



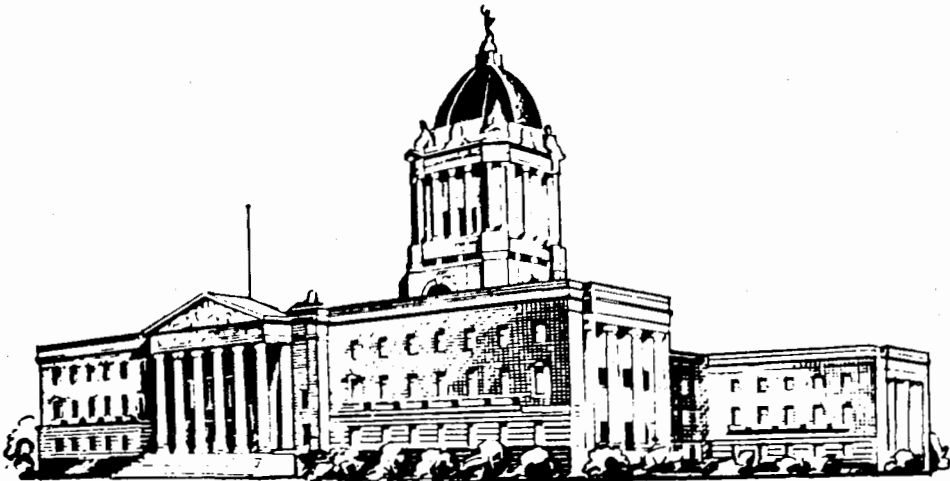
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Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXIII No. 96 2:30 p.m., Monday, May 3, 1976.

Third Session, 30th Legislature.

Electoral Division	Name	Political Affiliation	Address	Postal Code
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	P.C.	Reston, Man.	R0M 1X0
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	Lib.	10 Red Robin Place, Wpg.	R3J 3L8
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	P.C.	Binscarth, Man.	R0J 0G0
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	P.C.	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon	R7B 0H9
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	P.C.	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg	R3R 1L5
CHURCHILL	Les Osland	NDP	66 Radisson Blvd., Churchill	R0B 0E0
CRESCENTWOOD	Warren Steen	P.C.	410 Borebank St., Winnipeg	R3N 1E7
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtniak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ELMWOOD	Hon. Russell J. Doern	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
EMERSON	Steve Derebianchuk	NDP	Vita, Manitoba	R0A 2K0
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	NDP	Cranberry Portage, Man.	R0B 0H0
FORT GARRY	L.R. (Bud) Sherman	P.C.	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg	R3N 0T9
FORT ROUGE	Lloyd Axworthy	Lib.	140 Roslyn Road, Winnipeg	R3L 0G8
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	NDP	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.	R0C 1B0
GLADSTONE	James R. Ferguson	P.C.	Gladstone, Man.	R0J 0T0
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
KILDONAN	Hon. Peter Fox	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	P.C.	Woodlands, Man.	R0C 3H0
LA VERENDRYE	Bob Banman	P.C.	Steinbach, Man.	R0A 2A0
LOGAN	William Jenkins	NDP	1294 Erin St., Winnipeg	R3E 2S6
MINNEDOSA	David Blake	P.C.	Minnedosa, Man.	R0J 1E0
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	P.C.	Morris, Man.	R0G 1K0
OSBORNE	Hon. Ian Turnbull	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
PEMBINA	George Henderson	P.C.	Manitou, Man.	R0G 1G0
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	NDP	23 Coralberry Ave., Winnipeg	R2V 2P2
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Lib.	Box 112, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba	R1N 3B2
RADISSON	Harry Shafransky	NDP	4 Maplehurst Rd., Winnipeg	R2J 1W8
RHINELAND	Arnold Brown	P.C.	Winkler, Man.	R0G 2X0
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	P.C.	3 River Lane, Winnipeg	R2M 3Y8
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	P.C.	2518 - 160 Hargrave St., Wpg.	R3C 3H3
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	P.C.	Inglis, Man.	R0J 0X0
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	P.C.	Glenboro, Man.	R0K 0X0
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
RUPERTSLAND	Hon. Harvey Bostrom	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ST. BONIFACE	Hon. L. L. Desjardins	NDP	200 - 185 Carlton St., Wpg.	R3C 1P3
ST. GEORGE	Hon. Bill Uruski	NDP	10th flr., 330 Portage Ave., Wpg.	R3C 0C4
ST. JAMES	George Minaker	P.C.	318 Ronald St., Winnipeg	R3J 3J8
ST. JOHNS	Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	NDP	333 St. Johns Ave., Winnipeg	R2W 1H2
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johannson	NDP	418 Home St., Winnipeg	R3G 1X4
ST. VITAL	D.J. Walding	NDP	26 Hemlock Place, Winnipeg	R2H 1L7
STE. ROSE	A.R. (Pete) Adam	NDP	Ste. Rose du Lac, Man.	R0L 1S0
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
SOURIS KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	P.C.	Nesbitt, Man.	R0K 1P0
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. René E. Toupin	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
STURGEON CREEK	J. Frank Johnston	P.C.	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg	R3J 2G3
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	P.C.	Swan River, Man.	R0L 1Z0
THE PAS	Hon. Ron McBryde	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
THOMPSON	Ken Dillen	NDP	24 - 1 Public Rd., Thompson	R8N 0M3
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	P.C.	Kenton, Man.	R0M 0Z0
WELLINGTON	Philip M. Petursson	NDP	681 Banning St., Winnipeg	R3G 2G3
WINNIPEG CENTRE	Hon. J.R. (Bud) Boyce	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
WOLSELEY	R.G. (Bob) Wilson	P.C.	2 Middlegate, Winnipeg	R3C 2C4

