

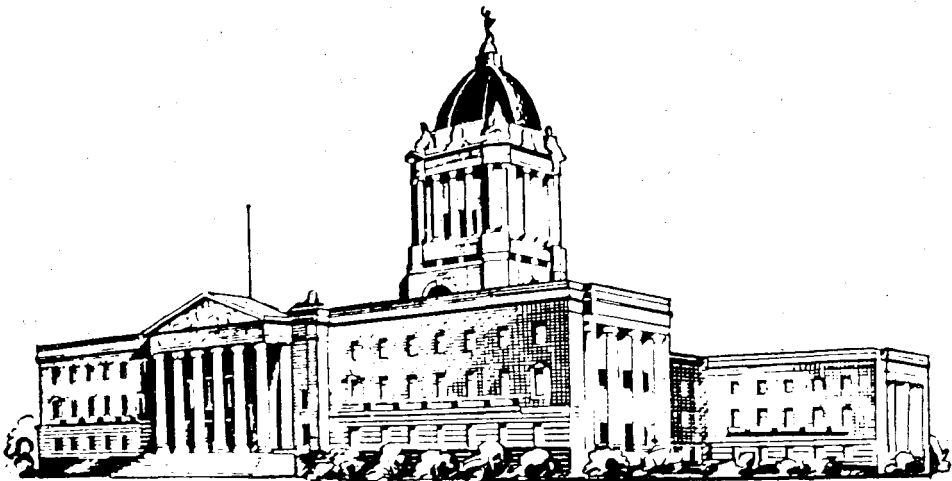


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XX No. 101 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 15th, 1973. Fifth Session, 29th Legislature.

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
8:00 o'clock, Tuesday, May 15, 1973

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Oral Questions. The Honourable Member for Thompson.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Thompson): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney-General. I wonder if he could indicate - I'm referring to page 6 of his filed Manitoba Human Rights Commission - if he could indicate what the infractions were under the signs and notices section, as listed in this report?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. A. H. MACKLING, Q.C. (Attorney-General) (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I think that that is in the nature of a detailed question I'll have to take as notice. That was page - 6. I'll take it as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BOROWSKI: Yes, a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Attorney-General could give us a breakdown or, yes I suppose a breakdown of the convictions that have been successful under the Human Rights legislation for 1972?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I think that's the kind of thing that would be better dealt with by an order for return. If I can get that material readily then I'll report on it orally, if not I'll indicate to the honourable member that he should file an order for return.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. The bill that he withdrew from the House yesterday, Bill 3, an Act to Amend the Social Allowances Act, will that Bill be reintroduced in a different form or will it not be introduced this Session?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, when I asked leave of the House to withdraw Bill 3 I indicated then and I state again that there will be another bill dealing with the Social Allowance Act introduced possibly tomorrow.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Will it also deal with exclusion from financial resources when people apply for welfare? Will that deal with that section as well?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I'll indicate to the honourable member when I present it for second reading what the bill will contain.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. BOROWSKI: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Attorney-General. I wonder if the Human Rights Commission have received any complaints under the Act regarding compulsory trade union membership? There is an indication in here that there has been some.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: I'm not aware of any detail in respect to that and if there is further detail that I can enlarge on I will do so. And while I'm on my feet, I believe that the honourable member wanted further information as to the nature of the complaints in respect to signs and notices - is that it? - and I think I can generalize. I don't think I can give particulars of names unless we have the authority of the individuals whose complaints are the subject matter.

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

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I believe that I have to call upon the Minister of Finance to move a resolution relative to the concurrences.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Attorney-General that the resolutions reported from the Committee of Supply be now read a second time and concurred in.

MOTION presented and concurred in.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. GREEN: I see that the Leader of the Opposition is apprehensive. My understanding is that now each Resolution is read by the Speaker and that there is a motion on each department as the Speaker reads it.

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MR. SPEAKER: Correct. Resolutions 1 to 3. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,180,600.00 for Legislation. The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak on this item which we have not had opportunity to deal with in the regular examination of the departmental estimates. The item which I want to address to directly here is item No. 2, Provincial Auditor's Office. Mr. Speaker, we've seen since the change of government in 1969 and the assumption of responsibilities by the present government the abolition of all external auditors in the matter of examination of the books of the Crown Corporations and the other agencies such as the Universities that come under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government. Mr. Speaker, I think that this, after three years of operation should be examined rather closely to determine whether a Provincial Auditor under the responsibilities of reporting to the Legislature or to the government is in fact the best way by which the people of Manitoba want to see their business operated in this province.

I want to, Mr. Speaker, to look specifically at the procedures and the Auditor's Reports as they appear in some of the documentation that the Members of the Legislature have been provided with this Session. I also, Mr. Speaker, want to take the opportunity to compare the experience in other provinces with the business of having a degree and high degree of political, I should say governmental influence on the way in which government books are audited. Mr. Speaker, if we look at a normal report--and I think here that I'd be fairly fair in saying that I think that the report of the Manitoba Mineral Resources Limited might be considered a normal report--and I think perhaps if we looked at the books of Manitoba Telephone System, the Manitoba Hydro, Universities and others as perhaps the normal reports that were previously, with the exception of the Manitoba Mineral Resources Limited, audited by outside auditors, we find that in the presentation of the Auditor's report a statement that says something along these lines, and I quote one here as an example: "In my opinion the statements attended hereto as exhibits A, B and C present fairly the financial position of the company as at March 31, 1973 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles."

Mr. Speaker, if we then turn to the report of the Autopac, which is also a recently formed Manitoba Crown Corporation, and we read the Auditor's statement in this report we find that the report says: "subject to the foregoing in my opinion the financial statements 1 - 4, including notes thereto, present fairly the financial position of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation as at October 31, 1972, and the results of its first year of operations ended at that date, in accordance with the books of the corporation."

Mr. Speaker, the Members of the Legislature do not want to have an auditor's report come to this Legislature based on the books of the Crown Corporation. Mr. Speaker, this is no reflection on the person who happens to be and holds the present office of the Auditor for the Province of Manitoba. What I am directing my comments at are the inevitable pressures that a person in that position comes under to report to the Legislature. In the one case we have a traditional report which says that the report has been audited "according to the generally accepted practice." In the other case, in the case of Autopac, we have a report which is presented "in accordance with the books of the Corporation," which tells us that in effect the Auditor being the professional man that he is has laid it all out in one sentence: "The information that I am presenting to you is in accordance to that provided to me by the Crown Corporation."

Mr. Speaker, let me go one step further away from labelling this as a purely political attack on the present government. Let me look and present to you what happened in British Columbia. In British Columbia there was a tendency for the previous government in British Columbia to do the same thing. The books, for instance, of the British Columbia Railroad, which was the PEG, the Pacific Great Eastern Railroad, that was taken over by the government, operated with its President, being the former Premier of British Columbia, and I presume the now Premier of British Columbia, operated in a similar fashion to the Autopac, The Manitoba

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) Public Insurance Corporation in which a Minister in this case is the chief presiding officer over the corporation. And over the period, not a one year, two year, three years, four years, but over a period of a number of years of determination of the direction that the BC Railroad should take, the people of British Columbia were lead to believe that the BC Railroad was a thriving, going concern that was presenting results in a financial way every year to the people of British Columbia.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the present case with the change of government in BC, which is exactly the opposite--and my friends opposite can't accuse me of branding them of the same thing that happened in BC prior to the change in government on the basis of a similar philosophical political approach--the condition in BC is that the books of the British Columbia Railroad coming under the scrutiny of a government and its implicit pressures on its auditor have pointed up that in fact the British Columbia Railroad was a dismal failure from an economic point of view. And they admit, Mr. Speaker, the people of British Columbia admit that the British Columbia Railroad may in fact have led to some long-term economic developments in opening up the northland of British Columbia. But all during that period they were subjected to an auditor's report which did not fairly state "in accordance with accepted practices the true position, the true financial position of the BC Railroad." And, Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt at all that the present Autopac report that we have in Manitoba may be in accordance with the books of the Corporation but it is in no way a true position in accordance with accepted accounting principles based on the Insurance Act that applies to all of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, a statement was made shortly after the tabling of the Autopac report, which was two months late in coming to the Legislature, by my Leader, in which he pointed out some of the matters in his statement after having examined the report and he pointed out at that time that the auditor's report was not in accordance with generally accepted principles of accounting procedures in this Province of Manitoba. He pointed out that the Autopac result surplus that showed a \$739,100 was in fact a deficit, a deficit of \$760,900.00. And it did not include a number of other items that are pointed out in the report. It contained no consideration for the amortization of the start-up costs, the \$3 million. It contained no provision for the another \$2 1/2 million that are shared with the Motor Vehicle Branch of the Province of Manitoba. It contained not a mention of how \$381,800 in prepaid commissions should be handled. If you added them all up, Mr. Speaker, the accepted accounting principles that are applied to all the insurance companies of Canada, Mr. Speaker, not in accordance with the books of Autopac, not in accordance with the books of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, but in accordance with the insurance laws that apply across Canada, would have shown in fact a deficit of \$1,411,900.00.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this is not a condemnation as such of the Autopac scheme. What I am standing here and deliberately condemning is the threat of saying to a Provincial Auditor, implicit or otherwise, that you are going to audit these books in accordance with the books that are presented to you and not in accordance with accepted practice in Canada. And, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what has happened in this particular case.

Let me read to you again, to refer back to the condition that happened in British Columbia, let me read to you a condemnation of W. A. C. Bennett's administration for the way he allowed it to happen for the books of BC Railroad to be audited. And it says, "It was common knowledge, or at least common suspicion that the Social Credit Government failed to admit the true extent of taxpayers' subsidy to the British Columbia Railway." Mr. Speaker, last year we had the First Minister stand up on this item--Mr. Speaker, the next item, I'm sorry, he stood up under Planning and Priorities, Executive Council, and he said we have employees in Planning and Priorities who are working on the matter of the rationalization of Autopac and on the other matters pertaining to public insurance in Manitoba. We didn't get an amount from the First Minister, Mr. Speaker, we didn't get an amount, but this is exactly what is said here. We didn't get an amount from the government as to how much of the costs of Autopac are carried by the Motor Vehicle License Bureau. And, Mr. Speaker, the auditor in the Autopac report of this year is very careful. He says, Mr. Speaker, the Autopac--well, maybe the auditor is stupid as the First Minister said, Mr. Speaker, because the auditor says that the computer broke down and on the costs that are shared with the Motor Vehicle Branch there is an attempt to rationalize it only on a statistical basis. It is left at that. He points out a loss of \$300,000, it's not included in the report and the MPIC in turn doesn't even take advantage of the fact that

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) the auditor has reported it, reported it and put it, Mr. Speaker, back into the report. They haven't even paid attention to the auditor.

So, Mr. Speaker, let me refer again, let me draw the analogy here, that the Social Credit Government failed to admit the true extent of taxpayer subsidy to the British Columbia Railway. Well, Mr. Speaker, there may not be a standard method of reporting through the auditor the performance of railways in Canada, but there is a standard way of reporting the performance of insurance companies in Canada. And MPIC is an insurance company, I think even the government would admit that it's an insurance company; then rather than reporting it in accordance with its books provided to them why do they not report it in accordance with the Insurance Act in Canada that applies to all insurance companies of Canada. This is the sort of . . .

A MEMBER: Special privileges.

MR. CRAIK: This is the sort of myopia that the government is prepared to adopt in trying to prove to the people of Manitoba that it made a right move in the first place. Well, Mr. Speaker, it could well last, it'll last probably until the next government changes, till this government changes, till the other government comes in and the other government says, the next government says, "we're now going to audit our books in accordance with accepted practices applied to all the insurance companies of Canada to find out whether this company is in fact performing. We're going to find out whether a normal insurance company that has \$3 million in deficit shouldn't amortize that over a period of a few years, five years, six years, or whether they can take that and show it on its books as an asset. Because, Mr. Speaker, \$3 million of expenses for start-up in this auditor's report--not this auditor's report, this MPIC report approved by the auditor in accordance with their books show \$3 million plus of start-up costs as an asset. An asset, Mr. Speaker, according to traditional accounting procedures--it's an asset because if you were going to sell the company, and I don't assume that they're going to sell the company . . .

MR. ENNS: Maybe they are.

MR. CRAIK: An asset, Mr. Speaker, because if you were going to sell the company that company would have to go through the same start-up costs, therefore they have to realize it as an asset because it's a going concern.

Now, Mr. Speaker, would any other insurance company in Canada be allowed to do that sort of thing?

SOME MEMBERS: No.

MR. CRAIK: No, Mr. Speaker. You know it's a "no"; the government knows it's a "no no", they can't, they know very well that the costs, the start-up costs are going to have to be written off somewhere and so they're written off against the taxpayers of Manitoba, through the vehicle of government subsidy and it'll disappear--it won't disappear off the books, it'll probably show as an asset for time eternal, but it'll always be an amount of money that was taken out of the taxpayers' pocket to start it up, but that never shows up in the way they keep books . . .

A MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. CRAIK: . . . for MPIC in Manitoba. (Applause) Mr. Speaker, there's a very close, as I say, a very direct analogy between MPIC and the B. C. Railroad. Even the official loss years were gross understatements of the direct cost to the public of the government owned railway. Well, Mr. Speaker, let's change the name. Even the official loss years were gross understatements of the direct cost to the public of the government owned insurance company. It's the same thing, it's exactly--they have their own auditor, they do their own books; they show a cost as an asset, like they're going to sell the company some day and recover it.

MR. ENNS: That's nonsense. Same thing.

MR. CRAIK: To some extent it was forgivable to take a broad view of BCR's operations. It was after all a "development railway that paid in dividend and future economic growth in the north." Well, Mr. Speaker, was MPIC a future development that was going to pay off in assets in the development of the Province of Manitoba? Mr. Speaker, MPIC wasn't even a social measure in the Province of Manitoba. MPIC has its pluses, it has its minuses; it isn't recognized as being a plus of overwhelming benefit; it isn't recognized as being a minus of overwhelming benefits. It hasn't even got a development potential, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't even a social measure. MPIC was straightforward, NDP philosophical position that they put through.

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A MEMBER: Hear, Hear.

MR. CRAIK: That's exactly what it was. It had very little social benefits to the Province of Manitoba. And in the final analysis, Mr. Speaker, to harken back to history, in the final analysis, what it was was what the Member for Inkster said at that time--and I've forgotten the portfolio he held at that time--it provided them with \$30 million of operating capital, it provided them with \$30 million worth of equity capital early in the year on pre-collected premiums. That's about the benefit it provided, and it wasn't a social benefit. But let's not dwell on it, I don't think we should get hung up on whether or not it was a major social benefit. The point of the argument, Mr. Speaker, is that there are such obvious comparisons and analogies between the performance of the British Columbia railroad and the performance of the MPIC in the method that they have chosen to report to the Legislature and report to the people of Manitoba on their operations that it shouldn't go unnoticed.

Can I continue quoting, Mr. Speaker? Let me say: "But it's clear the degree of masking of true costs went beyond mere political game playing. The deficiencies in budgetary practices revealed in a special report by the Provincial Comptroller-General are too serious simply to be struck off. They must be prevented from ever happening again."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd be happy to provide my friends opposite, the government, with a copy of this editorial which appeared in the Vancouver Province, Thursday, April 19, 1973, so that if they don't listen to me they might at least listen to the author of this report as they attempt to take the operations of one of their recently formed brainchilds and at least pay heed to the fact that there are problems--there are problems when you try and tell the people that you're doing something that you really aren't doing.

"One way to ensure no recurrences would be to set up an independent Auditor-General with full staff necessary to 'watchdog government spending'. Since the NDP government, and this is the change--since the NDP government is extending the taxpayers' involvement in business through Crown corporations and similar ventures, the need for an Auditor-General is even greater than it was under the Social Credit." Mr. Speaker, he goes on to say: "But the Auditor-General's operate mainly after the fact and the experience of other jurisdictions is that they can fall far behind in their work with a little help from a mischievous government."

