

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Tuesday, March 11, 1975

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 you have 20 students from the Red River College. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Logan, the Deputy Speaker.

We also have 16 students of Grade 11 standing from the Rosenort School. This school is under the direction of Mr. Bjarnason. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Morris.

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 and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): Mr. Speaker, it has been my custom since we became the government that when the House is in session and the statistical reports on unemployment are available that I announce the report to the House, and I would like to table the statement pertaining to that and make a brief statement as to the contents.

Mr. Speaker, Manitoba's relative position in regard to unemployment remains the same as it has for the past few months, namely, the third lowest rate of unemployment across the country.

I am sorry to announce that there has been some increase percentage-wise and also in terms of numbers of the unemployment rate in the Province of Manitoba. Our rate for February was 5.4 percent unemployment, up 4/10ths of a point from January of this year, and also up from the 3.9 percent recorded in February of last year. Our seasonally adjusted rate was 4.1 percent up from 3.5 percent of January this year and 3.1 percent of February last year.

In terms of the numbers actually unemployed, or being recorded as unemployed, from January to February Manitoba increased by 2,000 to a total number of 23,000 in February of this year, up from 16,000 in February of last year. Manitoba's labour force in February of this year stood at 427,000; 6,000 higher than it was in January of this year, and 20,000 higher than it was in February a year ago.

Total employment increased in February of this year by 4,000 over what it was in January of this year, and a whopping 13,000 higher than it was in February a year ago. I use these figures, Mr. Speaker, to indicate that while we are not satisfied with the increase in unemployment in the Province of Manitoba, our relative position has remained the same as it was and by an increase in the number being employed in Manitoba, 13,000 over what it was a year ago, to me indicated that the economy in the Province of Manitoba is advancing at a reasonable pace.

Mk. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his statement on the current employment situation in the province. No one, of course, can take any satisfaction from rising statistics in the unemployment area and it is to be hoped that that condition and situation can be kept insofar as it is possible out of the political arena. Nonetheless Mr. Speaker, I would express concern over the rise in the figures and pose the question, or the observation, that it either reflects the inadequacy of this government in the area of providing and generating new work opportunities or the government's inadequacy in getting the chronic unemployed off the unemployment rolls. Unfortunately, as is the case in this field, those who are unemployed are for the most part those persons and those families who can least afford it. And this is the primary tragedy of a rising unemployment situation. I would suggest that the current statistics carry with them a message for the Minister and his colleagues in this administration, and that is that much as they might like to hide from it, there is no way that the Province of Manitoba and the community of Manitoba can avoid and ignore the economic conditions which are occurring elsewhere in the world and which are

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . creating a severe recessive condition. The lesson is clear: unemployment is rising everywhere in North America and Manitoba is not able to escape from that or hide from that fact. That being the case I would urge the Minister and his colleagues to re-examine the thrust of their economic program for this province for the year ahead.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements or Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Internal Services.

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services)(Osborne): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Chairman of the Board of Internal Economy Commissioners, I would like to table the annual report for that Board for the period ending 31st day of March, 1974.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements or Tabling of Reports.
Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Questions. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs and ask him if he has any immediate plans to meet with recreation directors in the province, and particularly in the city, with a view to investigating the degree to which the game of hockey has degenerated in our province, particularly among our young people, and with specific reference to violence in hockey at the minor league levels.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

HON. RENE TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the Honourable Member's question, I've had meetings with some of the recreational directors in the Province of Manitoba, including some in the City of Winnipeg. The question of violence in hockey itself has not been discussed to any degree with them. It's something that I would be available to them to discuss, although I do have some problems myself containing myself on the ice.

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

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable Minister of Labour. In view of the rising rate in unemployment, does the government or the Minister intend to have any specific program for the people that are becoming unemployed?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I presume, Mr. Speaker, that my honourable friend when he mentions any specific programs that he is referring to a catalogue or a list of projects that we may have on the shelf at the present time, that in the event of any mass increases in the numbers of unemployed that we may institute as a program to alleviate growing unemployment. I take that is the base of his announcement. At the present time, Mr. Speaker, it would be fair for me to say that I see no reason to panic; it's a normal increase at this period of the year. We anticipate there will be increases, particularly in the construction field which will start up, and at the present time I would suggest that there's no reason for the government to have to become involved in what one might call "crisis programs" in unemployment.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary. Would the Minister consider, or would the government reconsider of reinstating the senior citizens' home repair program?

MR. PAULLEY: Certainly, Mr. Speaker. We're prepared at any time to reinstitute programs that will create jobs for people and services to people as well, as the need arises. But at the present moment, I would suggest there's no reason for panic.

MR. PATRICK: Can the Minister indicate or has he the information, what is the unemployment rate in Northern Manitoba on Indian reserves?

MR. PAULLEY: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I cannot indicate the precise percentage in the reserve areas, particularly in the North. It is exceptionally high and is not contained in the figures that I presented today. It's my understanding that unemployment in the reserve areas run anywhere from about 27 to 70 percent. And I might say that we are considering through Manpower to try and get a proper assessment of the true percentage figures respecting unemployment on the reserve areas, and also an appeal is being made to the federal authorities, which has of course the prime responsibility for job creation on the reserves, to get them to co-operate with us in the production of worthwhile jobs on the reserves.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

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MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Labour in light of his statement. I wonder if he could tell the House what percentage of Manitoba's unemployed have been absorbed in the Civil Service area?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I don't know, Mr. Speaker, but if there were none included in the Civil Service of Manitoba, I would suggest it would be an increase of about 12,000 unemployed in the figures that I presented today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Minister in charge of the Manitoba Development Corporation. I wonder if the Minister could inform the House as to whether Columbia Forest Products at Sprague has been sold to a group of private individuals?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management)(Inkster): Mr. Speaker, the Development Corporation is in the process of concluding a sale; I'm not sure as to whether it has been finalized as yet.

MR. BANMAN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister inform the House as to whether the sale includes the plant and also the timber rights?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the sale that is being contemplated includes the assets that were owned by the Manitoba Development Corporation, subject to obtaining of certain timber rights.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture, how many more meetings the Chairman of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation is planning on holding throughout Manitoba to explain the program of the Agricultural Credit Corporation on its land lease program?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I would hope that he holds as many as deemed advisable and necessary to make sure that the people of Manitoba get the accurate information about the program.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you. A supplementary to that. Is the Minister attempting to give them the accurate information?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation, and I wonder if he can inform the House if the government is considering purchasing Tartan Breweries.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware as to whether the Development Corporation is or is not doing so. I hope that if it does so that it will be one that is not a loan of last resort and that it will be a money-making proposition. I'm not aware that it is or is not doing so.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask a question of the Minister of Health and Social Development. Could the Minister inform the House whether the adoption registry authorized under the amendments of the Child Welfare Act of last year has now been implemented and could he tell us what size of staff complement is working on that registry?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Health and Social Development) (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, the second part of the question would cause me to take this--I'll take this and give him the answer tomorrow or a couple of days.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, in view of the Minister's answer I take it the registry is in operation. Could he tell us whether the Director of Child Welfare or the registry have in fact undertaken programs of child placement or the allocation of children to individual families against the responsibility that is supposed to be assigned to Child Care agencies themselves?

MR. DESJARDINS: I'll take that as notice, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister also provide an answer as to whether the Director of Child Welfare or the Adoption Registry have sent out policy guidelines indicating that couples who already have two children are no longer eligible for adoption procedures or processing?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I raised a question yesterday which the Honourable House Leader took under advisement regarding Gardenhill Craft Co-op. I wonder if the Honourable the House Leader could give me a more definite answer today?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I have not yet been advised.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Opposition)(River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister as Minister of Finance and it refers to the Provincial Auditor's report. In the report the auditor indicates that there is an audit being completed with respect to the PEP Programs that were administered through the Department of Co-operative Development. I wonder if he can indicate whether the Provincial Auditor has forwarded any information with respect to any audit of the co-operatives dealing with the PEP Programs?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, that would require a check of the files; I'm not aware of anything current in that regard.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, I wonder as well if the First Minister can indicate whether the Provincial Auditor was instructed to complete an audit with respect to Schmidt Cartage and the Communities Economic Development Fund loans?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Auditor would conduct the kind of audits that are required of him and I believe that he has done some special audit assignments, whether this is one of them offhand I could not say.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, yes, I wonder then if the First Minister, and I assume he's going to get the information for the House, obtain the information for the House. I wonder if he could indicate to the House when he does obtain it, whether there were any instructions given by the Provincial Government for a specific audit on the Communities Economic Development Fund and Schmidt Cartage?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, at some stage I would have no doubt that the Provincial Auditor would do an audit of the Communities Economic Development Fund. With respect to a specific follow-up audit, if an account is taken into receivership then I would assume that there may even be a court appointed accounting firm involved, in which case the Provincial Auditor would desist in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and Environmental Management. Is the Minister prepared to table in this House the report prepared by Miss Maureen Smith of the Cabinet Secretariat detailing the damage and impact on the Garrison Diversion project that was prepared last August?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I've had occasion to inquire on that document which the honourable member refers to as a report. That document never came to my attention. It was not a report commissioned by the department; it was an exercise which was requested of a particular, I think, student employment staff member by the Chairman of the Planning Secretariat. The document itself has never come to my direct attention; it has never been reviewed by my department.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Well, considering that the document was prepared however by someone who was under the employ of the Provincial Government, would the Minister undertake to acquire such a document and table it in this House for the information of the members?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it is not the position of the Provincial Government that every document prepared at every level of the administration is a document which would be tabled in the House. And may I advise the honourable member that the particular staff employee was, I believe, a summer employee who was asked to do an exercise on this issue.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) Much as I respect the opinion of the honourable member who is asking the question, he knows that I will not take his advice; with respect to such an employee I would even pay less attention to the report.

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes, I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister, if he is not prepared to provide that document, be prepared to report on any developments that may have occurred through his meetings or the Premier's meetings with officials of North Dakota concerning construction progress on the Garrison and its ultimate impact on Manitoba, and what action the Provincial Government is thereby contemplating?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, certainly on that question we would be happy to report there was a communique issued by the First Minister and Governor Link following the last meeting in North Dakota. I believe that there has been some communication issued by the Federal Government after to the meeting in January of 1974. I think that I have to emphasize to the honourable member that the official negotiations concerning this matter are done at the level of the Government of Canada, which is the sole government with jurisdiction in external affairs, as recognized at least by the Province of Manitoba if not by the Liberal Province of Quebec. The fact is that the Manitoba position has at all times been submerged in the federal position, which is one which we concur with because we believe that Canada is the appropriate government to deal with this matter for Canadians, which includes the people of the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek --(Interjection)--
The honourable member has had three supplementaries already. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to enquire, based upon the Minister's last remarks, whether the Premier in his last meeting with Governor Link of North Dakota indicated that the Province of Manitoba was not prepared or not willing to undertake legal action in U. S. courts to stop the diversion project.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, we didn't indicate any negatives of that kind. We didn't indicate that we would not be prepared to take legal action in the United States' courts to Governor Link. I only tell the honourable member that I would be very very nervous about letting this matter, and Manitoba's and Canada's position, reside in the jurisdiction of a court in North Dakota for the purpose of protecting the citizens of Manitoba. But we made no such commitment to the Governor of North Dakota.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Northern Affairs regarding the Dallas Red Rose Community elections. Can the Minister inform the House why he appointed the man, Mr. Friesen in the Dallas Red Rose elections defeated, why he appointed that man to the committee?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. RONALD McBRYDE (Minister of Northern Affairs)(The Pas): Mr. Speaker, I hope the House has some considerable time if you wish me to elaborate on that situation. The community of Dallas Red Rose is a community committee area which does not have a full legal procedure for elections in that community. In November of this year, as a matter of policy as Minister I asked for a vote in the community to give me guidance as who should be appointed to this Advisory Committee. Such a vote was held in November of this year and it was for two positions of Community Committee members and one position as chairman of the Community Committee. The vote was a tie vote. At that time as Minister I could have appointed one of the persons who was involved in a tie vote. I asked the community to please hold another vote and see if they could give a clear indication of who was their preference for chairman of that Community Committee. When that vote was held, Mr. Chairman, the Returning Officer, or the person who counted the ballots, announced the vote and declared one person a winner. Five minutes later the Returning Officer counted again and said no, the other person was the winner. The person who was declared the winner the first time but not the second time wrote a letter of objection to myself as Minister of Northern Affairs. Because it's not a formal election there's no formal appeal mechanism for them to go through such as we've evidenced in some of the provincial constituencies. Therefore it appeared to me that there was grounds both on the basis of counting and on the basis of voter eligibility - two voters were questioned - that there would be grounds for another election. On reviewing the situation

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . I realized that another election would not solve the problem on a community like this which was divided evenly. To solve this problem I asked the community whether they would prefer to have the person who received the most votes appointed as chairman, that is on the second count, and the person who received the second most votes to be a committee member of an Advisory Committee. The committee did not say they preferred this but they would prefer this to having another election. So that is where the situation sits. The name that is mentioned by the Member for Sturgeon Creek is the wrong name. That person was the one vote in the contested election.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his detail and I would like to ask him this question. Did the Minister say he would accept a petition against the appointment of this man if he received more than 34 names on a petition?