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 p.m., Monday, May 3, 1976

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 25 students of the North Dakota University under the direction of Mr. B. Hess, as our guests.

We also have 50 students from the St. John's High School under the direction of Mr. Bochiski. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Inkster, the Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management.

And we have 50 students, Grade 6 standing, of the Louis Riel Collegiate under Miss Boheimier. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, the Minister of Health and Social Development.

On behalf of all the honourable members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce)(Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, for the information of the members of the House, I'd like to table a number of copies of the submission of the Province of Manitoba to the Canadian Transport Commission Railway Transport Committee, which is holding hearings at the present time regarding trans-continental passenger services. I have a half a dozen copies here, Mr. Speaker. If parties wish additional copies, I'd be glad to provide them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management)(Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to lay on the table the 1975 Annual Report of the Clean Environment Commission.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, it was announced that the Committee for Economic Development would meet tomorrow to receive a report from the Communities Economic Development Fund. The reports that we will be dealing with tomorrow do not include the Communities Economic Development Fund but will include Channel Area Loggers and Moose Lake Loggers and if possible, Minago Contractors Limited. So I want to make the point that it's those three reports that we would be considering tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements or Tabling . . . ? The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

HON. HARVEY BOSTROM (Minister of Renewable Resources)(Rupertsland): Mr. Speaker, for the information of members the trees in front of them on their desks are compliments of the Manitoba Forestry Association. These are to mark the opening of National Forest Week in Manitoba. They are a native white cedar which is native to Manitoba. They apparently are a tree which thrives very well in any of the soil of Manitoba, although they are native to southeastern Manitoba. I would just like to mention to honourable members that they may be a bit concerned that the tree looks a little red around the edges. Apparently this is a result of frost or snow over the winter and they will quickly bloom back into green foliage. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): For the information of the Minister, in Swan River we grow these. I have a 40 foot high tree of that nature.

MR. SPEAKER:: Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Minister of Mines.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. GREEN, on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Pawley, introduced Bill 65, an Act to amend The Planning Act.