Well, Mr. Speaker, can the government honestly stand up here and say that in the report of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation that you don't have mischievous reporting to the people of Manitoba on the performance of the MPIC? Mr. Speaker, there's no question about it. If you can convert a \$1, 500, 000 loss, a \$1, 500, 000 loss under normal accounting practices --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I have allowed a little amount of latitude for the first half hour but I think the chirping is becoming annoying. Would we kindly all adhere to the rules and let --(Interjection)-- would the honourable member like to be informed what the rules are?

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie will have an opportunity to speak as soon as I indicate what my problem is. It is a point of order that I am stating, and that is the rules of this House are being transgressed by continual annoying interruptions and I am asking that they cease. The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity to read the rest of this article. I think it's worthwhile for the future purposes of the government and any other government that may come to power in Manitoba to keep it in mind when it happens. I pointed out at the start of the comment that one of the first things done by this government was to get rid of all external auditors and to have the books of the Crown corporations and other government agencies examined by a Provincial Auditor.

I want to finish this off by quoting the statement which is this recent editorial article in the Vancouver Province. I quote: "The public interest requires detailed advance scrutiny of Crown corporation spending plans; a Legislative committee would be an adequate vehicle for such a study and discussion of proposed capital expenditures of the B. C. railway, B. C. Hydro and perhaps other enterprises. If former Premier Bennett bears the responsibility for extensive camouflage of the BCR books, that's no reason for leaving unchanged the system that made it so easy to carry out. The NDP government could be forgiven for using B. C. rail financial 'mismanagement' as a debating point in an effort to destroy the legend of the former government business ability."

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd)

Mr. Speaker, whether you like it or not that's exactly what's going to happen, and all that happens is that you get a discredit. First of all you get a discredit of the democratic process, you get a discredit of the profession of accountancy when this happens. You generally develop a discredit of the whole essence of the operations of the people's government, whatever political stripe it may be. So, Mr. Speaker, this is an appeal, this is an appeal for the government not to audit its own books, not to have the Provincial Auditor, even if it reports to this Legislature, audit its own books, but have its books audited by an outside audit; and when that audit is reported to the Legislature, have it reported in accordance with accepted accounting practices. Don't have it reported in accordance with the books provided by that Crown corporation, because Mr. Speaker, the auditor has clearly given us a message in the preface to the Autopac report. He's clearly given us a message and you don't have to read too far between the lines to find what it is. When he says that "Subject to the foregoing, in my opinion, the financial statements 1 to 4, including notes thereto," - including notes thereto, Mr. Speaker, those are \$6 million notes - "present fairly the financial position of The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation as at October 31, 1972 - then, Mr. Speaker, would have been the accepted sentence "in accordance with the accepted accounting procedures of Canada." That, Mr. Speaker, would have meant something. What it says here, "and the results of its first year of operations ended at that date, in accordance with the books of the corporation."

Mr. Speaker, it's like that famous bird of the Arctic that travels in ever-decreasing circles of lesser diameter until it disappears. Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what we're into here. An auditor goes in to examine the books of the Crown corporation and says, "it's all great and it's in accordance with the books provided to me." Mr. Speaker, it ends up the same place as the kiwi bird of the Arctic ends up when it travels in those ever-decreasing circles. It ends up telling the people of Manitoba nothing, except that when there's a change of government, there's going to be an examination of the books, in a fashion that's going to tell the people of Manitoba where Autopac really stands.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I intend to confine my few remarks to the item, namely the Legislation and the operation of the House and the amount allotted, and I note that excluding the Provincial Auditor's Office and the Ombudsman, there's about \$900,000 allotted to the nuts and bolts operation of the Legislature expenses, salaries and so on. Yet I can't help but reflect upon the Department of Education, which we have not had the opportunity to examine, and I note that in the Planning and Research Department alone . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I don't quite recognize that the honourable member is speaking on the resolution before us. I assume he wants to speak under either Education or under Executive Council, one of the other.

MR. SPEAKER: We are on Legislation.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, if I may speak to the same point of order - and I'm not speaking on the item, I'm speaking on the point of order. My honourable friend the Minister of Finance took the opportunity a few nights ago to use the vehicle of a resolution presented by the Leader of the Official Opposition to launch a political attack for at least 35 minutes and there was no exception taken at that time; and when I say again on a point of order that I refer briefly to the Department of Education I mean what I say, it'll be very brief, but I'm making a comparison, and I await your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, the honourable member is asking me to anticipate what he is going to say in respect to Education. He introduced the subject. I cannot rule on anticipation, I can only rule that the question before the House is a Legislative resolution, 1 to 3, and if there's any area where Education impinges I'm willing to entertain it.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, I take it, Mr. Speaker, that you will allow me at least one or two moments of latitude which you allowed the Minister of Finance the other night, at least 30 to 35 minutes of latitude.

MR. SPEAKER: I would suggest that the honourable member not compare or cast reflections of what occurred in the past. I do believe the Chair tries to rule with the same yardstick at all times and until an infraction occurs or one is brought to the attention of the Chair, there's nothing I can do. The honourable member proceed.

CONCURRENCE

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I was only replying to the point of order raised by my honourable friend. So I say in referring to the Department of Education that there was \$1,191,000 allotted to Planning and Research, and I relate that to the Legislation item, which again excluding Provincial Auditor's Office and the Ombudsman's Office, there's about \$900,000 allotted to Legislation. So I only in passing make the comparison that what some years ago used to be a rather minor operation, although important in the Department of Education, it has ballooned beyond reasonable proportion in my opinion at this time under this administration.

However, Mr. Speaker, and I wish the First Minister was in his seat, but I do know that the House Leader will respond if he feels I've said something that should not be said, I relate now, or I talk now about the position and the aspirations of members or members who wish to run for election to this Legislature. I was rather surprised to find last night at a certain political nomination convention, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier said about a person who has offered himself for public service in this province, on his own volition, on what he feels that he has to offer, that the Premier, and as far as I know it's--well, I would suggest it's about the first time in the last 100 years, that a political leader would launch an attack on someone who said he was going to stand for political office. He's not in that office; he's not a candidate; but the Premier saw fit . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I would like to indicate to the honourable member that I do allow latitude but I do believe we are under the item of legislation. I would like to know what his reference is, how he's going to tie it in. If he doesn't tie it in, I cannot see that it's relevant. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I thought it was clear. I'm talking about legislation which is indemnities, members, Speaker and Deputy Speaker's additional indemnity, retirement allowances, members' living allowances, area allowances. Are you suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that I cannot talk about the subject that I'm introducing?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I have no intention of debating with any honourable gentleman, but I'm indicating I want debate on the item before us, and if the honourable member is going to challenge me he should do it in the proper fashion, otherwise he will have to adhere to our rules, they're his rules, and then we can get along. I do not want to be questioned every time I raise the point of order whether a member is proceeding properly or not. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of challenging you on this matter, but surely, I would think that members of this House can talk about the activities and the duties of members and those seeking that high honour, and this comes under legislation. Surely there's no other place in the concurrence motions that this can be discussed. So for that reason I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that--and I'm now again commenting on the Premier's statement about someone who tries to seek an office in this Legislature. And I say again that it was highly improper; people should be encouraged to run for this House, not discouraged.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable House Leader have a . . .

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MR. GREEN: I'd like to rise on a point of order and the point of order I am making has nothing to do with whether or not the member is entitled to say something in the Legislature. I think that the rules of the Legislature are that you are supposed to speak to the item under discussion, and the item of the discussion is not whether or not a person seeks election, it relates to the amounts allocated for various people who are sitting in the Legislature such as the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Leader of the Second Opposition, salaries, other expenditures such as the Clerk, the Ombudsman, the Provincial Auditor's office. And I would have no difficulty, although I don't think that I am obliged to help my honourable friend, in finding an item under which what he is talking about can be discussed. And I'm not trying to foreclose debate. But I am suggesting that the items that we are discussing under the current Estimates, have to do with the areas under the resolution referred to. And it's been pointed out to me, Mr. Speaker, that the \$132,700, which is on the first page of the Estimates, is not even a part of the resolution. The resolution starts from Other Assembly expenditures - \$301,000. The other items are provided for by statute and they're not required to be resolved by members of the Legislature; they are already paid by virtue of the statute which requires them to be paid.

POINT OF ORDER

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order and with all due respect to the House Leader. Notwithstanding the fact that they may not have to be voted annually, they are voted annually. --(Interjection)--

Well, Mr. Speaker, they are not included in the Estimates approved?

MR. SPEAKER: That is correct. They are not in the Estimates as such.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, let me understand correctly. You're suggesting (a) they're not included in the Estimates; and (b) -

MR. GREEN: They're not in the Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The resolution that I read out that is under debate, is Resolution 1, 2 and 3. The total amount is \$1,180,600.00. If the honourable members will take a good look at it they will realize that the first item of \$132,700 is not included.

The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order that was raised. Certainly there are such items as Other Expenditures, and which the government is paying when it comes to elections, that there be additional expenses involved under this very resolution. So certainly it's quite in order for the Member to dwell on that point.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance on the same point.

MR. CHERNIACK: . . . some assistance. I think if members will look at the bill which is now before us for second--I'm sorry. If they look at last year's Main Supply, they will find that there will be a difference in the amount passed for Main Supply and in the totals shown in the Estimates book on the summary page, the first page. The difference amounts to what is legislative and therefore is not a resolution. If honourable members would assist me and look at page 2, dealing with Legislation, they will see that the first item under Legislation, items, 1, 2, 3 do not have a resolution. The Resolution No. 1 deals with Other Assembly Expenditures. At the bottom line, honourable members will see Sums to be Voted for Legislation 1,180,600--that's the total of Resolutions 1, 2 and 3. Next line reads: Members', Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's Indemnities, Retirement Allowances and Allowances (Statutory) 732,400. That is put in in order to show a total. But that last item of 732,400, which is a total of appropriation numbers 1, 2 and 3 are not resolutions, are not matters that this House can deal with during resolutions, because they are statutory and are therefore not matters for discussion.

May I also ask honourable members to look at page 20 in the Estimates where they will see Appropriation No. 6 under Finance, and they will find there that there is no resolution because the payments of public debt are statutory and it says so in the very first line. That is not a resolution, Mr. Speaker, and therefore is not a matter which is before us on concurrences. We can only give concurrences to resolutions. And these items, all of page 20 and this first portion of page 2, are statutory and are therefore not before us at the moment. All we have before us, as you, Mr. Speaker, read, are Resolutions 1, 2 and 3 which deal with items 4, 5 and 6 under Legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I appreciate the information supplied by the Honourable Minister of Finance but I think that it is important, Mr. Speaker, to note that because of the 90-hour limit, which is accepted by all parties in this House, the Legislation and, as a matter of fact, Finance were in fact not dealt with in the House. The only opportunity there would be to deal with those items that are not included in the resolution but are included in the Estimates, would in fact be on concurrence. And if in fact, Mr. Speaker, the concurrence motion does not allow an Opposition to at least deal with these items, admittedly not before it in terms of the resolutions on concurrence but because they were contained in the Estimates and were not discussed during the Estimate time because we --(Interjection) -- Well, I know it's not your fault but Mr. Speaker, it's pretty obvious at this point --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that there are very limited places--no, no, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you there are very limited places to discuss it. And Mr. Speaker, if we were to discuss this or any other matter, we would have been told it should have been discussed in the Estimates. We have not been able to discuss the Estimates. So what is involved, Mr. Speaker, I think that the practice should be in this situation that in fact there be some discussion. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, what the Honourable Minister is suggesting is that when we do reach page 20 and we come to the question of public debt, we're not going to be

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) able to discuss this and concur it. --(Interjection) Well, Mr. Speaker, we will not come to it so therefore the question of public debt of the province is not going to be able to be discussed in this House under the evaluation of the government's spending program. Well, Mr. Speaker, --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, there are no other places yet left to discuss it, Mr. Speaker. The truth of the matter is there are no other places . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I do think the honourable member has exhausted the point he was trying to make. Let us proceed. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order. I wish to bring to honourable members' attention since we didn't start on page 1 when dealing with the Estimates, we started somewhere else, so there was no opportunity at the time when we opened the Estimates that we could discuss this.

I recall when the former Premier D. L. Campbell got up when we started off on the Estimates, this was the time when we discussed even the statutory items in the Estimates and he had a long speech and where he had a complete dissertation on the matter of public debt and so on. It was all on the opening resolution of the Estimates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker. The item under Legislation that is being discussed under this point of order is in the Act of the Legislature. Indemnities, expenses paid to members, is all in the Act, and I presume the only time that could be discussed would be under a bill to amend the Legislative Act, or during the Budget debate, or during the Throne Speech, or by way of a grievance, or any other way. But it is not a matter for concurrences. Now when we come to that Page 20 referred to, and the Honourable Member for Rhineland remembers a discussion about public debt, had the Department of Finance come before the Legislature during the Estimates time, then the Minister responsible would of course be prepared to discuss public debt which comes under his jurisdiction. But that didn't come, just as there are other departments that have not come forward during the Estimates and therefore you could not discuss them because the 90 hours were exhausted. Certainly I would think that when one deals with concurrences, then in concurring with I suppose with the salary of the Minister of Finance, one could talk about Public Debt. But of course one won't be able to discuss this because this is--we're in the House now. But there is no resolution on the public debt. I think we better make that clear. There never was. It's statutory, it's required by law, and it must be paid. Because, Mr. Speaker, there is no discretion on the part of this Legislature, except by legislation, to make any changes. No one can propose a reduction in the Estimates on these two statutory items. No one can propose anything along those lines, and therefore it doesn't have to be passed, therefore this is not the time to debate it. I think it's so clear, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, we have got right back on . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Is the honourable member speaking to the resolution?

MR. GRAHAM: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order. We've got sidetracked on many issues, but let's get back to the issue that was raised by the Member for Portage, who was complaining about the actions of a member of the Legislative committee, of the Legislature here, and a member of the Legislature who also receives an additional salary which is covered under Resolution 1, namely \$301,600, and I suggest on that basis, Mr. Speaker, that the Member for Portage is dealing with the correct section in the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member has not made a point of order. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie proceed on Legislation. Resolution 1, 2 and 3.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I again raise the point of order. My honourable friend the Minister of Finance has gone to great pains to show us where we on this side are in error, and I'm willing to listen. I'm willing to listen. But I wish that he would take unto himself his own admonitions when he spoke the other night at great length. And again I say he used the vehicle of a resolution put forward by the Leader of the Official Opposition to launch a political attack and he stayed with it for the 30 minutes that he was entitled to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Again I remind the honourable member that he's casting reflections upon what occurred and that a Speaker was not taking a member to order, or a Chairman. And I do think that that is contrary to our procedures. Now would he proceed with the Legislative item before us.

CONCURRENCE (Cont'd)

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, if it will make your position and your work any easier, I will wait until item 4 --(Interjection)-- I will not, I will not --(Interjections)-- I will not wait to page 20 where--my friend the Minister of Finance suggests that perhaps we could talk about it but I can just see if we were to fall into that trap, he'll say oh, it's out of order, it's not a resolution, although he invited us to wait until that time to discuss the matter that I wish to discuss. So in order to make your work a little easier, Mr. Speaker, I will wait till Resolution No. 4.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, it's my intention to speak on Resolutions 1, 2 and 3.

Mr. Speaker, we are on probably the last course of action prior to the passing of whatever bills we agree to before an election, and I think, Mr. Speaker, I think that it's important from our point of view as we deal in concurrence, to deal with a restatement of some of the main presentations we've made so far and differences of point of view between ourselves and the government. At the same time to also give some indication, Mr. Speaker, of what we will do when we form government with respect to--when we form government, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the various issues.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to deal with the items. I'm not going to deal with them in order but they're all contained in the item that is now before us for approval by concurrence.

