the faulty member. I'm paired with the Member for Ste. Rose and it wasn't until after the vote had passed that I realized I should not have voted on that question, and I apologize to the House and to the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I had no desire to embarrass the member but I thought it should be cleared up because it could be very important in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, just on the comments of the Honourable House Leader. I wonder whether he would consider the possibility of calling the Professional Committee at 9:00 o'clock on Thursday morning rather than 10:00 and possibly be in a position to proceed on, . . .

MR. GREEN: Apparently there has been a very significant advertisement in the papers.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Attorney-General. Because of the alarming number of burglaries in the high-rise apartments in Greater Winnipeg, is the Attorney-General considering any legislation which would make it mandatory for the owners of apartment blocks to supply decent security locks within the lease?

HON. A.L. MACKLING, Q.C. (Attorney-General)(St. James): That's a very interesting suggestion embodied in that question and perhaps it's a matter that the honourable member might wish to comment on when the amendments to the Landlord and Tenant Act are introduced to the House, but other than that, I can't advise in the affirmative that there is any consideration for legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question to the Attorney-General. I wonder whether he could indicate whether the Landlord and Tenant Act amendments will be introduced this session.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm hopeful that those amendments will be introduced very shortly.

MR. GREEN: I was asked on several occasions how many bills are still to be introduced, and I can say that my tabulations would indicate approximately 20 still to be introduced.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the House Leader can inform the Legislature whether it is the intention to introduce a provincial Bill of Rights by way of a bill or not, and if it's included within the 20 bills.

MR. MACKLING: If I understood the question correctly, Mr. Speaker, it was a question of whether or not there will be a bill. That's right, there will be a bill brought in.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debates. The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Roblin, Order for Return.

MR. MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I basically submitted this Return for information with regard to Bill 56 and also to find out in fact if the Superintendent of Insurance has had citizens of this province drawing to his attention certain matters of concern with regard to the Act which we live by at the present time, or in fact if the industry had done certain things that would justify the Minister of Municipal Affairs establishing a committee and going around this province and holding hearings. And with that thought in mind, I thought the information would be most acceptable.

I find it very interesting, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Finance has spoken in his remarks the other day and mentioned the thousands of phone calls that the Superintendent of Insurance has received and I'm wondering if this is a statement that is valid or if it is not, because if in fact the Superintendent of Insurance is getting thousands of phone calls, I would think that some place along the line they should be documented because we go from the ridiculous to the sublime whereby he said he only has five to ten that are in written form, but if in fact for us to get that information, Mr. Speaker, I should amend my Order for Return - and I think I would have to do it by leave at this time - so with your permission, Mr. Speaker, and by leave, I would like to amend the Order for Return.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I believe the honourable member is asking for leave to correct his Order for Return?

MR. MCKENZIE: Right. One word - "written" - the number of "written" complaints.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the honourable member leave to correct his Order for Return? (Agreed)

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q. C. (Minister of Finance)(St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I must confess that I didn't realize that I was interested in what the honourable member was talking about, but what he is saying I believe is that he would ask permission to add the word "written" complaints and that is in order because I invite him to do so by all means, and as long as it is understood that this will represent five to ten percent of the original answer.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has leave? (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

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

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, this motion is already before the House. It was adjourned -- I moved it on Friday and the First Minister asked that is be stood over for Private Members' Day and I'm waiting with baited breath to hear what the Minister of Transportation has to say.

MR. SPEAKER: My apologies. The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Transportation)(Thompson): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we can dispose of this without the Order for Return. I once said that the Leader of the Opposition was the best Minister of Highways and I'm more convinced than ever. I made a small slip but he quickly caught me. What I really should have said, it's disorganized municipalities, not organized. There has been no 50-50 participation on municipal roads; it was disorganized municipalities and unorganized territories. So I think that answers your question and there's really no need for the Order.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there is a fine point that arises out of the Minister's comment that I think is worth some further specification, and that is that from time to time reference is made to disorganized territories and some honourable members may think that that is a misnomer. The fact of the matter is that we have unorganized territories, so called, and also some that are called disorganized territories, inasmuch as at one time they were organized as municipalities and subsequently took the decision to leave municipal status and revert to what one would have to call disorganized territories. I believe that is correct.

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition)(Minnedosa): Well, Mr. Speaker, we're really dealing with a point of order I guess and I don't really care, I hadn't spoken and I hadn't intended to speak on the motion, but I don't really care whether it's interpreted that I'm speaking on the motion or speaking on a point of order because I think it would apply in either way. Apparently the Minister is correcting a statement that he made the other day and there is more than one way of looking after it. One is for the government to accept the Order and present a

(MR. WEIR cont'd.), . . . "Nil" Return, which would be a different answer than the Minister had provided the other day when he and I were having a bit of a discussion across the floor of the House.

The other of course would be for the government to refuse the Order because I must say, Mr. Speaker, the Order was only presented, was only presented because of the statement that the Minister made. I've recognized, and I'm sure most members on this side that have sat in the House before have recognized that since 1965 that there have been grants and payments made for both unorganized, disorganized and urban municipalities but no grants for rural municipalities, and I made particularly a point of standing up and making the point with the Minister of Transportation about organized rural municipalities, and I didn't have the distinguishing point, so therefore I thought maybe there had been a change in policy that we in the House weren't familiar with. The Minister seems to be correcting this and I would say that one way of resolving it would be for the government to accept it and present a "Nil" Return.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to accepting, I simply -- I've answered the question. If they want us to accept it I have no objection at all -- (Interjection) -- Right.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Order for Return. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BARKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing the following information regarding the Falcon Beach Liquor Control Commission Store:

- (1) The date of the original opening.
- (2) The annual sales since its opening.
- (3) The dates of opening and closing each year.
- (4) The number of employees each year.
- (5) The date on which beer sales were ended at the store.
- (6) What action was taken to supply beer in the Falcon Beach area when beer sales were ended at the store.
- (7) The reason for discontinuing beer sales at the store.
- (8) The date on which the Ontario Liquor Control Commission opened its store at

Clearwater Bay.

- (9) What changes are planned in the operation of the Falcon Beach store.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BARKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a few brief comments concerning this matter. It is not a matter of me suggesting that a political move has been afoot or anything of that nature, but I am very concerned about this tourist spot at Falcon Beach and I am bringing this matter up because I'm not sure of certain facts and this is why the Order for Return is in. But the situation may develop into a bit of a - not really chaos, but very unfortunate for perhaps quite a number of the tourists if some of the reports that I have received are correct.

I noticed the other day that the Minister mentioned that the former store had had approximately \$72,000 worth of sales. Now I'm not sure if he meant that this was hard liquor sales without beer or with beer. My information some time back was that they were selling between \$105,000 and \$110,000 but the Minister may be referring to sales without beer.

I am concerned because the accommodation at this new place, while it's a nice new setup and what have you, I don't think that the place has enough room. If the height of the summer business is going to all have to take place at this new location, I'm very much afraid that there will be quite a back-up, quite a number of customers that will be inconvenienced. I'm sure that they'll perhaps get their amount of liquor, but I think being the kind of tourist spot it is, as the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation full well knows, I would like to make sure that the accommodation and the services down there are what any respectable spot should have.

I also understand - and I'm partly asking these questions because I'm not sure of the matter - I understand that the number of brands of hard liquor will be cut from about 150 to 110. Now this is something that the Minister can look into; I'm not sure that this is a fact. I was also under the impression less than half a year ago that this operation, while at first I thought this was a spot that would rather be costly to operate, but I understand - and my information is less than six months old - that this outlet was actually operating at around six and

(MR. BARKMAN cont'd.), a half or seven percent of cost of operation, and I think this is quite in line when you consider that most so-called private stores, I believe they get something in the neighbourhood of 10 percent on the first \$40,000 or so and of course perhaps half that percentage as you go downward.