MR. SPEAKER: 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 First Minister. In view of his proposed trip to Ottawa on Thursday for the Energy Conference, I wonder if he can advise what Manitoba's basic position will be, presented to that conference.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, the basic position will be as we've indicated in recent months, that we do not see that there is sufficient justification for any significant further adjustment of the price, particularly in the light of serious deviation in the estimates of reserves and until there is more comprehensive indication as to what future energy policy for Canada will be.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, in terms of the basic issue, is Manitoba's position going to be then similar to that of the Province of Ontario?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, not significantly different I shouldn't think. There has been some opportunity to more or less be briefed on and understand what Ontario's position is and in that context I would think that our position will be substantially similar, particularly I would think now that Ontario has indicated, at least in a tentative way, that their position will include the premise that if there must be further increase in price that it be on a basis of differentiation as between old oil and new oil. That is yet another refinement which Ontario presumably is adopting; that is the position which Manitoba put forward more than a year ago.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the Minister of Health and Social Development and I would like to ask him whether emergency plans have been formulated to accommodate patients from hospitals in Saskatchewan who are affected by the nurses' strike in that province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Health and Social Development) (St. Boniface): No, Mr. Speaker, but I've had discussions with the Chairman of the Manitoba Health Services Commission and they're looking at the situation and if need be, if we have to be helpful to our sister province, we'll be ready.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Will those discussions be going on beyond discussions within Manitoba, to include officials in Saskatchewan?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, if we have a request from Saskatchewan, but so far we've had no request that I know of.

MR. SHERMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would direct it to the Honourable, the Acting Minister of Labour, and ask him whether emergency action of that kind would be in any danger of being construed by the government as strike breaking.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I regret that I did not follow the train of the earlier questions so the honourable member will have to tell me what kind of action he's talking about.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, if I may be permitted, Sir. To the Acting Minister of Labour: in view of the fact that plans are under consideration for emergency accommodation of patients from Saskatchewan hospitals who are affected by the current nurses' strike, can the Department of Health and Social Development be assured that in the view of this government such accommodation would not constitute strike breaking?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it's always been my impression that any employer is entitled by law to try to deal with the fact that his employees are on strike. The Government of Manitoba takes the position, and has taken the position through the Minister of Health, that our responsibility will be to look after our patients under our care. Some

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) people may construe that as strike breaking, so let them construe it. Our responsibility will be to deal with the patients under our care.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ROBERT G. WILSON (Wolseley): To the Minister of Public Works. Can the Minister confirm that autos advertised as Manitoba Government vehicles were sold May 1st and were all these government vehicles, as advertised?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. RUSSELL DOERN (Minister of Public Works)(Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, we're checking into that. I understand that the vehicles that were advertised were government vehicles but they were not sold by the government. So the ad could have been misleading and we're looking into the matter.

MR. WILSON: A supplementary. Can the Minister confirm that those government cars, two new rear tires are put on every car and possibly who pays for them?

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

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce and would ask the Minister if he could confirm that employees of his department have been asked to fill out the Disclosure of Interest forms.

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. My question pertains to a concession building in Spruce Woods Park and I'd ask him if he could indicate the nature of the loss of that building.

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

HON. RENE TOUPIN (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (Springfield): No, Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: The Honourable Attorney-General, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister confirm that the suspect arrested for indecent assault at the Legislative Buildings on a 9-year old girl has been released without bail or examination?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General)(Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, that's a matter before the courts. There has been a suspect arrested that works for the Department of the Attorney-General, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition requested some information with regards to the Lake Winnipeg Regulation and I have an answer for him now.

Since Lake Winnipeg was drawn down to 715 feet in late November, 1975, every effort has been made to achieve maximum outflow from Lake Winnipeg to maximize power generation on the Nelson River. The only time that the Jenpeg control gates have been utilized to restrict outflow was last summer when stages were raised to prevent damage of channel banks during cofferdam removal at the Ominawin By-Pass and at the Eight-Mile Channel. The effect of this action was to keep the level of Lake Winnipeg .3 feet higher than would have been the case under natural conditions. However, the increased discharge capacity afforded by placing the Ominawin By-Pass and the Eight-Mile Channel in operation returned the lake to the level it would have been under natural conditions by December 1st, 1975. Since that time the lake level has been lower than it would have been under natural outlet conditions. That is the information that's given to me by the people responsible for regulation of Lake Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for his comments and we can pursue it further in Public Utilities Committee with Hydro.