MR. McBRYDE: No, Mr. Speaker, there was no commitment of that kind made at any time. I went to the community on two occasions, one to see if one person would step down in the election, that is if he did not wish to further appeal that vote. The second time I attended the community meeting at which there was no commitment made on the basis of a petition. I have received a petition from one group in the community. Some of the names on that petition are not people who are eligible to vote within that community, and therefore I did not see it as a basis of which a further decision could be made. I have since written back to the one group in the community and told them if they are not satisfied with the present situation to request a full election again. They have not done so.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: A further supplementary question. Would the Minister please inform the House as to what group he is speaking of because the petition has 39 names on it, which is a plurality in Dallas Red Rose, and which one of the two people running was an NDP member?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the petitions that occasionally arise from the many communities which come under the Northern Affairs' jurisdiction -- and it should be noted by the House that we have attempted to change legislation so in fact the full authority would rest locally and not have to come back to the Minister of Northern Affairs. But as a matter of fact I had a petition from another community where there's a problem the member might be interested in, where a petition with 80 signatures on it. I received another petition, and that was . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. The Honourable Minister is digressing to another area. The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development. I wonder if the Minister would advise the House if the Director of Child Welfare, or his department, will honour previous commitments of adoption agencies to potential parents that they have made prior to the coming into effect of the Act after February 1, 1975.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, if there was any commitment made I am sure they will be honoured.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister in charge of water control. I wonder if the Minister could tell us when we might receive a report from the Qu'Appelle Valley Watershed Commission, which God only knows how they equate some way with the Souris Valley Watershed, which in effect actually brings in the Garrison, the whole problem with the Garrison Dam.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, there is Federal-Provincial study on the Souris. There is material on the Qu'Appelle. Such material as is presently available I'll get to my honourable friend as soon as I can.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct a question to the Honourable the First Minister. I wonder if for further clarification on his position re the Garrison, he could indicate to me that he is either accepting or rejecting the lasting gratitude of the neighbors to the south as was reported by the Minot Daily News, and re-reported in the Brandon Sun a few days ago, because of his refusal to take any legal action re the Garrison project.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I don't know what lies behind the question. In any case there is one false assumption implicit in the question and that is, reference to a refusal on our part to take any legal action. My colleague, the Minister of Mines and Resources has indicated on a number of occasions, including today, that we certainly are intending and determined to act through the aegis of Canada with respect to any action, diplomatic or legal, and to that ultimate end it may be necessary for Canada to invoke the machinery of the International Joint Commission. The machinery exists of both diplomatic and legal nature, and we have at no time indicated an unwillingness to resort to that, of course acting always through the policy of the Government of Canada in that respect. Insofar as laudatory articles are concerned, I gather that the real basis of it is that I indicated that the people of North Dakota, as represented by their North Dakota government, have been really exemplary in their conduct in this matter, and I don't certainly apologize for having made reference to that.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite clear with the Minister in charge of Water Control. Again I'd like to ask him: are there two separate commissions, one for the Qu'Appelle Valley Watershed and one for the Souris Valley Watershed set-up?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, there are various federal-provincial studies relating to that area and some commence while others are ending. I indicated to my honourable friend that I will get him whatever documentation which has been made public relative to those studies.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the First Minister based upon his reply on the question of possible legal action on the Garrison. Has the Minister asked officials of the Attorney-General's Department to examine whether the Manitoba Government, or plaintiff in Manitoba, may go into the U.S. Courts, either in North Dakota or Washington, as a back-up protection along with representation to the International Joint Commission so that in fact we would have two forms of defence against possible damage.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, if I understand the question correctly, there is a suggestion implied that the machinery of the Government of Canada and the United States both, which is extant now for some 68 or 69 years, ultimately through the International Joint Commission is not good enough to settle international problems. If that's the suggestion I reject it completely.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I asked the Minister the question where there is no suggestion implicit, but simply whether the Premier had asked officials of the Attorney-General's Department to examine the feasibility of undertaking legal action in the U.S. circuit federal courts as an alternative or backup or secondary line of defence, based upon the fact that the International Joint Commission is an arbitration proceeding primarily not a judicial one and that we should have two lines of defence in this very serious matter.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, again I must say that implicit in that is the suggestion that we should somehow circumvent in whole or in some titilating degree or part the machinery that exists internationally as between Canada and the United States, and frankly I for one want no part of it.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Thompson, amended thereto by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and sub-amended by the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. The Honourable Minister in Charge of Public Insurance Corporation. The Honourable Minister has approximately 25 minutes.

HON. BILLIE URUSKI (Minister for Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation)(St. George): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we adjourned last night, Mr. Speaker, I was just beginning my remarks on what I termed irresponsible and outlandish statements and outright lies made by the press against our corporation, and I was just leading into that by making specific reference to the issue which involved the corporation in signing an agreement for a towing contract.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in December, the 3rd, a Winnipeg Free Press article by

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(MR. URUSKI cont'd) . . . Mr. Ron Campbell, he indicated that Autopac received a letter dated November 8th from the operator stating: "The non-negotiable new rates would be effective as of Sunday", which was dating back to December 1st. Subsequent to that the Editorial Department of the Winnipeg Free Press, an editorial dated January 1st, written by one Fred Cleverley, indicated as a year's prospective of Manitoba, said: "As the year grew to a close, tow truck operators attempted to persuade Autopac to pay them more and when they were told their demands were not negotiable, discovered that Autopac had decided it could do without their services". A complete reversal, Mr. Speaker, of the actual fact of what had taken place in respect to this towing contract. I subsequently wrote to the editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, Mr. McLintock, and I asked him to take this up with Mr. Cleverley, who was the author of the article, and I indicated to him that I knew that they were philosophically opposed to this government but I thought that their editorial writers could at least check out their facts as to the information that they were reporting in the press.

I received a letter from the Winnipeg Free Press, dated February 13th, to myself, signed by Mr. Cleverley, who indicates to me: "Peter McLintock has asked me to write to you on his behalf regarding your letter of January 24th. I can only say I use an unfortunate choice of words in the particular paragraph you have taken objection to, and that these words have the effect of turning around the responsible for the subsequent action taken by Autopac in dealing with the tow truck operators. I can assure you that an error of this kind is just as objectionable to me as it is to you, and I will be particularly careful to make sure it does not occur again."

Mr. Speaker, did that editorial writer print that letter in its paper of correction of denial. Where did it appear in the paper? No place. Did he in effect apologize to the public who he misinformed, but lo and behold, Mr. Speaker, again on January 28th this same cleverly written article appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press editorial and I quote one further paragraph from it.

"In addition one must calculate the 3.5 million dollars each year which used to be paid into the Manitoba Health Services Commission by the private insurance companies, a sum which disappeared when Autopac ruled that it would not subsidize another branch of government."

What malarky; what an outright lie. Mr. Speaker, if that individual would have researched some of his statements that he has made he would find out that not only today do we pay as much but in fact we pay more in exactly the same fashion Autopac pays into the Manitoba Health Services Corporation as it did when the private insurers were operating in Manitoba. But even now, Mr. Speaker, we pay even more, and why? Because each and every vehicle that is registered is insured, and there are more payments because more vehicles are insured within the Province of Manitoba.

I'd like to make one more reflection, and I have indicated about the newspaper articles but there was one that I did not see but it was reported to me, handled by one of our local TV stations, a fellow by the name of Bruce Graham from CKY TV who was comparing premium rates, Mr. Speaker, in Ontario, in fact the city of Toronto, versus Winnipeg Beach. I was told that he went on the air and he flashed a policy, and I have a copy now, a photostated copy of that policy, he flashed a policy on the air and he said, "Lo and behold the figures that - I can read some of his statements, "Look at these two insurance forms I'm going to show you tonight. The same driver and the same automobile as you can see. This one is from Toronto, Toronto address, the type of car and how much the gentleman paid for his insurance, \$80.00. He lived in downtown Toronto. All right. Now that very same gentleman with that very same car, moved from downtown Toronto to Winnipeg Beach. You will have to agree that there is quite a difference in locality, from hustling bustling Toronto to lonely Winnipeg Beach. Now look at the form for his insurance. \$80.00 he paid in Toronto. The same gentleman, the same car, is priced in Winnipeg Beach as \$93.00. Now let me tell you something else about Autopac. At least what I have been able to find out comparing similar sized cities, such as Brandon and Medicine Hat "and he goes on". Mr. Speaker, we contacted Mr. - whatever his name was - Bruce Graham, and he gave us the policy, they crossed out the names of the owner, and they also crossed out the vehicles, but we were able to compare the two policies. And, in fact, the man did have an \$80.00 policy in Toronto, and his policy in Winnipeg Beach

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(MR. URUSKI cont'd) . . . was \$93.00, which covered his 1973 Hornet, valued at approximately \$2,800 which included the basic Autopac coverage of \$200 deductible collision, the no-fault accident benefit, and as well, the comprehensive coverage, and the driver's insurance premium for both he and his wife. That was the total of the \$93.00. But in Toronto, Mr. Speaker, the coverage that he had on that vehicle did not include \$1.00 coverage for collision for a \$2,800 automobile, Mr. Speaker. He was comparing public liability and property damage coverage and accident benefits, and that's the comparison--that's the type of comparisons that have been made. That similar coverage Mr. Speaker, in Toronto, depending on that man's accident record, would be anywhere from \$130 to \$240, as I stated, depending on his accident record. If he had a claim within the last year, his premium would be in the \$240 range. But he had no collision coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I will go on and then some of the opposition members have argued, well why should we compel that individual to take collision coverage? Why should anyone compel that individual to have collision coverage? Mr. Speaker, any no-fault plan, Mr. Speaker, assumes that certain basic coverage are included in the plan so that the prohibitive costs of paying for the program are not spent in trying to prove who was at fault or who was not at fault in the accident.