But my main concern again, Mr. Speaker, is that I think the service, and I'm sure that this new operator will do all he can to provide the services, but I'm thinking of the many summer residents particularly and I'm thinking of the many tourists. As far as I am personally concerned, other than Falcon Beach being in the La Verendrye district, one brand of liquor is enough, they don't have to have 150, but I think we have a lot of U.S. tourists and of course Canadian tourists and I wish that the Minister would look into the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I just want to indicate, in the absence of the Attorney-General, that this Order will be accepted and we shall try and get the information for the honourable member.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose. The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like the indulgence of the House to have this matter stand. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose. The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like the indulgence of the House to have this matter stand. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we could go to the bills standing in the name of private members on Page 11 of the Order Paper. There are Bills No. 87 and No. 75.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I would prefer that we stay on the resolutions. I think for the last number of Private Members' Days we've dealt with bills and not dealt with resolutions. There are a number of resolutions that haven't even been introduced and I feel that we should stay with resolutions and probably deal with this on an alternate day basis.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has a perfect right to insist that we go to resolutions, and that being the case. . . .

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): Mr. Speaker, may I, on the same point of order, indicate that I know of several people in Manitoba who are waiting for the passage of Bill 75 and I certainly would implore the House to see that bill through as quickly as possible.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, may I say that I respect the right of any member to refuse leave, but leave would be granted from our party in terms of dealing with bills first, but I recognize the position of every member of the House.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Private Members' Resolutions. Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, and the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance in amendment thereto and the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose in further amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In an effort to facilitate the wishes of the various members, perhaps we can get through resolutions as quickly as possible and get into bills as well.

In this resolution I think it best that I should just recapitulate the main points that are of concern to me, and the basic one that disturbs me is the reluctance on the part of the government to take a competitive position in the field of endeavours in Western Canada. With Manitoba not granting estate tax rebate, we are certainly in a position of disadvantage with regard to the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta; it has a tendency to be divisive when we start dealing with the Prairie Economic Council.

Another point that does concern me is the attitude of the Minister of Finance when dealing with Ottawa. He believes that this should definitely be a field completely at the mercy of the Government of Ottawa and then he'll stand there with his hand out and say gimme, gimme, gimme, an attitude of passive acceptance of whatever Ottawa might feel inclined to give to this province.

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd.)

Mr. Speaker, I was not one who was brought up in this manner. I believe in fighting for our rights and being aggressive, and also in establishing a climate which is conducive to initiative on the part of the individual. I believe that the attitude of the Minister of Finance would push Manitoba further down the economic scale and there would be a certain alienation of small business capital, small investment capital from small estates, but the spirit of enterprise would be injured and the climate would be one of a regressive nature rather than an aggressive nature.

So without saying any more, Mr. Speaker, I think that I can speak for all members of my side of the House in support of the sub-amendment moved by the Member for Ste. Rose, that we consider the advisability of bringing Manitoba law on estate taxation in line with the law in Saskatchewan and Alberta, where we could then have a real harmony in Western Canada which would be conducive to cooperation and joint ventures which no doubt are necessary to make Western Canada the progressive area that is so necessary in this country.

MR. SPEAKER put the question on the sub-amendment and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, can we have the yeas and nays please.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the Members. Order please. The question on the sub-amendment to the motion of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, Page 3 of the Order Paper.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Barkman, Beard, Bilton, Claydon, Craik, Einarson, Froese, Girard, Graham, Hardy, Henderson, Johnston (Portage la Prairie), Johnston (Sturgeon Creek), Jorgenson, McGill, McKenzie, Moug, Patrick, Sherman, Spivak, Watt and Weir.

NAYS: Messrs. Allard, Barrow, Borowski, Burtniak, Cherniack, Desjardins, Doern, Evans, Fox, Gonick, Gottfried, Green, Jenkins, Johannson, McBryde, Mackling, Malinowski, Miller, Pawley, Petursson, Schreyer, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, and Uskiw.

CLERK: Yeas, 22; Nays, 25.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the sub-amendment lost.

MR. BILL URUSKI (St. George): Mr. Speaker, I was paired with the Honourable Member for Gladstone. Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment.

MR. BOYCE: I was paired with the Member for Ste. Rose. Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment.

MR. SPEAKER put the question on the amendment and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question on the motion as amended? The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BARKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, that debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose and the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce in amendment thereto. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the honourable member, may we please have leave to have this matter stand. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye and the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. George in amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I was going to speak on this, but I think to expedite matters I'll just let this matter come to a vote if no one wants to speak on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question on the amendment? The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BARKMAN: I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for -- unless somebody else wishes to speak. This will be closing debate, so you'd better adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

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

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose and the

(MR. SPEAKER cont'd.), . . . proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance in amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the indulgence of the House to permit this matter to stand. (agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Rhineland, and the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Osborne in amendment thereto and the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Crescentwood in further amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise and would like to put my views on the record with regard to this resolution which has created some interesting debate in the House and no doubt will create more. Before I rise and before I get involved in the debate, I would certainly like to know where the First Minister stands on this resolution and where the members of the Treasury benches stand with regards to this type of resolution. I am well aware of the First Minister's speeches around the province when he was a backbencher in this Legislature and also when he was aspiring to a new height, so I basically know where he stands with regards to this resolution.

The Minister of Education, who today gave us some of his expertise on how he handles the affairs of education in this province, a sort of a milk-toast approach, and some of his remarks are on record as being one who is very cool to aid to private schools. Then I move over and I look at the Minister of Finance. I know where he stands on this issue. I know where the Minister of Cultural Affairs stands on this issue.

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

MR. MCKENZIE: Not until I've finished. After I am finished I will be glad to try and answer the question. I imagine I could guess where the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources would stand with regard to this resolution, but nevertheless the debate is on the floor of the House and I become alarmed when I see the Member for Rhineland bringing this resolution in sort of through the back door. This concerns me very much at this time, because I would think with the remarks that are already on the record by the First Minister and others, that this likely should have come in through the front door of the government office.

Nevertheless -- (Interjection) -- I will, just give me time, I will get in and give you my position. It becomes very difficult to -- this is an issue that's been before Manitoba for a long time. The Member for St. Boniface, he has spoken many times on this type of resolution in the House; the Member for Radisson has voiced his opinion; the Member for Osborne I think spoke; and I think the Member for Gimli, his remarks are recorded in the record. And this again of course is one that has been, as I say, with us for many, many years and it's one that maybe one senses today, the problems that we have in education in Manitoba as I stand here this afternoon, is just reason why we should be very serious about the consideration of this resolution.

The public system today for some reason seems to have got itself involved in many, many problems. The negotiations that normally were orderly between the board and the teachers and the students for some reason seems to have bogged down in negotiations, and there is one reason, Mr. Speaker, why we should take a second look at the resolution that's before us. I doubt very much, Mr. Speaker, as I stand before you this afternoon, that we would have that problem with the private or the parochial schools, the problems of negotiation between who's going to do what and who's going to do when and how they are going to do it, which basically I think should be in the debate of the education of our students today.

I am wondering what is the little, the ones that put the white belts on - you know, that take the children across the street during the traffic - where are they involved in this rhetoric, this exercise of frustration about people and education and their children. It's becoming a sort of a jungle of unanswered questions that's been raised today to the Minister of Education, who I think should have given us some answers to the questions that were raised in the House today. Basically, if this is where we are going in the present educational system, then I submit, Mr. Speaker, that we should be very, very serious about this resolution, and I would think that I would even go so far as to ask the First Minister to call a special committee immediately, call a special committee before the weekend is out because students today are facing their exams in this province. Are they going to write them or are they not? We don't know, Mr. Speaker, and

MR. WALLY JOHANNSON (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order

MR. MCKENZIE: . . . as to whether or not the Minister of Education, . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Matthews has a point of order?

MR. JOHANNSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, what on earth has the matter that the honourable member is now talking about got to do with the resolution under consideration?

MR. MCKENZIE: Is that a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I ask you, is that a point of order?

MR. SPEAKER: I would ask the honourable member to limit his remarks to the resolution before us.

MR. MCKENZIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, if you read the resolution in the same terminology that I read it, it deals with education, and if that's not what I'm trying to point out to you, Mr. Speaker, then I apologize. I really do. I think that I was speaking about education and the problems that we have in this province, and as the honourable member interrupted me, Mr. Speaker, I was drawing to your attention the fact that I would submit that the First Minister should be very serious and call a special committee on education immediately to deal with the urgent matters that we have in this province today, and at the same time deal with the matter of the aid to private and parochial schools.