I wonder also if he had an opportunity to look at a further question regarding

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) the unemployment rates for young people, the predictions for the summer of 1976, whether or not Manitoba is to reach the heights indicated by the Federal Government at a roughly 20 percent unemployment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe the honourable member also asked me that question. The answer would be furnished through the Department of Labour and I do not believe it has reached me yet.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Can the Minister indicate whether his department is presenting any intervention to the CRTC hearings concerning the proposed fee raise of cablevision in the City of Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, the Province of Manitoba and the Telephone System will be presenting a number of interventions. One of those interventions by the government is with regard to fee increases for the monthly subscriber rate.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister then indicate what position the Government of Manitoba will be taking in this intervention? Will it be opposing the fee increase?

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, essentially that is what the Government of Manitoba is doing. It is claiming that the profits of the cable companies are adequate to cover both increasing costs and improved service and that no increase in rates is necessary. If the member wishes I can send him a copy of the intervention.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary - and I thank the Minister for his offer. I'd be pleased to receive them. I wonder if we could also ask the question whether an intervention is being planned concerning the CRTC ruling excluding the carrying of FM radio on cablevision channels, whether in fact the Government of Manitoba would be asking that that particular ruling be rescinded so that FM broadcasting could be carried on the cable channel.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, I am sending copies of the interventions to the member. I will take that question and check it.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - WRITTEN QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the day. The Honourable House Leader. I'll take the Orders for Return first.

No. 1. The Honourable Member for Roblin. Order for Return.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, it's a question of the ministry. Do I have to read it into the record?

MR. SPEAKER: I'm sorry. The question will be taken as read. Order for Return. The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

ORDERS FOR RETURN

MR. A.R. (Pete) ADAM (Ste. Rose): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Point Douglas, THAT an Order of the House do issue for a return showing:

(1) (a) How many patients were evacuated from the Thompson Hospital during the illegal nurses' strike last year.

b) How many of these patients were sent home.

(2) (a) How many patients were evacuated from the Health Sciences Centre during the recent strike of hospital support workers.

(b) How many of these were sent home.

(3) (a) How many patients were evacuated from the Misericordia Hospital recently when a strike of hospital workers was threatened.

ORDERS FOR RETURN

(MR. ADAM cont'd)

(b) How many of these were sent home?

(4) Who is responsible for the admission and discharge of patients to and from hospitals?

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, most of these questions are the responsibility of the different boards but we'll endeavour to try to get the information for my honourable friend.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker I wonder if you would proceed to deal with the adjourned debates on second reading of bills in the order in which they stand on the Order Paper.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - SECOND READING

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 37, proposed by the Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Could I have the matter stand please, Mr. Speaker. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 47, proposed by the Honourable Minister of Highways. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Stand, please Mr. Speaker. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 51, proposed by the Attorney-General. The Honourable Member for Gladstone. (Stand)

Bill No. 52, proposed by the Attorney-General. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. (Stand)

Bill No. 53, proposed by the Attorney-General. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. (Stand) Does the Honourable House Leader wish to proceed with the second readings to be introduced?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Attorney-General that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I refer honourable members to Page 19 in their Estimates Book. Resolution 47 - Evaluation, Research and Policy Analysis, (a) Salaries \$214,600--pass - The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Chairman, when we were discussing this matter on Friday afternoon the question of the evaluation of standards in the schools came up, particularly in relation to Duck Mountain and a study which had been done, an evaluation, internal and external, of the school division. I recall, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister made some statements in connection with standards generally and the methods of evaluating such standards and it was my impression a week ago that he felt that such standard assessment by means of tests was meaningless and that they really didn't provide much useful information in respect to achievement levels in the school.

