

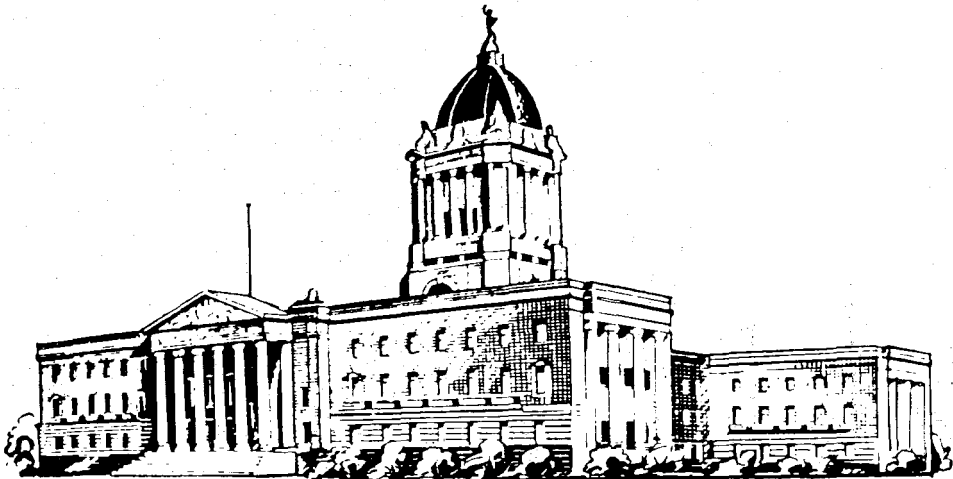


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXI No. 31 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 26th, 1974.

First Session, 30th Legislature.

Electoral Division	Name	Political Affiliation	Address	Postal Code
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	P.C.	Reston, Man.	ROM 1X0
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	Lib.	10 Red Robin Pl., Winnipeg	R3J 3L8
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	P.C.	Binscarth, Man.	R0J 0G0
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	P.C.	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon	R7B 0H9
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	P.C.	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg	R3R 1L5
CHURCHILL	Les Osland	NDP	66 Radisson Blvd., Churchill	ROB 0E0
CRESCENTWOOD	Harvey Patterson	NDP	978 Garwood Ave., Winnipeg	R3M 1N7
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtniak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ELMWOOD	Hon. Russell J. Doern	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
EMERSON	Steve Derewianchuk	NDP	Vita, Manitoba	ROA 2K0
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	NDP	Cranberry Portage, Man.	ROB 0H0
FORT GARRY	L.R. (Bud) Sherman	P.C.	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg	R3N 0T9
FORT ROUGE	Lloyd Axworthy	Lib.	132 Osborne St. S., Winnipeg	R3L 1Y5
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	NDP	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.	ROC 1B0
GLADSTONE	James R. Ferguson	P.C.	Gladstone, Man.	R0J 0T0
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
KILDONAN	Hon. Peter Fox	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	P.C.	Woodlands, Man.	ROC 3H0
LA VERENDRYE	Bob Banman	P.C.	Steinbach, Man.	ROA 2A0
LOGAN	William Jenkins	NDP	1294 Erin St., Winnipeg	R3E 2S6
MINNEDOSA	David Blake	P.C.	Minnedosa, Man.	R0J 1E0
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	P.C.	Morris, Man.	ROG 1K0
OSBORNE	Hon. Ian Turnbull	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
PEMBINA	George Henderson	P.C.	Manitou, Man.	ROG 1G0
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	NDP	23 Coralberry Ave., Winnipeg	R2V 2P2
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Lib.	135 - 16th St. S.W., Portage la Prairie, Man.	R1N 2W5
RADISSON	Harry Shafransky	NDP	4 Maplehurst Rd., Winnipeg	R2J 1W8
RHINELAND	Arnold Brown	P.C.	Winkler, Man.	ROG 2X0
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	P.C.	3 River Lane, Winnipeg	R2M 3Y8
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	P.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	P.C.	Inglis, Man.	R0J 0X0
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	P.C.	Glenboro, Man.	R0K 0X0
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
RUPERTSLAND	Harvey Bostrom	NDP	Manigotagan, Manitoba	R0E 1E0
ST. BONIFACE	J. Paul Marion	Lib.	394 Gaboury Place, Winnipeg	R2H 0L4
ST. GEORGE	Hon. Bill Uruski	NDP	10th flr., 330 Portage Ave., Wpg.	R3C 0C4
ST. JAMES	George Minaker	P.C.	318 Ronald St., Winnipeg	R3J 3J8
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johansson	NDP	418 Home St., Winnipeg	R3G 1X4
ST. VITAL	D.J. Walding	NDP	26 Hemlock Place, Winnipeg	R2H 1L7
STE. ROSE	A.R. (Pete) Adam	NDP	Ste. Rose du Lac, Man.	R0L 1S0
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
SOURIS KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	P.C.	Nesbitt, Man.	R0K 1P0
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
STURGEON CREEK	J. Frank Johnston	P.C.	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg	R3J 2G3
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	P.C.	Swan River, Man.	R0L 1Z0
THE PAS	Hon. Ron McBryde	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
THOMPSON	Ken Dillen	NDP	1171 Westwood Dr., Thompson	R8N 0GB
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB
VIRTON	Morris McGregor	P.C.	Kenton, Man.	ROM 0Z0
WELLINGTON	Philip M. Petursson	NDP	681 Banning St., Winnipeg	R3G 2G3
WINNIPEG CENTRE	J.R. (Bud) Boyce	NDP	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg	R3E 0R5
WOLSELEY	I.H. Asper	Lib.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0VB

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Tuesday, February 26, 1974

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 100 students of Grade 11 standing of the Gordon Bell High School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Chopek. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Wolseley, the Leader of the Liberal Party.

We also have 29 students of Grade 9 standing of the Beliveau Junior High School. These students are under the direction of Miss M. McCoubrey. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Radisson. On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here today.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements or Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce)(Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the Honourable Member from LaVerendrye asked if we would table the report of the Regional Development Corporation Review Committee and I indicated that we would do so. I also indicated that these reports have many weeks ago, some months ago, have been given to the various Regional Development Corporations so that they have already been made public. I would also say, Mr. Speaker, that in no way does this reflect government policy, but it is simply a suggestion of proposals to the government which still has to be considered.

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

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the annual report for the Le Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain, including Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the period ended March 31, 1973.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements, Tabling of Reports, Notices of Motion, Introduction of Bills, Questions? The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK Q.C. (Leader Official Opposition)(River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question before the Orders of the Day is to the Minister of Labour. I wonder if he can indicate to the House whether the government is planning any action to avert a city wide strike of policemen in Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): Mr. Speaker, the Department of Labour is carrying on its responsibilities to prevent strikes of any nature including the possibility of a strike with the City of Winnipeg police.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Labour. Can the Minister tell the House why he told the House yesterday that the two sides were close to a settlement?

MR. PAULLEY: Because I believed that to be so, Mr. Speaker. I did not intend to mislead the House, I did not. I gave an honest expression of what I was made aware of; apparently unfortunately the parties did not meet. I understand that they will be meeting today.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the light of the fact that they apparently have not met since last Wednesday, would the Minister still say that he feels they are close to a settlement?

MR. PAULLEY: I'm firmly convinced, Mr. Speaker, that with goodwill and negotiations there will be no strike, and I suggest to my honourable friend the Member for Fort Garry and his group over there, that they should not panic.

MR. SHERMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, Is the conciliation officer hung

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . up with as much inertia as the Minister of Labour in this situation or is he doing anything?

MR. PAULLEY: Like the Minister, Mr. Speaker, there is no inertia as far as the Director of Industrial Relations is concerned.

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

MR. I. H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party)(Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. Does the Government of Manitoba have in its possession or has it seen an impact study relative to the adverse effects that any diversion of the Garrison River in North Dakota would have on rivers and streams in Manitoba. Does the government have an impact study on that?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Mines and Resources could indicate perhaps with more precision as to which particular impact study they have possession of. I am aware, personally, that an environmental impact study relative to the Garrison Diversion project has been made available in relatively recent date to the State of North Dakota and whether or not the province has a copy of that yet, I couldn't say.

I can also advise my honourable friend that with respect to each of the components of the project, there will be further more elaborate impact statements relating to each one of the components.

MR. ASPER: My question is still to the First Minister Mr. Speaker. Will he have those impact studies tabled, and in the meantime can he confirm that the impact studies that are in the possession or have been seen by the Government of Manitoba indicate very significant damage if the program had proceeded on the basis that it was heading prior to yesterday's discussions.

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

HON. SIDNEY GREEN Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management)(Inkster): Mr Speaker, the material relative to adverse effects of the Garrison Diversion was distributed to members of this House. There is an impact study which was prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation in the United States which I believe we received within the last two weeks. It's a very thick and heavy document. I am not able to undertake to get copies of them but I will try to have at least copies available for the various parties in the House; but the effects and the significant effects that the honourable member is talking about have been revealed on several occasions and were revealed last week to members of the House. I do not believe that the new impact study seriously differs in its determination of effects from those that were given to members of the House.

MR. ASPER: To the Mines Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the American report in its very thick report that you described, only refers to Manitoba's problems in five pages, the question really is - does the Government of Manitoba have its own impact study on the effect of the Garrison River Diversion on Manitoba?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the effects that we are aware of are as a result of the very sophisticated work that was done by the Bureau of Reclamation in the United States. And, Mr. Speaker, those effects are significant enough for us to have dealt with the matter by asking the Government of Canada to ask for a moratorium on the project which was done and received from the United States a note copy of which I am prepared again to make available to members, indicating that the project will not proceed in such a way as to violate the treaty obligations of the United States under their Water Boundaries Treaty with Canada.

MR. ASPER: A final supplementary to the Minister. Can he or perhaps the First Minister, make a clear assurance to the people of the Assembly and the people of Manitoba that no action will be taken on the diversion as a result of the negotiations that were concluded yesterday before the full impact is made available to the people of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the only thing that I can do is to indicate that the Manitoba Government will take such steps as are reasonable and practical and which will result in the greatest protection that we can conceive of to the people of the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, further to the answer of the Minister, I wonder if I could direct a question. I wonder whether he can inform the House whether there will be

ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) . . . compensation to the towns that have to change their water plants due to the increase of salinity in Souris River as a result of the Garrison . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The question I believe is hypothetical.

MR. SPIVAK: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would venture to say that if that was the position taken by the Province of Manitoba, that the matter would be settled today; that the Americans who are spending millions of dollars of this project, if they thought that they could buy out the Manitoba position by offering compensation for replacing of the two water supplies that there would be no problem. But we are far more concerned beyond that question and all I can tell the honourable member is that we are being assured, and the note from the State Department assures us that that will not take place. If there is difference of opinion between our officials and theirs as to whether or not it does take place then we have reserved the Manitoba and Canadian Government position, in which the Canadian Government is involved as first party really, to reserve every single position available to us to prevent that pollution from taking place.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney-General. It involves a statement made by the Chief Medical Examiner of the province dealing with an inquest into the death of six in which he indicated that the drug analysis . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker - in which he indicated that the drug analysis facilities in Manitoba are inadequate for medical legal purposes. I wonder if the Attorney-General can indicate whether the government intends to do anything in connection with this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General)(Selkirk): I would have to take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. In view of the fact that - this relates to the Garrison diversion and the statement made by the Honourable Mines Minister - in view of the fact that the only study that we have relates to Canada in terms of five pages, does the government intend to, in this interim period, conduct its own independent study of the impact of the Garrison plant as a development?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, both Environment Canada and technical officers of the Department of Mines and Resources and Environment in Manitoba have already and will continue to make ever more increasingly refined evaluations of data that is made available to them. To attempt to be more definitive would for example, imply that there is some basis upon which we have a right to demand territorial access to conduct certain surveys and data collection de novo, extraterritorial to Manitoba. I believe that the mechanism for international co-operation and exchange of information is sophisticated enough and that there is good faith prevailing and that what is required is a process which is already on track, namely that of increasingly refined evaluation as more data is made available.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, would the First Minister then some time in the very near future, in order to prevent further questioning of this kind, would the First Minister consider making a full statement to the House as a ministerial statement indicating exactly what was accomplished at the negotiations that ended yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, a communique was jointly agreed upon. It has been released; I can certainly arrange that it be tabled.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and my question is simply this: Has the Manitoba Water Commission been asked to monitor or to concern itself at all about the ongoing problems that may be associated with this project?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

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MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, not directly with the Garrison Diversion and I can't as of memory recall whether they are doing some work on the Souris River. I think in fairness, Mr. Speaker, to the people in the United States whom we are dealing with, that they have made every effort to deal with many problems which if they were dealing in bad faith they would have tried to keep secret - and I'm not suggesting that they are dealing in bad faith - but they have made every effort to the satisfaction of the Canadian Government and the Manitoba Government to identify the problems with very sophisticated research and they are the ones who following the concern of Manitoba as to what would occur, did the kind of work that have revealed the significant effects that the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party has referred to.