Mr. Speaker, this is the type of criticism that we have received from the media and from members of the opposition, and they echoed some of those criticisms.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, about the compelling of motorists to take collision coverage on their vehicles. Mr. Speaker, the private insurance companies in Ontario now are preparing a plan, preparing certain coverage, an insurance program for the Ontario Government to be implemented, but a program, Mr. Speaker, that will remove the right to recover any moneys for damage to the vehicle even if that motorist is rear-ended and is totally innocent, totally not at fault. --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, that is correct it is no-fault coverage but they are saying, you don't have to buy collision coverage. Well what in effect are they saying? That if you don't buy collision coverage from us you will then not be compensated for the damages that you incur, even if you are not at fault, Mr. Speaker. Do they also point out that at least 30 percent of the vehicles in Ontario are not insured for collision coverage. 30 percent of the vehicles are not insured. They are then saying that all the vehicles should be compelled to take collision coverage. Because they'll say, "Well sorry, sir, you didn't take collision coverage, we can't cover you, because there is total no-fault coverage." How would that fellow in Winnipeg Beach have fared in Toronto with a \$2,800 car had that program been in effect, with no collision? How much money would he have collected, Mr. Speaker, under his policy? Let the members on the opposite side answer that.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, I am informed, appeared several times on radio and television and made comments, espoused his knowledge of the insurance area, and he spoke about no-fault insurance and Autopac, and all those areas of coverage. I would hope that the pages here would take a copy of our insurance guide so that the Leader of the Opposition would acquaint himself with our program before he goes on television and speaks about the coverages that are available for the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker. Several members of the opposition have espoused that, why have you got no fault? Why aren't you dealing with your premiums and rates on a no-fault basis? Mr. Speaker, the no-fault insurance program is no-fault in respect of injury or death benefits up to stated limits, and as well damage to insured vehicle over and above the deductible. That is the insurance program that we are talking about. There's no one that has ever said on this side of the House that there will be not surcharges for accident or additional premiums in respect to a bad driving record. That was in the bill from day one, Mr. Speaker. They should know that, Mr. Speaker. But this type of concept of covering for specified amounts and for coverage over and above one's deductible at least handles at least 90 percent of the claims that can be adjudicated without going to court. That's the percentage of claims that are handled without court action or legal action, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, then there are also, as I indicated last night, there have been irresponsible, which I term irresponsible statements and which have been echoed by the members of the opposition, the statements coming from two insurance executives within the Province of Manitoba, one of whom is the Winnipeg General Manager of the Canadian Indemnity Company and the President of the Wawanesa Insurance Company of Canada. Mr. Speaker, Mr. McComb

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(MR. URUSKI cont'd) . . . made statements in the press insofar as rates in Edmonton being much lower than in Winnipeg. He quoted figures on a 1974 Galaxy 500, and I think the statement that appeared in the press, that he could purchase equivalent coverage in Edmonton for that type of a car for \$50 less than in Winnipeg. Well, Mr. Speaker, I have here, which I will show to the members, and I will table the rates from that book, the Canadian Indemnity Rate Book from Edmonton, Alberta. Not from Manitoba but from Edmonton, Alberta. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, that 1974 Galaxy 500 in Edmonton, let's give them the best premium that they have for a driver who is accident-free for three years, for that 1974 Ford Galaxy 500 driving to and from work with a driver 25 years of age or over, 100 deductible collision, 25 deductible comprehensive and 500,000 third party: the Edmonton rate was \$250, Mr. Speaker. If that individual had an accident, was accident-free for one year, that premium would be \$361. But if he had an accident last year that premium would be \$405. How does that compare to our premiums, Mr. Speaker. That same car, Mr. Speaker, would be, if it includes the driver's premium and the gasoline insurance premium of approximately \$13.00 a year, based on the amount of driving he does, would be \$219 in Winnipeg, Mr. Speaker; includes all the cost, the vehicle insurance premium and his extension coverage, includes the insurance premium on his driver's license, and includes the gasoline premium, \$219 Mr. Speaker, in Winnipeg, versus a minimum of \$250 in Edmonton, Mr. Speaker. Those are the kind of distortions and outright lies perpetrated by the executives of this insurance corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the rates that I quoted, Mr. Speaker, I failed to mention that, that I compared, was the insurance industry's 1974 rates with the 10 percent adjustment factor that they put in in January and February. That does not include the industry's new rate for 1975, which will probably come in within the next three or four months, probably by June or July, which has been indicated in the press already in Alberta, that this 10 percent increase in January and February is only a stop-gap measure for the insurance industry in Manitoba.

There are several other cars that were mentioned but I quoted one and I will table this for the House so that the press will see the comparisons that we have made.

Mr. Speaker, then there was the President of the Wawanesa Company, Mr. Trites is his name. I sort of can describe him as the ivory tower tenant of the private insurance industry in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. On January 9th, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Trites quoted in the Winnipeg Free Press of a 1974 Ford Galaxy 500, and I have the article here, where he indicated our premiums in Calgary which we have stated were \$248 and his actual premium in Calgary and Edmonton was \$203. Mr. Speaker, we checked in Calgary and Edmonton with an agent of the Wawanesa Company, and lo and behold the premium that Mr. Trites quotes for that car in Edmonton is not \$203 but \$240. As well, Mr. Speaker, that same Mr. Trites indicated that premiums in Quebec City were \$298 and we showed premiums of \$363. Mr. Speaker, we were not able to check in Quebec City through an agent, and why, Mr. Speaker, why couldn't we check through an agent, Mr. Speaker. Because that same company, Mr. Speaker, advertises in Quebec that we save the customer money, we deal direct to you and us, no frills, no excess costs, direct to you. Mr. Speaker, they have cut out every agent in the Province of Quebec and they are dealing direct. --(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. URUSKI: So, Mr. Speaker, so we couldn't check our premiums with an agent, so where did we go? We went direct to the Wawanesa Company in Quebec City, Mr. Speaker. And what did they quote us? Not \$298 as indicated by Mr. Trites, but \$352 for that same coverage for that car. That is the type of comparisons that have been made, Mr. Speaker, in the press by the towers of the insurance industry.

Mr. Speaker, I know I have approximately six minutes. I have so much more, Mr. Speaker, I have so much more, Mr. Speaker, but I think I will have to save some of my remarks for another time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to deal with one matter of the comparisons also made by the members of the opposition and the industry about the premiums in 1972 of Autopac being \$38 million and in 1974 being \$47.7 million, a difference of \$9.7 million, and we were berated saying, "Look if you didn't raise premiums how come you derived another \$9.7 million in income?" Mr. Speaker, that same year, Mr. Speaker, we reduced the premiums by 5 percent and yet we gained an extra \$2 million in revenue. If we utilize that same comparison, and I'll tell you why, Mr. Speaker; there were two reasons. There were two reasons, Mr. Speaker, there was an addition of vehicles, an actual addition of vehicles,

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(MR. URUSKI cont'd) . . . and there was more drivers coming onto the scene. But there was also one other additional measure, Mr. Speaker. Some of our competitors who wanted to compete in the extension business closed their doors, Mr. Speaker. They went out of the extension business, including the Company of Wawanesa, Portage Mutual, and others. They closed their doors because they said they wanted to compete and then they closed their customers out completely. Those are some of the over-simplistic comparisons that were made by the opposition and by the insurance companies.

There are many more reasons why there would be an increased revenue even though there would be a premium reduction; as I have indicated, more vehicles, more drivers, an increased amount of extension business as more of the private insurances left the automobile insurance market. The increased coverage that can be available up to \$1 million in liability coverage which is now available to motorists. The general increase on vehicles and drivers, the vehicle rating group restructure, and the proposed two cent gasoline insurance premium which will be coming later on, Mr. Speaker.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that Manitobans today have the most progressive insurance scheme in Canada. Mr. Speaker, our total disability weekly payments have been increased by 50 percent this year, making our no-fault payment--no-fault accident benefits payments the most advanced section in the country, and the best.

Mr. Speaker, during the next month or so we will be opening a fourth claims centre in South Winnipeg which will operate, Mr. Speaker, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. I'm hopeful that this service will further expand, be of benefit to people who cannot utilize the regular hours of the Claim Centres. It will make provision for people who can come after hours to the Claims Centres, and they will be open later, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, the towing contract signed which has been verified by the Police Commission of Greater Winnipeg has proved more efficient, has resulted in less waiting times at the scenes of accidents, and has improved and reduced substantially the costs to the motoring public in Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker, speaking of costs, Autopac has successfully reduced its administrative expenses of 19.4 percent in 1973 to approximately 19 percent in 1974; in '75, possibly we will try and maintain our administrative expenses at that rate or possibly even go down to 18 percent. This, Mr. Speaker, is the ultimate proof that a government insurance plan as Autopac is infinitely more efficient, less expensive, and more economical to the motoring public in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I did not go into the report, but I will at another date, of the Gauvin Commission Report that was commissioned by the Quebec Liberal Government but I think my Liberal friends opposite should read it as well as the Conservative friends. It clearly indicates, Mr. Speaker, that our insurance scheme operates at less than half the administrative costs operated by the private system elsewhere in this country. That is the proof, Mr. Speaker, where the efficiency --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, how much have they lost? Mr. Speaker, the private industry -- the Honourable Member from Minnedosa indicated we can have the lowest premiums but how can we stand here and . . . a deficit. Mr. Speaker, I agree, I don't like a deficit but I can tell you, I prefer that much more than to have the highest premiums in this country and be faced with the highest deficit, a whopping \$250 million in one year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Viriden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR (Viriden): Mr. Speaker, I would first like to congratulate you on your reappointment and also congratulate the mover and seconder. While I thought the mover missed a very key point in not doing a better selling job of Northern Manitoba, we are quite conscious in the south how much there is to be done in the North. I was one who spent some time of my years there and they were pleasant years and I would gladly go back to the North because it's something, an atmosphere up there that's different to the south and if we could only instill that in our youth, there would be many more up there and not laying around the streets of Winnipeg.

To the seconder, I also congratulate him, and it was rather startling when he came on immediately to defend the two cents a gallon for Autopac on motor fuel, and it was rather surprising it wasn't in the Throne Speech. However, it at least allows us to open up on that same area.

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(MR. MCGREGOR cont'd)

I can certainly congratulate the new appointed Executive Council, the one new elected Executive Council, who I probably can say I've had disagreements with but I always look from this end to do what's best for the people that I represent. And certainly it's a sad note when I think of my exciting deskmate that I have no longer with me, that was to my left, and probably I would read him as probably the most conservative Liberal that ever sat in that group; a fine fellow and a real one that certainly did credit to this Chamber. His replacement, I'm not sure how I describe him but I probably think of him as a school room philosopher, and maybe we'll get him out of the school room into the real realm of politics. I don't know whether that's a penalty I get for sometimes not saying things exactly right, to be in the quandry of the story book philosopher, the school room philosopher. I'm in between, no seats behind me, but if that is a penalty, I'll gladly accept penalties when I speak as I believe I should.

There is one concern -- I've been around here for quite a few Throne Speeches -- I'm not certain I took part in them all -- but there's a distinct difference of feeling say ten years ago when I think I was here with a lot more pride, a sense of pride than I have today and that lack of pride, from on the streets and everywhere you go, that today a politician is rated very low in the opinion of many and I think this is a shame for this Chamber, for the governing people of a province of our country. Whether it's our fault for the thing that we as members can do, I happen to be a believer that we can do something to rectify that because I think this shows harm in the years ahead when young people that should be looking at this Chamber admiringly, striving for the aim to be here one day, and I'm not sure that there is the right percentage of people looking in this vein today. And I do think over the years we have had a system regardless of whether we were in power or in opposition. You get elected, you look for an increase, you look for a better pension, and really this strikes the public-at-large I think wrongly, and I think if we were sincere with our position we would look at cutting our speeches down, making them more effective, and also take a real good look at our remuneration, and I think I could walk out here -- I would like to walk out of here the last time with more pride that I feel in my position than I have right now and I would go to any length to accomplish that, because I think that is the future of our country of tomorrow. And the only thought, some would say this is a backward step and this is getting votes. I think I have always my own way of getting votes and I don't have to take advice from anybody or any quarters; when the job has to be done I believe in laying it on the line with my people and they return the proper results.

Probably I should mention for just a moment within my own constituency and try not to repeat things that I had said before, we've had some gains in Virден constituency and we've had some losses, and the loss is an unfortunate one, a seed cleaning plant Rivers that went up in flames; by all intents and purposes created by an arsonist in the Christmas period of last December, but that was a loss of some quarter of a million dollars and I remember very well, and this brings on another thought. This is back in the Roblin days when we struggled to get a loan, we came in here and the answer was absolute blunt no. But they did guarantee a loan, the people, the farmers in that area built that \$60,000 plant and made it and expanded it to what it was, to the tune of a quarter of a million dollars without a tax dollar going into that. Isn't that, Mr. Speaker, the very point, that we've lost the whole avenue of operating; we today run to governments, it doesn't matter if it's provincial or federal governments first, rather than when we can do it ourselves, and I do believe we've been poisoned by administrations and this one has to take part of that blame because we've softened people, we've softened youth, and I do think the future doesn't hold that well with that attitude, with that approach, that we must get back to the point of building ourselves. This is one: they will be building this plant up bigger and better, and again it will be the people working for that aim, not as a great huge co-operative but as a small co-operative with everyone having a pretty equal part in it.