On the other hand, in the more recent discussion of the Duck Mountain Division he mentioned that he had urged the various divisions in the Manitoba school system to make use of the Canadian tests of standards and that this would in a sense replace any evaluation instrument which had existed in the past, i.e. the Field Service Branch, and would perhaps be an interim method, pending the completion of the ongoing studies and

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) work that is being done in his department with respect to a satisfactory and suitable evaluation instrument. I sense there is an inconsistency here in the remarks made some weeks ago in connection with the use of standards and testing in the department and the remarks the Minister made in connection with the criticisms of the Duck Mountain evaluation project. Could the Minister elaborate on that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education)(Burrows): Mr. Chairman, there's no inconsistency at all. What I did say is that relying on standardized tests per se is not all that worthwhile an exercise; relying on them just simply for comparative purposes as in the performance of a group of students in one school division as compared with another or one school as compared with another or one generation of students as compared with that of another, but tests which are part of a process that enables the school system to identify areas of weakness, areas within which improvement is necessary, tests which enable the teachers to do a diagnostic analysis of the students' performance and which in turn will aid their teaching, is of value. This, Mr. Chairman, is the very type of evaluation program that is being developed.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, there's been much discussion about the relative merits of the so-called progressive unstructured classroom system which the administration of the Manitoba Department of Education is now favouring and the more structured traditional methods in the classroom. I'm wondering if the Minister has made any attempt to compare the results being achieved in the progressive system that he now is promoting and other schools within the province where more traditional methods might be in use. Has the Minister made any comparisons in terms of achievement levels for students at similar grade levels between the Manitoba School System and other types of educational institutions using traditional methods?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, I did make reference to the open area study which is initiated and also the initiation of the use of achievement tests at the Grade 3, Grade 8 level. Those of course will be administered in various types of teaching situations and the results of which will enable us to do the type of analysis that the Honourable Member for Brandon West is speaking of.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has spoken in favour of the open-classroom type of procedure and yet his Deputy Minister has recently made statements indicating that his faith in this kind of a system is diminishing and that it may well be necessary to return to the more traditional methods. Would he comment on that?

MR. HANUSCHAK: I did on Friday, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, there's a Lancaster University research team which has concluded after a four-year study of children in 871 primary schools that formal classroom teaching works better because pupils work harder.

Teachers were classified in seven categories ranging from extremely traditional to extremely progressive. Progressiveness was characterized by informality, freedom of choice for the pupil, less emphasis on tests and blurring of divisions between subjects. Testing 101 pupils aged 10 to 12-1/2 at the beginning and end of school years the researchers found that in reading age, formally taught pupils gained on their progressively taught counterparts by three to four months a year. In mathematics pupils in formal classrooms were four to five months ahead and in English the gap was three to four months.

The difference between formal and informal schools was particularly pronounced with the brightest boys and girls, the report said. It said such children did less work and achieved lower scores in progressive schools. Can the Minister comment on that report?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, I would want to see that report and familiarize myself with some more of the details of it before I'd be in a position to comment on it. As I did indicate a moment ago when I made the statement that I answered a previous question of the honourable member on Friday, and I think that perhaps I could repeat a portion of that answer on this occasion, that the unstructured, more liberal form of teaching does have certain benefits, certain advantages. But for it to be effective and

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) successful there is need for the proper preparation and training of teachers. I think the honourable member will recall that I did mention that in an open-area setting it's very important that all of the teachers work as members of a team and if any one of those links within that linkage of teachers that forms a team should break, then the school system has a problem that it has to deal with and attempt to remedy it in some fashion.

But just to respond a simple brief concise conclusion or observation based on a study, I could not make at this point in time without knowing all of the variables that have been taken into account and that take into account all the variables that may make that particular situation either similar or different from ours.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister earlier whether he had made any attempt to compare concurrently the product of structured types of classrooms and more traditional types of school systems with his present system in Manitoba. I would think that it would be useful to him to be able to take people who are subject to the same current forces in terms of distractions, and so on, and compare their achievement levels in the schools. Now I think the Minister will admit that in the independent schools in Manitoba the more traditional methods of instruction are maintained, whereas in his own school system it is somewhat different. Has the Minister made any attempt to compare the achievement levels of people in the independent schools in Manitoba with those in the public school system?