First, Mr. Speaker, let me deal with the question of the Ombudsman. It would be our intention, Mr. Speaker, when we form government, to provide and to enforce the obligation on the part of the Ombudsman to come before a legislative committee, in fact, probably before the Whole Committee of the House, because I think in this respect, the Legislature has that responsibility.

The Ombudsman is an officer of the Legislature. Now he was created to protect the people's interest. He in fact has presented annual reports which are subject to scrutiny. But, Mr. Speaker, we're not really in a position to essentially draw from that report the need and the information which could lead us to either alter or mend or qualify or add to the responsibilities that the Ombudsman has at the present time to allow him to be able to continue to protect the people's interest and to accomplish the objectives for which his office was originally set up. And so, Mr. Speaker, I think that one of the changes that is very necessary and one of the changes that we will be prepared to proceed with, would be to see that he does come before the Legislature and before either the whole Legislature or one of its committees, and be given an opportunity to be examined not so much on the specifics of the particular issues that have been brought forward in his report, but as to the manner in which he has functioned, as to the problems he sees in relation to his operation, and as to what suggestions could be brought forward for improvement. I think in this way, Mr. Speaker, there will be knowledge on his part that he does have the opportunity to deal with the Legislature as opposed to dealing with the government for the purpose of enhancing and making his work easier and better.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the question of the Provincial Auditor's office, we've had some discussion earlier today in committee about the Provincial Auditor's responsibilities and whether he does or does not perform the function of an auditor-general. But let there not be any doubt, Mr. Speaker, from our point of view, that we intend to bring the Provincial Auditor's office into an auditor-general's office with the responsibility to basically deal with those non-productive items that governments are involved with, and to be in a position to indicate and to highlight that information for public awareness, for public scrutiny, and for the ability for the Legislature to then be able to deal with elements of waste of government that cannot be apparent to the members in opposition under the procedures in which we operate. And, Mr. Speaker, this will apply to whatever government is in power and it is not peculiar to the present government. It is simply that we've reached a point, Mr. Speaker, where government is so complex, where the procedures are so detailed and where the transactions are so numerous--the Honourable Minister of Finance I think indicated there are a million cheques a year that are audited--that it is necessary, Mr. Speaker, for the kind of evaluation to take place where in fact some measurement and some discretion can be exercised and value judgment taken with respect to the manner in which the government is spending its money in relation to the Estimates that have been voted by the Legislature that we have that opportunity for that information to be presented in some detailed form. And I'm going to deal with this in a few moments, Mr. Speaker, but from there I'd like to, if I may, deal with another aspect of the Provincial Auditor's office.

CONCURRENCE

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd)

The Legislature has seen fit to pass a resolution introduced by the Progressive Conservative Party and by myself, dealing with the necessity and the requirement of public accounts of Crown corporations, universities, the Manitoba Health Services Corporation, Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Telephones. Mr. Speaker, we have reached the point now where these main institutions, who spend so much of the public money and for which there is a responsibility on the part of the members of the Legislature to at one point deal with in a financial way--there is a responsibility now, Mr. Speaker, for public accounts to be developed similar to that which is now developed for government administration--so that there can be a proper and true scrutiny by the members of the Legislature. And we believe that the resolution which was approved is consistent with the kind of open government that must now be conducted, that it is something that every provincial government in the country will be dealing with and the Federal Government will be dealing with as well, and we believe, Mr. Speaker, that that change should take place, and further, Mr. Speaker, that the fiscal years of all of these corporations including all those Crown corporations in which equity is involved, should in fact be dovetailed and be required to meet the fiscal year of the province so that in effect the Auditor-General would be in a position to bring before the Legislature his report which would indicate the audit, indicate the approval, and also indicate those areas of waste and concern that he has been able to determine for evaluation and for consideration by the Legislature.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the next item dealing with this resolution has to do with the Leader of the Opposition's office, and having had the opportunity of being in that office for the past little while, and having had the opportunity of being in the rather luxurious offices that the government Ministers have, and knowing the availability of research and the personnel for government and the very limited availability for opposition, and recognizing that there's a certain tradition which simply says that if in fact you were in government or you were in opposition and you become government, you don't want to give the government, who has now become in opposition, anything more than they gave you, and recognizing that that has been the rules of the game in the past it would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that we've reached a point now --(Interjection)-- Yes, there was more. There was more but, Mr. Speaker, even though there was more I would suggest to you that it's a pittance of what really is required, and it was realistically, Mr. Speaker, very little, very little of what is required when one relates the complexity of government.

Now let's take for an example--and everyone on the other side seems to think we gave more--the budget was \$350 million when we went out of power. It's now \$700 million. Have they in fact doubled? No. Nowhere near. Mr. Speaker, if we were to analyze the number of programs we now have as opposed to the number of programs we had before, if we were to analyze the number of committee meetings, well, Mr. Speaker--you know, the Honourable Minister of Finance says, "hear, hear, hear!" and a lot of people in Manitoba are pretty angry because there are a lot of programs that may not be necessary and there are many programs that should have been cut out that they did not--but they were not prepared to undertake. But, Mr. Speaker --(Interjection)-- Well, you know, I would tell the Honourable House Leader he thinks more are happy. We'll see. We'll see very soon and I am prepared to leave that to the people. Mr. Speaker, I think we're both going to hit the same target date so there's no problem whatsoever.

But, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that the Leader of the Opposition's office and the research facilities that are provided, and in fact the research facilities provided for the Opposition are not comparable to other jurisdictions, are much less and in fact are not sufficient, Mr. Speaker, for what is required today. And so, Mr. Speaker - and I can say this without any equivocation - we will make that change and we will make those changes so that in effect the Opposition can perform the function. But there is one aspect, Mr. Speaker, that has to be brought up here because this is really one area in which there is a limitation on the part of the Leader of the Opposition and the way in which he operates. He doesn't have the same privileges as the First Minister has, and the honourable members opposite will say. As an example, Mr. Speaker, he's not in a position to send to the people of Manitoba prior to an election a letter which, Mr. Speaker, has to cost the people of Manitoba sixty to seventy-five thousand dollars, Mr. Speaker, sixty to seventy-five thousand dollars of the taxpayers' money.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

CONCURRENCE

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition does not have the rights the Premier does prior to the election, to use the public purse for the purpose of a campaign conducted by his party to try and make him the issue in the election in order to be able to win the election. Mr. Speaker, this is probably the most blatant use and abuse of privilege and of power on the part of the NDP so far.

Mr. Speaker, on the education tax rebate advertising of some months ago when the initial campaign was proposed and then altered because there was in fact some public objection to it, and the members opposite had enough intelligence to realize what they were doing, the very obvious thing was that the public do not want to be bought with their own money. They don't have to be. Mr. Speaker, in effect, what the First Minister's been prepared to do, has been prepared to send a letter to the people of Manitoba--and we don't know how many, Mr. Speaker, but I know, Mr. Speaker, that I've heard from, I would literally say hundreds of people who have received one, two and three letters in their homes. Some of them are ardent supporters of the NDP who cannot understand how a government concerned with people could go to the position of wasting the taxpayers' money to tell them something they already know, that they're going to be given back some of the money they've been overtaxed with. And, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is this was not sent by the Manitoba Health Services Insurance Commission, it was not sent by the Minister of Health and Social Development, it was sent by the Premier in an obvious attempt to again use the public purse to be able to in fact carry through an essential theme that the NDP will be campaigning in the election. And, Mr. Speaker, it is rotten. It is rotten to the core and it is--and it exemplifies the degree of arrogance and corruptness that exists on the other side.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the history of the CCF Government in Saskatchewan was marked by several things over a period of time, and it wasn't until they reached the point that the public recognized the arrogance, the corruption and the patronage that existed that they were thrown out. And the NDP in four years, Mr. Speaker, have accomplished what the CCF Government in Saskatchewan have accomplished in 20 years, and they still continue and do not understand that the people are not going to accept that. So, Mr. Speaker, you know, a letter sent by the First Minister to the people dealing with the Medicare premium, seriously underestimates the intelligence of the people of this province, because in effect what is suggested to the people is that "we can fool you." What is suggested to the people is that we can take your money, we can promote, we can advertise with your money, and then we can expect you to elect us. And it is a basic error in judgment; it is a basic error which, Mr. Speaker--well I think, you know, caused a backlash that I believe is developing in this province against the government. And that's why I want the Honourable House Leader to know that we'll get there by that date. We are just as anxious to get there by that date.

But, Mr. Speaker, I must say to you and to the members opposite, that the letter sent by Ed Schreyer as Premier of this province to the people of Manitoba dealing with the elimination of the Medicare premium, is an absolute waste. And, Mr. Speaker, I think of the people who have come to this government and I recall when the people who received part of the education tax rebate by error and had to return it, those people who are welfare recipients and they approached the First Minister and they appeared in the Law Amendments Committee room, and they pleaded with the First Minister and they presented their position and said, "Look, we've already received the money; now we have to give it back. We haven't enough to live on." And he took the position that after all this was government position. Matters were budgeted. There are no changes that can take place. And I think of all the other organizations and all the other groups who have come to this government for some request for assistance, to recognize that they can take this and spend \$60,000 or \$75,000 just like that, without any thought or any obligation on their part, then I suggest, Mr. Speaker, what I said is correct. The government on the opposite side is corrupt. That is no good.

MR. SPEAKER: Concurrence on the first item? The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, on the motion before we deal with Other Assembly Expenditures, Provincial Auditor's Office and the Ombudsman, and when we deal with Other Assembly Expenditures this involves quite a bit. And earlier on today we had a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee and I brought to the attention of the Chairman of that Committee, or Chairlady of that Committee, at that time in connection with Other Expenditures, that in the year ending March 31st, 1972, that we overspent that particular item by roughly 125 percent.

CONCURRENCE

(MR. FROESE cont'd) They had an allocation, I think, for \$47,000 and we spent something like \$117,000 or almost \$118,000.00. Yet we find that in the Estimates before us we are still back with the old figure of \$64,800.00. I'm just wondering where the government intends to make the cut from the previous year. If we spent that much money under this item in the previous year, \$118,000, and now we're back to \$64,000, I would like to hear an explanation from the front benches of the government to explain where the overexpenditure took place and how they intend to get by now with less than half, or about half the amount used in the previous year.

Mr. Speaker, I was rather astonished that we did not allow the Member for Portage la Prairie to proceed with his comments that he had to make, because certainly this also entered into that picture, Other Expenditures, and when we take a look at the bill that is also before us in the House at the present time dealing with capital purposes, we find too that here the government is increasing its expenditures as well, and from the 1960 session that I first witnessed, the cost of government in Manitoba was \$89 million. Today we spend something like almost \$700 million in the Estimates. This includes supplementary, and on top of that we are almost borrowing \$300 million, so we're going to spend roughly a billion dollars whereas we spent \$89 million in 1960. Look at the tremendous increase in cost of government in this province, and I think there has to be a limit somewhere as to what can be done, the amount that can be spent. This is a thousand dollars for each man, woman and child in this province. --(Interjection)-- Well, I'm dealing with Assembly Expenditures and certainly we're here being paid under this item and under the previous item, so that I think it behooves us to see to it that we exercise greater control in the amounts that we are spending as the government here in this Province of Manitoba. I think it can be done for less.

The Minister for Agriculture says, "Let's reduce the indemnities." I think maybe he should return the amount that he gets and put it back to the general coffers and see what happens. I didn't, at the time that we considered his Estimates, reduce or call for a cut in his salary and so he'll still get the total amount so that --(Interjection)-- I figured that he was trying to do a job and that he was earning his pay. So otherwise we could have put the motion. So it's not only that particular money but we are keeping on borrowing. Three hundred million this year, I think it was three hundred million another year, two hundred million in another, and the interest that we are going to pay on these moneys. Look at our Estimates that we are concurring in at the moment. The interest has increased to \$43 million that we have to set aside. In 1960 when I sat here, the first year we took \$1,059 out of the General Revenue Fund, that together with the earnings of Hydro and Telephone that we got, was sufficient to pay the interest on the debt of this province. Now we are up to \$43 million - a terrific increase that we have in costs. And I think this is something that the front bench tried to discuss under these particular resolutions. And I feel it's high time that we give greater consideration and especially that we give consideration to the Estimates of the Department of Finance and Legislation and the Executive Council. So in future years so that we not bypass them and then not have a proper chance to discuss the items and also to get information, detailed information on some of the items that we are allocating large amounts of money for.

On the Provincial Auditors we find that we are getting more and more Crown corporations, and certainly this means more work for the auditor. We asked him today in committee whether he has sufficient staff. He said that he had his full complement, but I imagine this meant that there was no shortage as far as the offices that had been created or the number of jobs that had been created prior to this. So if he agrees that he has sufficient staff on hand, certainly then we have no reason for complaint. But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, when you see the number of Crown corporations that are being - that are coming in and that have to be audited, it certainly means that we're placing more onus on them and more work on them, and whether they are doing just as good a job as before. Then, too, certainly it's the practice in many companies that they change auditors every two years or so, and this is not the case where here in the government and whether there shouldn't be a change of auditor once in awhile especially with the Crown corporations. Because auditors can have a certain view on certain item matters and another auditor comes in and he places different emphasis and therefore I think at some time we should consider this matter of having different auditors for our Crown corporations from time to time. --(Interjection)-- Pardon? That doesn't mean that there won't be security of tenure. The accounts of government would still be audited by the

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(MR. FROESE cont'd) government auditor. But I am talking now of Crown corporations which in themselves I think require a great amount of detail and attention. And as the auditor pointed out that he had many matters, brought many matters to the attention of the various Cabinet ministers, not only to Cabinet Ministers but also to the upper staff people in government, and that in this way many of the things had been ironed out before so that a lot of other items didn't have to go directly to the Minister.

Now we never get to see the points that are raised by the auditor with the Cabinet ministers, and sometimes I think we should have access to them so that we know just what the problems are that are being encountered. Having been involved in other corporations I am knowledgeable of matters that auditors bring to the attention of the principals of the company and I'm sure that there must be a lot of things that are brought forward from time to time to the attention of the ministers and --(Interjection)-- Yes, this way, we as an opposition will have no knowledge of what is actually brought to the attention of the Ministers and what is happening and what --(Interjection)-- and the questionable items that are going on. So I feel quite strongly on this point that as far as the Crown corporations we should have outside auditors come in from time to time and do the audit so that they'll not get run into one track --(Interjection)--

A MEMBER: Come right out and say it, Jake, it's a bad situation.

MR. FROESE: Well, look at the number of corporations that have gone into receivership and I am sure that if companies go to receivership that the books are in a terrible state and that --(Interjection)-- pardon? Well we're - in certain instances we're relying on the outside auditors. The Honourable House Leader can say that - well, keep scoring on them but certainly we recognize those audits and those are the ones that we are dealing with in Economic Development Committee. So I think if the House Leader feels that those advanced statements aren't good statements then I think he better look after it so we get better statements.

Then - I don't know whether I should bring in the MDC at this point; maybe I can do that under another department. Churchill Forest Industries is another thing that we haven't been able to discuss properly. We still haven't received a report. Last year at least we had a report which indicated to us the financial operations and the standing of the corporation. To date this year we haven't received it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Just so that the honourable member will not think I'm trying to close him off on the subject, there will be a report on that matter tomorrow in the House. But I am - there will be a report concerning that matter tomorrow in the House but that is not the subject that I want to get up on, I want to get up on the subject of the order of parliamentary debate. And surely the Churchill Forest Industries is not a part of the debate of this resolution at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. (Hear, Hear).

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, under 4 we are dealing with Other Assembly Expenditures. We have the Leader of the Official Opposition's salary of \$15,600. We have the leader of the Second Opposition Party \$6,000.00. These people are getting paid, for what? For looking after those financial statements and scrutinizing them and seeing that the money that is being put up by the people of this province is properly dealt with.