Well that's the losses. The gains I can report the Rivers, known as Oo-Za-We-Kwun, is going fairly well with the bicycle plant, with the Edson Trailer. We've had some setbacks there but generally the condition is generally fairly well and fairly healthy. We've had one new business in Virден. It was in a farm machinery industry starting up by the name of Walden Industries, the town and the municipality supported the renovation of the old airport at Virден to the tune of 150,000, then again the people had to dig the money; we went out, we all took a part in it; we aimed for \$200,000. We came up considerable richer than that, so

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(MR. MCGREGOR cont'd) . . . hopefully there's a buffer if slight setbacks do come. They are making diskers for International Harvester Company. Their first contract was \$1-1/2 million; they've had additional ones. They've only been going this year and the most recent one is 400 diskers to Sudan which is a contract of on or around \$150,000 if my arithmetic is right, and I believe it to be.

We heard quite an oration on Autopac and the great virtues of it, and I think maybe the Minister did have some points but I don't think he told the whole truth and it's true when Autopac came in certainly we knew there were some private insurances going in the deficit and those same companies some years had profits. But that isn't the real thing, and certainly I've got letters here of comparing rates just as he had, just as unfavorable or favorable, whichever the case you want to build. I can quote a 1969 LTD, it came out \$141; a 1974 Lincoln, it came out \$159, and that was again taken by the book. But again you can get really screwed up on these because you've got one model and you've got three or four classifications, you can take the other extreme. So I say, I don't believe altogether those figures.

I think I am one that can speak pretty firmly of how insurance works and I won't relate in the past how my losses come about but they were losses, and certainly I had claims with Allstate Insurance and I had claims with London Liverpool private insurance, and I'm fighting now with a claim with Autopac. And what the Minister does not tell us --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, I think you were just bringing to my thoughts the real impression of a politician; he meets all situations with an open mouth and a closed mind, and probably that's just about the way it is.

But in a particular loss I had, it happens to be my own, and it was to the tune of a 7400-dollar car including sales tax, and they're offering something in the order of \$4,400 - this is a one-year-old car. But the question is, the Minister can say, all right we've got the lowest premium but we're only paying the premium on 80 percent of the value, that's the very point. When I go to Autopac, "Oh, but we've got to take 20 percent off the top" --(Interjection)-- No, if you're talking of a 7400-dollar, you take 20 percent off, and then your depreciation comes off less that. Well tell the people this that you're not--when I insure my automobile I'm not insuring it for that top price, I'm insuring it less 20 percent. Those are the things that the public want to know.

The Minister mentioned the two-cent a gallon, which I certainly think is wrong, if we have to bail out Autopac. I'm going to read a resolution that came to my desk from Miniota, and I'll read it in its full context: "Whereas when Autopac was incorporated, we were let to believe that it would pay its own way without government subsidy; and Whereas we understand that the Government of Manitoba is going to impose a two cent a gallon tax on motor fuel to help subsidize Autopac; Now therefore Council of the Rural Municipality of Miniota strongly opposes this method of obtaining revenue to subsidize Autopac as it is unfair to rural Manitobans detrimental to the tourist industry, as well as being contrary to promises made by the Manitoba Government when Autopac was incorporated." And I would carry that on a little further, if this is the route they're going to go, do you realize what it's doing to rural people who have to take maybe a hundred or two hundred miles to take their family to a hockey game or to a cultural centre where here in the city, or a city, that the biggest part of this will be paid by rural people. Do we always continue to have to carry the mail for the cities of this province? I think not.

Just think if you were an American coming in here, and I don't travel that way very often but it certainly annoys me to think how we're taking our tourist trade in our hotel rooms alone. You take a chain hotel here and the same hotel in Minot, and I can think of two that I've been there, I know the comparisons. Now do they not pay enough coming here to visit us without them having to think, well all right I'm paying part of Autopac to fix McGregor or someone else's car, it's unreal to approach it. I think Manitobans are fair people, are honest people, and are willing to pay their way. If we need a higher premium, come out and say that, but make it competitive so that we don't have to be wishy-washy. If it was in Ottawa, if it was in Edmonton, have it competitive here, we'll all know, and if you're so right and as righteous as you think you are, have no fear, and if you're bluffing then you won't allow it to happen.

MR. USKIW: Will the member yield to a question?

MR. MCGREGOR: I think when I'm finished, Mr. Speaker.

The other area is of great concern is the welfare. We know we're not badgered as bad

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(MR. MCGREGOR cont'd) . . . rurally as they are in the city and it's easier to be looked at, and it certainly is a desire of the municipal people to be able to control their own welfare, to say yes or no. I'm one who supports equality but I think in this area it would be equality within a region or within a condition of a municipality because the municipal people are tremendously responsible people and they know the people that are beating the system, and they can get to it like no one else that goes through the area representing the department but are also not really keen and clear to the immediate problems facing, or the advantages of being in rural Manitoba. Where the municipal people could handle this much more positive, naturally to be refunded by the treasury, but I think, Mr. Speaker --(Interjection)-- Well don't laugh, it's a fact, it would save one helluva lot of money if it was done this way.

The other area that's been a bit of a problem has been for retarded and handicapped workshops that are starting in my area and others, and it's been almost solely supported by the local people. While there has been an input and I hope there's a further input, the most recent increase in this budget, it only showed one thing, more people on the department payroll, and it was pretty discouraging for the municipal people and the local people whether it be at Cardale or in Virden, they were hustling the money, they had some hopes of getting an increase and that didn't come. Well they are now, there's been a more recent one and I appreciate that but I'm speaking of the second last one. I do hope there's more future, more encouraging signs there, because I think they are the type of people, a person who is fit and there's no softness for him, but someone that's handicapped they do need help and I don't think too much can be done in this area to make them responsible even in their own way. If you visit the place you can't help but appreciate their drive of making something that makes a buck even though it wouldn't completely carry that particular home.

And let us hope the municipalities keep control of rural Manitoba. I realize the municipal people are working with a pretty popular municipal Minister and I have a suspect that he's sort of conning them into this large regional area of government approach, and I fear that this will not be what the municipal people really indeed want, because I've always appreciated working with municipal people, you know them personally, they know you, your good points and your bad points and when this becomes so big it'll be almost like a legislator, he doesn't really see his people on a personal basis.

While there was quite a few paragraphs regarding agriculture and the world food prospects and all the other jazz, I have to think to the Minister of Agriculture, the reception that he give the cow-calf operators the last few days, if that is the new approach then agriculture may be in more drastic times. I think there's one problem there and if the deputy wasn't there maybe we would get the other career agriculturists back in their proper position and maybe a more honest approach to agriculture problems would be met.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Minister state his matter of privilege.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, time and again members opposite try to draw into the debate in this House the question of the ability of staff, or the lack thereof. I think that is a bad practise and I don't think it should be indulged in. I think we have to have the respect for the people who are employed in the right of the Crown.

MR. MCGREGOR: Mr. Speaker, if I've become narrow, I have not meant to but I've always said, I've always carried the message of my people, that if they say it and I have some foundation it being reasonable I will carry it on in that way.

And I do think with the oration of the Honourable Member of St. John's last week in trying to protect the huge budget that we will be faced with and that he needs this money in order to give it back, little corners here and there, and I don't really think Manitobans today, I think they're fed up with taxes and I think with a proper approach they would be quite willing to accept less grants if indeed it showed that that meant less taxes on the take. Because again, as I say, I really believe we are responsible people. The one area that has certainly bothered me and I've heard plenty of it from this group over here, is the Highway Department, and while I've taken it pretty cool in recent years, because to realize what has happened here, that if ever there was a department that was being economically raped this has to be it. Because if we compare the allotment of money to the Highway Department back when we took over our PRs and the expansion of the budget and the highway program has not come anywheres near that; and if we're going to have better highways and we're going to any way shape or form satisfy our municipal people who are screaming at this stage for more help on the PRs, for hardtop of the PRs that there has been some mention of, but I'm sure it won't come until there's a bigger budget. And with that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my first opportunity and so I use it to tell you, sir, that I am pleased to see you again in charge of the business of this House. I know, sir, that it is important to the way in which that business is conducted that respect for your rulings is attained from the members of the Assembly. I was much impressed with the comments of my colleague, the Honourable Member for Virden, who pointed out that he felt that in many respects the status and the respect for members of the Legislature had declined in recent years and that he felt that this might be attributed to the feelings and the opinions which visitors to our Legislature might receive from the manner in which our debates are conducted. Sir, I feel that it is vitally important that we conduct this business in an orderly and a way in which we can do it, as expeditiously as possible.

I feel, too, that in this respect some of us who are relatively new to the Assembly, if six years can be considered relatively new, and I'm comparing this with the term of service of the Dean of the House, the Honourable Member for Transcona, we are I think influenced by the example and the way in which senior members and people of special authority in the House conduct themselves in debate. I think it is important to the general conduct of business that occasionally there be some repartee and that some humour be interjected into our proceedings. This I think is enjoyable, recognizing of course that one man's humour may be to another man somewhat of a sorrow. But nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, we do feel that everyone in the House entertains and appreciates the occasional humorous interjection. But it is the constant and continuous interjections originating from whichever side of the House and replied to from the other side that seems to me to degenerate the proceedings into somewhat less than that which should be expected from a Provincial Legislature. And, sir, it will be our endeavour to see that this is minimized on this side of the House and that we conduct our business as expeditiously as possible.

I would like also, sir, to recognize the new appointments to the Treasury Bench, and while we are somewhat concerned about the increase in the size of the front bench, nevertheless we do hope that those who are now assuming new authorities will have success in their endeavours and that what they will do will be for the benefit of the people of Manitoba. I don't intend to single out or to speak of each of these new treasury positions, but of course I would mention the reappearance of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, because it was the decision of the voters there that brought him back to this House, and we do not in any way question their decision. However, I think we all regret that this decision meant that there was a departure from this House, of the former Member for St. Boniface, Mr. Paul Marion, who I think made contributions on a very high level and we will miss his taking part in the business and the debates of this House.

I would like to also, and I'm sorry he's not in his seat, mention the new portfolio now under the charge of the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre. This I think is an interesting portfolio and he has already in one of his contributions to the House indicated to us that he was having some difficulty with other members of the front bench in putting forward his particular needs and in securing the kind of financial support that he needed.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Corrections and Rehabilitation, I think occupies a chair that needs to be given support. I think of two reasons particularly. One was a statistic quoted to me just the other day by a member of the medical profession, which impressed me and I think it will impress most members of the House, whether they agree that it's completely accurate or not. Nevertheless there is a great number of medical practitioners who believe that this statistic is reasonably close to the truth. And the admission was that 20 percent of the cost of medical care delivered in our province is attributable to drug abuse - and I include in that alcoholism and the related ills. Mr. Speaker, this is an impressive statistic to me, if in fact it is true, that 20 percent of the money we spend on health care in our province is the result of self-induced illness, or self-induced accident possibly, if an accident can be termed to be self-induced, because the number of accidents relating to alcoholism as the Honourable the Minister for Autopac will probably agree is an important part of the accident picture. So, Mr. Speaker, if we include those accidents and the medical causes and medical costs associated, if we include the illnesses directly and indirectly resulting from the abuse of alcohol and of other drugs, we have a very serious problem and one that perhaps this Legislature will have to face in respect to whether or not it is fair for all of the taxpayers to cover all of the self-induced illnesses of the people of Manitoba.

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(Mr. McGill cont'd)

Mr. Speaker, the government is already asking for help in this respect. We would have expected that this would have been one of the prime considerations of the people who are concerned with the direction of health care in this province. But it is, Mr. Speaker, an important statistic and one that I am sure that they are giving some serious thought to at this time. The Minister of Corrections then because he is charged with the responsibility for the treatment of alcoholics and alcoholism and other types of drug abuse will be directly involved in this whole field.