MR. HANUSCHAK: No, Mr. Chairman, not in any scientific manner.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I have in front of me here a 1976 Mathematical Contest for Grade 8 and Grade 9 students. This is the Manitoba Association of Mathematics Teachers and I understand that this contest is held annually and mathematics teachers in all the schools, independent and public, are invited to put up their better people to write this test to see what achievement levels are attained. Now in the independent schools I suppose there's a very small percentage in total of the total number of pupils in class in Grade 8 and 9. I don't know what that percentage would be but I would think it would be very small.

The results of these tests show that for first and second place in the province, two students from independent schools top the list. Tied for second with a student from an independent school is a student from a public school in Manitoba. So two out of three in first and second place are from independent schools, in mathematics. In the next list of honourable mention, in order of finish, out of 22 students who got honourable mention for their performance in mathematics, 50 percent were from the private schools, that is the traditional school systems. Surely this indicates that the traditional teaching methods are having better achievement results than the present methods being used in the Manitoba school system. I'd like the Minister to give me his comments on this result.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman. To me all these results are indicative of is the fact that on the basis of the particular test that was administered this year, the number of students that the Honourable Member for Brandon West mentioned scored highest in it. That and nothing more. I really can't read anything else into that about the school system.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, if mathematical tests are indicative of achievement would he not agree that the traditional teaching methods are producing a higher quality of product than the progressive methods which he is supporting?

MR. HANUSCHAK: No, Mr. Chairman, I will not agree with that. All that that indicates is that those students from those schools were able to perform and perform well on that particular test. How that reflects on the overall quality and caliber of teaching of mathematics on a comparative basis as between one school system and another, I do not know. Those results do not tell us that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 47(a) - the Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I don't know how it could be made any clearer to the Minister. We have a school system in which there, at the moment, is something like 230,000 children enrolled - in the independent schools in Manitoba I would guess perhaps 4,000 or 5,000 - and percentage-wise one would think that we'd do a little better

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) in achievement in mathematics if what the Minister says is true, that he's getting just as good standards in the basics as we used to get in other schools. He's been able to put aside these comparisons because they compared what happened in 1968 or 1969 or 1970 with what is now happening, and has suggested that things have changed so much that it's difficult to compare the product of five or six years ago with the product of today because of the different influences and pressures on the students in the school.

But here is a current test, 1976. These students are growing up in the same kind of air, under the same influences, some are going to a school system where they use traditional structured methods in the classroom and some are going to the so-called progressive schools and the results are quite clear. The people from the structured classrooms are occupying 50 percent of the top 25 places in this Manitoba test and yet in numbers they are a very small percentage of the total in school. I don't know how the Minister can set aside that result unless he doesn't want to hear any results that don't agree with his pre-determined positions in respect to the kind of education we should have in Manitoba. Mr. Chairman, I don't know that we can do very much until we have some more effective way of presenting the clear evidence, in my view pretty clear evidence, of the difficulties that relate to the kind of school system he is attempting to impose in Manitoba.

Let me proceed, Mr. Chairman, to a more specific question. A recent letter from the Minister's Department advised the schools that grants for innovative projects are being discontinued. Does this mean that incompleting projects will be left without departmental funding or does it mean that no commitments will be made to new projects?

MR. HANUSCHAK: No to the first question and yes to the second.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Chairman, again may I attempt to impress upon the honourable member that the mathematics test that he refers to merely compares the performance of the better or the best students. The honourable member knows perfectly well that an independent school is at liberty to choose those students which it wishes to enroll and those which it may wish not to enroll, and not enroll them. So here was a group of students selected to write a particular test and that's the record of their performance, it in no way reflects upon or is any indication of the overall general performance of all the students. Again I must repeat to the honourable member that not unless the honourable member could demonstrate to me that the enrollment in any given independent school is comparable to the entire spectrum of students which the public school system must address itself to, then that type of comparison may have some greater measure of validity for some meaningful comparison. But that is not so, Mr. Chairman. The public school system has to provide for the needs of all children of school age whereas the independent school provides for the needs of those children whom it selects for whose needs it wishes to make provision for.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to suggest to the Minister that perhaps this message about declining standards in basics and the message about the sort of difference in the levels of achievement between the two different school systems was getting through to his department, and that possibly it was a message he didn't want to hear. Of course historically we're told that when the king received a message that he doesn't like from a messenger, he shoots the messenger. Mr. Chairman, I'm going to suggest that perhaps when the Minister dismantled the Field Service Branch he was in effect shooting the messenger and that he was getting this message loud and clear from a group of people who probably were aware of what was going on not only in the department, but also in the school system and these people weren't very pleasant to have around.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 47(a) - the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have some further questions I want to raise to the Minister but before doing so I would want to express my, I guess, apprehension about the tone of the debate. To begin with, as some members will know, I have the greatest respect for the position taken by the Member from Brandon West, but he is engaging in a very serious logical fallacy, you know, that you learn in First Year Philosophy, I guess, and that is the old idea that if John is a man and wears a red shirt,