MR. ENNS: Just a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. My question is still the same: What is the Manitoba Water Commission doing then if it is not concerned about this kind of a thing? I ask it in all seriousness.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba Water Commission has had several references from the Minister, one is on Lake Manitoba, one is on Lake Dauphin, one relates to the situation at Rock Lake, one relates to the Pembilier Dam, one related to Lake Winnipeg regulation. It could be that the Water Commission could take a reference on this question as well, and I won't at this moment say that it will not be referred. I am indebted to the honourable member for bringing it up. But it should not be presumed because they are not involved with one particular problem that they are not doing a very meaningful work for the people of Manitoba.

MR. ENNS: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Can he confirm the fact that was made obvious to some of the members this morning, that he does in fact wear red underwear?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, that should surprise no one. What should surprise people is that there are Tories over there who wear red underwear.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Mines and Resources. While we're on matters of the environment, could the Minister confirm whether the Water Resources Branch of his department is planning to use the pesticides 245-T and 24-D to spray provincial draining ditches this spring?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I can't rely on my memory for numbers of that kind and I will have to take the question as notice. Perhaps the Minister of Agriculture could answer, but if he can't he too would indicate that I should take it as notice.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister finds that those pesticides are in fact being used and in light of the fact that the Environmental Protection Board of the United States has banned those pesticides totally throughout the country is he prepared also to ban use of those pesticides by his department?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is hypothetical. I'm sorry. The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister in charge of Manitoba Development Corporation. Could the Minister advise if Imperial Oil Limited has approached MDC or the government to purchase their refinery in East St. Paul or has the MDC or the government approached Imperial Oil?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I know of no ministerial approach and I'm unaware of any MDC approach either in the one direction or in the other direction.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs. Will the Minister report to the House on his meeting yesterday with the bread producers and can he indicate whether there will be an increase in the price of bread?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the title of my department, for the edification of the Member for Assiniboia, is the Department of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services. Secondly, I would like to advise him that the report that he requests me to make was made and is in the press as of today.

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MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that the Minister would like to report to the House instead of to the press, and it's of great concern to the members here. Can he tell the House, is there going to be an increase in the price of bread, and how much per loaf?

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the member's question was contained in a publicly published newspaper report. The discussions I had with representatives of the baking and milling industries did not result in any definitive statement by them of whether there would be an increase in the price of bread in Manitoba or what the increase would be. Consequently I cannot give the Member for Assiniboia any more definitive information than that which I received from the representatives of the industry.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Does the Manitoba Hospital Services Commission still intend to hold any increase in budgets to hospitals to an eight percent increase or are they prepared to accept a more realistic increase?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Health and Social Development)(Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the Commission did suggest that eight percent be the amount, the ceilings on hospital increases. This reflects similar positions taken across Canada. I think they also indicated that they are prepared to hear appeals from any boards of hospitals and would treat the appeals on the merits of the -- on the case in point. Now that is the information as I have it today. If they are going to deviate at all of course it will have to be the Commission that make that decision.

MR. BROWN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Is it a fact that some hospitals now are short in supplies due to this eight percent increase limitation?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, apparently the member has read this morning's newspaper where there's an account that some hospitals are faced with rising costs in supplies, which doesn't surprise me because everything else is going up, and I'm sure that the Commission is aware of it as well and will take that into account.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer Affairs. I wonder if he can indicate to the House whether the government has in the course of monitoring prices generally, or food prices, made any calculations as to what the degree or the nature of inflation will be and the increased cost of living that can be projected both on a monthly basis and for the remaining part of this year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. TURNBULL: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister is in a position to indicate that based on the review by his department and as a result of the inflation that exists, that the department is in a position to indicate that costs are going to escalate this year, that the cost of living will escalate and costs of services and goods will escalate this year.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, the questions that are being asked by the Leader of the Opposition are questions really general financial and economic policy which the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has neither the statutory authority nor the establishment, resources in terms of manpower within the department to deal with. However, if he's looked at the Estimates book he will see that there is a very small appropriation for a very small research branch which will hopefully, eventually if that resolution is passed by the House be able to compile the kinds of information that the member is requesting here.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question then is to the First Minister. I wonder if he can indicate whether there is anyone in the government who in fact does the research to provide to the government information on what escalation is likely to occur in the cost of living month by month and in the remaining part of this year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, there are sources of information as to projected increases in the cost of living. This would emanate from Statistics Canada, the Manitoba Statistics Bureau, and I have no doubt that the Department of Consumer Affairs does keep a

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) . . . monitoring of the very projections by the pundits as to what this will be.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question to the - really a second question to the First Minister. In view of the statement, he may not have heard it of his own Minister that in effect they are not in a position to do what he . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if he can indicate whether in fact the government does have any forecast at all of what the likely increase in the cost of living will be in the next period of time.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I would like to know what forecasting will do to the procedures of this House. It's only guesswork and my particular view would be it would not enhance the procedures of this House. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition state his point of order?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order and on the comments that you have made, which I assume indicates the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: . . . that the question is out of order in that form.

MR. SPIVAK: The question is out of order. All right. Mr. Speaker, may I point out to you that the question prior to the series of questions that I asked was asked by the Honourable Member from Rhineland and dealt with the question of hospital costs . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member state his point of order?

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, I am trying to explain it, Mr. Speaker, if I can. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development indicated that the Hospital Services Commission are reviewing a restraint put on hospitals in this province in which they were not allowed budget increases beyond 8 percent. The question that was put was whether the government would be reconsidering it, and I would take it from what the Honourable Minister has said, that there is a reconsideration being undertaken by the Hospital Services Commission, and Mr. Speaker, the question I think is very pertinent to know whether the government does have any information and what the likely inflationary feature will be, so as the opposition will be able to make a judgment as to whether the proposed restraints by governments are correct or not and if the government has no information to furnish.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Order please. I have allowed a wide latitude but the honourable member has not raised any point of order. He has just debated an issue which he feels is important. I may agree with him but it is still the question in the form he asked was asking for guesswork, and I say that's contrary to our procedures. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry. --(Interjection)-- The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, through you, Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. Can the government now confirm that they do not have anyone who in any way forecasts what the rise in inflation will be in the next period of time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, on the contrary we do, but then we are equally aware of the fact that the various sources from which forecasts emanate, including the Economic Council of Canada, Statistics Canada, and the different experts attached to each of these focal points of economic forecasting, there are variations as to the extent to which the fires of inflation are foreseen to be burning away in the coming year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable the Minister of Labour. Speaking of escalation, is the Minister contemplating any escalation of the minimum wage?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I believe that my honourable friend the Member for Fort Garry is aware - if he's not, then he should be - that both my Premier and myself have from time to time announced that in due course there will be an increase in the minimum wage of Manitoba.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be able to give the House any estimates as to what length of time is contemplated by the term "in due course" in this case?

MR. PAULLEY: Soon, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SHERMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise the

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . House as to the basis for the decision to raise that wage?

MR. PAULLEY: After the Minimum Wage Board and the Minister charged with the responsibility have had consultations and arrived at a decision, which will be recommended to Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture. My question relates to the matter whereby a decision was made in the courts of the United States as it relates to DES or better known as the drug stilbestrol used for feeding cattle. Has the Minister had any correspondence with the Federal government, or is his department taking any active role insofar as this matter is concerned?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): Not that I am aware of Mr. Speaker; I certainly did not, no.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I direct a second question to the Minister. Does he have any concern about this matter, as to how it relates to the cattle producers in this province insofar as the Food and Drug Act is concerned in Canada?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I think it's obvious to members opposite that we have a lot of concern about a lot of things but it doesn't mean that we would want to take a court action in another country as a criteria under which we would function in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. I wonder if he was stated correctly in the paper that it is the government's intention to introduce its denticare program for children by way of regulations under the present existing legislation and not by any new legislation before this House this session.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the way the honourable member posed the question I was misinterpreted.

MR. PATRICK: Then my supplementary. The Minister says he was misquoted in the paper; well, I would like to hear what the Minister did say, and will there be legislation presented to the House during this session, so that members can debate the denticare legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I am sorry the Chair was remiss the particular question to begin with was out of order, and the second therefore is out of order too. The Honourable Member for Lakeside. --(Interjection)-- I fail to see how the honourable member can have a supplementary to something which is out of order. If he wishes to rephrase the question he's entitled to.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to rephrase my question. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Is it the government's or the Minister's intention to table legislation for a denticare program during this session to this House?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that legislation will be required but in the course of my estimates I'm sure this subject can be discussed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some time ago I asked the Minister of Agriculture whether or not it would be possible to have members of the Manitoba Marketing Board appear before the Agricultural Committee at the time that committee sat. Has the Minister been able to ascertain whether or not that will in fact take place?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I believe I answered the honourable member that same day, and if he checks Hansard he will find that I did indicate that that would be the only possibility but that it would not be possible to call any producer board before a Legislative Committee.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Consumer Affairs. Has he launched an investigation or an inquiry, or does he intend to, into the dramatic increase, the almost doubling, in the price of Manitoba Sugar over the past three or four months?

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, the increase in the price of sugar in Manitoba is of grave concern to the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It is an area that I consider to be right for inquiry and investigation, but at the moment I have not launched an inquiry into the price of refined sugar in Manitoba.

I might say, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, that although sugar has gone up substantially in price, that the part of the total consumer price index made up by sugar is some .1584, and .1584 is a very small percentage of the total amount of money expended by people for commodities, goods and services.

MR. ASPER: To the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. Is it not a fact, or is it a fact that sugar although produced in Manitoba is selling at higher prices in Manitoba than it is in Alberta?

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, I have often observed that private companies charge one price in one market and another price in another market.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. In view of the answers to the questions and others put to the Minister, does he intend to bring legislation in to this session of the House to make his department able to do something rather than just stand around and observe?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. Order please. The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, as the statutory authority of the department does not now enable us to get involved in the regulation of prices, I would certainly consider giving my department that authority if I could get concurrence of the House, and the concurrence of my own members, and if, Sir, I could be assured that the people of Manitoba did in fact want the Government of Manitoba to get into the regulation and the setting of prices of all foods in this province, but to the moment, Mr. Speaker, I do not anticipate that all the people of Manitoba want that kind of government regulation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Can he confirm to this House that it is the intention of the Parks Branch of his Department to develop new camp sites in the Whiteshell Park area during this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, some of that is under way in regards to future expansion for 1974-75 - that will be revealed during my estimates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In light of the opinions of the Public Health Inspector of the Whiteshell area that no new campsites should be built . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. AXWORTHY: . . . has the government undertaken any study to determine the loading capacity of the lakes in the Whiteshell to see if new campsites can be borne on that lake system?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, in regards to the effect on the environment the Department of Tourism and Recreation is in constant discussion with the Department of Mines, Natural Resources and Environmental Management and if there is to be any reasons why we should not expand for causes that would endanger the environment, this would be revealed to this House.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I would like to clarify the answer I gave to the Honourable Member for Assiniboia a while ago. And the question that was posed by the press, if I may, Mr. Speaker, was . . . if there was need for legislation for a dental care program? And my answer to the press reporter was that for dental care I saw no need for legislation because we have a degree of dental care now through public health offices. I indicated that in regards to a denticare program that that would be for government policy to be decided at this session or future sessions.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister. Is it the intention of the government to fulfill its commitment of last year to hold public meetings on any proposed development planned in the Whiteshell even though development plans are now going ahead?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is something that certainly can be considered.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs. I wonder, Sir, would he undertake while he is investigating the problems of price differentials of the sugar companies selling sugar in Manitoba and in Alberta at different prices, would he also undertake to investigate the problem of pork sales being different priced here in Canada, or in Manitoba, as they are in Japan?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. ENNS: And that's not by a private corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Yes, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Can he advise the House how soon we might expect the Budget to be tabled.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance)(St. Johns): No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce. With reference to the report, interim report made by House and Associates on the Manitoba Trucking Industry my question is: in the light of the financial problems being encountered by the Manitoba trucking industry as per this report, is the government planning to take any action?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, first of all this is not a matter of my jurisdiction but the questions is one pertaining to policy and therefore if any policy decision is made it will be announced in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the House Leader. I wonder if he can indicate when the Public Accounts Committee will be called.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I was hoping that we would call Public Accounts next week some time, and while I'm here I believe that because of certain absenteeism that the meeting that was originally scheduled to take place with regard to Public Utilities this Thursday would not take place, so it will have to be rescheduled and I would want -- (Interjection)-- Well, no Mr. Speaker, there are two members of the Committee who will be in Saskatoon, and there are other members of the Committee who will be practicing for the Saturday night game. But it just does not appear feasible to hold a meeting this Thursday so we will schedule it next week, and I also hope to be able to schedule Public Accounts next week.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE (Minnedosa): My question will be directed to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. I wonder if he could inform the House what steps he has taken, or what arrangements he has taken, to ensure that suitable additional staff are on hand to handle the last minute rush of people registering for the renewal of their licence to obtain their validation stickers prior to the deadline of February 28th?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. BILLIE URUSKI (Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation)(St. George): Mr. Speaker, I'm informed by the Corporation that the renewals have been going very well this year, that most of the renewals should be well ahead of the schedule of last year insofar as line-ups are concerned.

