

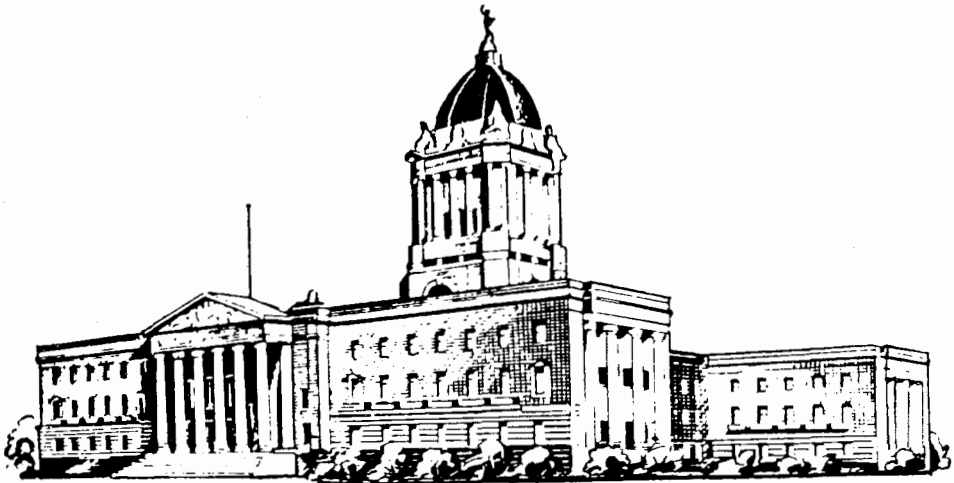


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXIII No. 35 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 12th, 1976. Third Session, 30th Legislature.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
10 a.m. Friday, March 12, 1976

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Minister for Tourism and Recreation.

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. RENE TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the Annual Report of the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs for the year ended March 31st, 1975.

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

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Leader of the Official Opposition) (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister in charge of Western Canada Lottery, the Minister of Health. I wonder if he could comment or confirm that the Manitoba Arts Council and the United Way have not been paid their \$87,000 that has been long overdue to them from their participation in Western Canada Lotteries.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Health and Social Development) (St. Boniface): . . . but there is no reason why this should be done, if that's the case and I'll look into it.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could further advise the House as to the background for the Art Council and the United Way now demanding a full auditing of the operation of Western Canada Lottery by no later than the end of next week.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member must have a direct pipeline with these people because this is all news to me and I don't know if that's in the paper; I haven't seen anything of that at all. I will certainly see that they get that information. I haven't heard anything about that.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister can advise, is there not some problem exists with regard to an audit being asked for by these people of WesCan.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, they don't control WesCan. The Western Canada Lottery Foundation is composed of the representatives from four provinces, and certainly they will have a financial statement and when it's available it certainly will be made public. Now I don't know exactly the nature of the request. This group who are marketing in Manitoba certainly will have access to all this information because they are getting a certain amount of each ticket sold. They are getting the amount of the tickets sold no matter what, so I don't see what their concern is with the affairs of Western Canada Lottery Foundation. If they sell so many tickets, they are getting so many cents on each ticket. They have nothing else to pay. They buy the tickets but from a wholesaler, like wholesaling, so I can't see where they have more concern than anybody else. But as I stated, I intend to make a statement fairly soon on that. I don't know if my honourable friend understands: They get tickets for so much money and they sell them for more and they keep the money, and they pay cash for those tickets, so I don't see what's their concern; there's no way they can lose money for instance.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, my first question to the Minister was whether or not he could confirm that there was \$87,000 alleged to have been paid by Western Canada Lotteries to these two agencies that has never been paid to them and therefore the audit is being asked for by the two agencies to see where the money has gone to.

MR. DESJARDINS: If there's money owing it will be paid, and it's odd that they would seek out my honourable friend to ask him that because I've never been contacted and I will look into it immediately. But, you know, there's nothing to hide, nothing there at all to hide. They'll get the information and they'll get their money.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. Yesterday there was an announcement that the Minister of Justice was referring certain aspects of the Anti-Inflationary Board legislation to the Supreme Court. I wonder if he can indicate whether Manitoba intends to have a watching brief in connection with the case itself.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I'll take that as notice.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister can indicate whether there had been any discussion with the Province of Ontario with respect to the constitutionality of the Anti-Inflationary Board legislation.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the problem as I understand it divides itself into two parts. There is some contention to the constitutionality of the course of action followed by some number of provinces proceeding by way of Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council order. More specifically, however, the problem as I understand it is that the specific contention in Ontario is that there was lack of specific statutory authority as well as the contention of constitutional authority. As far as Manitoba is concerned we feel that we have specific statutory authority by virtue of . . . well I gave the reference in the House a couple of weeks ago, I think it's Section 16 of the Statutes, Chapter 170. But that's a matter of legal opinion I suppose.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister can indicate whether there was any discussion prior to the reference to the Supreme Court by the Province of Manitoba with the Federal Government dealing with the constitutionality of part of the legislation.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there's been certainly discussion but if my honourable friend means has there been any sort of formal meeting between the two provinces on that question, I would have to say no.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Corrections. I wonder if he can indicate whether several members of the department have recently resigned.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Corrections.

HON. J. R. (Bud) BOYCE (Minister responsible for Corrections and Rehabilitation) (Winnipeg Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would suggest, as was just pointed out by the Minister of Mines that if he asked that of any Minister, it would probably be true. I think what the Member of River Heights is referring to is the indication by Mr. Doug Lawrence, the Director of Corrections for Adults, has indicated his intention to . . . oh about two months ago that he would be leaving this week to go to Alberta.

Another one that he is referring to is probably with reference to Mr. Stu Hunter who came to Manitoba from the John Howard-Elizabeth Fry Society in Saskatchewan a year ago, and has done excellent job for us while he is here, has just - I am informed, I haven't received his resignation formally but I was informed yesterday by my Deputy Minister that he is contemplating going back to the John Howard-Elizabeth Fry Society as Executive Director about six weeks from now.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary. I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether there were any written reasons for the resignations submitted to the Minister.

MR. BOYCE: With reference to Mr. Lawrence, definitely not. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it was with regret that I was advised that he was going because he has done an excellent job for Manitoba over the years and we had lunch the day before yesterday to say farewell to him. The reason he is going is - he tells us very rather humourously on himself - that he stopped in Winnipeg 27 years ago because he had \$105 left in his pocket and his wife was expecting a baby. So he jokes and he says that this is a new career for him in going to a new capacity in Alberta. We must realize, Mr. Speaker, we may lose some more people because as I advised the House about a year ago that Mr. MacDonald was named Man-of-the-Year from Manitoba in Alberta, and doubtless some more will go. I have not received the formal letter from Mr. Hunter yet.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member from Virden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR (Virden): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address this question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Can the Minister confirm that a new tax structure is being considered by his department reducing the total take-out taxes on pari mutuel betting affecting the racing industry and will this affect the purse structure support for the 1976 season.

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

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, consideration is being had by the Horse Racing Commission. Recommendations are being made by same to myself in regard to a change in the tax structure itself. This could certainly have an effect on the industry, including those utilizing tracks in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. MCGREGOR: A supplementary then. When might the House expect a statement on this matter, and is this a matter that would show in the budget or could it follow the budget, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TOUPIN: Well Mr. Speaker, obviously recommendations that are being made to myself by the Horse Racing Commission would have to be dealt with by a question of policy of the government; and in regard to the second part of the question, this would not be reflected in the budget. I believe that, if I understand the proposal correctly, the amount required within the Estimates would be just about the same.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. RUSSELL DOERN (Minister of Public Works) (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have leave to submit a Return to an Order of the House by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed? (Agreed) The Honourable Minister. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Honourable Minister of Health regarding the Lotteries. I wonder can the Honourable Minister advise the House who this third party is going to be to the Lottery of WesCan.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: I will in due course, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable the Acting Attorney-General. I would like to ask him whether there were films taken, and are they available, of Wednesday night's hockey game at the Winnipeg Arena involving the fight episode.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, the only information I have is what I heard on the television the other day, and that is that both the channels that normally film things were obstructed by citizens who were standing so that they could get a good view of what was going on. But that is my only information. That's what I heard and saw on the media. So I'm sure that the answer will be monitored by the officials of the Attorney-General's department, and if that's incorrect the Attorney-General will be advised and we'll correct my answer to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON (Gladstone): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Mines and Resources. On March 27th of 1975 I filed an Address for Papers to do with the correspondence between the province and the Federal Government to do with Tudale Explorations, I wonder when I could expect an answer please.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't know why that hasn't been returned. I certainly will get an answer for the honourable member.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister for Urban Affairs) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Member for River Heights enquired about some land owned by MHRC close to the CNR, the piggyback expansion. The amount of land - he asked how much land that MHRC owned - the amount of land is 295 acres. The amount that was optioned and sold to CNR was 18.59 acres. It was paid for in the amount, it was \$46,475.00. They purchased it in December of 1975.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, then to the Minister. I thank him for his information. I wonder if he can indicate now whether the Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation have abandoned development of the remaining land.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: Oh, no, Mr. Speaker. The remaining land, MHRC certainly hopes to develop. This is a piece of land which simply will move the roadway known as Wilkes, it will simply move it over somewhat, but it doesn't affect the general plans of the corporation.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. I wonder if I understand the Minister correctly. He's indicating that the Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation are going to build a housing development next to the piggyback facility.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the houses would have been next to the same area anyway. It's simply a matter of moving a roadway a few hundred feet from where it is now, so the land was required.

I might also point out to the Member for River Heights that the Federal Government started proceedings to acquire that land through expropriation.

MR. SPIVAK: They started proceedings to acquire the land from Manitoba Housing. Are you aware that the CN are leasing the land for the piggyback facilities with the exception, obviously, of this land?