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) all men named John wear red shirts. That is the fallacy of saying that private schools, independent schools, which presumably use independent methods create better students. That is not a fair analysis, Mr. Chairman, frankly and I think it's an unfair commentary on the public school system, mainly because - I think the Minister partially answered the question - private schools, so-called independent schools have a right to choose. But they also choose from a very select group of people in our community. They select not only the best students but those who come from very heavily advantaged homes --(Interjection)-- Well they also make mistakes, Mr. Chairman, in their selection at times. I don't think there's anything infallible. I think, Mr. Chairman, that there is also a certain fallacy in the private school system and I suppose for the sake of amusement they allow the odd ringer in just to keep people interested. Frankly I don't care what the Member from Sturgeon Creek is going to fluster and buster about, I don't think he knows an awful lot about education frankly, I don't think he's looked at private schools very much.

I would simply ask him this, I would simply ask him this - I'll ask him one basic question and see if he can answer it in his own sort of way. I know he never likes to get confused by the facts so I wouldn't want to put that onus on him. Let me just put this question to him; to go into those so-called private schools and just ask what the basic family income is of those people who are in those schools and I'll tell you what they are, they're probably in the top five or ten percent of income groups in this province. That's who are in the private schools in this province. Now you go back and find out - I'll ask the Member from Sturgeon Creek - you go back and find that out, aside from the scholarship students.

Many of the private schools are doing a proper job and I've been in several of them who are properly offering scholarships to selected students from other income groups, most of them because of the sheer fact - do you know what the tuition is to go to the University of Winnipeg Collegiate or St. John's Ravenscourt or St. Paul's? Do you know what the tuition is right now? Do you want to know what the tuition is at those schools?

Mr. Chairman, the fact of the matter is that I think that the kind of drift that we're trying to create that somehow the public school system is being run amuck with a bunch of long-hair progressives who are opening the school up and allowing pure chaos to reign, is wrong. I would only ask members to go into the schools and find out what's happening in them. That's not taking place. Certainly there are some open classrooms and some continuous progress rooms but my God, most of the teachers in there are dealing with it.

I'll tell you what the advantages are in the private schools; small classrooms, teacher ratios which are around one to 18, not one to 30. That makes a big difference. As anyone involved in education knows, the ability to educate children with about half the number of children in the classroom is far better than when you've got 30 to 40 in the classroom. It has nothing to do whether it's continuous progress or open classroom or not. If you have smaller numbers of children you get a chance to more selectively deal with their concerns. What the teachers in the public schools have been asking for is smaller classrooms but I suppose members of this House would be the first ones to fight against that particular objective.

I'm not by any way being critical of the private school system. If people can afford it then it is an option in education and one that has served this community well by providing a great training ground for a lot of people - with some exceptions. I think, as I say, they have obviously made some real errors in judgment along the way but the fact of the matter is that you cannot judge the public school system by the standards of the private independent schools. It is comparing two different things. You're comparing a group that has the ability economically to select certain students from certain income brackets which have certain basic privileges at home. I just simply say that the public school system is providing a service to a much wider range of students from a much wider range of backgrounds. I think that we should be very careful in our condemnation of that.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)

I think where the mistake has been made from the departmental side - and I don't think the mistake has been corrected - is they didn't evaluate the experiments they introduced, there was not a proper assessment done of the continuous progress programs or of the open classrooms. A year or so back when some students of mine went around to find out what the assessments were, no one had done it, no one had found out. So as a result we are subject to some of the know-nothing comments from people like the Member from Sturgeon Creek without having a proper basis of knowing what's going on. I think that's the mistake. I don't have any . . . for some of the experiments that have been tried but I think that if you're going to make commentary on them, don't do it on the basis of logical fallacies, do it on the basis of some fact and some evidence; that there is not only a difference in standards based upon some statistical calculation but those statistics are properly weighted to deal with similar students from similar backgrounds in similar ways. That has not been done.