There's one other field in which the Minister of Corrections may be not so well aware and that is in respect to the undertaking some years ago by this government to replace the correctional facility at Brandon. I believe oddly enough a month or two before the 1973 election a sign appears in the Brandon area announcing the imminent erection of a new corrections facility. And, Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Tourism said that he doesn't think he can find the money to comply with that original undertaking but that he might be able to repaint it, and I would think that some maintenance will be necessary on this sign before too long. But it is a serious matter because it is agreed that the facilities at Brandon are sadly inadequate. It is a fact that the people who work in that facility are having great difficulty; it is true that they are putting up with those difficulties because they have been given to understand that this facility would be replaced. It has not been done; there is now no apparent prospect of it being done in the near future and I'm sorry to report that the morale of the staffing in that institution is suffering. Mr. Speaker, we have been waiting two and a half years, I imagine we can still wait for the estimates, and I hope that the Minister of Corrections will receive this intimation of our concern in the Wes-Man area for this clear undertaking that was spelled out in the Throne Speech of a year ago, that a facility will be built. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, no date was attached to that statement.

Sir, I have other remarks of a particular nature to make in respect to the area of western Manitoba, but I would like to perhaps deal with one that the members opposite are becoming somewhat unhappy with from this side, and that is the whole question of the matter of the inflation in our economy that is causing concern and dismay and problems on every side. I think the Minister of Labour last night when he said he had a hell of a job at the present time, was simply stating that he has one of the major problems related to the inflationary spiral on his plate at the moment and he's finding it extremely difficult to deal with. I'm not suggesting that the government, the administration of the Province of Manitoba can in any single-handed way undertake to control the rapid escalation of wages and prices, but I do say that there is a serious problem here, that it is manifesting itself now in a series of disputes by unions who are anxious to try and keep abreast of the increasing cost of living or even to get a step or two ahead of it, and this is all part of the major problem.

Mr. Speaker, let us clearly understand that all of the disadvantages relating to inflation are not relative to the operations of the Province of Manitoba and the administration. I would like to again point out that a provincial government is one of the prime beneficiaries of a period of rapidly rising prices and wages. I'm sure I need not explain the reasons why that is true, simply that taxes which relate to prices and taxes which relate to income go up as rapidly as do those wages and those prices. But while the Provincial Government finds its revenues rapidly increasing, the same is not true of the municipal governments, and we have the case of the provincial beneficiary having to deal with the victim of inflation, the municipal government. And there is no clearer example, Mr. Speaker, of this problem than in the municipal government of the City of Winnipeg, which finds itself completely unable to cope with some of the major expenditures that are now required to look after the wants of the more than 550,000 people who live in the City of Winnipeg, simply because their costs of doing business are rapidly escalating and their revenues from their tax base, which is more or less fixed and does not vary so rapidly with price and wages, is inadequate, so the province is now faced and the province has undertaken to help that City of Winnipeg with the core area redevelopment. Mr. Speaker, that's necessary, that's required. But what I think is now more necessary and more urgent is that the Province of Manitoba clearly demonstrate to all municipal governments that they have a formula for giving some kind of additional support of sharing the revenues of the province with the municipal governments.

It's most important, sir, that this sharing of provincial revenues be done on an equitable

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) basis with all of the taxpayers of the province. Up to this point it has been done largely in an ad hoc way where emergencies have arisen and where the Province of Manitoba has had to deal with it and had to give support. They have provided assistance for transportation in Winnipeg, they've provided it in Brandon. They've provided other areas of assistance in some other urban areas, but Mr. Speaker, the difficulty is that the way in which this is done is not clearly seen to be an equitable one by all the people of the Province of Manitoba. And so I suggest, sir, that this government should concern itself with making sure that not only is equity done in the dispersal of provincial revenues to the municipal governments but that it should also may be seen to be done and that there may be a fairer amount of support, whether it be in proportion to population, or by whatever means, that the fair amount of support be seen to be given to rural municipalities, to other urban areas.

So, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the problems of inflation, the benefits in terms of greater revenues to the province, the difficulties in terms of greater expense to the municipal governments and their lack of increased revenues, are urgent ones and ones that need to be dealt with in a very urgent manner.

Related to this problem, Mr. Speaker, is that of school divisions who are relatives of the municipal governments and who are suffering from the same malaise. The Minister of Education just a few days ago announced the initial assistance that he was able to give to the school divisions in Manitoba in order to assist them with this problem of them having to face inflated salaries, greatly increased expenses, and a tax base that was relatively unchanged.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take as an example just one school division because it may be typical of the problems that are being faced by many school divisions. I take the case of the School Division No. 40 which covers the area of Brandon and vicinity. They are faced with an increase in local levy this year of \$1.2 million. They, in the previous year, raised \$2.2 million, they now have to raise \$3.4. That was before the announcement of the Minister of Education that he would have some additional assistance for them. This additional assistance has now been calculated and the total amount available will be 314,000. So, Mr. Speaker, instead of having to raise an additional 1.2 million, which was about 58 percent increase over last year's local levy, they will have to raise about 900 and some thousand dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the total amount of foundation grant, that is the proportion of the total budget for the Brandon school division, now amounts to about 62 percent. In 1967 when the foundation program was set up it amounted to 89 percent. So, during the intervening years the percentage of the total cost of education for the divisions, if this is typical, and I think it is, has dropped off from about 89 percent to, at the moment, 62 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this program must be readjusted. It does not keep up with the cost of inflation and a great disparity has occurred in the last two or three years, where the amount, the percentage of the total gross budget of the division from the foundation grant went from 74 percent down to 66 percent and now is 62 percent. Well, Mr. Speaker, there are a series of other formulae that are used in this - I am trying to use the total grant here and relate it to the gross budget of the School Division No. 40.

Mr. Speaker, not only is the problem that of inflation and increasing costs, there is a problem of the new programs that are being instituted by the Department of Education. Recently we had a mandatory change to a credit system in the high schools involving various options of courses. It would appear, Mr. Speaker, when the Department of Education announced this new program of credits during the final three years of high school, that there was not a concurrent study of the costs involved in providing the variety of options that should be provided if this new direction in education was to be made meaningful. In other words, a division that undertook to provide a student with many of these options, many of them good options, was not able to ensure that there was a backup of financial resource available for them to do this. In other words, it seemed that all the additional cost was going to fall upon the divisions. Now if there has been any reluctance for the divisions to announce these new options, or to make them available to students, surely it must be related to a great degree to the additional cost involved. Mr. Speaker, I am asking why, when the Research and Planning Division of the Department of Education undertook to insist that these programs be instituted in high schools there was not some concurrent cost projections and some additional assistance provided in the field of education. These are areas in which this government has certainly a great deal of catching up to do. There is much to be done in the way of providing a reasonable,

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) a modern formula for the foundation grants. It was an excellent program in its beginning. There have been additions and amendments and changes, but they have not kept pace. If we are to have an option program of a variety of courses that cost varying amounts of money, from a very cheap program in English to a very expensive one involving lab equipment, or computers, or whatever, surely there needs to be some formula used by the Department of Education that will weigh the average of the student's program. It may be necessary for the department to go into the programming and ensure that if students are programming for expensive courses that some additional assistance will be granted. Otherwise there will be restrictions undoubtedly in the number of courses that can be provided for the students in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, we have not deliberately or intentionally stayed away from a discussion of the general directions of education. I am sure we will have an opportunity to pursue that debate when the estimates of the Minister are brought before this House. There are many matters of debate and I note that they are becoming of increasing frequency in discussion amongst school trustees and school teachers, and I am sure that this will produce some reaction from the Minister of Education and certainly I hope that what he will have to offer in the way of changes will be in keeping with the experience that has been read by business, by universities, and by other organizations, who are receiving the graduates of our high school system at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, let me just go briefly now to some issues that have been a subject of debate in this House. We mentioned earlier that the decorum of the House and the respect for the rulings of the Chair, sir, were important in the expeditious treatment of the business brought before us. I suggest, sir, that it isn't altogether the difficulty in respect to the way in which we conduct ourselves in the Assembly, that the increasing length of the sessions is due in a large part to the increasing participation and involvement of this administration in business and industry within the province. Mr. Speaker, I get the impression that what's happening in the House is that we are becoming almost a continuous annual meeting of shareholders and that, as example, Autopac is related to us and we have debated Autopac over the years. It has been the taking up of a great deal of the time in the House, and as the administration sees fit to proceed into other businesses like the Aerospace Industry, the seed business, whatever, we are going to find that more and more of the time of this House is going to be taken up with our representation of the voluntary and involuntary shareholders, the taxpayers in this province. So they need to be represented. They don't often have a chance, as this government undertakes to go in this.

Mr. Speaker, I was sorry that the Minister of Labour was not in his seat when I began my observations because I had pointed out that we relied upon people who have been in the House a long time to help us, we the newer members, in knowing how to conduct ourselves in the debates and we always look to him for direction. I appreciate your help in my presentation.

Mr. Speaker, the difficulty it seems to me is that we are going to spend more and more time dealing with business matters in this House as the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation acquires more and more problems. These have to be under debate, we have to assist the Minister because we can see that he has many problems and many expenses. So it's important that we represent those shareholders, the taxpayers in our constituency, and present their views on the participation of the province in business.

Another area of problem, for me, is that as the participation of this administration in business becomes greater, there develops a greater and greater conflict of interest. We've all been interested in examining the conflicts which may be present in the individual members interests. We should examine the conflicts that we are developing, that the administration is developing for itself in attempting now to compete in the business world and sit in judgment in this Chamber and provide the regulations for that business world. We provide the taxes for the business world and we are also going to compete with those people who are paying the revenues of this province. Mr. Speaker, I can't think of any greater conflict of interests than that which is now developing in this province. It's no wonder that the province, when it gets into the seed business, wants to become a monopoly, because I think it can appreciate that there are real dangers involved if it is simply one of the competitors. It is no wonder that it has difficulty when it gets into the business like the Aerospace Industry where all of the ingredients come from outside the province, and unfortunately most of the market is outside the province. So,

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) the Province of Manitoba has very little opportunity in that business to exercise influence on both sides. It seems to be one of the business where there is perhaps less conflict but a less chance of success for this government. Mr. Speaker, let me not dwell at any great length upon that problem because I think it is one that is going to be with us as long as this administration is with us. Hopefully we will have something to say in a concrete way about that in the next year or two.

The Minister for Autopac made the statement just a few moments ago that the administrative costs, I believe he said, were less than half for Autopac compared to private industry. If I'm not quoting him precisely I apologize but it was in the nature of that general relationship. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we will ever know what the administration costs of Autopac are. I presume that all the costs of the ministry which has been set up is included in the statement of the profit and loss of the Autopac business, which incidentally, the Minister has reported to us without having tabled in the House. I don't know whether this is an appropriate procedure of the House but he has stated that the losses will be 10 million but that the statement is not yet ready to be presented to the House, so I don't know, Mr. Speaker, whether or not he has included the expenses of his own ministry. Whether or not there are any proportion of the expenses of the Motor Vehicles Branch or the Highways Branch, or any other. Does he include in that the cost of the additional time which this Assembly sits. I notice that there has been a special warrant in recent weeks which covered legislation and the explanation is, as the number of legislative assembly sitting weeks was higher than anticipated, sessional personnel were required for a longer period, resulting in over-expenditure for salaries. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if that expense has been included in the administrative costs of Autopac. I wonder if these expenses are in any way taken into account in the increasing participation of this government in business.