Whether in fact we change the terminology or change the phraseology, I think possibly by that type of a committee sitting down today and taking a hard look at the problems, we could maybe negotiate and probably come up with a new solution to the aid to private and parochial schools. I have no quarrel with teacher grants being granted to the private schools; I have no quarrel with the teacher grants being provided to the parochial schools. I don't think that's a question. It's the fringe benefits and from there on in as to where we go is the one that has been under great question. No doubt this House may come up with legislation in this year, 1970, and it may try everybody in this House to their utmost to stand up and vote for it or vote against it, and if in fact we can do it, Mr. Speaker, I think it will compound some of the great difficulties we have experienced with this philosophy of education in Manitoba over the years.

So before I sit down, and in closing, Mr. Speaker, I would say let us proceed with a committee called by the First Minister immediately on the grounds of tolerance, understanding, and one using the ecumenical spirit as part of the guidelines for the committee. I think these are sound principles, Mr. Speaker, and they're characteristic of the human nature of Manitobans, and I'm sure if the First Minister will be very serious and call this committee, this resolution will have much to do with the debate of that committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BARKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few remarks on this resolution. The Member for Rhineland said that of course his resolution is worded so that the matter of schools, or this matter receive some financial support, either for private or parochial schools. I think most of us recognize by now the thorniness of this problem, but by the same token, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the climate of the province has changed considerably, perhaps the climate of the province and also the climate -- I should say the climate of the people and also the climate of the government.

In my small contribution, Mr. Speaker, on this resolution, I'd like to bring forward a few points that I think are of some vital interest. I think it should be made quite clear, as far as I'm concerned and I'm very personally concerned about this matter, that the very same academic courses or the general curriculum should be offered to the private and to the parochial schools as it is offered by the public school system today. I think we are aware that these type of schools that I'm talking of do not presently receive any public funds. They do however receive some textbooks under the Shared Services Program. Some of the schools are about to obtain some relief, further relief through the Shared Services Program, but within a very limited scope of the Shared Services Bill.

I wish to put my position clear and to say that if there are any so-called frills considered by the group that organize the private or parochial schools that I am not one of those to suggest that these frills should be paid by the Department of Education. Mr. Speaker, perhaps I shouldn't use the word "frills", but I think it's quite understanding because I would also like to include in this that any special religious or other special programs, that they be not paid for by this government or any other government, and later on I will be suggesting an amount of money not necessarily pertaining to the item that I have just mentioned or referring to frills.

I think this resolution is very fitting for the very many minority groups that we have in

(MR. BARKMAN cont'd.) the Province of Manitoba today, and I'm certainly not thinking only of the Mennonites or the French when I speak as I do. I think of the very many minority groups that we have and I wish to be thinking of all of the groups that are represented in Manitoba, a completely inter-denominational one.

As was suggested by the Honourable Member for Rhineland when he introduced the bill - and he made quite a point of the declaration of the United Nations, declaration of human rights - that you might say that automatically gives the parents the right to have this privilege. Mr. Speaker, I think the days are more or less over where private or parochial schools are considered attended only by the wealthy. I am sure that if you ask organizations such as St. John's, or for that matter Ravenscourt and others, I am sure that they are having their financial difficulties with the high cost of education today. I know for a fact that many of the Mennonite and the French, and other schools for that matter, there is no question in my mind that it's not a matter of wealth so much today, it's a matter of being concerned for their own in many cases, or at least in some cases, a matter being concerned about religion and of course quite a few other reasons. I understand that there are approximately 2,900 students attending the parochial Catholic schools and approximately 2,000 students in Catholic private schools, and also a little over 2,000 students in other private schools. This I understand. . . .

MR. DONALD MALINOWSKI (Point Douglas): Where?

MR. BARKMAN: In where? I'm talking in Manitoba. This involves approximately 54 schools with some 564 teachers and I understand that they have -- I don't know if I have to point this out to you really but I think most of you that have been close to a private school, and I'm sure the honourable member has, are aware that most of these teachers work nearly an endless day and are very often paid even less than an average teacher, and I think much credit has to be given to the groups that are doing this for other reasons than for money. I know that in my constituency, in quite a few areas, many individuals have donated much of their time and even money without getting any accreditation for it actually.

As has been mentioned in this House before, Mr. Speaker, according to the DBS figures - I believe that would be 1968 figures - the total educational expenditure of each student is \$582.00, or some odd \$582.00, and if you subtract the capital cost from that figure, of course you'll get a figure of about \$518.00 per student. So if you base the cost to the private schools or parochial schools of roughly 7,500 students at \$582.00, you end up with a cost of a little over \$4 million. To be fair to those that may oppose this type of resolution, it is considered that approximately 2,000 more students should be added to this number attending private or parochial schools if this was made available to them on a different basis than it is today and if they could afford this type of school financially.

So, Mr. Speaker, at that rate you could figure it would cost a little over \$5 million instead of \$4 million, so we're talking of approximately a million dollars as far as money is concerned. But I should point out that on the same basis, if you took the capital cost you would have approximately - and again these are 1968 DBS figures - you would have approximately a cost of four and a half million dollars, so even with 2,000 more proposed students involved the amount is not of any such a great consequence.

The voucher system was mentioned by the Honourable Member for Rhineland. I understand, first of all, if the child is enrolled and certified by the school, the application is then made for payment by the parent indicating to what school - or indicating the school. The government then of course issues the voucher to the parents and there must be certain rules laid down satisfactory to the Minister of Education and of course the government of the day. It has also been suggested that perhaps, where feasible, a proving period might be stipulated before qualifications of financial assistance are to be made.

Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps one of the most unfair things that has happened in this arena is the taxation equality that has taken place. It is very easy to say, well if you want to have your child entering a private school or parochial school, or some will even go on to say if your child must have that extra care - I think that day is past where we should be thinking like that - but just the same to have your child entering a private or a parochial school, the former idea was then you should be willing to pay the cost.

But that isn't the whole story. I agree that a certain portion of the larger portion should be paid by the student, or naturally by the parent, especially where the parent has the money. But that isn't always the case. There are quite a few parents today, that all of us know, that would let their children go to one of these private or parochial schools but they

(MR. BARKMAN cont'd.). . . . just cannot afford these expenses and cannot afford to send that student to the school.

I have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that on this matter that there is an injustice in the way double taxation takes place, and this attitude should certainly be eliminated at least partially as far as dollars and cents are concerned. Part of the academic costs should be paid by the government and I certainly do not at this time, as I mentioned before, suggest that the whole amount need be paid. I think there's some amount left open that should be considered to have this certain special privilege. I believe it is worth something, at least where the parent can afford it. I don't see where the precedent would be broken because financial assistance of this nature is presently given by the government to different colleges and different -- well, particular colleges including the University of Winnipeg for that matter and others, so I don't think that such a drastic precedent would be set by changing this.

So, Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that this is a democratic right that every parent and every student in Manitoba should have, and I think a fitting statement this year while celebrating our hundredth birthday. I think it's quite in order to even think along that line, because a lot of people have been waiting for this kind of a breakthrough. I'd like to also suggest that many other countries have accepted this idea. I understand that Holland has complete equality between Catholic and Protestant schools. In Scotland, Catholic and Protestant schools receive 100 percent maintenance costs and 100 percent for replacement and expansion; in England, 90 percent maintenance, 50 percent for its replacement, although nothing for expansion of church-related schools; in West Germany, salaries are state paid to teachers of Catholic and Protestant confessional schools.

So a lot of talk has taken place or been given since this new government was formed. Some of the Norwegian and some of the Swedish ideas have been brought forth, and I think they're quite in order as far as that goes, but they have been brought up from time to time and mentioned. I'd just like to point out that the Norwegian Government will now provide between 70 and 100 percent of all private schools. And I'd like to point out what a Member of Parliament in Sweden said about this and I have the name here, a gentleman by the name of Langslut, and he said: "Private schools" - and I quote - "Private schools have their place in the future school system, not as an alternative system, not as a threatening competitor but as a natural expression for plurism." The amount spent in the little country of Norway is approximately \$4.2 million, and the Minister of Education there discussed the fact and said that the cost to the government would be substantially greater if students in private schools were to attend public schools. A complete different attitude seems to exist that we seem to be wanting to think of all the time.

I am very tempted to bring in the brief that the Premier and the Cabinet received last -- no, December 4th, 1968, and in this brief it's brought out -- brought in by approximately 13 different organizations, including the St. John's Cathedral School for Boys, a number of Roman Catholic private schools, several Mennonite schools, the Jewish School Board, other Hutterites and also the Greater Winnipeg Society for Christian Education coming from Calvin Christ School.