MR. BLAKE: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I assume then by his answer that there will be no additional staff available at the Motor Vehicle Branch to avoid any undue line-ups or undue delays such as were evidenced last year.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I have issued instructions to my staff that adequate staff be available during lunch hours, and in the event that there is the necessity of holding extra hours that we will do so.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister in his capacity as the Minister responsible for Urban Affairs. Can he inform this House whether any specific studies or reports were undertaken by his government in terms of the need for an underpass on the Osborne Street Bridge, and would he so table those in the House if they exist?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, it has been indicated in the past years, and I reaffirm now, that with respect to traffic engineering matters that the province does not intend to proceed by way of full engineering capability to duplicate the efforts of the City of Winnipeg's expertise.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister then explain to this House why it was a Provincial Government recommendation that an underpass be built.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, what was conveyed to the City of Winnipeg was that upon the appraisal of the alternatives that might be open to the City and because the province is cost sharing, there was a recommendation to the City for it to consider at least two different alternatives which would meet with the province's approval, and the City has accordingly taken that into account and has taken a decision.

MR. AXWORTHY: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, Could the Minister inform this House whether to his knowledge this proposal for the Osborne Street Bridge has fulfilled the requirements under Section 653 of The City of Winnipeg Act that an environmental impact study be prepared and reported to the Environment Committee of City Council before they pass this proposal?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, certainly we do not intend to make legal opinions, or take legal opinions, as to whether the City of Winnipeg is proceeding properly or not.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the First Minister regarding the same subject. Could the First Minister confirm that the City of Winnipeg approved and liked the provincial plan better than their own?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, unless staff has received a definitive indication from the City, which I'm not aware of, I would have to say that the City, the appropriate committee of the City has met on this and a choice or decision was to have been conveyed to us some time in the course of this week. I'm not sure that it's been received as yet.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health. Will the government be proceeding with a full fledged home care program for elderly people in an effort to ease the pressure on nursing homes for those Manitobans who prefer to remain in their own homes when they need care?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the home care program has been launched and it will naturally grow next year as will be indicated in the Estimates when they're brought down.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate how many units he would expect to see brought into use during the next, say, 12-month period?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I'm confused. I thought the member was talking about home care in which case there are no units. Home care is bringing -- no, home care is bringing service to people in their own homes or wherever they happen to reside. So I'm not sure of the term "units" in that respect.

MR. ASPER: By way of clarification, Mr. Speaker, the question is: How many bed units or put in numerical terms, how many senior citizens requiring home care will be attended to in this way as opposed to being moved into nursing homes?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, that's the sort of figure that no one has. It depends on the illness, it depends on the situation the person may find themselves in. It's not just senior citizens; it applies to anyone who could be looked after at home instead of in the health facility. As to how many would fall into that category in the future, I don't know. I do know that the department has launched the program in rural Manitoba as well as in the city and it will be enhanced this coming year.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Health. Does the government's freeze on the construction of new nursing home care facilities still exist and if so, when will it be lifted?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the question of nursing home beds, an inventory is being taken. I expect that this week the department will be getting the information they need, and probably after this week any freeze that took place will be lifted, and where it's felt that nursing home beds should be built they'll no doubt go ahead with it.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. ASPER: Well can the Minister confirm that at this moment there are upwards of 900 senior citizens in Winnipeg alone waiting for admission to senior citizen nursing home care facilities?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I can't question that figure, it may be valid, but I would suggest to the member if there were 900 beds built tomorrow that there'd be another 900 waiting. I don't think the answer lies in simply building beds in response to the demand for them. That was done in the '50s and '60s with hospital beds and the result is everyone across Canada is backtracking today. We have to come up with an overall progressive patient care plan so people need not, or do not have to go into nursing homes and be looked after at home. So it's a matter of a total plan for health care rather than singling out one segment of it and saying, let's go.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister then, Has he or his Department or the Manitoba Health Services Commission been advised of any possible closings or dispositions, sales of existing nursing home facilities occasioned by financial losses being suffered which result from the regulations imposed by the Government of Manitoba, the levels of payment, and the staff requirements imposed by the Government of Manitoba?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I personally have had no communication to that effect. It's possible that the Commission however might have information to that effect, I have none. There's been no approach to me.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I'll put the question to the Minister and perhaps he can take it as notice and respond to it at a later time. Is the government negotiating with the owners of existing - any existing private nursing home for the purchase of those facilities, and is the government planning to construct its own nursing home facilities?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice. It would be the Commission that is doing the negotiating if anyone is.

MR. ASPER: Finally, Mr. Speaker, another supplementary. Would he also take as notice the question: have any private nursing homes in Winnipeg been closed during the last several months, six months or so?

MR. MILLER: I'll take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question that I would like to direct to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Would the Minister confirm that the cost of the report done on the Manitoba Trucking Association will cost this government in excess of \$60,000.00?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Yeah, well I believe, Mr. Chairman - I don't remember the exact figure but it's probably around that. I had the privilege of speaking to the Manitoba Trucking Association - I believe many members were there and perhaps the Member from La Verendrye was also there. We indicated this. This is part I might add of a program of assistance to various industries in Manitoba. We're doing our level best to help existing Manitoba industries, productivity audits is one of these programs, and I for one am very pleased that we have been able to assist this industry in the way that we have.

MR. BANMAN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the government recommend a review of the present controlled rates of the trucking industry?

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier this is a matter of policy, and also it's a matter which falls essentially under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Highways. The Minister of Highways does have a copy of the report and I'm sure there will be many conversations and discussions between the Minister and his staff and members of the trucking association.

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

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Would you please proceed with the bills that are now presented for second reading, and also bills to be introduced on second reading on Page 2 of the Order Paper, following which we will be asking to proceed to the Committee of Supply.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 7. The Honourable Member for Riel.

BILL NO. 7

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 7 is one of the more important bills that are before us because of the policy changes that are contained in it and at second reading the criteria, Mr. Speaker, on treatment of bills is that if there is more good in the bill than bad you support it, and if you think there is more bad in the bill than good, then you do otherwise.

Well, Mr. Speaker in looking at this bill there is both good and bad in it but unfortunately from our point of view there is more bad contained in it than there is good, so we have stated our position very clearly, Mr. Speaker, in that we do not support the bill in its present form; so to support it at second reading and hope to rectify it at Committee stage, Mr. Speaker, would not be a logical decision on our part.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just go over some of the items that must have been considered by the government in bringing in a bill of this sort. First of all they would have to have been reasonably sure that the treatment of people who are public servants in the past has not been what it should be and in fact, Mr. Speaker, quite a number of the speakers from the government side are attempting to paint a picture that the Opposition is in fact trying to impede the activity of the civil servant as far as running for political office and taking an active part politically. Well I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that based on the history of the participation of public servants there are no grounds for that type of decision. And there hasn't been anything said on this in this debate that in any way could draw the conclusion from the government that we are opposed to civil servants being active in the political process, just like anyone else is in society. What we object to, Mr. Speaker, when you really get down to it, is, that why is special legislation required to write out a role for civil servants in politics, because is there anything in legislation anywhere that writes out a political role for any other person in any other segment of the community, and I think, Mr. Speaker, the answer is no. So why is it necessary to write out all of this for the public servants? Does the government feel that the public servants want it? My indications are, Mr. Speaker, that the public servant does not want a part of any sort of special status in legislation that allows them to participate in the political process.

Now I'll grant you that Section 44 of the old Act has a clause in it that probably should be removed, in fact just washed out. But, Mr. Speaker, once you've done that, once you've removed that section of the Act, need more be said? Why do you have to add these other clauses that write in a special status as a citizen participating in the political process. Because look at the evidence, Mr. Speaker, there's been people run in almost every election that have come in one way or another from the ranks of the civil service or the Crown corporations. Let me use for an example this last election: the government ran one of its top civil servants in my own constituency. He ran his campaign in a fashion that was similar to anyone else's campaign, I think. He didn't suffer from the fact, I don't think, that he was a civil servant. I would say that in fact that his party and himself tried to capitalize on the fact that he was a civil servant, that he was a top planner of Mr. Schreyer's, and that he was going to be a cabinet minister if he was elected; and they went even one step further and said if Mr. Schreyer does go on to other greener fields, he is a logical candidate to take over the leadership of the New Democratic Party.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that's pretty heady stuff to be promising the electors, whether it was party policy to project this sort of a future for the member, Mr. Speaker, or whether it was their policy, or it just was the excitement of the campaign, nevertheless they were spreading the word down the street that this particular person, Mr. Wilson Parasiuk was a shoo-in for the cabinet and a strong potential candidate for the future leadership of the New Democratic Party.

Now was it a hindrance to him because he was a civil servant? Mr. Speaker, if it was he'd have to tell you, I didn't hear it, and I don't think it was used against him the fact that he was a civil servant. We may have used against him the fact that he was a Transcona Socialist and, of course, all knowing the Minister of Labour of course that is a little hard to live with when you are a candidate.

A MEMBER: Particularly if you're campaigning in Riel.

MR. CRAIK: When you're campaigning in Riel, it's not a plus to be a Transcona Socialist - but I don't think it worked against him the fact that he was a civil servant, and I doubt if he would tell you that. Now did he suffer, did he suffer by virtue of, by way of his employment? Mr. Speaker, the Public Accounts indicate that in 1972-73 he received a salary

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) . . . of \$22,369, and he ran for the election and after the election when he did not get elected, he was appointed at a salary of \$24,456.00. In other words whether all of the \$2,000 increase was a natural yearly increase, there's one year's separation between the two salaries, but he's up \$2,000 after the election above what he was before, or at least he was in the fiscal year before that 1972-73; so you can't conclude from the evidence there that he suffered by virtue of having been a public servant, run for office, lost his office, He was reappointed on September 9th, September 5, 1973, within the 90 day period of course that the government is recommending here. But if, Mr. Speaker, if Mr. Speaker, there is such a dire need for this legislation, it certainly cannot be based on the fact that historically there has been a set of forces here that worked to the detriment of the public servant.

Now there's many public servants have run - I doubt whether he lost his pension rights in doing so. I heard the Minister of Finance ask from his seat in the debate, are you in favour of a man losing his pension rights? Asked the question across here as if our position was suggesting that a man should lose his pension rights as a civil servant if he ran for public office. Well nobody has suggested that. Mr. Speaker, nobody has stood up in this House and said that - say, this man for instance, that ran in the last election, who has done well by way of his salary - he's gone up in salary rather than down - presumably has not lost his pension rights Mr. Speaker, holds an important job in the government, gets paid three times as much as he would have got paid if he was elected as an MLA would you figure; and they are attempting to paint a picture that our stand works against this sort of person. It has never even been mentioned in this House, nor has any other civil servant's plight vis-a-vis an election ever been mentioned in this house. All we're saying is that the legislation that is being proposed here, if all they're worried about is that the wording in the existing legislation could work to the detriment of the civil servant, then remove what's in there, remove what's in there, remove what's in the old act. It isn't applicable anyway, so that means it's bad law. Mr. Speaker, going back to that law when it was enacted in 1960, I looked up the Journals and the debate on this and there was two people spoke, the Minister that introduced the bill, brought it in, and he put in Hansard three lines, Mr. Speaker. It says "Mr. Speaker, the Civil Service Act is old; times have changed; it's no longer possible to patch the Act, but they'll rewrite the Act, and I think we can discuss the details best in Committee."

Now the only reply to it was the present minister in charge of the Civil Service, the Minister of Labour. The Minister of Labour stood up and said - this is the only other remark, other than the closing of the debate. "Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a word or two in connection with this bill. I agree with the Minister; it's a good idea in connection with having a new bill written. Now then I'm not sure whether in the present legislation, whether or not the members of the staff who assist in the conduct of the Session of the Legislature were included." And his whole speech dealt with whether the members of the staff that assist us in administering this Chamber while the Session is on, whether they were paid adequately. There's not one word in here saying that that is a bad clause but that clause, according to the Statutes SM 1960, was put in that Act, Mr. Speaker, and the present Minister who's piloting this Act is trying to put up a solid case in defense of this Act, and he did not have a word to say, at least in the House, he may have said something in the committee that is not recorded. But the Act came back from the committee in a matter of about three days and it was approved unanimously, including the Minister of Labour, approved unanimously in this House, second reading, third reading, without a change ever being made in it. So now the people that were a party to it, and the only person that spoke to it, wants it changed.

Well is it so bad? It was approved then by he and the other members of the Legislature. He's had people from the government, that have run from his party - done very well by running from all the evidence - have not been attacked by any members of the Legislature for having run as civil servants, and now they put a case before us that it's necessary to bring in all these changes in the Act, not just remove the anomalies that may be there because history has proven them to not be good legislation, because we haven't really lived up to it, but not only to get rid of that but to bring in changes that write into the Act all sorts of conditions that nobody else in society enjoys. Nobody else in society enjoys the conditions that are going to be provided in this Act for a civil servant to run for the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, what the civil servants are concerned about in this Act is that the Act in effect very subtly suggests to them that they should participate in the political process. It

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) very subtly suggests to them that participation in the politics of their employer is a good thing. That's the interpretation that is being put on by the civil servants.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Crescentwood yesterday said that the vast majority of the Civil Service would approve this. That, Mr. Speaker, is a case that has not yet been proven. Mr. Speaker, my impression is that the vast majority of the Civil Servants do not want anything in the Act about politics. They come to work for the government because they have integrity in their profession and in their skills and selling their services to the government. The vast majority want nothing to do with politics. They want that to be somewhere at their employer's level and let them fight their battles but don't draw them into it - and it's common knowledge, it's common knowledge that a large number, a large proportion of the Civil Service feel threatened in their job because of the amount of politicking, politicization, Mr. Speaker - the common word we've been phrasing here - the politicization that's been going on in the Civil Service. They want no part of this. So, Mr. Speaker, on the basis of the whole history of the Act as it now stands, on the basis of people's freedom under that Act, that has in fact been exercised, demonstrated, documented, there is no legitimacy for this Act.