MR. MILLER: This may be, Mr. Speaker. Expropriation proceedings are started in any case.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I ask the question again only because I did not hear the answer of the Minister completely, and in the course of it, or if what I heard, I'm not sure that my interpretation is correct. I ask him again. Is the Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation intending to erect housing developments, or a housing project on the land next to the CN piggyback facility?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the plans of MHRC have not been altered by this. A strip of land was acquired by CNR and whether that strip land had been retained by MHRC or is now in the hands of the CNR, the same situation would prevail. The 295 acres is acquired for housing and the 295 less eighteen and a half acres will still be used for housing.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. I wonder if the Minister can confirm the Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation has purchased approximately 250 acres south, a mile south of the piggyback facility.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, that could easily be. I hope . . . rather than 150, I wish it was 1,000 acres.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, to the Member for Gladstone. I vaguely recall a memo to the effect that some of the material requested was confidential in connection with that exploration program. I'm just saying that to indicate that there may be that problem. But I'll be able to answer more definitively tomorrow.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - ADJOURNED DEBATES ON SECOND READINGS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we would now proceed to the adjourned debates on second readings, and I believe we can proceed as well today with the second readings.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Bill No. 10 proposed by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake. (Stand)

BILL NO. 18 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT ACT

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 18, proposed by the Honourable Minister of Mines. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I rise to my feet to say that I intend to vote against Bill 18, for the reasons which are almost opposite to the reasons why the Minister proposed it. I think that this bill is a . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. AXWORTHY: . . . direct evasion of responsibility on the part of the elected representatives of the Province of Manitoba, if they in fact, go along with this bill. The Minister who's responsible for environmental matters presented the case to this House that Bill 18 would simply rationalize the area of responsibility and that those in municipalities who want to make decisions concerning only those contaminants that affect their environment, should have the right to do so.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that that is a fallacious piece of reasoning that has no relationship whatsoever to the fact of how environments get contaminated. I guess in very simple terms that it is almost impossible by any stretch of scientific or technical measurement to determine how a contaminant, whether it's a chemical spray or something that is put into the water can confine itself to political boundaries. There is no such sort of recognition of political jurisdiction when it comes to putting chemicals in the air; they do not recognize any political boundaries. Therefore to suggest that somehow the responsibility for determining what should happen within a political jurisdiction, can be confined to that political jurisdiction, simply runs and flaunts in the face of any kind of scientific evidence whatsoever.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that any activity that is introducing contaminants into the environment, particularly in air and water, have, and will have, an effect far beyond their boundaries oftentimes what is detectable the spray that occurs on the corner of Portage and Main to kill mosquitoes may in fact end up affecting the health and safety of someone several hundred miles away, and that is simply a matter that no one can determine whether it will or it won't, but the fact of the matter is that there is enough evidence to point that the accumulation of chemicals, to use one example, as they are disgorged in the air by different sources, combining in the different kinds of elements accumulates certain kinds of noxious or harmful effects, and that becomes the real danger of the environment and one which can only be controlled, or be responsibly controlled on a region or area that is wide enough, that has the jurisdiction in an ecologically sort of wider basis for making some judgment or control, and so by somehow saying that we want to transfer - on the theory that local control be responsible - back to municipality to determine its environment, is really saying in effect that the province is evading its responsibility of providing the protection of which only it is capable of offering at this point, and even the province itself may in many respects not have wide enough jurisdiction as we have seen in cases in our province with Garrison, and other incidences. The problem of contaminants crosses international boundaries and national boundaries and therefore to try and now suggest that we can restrict and define this into the localized boundary of a hundred square miles, or twenty square miles, whatever the municipal boundary may be, I say it simply doesn't bear scrutiny under the fact.

And therefore I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that I agree with the Minister fully and totally and completely that political representatives must have the responsibility of making decisions related to serious matters of environment; I'm simply saying that this bill is totally misplaced as to where that responsibility lies, for the real responsibility lies in the hands of this Provincial Legislative Assembly and the Provincial Government. If it means that they have to take some heat and some political reaction in certain municipalities, then I would say you must be prepared to do it. If you can't stand the heat it means you get out of the kitchen. And I suppose that part of our objective is ultimately to remove them from that place. But frankly that is the standard which we should go by.

I realize that during the months of June and July and August when the tempo of life slows down, that it may be extremely inconvenient and awkward for the Minister and his colleagues to have to accept the importunings of City Councillors and other citizens of this city when it comes to controlling mosquitoes, but I simply say that's got to be part of your job because the establishment of the Clean Environment Commission, as it

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . . was established by the previous government, as it has been supported and enhanced in its power by this government, has been a proper and responsible move by the provincial authorities. And now to erode its responsibilities, to evade its responsibilities, I think is a major step backwards in trying to develop proper means of protecting environmental quality in this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would simply say that if it was possible for somehow the Minister of Mines to stand on the border of perimeter highway of Winnipeg and say to the methoeychlor, or whatever, 2-4-D, or whatever other chemical happens to be in the air and say, "Thou shall not pass any further," then I would say all right, then maybe he has got a case, but it is impossible for him to do it or for anyone to do it. The fact of the matter is that those kinds of contaminants know no restraints or limitations of that kind, and therefore it is a provincial responsibility which this bill goes against.

Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, that by analogy even we should say, let's take a look at this question of where does again responsibility lie? It may point out in part the implicit priorities that reside in the mind of the government. They are saying that we don't feel that an administrative tribunal or an appointed body should have jurisdiction over local authorities; let them be masters in their own house, says the Minister, and has said it on many occasions, and it has been echoed by many of his colleagues. Well on that basis I suppose we should say we should do away with the Municipal Board which attempts to provide basic restraints on the financial borrowing capacities of municipalities. We can say to the City of Winnipeg, you shall not borrow any more money than this, period. Because we say that the financial position of the City of Winnipeg, can and will affect not just its own citizens, but the financial health of the Province of Manitoba as well, that we under our Constitution in this country must bear full responsibility for the activities of our local municipalities. They are not, Mr. Speaker, as we have been reminded many times, similar to municipalities in the United States where there is home rule of a kind; the municipalities are very clearly creatures of the province, very clearly, they have no constitutional standing whatsoever in this country, other than that which is transferred to them by Provincial Legislative Assembly. It is very clear in our constitution that we must bear responsibilities for their action. We have set up all kinds of tribunals and administrative agencies that apply different kinds of orders and different kinds of judgments on the activities of them. We have utility boards and we have the Municipal Board, and all of a sudden we are saying, is there somehow a difference in the environmental field than the financial or the utilities, or something? I don't think there is, I think that they are all part and parcel of the same problem that there are certain activities of government which spill over boundaries, which have external effects and consequences that cannot be confined within jurisdictions which have been defined politically or historically, or whatever reason. An environment is very much one of those, and therefore it is an absolute essential requirement of this province to apply itself to those activities of government which spill over boundaries, which have external consequences, which have an impact and effect beyond their own limitations as have been drawn by this province in terms of municipalities.

So again that the bill I think has a fault to it in the sense that it doesn't follow this logic through as it applies to other jurisdictions or other activities which the Provincial Government seeks to monitor and seeks to apply some control to. So I say that if it's good for the environment, we should probably say it is good for everything else. I prefer to take the other course, I say that I think the province does have responsibilities, does have a basic requirement to make some judgments in those areas in which the activities of municipalities will have an impact beyond their own borders.

So let's look for example, Mr. Speaker, at the question of the spraying itself. I think that this is an issue which obviously generates an awful lot of controversy in the city because there is no question that mosquitoes are inconvenient pests, and I'm not here to say that we shouldn't be doing anything to control or deal with mosquitoes, but I am saying that we may if we had thought about it a little bit more, go about it in a much more rational and intelligent way than we presently are. But I don't think that rushing out sort of with the spraying machines and rushing down the residential streets,

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . or having airplanes pass over football stadiums, or whatever it is that they were doing last year, has much impact at all; it's already too late to control mosquitoes when you are forced into that kind of emergency ad hoc reaction, generated mainly because politicians are human beings and they don't like to get nasty phone calls, so they say, "For God's sake get the sprayers on the streets, damn the torpedoes, damn the Environment Commission, get them out on the streets."

Well the fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, and again I, in investigating the problem somewhat, determined that there are much more rational and effective ways of controlling mosquitoes if there is a proper program initiated early enough and over a period of time, and so I would suggest to the Minister that rather than reacting to the political pressures of the city, or the political pressures of the certain citizenry in the City of Winnipeg, it would far more behoove the Province of Manitoba to sit down with the City of Winnipeg, and other municipalities in fact, and say, "Let's do a decent mosquito abatement program; let's find out what has to be done. We are prepared to put some dough into it; we are prepared to put some resources into it, but for God's sake let's solve the problem now, and rather than every year going through this ad hoc fire-fighting reactive kind of procedure, let's sit down and find a way that we can properly deal with the mosquito problem as is as much as humanly possible or as is as technically possible within the state of the art of control."

I would simply say, Mr. Speaker, in pulling out an article out of the Scientific American which deals, strangely enough, with mosquito abatement. It says, we don't believe that any new chemical or any existing chemical will last very long if you use extensively and intensively; resistance is the result of chemical pressuring in the population selecting only the psychologically hardy for survival. Source reduction is the most misunderstood program in mosquito abatement. How can source reduction meet our challenges when it is the most understaffed, under-equipped, under-researched of all our mosquito control endeavours. So the point of this article, Mr. Speaker, is that when we try to deal with the problem of mosquitoes at source, that's where we should be putting our efforts and our resources and our time, not on the other end of the scale, reacting to it after the mosquitoes are already in the air biting people. That's how you control the problem. And yet we seem to be going around in a kind of a twisted way, we start at the other end and then if there's something left over, we worry about source reduction.

Well the entomologists and other people at the University of Manitoba who have looked into this field say, with an effective source reduction program we could significantly diminish the inconvenience and pestering of mosquitoes in this city if it's done effectively and properly. So I'm simply asking the Minister, saying look, we know that it's a problem; I don't want to see your summers disturbed by the calls of city councillors and other residents, but let's solve the problem, let's solve the problem in a proper way. Rather than bringing in a piece of legislation, rather than bringing in a piece of legislation which really runs contrary to scientific fact and to environmental wisdom, let's do the thing as it should be done and find solutions to the problem of mosquito control. That should be the approach and direction of this province in dealing with that particular problem.

Now I'd just like to say further, Mr. Speaker, that I would hope that the point I'm making here is that we just have to be a little more cautious in many ways about how we go about dealing with this question of the contaminants that go into our air and water. That what I'm also concerned of, if this legislation passed, is the way in which it will weaken future efforts to combat environmental contamination in the Province of Manitoba. There is increasing evidence, and I don't know how conclusive it is but certainly there has been enough appearing in the last three years to say that one of the serious health effects of the massive use of chemicals that we are presently spraying and spewing into the air in North America, is that it will have very direct health impacts. A study released by the U.S. Public Health Authority last year showed that in those regions in the United States which have a heavier incidence of chemicals in the air, there is also a correlation between that and the incidence of cancer.

Now again those are statistical correlations; they can be challenged, and I expect they have been, but the U.S. Public Health Agency said, we must now begin to look far



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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . more carefully at the accumulative effect of chemical and various other forms of artificial sprays and contaminants that we put in the air, because not only do they have a direct effect on specific health problems, so that we know that certain spraying of mosquitoes affects people who have weaknesses of lung diseases or asthma or bronchitis, of emphysema, or even more serious than that. But going beyond that, taking the next step and looking a little bit further down the road, we have to understand that if we continue to allow different municipalities to say well this chemical is judged to be all right or relatively safe, and they put it into the air, it won't affect anybody else, and this municipality says, another one; the fact is that when they get together two or three thousand feet up the combined chemical effect may be different and it may then have an impact far more severe than ones that we can determine.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Would the Honourable Member permit a question?