In this brief, Mr. Speaker, I thought some interesting factors were brought up and I'd like to just quote one or two of the paragraphs in this brief, and I quote: "Since in fact the private schools provide a public service, the expression 'private schools' creates a false impression. All the private schools were established to exercise the right of parents to choose the kind of education which shall be given to their children while meeting the provincial program of study."

Mr. Speaker, I would like at this time to also quote part of the article - I'm not sure if the Honourable Member of Rhineland did or not - but Article 26 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, of which Canada is a signatory, and I quote now: "Everyone has the right to education and that education shall be free and compulsory, that parents have the prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given their children." Mr. Speaker, as we know, parents in the Province of Manitoba can only exercise that right if they carry an additional financial penalty.

Therefore, I wish to join some of the others and I wish to let it be known that I will be one of those supporting this resolution that supports financial assistance to private and to parochial schools.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Gladstone -- (Interjection) -- Charleswood, I'm sorry.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): If somebody else wanted to speak, Mr. Speaker, I was just going to adjourn it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Charleswood,

MR. MOUG: I beg to move, seconded by the Member for Wolseley, that debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia and the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Labour in amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I do want to speak to this motion that has been presented by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia and the amendment to it brought in by the Minister of Labour who is not present now.

The topic matter is one that is familiar to very many members of the House and not too familiar to others, but it's nevertheless an extremely important matter at the present time, particularly since we do have in Manitoba and in Canada a relative crisis regarding housing, and very much of the problem related to housing revolves around codes, the existence of or the non-existence of, but primarily because of the existence of codes.

One recent analysis that was done by a research group indicated that the cost of housing has risen in the last eight years by about 50 percent. In other words, I think the figures were that the costs were running at that time, about eight years ago, at about roughly, for an averaged sized medium income house, at around \$12.00 a square foot, but now the costs are running anywhere up to about \$18.00 a square foot and the costs are to a very large extent attributed to the inflexibility that exists in our codes. In other words, builders and designers and potential homeowners are not really in a position where they can innovate in the construction of a home if they want to bring in something that is not entirely in keeping with the various codes that exist in the province.

Now at the same time, over this same period, the cost of mobile homes at that time was running around \$10.00 per square foot and the cost of mobile homes now, 1970, an average mobile home runs around \$8.00 a square foot which means it has undergone a reduction of some 20 percent. So whereas normal housing that is covered or controlled by our codes has gone up in cost by a very large amount, over the same period of time the cost of mobile homes which are not controlled by the building codes or the codes set by government but would come under a category of being a wheeled vehicle or a mobile vehicle or a movable relocatable home not governed by these, have been able to undergo adaptations to the extent where you even see where the carpet is put on the floor before the walls go on the structure, and these sort of freedoms that the designers and builders have for mobile homes are not enjoyed by those that are caught by the local building codes.

Now this sounds like a condemnation of codes. Partly it is, because of the inflexibility of codes. On the other hand, a code can be of considerable help. It means that from area to area a designer can design a home and a builder can gear up for relatively higher production if he knows that there is a standard method of doing a particular operation the same in The Pas as he can do it in Winnipeg or at another location or any other comparative locations in the province, and that the products that he's going to put in it are going to be accepted in the various areas.

But this is not true at the present time. The problem is that we have codes but they vary all over the province. Recently, for an example, in the January 28, 1970 issue of The Tribune there was a comparison done on the -- a sample done by Mr. Bill Burdeyny of The Tribune in which the headline is "Building A New House is a Red Tape Affair." A table is drawn up here of all the requirements that have to be met in the various municipalities of Winnipeg alone, and in here, in the Metropolitan area he's compared the various municipalities' categories of approval before permit, excavation deposits, water connection fee, sanitary sewer connection, private driveway fee, mud-cut fee, grade level fee and so on. Various municipalities have these; some have them, some don't have them. This is just in preparation for construction of a home.

Now the same thing can vary inside the home. The municipality that may operate under certain codes, another municipality may not require the code. Anything that comes under the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation of course comes under their general code and requirements. But what has resulted is a considerable variation of the requirements that are put on the people who are in the business of either building or buying a home. And of course

(MR. CRAIK cont'd) the same thing also applies to commercial properties, the same sort of procedure has to be gone through except here you get involved not only in the local building codes but you get involved in the fire regulations and other codes that are administered by the provincial government.

Now, recognizing the problems inherent in this, the Federal Government undertook to develop a national building code that would hopefully provide a certain degree of standardization but also a degree of flexibility so that innovation would be made possible, and as a result of this the National Building Code was recommended to the provinces and is under consideration by most of the provinces. Now the aim of it was - and if I can just run through the recommendations here, not that I want to dwell on these at great length, but I would think that a Committee of Municipal Affairs might well do this.

It would provide an opportunity for the development of an industry capable of producing buildings of architectural quality on a mass volume basis so that they could be used anywhere in Canada, but recognizing the fact that there would be special requirements in geographical areas that may have different temperature and other environmental impositions put on them, new materials, components and systems. The old ones used in new ways can readily be measured against performance standards and thus introduced more easily than they can at present.

The range of inventories of building suppliers could be reduced considerably. There would be a greater production capability; longer construction periods would be possible - and that's important in our area; winter construction periods are what we want to capitalize on. Due to a reduction in on-site construction there would be less reliance on good building weather. Although other costs can have a significant effect on the price of a finished building, the actual unit cost of a building would very likely be lowered. As a matter of fact, an estimate has been made by the federal Department of Industry. This estimate is reported to - it hasn't been put on paper - but it has been reported, I can't quote you the source, but it has been reported that in Canada they would hope that this would bring about a reduction of about \$1 million a year in building costs. Now this claim should also be investigated by a municipal committee that wish to investigate this, and should be undertaken.

Now there is another important factor here that should be considered; that is the unit system that we have been using in this country has been tied to the inch, pound, foot system, and we've seen the transfer over to the metric system in many areas. One of the first was our hospitals. The next is almost sure to come, and that is in the other units of measure that we are going to use in the country, and it's probably only a short ways away, and it would be helpful if, before the metric system comes into force in Canada, that this transfer over to the National Building Code or a uniform code of some sort were actually made, because there are module sizes in building construction that can be worked out, that are uniform numbers that adapt very easily and there is a module size that agrees -- the four foot module in building agrees very closely with an even numbered module in the metric system, and there has been a desire on the part of the people who have worked on the National Building Code to ensure that whatever is done, that this module size can be adapted, because they feel it would play a very important role, and although this has not been approved in Canada yet, it appears very likely that it will be approved. It has been under study by a CSA committee and now the Federal Government is in the midst of setting up, and perhaps it has already passed the legislation, of setting up a federal government-operated standards bureau whose main assignment will be in this area, or one of its main assignments will be in this area and will be doing part of the work that the CSA is doing now.

Now, the only reservation I have about the amendment to the resolution is that it simply refers the matter to the Municipal Affairs Committee, and I think the matter is considerably more urgent than this. A task force would be much more effective in ensuring a result being brought about at an early date. I would point out that a task force type of approach has been taken in other provinces and that to begin with, one might well refer to the report that has been done in Ontario which is a report of the Committee on Uniform Building Standards for Ontario dated November 1969, and essentially the conclusions of this Task Force on the Building Codes in Ontario has recommended following fairly closely the recommendations of the National Building Code but leaving powers in the municipality to make minor adjustments to it, but basically they also would like to see the powers of inspection, for instance, left with the municipality as long as the municipality knows what the National Building Code is, and this would make

(MR. CRAIK cont'd) a significant change from here because now we have inspectors at both the municipal level and at the provincial level and it makes it very difficult for people building in a particular area. Quite often the local inspector will defer to the Department of Labour inspector at the provincial level and a fairly long drawn-out protracted procedure may be involved. So, with minor alterations, the Ontario committee has basically gone along with the recommendations of the National Building Code and in fact it has been recommended to the Legislature in Ontario for action.

Now in Manitoba, coming back to the local scene, the National Building Code has been endorsed by most people in the design areas. It has been endorsed by the architectural people; I think by the Construction Association, which generally deals with larger commercial buildings; by people involved in engineering and engineering products to a large degree; but requires at this time an interpretation to the municipal people who administer the codes to ensure that they understand what it's all about and that they are in agreement with it because eventually they are going to be put in the position of having to administer, and, again going back to the Ontario report, they recognize that the main problem is that there is adequate flexibility provided at the municipal levels so that some discretionary power can be used there, and the fact that it's a National Building Code appears not to in any way impede this flexibility at the local level.