The majority of the civil servants would vote this Act down, and if the government want to take it to a vote of their civil servants, we would join them 100 percent in supporting a motion to take it to their civil servants and ask them, are there any things in your Act that you want changed? Do you want this bill? We'd be willing to wager that the vast majority would come back and say, leave us alone, just leave us alone, let us do our job. We have integrity in our professions, in our employment; we don't want to get involved with you at the political level.

So Mr. Speaker, rather than turn the Civil Service into a Mafia type of organization, where when governments change you get massive numbers of civil servants purged, Mr. Speaker, if that's what you want, we should pass this Act. If that's what you want; if you want to see massive purges of the civil servants, where the Civil Service says it's now my obligation to survive economically, that I not only have integrity in an employment sense, but I have political integrity that is along the lines of the government, then you are going to see massive purges of the Civil Service every time the government changes. Some provinces have this, some provinces in Canada have it, the States have it, jurisdictions have it, and all this Act does is lend itself towards providing this sort of a Mafia imposition of political alignment in the Civil Service, and I don't think the government can demonstrate to us that they can get better performance, better performance, Mr. Speaker, out of the Civil Service by having that sort of an infiltration of political structure throughout the whole service.

So Mr. Speaker, with those comments we find that the bill has more bad in it than good. We don't object to changing Section 44 if it no longer applies. We'll support the government if it wants to wipe that out but there are parts of this bill as well that are innocuous, but what it does is it goes too far in writing out special rights for civil servants that no other people in our society enjoy; no other people in any other walk of life enjoy the protection when they become involved in political life that is going to be granted to the Civil Service - and they're here to do a job, and they're being paid for it, and they're given an opportunity to practice their profession and they have established, Mr. Speaker, an enviable record in Manitoba of doing that job in all departments. . . . (Applause) and this Act doesn't improve their lot, or the lot of the taxpayer, or the lot of the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, and I'll drop it at that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Through Mr. Speaker, would the honourable member permit a question? I want to understand clearly whether his party supports the simple deletion of Section 44, which I understand it would then free a civil servant to participate in political activities all the time without regard to whether or not there's an election called but throughout his employment. Am I correct in my understanding of the position of the party?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, we'd have no objection to the deletion of the last half of Section 44 in the Act because it's innocuous, it has already proven itself that way.

MR. CHERNIACK: In view of the fact that the honourable member said the last half, would he mind reading what would remain?

MR. CRAIK: Well the only substantive part, Mr. Speaker, to the section is the last half,

BILL 7

(MR. CRAIK cont'd) so I see in reading it that if you wiped out the last half, there is very little point in even having a first half. So that means essentially wiping out Section 44. Now to say that doing so allows the civil servants to run wild is to speculate that that's going to happen. Mr. Speaker, I assure you that if that was part of his question that the civil servants are not going to run wild by wiping out this, wipe out the whole thing.

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

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Fort Garry, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILLS 18 - 19 - 9 - 20

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 18 the Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): May I again crave the indulgence of the House to hold this matter, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 19. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, could I have the indulgence of the House to have this matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 9. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, stand please.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 20. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I understand that at the close of the - Oh here's the Minister now. There was a couple of questions that were outstanding on the last item that required an answer. Otherwise you were complete.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour. The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. RUSSELL J. DOERN (Minister of Public Works) (Elmwood): Mr. Chairman, my recollection is that I had answered the remaining questions. We are on the, I believe, on the item of Gimli. Am I correct in that? So if there's anything that we have not completed maybe someone could refresh my memory.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Mr. Chairman. I was wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister would give us an answer to who owns the land, the buildings, who owns the entire complex, who holds title to the property that this site sits on? I don't remember, although I may have been out of the Chamber when he answered those . . . I was also wondering if - I think he made mention of 660 employees total in the complex, and is that figure in his report of 460 for Saunders Aircraft an updated figure; then it leaves the balance of the complex as running pretty light schedule with 200 employees. I wonder if he would elaborate on that just slightly.

MR. DOERN: Just on the latter point, I don't think I gave an accounting of the kinds of tenants who are in fact engaged at the industrial park. The largest tenant in terms of leasing is Saunders Aircraft which leases some 130,000 square feet, and that is followed by Misawa who lease approximately 40,000 square feet. But we do have a score of tenants who in a - well I should mention that if we're going to sort of look at companies that have some government involvement, I should add that there is also a small portion of space occupied by Health and Social Development for Home Care, an Autopac Agency and Aspen Lodge. Now that sort of takes care of corporations that have some association with the province. But in addition to that the other tenants lease a combined total of 220,000 square feet, and let me give you

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(MR. DOERN cont'd) some indication of who those other tenants are.

I guess just looking at it roughly I suppose one could say that about 55 to 60 percent of the space is leased by the following: Ontario Central Airlines, Alwest Marine, Stevenson Woodwork, Gimli Autobody, Davis Upholstering, Lake Winnipeg Boat, Dawsco Industries, Scott Sinclair, Try Rentals, Rub Power Toboggans, CNR, Harold's Decorating, Winnipeg Sportscar Club, Kinsmen Club of Gimli, Bill Connelly, who repairs motors, Tenants Association, Michael's Dancing School and Ralph Elain, Karate School. So that gives you some indication now as to who owns the base that is in the - we hold the title to the property, and as I mentioned there was a capital grant of 1.6 million from the Federal Government. We have spent, I believe, approximately one half of that grant and will without doubt expend the the remainder.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 107 (5) (a) The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would advise us how much the Saunders Aircraft pays for the lease of 130,000 square feet per year, and also the 40,000 square feet which are leased by Misawa Homes; also how does that rate compare with those charged to the other companies that rent the remaining 50 percent? What kind of figure do they pay per year?

MR. DOERN: I'm going to wait for my deputy who will calculate as rapidly as possible. In essence there are a number of categories of rates but there is no preferential treatment given to Saunders and Misawa. There are a number of categories and they fit into a particular category. The rate paid by Misawa is \$26,880, and the rent paid by Saunders is 105,208 annually.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 105 (a) (1) -- Pass; (2) -- Pass; (3) -- Pass; (b) (1) -- Pass; (2) -- Pass; (3) -- Pass - The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. MOUG: Mr. Chairman, I asked a question I believe yesterday in regards to when Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation is going around gathering up properties, do you use - I see Land Value Appraisal Commission - do you have somebody valuing that property previous to sending over your choice of a real estate man that goes and closes the deal and receives the five percent?

MR. DOERN: We do ask for MHRC; we make the appraisal and in effect close the deal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 107 Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$842,700 for Public Works. Passed? (Agreed)

Resolution 108 (a) -- pass; (b) -- pass - The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. MOUG: I wonder if the Minister would just explain what that figure of \$301,800 includes.

MR. DOERN: That is comprised of \$268,000 for salaries and \$33,000 for other expenditures. That includes such things as fees, printing and stationery, postage, telephone, telegraph, equipment, automobile, publications, travelling expenses, miscellaneous, and also a study, a sort of an efficiency study of the department.

MR. MOUG: What would be the approximate number of employees be in that that's used for purchasing, Mr. Chairman?

MR. DOERN: 37.42 staff man-years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 108 (a) -- pass, Resolution 108 resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$301,800 for Public Works. Pass. (Agreed)

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, just on a technicality have you called 7 (a) (b) and (c) under 108?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh I beg your pardon. That's right. These are recoverable from other appropriations. Resolution 108 (7) (a) -- pass; (b) -- pass; (c) -- pass. Resolution 108 Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$301,800 for Public Works. Pass. (Agreed)

That completes the Department of Public Works.

SUPPLY - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MR. SPEAKER: I would refer honourable members to page 4 of their Estimate book. Resolution 7 (a) - The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Members opposite would appreciate the fact that we have again increased the budget of the department this year, Mr. Chairman, to something in the order of \$25 million, rounded figures, a fairly substantial increase representing some 20 percent over last year, which should reflect on the policy of the government at this time to continue to expand its role in support of the basic industry in this province, in the point of view of trying to bring about the kind of stability to the industry that we have so much talked about over the years. And I say that, Mr. Chairman, knowing full well that this would be one year in which I could have taken the position that because of the economic conditions in the industry that one could perhaps even subtract from last year's figure, and I want members opposite to take note of the significance of the intent of the government to push on forward to bring about the kind of rural stability that so many of us have talked about for so long but which has eluded us for at least the duration of Manitoba's history. I'm not sure that I will be much more successful than my friends before me, but hopefully, Mr. Chairman, with the consistency of government support to various programs and policies that we will be more successful than have governments in the past. --(Interjection)-- It doesn't become me.

We are very pleased, Mr. Chairman, with the fact that the income position of our farm people in Manitoba, and indeed on the prairies, is much higher in 1973 than ever in our history. I should like to for a moment reflect on a projection that was given to us some years ago, and which is contained in the TED Report, which members opposite will be fully familiar with, Targets for Economic Development Manitoba to 1980, and where the projection was that by 1980 if the previous administration had remained in power - and there's no reflection here because I simply am making this point to indicate how misleading a projection can be - but the projection was that by 1980 that we would have cash receipts in the order of \$800 million. And I should like to point out, Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of those that are unaware that the current cash receipts position of Manitoba Agriculture is 633 million in the projection for '74. It's a fairly real one knowing the conditions at this point in our time is for \$838 million, so we might say that we are somewhat ahead of schedule in terms of the improvement of income and cash receipts for Manitoba farmers as compared with the report of the TED Commission.

I should like to also point out that the TED Commission indicated, or projected, that expenses and depreciation would amount to some \$600 million, Mr. Chairman, and the current or the 1973 expenses and depreciation were in the order of 353 million and the projection for '74 in the order of 395, again indicating how wrong we can be when we try to project something.

The realized net income figure, Mr. Chairman, for 1973 is \$326 million; the forecast for 1974 is 490 million. TED suggested that we should have a realized net income of 200 million in 1980. So, so much for reports, and so much for the debate centered on these kind of reports, Mr. Speaker, of years gone by. Obviously the credibility factor is somewhat questionable. --(Interjection)-- Throw it on the floor as the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie suggests. No, I don't think that one should throw it on the floor, but all I'm pointing out is that one should never rely too heavily on economic analysis projection if one is dealing in a period of a decade ahead because one can be so wrong because of various circumstances throughout the world.

It was interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that that particular report was presented just prior to the election of 1969, and I think that is worthwhile observing, and I'll let it go at that, Mr. Chairman.

Notwithstanding all of the improvements that we have witnessed in the last two years, and I say only in the last two years because we did have serious economic depression in agriculture between the years 1967 and 1972. But the two years that we have just witnessed, 1973 and 1972, have been years of massive improvement, and staggering improvement in 1973, if one may want to use a term, Mr. Speaker. One should not take for a moment for granted the idea that these kinds of income levels are going to be carried forward into 1975 and 1976, and so on. And one should be cautious in policy programming to make sure that we indeed prepare for the day when we might again backslide from the point of view of income

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(MR. USKIW cont'd). . . per farm and indeed for the province and the region as a whole.

We need to continue efforts to - with the Government of Canada and other provinces - to develop stability programs, some insurance programs, so that farm income would not fall far below that would be reasonable for the given moment. And we can point to a number of areas of activity. The Agricultural Stabilization Act and other pieces of legislation at the federal level that could be used in an attempt to insure future stability.

There is a need, Mr. Chairman, for a very aggressive approach towards an orderly marketing and production system right across Canada, no less in Manitoba, and indeed throughout the world. And you know, Mr. Chairman, one has only to witness the reports that are coming out from different parts of the world to appreciate that particular point, that we cannot operate the agricultural industry, the food industry, as a giant poker game where people simply get into it for the fun of things and to make or lose a few dollars, depending on the circumstances of the times. I think, Mr. Chairman, it's fair to say that agriculture is so important and food production is so important, that we must have it well organized for the protection of both those people that are producing food and those consuming food. And I speak now not only for the people of Manitoba, Mr. Chairman, but the world over.

I should like to reflect on a statement, Mr. Chairman, of Dr. Aquino, Executive Director of the World Food Program and here, Mr. Chairman, we had a program that was projected for 1974 in the order of 1.2 million tons of food in the World Food Program through the United Nations system. Mr. Speaker, I should like to say that only 613,000 tons were available and so that particular program on a world basis had to be substantially reduced. Dr. Boerma, Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations describes it as an unique step backward in the history of the program. And I think it's worth reflecting on those comments, Mr. Chairman, because we do have some responsibility as a small part but a very important part of the food producing area of the world to try to come to grips with the question of food production and distribution with equity to both the producer and the consumer not only here but throughout the world. It is in fact projected that we are going to see the starvation of many people in different parts of the world because of the kind of situation that we now face.