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes.

MR. GREEN: Is the honourable member aware that the chemicals that are used are not approved by the municipalities, they have to be approved by the Federal Government, which is under a present Liberal administration?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm fully aware of the requirements for testing in Ottawa and I --(Interjection)-- and approval, and approval. But let's deal with that issue then. The Minister seems to want to make a case out of it. Again having done a little bit of investigation, not as thorough because I don't have quite the same resources as the Minister, but the fact of the matter is that the testing that is often done on a chemical that is applied on the federal level, are not done certainly from the point of view of long-term consequences. And that they are --(Interjection)-- Nor, even on the mosquito testing, even on the mosquito testing there is always cautions put about extensive uses, and so on, and therefore what we're saying is that when you begin to accumulate or intermix a variety of different sorts of chemicals, all of which have been tested separately but not tested together in the combinations in which they can occur, then you may have a very significant health hazard. So that is the point of the argument. And that even, I would suggest, that the kind of testing that goes on at the federal level may not be sufficient in terms of looking at the impact of a certain chemical within a certain geographical area. That if you put a certain amount of chemical in the air, depending upon the humidity, depending upon temperature, depending upon other climatic factors, it can have different effects. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I would greatly encourage, because I was dismayed last year to find out that there really is not any really serious effort in our own province when it comes to matters of chemical spraying and other uses of chemicals, to determine the direct health impact of it.

So we say the Federal Government has done testing of it, that's good enough for us. I think we should also be much more carefully concerned about what are the specific health characteristics and health safety problems related to wide-scale spraying, whether in municipalities, or with herbicides dealing with weed control, whatever it may be. And certainly we should be at least encouraging other authorities, federal, other provincial authorities, who share these problems to combine their efforts to begin looking at the problem much more seriously.

And I can recall, Mr. Speaker, over the past months I've had visits from a number of people who have said to us, look, we recognize that if you put a certain chemical in the air to control mosquitoes, for 95 percent of the population that is not a problem, because of our own health, the state of our health or the way we're doing, but for the five percent of people who may have serious lung problems or respiratory problems or liver problems, or whatever it may be, spraying becomes extremely hazardous, and oftentimes seriously affects their health to the point where numbers of people have to leave the city when spraying goes on. You know, they simply cannot be in the environment. I guess one of the balances that we have to determine is, is it there to support the inconvenience of and pestering of 95 percent as compared to the significant health hazard of the other five percent?

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)

And that gets me to the question that I hope to debate with the Minister in the future about the role of minorities. He seems to think that minorities don't have much of a say, or shouldn't have much of a say in the making of public policy. I think that that will be the source of some debate between us over the next while.

But the fact of the matter is I think that that is one of the really important issues that must always be faced in an environmental problem. It's not a question that we say, "Oh, if 51 percent of the people have their health affected then we don't spray." I think we have to be properly protective and concerned about the rights of those minorities of people who through no fault of their own, happen to have weak lungs, or whatever other kinds of ailments or handicap that they may suffer under. And that must be as much our concern as what the majority has to say. That's why I think we have to be much more careful and cautious in this piece of legislation.

So to return to the point that I am trying to make, Mr. Speaker, that aside from the immediate consequences that it is really based upon a fallacious premise that somehow you can determine the orbit of contamination, which I think is absolutely impossible to do, and if the Minister has adduced other scientific evidence to prove me wrong, then I think he has just made a major scientific discovery which he should announce to the House immediately. Then I would suggest, aside from that point, of the fallaciousness of the premise, what I really am concerned about is that if in the future, and in the very near future, if the evidence begins to pile up that in fact one of the real environmental hazards that we face is the variety of combinations and mixtures of chemicals that are being put into the air, and that that may have a direct impact on the increasing incidence of cancer or other serious ailments, heart disease, respiratory diseases, then the Province of Manitoba decides we want to do something about it, and we've got this piece of legislation that would provide a handicap or hindrance in applying ourselves in terms of our provincial responsibilities.

Now on that basis, Mr. Speaker, I think it's a bad piece of legislation; that we should not be foreclosing our future responsibilities for the sake of the immediate political expediencies or pressures that we are now under. That is again I say one of the real problems with this piece of legislation, that we really are limiting and foreclosing our capacity to act in this field in the very near future as evidence, and so on, becomes more available and becomes more conclusive. So, Mr. Speaker, on that basis I must oppose this bill, and I would urge other members of this House to oppose it as well. I recognize the problems, as I say, that the Minister has gotten into. I am not here to defend the fact that we should not have any control of mosquitoes because I think there are effective ways of controlling and having mosquito abatement, if the province and the city were to get together and develop a proper source reduction program, but I really insist that if we don't oppose this bill, or radically change it so we can eliminate the kind of measures it's doing, I think we are really evading our responsibility as elected representatives in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I just make a few comments with regard to this bill. I would say at the outset that I generally support the bill.

I think that from listening to the several comments that the Member for Fort Rouge made, you know, if we look at some of these things, the pendulum as far as these environmentalists are concerned, I think the pendulum is swinging a little too much in that direction right now and common sense isn't prevailing. He talks about the different things that we are inflicting on different people, and I was just - I don't smoke, but it always intrigues me when you look at a package of cigarettes and it says on there: "WARNING - Health and Welfare, Canada, advises that danger to health increases with amount smoked. Avoid inhaling." You know, I would suggest to the Member from Fort Rouge, if he's so very concerned about everybody's health, maybe he should be bringing in resolutions banning smoking in Canada, because I think it's been shown quite conclusively already that it definitely contributes to the cause of cancer.

## BILL 18

(MR. BANMAN cont'd)

But dealing with the bill specifically, I have to go along with the Minister of Mines. I think that the elected officials at the municipal level should be making a certain amount of these decisions. The chemicals, as he pointed out, that can be used in the spraying, are spelled out very very carefully by the federal people, so that ties the hands more or less of the people of the local municipalities and the local councillors that are involved with the particular spraying.

I would just like to cite several examples of what happens in rural Manitoba with regard to spraying, and I don't think they've made application to the Clean Environment Commission for these things. But,

No. 1. We had a bad infestation of worms a couple of years ago, and at that time to try and minimize the amount of damage that was done by these worms, the councillors in the local areas organized their own spraying. They hired spray planes and they went ahead and spent quite a bit of money on spraying for these worms to try and keep them under control. It was one of these things that happen very very fast. These worms would walk across a field in a matter of a day, and I think that in a situation like this the councillor in charge and the council in charge had to exercise a certain amount of discretion as to what they were going to do.

2. Another thing that comes up very often, of course, in municipalities now is the spraying of grasshoppers. Also most of the municipalities are involved in Weed Control Boards. Again the Federal Government spells out very very clearly the chemicals that are allowed to be used for the different spraying, for leafy spurge and the different weed problems that we do have.

So again I would like to say that I will be supporting the bill. I think that the municipal councillors aren't given enough credit very often. I think they're possibly very much closer to the situations the way they really are than we here are, or that many of the bureaucrats are. So these people have been elected to do a job, and I would say, let them do it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I didn't appreciate the fact that this morning I would find myself in such conflict on a matter of legislation before us. I have a great deal of conflicting advice being offered to me. For instance, the Member from Morris correctly advises me on most occasions that, should I dare to find myself on the side with the Member of Fort Rouge on any piece of legislation, that that in itself would be a basic and a grievous error.

But I find myself having to concur with the remarks that have been made by the Member for Fort Rouge and will likely have to part company with a good number of my colleagues on this particular bill.

You see, Mr. Speaker, this bill really is a cop-out bill on the part of the Minister. It's Mrs. Stein, or somebody, got to him I think. I think it should prove that the power of the individual, although working in reverse in this instance, but has influenced this otherwise unmovable Minister.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you know I appreciate that on Second Reading we're supposed to speak on broad principles of the bill. I think this is an example, Sir, of a bill stepping backwards, and I think a pausing moment should be spent to recognize that back in the hoary old days, which my friends opposite often refer to as that last forgotten 100 years, a fellow by the name of Buck Whitney had sufficient foresight and courage to bring in an environmental bill, which now seems to stand the test in far greater degree in terms of its modern application, in terms of its need, and in terms of its requirement. This Minister, and this government, is prepared really to turn the clock backwards somewhat to avoid the bad politics of the situation. And I appreciate the fact that the politics of this situation, whether it comes with the little flies and all too familiar hum and buzz of Manitoba humid summers, namely the mosquito, it has left its mark on this Minister; it has stung deeply and penetrated the very conscience of this Minister to the point that he is prepared to take a backward step.

Mr. Speaker, I think the concern, the broad environmental concern, is one that

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) . . . . . should supersede the political concern. I don't believe, Sir, that in saying this that I take away any recognition of the capability and responsibility of elected municipal officials, but, Sir, in the question of the kind of environmental control that can and has been exercised from time to time, which covers broad jurisdictions, you can't tell me that when we have aeroplanes sweeping across the Red River Valley that, you know, a municipality can opt out or opt in from being involved in the spraying or suffering the consequences or gaining the advantages of this spraying. All I'm saying, Mr. Speaker, is that the mechanism that exists in the bill as of now, may not be 100 per cent. Perhaps there's room for amendments in the existing bill. But it seems to me a rather regressive and a rather drastic step to take which smacks and smells all too much of a difficulty on the part of this government, a difficulty on the part of this Minister, to stand the heat.

So, Mr. Speaker, as much as it grieves me to indicate to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, he has shown a weakness in presenting this bill before this House. He has shown that he, as others from time to time are prepared to cop-out under political pressure when exercised, particularly when reinforced by hordes of mosquitoes as popular or unpopular as they are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, the Minister probably noticed that I was talking to the Honourable Member for Lakeside just before he spoke to this and I moved up here; when he started to tell me his impressions of the bill, I had to move.

This may be the legislation that the Minister has designed to have the Progressive Conservative caucus completely, not at odds, but thinking about as far as what should be done, and I want to be very brief in it. In my area in the city, and I can't honestly really speak with authority regarding the mosquitoes in the rural area; I can only speak with authority about them at Clear Lake or some place like that where I spend part of the summer. But I believe that the mosquito situation in the past couple of years has been such that it's been so uncomfortable for the people of Manitoba, that something should be done. I believe that the infestation has been such that it has been harmful to health, and should be stopped. And as the Member from La Verendrye has stated, that you must use approved chemicals, and I think the Minister has to be - that's where he really has to be on top of it. If somebody uses chemicals that are not approved, he's got to jump into it.

