

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Wednesday, May 23, 1973

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 56 students of Grade 11 standing of the Daniel McIntyre Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. Rohs. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Wellington.

We also have 40 students of Grade 11 standing of the St. John's High School. These students are under the direction of Mr. J. G. Doerksen. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Inkster, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

And we have 51 students of the Garden Valley School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Wm. Schroeder. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

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

I should like to announce that in my gallery we have the Portage Terriers. (Applause) They are the Junior A Tier 2 Canadian Champions. Played 48 league games in Manitoba Junior Hockey League, winning 33 games; played and won 8 playoff games against Kenora Muskies, the St. James Canadians for the Manitoba Championship. They then met the Humboldt Broncos, Saskatchewan Champions, winning 3 games out of 5. Then they met Penticton Broncos for the Western Canada Championship, winning the series 4 games to 3 -- three games to four. Beat the Pembroke Lumber Kings in the Canadian Final, 4 games to 1.

The Portage team is here to receive the Order of the Buffalo from the province -- the ceremony will take place in my chambers after the question period.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions, Presenting Reports of Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports; Notice of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Oral Questions. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Opposition)(River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the House Leader, and it relates to the report of the Receiver presented in the Legislature. I'm not sure whether he's going to be in a position to answer any questions on it, but --(Interjection)-- Well I wonder if he's in a position to indicate whether the report which is based on a calendar year or on a fiscal year when he talks in terms of the years '71 and '72, he talks in terms of sales of '71 and sales of '72, sales of '73, are they based on calendar or fiscal years? And if it's a fiscal year, what is the fiscal year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management)(Inkster): Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry I can't be definite; the only clue that I can give is that the Receiver refers to a detailed submission of the results of operations for the year ended 31st December '72, including audited financial statements will be available at the end of May '73. So I would assume from that, and that's my only assumption, that the Receiver is keeping his accounts to end at the calendar year.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, to the House Leader and he may have to take this as notice. I wonder how a statement can be reconciled with an annual payroll of 7.9 million, which is the annual payroll indicated, with sales that were projected in '71 of 8.2 million? I'm not sure that there's a correlation there, whether there isn't an error in that respect.

MR. GREEN: I'll take that question as notice. Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. I. H. (Izzy) ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party)(Wolseley): On the same subject, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Relating to the statement in the report that the Government of Manitoba's loan has now gone up from 92 million to \$136 million after taking into account the federal grant of \$12 million, would he confirm that the losses suffered from start-up to the present would make up the bulk of the some \$55 million roughly that has gone into the project since takeover?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I really think that the statement speaks for itself. I've had

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) disagreements with my honourable friend before an analysis of these things. If all of the \$92 million for instance was registered as share capital then there wouldn't be an interest loss of \$16 million but there would also be, as has been pointed out by my honourable friend, an investment of capital with no return which is also a loss. Therefore I think that the statement should speak for itself and the Receiver, who by the way initially prepares these statements for the court, prepared this at the request of honourable members so that they would have some idea as to what has occurred.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Can the House Leader then give some assurance that the House Committee on Economic Affairs, Standing Committee, will have an opportunity to meet and meet with the Receiver to review the statements which are referred to as coming at the end of the month?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I answered that question this morning.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs responsible for Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. My question is, when will the government home-ownership plan be made available to the citizens of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister responsible for Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation)(Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, the home-ownership program will be made available to Manitobans as soon as the legislation has been completely processed at the federal level and the machinery is established between the Federal and Provincial Governments in order to develop it. Let there be no doubt of the province's enthusiasm and desire to participate in this program.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the Province of Ontario has it in effect now, but my supplementary is how many housing units will be made available this year to the people wishing to purchase a housing unit of their own?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, it's very difficult to project the number of units that would be called for by residents of Manitoba this year. I would say to the honourable member this, it's very difficult to assess the number or even an approximate number, depends upon the interest; except to say that the province would fully participate and I would see no attempt or desire on the part of the province to limit the number of applications from those that would be interested in the program at the provincial level.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know if the Minister is aware or knows that this plan is in existence in Ontario? And also I would like to know how will the selection be made; will it be made on a first option basis, who first makes application or how can the selection be made and will there be a down payment requirement?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The first part is immaterial, the remainder of the question is valid.