And certainly the conscience of the world should not allow that to occur, Mr. Chairman, even if it does require very dramatic intervention on the part of various levels of government in our country and in countries throughout the world. That kind of thing should not be allowed to happen in what we consider to be a modern world where technology is all with us and the wherewithal is here to produce the necessary food requirements. It does require a very substantial degree of co-ordination on the part of both the Federal and the Provincial Governments to do Canada's share or to bring about, in my opinion, an improvement as far as Canada's share is concerned in the World Food Program. So it is obvious that we do need an orderly system, production and marketing. We should not go back to the hit and miss idea of yesterday but we should build on the organizational structure that we have developed over the last ten years and which has in my opinion proven very worthwhile, and I refer in particular, Mr. Chairman, to the existence, the operation of the Canadian Wheat Board.

And here I have to say that I am very much concerned as to the future of the Canadian Wheat Board because of the kind of trend in the thinking of people in government at the federal level, and it is not new thinking, Mr. Chairman, but a new boldness to old thoughts. And I should like to reflect at this point on a time in our history not too far back when the Conservative Government was in power in Canada where they too had bold thoughts but didn't act quite as bold, but did provide for a crack in the Wheat Board system, a weakening of the Wheat Board system in the feed mill issue where they relaxed the Board's control and jurisdiction. At that time it was pointed out by many, Mr. Chairman, that that particular event would lead to other events, which would indeed further weaken the marketing system for prairie grain producers, and here we are now in a position in 1974 to witness the second big attempt to further undermine the orderly system of marketing of our grain for our prairie farmers.

Mr. Chairman, I view the manoeuvrings of our federal Minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board with a great deal of concern, and we have had a lot of activity, a lot of dialogue, trying to express our opinions, and indeed the opinions of the farm community and farm organizations to the Government of Canada in this respect.

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(MR. USKIW cont'd)

And I should like to remind members opposite that next August 1 we will witness, unless there is some dramatic intervention in some form at the political level, we will witness the moving away from the control of the Wheat Board all feed grains consumed in this country; a very dramatic weakening of the Wheat Board system and a weakening of farm bargaining power. One has to view that with additional concern when one recognizes, Mr. Chairman, that wheat is also a feed grain and it will be awfully difficult for the Wheat Board, and indeed the whole marketing structure after next August 1st to define what is a feed and what is a milling wheat, and how that is to be handled, and how the Canadian Wheat Board will be asked to maintain the responsibility of transportation, the allocation of boxcars, elevator space, etc., for grains that are sold through the Wheat Board system and for grains that are sold outside the Wheat Board system. It is certainly something that is mind-boggling to say the least, Mr. Chairman, as to how we can expect the Canadian Wheat Board to operate in that manner and to retain any degree of credibility.

What is more interesting, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the Government of Canada has committed itself towards guaranteeing a sufficient amount of feed supplies to deficiency areas of Canada, areas where they are short of feed production, and where they depend on prairie feed grain production. The Government of Canada has indicated that they will assure in some form, undefined to date, that quantities of grain will be provided to look after those needs. Again an indication that there will be some interference vis-a-vis the Canadian Wheat Board system.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to project what I can foresee in the next crop year as to how this might function; where you will have as a farmer an opportunity to declare that you wish to deliver your grain to the open market, commodity exchange system, or you could decide that you want to sell it through the Canadian Wheat Board system and you will have an option delivering to the same elevator. How the Wheat Board will be able to function when the Government of Canada by Order-in-Council, Mr. Chairman is going to set the price that the Canadian Wheat Board is going to pay, and will that price-setting mechanism, Mr. Chairman be in the interests of the prairie producer, or will it be set in such a way that will be in the interests of the consumer of prairie feed grains in either eastern Canada or the extreme western part of Canada? And there, Mr. Chairman, you have a real conflict of interest. You have an east and west conflict here. And I ponder the question, Mr. Chairman, as to how federal policy will govern the Canadian Wheat Board system through the mechanism of setting initial prices, which the Wheat Board will be paying to farmers who wish to deliver at the country elevator points, when at the same time they have in mind that they must protect the interests of the feeders in eastern Canada. I say, Mr. Chairman, that that is not possible to be handled equitably and without political motivation, and therefore, Mr. Chairman, I recommend to members of the House that even if they are philosophically opposed to the Canadian Wheat Board, Mr. Chairman, that they should now get on the bandwagon and support the Canadian Wheat Board system and try to prevent, and try to prevent the further taking away of the Wheat Board powers as is proposed for August of next year, because western Canada is going to lose in the trade-off. There is no way in which I can believe that our Federal Government faced with two pressure groups, how they are going to resist the temptation to yield to political pressures, and how they are going to price grains through the Canadian Wheat Board system, and how they are going to assure supplies of feed grains to eastern Canada.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Would the Honourable Minister entertain a question?

MR. USKIW: Yes.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Does the Minister not think that the price of American corn will influence prices to feeders both east and west? The American corn is being fed right in Manitoba today.

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the price of American corn will always influence the price at which grain is sold in eastern Canada, and has always done so, Mr. Chairman. The Canadian Wheat Board system has always priced our grain competitively given the need for that particular market. That is the way in which they had to operate in order to hold

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(MR. USKIW cont'd). . . onto that market opportunity.

If it is suggested, Mr. Chairman, that a private grain trader is going to offer grain to eastern Canada at a price different from what the Canadian Wheat Board would have done, or did, or could do, then that is a wrong assumption because no one in the grain trade is going to buy grain on the prairies, deliver it to eastern Canada, and offer it at a price below what they must offer it at to be competitive. That would be complete nonsense and not the common practice of the private sector, certainly not.

I say, Mr. Chairman, that we are now facing the prospect of the sell-out of the western farmer in favour of another region of Canada, and in favour, Mr. Chairman, of the private grain trade which is going to capitalize on the situation. The scheme, Mr. Chairman, I believe is intended to eventually bring about the complete destruction of the Canadian Wheat Board. And I want to have my honourable members opposite reflect on the fact that they started that particular - or their Party at the federal level started that particular destruction back in 1960.

The orderly marketing of western grains became a national policy in 1949, Mr. Chairman, when the Government of Canada asked the governments of the three prairie provinces to pass complementary legislation. And I'm sure members opposite would recall this probably better than I could. The three provinces did indeed pass complementary legislation in 1949, and there was a lot of controversy at that time, too, Mr. Chairman, as to whether or not it should have been done or should not have been done, and whether it was indeed an interference of the private enterprise system and the freedom of the farmer - a lot of controversy at that time - and so a referendum was held in 1951. The results of that referendum should be of interest to members opposite, or at least they should recall what took place. Out of 35, 000 farmers that voted in that referendum, Mr. Chairman, 88 percent voted in favour of the Canadian Wheat Board handling oats and barley as well.

And I think, Mr. Chairman, that again should reflect on the need to impress upon the Government of Canada that having brought the system in by way of a producer vote that we should not throw it out without going through the same process. I think that should be fair logic. And I suggested this very thing to the Minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, and by the way who is also your Minister of Justice for Canada, and I should like to relate to you the kind of response that we got to that suggestion at the conference in Ottawa on the 31st of January of this year. It was indicated to us that if there was to be a referendum then we should have a referendum of the producers and the users of feed grain deciding on the question, not just the producers. In other words the eastern feeders would have a right to decide how the western producers of feed grains would market their grain. That, Mr. Chairman, indicates the kind of political activity and bias that is now being presented in favour of one region of Canada at the expense of another. And I should like members opposite to give some thought to the seriousness of that situation.

Mr. Chairman, turning back to the Estimates of my Department I want you to appreciate the fact that they do reflect the priorities of our agricultural policy: farm diversification, livestock opportunities are the key and the cornerstone to our current policy, and indeed we are pleased at this point in time with the degree of progress that we have made in that particular direction over the last few years. We have continued to assist people in the low and medium sized income levels in an attempt to upgrade, to make them more viable economic units - that particular policy is being enhanced through the addition of the land-lease program. And here I should like to make an observation because that particular program was a subject of some debate over the last -- and in particular, Mr. Chairman, over the last few months. Members opposite did indeed indicate, did indeed indicate that there was some loss of freedom through the fact that an individual who didn't have capital resources would now, would now somehow lose out by being able to lease a farm if he couldn't buy one. I don't know how members opposite would impute a loss of freedom when in fact a new freedom was created, Mr. Chairman.

And I want to reflect on the slogan of the Conservative Party in the election campaign in this respect, Mr. Chairman, wherein they talked about "freedom of choice and opportunity now". And I recall responding to a submission by the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce in Russell not so long ago on this point, wherein the former President of the Conservative Party was very interested on this particular item. And I said, "Well Mr. Haig, " I said, "you know

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(MR. USKIW cont'd). . . you were the ones that said, freedom of choice, opportunity now" and the land-lease option gives opportunity now and freedom of choice now, Mr. Chairman, because one that cannot assemble a sufficient amount of capital has the freedom to take another option to become a farm manager, who didn't have that option or opportunity in all the years up till this point in time, Mr. Chairman. Many young people who did not - were not fortunate enough to have their farms handed to them, where there were two or three sons or daughters, whatever in the family but only one farm to pass on to the next generation -- (Interjection)-- That isn't garbage. The opportunity, the opportunity for most of those people to get into agriculture was next to nil, Mr. Chairman. And so this particular option provides, provides an option which will indeed hopefully retain more people in agriculture rather than less. Well I think, Mr. Chairman, it's important to talk about this aspect as a cornerstone of the stay option principle and the opportunity and freedom that members opposite like to shout about so much.

I should like to now reflect on an interesting commentary, an interesting commentary by the Agricultural Economic Research Council, and this should interest my friends to my right here, the Federal Government policies, tax policies, as we have witnessed them in the last two or three years. The Agricultural Economic Research Council has made this observation and I want to - this is a quotation from the report that was just submitted only a few days ago: "That the present Income Tax Act is expected to strengthen three trends," Mr. Chairman, "consolidation of a landed aristocracy within the commercial farm community, more extensive use of lands to transfer wealth, and increase off-farm employment by bona fide farm families". That is the way the Research Council views present federal policy. And I would hope that the Leader of the Liberal Party would take notice of that particular report because that particular Research Council, Mr. Chairman, is funded co-operatively by all provinces across Canada. It is not a political body, it's a neutral body. I think it's worthwhile of some review on the part of members opposite, and particularly the Leader of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Chairman, the members will note that the largest increase in expenditures for 1974-75 fiscal year are planned in the area of highest priority, and that's livestock production. Estimates indicate an increase in expenditures of \$1.3 million for livestock production programming. An additional \$1 million of the 1.3 million increase in the crop production program is earmarked for improvements on Crown grazing land so that their livestock carrying capacity will increase. A very significant new program, new thrust, for the livestock industry in this province.

TABLING OF REPORTS

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to table the Fertilizer Marketing Study, and I want to announce that shortly there will be a resolution introduced establishing a special committee of the House to examine the report and to proceed with any subsequent action the committee may wish. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

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MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, in rising to reply to the Minister of Agriculture as he presents his Estimates for the Department of Agriculture for this coming year for the Province of Manitoba, I thought we were going to hear something in the way of what is going on in Manitoba and the problems that concern the farmers of this province. But you know, Mr. Speaker, he chose to rise from his seat and use that great oratory to espouse his position and take us around the world.

You know, Mr. Chairman, I can't help but think as I listened to the Minister - I watched a TV program just before this House, I believe, went into Session whereby the First Minister was interviewed by one of the news media, and the gentleman in question interviewing the First Minister asked him about the competence of the front bench of his Cabinet, and it was one I think of a nature that had some critical overtones to it, and the First Minister seemed to be in a position where he was obligated to take a definite stand and he put his hand on one particular Minister in his front row, namely the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Chairman. So I couldn't help but wonder and extend my thoughts . . . --(Interjection)-- back to that particular evening. So it looks as though, Mr. Chairman, that the other members who sit on the front row can forget about their future fortunes insofar as leadership is concerned.

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd)

You know, Mr. Speaker, as I sat here and listened to the Minister, and listened to his introduction, I also thought of the speech he gave at the Outlook Conference in Brandon some two weeks ago but I'll get into that a little later on.

You know, Sir, I would like to go back to about last July, and rather than talk about world problems and our national problems as the Minister has done but since he has done it, I'm going to relate one or two things that have happened to the farmers of Manitoba which was as a result of actions taken by the Federal Government. I would like to go back, Mr. Chairman about last July when I was assessing the agricultural situation in the Province of Manitoba and I come to realize and I thought for the first time in many many years that we have come to a position where our agricultural industry right across the board has reached a stable position, an economic position that has never been as good in many many years. But shortly after that, Mr. Chairman, the Federal Government saw fit to place an embargo on red meats from this country entering into the United States. That, Mr. Chairman, was a real blow to the cattle producers of western Canada. And when I say that, Sir, I can give you figures to quote the significant effect on that particular embargo where farmers lost from \$100.00 to \$150.00 per steer. In other words the price of beef at that time was, top price was around 57 cents a pound, and over a period of about six weeks to two months it had dropped to around 40 cents a pound. And as a result of that measure taken by the Federal Government, Mr. Chairman, this was a devastating blow. And not only that because when Mr. Lang was in Brandon last fall I questioned him on this, and he didn't like the word embargo that I used but he was also apologetic for the fact that the government gave no warning to the farmers of western Canada, to the packing plants, or anyone else that was related to this horrible crisis. Farmers brought in their hogs and their cattle to the stockyards only to find that they had to take them back home again. And I can't recall, and the Minister can stand up in his seat and say, did he make any comments when that action was brought in by the Federal Government. To my knowledge the Minister of Agriculture of this province said nothing. And I thought if he was a Minister concerned about the farmers of this province he would have rose up and hollered to the rooftops about the significance and the economic sanctions that were placed on the farmers of this province.