But I believe that the local councillors and the municipal people are responsible people and should be able to make the decision as this bill says. I thank the Minister for giving them the opportunity, but I say to him, always keep a watch on it to make sure that everything is going as it should, and he is in the position as the Minister in the Provincial Government of the party that is in power to step in and do something if he so desires. I have confidence that he has taken all of these things into consideration before presenting this bill to the House. I will add that in the City of Winnipeg the comfort and I think even health as far as small children are concerned was in danger last year, and I think that if it has to be done and it has to be sprayed, the local men can do it if they follow the proper rules regarding the chemicals. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister will be closing debate. The Honourable Member for Arthur. Order please.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Member for Lakeside that the debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 19, proposed by the Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs. The Honourable Member for St. Matthews. (Stand) Bill No. 14, the Honourable Minister of Labour is absent. Bill No. 17. The Honourable Minister for Tourism and Recreation.

BILL 17 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE LIQUOR CONTROL ACT

MR. TOUPIN presented Bill 17, an Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

## BILL 17

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the bill before us contains quite a few sections that are in the realm of housekeeping. They deal with, as an example, the word "magistrate" where it appears in the act and replaces it by the word "justice". The words "Attorney-General" as an example, is replaced by the word "Minister"; and to have uniformity of wording, the word "operator" is replaced by the word "licensee" where applicable. A few of the sections correct omissions of previous amendments; one as an example includes a change to comply with an amendment to the Indian Act and others include reference to changes proposed in the bill.

The Liquor Control Act now Mr. Speaker, requires that the Chairman of the Liquor Control Commission also be Chairman of the Licensing Board. There is one amendment that will allow the government by Order-in-Council to designate any member of the Licensing Board as Chairman. This is considered to be desirable due to the increased activities of both the Commission and the Licensing Board over the last five or six years.

For example, in the Licensing Section in Manitoba the increase in number of applications and licenses, which is quite considerable, has not only increased the activity in this area, but also placed a considerable pressure on the Licensing Section for closer supervision and so on. This has already brought about improved organizational structure and personnel augmentation of the Chief Inspector's Department.

In the area of the Commission operation, there has been a continual upgrading of operational and managerial structure in warehousing, store systems and in the general distribution of liquor. All provinces in Canada but P.E.I. and Manitoba have now separated the operation of the Commission and the Licensing authorities and operate either under separate chairmen, managers or members of the Commission.

There is a section equally, Mr. Speaker, that deals with standardized fees and procedures at border points when liquor in excess of quantity permitted, duty and tax free, is brought in by a traveller at the American border, or at a pre-clearance point in the U.S. At present Manitoba is the only province in Canada sharing the border with the U.S. that has not agreed to allow the collection of provincial fees by Customs. The procedure established by the Federal Revenue Customs and Excise for liquor brought in in excess of the quantity permitted duty and tax free into the provinces that have agreed to permit Customs to collect fees for them is in part as follows:

1. Only alcoholic beverages accompanying the traveller or enclosed in the checked baggage may be imported.
2. The maximum allowance is limited to two imperial gallons per traveller and this includes beer. Any quantities in excess of the maximum will require special permits from the provincial liquor agency before it may be released.

There will be a schedule of fees established which will be agreed upon by the province and the bordering states. The provincial liquor agencies shall be responsible for establishing bank accounts or credit union accounts for depositing revenue collected on their behalf, copy deposit slip with certification by the bank or credit union to be forwarded to the Liquor Board.

Where the volume of business does not warrant a separate account, all revenue collected will be at the port office and forwarded to the Board as frequently as the collector deems necessary. In no case is money to be kept on hand for a period exceeding 30 days. It is our intention to accept the agreed fees as long as they are equal to or higher than the Commission's normal mark-up and thus ensure that importation of liquor is not done for financial gains. The Commission is satisfied with the established accounting procedure associated with the collection of provincial fees. All accounting documents at the port will be made available to the Provincial Auditor upon request.

There is within the act, Mr. Speaker, an amendment that deals with our two wineries in the province that will allow wine stores operated by either of our two Manitoba wineries to deliver wine under their retail license to consumers at their residence. This will allow larger purchases made for such things as wine and cheese parties, house parties, and so on, and will also allow for the sale in these privately owned wine stores of accessories, items such as wine glasses and other accessories related to the serving

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(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) . . . .of wine, cheese and related products.

There is a section dealing with the repeal, to repeal the requirement for the Commission to issue beverage waiters' licences and to make the licensee entirely responsible for his employees and also for the proper instructions on the provision of the Act by the licensee to any employee serving liquor. The present provision of the Act provides that no person shall serve liquor in a beer parlour, beverage room, cocktail room and cabaret unless he or she is a holder of a beverage waiter's licence. A person serving liquor in a licenced dining room, restaurant under restaurant licence, or restaurant beer and wine licence; in a club operating under a club restaurant beer and wine dining room liquor and cocktail room licence also premises operating under a special performance licence, special entertainment licence and special convention licence, is not required to be licenced. At present there is no real benefit to the licencing of waiters employed in certain types of licenced premises. The Commission finds it cannot hold up employment of these individuals until a complete character investigation has been made on the individual himself. However, a check of the applicant's record of conviction is made by the Commission when available at the central police station in Winnipeg and/or the RCMP. The time element alone of checking conviction records causes a number of applicants to miss out on a job opportunity because the licensee needs his or her services immediately or shortly after the application is submitted. Eighteen year old applicants are treated differently, as their record of conviction is not checked if they were juveniles prior to their last birthday. The requirement to employ only licenced waiters in beverage rooms, beer parlours and cocktail rooms has created serious problems for licensees who cannot maintain the required number of employees because of the delay in licencing procedure. The Commission is concerned that some licensees at times do not provide enough help in the licenced premises for proper control and supervision.

There is an amendment that will permit the Commission to receive complete information as to the cost of delivery and operation of the newly established Associated Beer Distributors Limited, a co-operative central warehousing and delivery company owned and controlled by the major Manitoba breweries. This will provide the Commission with necessary financial information on the breweries to assess costs as required under Section 20 of the Liquor Control Act. This Mr. Speaker, is basically necessary for the annual review of the brewery operation and cost associated with the price setting under the Public Utilities Board.

In essence, Mr. Speaker, this is the intent of the substantive amendment to the Act; the majority of the amendments that we have contained with Bill 17 are like I indicated before, of housekeeping nature; in regards to the major amendments I ask members to consider and possibly give support to the bill before us. I can equally indicate, Mr. Speaker, that in regards to more major possible amendments to the Liquor Control Act, I have set up an in-House Committee in the Liquor Control Commission that is now reviewing the Act, regulations, policies of the Liquor Control Commission; and equally a study conducted by Justice Rhodes Smith quite some time ago and this committee is to report to me within a few months. Following that, I could be in a better measure at the next Session of the Legislature to submit for consideration more major amendments to the Liquor Control Act.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I would like to direct the attention of the Honourable Members to the gallery where we have 70 students from Dakota Collegiate of Grade 11 standing, under the direction of Mr. Lohrenz. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Riel, the Leader of the Opposition. On behalf of all of the Honourable Members, I welcome you here. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

#### BILL NO. 17 - Cont'd

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Lakeside that the debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 25, the Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that Bill No. 25 is being held as well.

Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Minister for Urban Affairs, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into Committee to consider the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - URBAN AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer honourable members to page 58 of their Estimates Book. Resolution 113(a)--pass. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to know, in this expenditure of \$161,700, how many people are involved in this salary. And according to the description of this particular department, it says in your Estimates that Emergency Measures Organization plans for the safety and survival of all citizens in disasters and emergencies; and co-ordinates, activates and assists all levels of government during disasters and emergencies as directed by the Minister.

Now we wonder, Mr. Chairman, just exactly how well is the Emergency Measures Organization equipped when it comes to handling an emergency. Right now I'm thinking specifically of the evacuation of the hospitals which we just had recently, and I understand that that the EMO really is not equipped to assist in evacuations of this sort. I think Mr. Chairman, that my constituency probably makes use of Emergency Measures Organization more often than any other area in the province. This is especially so during flooding which we experience almost every year, and the flood forecast again stated that flooding is expected on the Pembina River almost equal to that of 1974 which was a very bad flood and caused a lot of damage. Now we have experienced - some years as a councillor of the Town of Winkler, I know that this one year we required sand bags, that EMO had no sandbags and they had to order; first of all they had to get a requisition approved from the Minister and then they had to order these sandbags in from Regina because there were none in Manitoba, and it took two weeks before we received these sandbags which was just too late, the water was gone by that time and had done its damage. I wonder if sand bags are available this year? I think that because it looks as if we will be experiencing another flood in some areas of this province that the Emergency Measures Organization will have to start getting ready for this event.

In my area floods are fought mainly by volunteer workers who have been doing an excellent job, but it seems to me as if we need just a little bit more co-ordination than what we have been receiving, and I wonder just exactly what is the relationship between the Emergency Measures Organization and the Army. The Army came out in the 1974 flood, but all they did was stand there and watch the volunteer workers shovelling sand into the sand bags and delivering the sand bags to the various places that they were needed. Now this certainly didn't do very much to endear the Army to the people that were working. I think that it's a matter of co-ordination and direction that is required and I believe that the Emergency Measures Organization should be the department which should do the organizing and give the direction. I would like to say that the Water Resources Branch was out there and they did an excellent job; if it wouldn't have been for the Water Resources Branch coming out the whole involvement would have been a complete disaster. More equipment is needed, for instance a conveyer should be made available to fill the sand bags. More than half of your labour force is used for shovelling sand into bags. Now certainly a conveyer would be a very minor item and it would do away with half of the labour that is required during these emergencies.

Another thing that has to be looked at, and that is that grain will have to start to be moved out of the low-lying areas, and the elevators are full at the present time. So I hope that EMO is going to look at that situation, that they are going to move grain out of these elevators so that the people can move the grain out of these low-lying areas. Temporary dikes will again have to be erected at the Gretna area. We've asked for many years that permanent dikes be set up over there, but the government has not seen fit to do this; and we always seem to be having the annual hassle of who will be putting up these temporary dikes and who will be paying for this. I think that this should be

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(MR. BROWN cont'd) . . . . looked at right now and an agreement should be reached with the municipalities.

I realize that in many of these areas that there is an over-lapping of responsibilities between this department and Mines and Natural Resources, and I would like to see a co-ordinated effort put forward right away in conjunction with the municipalities so that proper planning could be done. Whenever you get to a situation such as this, there is no doubt that it is a tremendous cost to the municipalities and to the towns that are involved, and I would like to see just a little closer relationship between EMO and Water Resources and the municipalities.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just before the honourable member proceeds, I wonder if I could draw the attention of the honourable members to the gallery, where we have 10 students of the Manitoba Home for Girls and Boys, under the direction of Mr. T. Bailey. This school is located in the Constituency of the Honourable Member for Selkirk, the Honourable Attorney-General. On behalf of all the honourable members, I bid you welcome here this morning.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - URBAN AFFAIRS Cont'd

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Chairman, I should like to add a few comments to those that have already been made by the Member for Rhineland in connection with organizations for emergencies such as occur from time to time in the Red River Valley.