MR. PAWLEY: Now, Mr. Speaker, you've thrown me. Maybe the honourable member would repeat it again, the last part.

MR. PATRICK: How will the selection be made. On a first option basis, according to applications as they're filed for these units, and will there be a requirement for a down payment?

MR. PAWLEY: There will be announcements in due course in this respect. I should indicate to the honourable member that the administration of the program will either be carried on at the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation level and/or the provincial level; it's still being assessed as to the most feasible method of conducting the program. There is a small down payment that is implied in the program and the method of selection of applicants would be on the basis of valid applications as they come forward and the details of the program will be announced as soon as the two levels can iron them out.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture and/or the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I wonder if the Minister, either of the Ministers can tell us if the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources was correct yesterday when he stated before Law Amendments Committee . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The question is out of order in that description. Would the honourable member rephrase it?

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MR. WATT: I'll rephrase the question. Did the Province of Manitoba contribute \$1.5 million to the Keystone Centre in Brandon?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I believe the authority of the province contributed something in excess of \$2 million.

MR. WATT: Could the Minister indicate what portion of that money came from the Federal Government or if it came from the Province of Manitoba?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I suspect I know why the honourable member puts the question in that way. We have contributions from the Government of Canada for our Centennial, of which \$500,000 were allocated towards the Keystone Centre, although the province had to make that decision. In total, the province decided to allocate over \$2 million to the Keystone Centre, including that \$500,000.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question then to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Can the Minister tell us how much money was contributed to the Centennial Centre, the Keystone Centre in Brandon, from Tourism and Recreation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, it's not directly, it's not one department against the other. I think that my honourable friend received the answer. There was a five million dollar grant to the province -- no no, \$5 million from the Federal Government to the corporation, not indirectly to the province. The only earmark on that was half a million dollars that was designated for the south part of Manitoba. The rest, as my honourable friend said, the decision was made by the government. There was half a million dollars for the Keystone Centre of the five million, plus a contribution of one and a half from the province, plus a contribution from the Citizens Committee, the money that was drawn by these people. I did give the exact amount during my Estimates. We could get that later on.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Can the Minister indicate whether the Roadside Park is now completed between Treherne and Rathwell on No. 2 Highway?

MR. DESJARDINS: I'd have to take that as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EINARSON: A second question to the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. Is he giving directions to the Department of Highways to put up road signs indicating these roadside parks?

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Acting Premier. Is it the custom of the province when letting printing contracts to where possible place them in union shops?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): Some of the smaller contracts or under \$200, it's optional, Mr. Speaker.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Another question, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Could the Minister tell us why the NDP are having their campaign literature posters printed in a non-union shop in Regina?

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

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Health. Could he inform the House whether his department has given consideration to licensing Browndale Corporation to operate a medical unit in Ninette Sanatorium?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Development)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, we have received such an application to license Brown's Camp. It is contained within certain conditions and my department and myself are looking at the possibility of issuing such a license.

MR. McKELLAR: A supplementary question. Is this Mr. Brown of Browndale Corporation a former member of the NDP Party - a former sitting member of the Ontario Legislature sitting as an NDP Party?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I don't know of all the New Democratic members in Canada, there are so many of them and there's more and more coming every day. He could well be, yes.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland,

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Highways, but in the absence of the Minister of Highways, I'll ask a question of the Deputy Premier. When road contracts are awarded, is preference given to bidders that have collective agreements with their employees?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: All road contracts, Mr. Speaker, are awarded on the basis of the lowest tender if that tenderer is qualified to do the job.

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

MR. ASPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs responsible for housing. Is he now in a position to confirm that the official figures relating to housing starts issued by CMHC I believe, for the period January, February and March, the first quarter of this year, indicate that housing starts in Manitoba have dropped from approximately 3,500 to 1,000. Can he now confirm those figures?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm rather amazed. Of course the Leader of the Liberal Party has not been here when I've dealt with this question previously but I did deal with the number of units, building permits issued a week ago. I dealt with the same question yesterday when it was raised in the House. Insofar as CMHC figures for the first three months, I don't have those; I gave building permit figures and if he'd relate to Hansard he would see them there, and they dealt with the first four months, not the first three months.