You know I've heard comments from the Member from Fort Rouge here saying that our Hansard contains too much debate relating to agriculture as opposed to say concerns of the City of Winnipeg. I want to say to him that I think that the agricultural industry, and this is one area where I think the Minister and I agree, that it's an industry of extreme importance, not only to the farmers of this province but to the people of the whole of the urban areas as well. That's one area, Mr. Chairman.

Following this the Wheat Board brought out their increases in the initial prices of wheat, oats and barley, and at that time I was fully aware that the grain growers were not receiving their fair share of income. And it was long overdue that the Wheat Board finally made that increase in the initial prices of wheat, oats and barley. And I thought this was a measure that was going to bring greater stability to the grain industry. The farmers who are producing grain, who had oats and barley, say, to sell to the farmers in Manitoba who required that feed for the production of red meats.

But, Mr. Chairman, we take the next step and the famous Coarse Grains Commission that this Minister of Agriculture introduced in Manitoba and never asked the farmer, to my knowledge, of Manitoba about whether they wanted it or not. But it was brought in and imposed upon them and the regulations - and you can go around the province and the farmers will tell you the kind of freedom that we have with that measure insofar as the legislation is concerned. But what I want to say, Mr. Chairman, is the significance of the Coarse Grains Commission that this Minister brought in to Manitoba, he in turn exercised his prerogative after the Wheat Board had increased their initial prices he decided he was going to increase those prices still further insofar as the people who were concerned and had to buy those grains to feed their livestock in Manitoba and in other parts of Canada. And I can remember the First Minister going along with the Minister of Agriculture because, Mr. Chairman, I can understand, and I'm sure he had his knuckles rapped for the prices that he established, which were out of line and have created utter chaos amongst the producers of red meats in this province, because of the measures that he has taken. But he chose not to say anything about that, Mr. Chairman,

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd). . . in his introduction of his Estimates, That's one area, Mr. Chairman where I think that this government has failed in providing the kind of service that the farmers have been looking for from that department.

Following that, Mr. Chairman, we had an exercise that was going on for weeks between the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board and the Minister of Agriculture in the Province of Manitoba and, as he's been espousing here this afternoon, he is so concerned about the Canadian Wheat Board and as to whether it's going to continue to exist or not. I, Mr. Speaker, and I think I have other colleagues in my party who will express their views, but I say on behalf of our party that at no time have we ever said that the Canadian Wheat Board should be done away with. Never have we ever said that, Mr. Chairman. And I think that the Canadian Wheat Board as an agency of the Federal Government has done an admirable job over the many years that it's been in operation but, Mr. Chairman, never would I ever say that the Canadian Wheat Board or any other agency becomes a sacred cow to the point where it is not or above criticism, and when we provide criticism I think, if it's in the nature of constructive criticism, there is nothing wrong with this, Mr. Chairman.

The Minister has been so concerned about the Canadian Wheat Board, and I can't help but have felt on many occasions that he is embarrassed with the Coarse Grains Commission that he introduced into this province and he is using this as a tool or as a weapon to try to overshadow the errors that he has made in his own department. And he indicated, and here I stand to be corrected but I think I am correct, when he has said to the farmers of Manitoba, if the Canadian Wheat Board is destroyed, he said, I will have something to take its place. And when he said that, Mr. Chairman, I then become very very suspicious because of the policies that this government has instituted in the Province of Manitoba I couldn't help but feel, I wonder if he wouldn't be the first one that would be celebrating if the Canadian Wheat Board were destroyed. Because that is exactly what he would like to see happen, Mr. Chairman.

And speaking of the Canadian Wheat Board I think back of the years 1969, 1970, 1971 and 2. Those years were certainly troublesome ones; farmer's couldn't get rid of their oats and barley, and we had the operation of the Wheat Board. If the Wheat Board was doing such a wonderful job, Mr. Chairman, why was all the trouble? Why couldn't the farmers get better prices for their oats and barley than what they were getting? The agency was there and they could use it and I happen to know, Mr. Chairman, when I did take one or two farmers to meet with the officials of the Canadian Wheat Board, and it related to the selling of oats, where there was a surplus of oats all over the province, and because of a certain regulation that each farmer was allowed to deliver one carload of oats it caused a real problem because of that regulation. We tried to do something about it, and as I indicated to the officials of the Wheat Board there are farmers who don't sell any oats because they feed them . . . and there are other farmers who maybe have 10 carloads of oats and have no livestock, so the regulation doesn't apply. While the intention probably was good, this is like the professor who goes out and professes to give you the theory of how to farm but lacks the practical knowledge of how to do it.

So much, Mr. Chairman, for the Canadian Wheat Board and reply to the Minister in the remarks that he gave pertaining to that subject.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I want to refer also to the Annual Report 1972 - 73, and I want to deal with - the first item that I want to discuss with the Minister which gives in the report, and it pertains to the Horned Cattle Trust Fund. And I understand, as I see here, Mr. Chairman, the Trust Fund, that it now stands at \$20,924.26. That is the total amount of money that still exists in the fund, and it states that during the year \$694.11 was paid out for dehorning paste which was distributed free to livestock producers. Well, Mr. Chairman, that leaves just about all of the fund remaining with the exception of \$694.00. I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, what is being done with the rest of that money. Does it sit in the fund in an idle position or has it been used in some way in investment to gain interest on that money, or is it just lying there idle?

Mr. Chairman, there is another area here in the report that talks about, under the Economics Branch, and we're dealing here with developing of agricultural programs as they relate to Indian farmers in the Province of Manitoba. Now I want to ask the Minister, in assistance that is being given here, I have one reservation, namely, the Indian Springs Reservation, and I'm wondering if that reservation comes under the jurisdiction under this paragraph that is referred to in this report.

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd)

The next thing, Mr. Chairman, is, I have asked on a number of occasions about when the Minister was going to bring out the study report as it pertains to fertilizer and I note and thank the Minister for the report that he has submitted today, and we look forward to seeing what findings he has found on that matter.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I come to another area which I think is very important and dealing with the pork contract as it is referred to in this report. Now it was indicated, Mr. Chairman, in this report that the number of hogs that have been contracted are a minimum of 300,000 to a maximum of 600,000 hogs. And also the price is stated at a minimum of \$18 million. Now, Mr. Chairman, we have no proof of knowing exactly what is going on so we can throw out figures and find out whether the Minister is prepared to say we're right or are we wrong. And if I were to say, Mr. Chairman, that if I split this figure that the contract will possibly be 450,000 hogs over the three year period, at \$18 million, would be a figure of \$40.00 per hog is the price that the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board would be negotiating with the Government of Japan. Mr. Chairman I've no way of knowing whether this is correct or whether it is not. But you know, Mr. Chairman, about three weeks ago, as a matter of fact I believe it was on the 4th of February, the average price for hogs on that day was \$46.99. I'm given to understand that 27 cents was deducted from the price of \$46.99, was deducted and used for the purpose of subsidizing the pork contract to Japan. So, Mr. Chairman, with an average marketing of 5,000 hogs per day, and the Minister can correct me if I'm wrong on this, Sir, but I believe since January 1, the average has been approximately 5,000 hogs per day, and if this is the amount of money that has been taken off each day, it comes to about almost \$2,200.00 per day, that the hog producers are subsidizing the pork program to Japan.

A MEMBER: A lot of money Henry.

MR. EINARSON: I'm also concerned about my city colleagues here, and I'm sure the Minister must be concerned about his colleagues on his side of the House because they're all - nearly all, with the exception of himself and one or two others, are members representing urban areas, as to whether there is any tax money of the Province of Manitoba that is also going into subsidizing this program. I think that the people of the Province of Manitoba have a right to know, because Mr. Chairman, I can tell you, for example, in the Province of Alberta the contract they've negotiated there are wide open and everybody knows what they're doing and where they're going.

I would like to say a few words, Mr. Chairman, when the Minister was talking about our slogan that we used in the last election. It seems as though he has to go back to that last election. I don't know why he does it, I don't know whether he had promised his colleagues on the other side of the House prior to June 28th that he was going to increase the number of rural seats by 5, 6, or 7, I don't know. So, Mr. Chairman, I can't help but wonder whether his colleagues from the City weren't very disappointed in the results of the election. So he has never got over it, Mr. Chairman, he hasn't got over the shock and he has to continually remind us of the slogans we used, of the big lies we used, and I think that's his prerogative, that's fair game in any campaign. I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, I think he's been in my area, he's been in other areas and he talks about the propaganda machine that he has to crank up every once in a while. I don't know whether he refers to that as a big lie or what, but nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether there's any difference.

But you know, Mr. Chairman, I want to refer to one instance that happened this winter in regard to one of his departments, and this reflects upon the Minister's office. I was in my home one noon day, I was listening to the farm broadcast and this contract that the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board had negotiated with Japan was in the news during that time and they contacted the Minister's office I believe and we spoke with them and he had apparently taken great issue with what one of the members, or the elected members of this board had done.

Apparently this member had been very disenchanted with the way that he was being treated because of the fact that he had certain responsibilities as he was given to understand when he was elected to that board, but he was not allowed to exercise those responsibilities; and as a result of this the conversation that the farm broadcast had with the Minister he indicated to them that this gentleman who was referred to at that day was not telling the truth, he was nothing but a troublemaker because he knew that there was going to be elections coming up in other areas where they had appointed members and that he should be either fired or asked to resign.

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(MR. EDINARSON cont'd)

This, Mr. Chairman, was very interesting to me to come from the Minister's office. Following that the farm broadcasts were being very fair and so they contacted - and I don't mind using the gentleman's name, because I have his permission to do so, namely Don Cameron - they contacted Mr. Cameron and asked him for his rebuttal on what the Minister had to say. Don Cameron's reply was that if the Minister can prove that what I have said and what I have done is wrong, he says I will not only apologize to the Minister, but I will apologize to Mr. Hofford, the Chairman of the Board, and if the people who so elected me see fit that I should resign, I would be happy to do so. And there the matter rest, Mr. Chairman, for quite some time, but the Minister still seems to feel that he is defending his position and I can't help but say, Mr. Chairman, that when the Minister uses an office to exercise such prerogative I think that our whole democratic process comes into question.

Having said so much about contracts with other countries for agricultural products, Mr. Chairman, I want to put it on the record and make it very clear that as far as selling our products to other countries of the world, I agree with the Minister wholeheartedly. I think this is the right thing to do. Because, Mr. Chairman, we only consume approximately 32 percent of all the pork that we produce in Manitoba. So I agree with the Minister when he seeks to find markets in other countries of the world for a product that we have a surplus. But, Mr. Chairman, I think that when we have elected boards, I think that they should be allowed to exist and to operate to the benefit of the producers that they are representing, and not Mr. Chairman put into a straight jacket as they have been done by this Minister.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has commented on the land lease program that he talks about as being one that is a real step in the right direction so far as maintaining and probably developing our agricultural industry. I can understand where a senior citizen who is ready to retire and probably has no one to pass his farm on to, or has no one in the family who wants to buy it, that this is an area where this program comes into play and provides a good thing for our senior citizens. But, Mr. Chairman, here again after the actions of this government in other areas of his department and the way that he has conducted himself, I am wondering what are the ultimate plans, what are the long-term plans of the Minister when he is talking about the land lease program that he has espoused as being so wonderful.

He talked about the slogan that we used in the last election. I can't help but wonder why the Minister chose to delete from the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation whereby farmers were not allowed to borrow money from that institution to buy land. Yes, I'm sure he'll say, well this is something that the Federal Government are providing and we don't want to duplicate. I don't accept that, Mr. Chairman, if that's the answer he's prepared to give me, because you know, when we were government we had also in that program we had a program whereby there was a low rate of interest assessed on the moneys borrowed to purchase land, and that is something I thought, Mr. Chairman, was a good policy for farmers. The whole thing is this, Mr. Chairman, is that farmers are talking about when they're investing large amounts of capital, it's the high interest rates that are the part that are devastating to their business. So, Mr. Chairman, I question very much in the long term, where is this land lease program going to take us, and I mentioned the one or two circumstances that may be real beneficial to certain farmers who are ready to retire and I'm not going to go into details now, possibly we can get into those later on because it takes time and it's rather complicated.