During the course of the last flood that occurred, I suggested to the Minister who was responsible at that time, I believe it was the First Minister, that there should be a meeting of all municipal officials along with the Directors of the Emergency Measures Organization to attempt to work out the criteria that will apply in the declaring of an emergency, first of all, and plans as to who will be responsible at particular stages of an emergency. At the present time I understand, unless that has been corrected, up until the time that an emergency is declared the municipalities are responsible. Under those circumstances they're very reluctant to incur the expense of purchasing sand bags and the material that is necessary for flood fighting, and as a consequence when the Emergency Measures Organization does take over, the equipment and material that is necessary for flood fighting is very often not available and it poses the problem that was mentioned by the Member for Rhineland. I know that there have been indications that meetings were going to be held. A news report just recently announced that there was a meeting of the municipalities and the officials of the Emergency Measures Organization to be held to hopefully iron out these difficulties and come up to some conclusions. I would like the Minister to be able to tell the House just what has been the result of those discussions and what we can now expect in the way of a plan for flood fighting or any other emergency that might arise.

But aside from that, Mr. Chairman, I draw a particular matter to his attention, and that is one that occurred last fall in the Washow Bay area. I don't want to apportion blame or responsibility or attempt to create the impression that somebody was at fault in this particular incident, but it does seem to me that in the light of what happened in that particular incident, I wonder if the Minister would give consideration to ensuring that whoever takes charge of an investigation such as that, that that person has some expertise and some knowledge of the area in which he's operating. Now I don't intend to imply that the RCMP officer in charge in this particular instance was incompetent, but I suggest to the Minister that his knowledge of the conditions under which he would have to conduct this investigation which happened to be on the lake, I believe his knowledge of investigating circumstances there was limited. I wonder if it would not be possible to make sure that instead of the officer that is in charge of that particular area, I think it happened to be at Arborg at that time, who may not have the expertise and the knowledge of searching in the lake - and I know that anybody who's had an experience in that lake will admit that there is a considerable amount of knowledge to be gained by having experience - I suggest



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(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) . . . .to the Minister that perhaps he should consider the possibility of ensuring that when an investigation of that nature is going to be conducted, that he bring someone in even if he has to take him from another area, for the duration of the search; someone who has some expert knowledge of the conditions under which the search will be conducted so that there will be no mistakes made so that there'll be no delay in ensuring that the search is conducted in the proper fashion. I offer these suggestions to the Minister, not in criticism what happened in that particular incident, but to ensure that if incidents of this nature occur again that everything possible would be done by those people who have the most extensive knowledge of the search procedures and the circumstances that exist in that particular area.

It may well be that a search conducted in another area would require the movement of another expert to that particular area who is familiar with the circumstances there. What I am suggesting, Sir, instead of just simply relying on the RCMP officer who happens to be in charge in that particular district, that the best possible person be brought in to take charge at that particular time until the search is completed. Now it may be a suggestion that's unworkable, but it is one that was drawn to my attention over intensive discussions with the people who were involved in that particular unfortunate incident. I am now drawing it to the Minister's attention, hopefully he will want to respond to it, and maybe there are things that can be done in order to ensure that everything possible is done to conduct a search as expeditiously as possible.

I want to mention just one other thing in connection with that. I wrote to the Director of the Emergency Measures Organization on two occasions. It did seem to me in asking for details of what went on, it did seem to me that I was at least entitled to the courtesy of a reply, which I did not receive until I addressed the letter to the First Minister, and I presume that the First Minister then directed the Director of EMO to respond to my letter. I would like to suggest that when letters from the members of this Chamber are addressed to departmental officials - and I think that would include all departmental officials - if they cannot give us a reply, at least they can give the courtesy of an acknowledgement, and I hope that that can be brought to their attention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, in response to the Member for Morris on his last comment, he mentioned a letter - I don't know whether the letter was sent to me or not --(Interjection)-- oh, I see. I would agree with him that if letters are sent they should be replied to. My experience has been that in fact the letters normally are replied to - I don't know what the background would be in this case - if in fact, what the member says is so, I'll make enquiries because I do agree with him that any letter sent in, whether by a member of the Legislature or by municipal officials, should be responded to.

He refers to an incident which I have to admit I don't know the information on, in Washow Bay. The procedure is that although EMO is called on, they in turn then call on the jurisdiction, which takes over, in this case the RCMP. The RCMP determine who should be sent in and who shouldn't be sent in, because they actually are in charge of the search itself. If the member has criticism of the particular individual in charge in that particular instance that was assigned by the RCMP, I can't quarrel with their judgment. On the other hand it's the RCMP who determine who would take over in a case such as this. As I understand it, it was the RCMP who were in charge of it. I believe the Winnipeg Hydro supplied a helicopter to assist in the search itself.

EMO is a co-ordinating body. EMO, to answer the Member for Rhineland, has a staff of 10; it will be increased now to 13 because, as I indicated in my opening comments, the work load is increasing and they have been really doing yeoman service, because when emergencies arise they are required to put in considerable hours of overtime, the weekends, and they're on call all the time, so it's felt that it's necessary to increase the staff. But basically their role is to help municipalities plan for emergencies, to set up a plan in advance so if something does occur the municipality can function and can react as quickly as possible in a planned way. They're only called in to co-ordinate operations when the emergency demands are such which exceeds the jurisdiction of the municipality or local authority or the capacity of the individual municipality to cope.

## SUPPLY - URBAN AFFAIRS

(MR. MILLER cont'd)

There have been meetings held, seminars held in February, one at Gimli and one at Brandon, where municipalities were advised as to how to set up plans, whom to contact, etc. The reference to sand bags, I'm told that the EMO has stockpiled about a half a million bags, as has the Water Resources Board, so that in total there would be a million bags ready to use.

The question was asked about the possibility of flooding in the, I think it was Pembina Valley. I'm told that the municipality officials have already been asked through the Department of Agriculture to notify EMO on any grain or fuel problem that may have to be moved so that EMO can try to arrange to spot railway cars before the thaw. This information apparently has been conveyed to the municipal officials, and when the information comes from them to EMO then the EMO will try to arrange for cars to be spotted.

But as I indicated initially, EMO is basically a co-ordinating group, co-ordinating the activities of various departments that may be involved, be it Mines and Natural Resources, be it Agriculture, and as well they try to work with municipal officials in order to develop advanced plans so the municipalities are simply not caught without any idea of what to do in the event that something happens. On the other hand, of course, EMO is as close as a telephone and they are always available to be called and to give advice, or whatever other assistance they can give.

The initial flood fighting is a responsibility of the municipality and it continues to be. The question of when is an emergency so great or at what level does the emergency transcend the municipality's authority that it has to be declared an emergency, I believe that the Premier when he's advised of a situation and assessed of the scope of the crisis then has the authority to declare an emergency, at which time I believe as well the Federal Government then becomes involved.

The Member for Rhineland asked about the military. The military is called upon when needed. The Princess Patricia - PPCLI - Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry which was stationed in Manitoba is leaving for West Germany in a month or two and will not be available in Manitoba. But nonetheless, if needed and called upon, I don't doubt that the Department of National Defence would make available troops or men, personnel from other provinces, they'd fly them in. They've done this in the past. --(Interjection)-- Yes, they may bring them back from the Olympic Games and bring them into Manitoba. However, I hope by the time the Olympics start our problems are over.

I believe this is done on a charge-back basis. As a matter of fact the Federal Government charges us and we in turn pick up the bills.

Mr. Chairman, the Member for Morris - the letter he is referring to was not replied to as Mr. Jack Miller who's sitting on my left here was away sick from December 1st to January 12th and the staff felt that the reply should be left to Mr. Jack Miller. It was replied to in January on his return to duty. So it wasn't a deliberate attempt not to reply to the letter, nor even an oversight, but because of the fact that Mr. Miller was not available. Since I don't know what the letter was about, it was obviously an important enough one that staff felt that the top man should reply to it rather than have somebody else do so.

I believe I've answered the questions that were put to the best of my knowledge. If I haven't gone into as much detail as members would want, I could perhaps give them information personally once I get more background from staff.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has outlined the procedures insofar as they apply to emergencies and the responsibilities of the Provincial vis-a-vis the Federal Government, and when the Federal Government is brought into the picture.

What I was particularly interested in was what procedures have been developed now as between the municipalities and the Provincial Government as to who will assume responsibility, and at what stage would that responsibility be transferred. This was the point that I think caused most of the difficulties in previous floods in the Red River Valley and it was the one point that municipal officials drew to my attention repeatedly in seeking some kind of solution to, and I was hopeful that the meetings that had been held between

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(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd) . . . .the municipal officials and EMO might have resolved that difficulty, and if the Minister did respond to it I missed it, but I wondered now if he would clarify that particular point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: I'm afraid I can't shed as much light on the subject as the member would want. As I understand it the meetings were held and the outline of preparedness was presented to the municipal representatives so that they could better understand their role and to advise them on how to, as I say, set up plans. They were also advised with regard to how to contact EMO. But if the member is asking at what point in the relationship between EMO and the Provincial Government and the municipalities, what constitutes an emergency, where the municipal responsibility is relieved and the province sort of steps in, I'm not sure that can be that closely defined. I think it's sort of a judgmental, I suspect it's a judgmental thing. Mr. Miller is busily writing something but I haven't got a reply yet.

The initial flood fighting is the responsibility of the municipality, and when their resources are exhausted and conditions become critical, then the province will help out. The planning advice of course is available now, as I said earlier, from EMO and from Water Resources and the meetings that I referred to earlier were to help the municipalities set up plans so that they could take over in the initial period, and of course it may never go beyond that point. It's only when it goes beyond a certain point, which I cannot define that the province then assumes a greater role and greater responsibility.