I think that I could not leave this subject without mentioning the special involvement of the Province of Manitoba in the operation of McKenzie Seed. This is a business that Brandon is very proud of. It employs a number of people, more than 250 I'm told, and one that has been in Brandon for many, many years. It's true that from 1964 to 1970 the business didn't make very much money, in fact it lost some money for most of those years. But, Mr. Speaker, it didn't lose very much money and it was proceeding in a very careful, a very strict and rigid program of economy because the people who ran it were sound, hard-nosed businessmen and they knew that the way to succeed in that business was by careful, slow development of their product and to rely upon the increasing need in the agricultural economy for their products. And this I think, Mr. Speaker, was going on. But the difficulties seemed to develop when there was a less than arm's length relationship between the McKenzie Seed and the Province of Manitoba. I wish that the Minister of Industry and Commerce were here, Mr. Speaker, because I think that his modesty in respect to his participation in this business ill becomes him. He is a man who should take a great deal of credit for what has gone on in the last four or five years at McKenzie Seed. He, in the question period a few days ago, denied that he was one of the negotiators or that he negotiated, I think was the term I said, an agreement with a Mexican seed firm which would have produced some considerable advantages to the McKenzie Seed Company.

I would just like to quote from a news release, Mr. Speaker, that was issued to us on March 3, 1972, and it's datelined Mexico City; this is Mexico City Special: "A. E. McKenzie Limited, Brandon, which in the past year purchased the Steele-Briggs and Brett-Young seed operations to become one of the largest horticultural merchandisers in Canada has acquired a minority interest in a new and ambitious retail horticultural program in Mexico, Industry Minister Len Evans has announced. Mr. Evans said that its interest in Bon Jardin of Mexico will allow the sales of product tariff free throughout the Latin American free trade area." I note that in brackets he has given the code name for the Latin American free trade area and there might have been read into that some portent of what the future held. It's in brackets, LAFTA, I don't know what that means. "This is a substantial market he declared, Mexico alone has twice as many people as Canada." And he goes on to say that they have already received a carload of rose bushes from Mexico and that these are now . . . Mr. Speaker, I wonder if there was any other material ever received from the Mexican subsidiary. They got one carload of rose bushes and I rather question whether anything further was received from the Mexican . . .

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd)

I think the final statement here, Mr. Speaker, is rather interesting, by the Minister of Industry and Commerce, he says: "I would say that the chief benefit to McKenzie's is that the way is now paved for its entry into the entire Latin American market. This new Mexican venture will result in substantially increased international trade and eventually more jobs for Manitobans and, of course, substantially more dividends." Well following that participation by I'm sure the Manitoba Government in this relationship with Mexican interests, there was a relationship between the Manitoba Government and the Government of Holland and it was then agreed that there would be some fresh cut flowers flown to the Manitoba market from that operation. I'm afraid, Mr. Speaker, that this was also a difficult and unfortunate experience for A. E. McKenzie.

Sir, all of this points to the fact that when a government becomes directly involved in a business it detracts from the ability of people whose principal occupation is making decisions in that business, it second guesses people in the business and it results in the kind of situation which McKenzie's now face where they have a massive debt over their heads. They were able to operate with normal bank loans until expansions were made using bank money at rather high rates of interest even two or three years ago as you will well appreciate. So now even to pay interest charges which amount to well over \$600,000 a year is becoming a chore for the A. E. McKenzie Seed Company.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this intrusion, this participation by the Province of Manitoba in the affairs of McKenzie Seed Company will not result in a damage to the industry that will be irreparable. This is an important industry to Manitoba, every one of us hopes that it will succeed. I think that's true of every business which the government is in for whatever reason at this point, whether they imported it from Toronto and outbid other governments to get Aerospace here doesn't matter now; what is the important thing is that we're into it and we've got to find a way to get out of it with minimum loss or find a way to make it profitable. And we're not going to do that by having people in government whose experience in business is much less than those people who are available and who are able to make the decisions in running these affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I bring to your attention these particular areas that we have not perhaps paid enough attention to, the increasing preoccupation of this House with business affairs, most of them loss leaders, most of them businesses that are costing us money not only in administration costs in this House which haven't been perhaps reflected in the balance sheets but also in the balance sheets of the companies themselves.

Let me just close, Mr. Speaker, with one reference again to the Department of Education, and I was rather hoping that the Honourable Member for Inkster would be back in his seat because I think this would be of interest to him. I think it is somewhat indicative of the attitudes and the directions in which the Department of Education is going when recently a school teacher went to the department and he said that he would like to get a debating class going among his students and he talked to a senior administrator and the administrator said after the teacher had made some request for minor support for this, what probably would be an extra-curricular activity but one which he felt would be beneficial to the students. The administrator said, in his view, debating was an elitist, middle-class occupation and as such was not of particular interest to him, and presumably I suppose not of particular interest to the department which he represented and in which his views would have some authority.

Well, Mr. Speaker, so much for the bureaucratic opinion of what is alleged to take place in this Chamber. We are supposed to be conducting in a proper manner and obeying the normal rules of debate in succeeding in conducting our business, but I think that if these are typical of the views of the department, there is scant hope that the job of your successor, sir, in the Chair, will be any easier or that the business of this House will be dealt with in any better manner than it is at present. Let us hope, sir, that some more refreshing and forward looking views are brought to the Department of Education so that the future of this Chamber may be ensured. Thank you.

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

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you again on resuming your responsibilities as what I consider to be the president of this room, of this Chamber, I hope that you will continue to receive the co-operation that you've had in the years past.

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(MR. TOUPIN cont'd)

And equally to congratulate the Deputy Speaker. I, for one, am very happy to see that responsibility to go again to the honourable member. And contrary to the Member for Virden, I wish to congratulate the mover of the Speech from the Throne, the Honourable Member for Thompson. I believe that the honourable member made a good presentation, a good assessment of the problems of the North and problems that should be dealt with, part of them has been dealt with especially in the last five years and he's exposed to us what had to be done in the years ahead, which is contrary to what we receive from the Opposition, specially the Conservatives in this House. They're ready to criticize but very little constructive methods that have to be used in the future to change the problems before us - and I'll come back to that later.

I wish to equally congratulate the Member for St. Matthews for his exposé as the seconder for the Speech from the Throne. He's brought forward equally some problems that we have in the urban part of Winnipeg, what is being done to correct some of these problems and he's proven to be a good member of this House over the years. I'm very proud and honoured to look up to these members in the back row, especially the Honourable Member for St. Matthews and the Honourable Member for Thompson.

Although I'm forced to look down at the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, I wish to congratulate him very sincerely for his re-election to this House. I congratulate more specifically the electorate in St. Boniface to having re-elected the honourable member. He's participated well for many years in this House and I know that he'll make a distinct impression in the department that he now holds, being Health and Social Development.

The two new Cabinet Ministers that have been appointed since the last Session, I personally have had the opportunity to sit with them in Cabinet, in committees, and I can inform the honourable members of the House that don't know this, they're making more than a justifiable contribution to the people of Manitoba in their respective departments. And here I'm talking about the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre, the Minister of Corrections and Rehabilitation dealing with the problems of chemical abuse, and the Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources. Both are quite promising, are dealing with problems, are consulting with people, and not only consulting but taking in consideration the advice received from those that are affected with those problems. --(Interjection)-- Yes, I'm sorry, I should have said that. The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources is equally given the responsibility, the great responsibility of Co-operative Development in this province, which has lagged so much in the previous administration, and I can say this in all sincerity because I worked for ten years in a co-operative movement before coming to this House and I know the little contribution that was made by the past administration in regard to co-operative development previous to this government taking the responsibility of the administration of co-operatives and more particularly credit unions in this province.

The Honourable Member for Rhineland has indicated again by way of criticism that a lot of the problems that we now see or apparent problems in Health and Social Development stem because of my term when I was Minister of Health and Social Development. You know, that's a criticism that I can accept in the sense that the honourable member is willing to attribute to one member of Cabinet faults that we have today that have not been rectified, but he fails again like so many members of the Conservative benches, to indicate what he would do to rectify some of the problems that are before us today. And he fails equally to mention and, you know, that's really the story of Conservatives in this House, what has been done with regards to health and social development of individuals in this province in the last five years. When he talks to the media, when he talks to people in his constituency and when he talks to anyone that's willing to listen to him, he doesn't say what has been accomplished; he's willing to criticize, he's willing to attribute problems to one given individual that works within a Cabinet or caucus structure as he so well knows but yet is not wanting to bring out the good points.

We should never fail to want to recognize that certain good things have been accomplished and if there are things that have to be rectified, I would hope that the members of the Opposition, like the Member for Fort Rouge did yesterday when he spoke, did come out with alternatives. That is a responsibility of the Opposition. Criticize - good constructive criticism - but let's have some alternatives. Just don't say well we're going to reduce taxes. Yes, we're going to reduce taxes, by what means? How are we going to do this? We're going to

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(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) reduce personal and corporate tax in the Province of Manitoba. Fine. That's a statement. But what services are you going to withdraw because of that reduction in tax? Do you tell the people of Manitoba what services are going to be withdrawn? Never, I've never heard it.

I can recall Mr. Speaker, and colleagues in the House, at the last election my Conservative opponent indicated and criticized me as a member of the Cabinet and as a sitting MLA for Springfield about giveaways to farmers in Springfield, giveaways to farmers. Did he say that he was going to take those giveaways away from people in Springfield? No way. Did he say that he was going to increase the interest rates to the loans made to farmers? Did he say that? No way. Did he show alternatives when we sat on platforms together, no. Criticism, veiled criticism in a lot of cases. I would wish that you would not take my advice because I don't think that you're willing to take my advice as a government member. Take the advice that was given to you yesterday by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge; read again those words that were said by this honourable member of the House. I don't agree, I don't agree with everything that he said but I agree with the part where he mentioned that members of the Conservative caucus should attempt to be a bit more constructive, a bit more constructive, a bit more constructive and do come forward with alternatives like he had. --(Interjection)--

Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend indicates what are we going to tell them about Autopac. Obviously the honourable member has not been listening because my colleague for the last 45 minutes talked about Autopac, gave you examples about Autopac and I didn't recall seeing you in the House. Maybe you should read it in Hansard. I thought it was just a tremendous speech.

I would like to take this advantage to talk briefly about my own constituency which I am very proud of. I very seldom have the opportunity to do so, I don't take the opportunity during my estimates to talk about Springfield, which I am the MLA and which I attempt to deal with problems in Springfield. And mention was made by the Member of the Opposition just a few minutes ago about a bridge in Springfield. Yes, there will be a bridge constructed in Springfield, in St. Adolphe and that bridge, Mr. Speaker, was not constructed, was not promised by the Conservatives. The people in St. Adolphe waited for over 50 years for a bridge, over 50 years. It took us four years to commit a bridge, and here I have to thank my honourable colleague, the Minister of Highways, for dealing with that problem, because it was a problem, a serious problem in St. Adolphe, as it was in Ste. Agathe, as it was in many other areas in the province. People have died going across that river, the Red River in St. Adolphe. And because of the problems we decided to go ahead and construct a bridge that will cost a lot of money, but we feel it's justified. Many other programs have been initiated in Springfield to deal with problems, mainly agricultural problems, and I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the land-lease program launched by the previous administration and implemented really and encouraged in a sense or reacted by this government has been well received by the people of Springfield, has been well received by the majority of farmers wanting to utilize that program - the land-lease program.

I can bring you files, Mr. Speaker, as the MLA for Springfield of contented constituents of mine in Springfield, because they avail themselves of that program, a program that was distorted to the ultimate by the Conservatives at the last election - distorted, completely distorted. And this is one of the reasons why in the future it will be my policy as a Minister of the Crown to lay it on the table. I hope that the press will carry it, I hope that the press will pick up the - I hope that the press will carry the information to the public as it is displayed here in this pamphlet pertaining to the land-lease program, so that there will be no possibility of the members of the Opposition to distort this program. Let any member of the Opposition come to me or come to the Minister of Agriculture, or go to the press, and indicate that a farmer has been forced to sell his land to the Crown. Cite us one example of that, because of the land-lease program. Not once. It's an agreed upon sale that takes place, the land is leased back to a willing, new farmer in a lot of cases, and with an option to buy. The government itself, you don't see the Minister of Agriculture or his civil servants going out there with the John Deeres and the McCormicks and everything else, farming, you don't see that, but that's the impression that the Conservatives were leaving at the last election. The government was going to buy all of the land, farm the land themselves, hire civil servants to do that. That

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(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) was a complete distortion of the facts. And to confirm my statement, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Rhineland says "that's the next step". Well you indicate to me today that civil servants are out there farming the land and that's the day I will no longer support this program. That's the type of distortion that we've seen in the past, that's the only type of distortion that the Conservatives are able to bring forward. Not constructive criticism, but distortion of the facts. Complete distortion of the facts.