Mr. Chairman, we have covered, at least I have covered a number of issues in the Department of Agriculture but I thought I would hear from the Minister and he chose not to make any mention of it, rather he was opening his remarks by using the TED report which is something of the past and I know as he said, he has learned his lesson - or at least we thought we had learned our lesson I should say, about forecasting the economic conditions and what could happen to an industry 8 or 10 years hence.

I want to remind the Honourable Minister, Mr. Chairman, that they should think of the Autopac Corporation that they established and two and a half years ago, the comments that the First Minister made to us as to how that would operate and to tell us that there would be no increase in rates up to 1975. We know what has happened there, Mr. Chairman, and I don't think that the Minister is being fair at all in using the TED report that was brought out by our government when he mentions about the economic future of this province.

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd). .

Mr. Chairman, I will close with those remarks and some of my other colleagues may have something to say. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll attempt to carry on in the general vein dealing as we are on the Minister's salary which permits us some latitude in discussing the general behaviour of the Minister and his department.

Firstly, Mr. Speaker, let me congratulate the Minister on having retained the portfolio in the shuffle that did take place. One does have, particularly in agriculture, a feeling of some continuity if the same Minister is there even though we may have misgivings about his effectiveness there.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, let me draw to the Minister's attention, or at least what has been forcibly drawn to our attention, an unseemingly modesty on the part of the Minister. I can recall, Mr. Chairman, occasionally rising in this Chamber particularly when we had received some new reports emanating from the Department of Agriculture, and there always on the front page was a smiling picture of our friendly Minister of Agriculture, and I note that he's given us two reports today alone with no picture of the Minister there, so there's . . .

MR. USKIW: . . . call me and I'll apologize.

MR. ENNS: Certainly. Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't think apologies are in order. I see the Minister is still looking as fine as ever. Could it be that he now wants to change his rural image to one of a more sophisticated urban image and he is erasing his pictures from the agricultural reports so that they will be no hindrance to him as he moves onward and upward to the leadership fights that are so soon going to be upon us as we witness it from this side of the House.

Mr. Chairman, generally I have two major problems that I would like to discuss with the minister, and they have to do with two major areas of concern, neither of one which he dealt with at any length in his opening remarks but I'm sure during the course of the Estimates we will be getting into, I would like to simply take off just where my colleague the Member for Rock Lake left off, and that is the question of land acquisition or land lease program that he feels very proud of, that his department has undertaken.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister says that now for the first time young farmers will be able to purchase farms or get into farming or have an opportunity opened up to them. This, of course, is the kind of statement that the honourable members opposite you know, are so prone to make; you know now for the first time in a hundred years something is going to happen. Now for the first time in a hundred years, you know, these people will have a certain opportunity. Well let me at least remind him that in this particular instance he is wrong by one hundred years, because initially we all got our land that way either through Homesteading Acts or what have you, so a hundred years ago at least, people did not have to have major amounts of capital to get into farming business in the Province of Manitoba.

Since then recognizably it has become more difficult, capital costs have increased and successive governments have done successive things to try to alleviate that, and if he but reads some of the past reports of the Manitoba Agricultural Corporation established by a progressive government, in 1960 or thereabouts, and would indicate through the reading of those reports just how many young farmers were enabled to assume ownership of land and carry on in a farming venture. But, Mr. Speaker, that's not the kind of debate or argument that I want to get into with the Minister at this particular time. I do, as the Member for Rock Lake indicated, ask the simple question: What are the long-term possible results of this program?

Mr. Chairman, I know the pressures on young farmers, on farmers of all description, they're ever there, mounting costs, the difficulties of acquiring additional lands, difficulties of putting together the necessary capital to do this, but we have now taken the step where the government has put the carrot at the end of the stick and has made it possible for the state to begin acquiring farm lands. I'd like to know what the goals of this program are. Are there any reservations that the Minister has? If for instance after 5 years, 10 years, or 20 years - God willing I will be doing something to prevent that continuity of time taking place under this Minister - but I ask the question nonetheless, how much land do you want to see pass into state ownership? Have you any sociological studies, have you any economic studies, have you any studies at all that give you some indication of what kind of reception this program will have?

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(MR. ENNS cont'd)

I suggest, Mr. Chairman, from the blank stare of the Minister that this of course doesn't concern him at all. That a return to serfdom on the part of Manitoba farmers is not really one of his concerns; a returning of Manitoba farmers to all of us being tenants, tenants to the state is something that the Minister and this government is not particularly concerned with.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the news media people have fun from time to time, they like to indicate in their columns that, you know, that something that some governments do are okay and if this government does it, it's not okay, or it becomes a leftist threat or a communist threat, and of course they can point out that various governments, including our own government, have had land acquisition programs from time to time. I refer specifically to an article in the editorial pages of the Free Press some time ago which I'm sure the Minister may or may not be acquainted with, having to do with the land lease option program. I can pass the clipping over to the Honourable Minister. But, Mr. Chairman, let it be very clear that under the land acquisition programs undertaken by other governments, particularly our government, there have always been very definite goals, very specific achievements that we wanted to arrive at. Either it was a question of clearing up a particular difficult land use problem in a specific area, perhaps not suitable to farming in the first instance. I refer to such specific programs as land acquisition programs under the ARDA programs, or the reclamation of wet lands which were then brought under the domain of the Department of Natural Resources for Wildlife and Game Management. There have been particular programs of land acquisition also where it was deemed we had a specific problem of very small marginal uneconomic farm units and where some steps should be taken to help in collection of greater land parcels and where the government may purchase these temporarily, to offer them back for sale in order to build these larger economic units.

What I'm trying to say, Mr. Chairman, is that certainly other governments and our government have been involved actively from time to time in various land acquisition programs. But we had a specific goal in mind. And I ask the Minister in his response at some stage during the Estimates to tell me his goal in mind. Aside from just the propaganda which says to a young farmer, look, don't worry about the bills, we'll buy it, you can lease it and in order to make the state ring not quite so harsh they say you can even buy it back after five years. You can buy it back after five years. Well, Mr. Speaker, the capital position of the farm seldom really improves. We seem to fight and fight and carry on the battle. I'm suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that with that kind of an open-ended option open to Manitoba farmers and one particularly if actively pursued by a government, pursued I might say by various means, for instance, the refusal to loan money outright for the purchase of land by the Manitoba Credit Corporation but the option to buy, these kind of policies can bring us down a road that I at least would be interested in knowing how far the Minister wants to travel.

So I ask the Minister to expound on the potential development of this program that he sees as such an important prop in his entire rural stay option program. I ask it on the basis that, does he see it desirable that 20 percent of presently privately-owned Manitoba farms eventually belong to the state, 30 percent, 40 percent, 50 percent? Will he stop the program when over half of the Manitoba farms are in state ownership; or will he accelerate it? These then are some of the questions, and very serious questions that I pose to the Honourable Minister.

Then, Mr. Chairman, I do want to talk to the Honourable Minister in a very serious way about trying to arrive at some understanding of what the Minister's attitude is towards the marketing boards of this province and his whole concept of orderly marketing. Now really, Mr. Chairman, I shouldn't have to ask this Minister that. This Minister has filled the pages of Hansard past and present, as have his other colleagues, as has his unofficial deputy minister of agriculture, namely the President of the National Farmers' Union and everybody else from that side has talked to us about their undying devotion, belief and dedication to the concept of orderly marketing and the setting up of producer-controlled marketing boards.

Mr. Speaker, this Minister has indeed lectured me on that question on other occasions and I want to now try to arrive at just what the Minister has in mind. For instance, he tells the milk producers of this province when they asked or made some inquiry about a setting up of a producers' board, and I quote from I believe The Co-operator news item: "The producers took the position that they preferred a producer elected board to a government appointed board.

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(MR. ENNS cont'd). Mr. Uskiw pointed out that because fluid milk is essential to the health of people producers must not expect that a producers' board will be given the authority to regulate the supply and pricing of milk to consumers." Because milk is an important food item I understand that's why he made this particular decision. And this is what I want the Minister to explain to me. I mean when does something become important as a food item, and when is it not important? I suppose that under this definition chickens and turkeys are not important food items and therefore they can have elected producer boards. Milk cannot.

Now we come to the question of hogs and it gets a little bit more complicated, because he of course, and supported by his First Minister as long ago as '63/64 filled pages of Hansard about what a dastardly deed the present government was then doing by bringing in a commission and not allowing a vote. Mind you of course that commission was voluntary, not compulsory. But, however, their position is well recorded on Hansard and I can repeat that position for the Honourable Minister as he shakes his head in denial. Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister shortly after assuming his responsibilities - although mind you not too shortly after, Mr. Speaker, he had to wait for a little while until the price of hogs were rising in Omaha, in Chicago, in Minnesota and in a few other places and then as he saw the upward trend in hog prices generally we instituted a compulsory Hog Producers' Board, with the promise, Mr. Speaker, surely I'm not putting words in the Minister's mouth, surely with the promise of a fully elected producers' board to run the affairs of that board. Well now, Mr. Speaker, I can't recall at that time when he made that promise that he said that, well we'll have a producers' board only under the condition that for instance the right people get elected. For instance, he didn't say at that time but if you have the intrusions of a Mr. Jorgenson and a Mr. Enns on one side and then of course depending on the strength of the characters elected will be the kind of operation that we have in this province. Anyone who wants to run for office on that board for the purpose of destroying the orderly marketing of hogs in this province is going to have a hard time doing that because they still have to come before my desk in order to bring about the kind of changes they want. Well now, Mr. Speaker, when can a producer get elected and when can he not get elected? What does he mean when he says "the right kind of person"? And he has to behave, and he has to behave in a normal, in a normal way, that's the other particular line here. We have a situation where board members are running about the countryside creating dissension on the basis of misinformation and that they have been promoting rather than building a public relations system.

So you see, Mr. Speaker, in the first instance in the mind of the Minister the producers are there not to run the business for which they've been elected, that is namely to market the hogs which the Natural Products Marketing Act clearly spells out for him; "Producers' Boards may fix minimum prices or maximum prices or both maximum prices and minimum prices or a price at which a regulated product under its jurisdiction or any variety, class or grade thereof may be sold at any marketing level." Mr. Chairman, nobody on that producers' board knows what price they're marketing the product that they're controlling and regulating; nobody has deemed it fit to tell them, and, Mr. Chairman, if, if an elected member of that board has the audacity to ask, he receives a threatening letter from the Minister calling for his resignation.

A MEMBER: What section of the Act calls for . . .

MR. ENNS: Well I can't find that particular section but it must be there somewhere. "I have undertaken," the Minister goes on to say, "to write a letter to Mr. Cameron asking him to submit his resignation in that morally" - now he's a moralist - "morally he has no right to represent the producers of Manitoba for his district or otherwise." Now the Minister takes it upon himself to decide when a person, an elected official, has the right or has not the right.

A MEMBER: Shame. Shame. Dictatorship.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, that really bothers me and I do want to get an explanation from the Minister as to what this is all about, what this is all about.

Ask a direct question. You said elections will be held shortly, which I already reminded the Minister of. Will this be a fully elected board, and if so will it remove some of the clashes between the appointed and elected members? The Minister's answer: well I'm afraid that it will have to depend on who is elected. Mr. Speaker, we come back to this "who is elected". Is he afraid that maybe somebody of the Jewish faith is going to be elected to the

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(MR. ENNS cont'd). . . producers' board and they won't have the enthusiasm in the promoting of pork? No, I don't think that's the problem, I don't think that's the problem.

A MEMBER: Koshker pork.

MR. ENNS: Well now, Mr. Chairman, I hope that, I can only solicit the Minister's response to continue, to continue in the line that he is now soliciting, you know voluntarily from his chair because . . .

MR. USKIW: Would the honourable member yield to a question?

MR. ENNS: Oh certainly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I put this question to my honourable friend that if he was elected to run that board versus myself I think you would have two different operations and it depends who is elected as to how it's going to operate. Is it not true?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: That's fine, Mr. Chairman, but I would just like the Minister to refer back to The Natural Products Marketing Act which sets out in detail the responsibilities of those duly elected to that board. It also sets out of course the various options that a government has. The government can go by means of commissions and appointed boards, which we sometimes did when we were in office. The government can on the other hand - and I suggest this government has no other option in view of its much publicized, often-stated position of support of the producer elected board concept - that then, Mr. Speaker, it's hollow mockery, it's a sham of the first order to suggest to the producers of any given product that they can elect their members and then control and regulate and market their product in the manner and way in which they best see fit for their particular commodity. That's not really how the Minister interprets the Act. The Minister interprets the Act that it depends on who you elect. Firstly --(Interjection)-- No, no. And as to whether you're going to have a board. Well now let's come back again to what the question was. The question was put to the First Minister -- to the - well pardon me, it was a Freudian slip, Freudian slip - the question was put to the Minister: will there be a fully elected - you said -- and he was suggesting to the Minister -- you said elections will be held shortly. Will this be a fully elected board? And your answer: well I'm afraid that it will have to depend on who is elected. Now how can you - well, it's a transcript, Mr. Chairman, the Minister wants to deny it. I want to say to you, Mr. Chairman . .

MR. USKIW: . . . yield on a point of clarification, and that is that the missing part is the question as to how will that board function and will there be conflict depending on who is elected, and I said of course it will depend on who is elected as to whether there will be conflict on the board.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister can dance and wiggle and weasel all he wants. The question was not that at all. The question asked of the Minister was: will it be a fully elected board? And your answer is: it depends on who gets elected.