MR. JORGENSEN: That then leaves the situation pretty much as it has been in the past and I accept the fact that it's perhaps difficult to do otherwise since the municipalities do have the initial responsibility, and I accept that. But the point that caused the difficulty in most instances was the preparation in the event of a flood, the cost, the initial cost. If the Minister says that the Emergency Measures Organization has a supply of sand bags on hand, if they have flood fighting equipment that is available to municipalities so that they will not have to incur these expenses, I think a great deal of the difficulty that is now being experienced by the municipalities will have been alleviated. This was their problem, the expense of - and today that's a pretty major one - of purchasing sand bags in advance of an anticipated flood, and then being left with that expense is one that most municipalities are very reluctant to incur. If some arrangement is worked out - and the Minister did mention that EMO now does have a stockpile of sand bags and flood fighting equipment that is available to municipalities - if that has been worked out, then I think a great deal of the difficulty has been ironed out and perhaps there isn't cause for the concern that has been in the past. If the Minister will confirm that, he's going to relieve a good deal of my anxiety on behalf of the municipalities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I can certainly confirm that EMO has a stockpile of a half a million bags and the Water Resources Board has a similar amount. The member is referring to the sort of uncertainty that prevailed in 1974, and it's because of that that the seminars were started, last year 1975 and again this year, because it was recognized that it was absolutely important that the municipalities (a) recognized their role in it and (b) give them some advice on how they should prepare and what sort of plans they should have ready to go. I realize that municipalities are somewhat reluctant to invest in sand bags, but nonetheless if they're in a community or in an area where there is persistent flooding, then the municipalities have to accept the fact that there is certain responsibility on their part and they do have to order sand bags and set into motion the kind of plans that have been developed together with EMO and Water Resources Branch.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to say as far as funding is concerned in municipalities and the continuous hassle that they seem to have to have funding approved for sand bags and so on with the Provincial Government, I would just like to bring it to the Minister's attention that this water as a rule does not originate in the municipalities in which it ends up. This is one of the reasons why the municipalities are so reluctant to spend their taxpayers' money really when this problem is imposed on them from other municipalities. For instance in my area, water is dumped

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(MR. BROWN cont'd) . . . . . down to my area all the way from Rock Lake and the Pembina area. So this is one of the reasons why municipalities do not see why they should be the ones who are responsible for paying for the sand bags.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: Well, Mr. Chairman, you know, as to whose water it is, I don't think that's really the issue. Their community nonetheless is affected and their property is affected, and whether the water comes from a neighbouring municipality or even from across the line, nonetheless it's certainly their concern about their residents and their property; and their concern to protect those residents and their property is the municipality's. So as to where the water comes from is really not that essential. I might point out that the bags can be ordered by the municipalities and they're charged 20 cents each, but they're not invoiced until much later in the year for the sand bags they may order.

I have to say to the Member for Rhineland that I too lived in a municipality which was affected by high water in the spring, and although it's true that the rise in the Red River didn't occur in the north end of the city, nonetheless when the water rose, we didn't bother to ask whether that extra foot of water was as a result of what happened in West Kildonan or it happened in Fort Garry or it happened even farther south around Emerson. We had to protect property and we took the necessary steps to do it.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed, I wonder if I could draw the attention of the honourable members to the gallery on my right where we have 35 students, Grade 5 to Grade 7 standing from the St. George Elementary School, under the direction of Mr. Paul Collette. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Rupertsland, the Minister in charge of Renewable Resources and Transportation.

I bid you welcome here this morning on behalf of the honourable members.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a few comments. I appreciate the concerns that have been expressed here with the possibility of severe flooding occurring this coming spring. I really appreciate the fact that they have a heavy concern in that southern area, the Red River Valley I'm referring to, where we have had problems for years. I recall in 1969 when we had to move out - oh thousands of bushels I believe, about six million bushels of grain were moved out of the Red River Valley at that time and a lot of work has been done there to help the farmers in respect of protecting their buildings and their grain storage facilities.

There are other areas in the province, Mr. Chairman, that have equal concern although on a smaller scale, but individuals have suffered in other areas probably as much and probably more than many of the individuals have suffered in the Red River Valley. I'm referring specifically now to the Souris Basin where there are about 20,000 acres of good arable land that has consistently been flooded for many years now. While I know that the cause of flooding are out of the hands of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources or the Honourable Minister in charge of EMO, there's something more to be done in that area than what has been done in the way of alleviating the possibilities of floods. This is not the item that we're discussing now, but I would like to remind the Minister that they have had problems out there in respect of damage to some farms, particularly one I'm thinking about where I think it cost this government a considerable amount of money in a suit or damages caused by flooding where no protection has been given to this farmer. And I just bring this to his attention. I think that he's aware of the individual that I'm talking about. I'm not sure what it did cost the government in the suit but I believe that it's the second time in history that it's occurred on the same farm.

Most of the farmers in the Souris Valley, Mr. Chairman, actually have their grain storage facilities moved out of the valley. There are only a few farm sites actually, building sites, that are affected by flooding. In the Pipestone Valley where I lived there has been considerable damage over the years and there has been no protection offered to that area in respect of diking. Again however this is not the responsibility of the

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(MR. WATT cont'd) . . . .Minister in charge of EMO.

In the Town of Melita, Mr. Chairman, there are several facilities in the lower part of the town of Melita down in the valley, where we have I think three or four comparatively new machine company facilities; a trucking firm storage facility; there's a new modern abattoir in that area, a new Gulf Service Station - and when I say new, comparatively new in the past 10 or 12 years. Now these buildings in 1969 went under about four to five feet of water. Since that time the government has participated in the building of diking around this area, but indications are with the tremendous snowfall that we've had out in the southwest area which I think is probably about the worst in the southern part of the province, there is every indication of a very severe flood in that area. I'm just wondering if the Minister is taking cognizance of this fact and that the same protective measures will be taken in that area in case of flooding. Most of the old-timers in that area and people who have lived there their lives are now afraid that the diking that has been built will not be sufficient to carry or to hold back the waters that may possibly occur in this coming spring, depending of course how the run-off occurs and how fast the snow goes. I am sure that the Minister will appreciate the fact that these people are in the same position as they are in the Red River Valley, and that they're hoping that the government will watch this area as carefully as they've been watching the Red River Valley for many years now.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that I have no further comments on this. I have no quarrel with the way that the government has handled through emergency measures, the flooding conditions that have occurred in the Province of Manitoba over the past years, but many people in the southwest area feel that the concentration of emergency services and help to the Red River Valley has not applied in some other areas in the province that have suffered, I believe, equally although not on as large a scale as occurred in the Red River Valley. I think that's all I have to say, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I can tell the honourable member the Water Resources, I'm told, have been looking at this low spot. In 1975 I believe the temporary dike was built and the area is a Water Resources responsibility. I'm advised they are looking at it and of course if things develop as seriously as indicated, then EMO certainly will be called in and everything that is possible that can be done, will be done.

. . . .continued on next page

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I recognize that the ground in this area has been fairly substantially covered in the last few moments but I want to place on the record the dissatisfaction of a number of residents of my constituency, Fort Garry, particularly the southern fringe of it, with the arrangements and the communications with the Emergency Measures Organization, as it existed between them, between municipalities, with which some of them were involved, and between EMO structure itself.--(Interjection)-- The Honourable Member for Lakeside reminds of Turnbull Drive in particular, and of course I need no reminding, Mr. Chairman. I want to as I said place on the record the unhappiness of many residents in that area with the 1974 flood situation and flood fighting situation. They will be hoping very energetically and very sincerely that there will be a different and a more competent and capable structure should that kind of situation arise in the future. In particular, residents on Turnbull Drive and Red River Drive were seriously affected in 1974, as the Minister will recall. And in particular they had extreme difficulty in obtaining fast action when they needed it.

I don't suggest that the Flood Fighting Organization and that the Emergency Measures Organization was not responsive in the total picture to the requirements of that particular area of the province, but I think it needs re-emphasizing and underscoring that there are, as we'd all acknowledge, degrees of response and degrees of action. There were many moments and many hours during the 1974 situation on the southern fringes of Fort Garry when fast response, fast action was simply not forthcoming for one reason or another. And I suggest that one of the reasons was that there was not sufficiently defined lines of communication that permitted a response in terms of material, flood fighting equipment, when it was needed at a given moment in a given spot. The communications did not seem to be good, Sir; there was difficulty experienced by many residents in getting through to some officials at the municipal level, particularly with respect to the rural municipality of Ritchot; there was difficulty experienced by some of those municipal officials in getting through to Emergency Measures Organization headquarters, and when the somewhat inadequate and inefficient chain of communication did function to permit a message to go from the needy to the responsible co-ordinating centre, there was very often the unwelcome news that nothing could be done, that no material could be made available until some bureaucratic steps were cleared at the level of the municipality itself. Now I understand and appreciate the need for order; I understand and appreciate the need for drills of operation, for procedures, but it hardly seems justifiable, Mr. Chairman, that people should be committed and expected to operate by the book so strictly in situations where improvisation is needed, and where imagination is needed to solve immediate emergencies.

So many of my constituents, particularly in the area to which I have referred will be looking to Minister for assurance that - well hopefully there will be no repetition of the flooding situation, but we have less command over that by far, than we have over the operations of the organizations set up to cope with floods, and hopefully we can expect from the Minister, and from Emergency Measures a much more efficient and a much more sympathetic structure in the future, so that red tape, that bureaucratic difficulty can be dispensed with and action can be obtained when it is needed.

There was great frustration on weekends in particular, great frustration overnight in particular. I myself was called on many occasions, and on many others I didn't need calling because I was out in the area of sandbagging in the Turnbull Drive area in particular at two and three o'clock in the morning when there was urgent need for additional equipment, whether sandbags, pumps, boats, or general flood fighting equipment. I can suggest to the Minister, if he needs any reminding, that it was almost impossible, almost impossible, Mr. Chairman, to get any kind of effective response at that hour of the night. That's not unusual in normal circumstances, but I think in view of the fact that the province and all affected were fighting an acknowledged public emergency situation, that it should have been as easy under the mechanics and the structure set up for that situation. It should have been as easy to get action at three o'clock in the morning as it was at three o'clock in the afternoon; it should have been as easy to get action on Saturday nights as it was on a Tuesday afternoon; it should have been as easy to get action on a Sunday

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . .as it was on a mid-week day, for surely we don't expect and the Emergency Measures Organization doesn't expect the elements in the form of the flood waters to be a respecter of reasonable working hours, and unless the structure is so established as to make all hours of the day, and all days of the week equal in terms of the ability to cut through red tape, get the message across, get a response and get action, then suggest that the structure and the system is not working properly, Sir.

So the residents of Turnbull Drive, many of whom have put in a good deal of personal labour and energy into constructing their own modest dwellings and their own homes in that area, and the Member for Lakeside is fully familiar with that area because he has been in touch with many of those residents himself, and the residents of Red River Drive and others in that immediate area will be looking to you, Sir, for assurances that although we have no defence against further flooding, we hopefully have defence against further bungling in the flood fighting field.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to the Member for Fort Garry, I think he is taking some cheap shots unnecessarily. I don't agree at all with the inference that somehow that EMO sits around during the hours of 9 to 5 or 8 to 5 on the weekdays, the fact is that EMO was manned 24 hours a day.