So therefore, Mr. Speaker, with those words I simply would like to say that I endorse the recommendation of the Member for Assinibola because I think that we do have to get on with this as soon as possible because it's in the best interests of the industry in Manitoba, it's in the best interests of the people because savings will be passed along to the purchaser as a result of this, and I feel that simple referral to the municipal committee would not be doing it justice at this time and that the municipal committee, with the recommendation of the House, should take under consideration the establishment of a task force to bring a report in on this at the earliest possible date, and if, Mr. Speaker, I could add to this - I haven't got it written out here unfortunately and I don't know whether this is desirable or not - I simply wanted to add at the end of this resolution, or the amendment to it, where the Minister of Labour has said the resolution should be "subject matter be referred to the standing committee on Municipal Affairs" for a recommendation, I would add to it "for recommendation back to the government by December 31, 1970." Just to repeat, Mr. Speaker, my sub-amendment to the amendment would simply add "for recommendation to the government by December 31, 1970". Mr. Speaker, I would move that, seconded by the Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. SPEAKER: It's not quite -- would the honourable member write it out in a manner which would make it apparent as to what it is in fact that the member wishes to amend.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I do believe we had a similar experience twice on this side. Perhaps the honourable member could arrange with somebody who is friendly to him to bring the amendment properly printed and in proper language at the next Private Members' Day.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I have it here now, except that it's not in typewritten form. It amends the resolution by adding after the word "Affairs" in the last line thereof, the following: "for recommendation to the government by December 31, 1970."

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

. . . . Continued on next page

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question on the sub-amendment? The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I don't want to speak too long on this but in the experience that I have had, in moving from community to community, I do feel that it will always be very difficult to ask the Federal Government or the Provincial Government or an authority far away from a community to set the rules and regulations under which that community must live, and I think in the day and age when we are trying to get closer, government closer to a community, in a way in which they will be able to look after their own problems, that this type of resolution cannot be considered one in which we assist growing communities. Certainly, in my mind, no community can be judged under the same basis as another when you get a country as large as Canada or even a province as large as Manitoba, so consequently you have a code or rules and regulations, and while they may be flexible, are they flexible enough to fit in with what are the needs of the individual community? And I realize in saying this that there is the problem that governments are being asked to financially back the building of housing and become more involved in housing as time passes, and I think this is a good policy to follow, but I think that it must be a two-way one and, if anything -- I have lived in a community for the last 10 or 11 years that has at many times struggled because of the severe code and the high code that has been required in that type of a community. And perhaps people will say, "Well, come back 10 or 20 years from now and you'll see the advantage of that type of a building." But I say to them that, while this may be good, it certainly isn't good for many of the people who have chosen to try and make a home in an altogether new community, because many of them are people that are handy people - people from the farms, people from the small communities - who could have, if it had been flexible enough, been allowed to move into a community such as Thompson, and while the man worked he could have put up the shell of his house and he could have finished it room by room, and he could have had his family in there a lot sooner, and the building itself would have met his ability to pay. And I think this is one of the things that we have got to consider; just how much should your home be worth?

It used to be at one time your home was your castle, etc., and I guess it is today also, but is it up to you to decide just how big a castle you wish to build or is it up to a code that is set by a group of people - builders, architects; are they the ones that should decide how much you should have to spend on your house? I think that this is something that we all have to take a second look at, because when you're asking for codes, you are looking at diversified types of communities, maybe communities that are supposed to last five years; communities that are expected to last your lifetime and the lifetime of your children; communities that are there to look after a resource that maybe has a lifetime of 20 years, 15 years, and we all have to look at Elliott Lake and see what happens when government gets into the type of code and policies that they decided at Elliott Lake, and they left a lot of people high and dry when they anticipated - they knew they had a contract, what was it, five years? and they anticipated that this would go on forever, but they only had the assurance of a five year contract and yet they had people building businesses and homes that called for a community to last 100 years, and so consequently thousands of people lost thousands of dollars and I suppose businesses in some respects lost hundreds of thousands. But this is what you can get where you have an empire builder instead of a community builder, and certainly the background of any community are the local people that live within the community itself. Unfortunately, the union at Thompson at one time had a project under way - but it fell by the wayside - in which owners could get out and build their own house, and as they invested in the house they could have had that capital advanced by the loan through a government agency. And I think that this is something that we're going to have to look at, particularly where you're looking at people that are moving into the north, where they are not only working on a wage but they are working to get a personal investment in the community. Of course, the first fault they find with the community is that it does not have the housing and they're strapped with the fact of having to pay for living in one community and have their family in another. If they were allowed to begin under a system where there could be a self-help program amongst a number of people that could build the minimum, to the minimum standards, and those standards be those that are set by the community and in fact the wishes of the people that live in the community also, so that the code could be something that was set by the municipal authorities and of course it would have to be recognized by the government authority that was lending the money.

But that's something that they should be able to negotiate at the community level. If it's

(MR. BEARD cont'd.) at the federal level, the community will never reach the authorities because those who lay down rules that are set by somebody in Ottawa, they pass along to the inspector, and this hold up development month after month. The intrigues that I have known that have gone on in respect to people trying to get homes built by companies going in and trying to develop a housing project, by people trying to form their own co-op, have all brought back at least the message to me that there are too many rules and too many restrictions, and goodness only know today where there are new materials coming out every day that are different, and if they are accepted under inspection before they're put on the market, then they certainly should be good enough for the home owner. There are rules, I suppose, that municipalities would want to have in their own regulations, such as a house having to have two doors, two outlets, and protection in fire and allowance for windows, etc., but those are things that we really want to build into our own homes anyway. But as to whether some of the other restrictions that are built in by codes are forcing people into an inflationary cost of owning their own home, and in new communities where you have no alternative than to own your own home, then it is very very difficult for them and it is altogether different to a community such as Winnipeg where you can, I understand, rent places and at different costs, but in a new community where there is only one cost and that is the cost of a completely new home, and at a high level, then it is very difficult to build that community up and for somebody to encourage people to come.

I think that if the owner wants to get into his house as soon as possible, if he's got the ability to collect friends together to help him put up the shell, then they should be allowed to do those things, but I don't think it can be done under an authority which would be either federal or provincial. I think that it should be one that is in the community itself, and so consequently we pass it along either to the municipal authority or to the rural municipal authority and they in turn can look to Manitoba or the Federal Government for advice from time to time, but I think the people in that community itself will give that mayor and council the best advice because, after all, they are the people that are going to be living within that community itself.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments in connection with the resolution before us, having to do with the National Building Code. I don't think I could ever subscribe to the resolution that is before us. If we look at some of the whereases, which describe as certain conflicts and outmoded building codes, to some people a certain code might appear outmoded and yet to another area this may not be the case at all. Otherwise, I think a lot of these codes would have been changed by now. There's no reason why they could not be changed and why, if certain codes have been in effect for many years, that they are necessarily outmoded. Because, as I mentioned, the unlike conditions -- certainly conditions in British Columbia where it's a lot milder, you don't have the heavy winters compared to Churchill, Manitoba or some other northern communities, or even down east. Certainly the conditions are so different that I don't think you can establish codes that will apply equally in all areas of this vast country. I feel that there is a purpose for having these codes in various places, otherwise they wouldn't be on the books.

Then, too, I think according to the second "whereas", I think we would be limiting our choice in the way of materials. The matter is raised here that materials be of such a nature so as it can be more readily used for mass production at lowest possible cost. Well, many people probably are not interested just in the material that a company who is in mass production would be, and therefore I think I would feel that we should still leave the matter of choice to the people concerned.