A MEMBER: That's right.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I can attest to the fact that many many hundreds, indeed thousands of producers of this province are fully aware and are equally amazed at this position that the Minister has chosen to take. Further amazed, not only by the Minister but members of his department that suggest and travel through this country and make public comments about the need for secrecy in the operations of this board. Now the Minister gets up in this House and says that he can't answer for that board because the affairs of that board is the business of that board. I asked the Manitoba Marketing Board whether they can tell us something about the affairs of that board, and they say no, this is an autonomous group, they run their show, this is their business. But they have been asked, it has been suggested to them that they should all take oaths of secrecy. My God what are we dealing with, Mr. Chairman? Nuclear physics or science that we're going to blow up the Province of Manitoba? We're talking about pork producers, farmers exercising their legitimate right to know what's happening to their product.

A MEMBER: Blow up the pigs.

MR. ENNS: Now, Mr. Chairman, the problem of course is that if this attitude can exist or prevail in something - I say it with some deference to hog producers present - but a relatively mundane item such as hogs, then surely the Minister of Municipal Affairs on another occasion could suggest that well we'll have local governments or municipal governments but

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(MR. ENNS cont'd). . . only on the basis of the right people getting elected.

Mr. Speaker, I want the Minister who has given us many a lecture in this House about the advantages of orderly marketing controlled by producers, to stand up and defend his actions in this instance, to stand up and tell the producers of this province just where he stands on the concept of orderly marketing and the producers' control thereof. Mr. Speaker, the ironic part is of course that I find myself in sympathy with the Honourable Minister; I find myself in many instances being on his side. He now having some concept and some responsibility of his office realizes that it is not always in the interests of the public as a whole to give these kind of powers and rights, unrestricted rights to a relatively narrow defined small group of individuals. I think that's what he was saying to the milk producers when he said that he could not allow a producers' marketing board to handle completely the marketing of milk in this province, that consumer interest had to be brought into it. All I want, Mr. Chairman, is this Minister for once to be honest with us and for once to be honest with his producers. You know you can't have it both ways. You can't dangle around the countryside telling the producers that we're going to give you the power, we'll give you authority to regulate, you elect a board and you can do with it as you please with that product.

Mr. Speaker, the First Minister likes to make reference to the fact that on occasion the previous administration, the Progressive Conservative administration, had to be dragged into setting up various kinds of marketing boards. I make no apology for it. In my judgment a responsible Minister of Agriculture wants to take his time, wants to examine the question from all sides and be very satisfied that the creation of a producer-controlled marketing board will bring about the desired orderly marketing of that product, and not to the detriment of the maintenance of that product nor the development of that product, and not to the detriment to the consumption of that product.

Mr. Chairman, a few years ago when there was a grave question as to the advisability of having a marketing board structure in the vegetable industry, for instance, when there is certainly ample justification on either side of the argument that it blacked any clear signal from the producers that they indeed desired it. Well now the Honourable Minister has the nerve, the Honourable Minister has the colossal nerve to say nonsense. He has yet to give a producers' group a vote; he has yet to give the producer groups a vote on whether or not they want their hogs compulsory marketed. I ask the Minister, did you give them a vote? I've stood up in this House and asked him whether he's going to give the milk producers a vote. And I suggest to you - well we know what he's done with hogs, he has not given them any vote. I suggest to you that he will not give the milk producers any vote in the question of how he will solve their marketing problems. So let not the Minister lecture me about a democratic approach to at least ascertaining whether or not a producer group wants something or not. The fact of the matter was, Mr. Chairman, that back in '66 and '67 there was a great deal of dissension within the vegetable industry as to whether or not a producers board was accepted by the producers themselves. Now, Mr. Chairman, when that board was somewhat emasculated by myself, as the then Minister, what kind of response did we hear from the Honourable Minister then sitting in opposition in this corner?

Well, Mr. Chairman, I can't ever recall having based my support on the principle of orderly marketing of producer boards on the basis that the right people get elected. I have never considered it appropriate to use my office, recognizing my responsibility in being able to use a veto in terms of final regulations passed, but I have never assumed that it was my role as a Minister of the Crown to use my office to influence as to who should sit on that board and who should not. I never saw fit to write letters demanding resignations from duly elected people that served on various producer boards. All these actions undertaken by this Minister, who has considered himself to be such a model in terms of great proponent for the concept of producer controlled marketing boards. Mr. Speaker, to this day the Minister fences with us. The Act also says that the parent group, the Manitoba Board shall, which supervises all marketing boards, shall advise the Minister of Agriculture on all matters relating to the establishment, operation, control of producer boards, marketing conditions and relating to plans. Now he gets up daily in this House, or I haven't asked him daily but every second or third day, that he knows nothing of the operations of the Manitoba Marketing Board; that it's not his business to ask, and the Act clearly spells out that it is his responsibility to be aware of all these matters.

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(MR. ENNS cont'd)

Now I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that what we have seen in this last six or seven months, you know, is a side to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture that should cause an awful lot of concern to most farmers of this province. This is the Minister into whose hands we are going to be giving more and more of our agricultural lands to his Land Use Program. This is the Minister that we are going to be marketing more and more of our produce through. This is the Minister who believes, and has the utter audacity that he is the person that judges when somebody is morally, you know, capable of serving on a board, and when somebody can be elected, and when somebody can't be elected. Mr. Chairman, I doubt if ever, if ever, there has been such a supreme display of arrogance by any Minister of the Crown, Lord knows how long. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I should not want to allow those comments to go unchallenged and I don't think that I am going to deal with all of the matters that have been put forward by the Opposition this afternoon, but in particular, Mr. Speaker, with the most recent comments, because I think it's most appropriate to follow up very quickly on the comments of the Member for Lakeside at any time lest one gets the advantage of the media for that particular day. I know my honourable friend would like it to be that way and therefore I choose this occasion to respond to him.

I should like to point out to the House, Mr. Chairman, that indeed we have had some interesting times in the last few months, few years, in the development of our marketing systems; and I should like to point out that it is true that we have had a lot of controversy surrounding the operation of the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board.

But I would like to draw attention of the House to an important section of an Act introduced and passed by the previous government, Mr. Chairman, and it happens to be the Companies Act, and here I'm dealing with the matter of secrecy, the operations of a corporation, any corporation, Mr. Chairman. I want to draw to your attention Section 83 (1) the responsibilities of directors and officers of a corporation as set out in the Companies Act. The directors and officers of a company shall at all times use reasonable diligence and act honestly, and I emphasize that word, Mr. Chairman, because I have questioned the integrity of some members that have been elected, yes, because I have questioned the integrity of some members that have been elected, yes, because I know of where they come, Mr. Chairman, and who is their sponsor. And I should like to point out that it says here that they must be honest in the discharge of the duties of their office. --(Interjection)-- That is correct I would never question the integrity of Mr. Hofford, Mr. Chairman. --(Interjection)-- But, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. USKIW: . . . let me now quote Section, or read from Section 83 (2), good faith. A director or officer of the company shall not make use of any information acquired by virtue of his position as a director or officer directly or indirectly to cause detriment to the company. And the penalty, 83 (3), as envisaged by that particular group when they were the government, Mr. Chairman, the penalty for failing to abide by this section of the Act, as follows: A director or officer who commits a breach of any provision of this section is, a) liable to the company for any profit made by him or for any damage suffered by the company as a result of the breach of any such provision; and b) guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$1,000.00. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to put the antics of the member whom he speaks of who was elected to that board in that category.

A MEMBER: What was the offence?

MR. USKIW: What was the offence?

A MEMBER: Yes, that's the question.

MR. USKIW: No, Mr. Chairman.

A MEMBER: What was the offence?

MR. USKIW: The gentleman in question, as reported to me, asked a question and indicated to the Board that it was his intent to give out that kind of information even though it was not Board policy to have that information public, and even though, even though it was contrary and in violation of the agreement of sale, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want the House to know that the man in question . . .

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A MEMBER: On a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of order has been raised. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: If the Honourable Minister is taking this particular approach, then let the record clearly show that the gentleman in question of course not being at all aware of the conditions of sale, even as a director of that Board, never been shown a contract, hardly could be charged with breaking any possible Act, as the Minister now seems to be implying, if he was unaware of what the sale contracts were in the first place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the member in question, as I am led to believe, chose to take the position that he wanted the information for the purpose of conveying it to the general public, and which would be in breach of the contractual arrangements entered into.

A MEMBER: How would he know that?

MR. USKIW: How would he know that? I'm saying, Mr. Chairman, that he had said in advance that that was his intent. And that he would compromise the position of the Board.
--(Interjection)--That he would compromise the position of the board.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. We're now getting a dialogue going between two members. I wish the members would address their remarks to the Chair please.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, it's worthwhile observing that the member in question was promoted to run for office by my honourable friend, the Member for Lakeside, and who was his political campaign agent in the last election, and whose sole purpose is to destroy orderly marketing of pork in Manitoba?

Mr. Chairman, when I chose to write a letter to that particular individual I knew the gravity of the situation. I had to point out to the individual most seriously, Mr. Chairman, that as an elected member, elected to represent a group of producers in the Interlake, that he was violating the good faith that everyone would want to have in an elected member and a member of the Board; that he was not operating in a way in which it would enhance the operation of that Board; in fact he was operating in a way that would confront the other members of the Board; and that public debate was not in the best interests of the producers of this province.--(Interjections)--Not at this moment, Mr. Chairman. That's right. Not in the best interests of the producers, Mr. Chairman; and that the public debate did generate a degree of concern on the part of the company with whom the corporation was in contract with, and therefore there was a damage claim that could arise. Everyone knows that a contract in a commercial world is a contract between two individuals, and it must be a private arrangement unless both agree that it should be otherwise, and therefore the Board must live up to the obligations of its agreement; and anyone entering into, any new person entering into that Board, through election or otherwise, has to respect the contracts in force at the time.

And I should like to point out to the Member for Lakeside that it is a known fact to hog producers of this province that it was his presence and the presence of the Member for Morris at the 4th Producers meeting, at which time was generated a great deal of controversy and publicity.--(Interjection)--Yes. And I indicated in my letter to Mr. Cameron, Mr. Chairman, that boards do have to appear before the Minister from time to time, they have to appear before the Manitoba Marketing Board, they have to from time to time request changes in the powers that are given to them, and that because of his actions to that date he had so compromised his position that I could never take him seriously whenever he did come before me because of the way in which he chose to operate. And therefore he was of no value to the people that elected him, Mr. Chairman. No value whatever, Mr. Chairman.--(Interjection)--And, Mr. Chairman,

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

MR. USKIW: There is, there is a problem, Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Order. ORDER PLEASE. Now the Honourable Member for Lakeside . . .

MR. USKIW: . . . that if people publicly announce that they are set out to destroy what they were elected to promote, there is a responsibility on whoever has the control of the government of the day, or the Manitoba Marketing Board, to investigate and, Mr. Chairman, the Manitoba Marketing Board did investigate every allegation made and every one was proven to be wrong, false, mischievous, Mr. Chairman. And the members opposite want to assume the

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(MR. USKIW cont'd) responsibility in this House, Mr. Chairman, of bringing down the orderly system of hogs in this province. That is the role they have chosen to play, Mr. Chairman, in co-operation with one or two individuals that happen to be elected on the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board.

Mr. Chairman, we've been around a long time and members opposite know the battles that are going on behind the scenes vis-a-vis how hogs are going to be marketed in this province. They know the wishes of the Meat Packers Council on this question, with whom they are in alliance, Mr. Chairman.

A MEMBER: That's for sure you are.

MR. USKIW: And that is the issue, Mr. Chairman, that is the issue. So let not the Member for Lakeside try to imply that government intervention from time to time was brought about for no reason whatever but the interests of the government itself. Because we are committed, Mr. Chairman, towards the orderly marketing system of agricultural products, and we are committed, Mr. Chairman, and I agree there are situations where you can't go all the way - milk is one. We are committed that where it is reasonable that producers should, that producers should elect their own boards. We also know that there is always the risk, there is always the risk of the politicians, of the politicians trying to undermine any one of them. And this is the kind of experience that we have had with respect to the changes in the marketing of hogs in this province. We have had political interference, Mr. Chairman, on the scale never experienced in the history of this province or this country. And I want to make a commitment to my friends opposite and that is, that commitment is, that they will regret the day that they chose to bring down the Hog Marketing System in this province. Because that is not what the producers want, Mr. Chairman. That is not what the producers want, Mr. Chairman. And the producers have told me--(Interjection)--

MR. ENNS: On a point of order. I now rise on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: It is a legitimate point of order if the person persists in grossly misrepresenting an argument made. There has never been an argument advanced on this side of the House having to do with the . . . of the Marketing Board. An argument has been made having to do with the conduct of the Minister and his relationship with that Board. For him to dangle a red herring about our intentions with or without a Board is simply that. Yes it is a point of order. Deliberate misrepresentation on the part of the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Order, please. What the honourable member has is a difference of opinion with the Honourable Minister.

The hour being 5:30, I'm leaving the Chair to return at 8:00 p. m. this evening.