The problems that the Member for Fort Garry refers to goes back to the fact that the RM itself, the Municipal Council just wasn't on its toes, and I'm told that although the RM was notified of the probability, the strong probability there would be difficulty, that there was nothing done by the municipality itself. EMO had a great deal of difficulty in getting the RM to assume its responsibility, because, as I said earlier, the primary responsibility, the initial responsibility is the municipality, and they just couldn't get that kind of early co-operation from the rural municipality; and then to simply wait until the water is at a certain level at that point, it's far too late. If you're going to try and cope with these things you have to cope with them early, you've got to get in in advance, you just can't wait until the water is at your doorstep, because at that point there is not much that you can do about it.

It didn't help either that the media in that particular instance made quite a do about the situation. The Pembina Highway was totally jammed to the extent that the police couldn't handle it, the RCMP had to be brought in in order to handle it; Army had to be brought in, and this is what happens when you have no plan in advance and you don't give any thought to the situation. I am informed that the Reeve of the RM of Ritchot was at the seminar this year, and perhaps having been at the seminar the RM will take the steps in advance of a situation such as this rather than wait until the last minute and hope for somebody else to come in and resolve the problem. It just can't be done, as I say, if it's left too late.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Could I just ask a supplementary question, or pose a supplementary situation to the Minister, Mr. Chairman? When you have two virtually adjoining residential areas, for example, Turnbull Drive and Red River Drive, which straddle, or are separated by a municipal line, does it seem reasonable, and I ask this in good faith, understanding and appreciating what procedures are necessary, but does it seem reasonable in an emergency that certain things can be done for residents in difficulty on one side of that line, but because of procedural restrictions and because of bureaucracy, they can't be extended to accommodate persons on the other side of that line. It is this kind of accommodation, this kind of arrangement, that I suggest has to be considered when we are talking about emergency measures. Surely in an emergency it should be possible to circumvent some of those procedural steps that one expects to have to take in normal circumstances. Surely some of that red tape can be cut away so that emergency measures can truly be measures that meet an emergency.

MR. MILLER: Well, Mr. Chairman, sure there may be two municipalities involved, in one case the City of Winnipeg, the other the RM of Ritchot. It so happened that the City of Winnipeg was on its toes; the City of Winnipeg was in close contact with EMO, and were acting as they should act. As I said earlier, unfortunately the RM of Ritchot,

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(MR. MILLER cont'd) . . . . perhaps for whatever reasons, simply did not respond early enough. You know I too was involved as a neighbouring municipality to Winnipeg going back a number of years, and when floods were threatened we worked closely with our neighbouring municipality and through EMO, and we reacted early, and the trick is to react early and to have a plan so that people are designated, who can be contacted, who should do what, and work with EMO, because they are basically a co-ordinating body and that is their function, but you can't co-ordinate if one party to the co-ordination just isn't responding or isn't coming forward.

MR. SHERMAN: In other words, Mr. Chairman, what the Minister is saying to me is those lines of separation will be rigidly adhered to, regardless of the emergency that the lines of separation are going to be adhered to and if perhaps the municipality on one side of line has not acted in the anticipatory manner that the Minister suggested should, that the residents of that municipality are going to suffer as a consequence; because their municipal officials didn't act with enough dispatch and enough foresight, those residents because they are so many feet or so many yards over a dividing municipal boundary are not going to be accommodated in an emergency.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, there is a responsibility by the municipality and the people are elected by their electorate. It's a requirement of any elected person to respond and to think ahead, and perhaps the 1974 flood had some salutary effects because as indicated the Reeve of Ritchot, and perhaps even other councillors, attended the seminars that were held this spring and maybe the experience of 1974 has taught them something.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Well, Mr. Chairman, we have dealt with EMO, and so far we have been talking primarily only about floods, and I suggest to you, Sir, other emergency measures and disasters that occur from time to time. I would like to ask the Minister if there has been close co-operation between EMO and other organizations that do provide assistance in disasters, organizations such as the Salvation Army, and the Red Cross? I would like to know just what the co-operation is there, and if in fact there is possibly even some financial assistance given to the Salvation Army for the excellent work that they do in emergency work?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from Crescentwood.

MR. WARREN STEEN (Crescentwood): Mr. Chairman, the Minister has referred to the fact that there is a million bags in storage for this coming spring. If he answered the question I'm afraid I have missed it. What was the situation in 1974? As the Member for Fort Garry has stated the Turnbull Drive problem; I was personally involved in it, and I must remind the Minister that there is nothing worse than seeing a person who owns a home on Turnbull Drive and has all kinds of sand available, but cannot --(Interjection)--Well I know the Member from Lakeside has referred to them as the fat cats, and I have three or four personal friends in that area that would like to meet the Member from Lakeside. I believe the Member from Lakeside will have to take me along as a bodyguard. But there is nothing worse than seeing a family being flooded out and finding that they cannot get the help and assistance from their municipality, yet I was able to get some sandbags from the City of Winnipeg for some people that were not in the City of Winnipeg area--(Interjection)--For those fat cats.

But it's a very discouraging position to be in when the people can buy sand from the private sand contractors and yet they don't have the bags which they had been promised by their RM. I am pleased to hear that the Minister said that seminars have been held with municipal people since then and hopefully the situation has been corrected, because in '74 I wouldn't have given you a plugged nickel for EMO; that was my personal feeling of their operation at that time. I have been assured by members of my own side of the House that they have improved considerably, and I am pleased to hear that.

But I would hope if the Minister wouldn't mind me straying from his department and referring to the Department of Mines and Resources for half a moment, I would hope that some co-operation can be had between now and some future date between the Minister of Mines and Resources and the Minister of Urban Affairs in charge of EMO, that we can do



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(MR. STEEN cont'd) . . . something with the people south of the floodway, either take into account some moneys in the future to build some permanent dikes and extend them further south from the gates of the floodway, or take some strict, or put some strict rules in that persons building in the future south of the floodway can only build at a minimum elevation. You know there are so many people that think that it is just so beautiful to live on the river at any time of the year from July through to about February of the following year, but from the month of March, April and May, and perhaps even June, living on the river isn't always the most advantageous and beautiful place to live, and some of those people out there they want to build so badly along the river that they will go to any extent to build a nice home and they need some guidance and direction from both the councillors and the Provincial Government. So I would hope that the Minister of Mines would institute some minimum regulations as to elevations and give some thought of extending a dike way south of the floodway.--(Interjection)--Well he can phone me, I'll refer him to the Minister of Mines as I do all of the people that are bothered by mosquitoes as well.

Can the Minister of Urban Affairs give me some indication as to the planning that has been done now in respect to what was done in '74? He did mention a million sand-bags in storage. How does that compare to the position we were in '74? Are we many times ahead of what we were at that time, or just what?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister for Corrections.

HON. J. R. (BUD) BOYCE (Minister Responsible for Corrections and Rehabilitation) (Winnipeg Centre): As usual when I am speaking on the Estimates, I try to keep my remarks brief because it is a chance for the Opposition to review the estimates, but nevertheless Mr. Chairman, I was just sitting here reading Hansard, and I intend to respond to the Member for Wolseley once, and that is all, because I have other things to do with my time. But there is a remark in Hansard, and I quote from page 869, "Now you ask the member over there from Winnipeg Centre because they planted organizers in 444 Kennedy and after opening ceremonies, they had a fantastic membership drive.. Well as I said I will respond to this sort of thing once . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs on a point of order.

MR. MILLER: Is this relevant to EMO?

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest before you make a ruling that I be given an opportunity to relate it to EMO, because as I said, I said it . . . You know, everything in the universe is casually related. It's up to the member . . . We're talking about organizations and emergencies, and how things can serve the people in the City of Winnipeg and in the province, and I think at the moment - well, it may not be construed as an emergency, nevertheless it epitomizes the type of representation sometimes we are saddled with.

Doubtless, the Member for Wolseley in making this remark on the Estimates of the Minister of Urban Affairs, thought it a propitious time to make it. So, Mr. Chairman, perhaps this is a propitious time to respond to it, because I repeat I intend to respond to it once and once only in this regard.

The Member for Wolseley, doubtless people are aware, ran in Winnipeg Centre in the last general election provincially. And at this time - I intend to be brief, gentlemen --(Interjection)--

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside on a point of order.

MR. ENNS: I do feel I have to come to the Minister of Urban Affairs' help at this particular time, and while I always take great pleasure in listening to the Honourable the Minister of Corrections, we've already had the members of EMO suffer through some extraneous matter this morning; the path that he's on, Sir, hardly falls within the particular resolution, Resolution 113 that we're dealing with Emergency Measures Organization.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, before you rule. In the interest of harmony, in the interest of progress, in the interest of the people of the Province of Manitoba, I will desist at this time. But nevertheless I will respond to this kind of comment once and once only, and probably at a more opportune time I will take that occasion.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: No, Mr. Chairman, I have a question to ask the Minister, and it's regarding an answer he gave me the other day in the House when I asked him about the Emergency Measures being involved while the bus strike was on in Winnipeg, and as far as maybe organizing the radio people, as they were people organized; and I'm not suggesting that they couldn't or wouldn't do a job.

I was concerned basically with the Minister's answer. The Minister's answer was, "I do not feel this is a job for Emergency Measures." Now I would like it if the Minister could make it clear as to who is the person that makes the decision whether it is or it isn't? Is Emergency Measures so controlled that they can't move when they should on something, or feel they should, or has the Minister got to make a decision before they can swing into action?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: Well, Mr. Chairman, the reference to the transit strike in the City of Winnipeg, the fact is, as I indicated earlier, EMO is a co-ordinating body. In the case of the City of Winnipeg they're well organized. They have their own communication centre. They are very extremely organized. If something had occurred that they couldn't handle and they felt they had to perhaps get the army in or RCMP, or some other agency, they would have contacted EMO so that EMO could then make the contact for them.

But in regard to the City of Winnipeg, I'm pleased to say the city has got excellent communications within their own system. They are geared up for these things, and they were handling it very adequately themselves.

And incidentally, they subsidized the private operators who were offering an emergency service to people who had to go to hospitals or were handicapped, or what have you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 113. The Honourable Member from Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I must say that I again find myself agreeing with the Minister, that that is what happens. But his answer to me was, "I do not believe that they should be involved in it," and I'm asking again, who is making the decisions as to when EMO can swing into action?

MR. MILLER: Well, normally the director himself can make that decision. If he's not sure, I suppose he would contact me and would ask whether this is in fact something that EMO should get involved in. As I say, normally the past practices, and so on, to create a precedence, and the director himself knows the method that should be used and knows the procedures, and I very seldom hear of these things, and only if there's any doubt in the director's mind of whether or not EMO should play a role.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 113(a)--pass; (b)--pass: Resolution 113 Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$228,100 for Urban Affairs--pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 114 - Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation - General Programs (a) \$12,451,900--pass. The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for the Minister. I have here an agreement which is with the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation and this is in the Executive Council, this has been passed as Orders-in-Council, and it is the authorization for the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation to purchase 10.9 acres of land in The Pas, Manitoba. The price of that land shown on here is \$894,534.00. The land is for, as I said, 10.9 acres, nearly eleven acres, Mr. Chairman, and I have followed this through and according to this that the purchase price includes the purchased price of land, planning and servicing of land.