MR. GREEN: . . . Mr. Speaker, by the analogy that the honourable member has just used, indicates --(Interjection)-- yes, it is a point of order. Well, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member from his seat says it is not a point of order, I have every right to raise a point of order and I suggest that the honourable member, by the suggestion that he has just made, indicates that anything whatsoever including the kitchen sink, including the baldness of the Member for Portage la Prairie's head, can be discussed under this resolution. And I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that that is not the case, that we have a status of parliamentary debate which requires the Speaker to keep the things within the resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is again well taken. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: I never mentioned kitchen sink at all. This was something that originated with the Minister the House Leader and I was --(Interjection)-- I was discussing the salaries of the Opposition Leader and the Leader of the Liberal Party and their duties definitely. And among those duties are to see that the money that is spent by this government is properly spent, and also look when we have to pay or when the MDC is in the red by 13 million or more in one year and 8 million in another year and that we have to vote additional moneys to the MDC,

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(MR. FROESE cont'd) for what? To take care of the deficit of the MDC and . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: I do wish to have a ruling on this question. I don't think that we are going to be in a position of tolerating any discussion being brought up under any resolution. And if there is a relationship, yes. We know that there are many resolutions coming before the House under which MDC will be discussed, under which the various items that the honourable member wishes to discuss can be brought up. And I suggest that if that is the kind of contorted debate that we are going to have, then honourable members should be the last ones about somebody on this side of the House trying to whip them into line.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order where the House Leader demands a ruling. I would hope that all members of this House would be treated alike, that we would be under your judgment and if you felt there was a need for someone being out of order you would stand and the member would sit down. But I do not think that the House should be subjected to the domineering tactics of the House Leader on that side of the House. I think that we should await your ruling. If there's a discussion on a matter that you consider to be out of order, well then, members of the House can rise on the point of order and discuss it. But I do not think a member should rise in his place and especially the House Leader and demand a ruling when a member is speaking. This is up to the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank the honourable member. But may I remind the honourable member he did exactly the same thing and demanded, and I am going to indicate now we are on item 1, 2 and 3. I appeal to the Honourable Member for Rhineland to stay within the bounds and within the terms of reference of this resolution. I have indicated twice when the point of order was raised that it was a valid point of order. Now if that's not enough for the Honourable Member for Rhineland, I am telling him now directly that he has been stretching the rules and going beyond the terms of the debate. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. Mr. Speaker, I hardly have to suggest to you, Sir, and to the House and to the Honourable House Leader that we of Her Majesty's Official Opposition are prepared at any time to bend to the whip of the House Leader, but would happily be corrected . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Order please. --(Interjection)-- Let me indicate that there is no will of any member can be thrust upon this Assembly. It is our rules collectively that we have to adhere to. Any member can indicate when there is a transgression in case the Chair omits or overlooks it and I think if we try to co-operate and proceed by that admonishment then we will get the work of this Assembly done.

The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Well again, Mr. Speaker, we are going to spend \$800,000 for the Provincial Auditor's office, and what are the duties of the auditor? To audit the accounts of the Crown corporations. And this is the subject that I discussed, was discussing, and the large amounts of money that--of deficits that we have to cover, and certainly I can't see where I'm where I'm not in order when I discussed this very matter. So --(Interjection)-- I feel very strongly on the matter of Crown corporations, that we are definitely getting too many of them, that we are getting a conflict of interest.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I would appeal to the Honourable Member for Rhineland, this is a second appeal. I will not appeal a third time--that he would stay within the terms of the subject before us. You can discuss the Auditor's report but he cannot discuss other extraneous material. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I fail to see when I discuss the Auditor's - Provincial Auditor's allocation here, the amount that we are going to spend . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable House Leader state his point of order.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, whether the honourable member cannot see or not is irrelevant to the point of order. And you have made your ruling. I asked the honourable members to talk about the Provincial Auditor in terms of the \$800,000 that is being spent, --(Interjection)-- he says that he wants to discuss Crown corporations under that. I suggest that the Speaker has already ruled that that's out of order. The honourable member says he fails to see why he is out of order. That is irrelevant to the discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

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MR. FROESE: If I am out of order when I speak about the Provincial Auditor's office to which we are contributing \$800,000 to pay for the work that he is doing, not only for the department's work but also for the Crown corporations which he audits as well. Certainly we have a right to discuss that, and this is exactly what I am discussing. I feel that on occasion that we should have outside auditors. This is what I mentioned and --(Interjection)-- Well sure. But . . .

At any rate, when the Provincial Auditor is doing a job auditing a Crown corporation and we then don't get his report, we're not getting the full value of the dollar that we're spending to which we as members of this Legislature have allocated a lot of money and we don't get to see the results of his work. Certainly this is not good, this is poor business, and I feel very strongly that we should have these reports so that we should get the results of the work that he is doing. --(Interjection)-- Pardon? No we haven't received the last report. He knows that fully well.

Last year we had a report of the operations --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. FROESE: Well, Mr. Speaker, if I am so offensive to the House Leader when I speak, I'll sit down.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, I too have some very real concerns on specifically Resolution No. 2 on concurrence, in respect to the audit, the Provincial Auditors' office, and my colleague the Member for Riel has indicated his real concern with respect to the reservations of the audit that was performed on the Auto Insurance Company. The Member for Rhineland has been concerned about the audits that have been conducted by the office of the Provincial Auditor in respect to Crown corporations and the Manitoba Development Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, there are some very real considerations here and I'd like to bring them to your attention, and I am particularly concerned with the Auditor's statement in respect to Manitoba Development Corporation, and it is quite clear, Mr. Speaker, that the Provincial Auditor does not accept responsibility for the adequacy of the provision for uncollectible accounts and for losses on investments. And I'd like to refer specifically to his report where he has said, in paragraph 3, that the allowances for uncollectible accounts and losses on investments, except for The Pas Forestry Complex, are on the basis of estimates supplied by officials of the Manitoba Development Corporation. The losses and the allowances for such losses are on the basis of estimates supplied by officials of the Manitoba Development Corporation. The losses and the allowances for such losses are on the basis of the estimates supplied by the officials of the Manitoba Development Corporation. And with regard to The Pas Forestry Complex loans in receivership and advances to the receiver, allowances have been made for interest but no provision has been made for possible loss on principal pending a report from the Commission of Inquiry.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in view of the materiality of these assets on which the Auditor has found it necessary to claim a reservation, together with the question of value of The Pas Forestry Complex which he also disclaims, surely the opinion must be taken that the Auditor should not offer an opinion on the financial statement, because I point out to you that his reservations cover \$158 million out of a total of \$163 million. So, Mr. Speaker, if the Auditor has to make a reservation in respect to the collectibility or otherwise of most of the assets of this corporation surely the opinion is not worth presenting to this House. And a person who is not regularly concerned or initiated into the reading of financial statements might get the opinion that the-- and it would be an erroneous one--that the Auditor is certifying the statement. Mr. Speaker, I point out to you that the recommendations of the Audit Research Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants states clearly that auditing deficiencies may be so material that the auditors have no basis for an opinion as to whether or not the financial statements are presented fairly. Similarly, accounting deficiencies may be so significant and of such a nature that the auditors cannot express their qualifications so as to show clearly how and to what extent the statements may be misleading. In such circumstances, Mr. Speaker, the Institute of Chartered Accountants suggests that the auditor should deny an opinion. --(Interjection) -- Well, Mr. Speaker, this statement of the Manitoba Development Corporation has an auditor's report and it is signed, and the inference is that he accepts the statement as it is. --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't think it's at all ridiculous because I think

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) . . . there's quite clearly a change that has taken place in the way in which these statements have been audited.

Now let me refer to the Annual Report of the Manitoba Development Fund for March 31, 1970. And on May 15th, 1970, a report certifying it by McDonald, Currie and Company, Chartered Accountants, states that in their opinion these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Fund as of March 31st, 1970, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year. Now in this statement of this year it says the results of the operations for the fiscal year ended at that date in accordance with the accounts of the corporation. Now there's quite a difference here, Mr. Speaker. --(Interjection)-- Well, that is the opinion of the House Leader. But it certainly represents a complete change, Mr. Speaker, in the way in which these audits are being conducted.

Mr. Speaker, this audited statement is presented in a way which does not really produce a clear statement of the affairs of the Manitoba Development Corporation. It's generally accepted in auditing circles that in all but rare circumstances, where there are subsidiary companies the financial statements should be presented on a consolidated basis. And, Mr. Speaker, we do not have any such presentation in respect to the Manitoba Development Corporation. And in cases where there is not a consolidated report presented, then any losses should be recognized in the valuation of the investments. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Auditor has stated clearly that it is not possible for him to value the investments of the Corporation and therefore they are not part of the audited statement. And where there has been a loss in a value of an investment which is other than in a very temporary decline, the investment should be written down to recognize that loss. Now, Mr. Speaker, we're not certainly getting that kind of an audited report from the Manitoba Development Corporation, and it's becoming more and more a basic part of the total report, the value of the investments which that Corporation is placing in subsidiaries.

Mr. Speaker, there's one other point that I think we should consider very seriously and that is the length of time it's taking for the Office of the Provincial Auditor to provide a statement. What possible excuse can there be for taking eight and a half months to conduct the audit of the MDC and its subsidiaries? Here we have under Private Auditors a report that was for March 31st, 1970. It was out on May 15th, 1970. Now surely, when the biggest companies in this country can get their annual reports out within 90 days of the year-end, then the Manitoba Development Corporation should do a little better than in eight and a half months. With all the computers that this government owns, Mr. Speaker, surely it's possible to complete the audit in less than eight and a half months.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that these matters in respect to the auditing by the Provincial Auditor of Crown corporations and the subsidiaries is one that should provide some very real concerns to the taxpayers, to the people who are now becoming the stockholders in these corporations. I think it's time that audits were conducted in reasonable time so that reports come out reasonably soon after the events which they attempt to accurately consolidate, and present to the House. I feel that the reservations that are placed on the Crown corporations' reports and the fact that the information being provided is on the basis of the reports and the accounts of the corporation rather than upon established accounting principles, represents a direction in accounting that is going to lead to a very great deal of difficulty in insuring that we are getting accurate and complete financial pictures of those corporations in which this government is taking positions and is becoming increasingly involved. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resolution passed? The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. EARL MCKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I think it's only right - I don't happen to be the senior man in this Legislature but I happen to be, I think, the second and I think it's only right and I'd like to mention at this time the work of a former Clerk of this Assembly, Mr. Prud'homme, who served this Assembly for many years and I think that his work is deserving of merit and attention at this time by all members of this Assembly, and now we have a man who is doing an equal job in this Assembly, Mr. Reeves here right in front of us, and I think his name deserves attention and merit too at this time (Applause)

Mr. Speaker, these are the silent men in this Assembly. They don't get paid for what they say, they get paid for what they do, and I think that many of us owe a lot to these men because they guide us in many of our endeavours in this Chamber. And I think that it's

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(MR. McKELLAR cont'd). . . only right that we show our recognition from time to time to the Clerk of the Assembly who does the work to keep this place in order - most of the time anyway.

Mr. Speaker, also too I'd like to mention at this time, and I think it's under Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Area Conference, and I'm sorry that the Speaker isn't in the Chair because I did not have the pleasure of attending this conference last year held in Manitoba, but I had the pleasure in St. Johns, Newfoundland, there four years ago of attending that conference and I enjoyed it very much, and I know that the conference last year was very successful here held in Manitoba and I was just wondering where the conference was going to be held this coming year.

A MEMBER: In Quebec.

MR. McKELLAR: In Quebec. Well the only reason I'm asking this, because I hope to be back here if the election is on June 28th, and maybe I'll be one of the few men that will be maybe senior around here, I don't know. But anyways I'd sure like to go on one other conference, one more conference, one conference in fifteen years is all I have attended so I hope to have one more in the next fifteen years. That's all I'm saying at this time.

Now mention was made of the Provincial Auditors. I think I should mention this too because I brought this up when we were discussing automobile insurance under the Budget before, and I think that our Member for Riel explained this very well tonight, along with the Member for Brandon West, and I'm sorry my voice is a little cracky right now at the present time but one of the things that always disturbed me in government - governments are the slowest of the slowest. And it's very well explained. All you have to do is read what a private corporation in Manitoba does and what a public corporation in Manitoba does. So when do they get their auditor's statements? And I want to relate this and I think the Member for Brandon West dwelt on that very accurately a few minutes ago. So what happens in the public corporation? When does the year end? October 31st, 1972. When did the auditor's report come to the government? I read April 16th, 1973. Practically six months after the year-end. That's when the government received the report. We receive it after that.

When did the Wawanesa Mutual Insurance receive their report? I'll tell you when. The year ends December 31st. The Annual Meeting of the Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company was held on March 9th in the Village of Wawanesa and the annual statement was there. There. With the auditor's statement right there. Nine weeks, Mr. Speaker, nine weeks after the year-end. And, Mr. Speaker, what kind of moneys are we talking about here? I'll tell you what kind of moneys we're talking about. Thirty-five million dollars, the Public Insurance Corporation. What are we talking here? Fifty million dollars, Wawanesa Mutual. Ninety-six million dollars in assets. Mr. Speaker, there's no excuse, no excuse for an auditor's statement to come in six months after, no excuse at all. And I tell you if governments are going to become as slow as this, how are we as members of the opposition and members in the Legislature ever going to be able to criticize. Because we are going to be so far behind that --(Interjection)-- The Minister of Labour doesn't need to be that - he he's not very accurate. And I've got another speech to make back to him. He kidded me yesterday.

But, Mr. Speaker, there's always another day in this place. There's always another day, always another day. And I'll be back. Not for a day or two but I'll be back before the 24th of May with an excellent speech.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, with Ministers like the Minister of Labour presenting his report one week ago, one week ago, and when was his year-end? I'll tell you when his year-end was. Thirty-first of March, 1972, and we get the report in May, 1973. Mr. Speaker, fourteen months after the year-end. Is that the kind of a government we want running our business? We should have had that report months and months before that. We should have had it last October so that we would have been prepared. That's not the kind of a Minister we want running the Department of Labour in the Province of Manitoba. We want somebody that speeds up things. My God if I had to wait on him to get me a job I'd be starving to death if I had to wait fourteen months, if I'd had to wait that long. I tell you I couldn't even put up with unemployment insurance that long.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Riel and the Member for Brandon East brought out--Brandon West I mean--brought out points dealing with the auditors' statements and they're right. They're right. And the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources can argue

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(MR. McKELLAR cont'd). . . all he wants that he's the government; he's making the laws. But I tell you there's certain things that auditors have to come up with statements, with auditor's statement, and they can't come up with a statement like this and prove to the people of Manitoba that their statement is right. It's not right. It's not right.

A MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. McKELLAR: Six million dollars there that wasn't accounted for and yet the honourable member, the Minister of Mines or Municipal Affairs, gets up and tells the people in Brandon that Autopac is wonderful. My God even in Louisiana if they were told the truth they wouldn't buy it. I'm sure of that. They wouldn't buy it, they wouldn't buy it under any consideration. But they haven't been told the truth, and I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, the people in the Province of Saskatchewan never were told the truth. They were never told the truth.

A MEMBER: Never were.

MR. McKELLAR: . . . because it was always covered up. Always covered up. Covered up and it's still covered up, still covered up, and always will be covered up. Until you operate under the insurance laws of Canada then and only will you really know the truth of an insurance company operating in the Province of Manitoba. My God if Wawanesa Mutual could operate under the same rules as--they could show a statement second to none. But they operate under the insurance laws of Canada because they have a charter under the Government of Canada. That's why. And they're honest people out in Wawanesa trying to do a good job for the people of Manitoba and for the government and for the people of Canada. And they're paying their taxes too, Mr. Speaker, they're paying their taxes. One point 6 million dollars worth of taxes paid to the Government of Canada and to the Province of Manitoba. That 's the kind of insurance company they're running. They're not trying to deceive the people. They're trying to do a worthy job for the public of the Province of Manitoba and doing a good job.