The third "whereas" has to deal with housing manufacturing plants, and there again I don't think we should necessarily subscribe to what certain manufacturers want. I feel that the people are more important. Let them decide these matters on their own, what type of houses they want, or it needn't be houses, it could be other buildings for that matter, but one of the biggest things I take exception to is that this code applies to the whole of Canada. I feel that our various local governments, be it provincial or municipal governments, should have a say and it should be optional at their discretion, because I could not, not even knowing just what the code represents. I haven't studied it that much; I've looked at it but I couldn't decide for the whole of Canada what kind of a code should be implemented; I certainly wouldn't want to take it upon myself to vote either way in that connection if some kind of code should be presented to this House and that I should then decide for all of Canada as to what should be in that code. Therefore, I certainly will not support the resolution. I know the amendment is to refer it to a

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) committee for study. I don't take exception to that; they might study it and probably bring some recommendation to this House as to what we could do in Manitoba; but I certainly would reserve any rights to make amendments so that local options would be maintained.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, there seems to be some misunderstanding in respect to this resolution and I would just like to clarify that National Building Code is written with the knowledge that conditions do vary from area to area, and its contents provide for such discrepancies in ~~different~~ areas. It provides for areas where we have permafrost. It provides for areas that have different conditions and it's adaptable to different areas. Now, I listened with interest to the Honourable Member for Riel and I think he's made a very good contribution because the code -- we have to do something if we're concerned about housing in this country, if we're concerned about living accommodations, and surely the builders of this community, of this province, the contractors and all the people involved, they have some experience in this area; they have some knowledge; they're the experts and they're the ones that are pressing for this measure, and surely they're much more familiar than we are in this House with many of the conditions because they're working under all conditions and in all areas of the country, and the National Building Code has received endorsement of many organizations - and I'll just name them: The Canadian Construction Association. Engineering Institute of Canada. Royal Architectural Institute. Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities. Consulting Engineers of Canada. Canadian Fire Marshal. Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs. Canadian Underwriters Association. Canada Labour Congress. Central Mortgage and Housing. National House Builders Association. Winnipeg House Builders, and Manitoba House Builders Association as well.

So these people have some knowledge, and quite recently, I believe it was just last month in Winnipeg, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada held their convention in Winnipeg and the statement I would just read out of Winnipeg Tribune; I would just read the first paragraph: "The only way to solve the housing crisis is to produce housing on some kind of an assembly basis, said the president of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, and he also stated that techniques of mobile home manufacturing can and should be adapted to all types of housing. He told a press conference that the need for more housing, particularly low-priced housing, is something architects, engineers and other specialists must get together on." They were pressing, or he was speaking on assembly type of housing that's required if we are concerned to produce the required number of homes that's needed, because we are not able to cope with the problem at the present time on the present codes.

Now Ontario, as was mentioned and I have the report here of the uniform standards for Ontario, they have done a very extensive study in this area, and it just pointed out their province is just as large as ours, larger, and they have the same conditions to cope with as we have, and I believe in the province of Ontario they have to deal something with 600 building codes as well, which was causing problems. It doesn't mean if we accept the National Building Code itself that one code applies to every area because as conditions and the areas change so does the code to suit the certain areas, so I don't feel that we have the whole concept of what the National Building Code is supposed to do really. I know that there are additions to the code brought in continually because there is a committee studying every year, and there's amendments proposed to the National Building Code and circulated throughout the whole of Canada, so I feel that there has been some misunderstanding and it's time that we look at this area quite seriously.

My one concern is, the Minister of Labour has pointed out that perhaps the municipal committee should deal with this - I think that the point that was raised by the Member for Riel is quite correct, that this is an area that will probably take some extensive study and quite a bit of time, and I just wonder if the municipal committee which will be dealing with assessments on this province, which will be quite an extensive undertaking, I just doubt very much if the municipal committee will have the time to deal with it. On the other hand, I'm not arguing that it shouldn't. Perhaps there could be a special committee or a task force to deal with this one problem because it is a very complicated and a large problem. I think this is one area that the government can assist, with very little expenditure, you know, in any money that's required, and this would probably help to reduce the cost of building and especially cost of homes in this province. I didn't intend to speak on the amendment but I just want to raise the point that there

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) is some misunderstanding as to what really the National Building Code is. It's a document that's prepared, has taken into consideration all different conditions, climatic conditions in all areas of Canada, so it isn't just a building code that's been prepared, you know, for one part of the country. I think it does take into consideration all parts, and I said it is prepared by specialists in their field, and the people that I just mentioned, the organizations that are supporting it, these people have a direct knowledge of construction costs, of the problems they have, and surely they wouldn't be supporting this if they think it would be a disadvantage in any way.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PETER FOX (Kildonan): I'd like to ask the last speaker a question, Mr. Speaker. If, as the member suggests, all these different associations have suggested this code be adopted and they have the power to carry it out, why don't they? Why do they want to be forced to carry out a code? You referred to the builders, the architects and a few others. Now they have it within their power to carry it out. Why don't they?

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I think it's the government that can, you know, it's the standards that the governments or certain legislation, or be it in Winnipeg the Metropolitan Corporation, the standards that we set for these people, and this is what they're going to adopt, and you must appreciate in many many small towns there are no building codes, none at all, and this is another problem, so it's easy to say why doesn't the house builder. Can you visualize any contractor or businessman making his own code or accepting a code which he doesn't have to build under if he can get away with cheaper costs, let's say? So this is what's happening today. I can't say that you can leave it entirely to the industry, that the industry has been asking for it, but I think it's up to the legislators or to the municipalities and the governments to set some kind of a standard.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. BEARD: . . . ask the member a question? Would he agree, though, that the more laws you have the more cost you're going to have to build in to this type of code?

MR. PATRICK: Well, it just depends in what sense the honourable member poses his question. I think that the building code is one instance, or in one sense we can say it's for the protection of the people, but the other point, the National Building Code is for the purpose of reducing the costs, because what we have is duplication of building codes in almost every municipality. You have in Ontario, I believe 600 in some different municipalities for different kinds of -- 543 municipalities had a building by-law; 105 municipalities do not have a building by-law; 280 do not use the National Building Code; 209 use the short form national building code. The data collected indicated that out of 648 municipalities replied, 368 were using the National Building Code and the purpose of this is to reduce construction costs.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question on the amendment? The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Winnipeg Centre, that the debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Churchill and the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources in amendment thereto.

I believe that there was a point of order which had arisen last Friday on which I had informed the House that I was going to present a ruling on. On Friday, May 29, 1970, the matter of tabling letters read into the record arose in the House. I believe that Citation 158 subsection (3) of Beauchesne Fourth Edition, is sufficiently clear, and I quote: "An unsigned letter should not be read in the House. On the 16th of May, 1928, a member stated during debate that a letter which he had been quoting was not signed. The Speaker said such a letter should not be read into Hansard. All letters, when read, must be signed and they become part of the documents of the House."

In my humble opinion, I have no choice but to enforce the rule and order the Honourable Minister of Transportation to table the original copy of the letter from which he quoted. If, as was indicated to the House later the same afternoon, the Honourable Minister of Transportation may not have within his possession the original copy of the letter from which he quoted, then I must rule that the quotation read by him be stricken from the record. If I were to allow the tabling of that portion of that copy of the letter which the Honourable Minister chose to table, and if I were to allow him to complete the contents of the letter with an oral statement, then I

(MR. SPEAKER cont'd.) would be exceeding my jurisdiction and encroaching on the jurisdiction of the House.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Minister of Transportation is not here. As I indicated in my remarks last Friday, he said that he would attempt to do whatever he could to reconstruct what has occurred so that I leave it to the option of the members opposite, either he attempts to fulfill this intention which he expressed to me or, as the Speaker has ruled, the remarks be stricken from the record. I would indicate that the Member did indicate to me he could probably get the name of the person who wrote the letter which may lead to some reconstruction. If that is not satisfactory, then the Speaker has ruled that the remarks be stricken and I have no comment on the ruling, of course.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, as was indicated last Friday that it seemed most unusual that the -- when the Minister indicated that he did not have the letter, that the one that was tabled was actually a copy of the letter and the copy had been scissored; it wasn't a copy of the scissored letter, the copy itself had been scissored off, which indicated that somewhere there was two parts left. One was the last half of the letter with the signature and the first part was the original letter itself. Now the Honourable Minister has apparently indicated by proxy that in fact both parts have disappeared and therefore he cannot table it.

