

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

8:00 o'clock, Monday, July 26, 1971

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; The Honourable Member for St. Matthews.

REPORTS BY STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. WALLY JOHANNSON (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs.

MR. CLERK: Your Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs begs leave to present the following as their Fourth Report;

Your Committee has considered Bill:

No. 117 - an Act to validate By-law No. 559 of The City of Thompson.

And has agreed to report the same without amendment.

Your Committee has considered Bill:

No. 111 - an Act to amend The Municipal Act (3).

And has agreed to report the same with certain amendments, as agreed to by the Committee.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministerial Statements; Tabling of Reports; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Oral Questions; The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister. Was the deal or the arrangement for the sale of McDonald Airport a cash deal?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Minister of Public Works could answer that. I'm not sure if he'd want to take it as notice or if he wishes to answer now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Public Works and Highways)(Thompson): The deal was \$50,000 down and cash in three months. We are just in the process of signing the final documentation this week and I expect that we'll receive the final payment next month.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the government arranged any financing on this deal, is the government part of any of the financing?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

MR. BOROWSKI: If the member is asking did we charge interest rates on the money owing, we did not.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Opposition)(River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and relates to Autopac. I wonder whether he can inform the House whether if an individual is covered as a result of paying the license fee, the additional premium on the license fee and he drives another car and is involved in an accident, is his liability limited to only \$50,000 based on the coverage that he has on the basis of the license fee?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs)(Selkirk): The liability will be that which is provided with the particular motor vehicle or included within the particular motor vehicle's license. If the second motor vehicle, the owner of same had, for instance, acquired 100,000 third-party liability and the party was operating the vehicle at that time, it would be my understanding that the liability would be to the extent of 100,000, which would cover the second vehicle.

MR. SPIVAK: No, Mr. Speaker, my question may have been misunderstood. If an individual who is licensed has his driver's license and therefore in addition has paid the premium on auto insurance, and he was to drive another car, somebody else's car, and the normal coverage would have been \$100,000 liability on the car by the owner, and he was to drive the car with the consent of the owner . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would suggest to the honourable gentleman this very complicated question should not come during the oral question period. I wonder if he could give the Minister notice and we could possibly have it at that time. The Honourable First Minister on a point of order.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, my point of order is that not only is the matter complicated, the question as put by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition asks for a legal opinion and it is not in order to ask for a legal opinion from a member of the Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. This is not intended to ask the Minister for a legal opinion although I think he's probably capable of giving it, but Mr. Speaker, the question that's being put to the Minister -- and I'm rising on a point of order because I realize where we stand as far as the session is concerned -- is a question that has been put to Autopac and so far has not been answered, and it's a very simple question. Does the coverage follow the individual or does it stay with a car whether it is -- (Interjection) -- it may be cited by the Minister of Consumer Affairs as a legal opinion but if that's the case then I would ask him to get his Consumer's Branch to examine the advertising that went with the license which suggested something exactly the opposite to the answer that the Minister gave, and therefore there may be some misleading advertising the government itself has been responsible for.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member is debating the point now. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, would he state his point of order.

MR. SPIVAK: My purpose, Mr. Speaker, in placing the question was to gain information that has not been available so far to the people who question the government on it, and if we can't ask it in this House -- and I realize to a certain extent it's because of the proceedings, we're at the last stage, but surely the question can be put and the Minister should be capable at least at this point of knowing what government policy is. It's not a legal opinion, it's government policy. The question, if I may, Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member will accept a question, is as follows: if a person is licensed and therefore protected by \$50,000 liability and he drives a car that belongs to someone else and is involved in an accident, is his liability \$50,000 or is it the liability that is held by the owner of the car?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: I want to say that in normal circumstances -- and I still reserve the right to do this, to take this question as notice, and to inform the Leader of the Opposition personally if the House is not in session, though I would say that it would be my understanding that the insurance would proceed to the owner of the vehicle which was operating. But I shall take the question as notice and advise.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Are the regulations that were tabled through Order-in-Council today, are they covering the people now that are looking for insurance between now and November 1st?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: All the necessary regulations that involve the interim or the intermediate coverage have been approved and have been passed and tabled.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: At the higher rates that were announced by the Minister this afternoon at the Autopac rates?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish that the honourable member would have listened to the statement which I gave earlier. I had indicated quite clearly that the interim insurance that was being sold now between now and November 1st was being sold at private insurance company rates which were higher than the Autopac rates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. Order, please. The honourable member has had two supplementaries on the question. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Could he tell us what the present level of Lake Winnipeg is?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management)(Inkster): No, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Can he tell us what the height of the lake was last week?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I couldn't give exact information at this time.