Now as I said the other day when I was speaking in the House, that it costs about \$35,000 an acre to service land at this time, that's with trunk sewers, that's with concrete; that's making it real real good. That's what it costs in the City of Winnipeg. It might cost a little more up in The Pas.

But when we get down to that kind of a figure we're getting to \$82,000 an acre approximately, and if you're estimating 35 to \$40,000 for servicing this land, really how much is the Manitoba Housing paying for a piece of property? You're actually paying for the land value in The Pas for unserviced land.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister that question because it seems to

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(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd) . . . . me to be just a little, or considerably high for unserviced land in that area, and I am taking into consideration that your price here, that the amount here that's authorized will take in the servicing. So the price of the actual land, Mr. Minister, seems to be quite high.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 114. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Chairman, while the Honourable Minister is getting some of that information for the Member for Sturgeon Creek, I might just, on another subject matter, talk to him briefly about what the situation is vis-a-vis funds for the building of senior citizen homes, particularly in rural Manitoba.

I'm aware that there likely has been some restraint with respect to the federal funds available under this program. I believe that I was reading some notice of some cutback in funds on the part of the Federal Government in this area which, to a large extent, could affect the capability of the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation to proceed on schedule with some of the planned developments, particularly those that I am interested in the Interlake. Can the Minister give us any indication as to how some of these proposals that have been on his desk, or on the desk of the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation for some time, that is the building in some of the smaller senior citizen homes in the Interlake particularly - I refer to the one in Inwood; I refer to the other ones at Fisher Branch I believe - some have come on stream, others are anxiously awaiting some notice of the fact that the necessary funding is in place. If there is a difficulty with a cutback in the federal amounts of money available for this program, then this may be an opportunity for the Minister to so indicate. If not, he would certainly make my constituents happy if he could indicate that those programs - and they're not large ones, they're felt to be minor programs in the overall scheme of things, but nonetheless very important to those communities. Can he indicate that there will either be business as usual or are we looking at, because of the restraints programs in Ottawa, some cutback in some of the planned projects in this area, just what the situation is in the development of some of these smaller senior citizen units in rural Manitoba, and I make specific mention of the ones in my constituency in the Interlake area generally?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the Member for Lakeside, Fisher Branch I believe has been constructed. I don't know whether it's occupied yet, but it has been constructed.

The reference to Inwood, I'm advised that there are some recent changes in CMHC funding procedures, which make it possible for the communities such as Inwood to make a direct approach to CMHC under what is known as Section 15(1), and I'm advised that, in fact, an application has been made and is in process now.

I would like to respond to the Member for Sturgeon Creek. The OC is up to a certain amount. The amount is based on estimates by engineers and then approval by CMHC. It doesn't necessarily mean that that amount will be drawn down. That's the amount that can be drawn down in agreement with CMHC. I'm advised that the first phase of the servicing - it is really servicing costs, the land acquisition costs is a minor part of it - is the planning of the subdivision itself and the installation of services, that the first bid that came in, a tender that came in on the first part of this development, is considerably lower than what the engineers estimated, and so the total cost may be lower than what was indicated in the OC. Because the OC simply sets an amount which may be drawn down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, just for further clarification. If I understood the Minister correctly, he indicated changes have been made in the CMHC program that made it possible for communities such as Inwood to make direct application, and that application has been made. Does that mean that the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation has no involvement or further direct concern about the project?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: Certainly MHRC is involved, because again of very recent changes, an agreement between Manitoba and CMHC whereby a certain number of the units, once

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(MR. MILLER cont'd) . . . they're built, would qualify for rent supplements if their income was too low. So the project could be built and then agreement entered into between the owners of the project in this case the municipality - with MHRC, so that 25 percent of the units could be subsidized for those people on application whose incomes or assets are too low and who need assistance in their rent supplement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, just on the same subject, if I may. I have just one brief question. I wonder, the priorities, have they changed regarding the senior citizen's housing? Like, a year or so ago there was left the impression that it would be the larger centres would be covered, then the smaller centres, and finally it went down to the smaller villages, that their applications would be accepted, and they would be given consideration before additional units would be provided in the larger centres. But now word is getting back to me that now there's going to be additional units provided in the larger centres and in these smaller villages some of those applications are being pushed to one side for the time being.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister for Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, it is difficult for the board to meet all the requests that flow to it, and by and large the member is right, that there's an attempt to service centres that have the long-range visibility in the fact that the units, projects are put in there, whether it be elderly or family, in a community that will be there 30 or 40 years from now; and that a project goes ahead and suddenly we find it wasn't really required because ten years from now there are vacancies. So that CMHC looks very closely at this, as does the Board of MHRC. The policy is to build in areas where there is long-term viability and the likelihood that if no growth, at least there'll be a stable population to service the community.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. ENARSON (Rock Lake): Well, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to pursue one point with the Minister in an answer he gave to the Member for Lakeside in regard to the role that MHRC plays in the subsidization program, and I would like to ask him so that I am sure that I didn't misunderstand him. He indicated that the role that MHRC will play is they will provide 25 percent of the applicants. Supposing there is a unit built, say there's twelve units, there will be three people that would be taken care of on the subsidization program of the rental program. Do I understand him to say that? In other words, there could be twelve people in the unit, but only three are going to be subsidized. It could be the whole twelve might need it. Now I'd just like to have that clarified.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, where there are no other units in a small town, then it could be 100 percent of the residents would come under the program. Where there are alternative quarters however then we're limited to 25 percent under the agreement with CMHC.

MR. ENARSON: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for that explanation, and that clarifies my point, because I'm thinking of one town where they have nothing at all, no facility of any kind, and they've made application for a senior citizen's home.

One other matter I would like to bring to the Minister's attention, and I'd like to find out what the reason for this is - I don't know how many areas in the province - I know in my area it's involved in one particular - I give an example, where the committee that is established to go out and purchase property for Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, they buy up land not knowing whether they're going to utilize that property for the purpose they thought it was originally going to be intended. And there are some cases in the province where this has happened, and then all of a sudden they find out that plans have been changed and the property may not - I say it may not be used for the purpose that it was originally intended. Now if that is the case then, what's going to happen to that property?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, in those places if it did occur and it's not going to be utilized, and there's one community that comes to mind, I believe it was Rivers,

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(MR. MILLER cont'd) . . . .Manitoba, where some land was acquired and the municipality felt it wanted the land, then the land is, on a resolution of council, is simply sold back to the municipality at the same cost it was acquired by MHRC. So that if there is land that is not being used, and if the municipality wants it, then certainly the municipality wants it, then certainly the municipality simply has to pass a resolution and the MHRC Board will simply sell the land back to the municipality at cost.

MR. EINARSON: Then I thank the Minister. That gives me the answer to one aspect. But supposing the Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation board bought land from an estate or from a private individual, what is the situation there?

MR. MILLER: Well if it is surplus and it is not required, then MHRC would tender it and would simply put it on sale.

MR. CHAIRMAN; The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, there's obviously a number of issues that are going to have to be looked at in the Housing Estimates. The one I would like to start off with is prompted in effect by one of the previous questions asked and that is the determination of what kind of housing are we going to supply, and for whom. I think we've fallen into a trap - most governments do I think - of judging their housing program by the numbers they produce, and we tend to announce that we're going to create X number of units, thousands of units this year, and presume that that is somehow a solution to the housing problem.

In fact it reminds me, Mr. Chairman, three or four years back the Minister of Housing in the Province of Ontario by the name of Stanley Randall, developed what I call the washing machine theory of housing, where he said it was simply a number, that housing was just like washing machines, as long as they came off the assembly line it didn't matter any more than that. And I think we do tend to fall at times into that kind of fallacy of simply saying if we create enough numbers of units then we've solved our problem.

Which leads me, I guess in the first line of questioning I'd like to raise with the Minister is the basic targets that the government has in terms of its housing policy. How it begins to divide up the need in the population in terms of the number of those on lower income, for example, which do require social housing, if he could give us some estimate of the numbers that they have in mind as to what kind of target they're trying to meet in their Social Housing Program, both in terms of the most immediate concerns - I know that there is a waiting list of some length. I think it takes six, eight months, perhaps sometimes closer to two years, to get someone into a housing project. But it would be nice to know what kind of numbers we are talking about. What numbers are on waiting lists? What kind of assessment MHRC has carried out to determine the kind of income groups that are going to be supplied through the Social Housing Program, and what percentage they make of the population, and how effectively over a period of time are we going to meet that need? Is the program that was announced this year geared to some sequential program of saying we're going to provide 2,500 units this year and therefore solve ten percent of the problem, and 15 percent of the problem will be solved next year. So that would be one question that I would like to ask, is just some general assessment by the Minister as to what is the basic ground work of this policy, and who is he trying to fit?

Going beyond that I think there are some other additional questions. One would be the division between senior citizen housing and family housing. Certainly the experience in Manitoba over the past several years, I guess the past three or four years, is that by far the largest amount of public housing has gone into senior citizen housing, which I think is certainly a legitimate need, but in the meantime our capacity to produce family housing has fallen pretty drastically.

And again I'd like to know really about the question of what is now the balance in government programs between senior citizen and family housing? Taking that question one step further then comes down the question of location. Because it would seem to me again looking at MHR statistics, a large percentage of its housing up to now at least has been built outside of the City of Winnipeg. You know, again I think we can make

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . . the case that the very severe demand that exists in the city has not been met and we've built very little family housing. I think probably in total number a couple of hundred units over the past year. So for families in the City of Winnipeg because - we talked about it last night - it does represent 60 percent of the population. So I'd like again to know what kind of targets have been set in relation to the issue of the division between rural and urban areas.

Mr. Chairman, I think there is also a further question on targeting that has to be located, and that is the location of the housing itself. So one of the things that does concern me is, where is the public housing being located? Is it being located in the downtown core areas and the suburban fringes? What particular distribution of the housing is taking place in order to meet sort of the other kind of criteria? Are we building housing that's close to work for people? Is it being placed close to recreational areas? Are we getting an over-concentration, for example, of senior citizen housing in any one area, so that in fact you may have in a downtown precinct or sector an increasing number of senior citizen homes which provide then tremendous requirements for health services, for extra police services, or extra kind of social services, to support that kind of heavy concentration of particular kinds of housing?

So I think what I would really like from Mr. Chairman, in terms of one set of issues, is for him to describe first the kind of targets and goals that have been set and how the Provincial Government Housing Program has been fine tuned to meet those specific targets, and I think once we get that information then we can maybe then go on to the basic issues involved with that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The noon recess having arrived, I'm leaving the Chair to return at 2:30 this afternoon.