Now the second point is that it was on, I believe, May 14th that there was a considerable furor in this House and he was present, a considerable furor when the Member for Wolseley had read a statement and was required to table the letter, and following that the Member for Souris-Killarney went through a similar experience, and after that at least on one occasion and probably two, other people quoted letters and tabled them intact. So it's not -- it's very strange, very strange, Mr. Speaker, that the person, first of all, was not aware, and then secondly, what's very strange is that it would be a letter with part of the contents scissored off. There couldn't have been a point that was more well-established in this House in this session, and regardless of what the Minister of Transportation does, what action he takes -- and I think personally he should be explaining it and the House Leader should not be explaining it for him; he should be explaining his own position on this because it's most strange that this whole sequence of events could have led up with this particular conclusion. The signature itself is not a critical matter. It's a case of satisfying the rules of the House and the rules of the House were very well-known.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I readily admit that the sequence of events are unfortunate and on Friday last, I believe it was, I knew immediately that there would be an unfortunate situation arise if it was not explained immediately that the letter was not available. Now I accept what the Minister of Transportation has told me, and if the Honourable Member for Riel feels that the Minister should have made the explanation at the time, then I think that that should have been said on Friday. I rather have no comment on that. It was brought to my attention; I felt that in order to not have an incident arise I should bring it to the immediate attention of the House. At that point the Minister of Transportation was still in the House and if the Member for Riel feels that there should have been no proxy, as he indicates -- I didn't regard myself as a proxy. I regarded myself as a man who had a responsibility to bring to the attention of the Speaker and members of the House a potentially embarrassing situation, and the Member for Riel could have said to the Minister of Transportation, "We don't want to hear from the House Leader. We want to hear from the Minister of Transportation as to what has occurred." But I immediately conveyed the knowledge that was given to me and I conveyed it in the presence of all members, including the Minister, and my recollection is that the Minister informed me and I informed the House that if the name is required he thinks he could get it and that he also thinks that this may help in the reconstruction of the letter. But my information was that he did not -- and I'm trying to recall exactly -- but my recollection is that he said that he didn't think that he could produce them, that they were not available to him.

Now, if the Member wants the Minister for Transportation, when he is in the House, to further explain his, I have no objection to him doing it, but he was in the House at the time that I made the explanation; the Member for Riel could have insisted at that time that this be done; we now have the Speaker's ruling which says that either the original letter be produced or the remarks be stricken from the record. Mr. Speaker, as I've already said, I have no comment to make on the ruling. I think that the ruling should be complied with. If the Minister for Transportation were in the House he would have to do one of the two things. He would have to reconstruct or produce the letter which he indicated to me was not available, or accept the

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) Speaker's ruling that the remarks be stricken. Now the situation is -- I don't pretend that it's satisfactory but that is the situation, and the one point that I rather regret is that the Member for Riel now says that I spoke as a proxy. I didn't speak as a proxy. I spoke as a responsible person in the House, and if the Member for Riel had thought that the Minister should have spoken at that time, he was in the House and could have spoken.

MR. SPEAKER: I would hope that the debate in progress at this present time is not one on my ruling but rather on the closing paragraph that if it is the intention of the House to allow a form of tabling in the manner proposed last Friday, the acceptance of the document as was tabled, coupled with a verbal explanation, and is simply on that point.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, in light of all the factors involved here, it's my feeling that the Minister should be allowed the opportunity to explain it his way regardless of whether he did last week or not, and if there's any way possible I would think that the logical thing to do is to leave it until the Minister of Transportation is present and we get the explanation, then we do what we have to do.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I beg the indulgence of the House, can I have this matter stand? (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, since having proposed this resolution I have changed my mind about going through with it, so I'd ask the House to let me withdraw it.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave? (Agreed)

Adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Roblin. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After having a look at this resolution, I find that this government has no problem accepting it. The only thing is that we are aware that there's been some communication in regards to this with the two railways and they have assured us that there is a continual research into making the transport of their railroads as safe as possible. The thing that gives me a little concern is the way the resolution is worded, is that it asks a Commission to effect legislation, which is an impossibility. We could make representation to that Commission and it could make representation to the Federal Government in respect to legislation, but that is about all that could be done. On that note, Mr. Speaker, we're willing to accept the resolution.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Swan River, WHEREAS there is a need for a uniform system of tire grading and standards; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoba Government be urged to adopt a uniform and compulsory system of motor vehicle tire grading and standards which will assure the safest maximum protection for the public.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. McKENZIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, for some time myself and others, which include the auto trades and the Manitoba Motor League and the Manitoba groups interested in safety, have been pressing for action in regard to standards for tires, and knowing the problem the resolution is on the Order Paper. The tire market today is one that -- like myself, I'm not in the business of selling tires but when I come to buy a tire I become most confused because I basically don't know what I'm buying, and there are many that share my opinion, and of course the reason for this resolution is to try and eliminate the confusion in the public's mind as to the quality and the safety of tires that they purchase. I have not too many facts and figures with regards to Canada but I have done some work with regards to the standards that are being hoisted on the market in the United States today. And of course, with automobile insurance being one of the debates of the day, here is possibly a method by where we could possibly reduce the premiums on automobile with regards to the safety standards that were employed with the type of tires that were on the vehicle.

We must ask ourselves, Mr. Speaker, what are the driver's chances of having an accident in his lifetime, and that of course raises a question on many points. It depends on the distance that maybe he's travelled, the tires that's on his car, the condition of his vehicle, the condition of the roads, the weather, the driver, the other drivers -- there's many things. And recent

(MR. McKENZIE cont'd.) statements that I have had occasion to read, Mr. Speaker, indicate that a person who drives approximately 12,000 miles a year has one chance in three of having some form of an accident. One chance of four indicates that the damage will be property damage only, and one chance in forty that there will likely be injury, personal injury to somebody. One chance in 1,800 that there will be a fatality involved, and if you travel 8,000 miles a year, statistics show that the chance is one in five of you having an accident, one in six for some form of property damage, one in 55 for an injury, personal injury accident, and one in 2,000 for a fatal.

So basically, facing those facts, Mr. Speaker, I submit that a driver must keep his car and his tires and himself in the best possible condition to improve on those odds that I have related to you this afternoon, and there's no way of getting away from the point that motorists are responsible, both morally and legally, for the condition of the vehicle that they put on the road; and part of the condition of that vehicle, which is very important in my opinion, are the tires. The tires are the driver's only contact with the road and the surface on which he's travelling and they require extensive care, and the hazards and problems of tires, as I understand them and have read about them, are many and they are varied.

I read with great interest recently that the Department of Transportation in Washington did a study on this very subject and they reported that more than 42,000 tires of a well-known make had failed safety tests and were classed as being hazardous under certain conditions. The federal Department of Transportation, I understand, they notified this well-known manufacturer that they faced possible civil penalties for manufacturing and selling tires that failed to conform with the federal standards in that jurisdiction. It's interesting to note also, Mr. Speaker, however, that the manufacturer immediately asked all owners of such defective tires to call them back for a replacement. One test that was made by the National Highway Safety Bureau in Washington said that of 54 tires that were tested for strength on a certain day, 46 failed the test - 46 out of 54. The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act provides the penalty, I think it's a thousand dollars for each violation in the United States and I think the penalty is \$400,000 for a series of violations along that nature.

A further study of the report has indicated, Mr. Speaker, that this well known manufacturer is the fourth tire manufacturer who faces possible civil prosecution in that jurisdiction. I also noted negotiated penalties of \$50,000 by other American manufacturers and some \$25,000 by another. I also note in the report that the Safety Bureau has indicated that two other large manufacturing tire firms had been notified that penalties would be assessed against them and they have been asked to negotiate a settlement.

So in the main, Mr. Speaker, this is a matter I think which should be the concern of Manitoba and the Assembly and the MLA's of this Chamber, so I submit it in good faith and would be most interested in the debate that does ensue.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the member for Flin Flon, that debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Roblin,

WHEREAS the provincial sales tax now applies to children's clothing and footwear beyond certain sizes;

WHEREAS children's sizes may vary considerably at a given age and may result in inequitable taxation;

WHEREAS the present specified sizes appear to be too small to include a large enough proportion of dependent children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT consideration be given to the advisability of allowing clothing sales tax exemption on the basis of proof of age;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the exemption age be fixed to coincide with that of the federal family allowance maximum age.

MR. SPEAKER: Moved by the Honourable Member for Riel, seconded -- I just may point out to the honourable member, I would take it in reading the first paragraph of the operative portion of the resolution that it is likely his intention that the second paragraph be in the abstract.

MR. CRAIK: Oh yes, the "advisability" should apply to the second Resolved as well.