MRS. TRUEMAN: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What is the last level then that he has available, the date of it, please?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I have them all available but to give precise information I would have to have the documentation in front of me.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I believe my question is for the Minister of Health but perhaps it might apply to the Minister of Labour. It's with respect to the Dental Technicians Act that was passed last year to allow certain dental technicians to deal directly with the public. My question is, when is the Act going to be proclaimed as there are other people entering the field in an illegal manner?

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

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Development)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, last year when we discussed the proposed Act it was said at that time that we would get all groups concerned together discussing the possibility of working that much closer together and such meetings are still taking place and we hope to have the proclamation of the Act very shortly.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister then consider advertising the fact to the public that certain dental technicians are operating illegally?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, we could, but it's been happening for many years prior to this administration, and they haven't.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I wonder if he can give us an answer to the question taken the other day as notice with respect to mercury pollution in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I answered the question on Saturday night when the Leader of the Opposition was absent from the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to pursue this Nupac insurance if I could. Could the Honourable Minister give me the location of the car checking centres?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: I think the honourable member will have to clarify his statement. I don't know what he means by car checking centres. -- (Interjection) -- Claims centres? Unfortunately, as I indicated with the rates, not only are we stuck with the higher rates the private insurance companies sell between now and November 1st, but we also have to continue on with the same system of adjusting claims as the private insurance companies have done over the years, and that is through the independent adjusters.

MR. McKENZIE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister indicate - will you cover taxis, commercial vehicles, tractors, snowmobiles, the whole caboodle?

MR. PAWLEY: I have no intention of repeating the contents of my statement this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I wonder whether he can indicate whether the government has any estimate of damage caused by the high winds on Lake Winnipeg over this weekend?

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

MR. GREEN: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, with your permission I'm aware of many people that are not covered.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Would the honourable member state his question.

MR. McKENZIE: Can I ask the Minister what vehicles will he cover under Nupac?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: Well, all that I would say to the honourable member is that I specified this morning what vehicles would be covered. It should be printed in Hansard, it should be in his hands within the next two days. I think also if he refers to this evening's press, that he'll find that the statement is contained pretty well there.

MR. MCKENZIE: A supplementary question. Could I refer then to the Minister's statement on television?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, apparently there were two bills that were inadvertently left off the Order Paper. They are Bill No. 37, an Act to amend the Municipal Act, and Bill No. 75, an Act to amend the Local Authority and Elections Act. I wonder whether honourable members would be prepared to proceed with third reading of these bills or let them be placed on the Order Paper tomorrow. We'll proceed at the will of the honourable members.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the House Leader can indicate what the procedures are to be for the remaining part of the evening so we have some idea what the plans are.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I gather that neither committee is completed and that Municipal Affairs will probably continue for some minutes yet. Therefore we were considering adjourning, proceeding again back to the two committees, leaving the Mace on the table, to return this evening to deal with other matters on the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, with the exception of the two bills that may be brought in, and the resolutions, there is nothing left remaining on the Order Paper. I wonder if the House would consider the possibility of having the committees meet and allowing the opportunity for examination of some of the amendments that are obviously proposed in the committees to be considered by the Opposition and by the Opposition parties so that in effect we'll be able to deal with this properly tomorrow, because it's obvious that we're not going to be able to deal with this tonight. I can't see how it can be.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: I take it that what the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting is that we adjourn the House today until tomorrow at 9:30, which is agreeable?

MR. SPEAKER: (Agreed)

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Finance, that the House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 9:30 Tuesday morning.