MR. ASPER: To the same Minister. In view of the wide discrepancy in figures . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member place a direct question please?

MR. ASPER: Will the Minister table the data and the housing starts that he refers to and the CMHC data which are in such wide divergence?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I dealt with this area yesterday. I'd indicated the City of Winnipeg building permit figures as were given to us which related to the entire picture, not just CMHC data which I think would relate only to a partial amount of the approvals, those from which CMHC loans were given. I gave them in respect to the entire city; I will relate back to the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation to check the figures, but the honourable member if he would refer to Hansard he will see that there is detail in respect to that.

MR. ASPER: To the same Minister, Mr. Speaker, and while he is going to do the research he's just referred to, would he also indicate or respond to the House to the question, have Winnipeg housing starts, not building permits, housing starts dropped from nearly 3,400 down to 750?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, there's no indication of that at all from the information that is given. If the honourable member has such information he should table it.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I'll be delighted to table -- I'll be quite prepared to table the data that I hold in my hand, but I should say that it is readily available in the Public Archives as the report for the first quarter 1973 from Housing Statistics, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. I don't know that it's necessary that I table it, but I'm quite prepared to have xeroxes made and distributed. But, Mr. Speaker, the data that I'm . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The honourable member has made his point. If it's a public document, there's no need for tabling. Oral questions. The Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and again it relates to the Receiver's report. I wonder if he is in a position to indicate whether the government's been given any information by the Receiver which would indicate that the capacity for the plant at CFI, the paper capacity, would in fact equal, under the Receiver's management, that which is stated. The indication of the report shows the increasing capacity each month showing 318 tons per day as the last capacity or last target that's reached. Is there reason to believe that the original capacity of the plant will be achieved by the Receiver?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice insofar as it might be doubtful in the report that my honourable friend has before him.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Labour. I wonder if the Honourable Minister can tell us how many government or government agency construction projects are being affected by the plumbers' strike?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: As far as I'm aware at the present time, Mr. Speaker, there aren't any. It's my understanding that no picket lines have been set up. But if my honourable friend means are any plumbers working on any of the construction projects that are going on, the answer would be no, they are not installing the plumbing, but if he means that aspect of construction there would be no plumbing being installed in the buildings.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. How many workers would be affected by the strike? Can the Minister tell us?

MR. PAULLEY: As I recall, Mr. Speaker, about 750.

MR. PATRICK: Is the Minister doing anything to try and resolve the strike, Mr. Speaker?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We are providing and have available the finest conciliation officers in the whole Dominion of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs with respect to the statement of the distribution of the net proceeds of the Manitoba Lotteries Commission, which he agreed to supply about two weeks ago. Could he tell the House if that statement is now available?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DESJARDINS: I'm expecting it at any time, maybe this afternoon, later on this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. MCKELLAR: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Honourable Minister of Highways I'll direct this question to the Deputy Premier. Could he inform the House as to the seriousness of the strike in the various trades in the Telephone System in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, there was a withdrawal of services in Northern Electric Company which took place this morning. As of now the situation is being coped with, as I understand, satisfactorily.

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

MR. ASPER: To the Minister of Mines, Mr. Speaker. Is the Government of Manitoba granting exploration permits in Manitoba on any Crown lands other than to the Crown-owned corporation?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, there has been no change in the right of people to explore in the Province of Manitoba. From time to time certain lands are taken out of staking rights, but otherwise people are applying for exploration. There has been no change in the previous practice.

MR. ASPER: Can the Minister indicate whether applications for the exploration rights on Crown lands have been received in the past 12 months and are being accepted?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I know of some that have been received and have been accepted.

MR. ASPER: Could the Minister indicate if there is a preponderance of rejections over acceptances or acceptances over rejections?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd prefer to deal with the matter on the basis of a particular complaint if the honourable member makes one to me.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, yesterday we agreed at Committee that we would be meeting at Law Amendments Committee immediately after the question period. It's possible that we will be through at Law Amendments Committee before the 5:30 hour; if not, we will call the House together at 5:30. If we are through before 5:30, then we will of course ring the division bells so that people will know that the House is resuming session.

MR. SPEAKER: I am now leaving the Chair and shall return at the call of the members.

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5:30 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: The hour of adjournment having arrived, the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 8:00 p.m. tonight.