MR. CHERNIACK: It should be amended, Mr. Speaker, but we would give leave to it being done.

MR. CRAIK: Oh, may I have leave then to say . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, may I interrupt. It should be corrected, not amended, that is the word.

MR. CRAIK: Then, Mr. Speaker, if I have leave to make the correction, it should be: "Be It Further Resolved that consideration be given to the advisability that the exemption age be fixed to coincide," etc.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave is granted.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I know that probably the immediate reaction of the members on the government side of the House is "why didn't you do it when", and the only logical answer, the only logical answer to it is that any program that has been operating for a short period of time happens to be a year or two years or three years, is that always you can find corrections and minor things, changes that can be made to it. I would suggest that most of the bills that we examine in this House are actually amendments to Acts that are already on the Statutes, but over a period of time we find that corrections have to be made to these Acts to bring them up to date and this resolution, Mr. Speaker, is intended to do that.

I know now that we've all had enough experience with the operation of the sales tax to identify spots in it where these changes can be made. I don't believe that the proposal here which would see the age limit raised slightly and the proof of age aspect introduced would mean a great deal in terms of income to the government. I don't think there are that many dollars involved in it.

I would say additionally that if it were possible to tie in other clothing such as may be required for particular occupational work for making a living, if you could do that, that this should be added as well except that it's too difficult to differentiate between the type of clothing that a person involved in a job in the labour area, whether it is coveralls or outfitting for that purpose, can be that easily differentiated from that which may be purchased for sports wear or for casual wear, and therefore it would be difficult to carry the categorization of clothing any further than this.

However, there is a difficulty exists with people, particularly who have children who tend to be above-average size children, and they find that in actual fact that the children at ages 10, 11 or 12 are having to pay the sales tax for clothing that by definition of size falls under an adult category. Now the danger is that when you move the age limit up or move the size up, that you will have adults that in fact fall in that size category but are over the age limit, and therefore, Mr. Speaker, the request for the second part of the resolution is to change it to a categorization based on proof of age rather than on the size of the clothing. I know that members on the government side are well aware that this has created a great deal of difficulty with people with large families and children who are above average in size, and that a move to undertake this resolution would be received most favourably and would be a very equitable move on the part of the government to take this.

Again, I'm sure that the Minister of Finance knows how many dollars are involved when the advisability is considered and I'm sure that it would be found that the amount involved is very miniscule, if you like, compared to the total income from the sales tax. In fact it would not be noticed but it would rectify a very abrasive, a very abrasive section of the revenue tax that meets with great dissatisfaction by, I'd say, almost every household that has to buy children's clothing, and I recommend it to you with those few short words of introduction.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: I wonder if the honourable member would submit to a question. Would he give us the benefit of the explorations which the prior government made to the possibility of control and enforcement of the proposal which he is making.

MR. CRAIK: Well, I pointed out in the remarks I made in the event that -- but the problem is identification and it means age identification by the person purchasing the clothes. That's the major problem I think. It was recognized at that time that it will always be a problem, but it means age identification.

MR. CHERNIACK: If I may, a supplementary. Since the existing law does not prevent an adult from buying an article of clothing which is of a size that comes within the exemption, then it is not really a problem as to who buys it or whowears it but rather what size it is.

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd.) The point made - and I'm certainly not arguing, I'm asking - was it considered that the person buying is not necessarily the person who will wear and therefore the identification of the buyer would not be sufficient? Was that not considered?

MR. CRAIK: Well, I think that this is an important point as well, Mr. Speaker. There is certainly going to be a problem but I think it's at the higher age group, say at age 15 or age 16 that you are going to have a problem of interference of sizes with adult sizes. Now on the one side there is the problem that a young person of age with an identification card can come down and buy an item and then it could be used by an adult. That would be an infraction, certainly, a sort of one that you'd have to anticipate that you are going to run into, but it's probably one you'd have to put up with and the inequity in it would be far less than the inequity that exists now when a person actually qualifies when you equate age with size, but when you equate physical size they have to pay the sales tax, and the occurrence of that, the frequency of the occurrence would be far greater than the case where an adult was going to be able to use the clothes although purchased on a child's pass to be free of the sales tax. That's probably not entirely what you are asking but it's part of the question you are asking.

I think that the other part that you're probably asking here is would the person have to be present himself to do it and the answer is that I would think in the higher age group most certainly you would. If a person was buying size 12, 13 clothes, then I would think that you would say that it was not required to show proof of age, but if you are buying in the age group 14, 15, 16 you would have to show it.

MR. CHERNIACK: One other question to you. What about a purchase by telephone?

MR. CRAIK: There would have to be arrangements I would think, Mr. Speaker, for proof of age. The purchase by telephone is the same thing that you encounter with the purchase of liquor. A person that's under age, as far as liquor consumption legal age is concerned, can order by telephone but proof of age is necessary.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for LaVerendrye, that the debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I move, seconded by the Member for LaVerendrye,

WHEREAS in certain areas of the province school children who do not live in rural areas are still required to walk up to two and a half miles to school,

AND WHEREAS some of these areas are not served by a form of public transit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the government consider the advisability of making transportation grants to appropriate school boards where a child lives more than one mile from school but within a city's limits and where public transit does not exist.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I was prompted to bring in this resolution by a unique situation that is in existence in the city of Portage la Prairie. I'm not aware if it occurs in other parts of the province or not; perhaps the Minister of Education can advise the House if it does. We have a situation in Portage where about 32 children have to find some means of getting to school in all types of weather, and in most cases along a very busy highway without - well, with a high speed limit and there has been many close calls in the past where children have been walking along a highway with a high speed limit and then also the fact of the severe climate that we have in this province in the wintertime, that this is really an inequity that exists and presently the only method of solving it is for the local school board to provide, out of their resources, transportation. Naturally, the local school board has a reluctance to do so without first trying to persuade and convince the province that the province should make a per capita transportation grant the same as they do for students who live in truly rural areas.

Well, I notice the Minister of Education is not in his seat. I know that he has had correspondence with the Portage School Division No. 24 where they have asked for consideration in this regard and the Minister had given some indication that he was looking at the problem, but for the 32 children concerned with the coming season that's not good enough. Indefinite consideration and indefinite sympathy is being extended, but I think the government have to recognize this unique problem, and not only in Portage la Prairie but there may be other areas of the province where a similar problem exists, and just because the problem doesn't exist in large

(MR. G. JOHNSTON, cont'd) numbers is no reason in my opinion why it should be ignored.

So while I don't expect a great deal of debate in the House on this because it is not of general interest, I hope that the government front benches will recognize this problem. And I say again, because it's only 32 children it should be not regarded in that light, and I'm sure that if there were 32,000 children affected in this manner there would be a great deal of political activity and there would be prompt action. So I am asking the government to not only sympathetically look at this problem but make changes in the regulations so that the province will give transportation grants to any school division where there is no public transit and the pupils have to find their way for over a mile to the nearest school.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: Mr. Speaker, I have had occasion to discuss this very matter with several people, or at least some people representing several others in the area of Portage la Prairie. I am very interested in the matter of transporting school children to the schools they have been designated to attend and I can well realize the problem faced by some 24 pupils in the Portage area. I understand the complication has been aggravated by the fact that the city limits of Portage la Prairie extend beyond the densely settled area and therefore these people are within the city limits but further away from the school than is desirable.

I would support this resolution because what it requests essentially is not a law that will cost a great deal, it is simply a change asking for consideration for people who, in my opinion, very much deserve that consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: I move, seconded by the Member for Flin Flon, that debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. MCGILL: In the absence of the Member for Fort Rouge may this matter be permitted to stand? (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Proposed resolution of the Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for La Verendrye,

WHEREAS the increasingly higher taxes on real property are of great concern to homeowners, farmers, business persons, and municipal councils, and

WHEREAS some communities, namely Brandon, Fort Garry, The Pas, Portage la Prairie, Selkirk, and others are called on to subsidize provincial buildings and land because of the inadequate grants made by the Province in lieu of taxes to these communities, and

WHEREAS this inequitable treatment places an unfair financial burden on the real property taxpayers of the affected communities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Manitoba consider the advisability of paying full municipal tax on all its real property.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable House Leader.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, could I begin my speech next Private Members' Day?

MR. SPEAKER: It is now 5:30. I am leaving the Chair to return at 8:00 o'clock tonight.