This program, Mr. Speaker, is hailed by a lot of farmers in Springfield as a possibility of either increasing their acreage, the possibility of younger farmers to go back on the farm and after a given period of time be able to purchase a farm that they've leased and become proud farmers in the Province of Manitoba. Under the previous administration we have seen over close to 11 years of administration of the Conservatives a decline in the number of farmers in Manitoba. By means of this program, Mr. Speaker, it will be possible to incite, to encourage new farmers to go back on the land. And I for one support that. --(Interjection)-- I have been on the committees.

There's been a lot of talk about Autopac, and again the distortion of facts about Autopac, and again it seems to be an unwillingness on the part of the press to print the information as given by the respective departments. That can be decided by the public if it is correct or not. When a press release is made, and if we are talking of a free press, whether it be the Free Press itself or the Tribune or any other weekly or daily newspaper, if we want the public to be informed, we should give them the choice to look at the information as it is given by, whether it be a private enterprise, a co-operative movement or a department of government, and not attempt to change the presentation as it comes forward. And I think, I not only think but I know the public is smart enough to distinguish between distortion, lies, and what is considered to be the truth. And here's where I have to agree with the Honourable Member for Virten, because of a lot of these veiled statements made by politicians inside and outside of this House the respect for a lot of politicians has diminished over the years, and I think that we as a group have a responsibility not to not become available to the public but to attempt to represent the views of the public and fight for their rights maybe more than we have in the past.

When the Honourable Minister responsible for the Public Insurance Corporation indicates that we're talking of a deficit for automobile insurance in the Province of Manitoba, we could equally say that if the premiums were the same as they are in Ontario and Quebec we would not be talking of a 10, 20 million dollar deficit, we'd be talking of a great surplus. But at the expense of whom? At the expense of those that buy insurance on vehicles and so on. That's another statement that is not made by members of the Opposition when they talk about a deficit, they only intend to reflect what is considered to be bad on the part of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, they don't say equally that the insurance prior to Autopac for a lot of people in the Province of Manitoba was so excessive in some cases, and I can cite my own. Going back a few years I had to pay \$359.00 for six months on a 1933 Chev. and I had -- (Interjections)-- Well, if you'll listen I'll tell you. I hadn't had an accident, and the first accident I had they cut me off, they no longer wanted to insure me. --(Interjection)-- I was considered to be a bad risk after one accident that was proven in court not to be my fault. Now you know that's a case that you can look up. And I did sell insurance for a period of seven years for Co-operative Insurance Services, so I think I know some of the problems and some of the directives that have been implemented by the private sector and the co-operative insurance companies, whether it be in fire or general insurance. So let's not only look at what we have today but what we had yesterday pertaining to private insurance, and the close monopoly of some companies in the Province of Manitoba before we had the Public Insurance Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to indicate that in the constituency that I represent, being Springfield, that in the last five years we've dealt with quite a few problems that had been related to constituents on an ongoing basis, like many members do in this House, by sending out pamphlets of what is intended to be accomplished by this government, what has been accomplished in the past and what is planned for the future. And I can indicate that in regards to meetings that we have in Springfield, we have ongoing meetings at least once a month pertaining to at least one or two representatives from each poll in Springfield which attempts to deal with the problems that we have in this constituency, and the reaction is good, the support is much better than it has been back in 1969, not because of the present sitting MLA in Springfield but because of the co-operation between the executive that we had in the House here last evening

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(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) with the member sitting. And I say by only that means can we be effective in dealing with problems effectively.

I can indicate equally that in regards to the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs that we will be doing quite a few things in the Province of Manitoba that will extend the rights of individuals to enjoy themselves right in their province and equally make it more feasible for visitors from other parts of Canada and the States to enjoy recreational facilities in Manitoba.

One of those that has been announced is the ski slope at Bird's Hill which is now being developed and hopefully will be in full operation in a very few years from now. The other program that is being initiated, which I believe will be well received by especially people living in Greater Winnipeg and possibly Brandon and Thompson, which is a program that has been started by the department and will be pressed on with, is Community Gardens in the City of Winnipeg in available space that we have, where the department will combine the possibility of individuals actually having their own gardens, especially for those living in apartment blocks, combined with recreational facilities, where the land is either owned by some department of the Crown or agencies of the Crown like Hydro - where a Hydro line goes through the City of Winnipeg.

I think this has been experienced elsewhere in Canada, British Columbia more particularly and a lot of countries in Europe and I've had a lot of requests to have this initiated through the department because of the combination of services, being the garden that is desired by those individuals and equally recreational facilities within the garden complex. Necessarily we'll have to have facilities available, like tool sheds, not to keep rotor tillers, because that will be done jointly by the department itself, but in regards to other tools that have to be kept in the tool sheds. This will certainly be well received, especially in Winnipeg and possibly Brandon and Thompson has explored the possibility of a different type of garden for those living in the northern part of the province where the summer season is much shorter.

I've had quite a few questions that I'd like to deal with at this time, Mr. Speaker, in regards to public library service in our province. I can indicate to those members of the House that have had questions from either constituents or other members of the province that the Newsome report has been filed quite some time ago with the Legislative Library and is certainly available to any member of the House that would like to review the Newsome report, and I will be tabling in the House copies for all members that would like to review the Newsome recommendations and what is implicated for the future pertaining to those recommendations. Copies are not readily available but they will be in the next few days available to any members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, there's only one point that I feel merits to be considered by all members of the House: That we be willing to criticize one another when criticism is justified, but equally to come forward with adequate alternatives pertaining to what we actually blame others for not doing or doing wrongly. And I think by doing so that we can heighten the image of politicians, at least at this level. Thank you.

. . . . continued on next page

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia

MR. PATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We heard today from the Minister of Public Insurance Corporation, and I know he probably will not have another opportunity to give us a full explanation which he took the opportunity today. I do not want to make too much reference in respect to his department because I may be accused of having a conflict of interest. There's not too often that I agree with the Member for St. Matthews, but I do want to say at this time that I agree with him on one issue and that gasoline tax should not be used to subsidize the automobile insurance. --(Interjection)-- Yes. Sure it is.

Mr. Speaker, I think that what we should be trying to do is to have people utilize as much as possible public transit system at the present time and not try to subsidize automobile users which we are told that within 15 years we'll be running out of fuel. And this is what we're doing by using the gas tax to subsidize, and I know it will amount to about \$4 million, somewhere close to it, and if that is the case I cannot see why we should not use this amount of money to increase the supplement for our senior citizens who are facing a serious problem as far as cost of living and inflation is concerned. So that's the area that I wish to agree with the Member for St. Matthews, and that's all I'll --(Interjection)-- Well, I will . . .

MR. SPEAKER: . . . the Member for St. Matthews state his matter of privilege.

MR. WALLY JOHANNSON (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, I am reluctant to bring this up but the honourable member's not agreeing with me and he's twisting what I said. I did not say that the two-cent gasoline tax is a subsidy, I specifically said that it was not.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, again the Member for St. Matthews did say that he did not agree with that. So if he will accept that then I'll . . . What his reasons are I don't know.

Mr. Speaker, when one takes part in the Throne Speech debate, it is always customary in this House to congratulate you to be the protectorate and guardian of the rules of this House where free debate can continue and as representatives of the electorate we have that right, and I wish you well and hope you have continued success and health.

I also wish to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the speech in reply. I do not agree with many of their remarks but I do have to say that they really gave a good account of themselves and made good speeches.

Also I wish to congratulate the new Ministers and perhaps the point that I would like to make at this time, if I would single out at least a couple of Ministers - I know one is in the House, the Minister of Urban Affairs - at least I can say they make themselves accessible to - at least any time that I needed to call them, they made themselves accessible not only when the House is sitting but when the House is not in session, and I wish to compliment them for that. I know the other Minister is not here, the Minister of Labour.

But, the other point that I would like to perhaps--and I'll come to that later on in my speech, Mr. Speaker, is, I did take some exception to what the Member for Fort Garry had to say yesterday, and I will come to that later in my remarks because I do feel that he was very much misinformed in the statements that he made. I know that he did say that his party has many policies and I would, you know, try to ask him, or ask him to take a look in journals in the last six years that he has been in opposition, and I want to give him credit and the former Member for Emerson that was in this House, because they were the only two members that really paid attention and gave some attention as far as labour legislation is concerned in this province. But aside from that there is nothing on record or in journals that you'll find, and if it's always been said that the governments defeat themselves, and with what we've seen to last week I don't believe that you'll have an opportunity, if you continue to move, unless you were incorrectly reported in the papers as far as labour legislation is concerned, what took place at the convention, because I understand the Chairman of the Labour Policy Committee was extremely critical of what happened. So I say that, again moving to the little red school house will certainly not enhance your position to form the government if that day would come.

But I would like to say to the Member for Fort Garry, I am on record, and you can check journals as far back as ten years ago, in such areas as supervised strike vote, statutory holiday pay, vacation pay, certification matters, higher minimum wage, industrial safety, workmen's compensation, widow's allowances, appeal to Workmen's Compensation, 40-hour work week, and many others, these are the few that you'll go back for 10 years and you'll

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . find me on record in every instance. And I would like to again not accuse the present members, but when the government--when your party was on the other side, there was one issue that we had to fight. You had a government supervised strike vote, you said you can hold a strike but we will supervise it, the same way as saying to a car driver or automobile driver that we will put a policeman in every car because you may be speeding. --(Interjection)-- That's true, this is what . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: The member for . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. SHERMAN: Will the Member for Assiniboia permit one question, Mr. Speaker? I would ask the Member for Assiniboia, Mr. Speaker, whether with all the proposals that he put forward in the last 10 years, whether that has enabled his party to achieve government?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, you know there's some people, some members can accomplish an awful lot in opposition, not just certainly on behalf of a party but on behalf of themselves and their . . . in this House. I could tell the honourable member that of all these proposals, I would say they are all on the statute books today. I used to propose them not once but almost every year when you were on that side, and again I had to do this quite often for about four or five years before the present Minister brought them into legislation. So, I don't think it's the most important thing to be in government, I think we have to sort of appraise the legislation that we put before this House.

But, Mr. Speaker, I will deal with some other matter that-- and I want to deal with some other matter that I took exception to. --(Interjection)-- No, I won't have time, Mr. Speaker, really. Perhaps I should deal with it right now, and I certainly took exception because the Member for Fort Garry, last night, in my opinion, was, at least his remarks were biased, the remarks were unbalanced and unfair. And, because when he spoke about the new Green Paper on immigration, and surely it doesn't take anyone, you know, that can read, what is the Green Paper all about? The Green Paper was put out and if you read the first paragraph in the report, the first paragraph, Mr. Speaker, is, "The House of Commons in 1973, The Honourable Robert Andras, Minister of Manpower and Immigration, announced plans for comprehensive review of Canada's immigration policy. From the outset the approach to this review has emphasized the value of public discussion and the desirability of obtaining the widest possible cross-section of opinion. When the review was launched the Minister accordingly invited national organizations to submit whatever comments they might wish to offer on behalf of the members during the first stage of review, extending this invitation to concerned Canadians across the whole country." Now the point that I wish to make to him, he called it "that's a racist" but the Minister said let the people decide what the policy on immigration should be. But what did one of the mayors that was here at the Conservation Convention just two days ago, Mr. Crombie, he said it was one of the best things that ever happened to have the Green Paper on immigration so that the people can decide what the immigration policy should be and not the government itself.