Until their--(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you something. They're going to come out and they're going to tell the people of the Province of Manitoba that they're going into the fire and they're going into the life business. And that's about all the companies need, the insurance companies need to kick them out of the Province of Manitoba. And when you tell them that, when you tell them that, you watch out. You'll be losing out in about \$600,000 worth of taxes that you're presently getting.

Mr. Speaker, there's no way that a Crown corporation can operate unless they operate under the laws of Canada especially when they're selling insurance. There's no way. There's no way. And I tell you, Mr. Speaker, this change has got to come about and it will come about when we, the Conservative Party of the Province of Manitoba will form the next government. It'll come about. And not only will we do that, we'll make it competitive too. We'll make it competitive with the people of the Province of Manitoba. We'll have freedom of choice, freedom of choice. That's what they want and that's what they'll get.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a few comments dealing with the resolution which involves the salary paid to the Leader of the Official Opposition, and more particularly to some of the statements that he made today. I'll try to be brief and I'll try to confine myself to just a couple of the remarks he made. One deals with the Estimates of some \$700 million in expenditures for this year, and he's been going around all over the province talking about the substantial increase. Never once have I seen a report of a speech which he made where he acknowledged the large amount of money involved in the \$700 million which are actually used in reduction of taxation. Never once has he acknowledged the fact that there are substantial moneys in these Budgets which are a return to people of taxation.

The Member for Souris-Lansdowne made a grand speech talking about "when we come back" and when they come back--and that'll be long after he and I are grey-haired and away from here--they would then bring in across-the board tax cuts which of course would reduce expenditures, it would reduce revenue; it could also reduce expenditures because it wouldn't show as a reduction. The Honourable Member for Lakeside says I'm not right. But if it's not in order to reduce revenues and reduce expenditures, then what could they conceivably be doing when they promise an across-the-board tax cut? Well he --(Interjection)-- no, he won't allow it.

Mr. Speaker, I draw to your attention, when the Leader of the Opposition gives a comparison between the 1969 budget and this year's budget, and talks about the difference in amounts, he conveniently ignores to recognize the elimination of a regressive form of taxation, the premium tax. He omits to inform the people that included in this year's budget is an item totalling over \$90 million for the Manitoba Health Services Commission, a very substantial part of which was a reduction in premium tax, an actual reduction in tax.

He conveniently omits to include in the moneys which we are spending, the rebates that we are giving through the income tax, the education property tax credits, and the Manitoba property tax credits of some 47 . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I have had the point raised a number of times. I would also like to ask the co-operation of all the members. It's true that under the headings that are here we could discuss almost anything we desire that goes on in the Legislative Assembly. I do allow a certain amount of latitude but I do not think that we should, any of us, try to take advantage of stretching the rules to that degree that we will discuss particular aspects about certain other areas just because the name or the item may be referred to once or twice while a different debate is going on in this House.

Now I appeal to all the honourable members. As I said, it's very difficult for the Chair to anticipate what is being said. He does have to listen to some degree to hear what is being said, but when it does not really pertain to the subject matter then I appeal to the honourable members to stay to the rules. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I will abide by your ruling. I spoke on the question of Estimates because the Leader of the Opposition in dealing with his own salary was speaking about \$700 million in Estimates. I've proposed to speak on two other items, both of which were spoken to by the Leader of the Opposition. I'll tell you what they are and then I'll accept your ruling and sit down if you say I shouldn't. One was he talked about the cost of the distribution of the letter by the Premier of Manitoba that was recently sent in regard to Medicare premium. He talked about the cost and he attacked the Premier in that respect. I was going to respond. The second item I wanted to respond to was his attack on the advertising to inform Manitoba citizens about their rights under the Education Property Tax Plan. Those are the two items, Mr. Speaker. It's up to you; I'll accept your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: I do believe I indicated I would allow latitude, and if it's within the context of what's before us I am willing to accept it. If it's not, the honourable gentleman himself will know whether it's within the context or not. I shall leave it up to him. This concurrence pass? Resolutions 4 to 6 separately and collectively; Resolved there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,314,800 for Executive Council. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, when I attempted earlier to raise the question of the Premier's office and his actions in that office, I might say at the outset that anyone who has the onerous job of being a Premier of a province and his salary is \$16,600 plus his member's indemnity, is really not overpaid. It's a very difficult job. I know that many

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(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd) members in this House know how previous Premiers have had to work day and night to do what they felt was the proper and right thing to do for the province when they were in power, and I compliment and applaud the present Premier for his efforts on behalf of the citizens of this province. But I do, Mr. Speaker, take umbrage to a dis--or an abuse, I should say, of the powers of the office of the Premier. And I'm talking about the latest nominating convention that he attended and in my opinion--I don't know this for sure because I haven't researched it; I wasn't there. I go and I - I go by the newspapers and I go by the radio reports. Free Press, Tribune, CJOB, CTV and so on. --(Interjection)-- So my friends opposite--and if I'm wrong let them stand up and say I'm wrong. But as I say, I go by what I've read.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I invite the Minister of Labour and the Attorney-General to get into the debate. That's fine. But I say that the Premier of this province debased the art of politics at that convention last night when he attacked a person, an honourable citizen of this province, because he said he was going to stand for office. We in this House do not mind the interchange and the political warfare that goes on because that's part of it, but when a Premier of a province rises in a public meeting and derides a person for taking a part in the political process, I think that's--I think the Minister of Agriculture was right when he predicted a pretty dirty election coming up. When a citizen cannot offer himself for public service without snide remarks about why he has done it, about why maybe he should stay where he is if he knows what's good for him, then I say it's time that somebody spoke up. --(Interjection)-- No, I was not there. And let one of the members opposite deny who was there. Let them get up and deny that this was not said. "Mr. Schreyer," and I'm quoting out of the paper but not in his words, "Mr. Schreyer questioned a Winnipeg Deputy Mayor, Councillor J. Paul Marion, who has decided he will seek the Liberal nomination in St. Boniface who will coalesce" - and he mentions some names.

Later in the article he says: "Councillor Marion's future would have been very important in his position as Deputy Mayor of the new City of Winnipeg. And he could have been of greater service there than by tying himself to a political party at this time." --(Interjection)-- Well, there's a lot of laughter and sneering on the opposite side, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: But I would think that a Premier of a province would welcome any citizen who wished to place himself in the public arena and try by his beliefs to do what he thought was right. Especially after some of the comments that were made about whether or not certain French Canadians were satisfied within their party or whether or not certain French Canadians should not try to exercise their voice in the manner that they saw fit. Any party. Any party. --(Interjection)-- Well, I'm sure that members opposite who were there heard the statements that were made. And all I'm saying is that this is not a statement, in my opinion, that a Premier of a province should make. He should welcome people to enter the political field whether or not it's his party or any other party. --(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier said "nobody welcomed me" and he's right. And I'm sure that when he was 22 or 23 or whatever age he was at when he entered the political arena, nobody welcomed him. But I'm sure that at that time and also at the time I ran ten or 11 years ago, one of the - or any of the leaders of the political parties stood on a platform and said, well, that person really should not be running. No one ever said that to him. No one ever said it, I'm sure, in the hearing of members of this House, that certain people should not offer themselves for public service.

And that's all I say. I wish to place it on the record. I wish to place it on the record that I regret very much that a Premier of this province said publicly from a public platform that certain people, or a certain person, is better off not to have entered the political arena and stand up for his beliefs.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I welcome very much the remarks of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, and I want to say to him at least on one occasion or half a dozen occasions, Mr. Speaker, during my years as the Leader of the CCF and the New Democratic Party, I suggested that leaders of the Liberal Party should not run for office because of the fact that I knew damn fine that eventually they would place themselves in the position that the Liberal Party of Manitoba is at the present time. That is the recognition that they were going into oblivion, which they did, and I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that they will remain in that

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) particular position, and that the Liberal Leader today and his colleagues, these valiant three, may eventually find themselves, as I predicted as a result of the next provincial election, even more in oblivion than they are at the present time, because they are recognized, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would hope the Honourable Minister is going to lead into the Executive Council debate.

MR. PAULLEY: That's right, Mr. Speaker, because my honourable friend the Member for Portage la Prairie raised this question in respect of the position that my leader is now in. And I say, Mr. Speaker, in all due respect to you, that if the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie can conduct himself as he did in the last few moments without interjection, then, too, I should have the same privilege. I leave it with you, Mr. Speaker, that if you ruled me out of order, then I would accept that. But there was no ruling insofar as the contribution, if you will call that a contribution, Mr. Speaker, by the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. Now if you want, Mr. Speaker, to suggest a different ruling for me as against that of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, I accept that because I recognize that you are the commanding officer of this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I appreciate the comments of the Honourable Minister of Labour but I must remind him we are discussing Executive Council. Under Executive Council I will give him the explanation since he desires it, which is something I do not very often do. But the Executive Council does include the Premier and President. If the honourable member was willing to discuss that, I'm willing to listen.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I abide, --(Interjection)-- yes I know better. I even know better than the Honourable Member for Swan River, and I accept, Mr. Speaker, your admonition that we are discussing the --(Interjection)-- yes, that's right, my leader, in whom I have supreme confidence. And I have supreme confidence, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Manitoba have likewise and they will re-elect him as the governing Premier of the Province of Manitoba. But I resent and I reject, Mr. Speaker, what the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie has imputed at this particular time to my leader.

We are dealing, Mr. Speaker, with an item of \$16,600 for the position for a Premier of the Province of Manitoba. When we have under consideration, Mr. Speaker, this fantastic appropriation for the position of the Premier of Manitoba, the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie has the consummate gall to suggest that my Premier at a nominating convention last night did not have the right to stand up and suggest a certain procedure for the people of the constituency, precisely the constituency of St. Boniface.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie state his point of order.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: On a point of order, the Minister of Labour either didn't hear what I said or he's misconstruing my remarks. I never made any such statement at all.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether my honourable friend will give me the courtesy and the House the courtesy, Mr. Speaker, of reading what he said, because he was critical because the Premier at a nominating convention, a political convention, he suggested that the leader of my party, my Premier and my friend, did not have the right to indicate at a nominating convention what his choice was. I've listened, Mr. Speaker, to my honourable friend from Portage la Prairie time after time after time. I've listened to his idiotic statements . . .

A MEMBER: How about the Bobbsey Twins?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, the buttsy twins. My friend from Rhineland so aptly says, "What about the buttsy twins?" The Leader of the Conservative Party, who is not here . . .

A MEMBER: Yes he is.

MR. PAULLEY: Where is he? Oh he's away out there in left field. The Leader of the Liberal Party, who is not here, and I agree with my honourable friend, I agree with my honourable friend the Member for Rhineland, that it is so apt, it is so considerate of the Leader of the Conservative Party and the Leader of the Liberal Party, that when any matter of deep concern to the populous of Manitoba, that they're either not in their seat, they're outside, or they're consorting with other people within the Assembly.

But, Mr. Speaker, we are now dealing with the salary --(Interjection)-- That's right. My honourable friend from Swan River, Mr. Speaker, said I dealt with that 20 minutes ago. But I

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) want to try and penetrate the thick skulls of the Honourable Member for Swan River and it does take a lot --(Interjection)-- That's right. My honourable friend, Mr. Speaker, says that I'm in a glass house, but I am prepared, I am prepared to receive the stone delivered to my glass house, but the Honourable Member for Swan River likes to chortle about glass houses but he's worried about a stone that may be thrown toward him.

But --(Interjection)-- That's right. But my honourable friend the Member for Portage la Prairie attempts in his remarks to chastise the Premier of this province because he dares to take a political position. What is, what really is, Mr. Speaker, the position? Not the Premier of Manitoba, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Liberal Party and even the Member for Rhineland. Does the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie suggest that any of us has not the right outside of this Assembly to engage in the political process of this province? Is my honourable friend the Member for Portage la Prairie suggesting that because there is an item under consideration of \$16,000--odd for the Premier of the Province of Manitoba, that he should sit back on his respective fanny and not become engaged in the political process of Manitoba? Because this, Mr. Speaker, is basically what the Member of Portage la Prairie has said in his contribution, if you can call that, tonight. If we carry through the logic or illogic of his contribution, it would mean that none of us who receive an emolument or an indemnity paid for by the taxpayer of Manitoba and subsequently are elected to this Assembly, that none of us have the right, because of the receipt of that emolument that none of us has the right of free expression. Here is --(Interjection)-- Yes, you're overpaid, I admit; \$9,200, I believe it is, that the Honourable Member for Swan River receives for sitting on his fanny in this House and doing nothing for his constituents, Mr. Speaker. But --(Interjection)-- Yes, Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend the Member for Swan River raises the question: is he overpaid? And I would say yes without equivocation. I think he has the best--I think that the Honourable Member for Swan River has the best pension of any ex-RCMP in the Province of Manitoba. We are dealing--we are dealing, Mr. Speaker, we are dealing --(Interjection)-- Oh, I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether you would shut the rabble up. --(Interjection)-- You earned it? You're not earning it now and I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that that is a fact. But the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie raised the question as to the propriety of the Premier of Manitoba and at nominating convention last night, whether or not because he is receiving an emolument, whether he should have been there. --(Interjection)-- You wouldn't understand. I'll send Webster over to you because you wouldn't understand. This is what the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, Mr. Speaker . . .

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I enjoy the Honourable Minister of Labour's contribution, I know he's getting up in years. But I didn't know his hearing was affected because I never made any such statement that the Premier did not have the right to attend a nominating convention of his own Party. And I wish really, Mr. Speaker, when other members are making a contribution, that the Minister of Labour would listen before he responds.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, in all deference to my honourable friend from Portage la Prairie, I did write down a couple of comments of what he said. --(Interjection)-- Of course I can't read it. Of course I can't read it. And maybe my honourable friend the Member for Portage la Prairie is quite correct; I am getting old, as indeed all of the rest of the members of this Assembly will get old. I only hope, Mr. Speaker, that they will get old with grace, as I think that I have, and I hope, I hope . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. PAULLEY: I hope, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . as the rabble gets old, at least they will continue to have a little reasonableness in their elder years, because what the Honourable the Member for Portage la Prairie said --(Interjection)-- Oh, of course. What, Mr. Speaker, can one expect from the ineffective Conservative Opposition in this House today? But I wrote down what the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie said. --(Interjection)-- Of course you wouldn't understand because--I don't want to be unparliamentary, Mr. Speaker, but I'm sure if the honourable members opposite will reflect on their thoughts they will agree that they're being unfair, that

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) they are not really attempting in any way, shape or form to consider the directions of debate. They're trying to be, they are trying to be evasive of me and they are not taking into consideration--but, Mr. Speaker, I accept that from the rabble opposite. But I do want to say I did write down what the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie said in respect to my Premier. He chastised the Premier of the Province of Manitoba and he said, and here is a quote of his remarks, that the Premier of Manitoba at a meeting last night defaced the position of the Premier of Manitoba because he dared to suggest that Paul Marion who could possibly be a candidate for the position of the candidate in St. Boniface, one Paul Marion, and to quote my honourable friend, "because of the fact that he was a French-Canadian." I say, Mr. Speaker, and I wrote that down. I wrote, I wrote . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . down, Mr. Speaker, the actual words . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Minister of Labour made a slip of the tongue because that was certainly not what I said nor what I meant, and I hope he takes me sincerely. I made no such suggestion whatsoever.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I accept my honourable friend except for the fact that I actually wrote down his words because I am concerned, I am concerned with the situation that confronts we Manitobans, that there should be no prejudices against French-Canadians in Manitoba, indeed no prejudices against French-Canadians in the whole of the Dominion of Canada, but I wrote down and I was astonished, I was astonished to hear the words of the Member for Portage la Prairie when he inferred that at the convention last night the Leader of our Party, the Premier, suggested that there should be any regrets because Paul Marion, the Deputy Premier or Deputy Mayor of Manitoba or of Winnipeg, should not be involved in politics. I wrote it down word for word, Mr. Speaker. And I would ask my honourable friend, the House Leader of the Liberal Party, in the absence of the Leader of the Liberal Party, if he will withhold any comments until such time as he reads the official word of Hansard. I took the time, Mr. Speaker, I took the time despite any interjections of my honourable friend, to write that as he was speaking.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Would he like me to respond? --(Interjection)-- No, no. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour - and I say this with sincerity - is hopelessly confused. I quoted out of a newspaper article. I didn't make the statement, I read out of a newspaper article as to what the newspaper interpreted as what had happened at the convention. And I wish my honourable friend would listen. I know he's confused. I know he's confused but still I know he's a man of good heart and I put my suggestion in that manner.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm very appreciative of the Member for Portage la Prairie. If he use--Mr. Speaker, if he used a newspaper article to attempt to impute motives to my Leader, which he did do, then I accept, but my honourable friend from Portage la Prairie, Mr. Speaker, did not say that this is a newspaper article with which I disagree. He never disagreed with the article, Mr. Speaker. If indeed what my honourable friend has now said is correct, he didn't qualify any rejection or acceptance and I suggest that if my honourable friend the Member for Portage la Prairie was going to be fair and if he was going to quote a news article, he should have had, he should have had the gumption to turn around and say in this House, "This is what the newspaper said but I do not agree with it". But he didn't do it. And how often, how often has the Liberal Party and indeed the Conservative Party picked up a news item and said, Mr. Speaker, quote, quote, quote, this is what has been said and they haven't refuted it on any occasion. If they have the intestinal fortitude, and I don't think that they have . . .

A MEMBER: We have, we have.

MR. PAULLEY: I doubt it. Mr. Speaker, if they do not agree with a newspaper article, surely they should have the intestinal fortitude to stand up and say, "This is what the oracle of Carlton Avenue has to say and I do not agree with it" or "that other idiotic outfit on Smith Street has to say, but I don't agree with it," but they don't do that, Mr. Speaker. They attempt to put into the record excerpts from each paper without any qualification at all. My honourable

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd). . . friend from Lakeside is not unlike, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Portage la Prairie. He loves to stand up and walk and rave and quote, and quote newspaper articles, but he hasn't got the intestinal fortitude to say that "I do not agree." He loves to impute --(Interjection)-- No, that's right. You have the methodology and you haven't got the intestinal fortitude to discount news articles that appear in either paper that you find favourable to your misdirected mind. This is what I object to, Mr. Speaker, and this is what the Member for Portage la Prairie said tonight. So I have, I have, Mr. Speaker, in my limited number of years in political involvement attempted --(Interjection) -- Yes, they're getting shorter. They are getting shorter, Mr. Speaker. They're only getting shorter because of the fact that the rabble opposite is making it intolerable for anybody who has any principle to continue involvement in the fairest politics in Manitoba. That they have degraded the political process in Manitoba so that they are in effect (applause) That's right. The Honourable Member for Lakeside applauds what I say, and I say it in all sincerity, Mr. Speaker, that by the actions of the Conservatives, aided and abetted by the Liberals in this province, are in effect saying to the people of Manitoba, don't become involved in politics because we will deride you, we will depreciate your activities in the field of politics, and it is they, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion who are in effect saying to the people of Manitoba who have never been involved in politics, don't even get involved because we will smear you and we will depreciate your involvement in the field of politics. And this, Mr. Speaker, is what the situation in politics is becoming a fact because of the likes of the involvement of the Member for Lakeside, the Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the comments of the Minister of Labour here in his closing couple of sentences of course are what triggered this debate that's on now. As I understood the comment of the Member for Portage it was exactly that he felt that the office of the First Minister under the Executive Council motion here was demeaning politics in Manitoba. And, Mr. Speaker, I too read the accounts of the procedures last night, and although I didn't have as great a concern as what was stated by the Member for Portage la Prairie, I can endorse, Mr. Speaker, the comments of the Member for Portage because, Mr. Speaker, is it not demeaning to politics in Manitoba when the First Minister speaking in defence of one of his candidates says that the person who is going to run against him in the name of Mr. Paul Marion would be much better advised to stay where he is. In effect, he's saying that he hasn't got a contribution to make to the provincial level in Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Marion was referred to by the Member for Portage la Prairie as a man who spent many years on a school board, and he was chairman of a school board in St. Boniface, he went on to municipal politics, he's now the vice or the Vice-Deputy Mayor of the City of Winnipeg, and the First Minister implies that Mr. Marion does not have a place to make a contribution to the politics of this province. Mr. Speaker, is there anyone, despite his politics, who has a better background of qualification, than to have had experience at both the school board level and at the municipal level, and is recognized in this community and is Deputy to the largest single jurisdiction in the Province of Manitoba, namely the City of Winnipeg. And he tries to stand up and suggest that somehow he would be much better off to stay where he is and don't bother his man. Well, Mr. Speaker, if the First Minister's man has the ability to stand on his feet, which I am sure he thinks that he has, then can he not stand up in his defence and leave it at that. Mr. Speaker, I haven't got anything to say whether the Member for St. Boniface has or not. Maybe he wants to make sure the ecumenical movement keeps going in his particular direction. Well, Mr. Speaker, that is not what I take issue to with the reports and accounts of the meeting last night.

The First Minister went further beyond that out of his office as the First Minister of this province, and says that in the Conservative ranks that there is conservative position voiced by one of its members that is anti-French and that therefore by token of that we have lost the French representative of the Conservative caucus. Mr. Speaker, that is far more damning a statement to come from the First Minister than to damn another man who wants to (applause) than to damn another man who wants to run for office. Mr. Speaker, what was said in this House, what was said in this House, and twisted, and twisted by the First Minister was a question in this House as to whether or not a lot of money hadn't been spent for the good of a member of this House. Now he can take the implication he wants to from it but it was twisted. The First Minister of this province took that and twisted it and said that that member had voiced

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd). . . . an anti-French sentiment in the Conservative caucus, as a result we had lost the French representation in his caucus. --(Interjection)-- Well okay. I'll answer the Member for Inkster what Mr. Girard thinks about it. I know Mr. Girard as fairly and as well as any man in this Chamber knows him. Mr. Girard has never at any time suggested to me that it had anything to do with his decision with regard to politics. Now let me tell you that. And I'll state that from the public platform too. It won't carry the weight, Mr. Speaker, it won't carry the weight of the First Minister because the First Minister has a lot of weight from the position that he has. But he has the weight because there's a history of responsibility from the First Minister's position of not dealing in those gutter issues, and if he wants to become the number one - if he wants to become the number one political jackal of this province, that's his business. But let's not have him running the province dealing in ethnic issues where he can talk to one group in one constituency and divide the rest of the world against that constituency. That is far more damning than to stand up and say that Paul Marion should not be a candidate because he'd be much better advised to stay where he is and mind his own business and he might go places over there, but don't bother him.

Mr. Speaker, if the First Minister wants to defend the Member for St. Boniface let him stand up and say where he stands on the basic issue that splits this province now, which is the ideological economic issue. Mr. Speaker, there is only one major issue in this province and the issue is: Where do you want to take this province in economic terms? Mr. Speaker, the First Minister knows that he cannot win this province on that basis. He's going to go into St. Boniface, say the Conservatives are anti-French; he'll go to another constituency and say the Conservatives are anti-Ukrainian; he'll go into another constituency and he'll drag out another herring, and he'll drag it across from the position of the First Minister's office. So let's not stand here and keep to ourselves the feelings that we observe over watching people operate at close quarters. The First Minister is as capable, and more capable, of demeaning a person on personal grounds than any member of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, the issue that was

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I insist that you take note of the amount of interruption, please. --(Interjection)-- The point that has been raised --(Interjection)-- Well Mr. Speaker, I was merely asking you to take note of the fact that it was impossible to be heard. Is that asking for too much I ask my honourable friend the Member for Souris-Killarney?

I want to deal primarily, Mr. Speaker, with the point raised by the Honourable the Member for Portage la Prairie because rightly I believe I put considerable stock in what he has to say. Insofar as the Member for Riel is concerned it's obvious that he is trying desperately to conjure up a case and he doesn't care how much he has to distort in order to do so. The Member for Portage la Prairie --(Interjection)-- I know my friend the Member for Riel very well. He is ignoring the position of his party in 1969; he is ignoring the speech, and I won't comment any further but to ask my honourable friend the Member for Riel to look in Hansard at the speech made the other week by the Member for Charleswood a monument to disgrace in this province in terms of harmony, in terms of efforts to bring about harmony between the different cultural groups that form the history and the heritage of our province. That speech of the Member for Charleswood made about ten days ago, and I won't comment beyond asking my honourable friend to read it. That's all I say, just read it. That speech in itself will demonstrate to my honourable friend more than any elaboration will just exactly what I meant when I spoke last night. And I won't spend any more time on my honourable friend the Member for Riel. He should spend time reading the speeches of his colleagues. And the Member for Charleswood in particular, that's all. Just read it. Just read it and then you will see who is trying to poison relationships in this province.

Now the Member for Portage la Prairie I believe when he stated that my colleague was confused, I think I am justified in saying that I really believe that the Member for Portage la Prairie is somewhat confused because what did I say last night relative to Mr. Marion, who also happens to be the Deputy Mayor of the City of Winnipeg. I said essentially the same that I believe my colleague the Minister of Tourism said. And that is simply this, that Mr. Marion is the Deputy Mayor of the City of Winnipeg, that is acknowledged and admittedly an important

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd). . . position, important not only to himself personally, that is the least consideration, but it is important in the sense of what he can contribute in that position to the future development of the City of Winnipeg. And I said last night, and I certainly say again, and I will be prepared to say tomorrow and in the future, that a person filling a position of responsibility such as that has more than ample opportunity in which to serve his fellow man, and his fellow citizens in the community. And that trading off that particular position of responsibility for a race in a provincial election which involves in the first place the prospect, and I don't say this in a bantering way, but involves the prospects of, in all probability not acquiring a position of as much responsibility as Deputy Mayor of the City of Winnipeg, is one that seems to me to be dead-ended. Now I think my honourable friend the Member for Portage can read the newspaper account which judging from his quotes from it, I think was accurate. I make no pretense of arguing that the article was inaccurate--I haven't read it--but taking my honourable friend's quotation from it I think it was correct, and I am prepared to say so, to reiterate now what I said last night. And I have just done so.

The Member for Portage has the facility sometimes of working up a head of steam and indignation about something which on reflection really can be quite silly. He said he should be welcomed, that this particular person should have been welcomed in his bid for provincial political office. And I say again that - I ask all honourable members sitting around here, can they recall can they find any evidence, any newspaper clippings, any evidence of any statement by an opposition leader inviting them, welcoming them to run for office, and I ask honourable members opposite. I ask the honourable member, the Honourable Member for La Verendrye. Can he find a newspaper clipping or any evidence that the Leader of the Conservative Party, or the Leader of the New Democratic Party at that time, welcomed him when he had his name put in nomination for candidacy in the first provincial election he ran? And you can go all around the Chamber, front row, middle row, back row, and I venture to say that in all probability, without exception, and at the most with only one or two exceptions, no one was welcomed. Is my honourable friend the Member for Portage, is he serious when he makes that suggestion? Now he's smiling in a rather knowing way, and it makes me think that he had succeeded, he had succeeded in causing a good deal of indignation to well up on this side about something which on reflection we can feel rather sheepish about, Sir.

But I do hope--and I'm sorry I missed the very first few sentences of my honourable friend--I do hope that he did not insinuate that my remarks were in any way disparaging of Mr. Marion as a person. I don't believe that in the slightest of ways that that could have been inferred from my statement last night. And I make that clear again. But I do say, whether my honourable friend from Portage agrees or not, that for a person who is in a position of Deputy Mayor of a City to contemplate leaving that position to run for another office which, and it may sound partisan but it's not unfair, it's at worst partisan but it's not unfair or disparaging to run for office in which he has scant prospect of acquiring a more responsible position than he has, is hardly an indication that he is taking a course of action that will cause him to be even more useful and beneficial in his future workings on behalf of his fellow citizens and his community. Now that's the whole sum and substance of what I said.

And you know on reflection, Mr. Speaker, I think it was a very good statement and I am happy to re-endorse it, to reiterate it, and to do so not only this evening but the next day and the day after that, that so much do I think that it was a fair statement and a fair comment, and not disparaging in the least. It makes me think now on the other hand why it was that in 1969, no one welcomed me. I don't think that Bobby Bend welcomed me, and I don't think that Walter Weir welcomed me, and I rather suspect, Mr. Speaker, that no one welcomed my honourable friend the Member for Portage when he ran. I mean nobody - certainly Duff Roblin didn't welcome him. I am very sure that Duff Roblin never welcomed him, and I rather suspect that the Honourable the Minister of Labour who was leader then did not welcome the Member for Portage.

MR. PAULLEY: Oh yes, sure I did. (laughter)

MR. SCHREYER: So there you have it, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that more need be said.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I intend to be brief. I would like to make a point to the First Minister of this province, and I think it's a damn disgrace

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(MR. ARTHUR MOUG cont'd). . . when he goes around and tries to indicate to the people of Manitoba that I got up to speak in this Legislature to say anything against any French people whatsoever. Not one person did--as I got up in this Legislature - and there's the Hansard in which I spoke.

A MEMBER: Yeah, I'll just read your speech without comment . . .

MR. MOUG: It was page 2224. All right. Now I got up and I held a document in my hand that was tabled the very day, during the Estimates of the Minister of Cultural Affairs. It was the annual report, Manitoba Centennial Corporation, year ending March 31st, '72, and was said by this front bench shortly ago, provincial audit to take this long to bring that to our attention. I mentioned in Hansard, now there's several pages and I won't go through them again, but exhibit A, exhibit B, and the last page of document, it turned out, and I marked it in here while you were speaking, that it totals 2.4 or 5, approximately \$2-1/2 million. It shows in his document that went into the French Cultural Centre in St. Boniface. I stated at that time, it's a lot of money on top of the \$100,000 that we passed in this Legislature a year ago in a bill; it totals a lot of dollars, plus what's been given by this government to Festival du Voyageur, it's a lot of dollars to re-elect one Minister, for the government side of the House. I said it and you read it. I said it and you read it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I do like to remind the honourable member that the relevancy of debate should be in respect to the Executive Council.