The Mayor of Calgary said the same thing . . . the Mayor of Toronto, and it's a known fact that most of the people come and end up in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, so this is what the paper is all about. That's what the paper is all about, Mr. Speaker, so I cannot accept, you know, that this was some kind of a racist scheme. Furthermore, the Minister on CTV just three days, or four days ago, answered to a question because many of the submissions that are submitted by the public, by the Canadian public to the government, some want to curtail growth, to restrict immigration, some want complete open immigration, but most of the petitions that are coming back to the government is stating that they want to curtail some immigration and restrict it to certain areas. And the Minister openly said, if the public, if the Canadians want any restricted immigration based on any racial prejudice I will not be the Minister of that Department and I will quit and I will not accept if that's what the Canadian public wants. So how open can a Minister be? And I don't need to defend the federal government because on many occasions they need to be criticized, but in this area I would--and I will be waiting and interested to hear what the Member of Fort Garry has to say in his resolution. Surely we need more immigration in Manitoba, in Northern Manitoba, for areas where job opportunities are available. And the mayors of Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal are

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . concerned about all the immigrants coming to those cities but I think that what has been done is the proper thing to do. Let the people decide. Let the people of Canada have an input in what the immigration policy should be.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned with inflation and I know that the points that were made in the Throne Speech were nothing new and not very challenging. There were mentions made of changes that will be made in MDC and perhaps Manitoba Hydro should take some steps in developing the nuclear energy. These are welcome. But much of what has been said, Mr. Speaker, has been said in all other throne speeches at least for three years. We've had Denticare mentioned in three of those speeches and I do not see much new. Inflation and cost of living is probably the biggest concern and the biggest issue before us and yet the government, in my opinion, had no plan and it did not deal with this serious problem in the Throne Speech. I think the government must enact legislation to the people that will feel the effect of inflation most keenly, and I'm talking about the senior citizens and the ones with --(Interjection)-- Well, that may be one member's opinion. But I do feel that the senior citizens are today really suffering. They have difficulty in meeting their expenses, in paying their tax, and I would say that the pensioners on fixed income should receive a further supplement, I would say at least \$300 per person, \$500 per household. This may be a pretty high expense as far as the province is concerned, but I feel that this should be shared with the Federal Treasury as well, Mr. Speaker. That's one area.

The other area. I know that the members of the New Democratic Party have continually talked about sales tax, and that they didn't like the sales tax, but I do feel that this is another area that perhaps the consumers could have got a break at this time, if at least the sales tax would have been removed from some of the more essential items and perhaps reduced by one or two percent. Even on a temporary basis. Even for a year during the time when we have such a high cost of inflation. I think that the consumer should be entitled to some modest relief. I feel that the Manitoba Government will receive more revenue, Mr. Speaker, this year because of the taxation of the Family Allowances, the capital gains tax which is a new tax in the province, which will be taxable on some of our workers, and this is an area that I feel we should not receive profit on inflation but deal with the serious problem which the Throne Speech does not deal with, Mr. Chairman.

The Throne Speech indicates that changes will be sought in the legislation governing the Manitoba Development Corporation. I say to the government, this is welcome news. And, perhaps, it is the public reaction that the government has given this some consideration, because it doesn't matter what quarter of the province, or where you go today, there was serious consideration when you have indicated in the MDC report again, what is it? - \$56 million losses this year, I believe again, and that this is a concern to many people in the province. I believe that we can serve our small business, the industry which is still the small businessman is the backbone of economics, the economic base in this province, we can serve it better through the small loans branch through the Department of Industry and Commerce. I believe that we can expand our research institute in the province to be of assistance to the small industry, to the small businessman. We can be of much greater assistance and offer large amounts of money to one industry, because in the long run it will still be the small businessmen in this province that employs more people in total than the few large corporations, Mr. Speaker.

I'm sure that the government cannot be completely satisfied with its economic program and its economic experience in this province during the past few years. We still have many thousand people unemployed; we still have the brain-drain to other provinces; we still have the large MDC losses. I ask the government to stimulate new investment, promote it in the private sector and promote it in the small industrial base.

I know that one area that the government will have and the Minister of Industry and Commerce will have to concern themselves with is where in Alberta I understand that they have launched a new program for small business, for small industry, which will have an effect on other provinces, which will have an effect on the Province of Manitoba, and really I don't mean that they'll have to . . . you know, in Alberta they don't need to offer any incentives for business to move to that province because it's attracting business without any incentives, but the incentives I understand, the small firms will be eligible for almost complete reduction of provincial corporation tax, if the Conservative party in Alberta is elected, in all likelihood

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . it will be, and this is one of the big features. The other one is that the small business locating anywhere in the rural part of Alberta will have a three year tax holiday of up to \$500,000 of taxable income. These two incentives are quite expensive, Mr. Speaker, and this is something that the Minister of Industry and Commerce of this province will have to deal with.

I wish to make a few comments, Mr. Speaker, in respect to the health care in this province. I believe that in Winnipeg there is a serious shortage of acute care hospital beds. Should any member doubt that, let him consult his own physician or administrators of Winnipeg hospitals. These shortages are caused by the fact that many hospital beds are occupied by extended care patients because of the lack of extended care facilities, and I'm sure that the members on the government side will remember during the last Session the debate that took place in this House. So I feel that this government must address itself to the question of how to meet the rising expectations of Manitobans regarding delivery of health services. Is the government rationing health services by its ad hoc budget restriction? I think that we need a clear-cut priority from this government.

I have some very important questions to ask and I'm sorry that the Minister of Health and Social Services is not in the House, but I hope that he will read the questions because I believe that not only that the government, but I believe all parties in this House and all politicians have to concern themselves with this problem. What is the present ratio of hospital beds per 1,000 people in Winnipeg and in rural Manitoba; and what does the government see is an ideal ratio between city and rural? I think that the people have a right to know and I think that the government should tell us what . . . --(Interjection)-- Well, I just mentioned, I think that it's not only the government responsibility but I said it's everyone's responsibility in this House to concern themselves with this question. How many acute care beds are available in Winnipeg today, and how many is there in the province of Manitoba? How many people are waiting for admission to hospitals in Winnipeg for elective surgery? I wonder if the Minister or the government can tell us. These are serious problems, Mr. Speaker, and these are the questions that are being asked of us every day. So surely the Minister will have to find some solutions and find some answers to these questions and tell the public so the public will be aware how many beds we have and how many beds this province can afford to have and what is the ratio that the government feels is the correct ratio. How many new nursing beds are to be built in Winnipeg or in rural Manitoba this year? Again, we have no such answer from the government, Mr. Speaker. I believe these are important and that we should hear from the Minister and from the government. Or is the government intending to ration the health services in this province? I think that we should know this point, sir.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to just make a few comments on the Status of Women. This is the year, 1975, which has been proclaimed as International Women's Year and I ask the government to act in this area to develop programs which would enable women to become more economically independent through integration of women in the Manitoba labour force, especially in the public service. The Department of Labour should assist women re-entering the Manitoba labour force. More training and retraining opportunities should be made available. Equal pay must be enforced and extended to include fringe benefits and I believe that employers should be encouraged to give women the opportunity for upward advancement in labour. Even last year in government departments there was not this equal opportunity even as far as the wage scale was concerned and I know the Member for Portage la Prairie had to press the Minister of Labour to make sure that this happens and comes to fruition. I think that government must implement in Manitoba more recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women that was produced last year.

Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to take any time but I do want to say a few words on the city core development. I know my colleague from Fort Rouge has covered that quite adequately but I think that urban renewal must be an important area of government activity because this is the orderly process of rebuilding a city or community to improve working and living conditions for the people of the city. It involves redevelopment, rehabilitation, conservation used in combination with many designated areas.

I know that in the City of San Francisco, that city is raising money to tear down a new subway - not a subway, a new transportation system to the city that was just finished a year

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . ago. In the City of St. Louis, they're tearing down a large residential low rental housing that has been financed over a period of 50 years. So, Mr. Speaker, it is I feel very important to have a proper program and a proper plan for the whole city instead of unrelated types of programs that only benefit certain specific areas.

Mr. Speaker, this government promised to do much for some of our less fortunate people in the past five years, almost six years now, but the facts are that in Metropolitan Winnipeg a serious poverty problem still exists. The people in the centre core area, and I'm talking about the Midland railway area, some of those people still lack adequate education, some still lack decent housing, they lack proper jobs, and after this many years in office we still have the same problem that we had years ago. We have more people on welfare and the lot has not been improved for many of our less fortunate people on low income in the core area, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to offer some recommendations to the Minister of Labour in connection to the working poor. Mr. Speaker, the working poor are those who do work but have difficulty obtaining enough income for their work to maintain themselves at the level of being able to buy the necessities that they require for life. These are those who work at the minimum wage. These people and their families constitute over 50 percent of the people who live in poverty. Anyone who claims that these people are poor only because they are lazy is not true, Mr. Speaker, because many of these people work despite the obvious need. If you can check some of these people that receive welfare, there is no incentive to work because they're better off on welfare, because many of the people that work, work on a minimum wage scale. They have to pay the cost of transportation, they have the deductions for unemployment insurance tax, CPP, many deductions, while when they're on welfare, they have no deductions. So I'm asking the Minister of Labour to seriously consider incentives for people who work on the minimum scale. So Mr. Speaker, there is no incentive for many of these people to work. It is one thing to be able to afford day care but it is another, Mr. Speaker, to have it accessible. These are some of the things I think the Minister has to confront himself with and deal during this session.

The other point that I would like to recommend to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, is to establish an Institute of Industrial Relations. I know the Minister yesterday was quite concerned and he said it will really be a bad year as far as labour and industrial disputes are concerned. So I ask him if he would consider establishing an institute of industrial relations in Manitoba which in my opinion is long overdue. There is a need to conduct research in the field of labour management and industrial relations dealing with specific aspects in this area. I know that the Woods Committee, Mr. Speaker, has done a good job, we can't deny that, and in other areas there is some experience that we can draw from in this area. The function would be to promote harmony between labour and management, to conduct research in the general area of industrial relations, to report findings and recommendations, to teach specific and general courses in industrial relations and, Mr. Speaker, this would improve considerably the kind of climate that is required in this province to have real good relations between labour and industry. I think this would be one area that we can do a great job and improve that feeling.

The other point, Mr. Speaker, that I wish to -- I know my time is limited, I have quite a few other areas that I wanted to cover, but I wish to just make reference to what was said yesterday and I'm very much disappointed because I admire the Member for Riel very much and I think he's one of those members that has always been fair in this House and one that gets up to speak, most members will listen to, but I was very much disappointed in his actions yesterday when he indulged in the type of remarks that he did, talking about political incest. Because surely the Member for Riel knows, knows quite well, that when he was on that side of the House, the lawyer that acted for CFI also acted for the Manitoba Development Fund and that government paid that lawyer some \$300,000 over a period of years for acting on behalf of MDC, I'm sure he's aware of that. I'm sure he's aware that at the present time this same -- (Interjection) -- well perhaps I shouldn't even mention the lawyers because they can protect themselves and I'm sure they're able to, they make good money, but in this case I'm sure the Member for Riel knows quite well that this same gentleman is before - I understand he is, I stand corrected if he isn't, before the Law Society, that there was some conflict of interest, him acting for CFI and at the same time acting for MDC, at that time. Surely that member

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . knows that the kind of debate he indulged in yesterday was not necessary.

I'm not attaching any blame to any of the members of the Conservative Party as far as CFI's concerned, the backbenchers, I couldn't attach blame to the member sitting one seat away from me. But surely the ones that were responsible on the front benches at that time I think that they are responsible and I think that they have --(Interjection)-- well the reason I'm saying that I'm not blaming the backbenchers but surely the Member from Riel knows that over \$45 million were paid in fees in the CFI transaction; and surely he knows that the plant in Northern Ontario was built for half the cost with a much greater capacity. Surely he knows that, he's an engineer. And to indulge in the kind of debate that he did yesterday, I think it's really . . . I hope that he takes it in good taste and in kind, because I admire the member, I think he's a good member but . . . perhaps he was just too exuberant from his weekend convention and maybe he got carried away. All I have to say is that I hope he takes it in kind because he knows, he knows the facts much better than he indicated to the House yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call on another member but I'm going to also recess the House for the supper hour. The Honourable Minister of Mines will have an opportunity to go after the supper hour.