MR. MOUG: At any rate I notice that the Premier goes out to the Tuxedo Hotel in Charleswood for the nominating meeting and spouts off there saying that I'm dividing the ethnic groups of the Province of Manitoba. "Mr. Moug seldom gets up off his seat in the Legislature but when he does, he divides the ethnic groups in the Province of Manitoba." What did you do last night? What did you do last night? You went over--I simply said in here that I thought the Ukrainians and the Polish should get some money, and I'll still say it, and I'll say it at all times, and I'll show you a stack of letters as high as your desk that agree with what I say. That they say, if Desjardins is worth that much money to you, they wonder. They question it. But I say that this is exactly what you went over last night trying to belittle Paul Marion. --(Interjection)-- All right then you read it because it's in Hansard, and thank God for that. And you read it, and the time that I said anything about any French person in there, or belittled any French person, with the exception of one that sits in this House, the Minister that you were defending, apart from that - and it wasn't because he was French. I only said for that reason that you were trying to re-elect that Minister. And for you to go on record in front of the press and in front of that nominating convention last night, and say that Gabe Girard the Member for Emerson was backing away on account of my feelings towards the French-Canadian people and their cultural group --(Interjection)-- ask him, and if he says that, ask him to read here and show why. He told me why he has to leave this caucus and why he has to leave public life. But you people decide to pour the dollars in for what you wanted last night. And apparently you didn't spend those dollars wrong, apart from the people of Manitoba. But for the people of St. Boniface, they're perfectly happy with it. This document doesn't show it, and I was only asking. When I was up speaking I said to the Minister, I said, "I hope that you can spell it out to me; I hope that I am wrong with what I read here!" The following day at 2:50 in the afternoon on my first opportunity after a few brief remarks from him, I was the first speaker up again and I said, "I asked last night for comments on this," I said, "I hope I'm wrong. I have read how the press interpreted it," and I said, "I hope I'm wrong but I said this the night previous and I say I hope I'm wrong again, but I read \$2.4 million, in this document and I ask you would you please explain where that \$2.4 million, is or what it means. Am I reading it wrong?" He got up and he said, "for God's sake \$650,000 came from the Federal Government, and \$650,000 came from the province." I said, "well show it to me in this book, it's not in here." And it still isn't in there, and he still hasn't explained it to me. So quickly the Minister of Finance scooted over to that side of the House. "Well", he said, "I guess the Minister of Finance will have to explain it to you." Now since then a week has gone by, or ten days have gone by, and it's not explained yet. And I see nothing wrong with it. The money is in there, and I don't say there's anything wrong with the French people, because between the Provincial Auditor and that fool that tries to run the department that this document is all mucked up, and he can't explain it; the front bench over there can't explain it; the Attorney-General was in his seat, the House Leader was in his seat, the Minister of Finance is in his seat, and he can't explain it. None of you can.

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A MEMBER: Explain what?

MR. MOUG: This document. There's \$2.4 million in three different pages. Seven hundred and thirty some odd thousand dollars in two instances. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Again I remind the honourable member we are under the Executive Council. The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. MOUG: I am speaking, Sir, in regards to the comments that was made by the Premier to my regards and about my person, and that's what I'm speaking on. And I'm explaining to him the comments that I made that provoked him to say what he said at two public meetings. And I'm saying here now that he's entirely wrong. And you can cart around on your back, you can cart around on your back the 28 people that it takes to keep you on the government side of the House, and they're all trailing underneath the wings of the mother hen there. But I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of that government, and the Premier of our province wants to carry on like that in order to stay on that side of the House, I'll say he can't do it long. He'll not fool the people forever. He's fooling them now, trying to fool them going into an election by calling it the Schreyer Government, not the NDP Government. He's ashamed of what sits behind him, and can't you understand why? Positively ashamed. You can understand why. And if you can win it on a Schreyer ticket, go ahead and win it. But don't go around shooting junk like you did the last couple of times on my name because I can prove to you in Hansard, and it's all in writing what I said, and there's the document I was asking about. And not you, not you or any members of your front bench can answer the questions in that document. That's all I question, and I said that night, and I can't point out what page - and I hope I'm wrong about the questions I'm asking. I said, I hope I'm wrong what I read in there. The Minister of Finance who is looking at spending some 600-odd million dollars this year --(Interjection)-- No idea? Well we'll have to explain it later. Well he gets up then the monkey over there, he says, well of course we'll find out, the Minister of Finance will explain it at a later date. And it's not been explained yet, and I doubt if anybody on that side of the House can explain it. --(Interjection)-- Well I--yah but I had reason to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs)(St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, it's pretty hard to follow the genius from Charleswood nevertheless I'll try. First of all I'd like to congratulate the Honourable Member from Portage who in a pretty clever way I would say arranged for a bit of publicity for his candidate in St. Boniface, and I congratulate him for that.

Now but my honourable friend from Riel made a statement here and dumped everything on the lap of the First Minister and said that he's the one that was dividing the people of this province. And I reject that quite strongly. And if the Honourable Member from Pembina was here maybe he would repeat what he told me, that he wanted to get up and disassociate himself completely with the remark from Emerson, --from the remark by my honourable friend--excuse me, I meant Mr. Girard from Emerson--wanted to disassociate himself completely with the remarks made by my honourable friend from Charleswood.

I repeatedly told my honourable friend the amount of money that was spent. This is the second year in a row that he does that. He doesn't question, he's never questioned the money. I came in the next day and I read a list of thousands and thousands of dollars of grants. My honourable friend--many of my friends, your Leader--the Leader was at the opening, the kick-off of the Festival du Voyageur, endorsed the grant that was made by the Festival du Voyageur. --(Interjection)-- Am I wrong? And my honourable friend from - I don't know if there was- where's Sherman from? --(Interjection)-- My honourable friend from Fort Garry when he spoke in the Estimates told me that we should continue making these kind of grants, that it was a thing that would promote tourism here. I think that the people of Shell-it's unfortunate that I haven't got the magazine put out by Shell, I think that half of the magazine that was put out was on Le Festival du Voyageur. The Festival du Voyageur grant was made by my honourable friend here before I even entered Cabinet, and do you know why, Mr. Speaker? --(Interjection)-- Why don't you keep quiet genius just for a minute. Mr. Speaker, you know why that grant was made? The people of St. Boniface had the money then, they wanted to pay because the--to pay the cost of 15,000 or, it was more than 15,000, I think it was about 100,000. My honourable friend said no, it's not going to work like that,

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd). . . there'll be some money; we should go to Ottawa on this on a festival like that. There was an arrangement made; I had no part in that at all, and there was \$15,000 that came from Ottawa. That money that belonged to the City of Winnipeg went in the pot when the Unicity came through. Mr. Speaker, I hope that you'll let me continue . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Again I appeal . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: . . . after the accusations I've had to stand for.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Again I appeal to the honourable member we are discussing the Executive Council. I have had to allow some leeway to honourable members that have been mentioned in debate, but I do think we should try to get with the business of the House, get back to the estimates of the Executive Council, which are before us. The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation. .

MR. DESJARDINS: The statement made by the Honourable Member for Riel who accused my Leader of trying to divide the people. And who started by dividing the people? Who stands up every year and talks about what's going on in St. Boniface and exaggerates things even when he's told? Even when he's told. And this is some of the things that he said. Why do we have a cultural centre for the French in the first instance? --(Interjection)-- All right. I read it. You open it and read your own. You had a chance. Now Trudeau's been making a mistake in Ottawa. We know. It was proven him last October 30th. He searched through Ottawa and dumped dollars and dollars and dollars into Quebec, and there was no way he could get votes other than in Ottawa. And I say to the First Minister of the province that there is no way that he can get re-elected by dumping dollars into St. Boniface. And what dollars have been dumped in St. Boniface I would like to know. It's pretty odd that all my friends stand up and vote unanimously in favour of these things, and then they've got their hatchet man out there making this kind of stupid statement. My honourable friend from his group said that he wanted to disassociate himself. It's not only the First Minister, I made the same statement. I said that the people of St. Boniface were sick just at the thought of an amalgamation or coalition between my honourable friends out there, and the former Speaker also, and those kind of people, with this kind of a, with this kind of a . . .

We have tried for a long time, and this government has had the guts to come out and say what they had in mind, what they had in mind for the people here and the multi-culturalism policy that we've had, and they were endorsed by this government. It's not everybody on this side but there's two or three of them that like to push that, and that like to turn--to tell the Ukrainian and the Jews, because he used all these names, that they're only helping the French people, because there was a bill, a bill, and something that was negotiated, that the decision belongs to this government, yes. But who started negotiating on this center? And whose idea was it but a former Minister of the Conservative also, the late Mr. Steinkopf who talked about that.

And there was half a million dollars, and that has been repeated many times from the city--from the province, and half a million dollars from the Federal Government, and later another \$150,000.00. And this is what my friend --(Interjection)-- What others? I defy my friend to say where all this money has been dumped in St. Boniface. There was the Festival du Voyageur, right, \$15,000, and I ask my honourable friend, I ask him, the Leader, if he's against this, and if this is the case all right tell us: If this is all what my friend is doing, and what he's saying is right --(Interjection)-- I don't know. If you can't see what that is that close, how in the hell can I see from here, you nut? Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend, my honourable friend feels that he wants to deny that he supported the bill, my honourable friend--where's he from? Charleswood? Sherman.--from Fort Garry who has a little more sense, he suggests that maybe we should do that. We were told that we should try to do something for tourism. Well there's a carnival in Quebec City that's doing quite well, and I hope that some day maybe Festival du Voyageur will be the winter carnival here. And they'll stand and say, humph, humph, there's my friend; humph, humph, there's the genius out there that doesn't know what this piece of paper is.

Mr. Speaker, this gentleman here - and you know that I'm using this term quite loosely - this gentleman gets up on this thing and he tries to divide the people of Manitoba, and he's trying to send us backwards of a few years back, and what policy, and who has tried to work more to unite these people but the same Minister that you called a kook, who's tried to do something to let the people of Manitoba live and let live, to eradicate prejudice that we have,

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd). . . prejudice that emanates because of statements like my honourable friend out there. This is--what did he say last year? What did he say this year? His claim to fame is attacking the Festival du Voyageur and Société Culturelle Franco-Manitobain and that's his claim to fame. What other statement has he made this year? Does anybody remember? --(Interjection)-- I don't. Mr. Chairman, it's all right. I don't accuse my honourable friend from Riel of making statements like that, but today he's off base a bit when he tries to lay the blame of dividing people here, when he knows where it belongs. --(Interjection)-- Well you know where it belongs. You know darned well where it belongs, and read that speech when he tried to put his Jewish, Ukrainian, Italian, against the French people. You know darned well and your friend from the back bench also. So fine. We can say what we want and the statement that I made, the statement that I made, because it is no secret in St. Boniface that they're supposed to--my honourable friend the Leader said there's not going to be any coalition. Are you going to run a candidate in St. Boniface?

A MEMBER: Yes.

MR. DESJARDINS: Maybe a token candidate, yes. What kind of candidate? If you want the people to know that you're going to have a coalition, stand on your own two feet and say yes, we're going to try because we don't know which one of us will be the Leader, but then we'll fight it out later because we'll have a coalition. Fine. That's your affair. That's your affair. But the people in the constituency are allowed to know. You told them all about me, about being a Judas and so on. They've got my picture now, let's find out what we're going to do with the others. Let's find out if Paul Marion is going to sit with the genius from Charleswood.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. JEAN ALLARD (Rupertsland): Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to rise on this subject but since I seem to be the only man in the House who was present last night, I'd like to make a few comments. --(Interjection)-- Oh, who is it? The only man on this side of the House who was there last night to hear the Premier's statement. Mr. Speaker, I'm speaking on the subject which everybody else has been speaking here, and I trust that I am in order in doing so. It seems I was paired with the First Minister, and on that basis since I'm an independent and a curious man, I found nothing wrong in attending. Now --(Interjection)-- there's two . . .

A MEMBER: Do you have a membership card?

MR. ALLARD: Now, Mr. Speaker, there's two point I think that have been raised about the speech last night. One of them has to do with the Vice-Chairman or the Vice-Mayor of Winnipeg, Deputy Mayor, and the other one has to do with the Member for Emerson. I think that the comments of the First Minister as I . . .

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

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

POINT OF ORDER

MR. ENNS: Yes, I recognize that I have been absent for a few moments from the House but I do believe that we are discussing concurrence. I would just appreciate your ruling, Mr. Speaker, or your advisement, for my benefit, that indeed we are speaking on the First Minister's salary. I think the Honourable, the House Leader, attempted to, at an earlier stage in the Session, tried to steer the House in its proper course, then I of course would sit down in lieu of any judgment that you make, but I find it a little difficult to appreciate the affairs of the Member from Emerson, or the particular nominating convention of their particular political party that took place in this fair city as being particularly pertinent to the subject matter of voting on concurrence motions that is now before the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, under sort of normal circumstances I would have to agree with the Honourable Member for Lakeside, and what is greatly ironic, Mr. Speaker, is that the matter which has been under discussion for over an hour now, well over an hour, is a matter which I indicated, and the Member for Portage did not contradict, which when

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) explained caused him to smile ruefully. The whole thing, Sir, is really quite apart from the proper discussion of the Estimates. But, Mr. Speaker, the point is that it having . . .

A MEMBER: Well he's speaking on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The point of order comes first.

MR. SCHREYER: I'm speaking on a point of order. My only point, Mr. Speaker, is that if the matter having been allowed to such latitude as it has, I don't see how it is possible to interrupt someone in mid-speech, but clearly, Sir, I would have to agree that under normal circumstances the matter has gone far beyond the proper discussion relating to concurrence motions, relating to the estimates of expenditures.

MR. SPEAKER: Before the honourable member places his privilege question before the House I appreciate the point being raised. I think the House is aware that the Chair has tried its darndest--ifinally used that word, I don't know whether that's unparliamentary or not--but I can only go by the co-operation of the members and if they do not have that desire the Chair can only acquiesce in what is going on. I appreciate the point that the Honourable Member for Lakeside raises; I also appreciate the comments the Honourable First Minister made in respect to the point of order. All I can ask is that the honourable members use their own conscience in trying to stay within the rules of order and if they won't - they are all grown up, they are all adults, they are all going to have to face the test which will make them realize whether they have been or have not been playing the game fairly. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie may now state his matter of privilege if he has one.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my matter of privilege is that while the First Minister and I engaged in somewhat of a political exchange we both gave one another the courtesy of listening without interjection from either side, but I do object when he said that, or words to the effect that I smiled ruefully, meaning that in some manner that I was either sorry or wished I hadn't said something, and that is not so at all. And I just wanted the record to be straightened out that while I may have smiled at the First Minister in no way did that smile mean that I agreed with the statements that he was making. I was merely being polite, I hope.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not aware that the honourable member had a matter of privilege. I am aware that he may have had a word of explanation. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland. --(Interjection)-- The Honourable Member for Lakeside state his further point of order.

MR. ENNS: Well my further point of order, Mr. Speaker, is simply for your own edification and for other members of the House. That Mr. Speaker, from time to time we have been chastised by those in responsible positions, such as the House Leader; that it is an individual member's responsibility to take the occasion to rise when he thinks a privilege is being abused in the House. I merely did that. I have no desire, no desire and no intention to curtail what obviously is an interesting debate which has the interest of the members at heart. But I did raise that point of order on that basis, Mr. Speaker, and it's on that basis only that I raised it - my point of order.

CONCURRENCE (Cont'd)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. ALLARD: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would have finished long ago if I had been left to my own designs here. I said that I would refer to two subjects that were dealt with in a speech last night by the First Minister. I frankly, if I may paraphrase what I heard, I frankly could not see how the member, the candidate in St. Boniface, the Liberal one, could be that offended by the comments that were made. Essentially they meant that with normal judgment one would hardly expect him to become a Minister of the Crown which would be the only position from which, which would be superior to the one he then had.

The other point is one I think that deserves a little more attention. I think that the government's record on the subject of bilingualism, in pluralism in our society is one that stands by itself, that needs no further defense, that's one to be proud of. But I think that the First Minister is in error when he states that the Member for Emerson's reasons for not running again are related to the comments of the Member for Charleswood; and I would hope that none of the parties of the House, none of the parties, and I don't mean individual members, none of the parties are going back to arguments and conditions and state that we knew some

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(MR. ALLARD cont'd) years ago. I can understand that some members on all sides of the House are still at that level, so I would hate to see it become an election issue in one way or another on that level. Again I repeat that I believe that the government's record on this subject is one that stands scrutiny very well, which very few will have any argument, but what I have been hearing tonight here is something that disturbs me greatly. Indeed I have seen elections fought, and not pleasant ones, and I would hate to see us go back to 15 or 20 years ago.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I have a few remarks to make. I'll be very brief. Mr. Speaker, the statements that have been made so far in this House, as well as the First Minister's statement yesterday, I believe put in jeopardy a great deal of goodwill and accomplishment in this province over a past period of time.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that unless the politicians in this province are capable of using the kind of judgment and discretion and exercising competence and ability in handling the affairs of our province, in presenting themselves as well before the electors in the next period of time, we are quite capable of turning the clock back and putting ourselves in the position this province once was in sometime ago. I don't think it's necessary to recite the history. The First Minister is enough of a historian to know what I'm referring to. We deal in very sensitive areas and we deal with people who have different opinions and I am one who I think, and there are members on the opposite side as well, who understand fully well what prejudice is all about. I recognize that there is a responsibility which is an added responsibility, to those who are in leadership positions, to exercise the kind of restraint and discretion to avoid the pitfalls that can occur with respect to issues which have racial overtones. And, Mr. Speaker, with all due respect the First Minister erred yesterday when he suggested that there was a reason for the Honourable Member for Emerson leaving that was related in any way to statements attributed to the Honourable Member from Charleswood. And I'll deal with that part in just a moment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure you that the Honourable Member for Emerson has not at this point to my mind fully indicated that he will not be running and I would still hope that there would be a chance that he may very well run for the Progressive Conservative Party. But I must assure you, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Member for Emerson for some time has indicated the personal reasons why he would not seek nomination again and I think I'm in a position, Mr. Speaker, to indicate without question that those personal reasons were related to me, as I think to other members of this caucus, prior to any statements by the Honourable Member for Charleswood.

A MEMBER: Did you say related to you?

MR. SCHREYER: On a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister would you state the point of privilege?

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm quite prepared to retract and apologize for any statement I made relative to the Honourable the Member for Emerson and his alleged reason for wanting to withdraw from office or not to contest the next provincial election. I am prepared to do that if it is stated to me that there was no statement made by the Member for Emerson in which he repudiated and disassociated himself from the speech made by the Member for Charleswood last week. I was advised--well, Mr. Speaker, if I may. I was advised that the Honourable Member for Emerson made a public statement to this effect and that he had subsequently announced his intention not to contest again. If my information is wrong I then of course, Mr. Speaker, will want to retract my statement since it was based on wrong information, but that of course, Sir, is something which will require just a little bit of research, be very short.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I've already indicated that the Honourable Member from Emerson has indicated and did indicate prior to the statement of the Honourable Member from Charleswood, but by saying that I am now not at this point dealing, and I am going to, with the Honourable Member from Charleswood's statement.

Mr. Speaker, I have indicated that I think we as politicians have a responsibility to exercise restraint. At the same time I recognize, I recognize, Mr. Speaker, and I think the honourable members opposite should recognize that there are in fact differences of opinion as to the governments course of conduct, and there will always be. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, who is the Honourable Minister of

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) Cultural Affairs has been a person who in the past period of the four years has bounced back and forth like a jack-in-the-box as to his political position and there is in fact some question as to motivation, and, Mr. Speaker, you know I am at this point not in any way --(Interjection)--No I'm not in any way demeaning the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. I'm indicating what I think is the reality, if we were to present the evidence that would be easily, easily researched and presented of the statements and conflicts in position over the past period of time, Mr. Speaker, I think we could present a pretty substantial case which would indicate that there is justification on this side for some discussion in terms of motivation, in terms of action. --(Interjection)-- No, Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate this very directly. I think that the members opposite here are in a position to be able to research and present that very adequately. And the fact is that there are differences of opinion with respect to his course of conduct, with respect to the First Minister's course of conduct with respect to the government's course of conduct.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I have perused the Honourable Member from Charleswood's statement and, Mr. Speaker, the kind of connotation, the kind of connotation that the Honourable First Minister attempted to put in yesterday I do not think is warranted. Mr. Speaker, --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, the speech I have in front of me and, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable First Minister can read the speech and he can state that. The fact is that the Honourable Member from Charleswood expressed a position and a point of view that many people believe. Now having said that, Mr. Speaker, --(Interjection)-- No, Mr. Speaker, --(Interjection)-- No, Mr. Speaker, No No, - having said that, Mr. Speaker, I must indicate that there has never been an occasion in which I publicly at any time, whether Leader of this Party or as President of the Party or as a member in opposition, a member of government, have said anything that would not be both complimentary and in support of the work that has been accomplished with respect to the areas of activities in which the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs is interested. Nor, Mr. Speaker, would it be my intention in any way, nor a desire to in any way curtail that activity, but rather I would like to enhance it if given the opportunity for the reins of government and in turn would be prepared to try and assist in those other areas that the Honourable Member for Charleswood has indicated. But the problem, Mr. Speaker, realistically is the problem of the First Minister. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that the kind of restraint that should be exercised in this particular situation was not exercised by him. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, there is a greater onus on he and on myself and on the Leader of the Liberal Party than others because in effect we are the Leaders of the Party, to demonstrate that. And, Mr. Speaker, there have been too many occasions in which the First Minister has I am afraid faltered, and as a result, Mr. Speaker, placed himself in the kind of uncomfortable and unnecessary position that he did yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest if nothing else as we face a very intent and bitter period of time in the election that will be forthcoming, if nothing else, the incident of yesterday and the examples that we have had in the debate so far in the House should clearly demonstrate the need for leadership, and the need as well, Mr. Speaker, for the kind of control and for the kind of effort that must be put forward if we are to not put ourselves, or prevent ourselves from putting ourselves in the position of trying and attempting to divide this province, put one group against the other and in the course of doing it set back this --(Interjection)-- No, Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister directly. And I have been one who has listened to him, have competed with him in by-elections. I know your nature and I know your capabilities and you must look yourself in the mirror and you will see the person who is responsible. You are capable of it, you have not exercised restraint as you should have yesterday. I warn you that from the point of view of the minimum accomplishment of attempting to form a government in the next election you must weigh that against the kind of division that you are capable of bringing about if you continue on the course of action, and I would hope that you would exercise the kind of restraint that I've suggested. If you do not then I suggest to you that your place in history will be marked by that event.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Unless the Honourable Minister is rising on a matter of privilege, he's spoken once on this particular resolution. Resolution passed? The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, after listening to all the various contributions made by members I just have a quote here before me and it reads this way; "It is said an eastern

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(MR. FROESE cont'd) monarch once charged his wisemen to vent an aphorism to be ever in view and which would be true and appropriate in all times and situations." They presented him with the words "and this too shall pass away." So in time the differences will pass away. No doubt we will have an election and when we come back no doubt a lot of the things that are now being debated will be in the past and hopefully that whoever will be back afterwards that they can carry on the work on behalf of the people of this province and do a commendable job.

We are dealing with the estimates and dealing with the resolutions pertaining to Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet. I would like to hear from the Minister, although he has now spoken and I don't know how we can get some information on the --(Interjection)-- Pardon? --(Interjection)-- Well, I would like to know what the priorities of this government are, other than to win the next election which seems to be the first priority now. But certainly there must be other priorities, except if the guidelines that were issued, if those are the priorities of this government well let them say so, but I thought, I heard it on one or more occasions that that weren't necessarily priorities of the government and a program which they would follow. --(Interjection)-- Well, I--Oh certainly we have, certainly we have priorities, and I've indicated from time to time the things that should be done. I've already debated the points of having a two-dollar week for the farmers in this province --(Interjection)-- inland storage, definitely --(Interjection)-- Well, I would like to see that the people of this province have control over their own finances --(Interjections)--

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

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, in a moment of enthusiasm I suggested informally across the Chamber to the Honourable Member for Rhineland that this was the opportunity for him to outline his priorities, but, Sir, under the rules, and I'm sure the Member for Rhineland will agree, the item under discussion really doesn't lend itself to debate or enumeration of matters having to do with agriculture, health and public works, highways, etc. It's one particular department of government.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Yes, well what I had intended to say and what I was going to question the First Minister about, has to do with Dominion-Provincial relations. From time to time they have conferences with the other provinces and the Federal Government, and where the matter of priorities definitely comes up, and we have heard from the government in certain respects because of the Liberal Leader's resolution where he wanted to have all Parties participate in the development of priorities and programs, so that some discussion came about as a result of that. But I certainly had hoped that when we discussed the estimates of this department, and the only opportunity is now under concurrence, and since the Minister has already spoken he will be barred from speaking again, so it is rather frustrating to speak on it in this way. But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, the Dominion-Provincial relations are one I think which should receive much greater consideration in this House. A large portion of our revenues to operate our government here in Manitoba come about from the federal authorities, through equalization grants and in shared programs, and so on, and we find that some of these programs are initiated, and for certain reasons or other they are then dropped by the federal authorities and the provinces are left holding the bag, and yet are called on to continue. This makes it very awkward for a provincial administration to carry on, and I had hoped that we would be able to discuss such matters as Medicare where they initiated a program for a five-year term, and I would really like to know, where are we going from here. I think the Minister of Finance attended a conference just last week together with some of the other Ministers, and I would to hear first hand from them just what has been accomplished; what areas of agreement have we; what can we hope for; are these open ended agreements coming to a close; will ceilings be put on the amounts we can expect from the Federal Government? We have the equalization grants which are provided under a certain formula, and if I read the speech of the Federal Treasurer, the Honourable John Turner, certainly they provided an additional - what was it? - 500 million for grants to the various provinces, and certainly this year we are getting quite additional moneys and as a result we find here in Manitoba that we are embarking now on new programs, such as the tax credit benefits that the people of this province are to receive. But what's going to happen next year with this windfall that we got? Certainly some of that won't be coming our way next year, and will this mean additional taxes? Certainly I've yet to

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(MR. FROESE cont'd) see that the government spending goes down, or will go down. The trend for all these years is just a continual rise every year, and so that if we're going to get less money next year from the federal authorities, or Federal Government, through equalization and other programs, how are we going to offset those revenues that we will be needing very badly?

Then too, I don't know whether there's any discussion going to take place on the domiciling of the British North American Act, or is that a completely dead issue by now? Will it be revived? I certainly had hoped to hear on that particular point. So this is the area that I thought should really receive attention and be discussed under the Premier's salary, and under this particular department's estimates. I'm just sorry that we will not be having any remarks coming forward, unless the Minister of Finance, or some of the other Ministers do come forward and give us some information on these points.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. J. R. (Bud) BOYCE (Winnipeg Centre): Mr. Speaker, the hour is late and I hear moans and groans from my colleagues on this side of the House, but I think I would be remiss if I didn't mention a couple of points.

No. 1, I should identify myself--I'm a WASP. Now, I know, and I hear "no, no, no, no", but really the errors of history we cannot correct overnight. We used to think that people would join us in our society here in Manitoba and when the Member for Charleswood says that we shared our facilities and our institutions, he was quite correct; we shared them in the hope that people would become as we were, that they would be assimilated into our society and become as us. The philosophy was that over a period of time that through intermarriage, and such things as that, that people would eventually evolve to some degree of sameness. Many of us opposed that view, and have opposed it for a long time. They have opposed it on the basis that man is a tribal animal and for some reason or other it is important to him to identify himself with some group.

In the Member for Charleswood's speech, Mr. Speaker, he mentions, and I wish to quote. He said "The Jewish people have not got a cultural centre in the Province of Manitoba; the German people have not got a cultural centre in the Province of Manitoba; the Ukrainians haven't, the Polish haven't, the Italians haven't", --(Interjection)-- and I haven't, this is true. And I read this as a condemnation on us. For the past four years, starting with a meeting of some 250 property owners from the City Hall to the CPR tracks and from Main Street to Princess Street, there has been some quiet work done by a number of people in our community to try and resolve this problem without raising this kind of hue and cry and raising the emotionality that becomes involved in such debates, because if I hope to accomplish anything in public life, it is the correction of this particular failing of our society.

Not too long ago, primarily through the good offices of the Minister of Urban Affairs, and through the co-operation of the old Metropolitan Corporation before the City of Winnipeg came into being, a particular group was encouraged, assisted, to develop a part of the City of Winnipeg, which eventually--and eventually in my mind means within the next couple of years--develop a Chinese centre. And Mr. Speaker, the reason I chose--or not so much chose, the people were moving themselves and all I did was assist--is that the Chinese people own the property in this area and they come up with the idea themselves. I can see the day where Winnipeg, who has bragged for years it is a cosmopolitan centre, that it will correct what has been pointed out by the Member for Charleswood. Now, Mr. Speaker, I see you pointing to the resolution before us. I did not wish particularly to speak on this subject because, as the other day--I want the record to show I'm smiling when I say this, Mr. Speaker--the Minister of Finance walked by my chair and he asked me what was bothering me. I said, when I first came in here I was naive and stupid, now I'm just stupid. But when I was younger, everybody who wasn't Irish looked alike to me, and as I grew older I learned that many people, many people have a contribution to make to life in Manitoba. So when our Premier started to talk about the ethnic mosaic of Manitoba, I felt here is someone who is going to make this work. Under the Department of Cultural Affairs the present Minister, if you will recall when the First Minister exercised his prerogative and appointed the present Minister to his position. I don't know whether it was out of jealousy or chagrin or anything else, but I questioned the wisdom of that particular appointment. I would have to say at this time this is one of the wisest decisions that our First Minister has made.

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(MR. BOYCE cont'd)

If I may just go back a bit, it was during the Liberal campaign--and this whole can of worms, Mr. Speaker, was opened by the Member for Portage la Prairie--the present Prime Minister of this country went around the land saying "one nation, two languages, many cultures"--but the Member for Portage la Prairie forgets about it--"one nation, two languages, many cultures"--and while I am Irish between here and the apes, I should perhaps--should be up here beating the drum for a Gaelic centre or something in Winnipeg Centre--(Interjection)--but I for one will support the orderly progress, progress without panic, to correct what the Member for Charleswood points out. The Member for Charleswood points out, and it is true, and we should work to correct it. But we won't correct it the way that the Member for Portage la Prairie has suggested we correct it. He doesn't want to correct it, all he wants to do is try and embarrass the government.

A MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. BOYCE: The Member for Charleswood doesn't want to correct it. All he wants to do is carry forth the campaign that was carried forth by the Conservative member in the federal election in that particular area.

Mr. Speaker, Winnipeg Centre has historically been the place where people have moved from the rural area, from Europe. We have in my constituency a place called the International Centre, and perhaps some of the people in this House should visit it because it's a very interesting process that takes place. I have seen German people, I've lived in the west end pretty well all my life, but I have seen German people live in this area and as they adjust to our society they move elsewhere. I have seen every part of our Manitoba mosaic live in this area. One of the people that are moving into this area right at the particular time are a number of Philippine people, people from the Philippines, people from Portugal, people from Italy, and hopefully, Mr. Speaker, hopefully Mr. Speaker, that in our development of the City of Winnipeg, and in the development of the Province of Manitoba, we can build some focal point for these people to identify with.

Let me go back to your Chinese Development Corporation. There are in this--the Member for Lakeside is nodding his head. Well he should start nodding his head at the Member for Charleswood--(Interjections)--you know, talking this way, that this government is trying to curry favour with one particular faction of our society --(Interjection)-- There's not too many Chinese people live in this particular constituency, they live all around it, but yet this will be somewhere that they can identify with. Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, we will have an Indian Village in this area; hopefully, Mr. Speaker, we'll have something that everybody that needs that type of thing will identify with.

I'm still on the Speaker's salary, Mr. Speaker. --(Interjections)-- The Minister--he's the First Minister--I'm on the Minister's Salary--oh, did I say the Speaker's salary, I'm sorry --(Interjection)--But at this hour of the night - I was really just sitting here, Mr. Speaker and my blood just --(Interjections)-- I realize that, I realize that, because the Member for Lakeside knows what this government has done to assist people of all ethnic groups to get their fair share --(Interjections)-- well, if my colleagues around me, Mr. Speaker, will stop heckling and diverting my attention away from the Minister's Salary, I think, Mr. Speaker, we should pass this motion which is the best dollar's worth that the Manitoba taxpayers get.

MEMBERS: Hear, hear. (Applause).

MR. SPEAKER: Concur in the motion - pass? Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty . . . the Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I think that I would like to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Colleges and Universities, that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned until 10:00 o'clock Wednesday morning.