Certainly people can say let's discard the sociology of students, but you can't discard it. I think that if there has been anything that is clear in the annals of whatever kind of educational examinations that have been done in all countries, it is that there is a very strong link between home background and the performance in the school. Now whether you like it or not it happens to be the fact and while there can be exceptions to it if someone says; sure, I grew up in the school of hard knocks - I'll tell you there's a hell of a lot more failures in the school of hard knocks than there were successes. The fact of the matter is the kind of discrimination that occurs as a result of one's home background is a very vital factor.

I would put forward for the Member from Sturgeon Creek's sceptical mind the kind of evidence that was accumulated when the Americans went very heavily into the Headstart Programs as part of their war on poverty. They invested all kinds of money in trying to do remedial education. One of the things they found out in the fifth year of those experiments was that it was difficult to compensate in the schools for the problems that were being occasioned in the home. That was one of the real difficulties. You can't expect the school system to overcome all of the multiple problems of poverty and discrimination and lack of advantage or culture or whatever it is that may take place, which is concomitant with the problem oftentimes of people being poor or in many cases being in backgrounds where they don't have those privileges. If you want to do something you know that there is a very close link between them. I don't know if the Member from Sturgeon Creek would recommend that we now take all children out of their homes and move them into some sort of platonic academy where they are totally conditioned by the state so that we can ignore the family background, then okay. But that's a pretty Draconian measure. That is in many cases what seems to be the conclusion we're leading to.

I'm not here to defend the Minister. My God, I've been critical enough of him along the way. I'm trying to defend the notion of education and the right in this House to base the logic of the debate upon some facts and evidence. If we're going to be critical of the school program, Mr. Chairman, there's enough to be critical of without making things up. Surely to goodness there's enough problems in it and enough bad decisions being made by the Ministry of Education without hokeying things that aren't there. While there may be a real problem with standards, I don't think we address that problem by trying to make the case that somehow the private independent school, because it may be tougher on students or apply more discipline, therefore gets better educational performance. Unless you can show that taking all other factors as even: income of family, background, previous experience, if you can hold all those other factors constant, as they say in my jargon, and then prove that that's a fact then you've got a case. But the Member for Brandon West did not use that kind of study. He is simply making that logical connection. I would say you take the same number of children, from the same kind of social and economic background and put them under two methods and you'll probably find that it splits out about even because those are the tests that are being done.

I would suggest this. The thing that should be aimed at in our educational

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) system is a wider range of options, not simply one system versus the other but a range of options. A thing I suggested before and I think I ought to come back to it, is that even in the same school system that where children who require discipline because of their own psychic makeup or whatever reason, there can be options within almost that same school campus where that kind of option can be made as opposed to simply saying, it's one thing or the other. --(Interjection)-- Thank's for the support from the Minister. My goodness! Usually when he comes around my back I usually think it's for a rear attack. This time it's unaccustomed support.

I would simply say, Mr. Chairman, in looking at this evaluation that about two years ago when I was visiting a series of high schools to examine what was going on in different programs, one of the most interesting ones in some of the American States was the idea of the umbrella concept of a high school where in fact within the same physical plant a range of different kinds of educational methods were tried to the point where kids were sitting in with their backs straight and if they wanted to leave the room they had to raise their hand, one or two. Everything was rigidified, disciplined. They come marching in and out almost in a goose step. That was suitable for certain kinds of children.

In other cases it was a very wide open progressive, free form type of educational system and the fact of the matter is, as the principal has said - and I'll tell you one thing, the college rate of students going from that high school was 97 percent in case the Member from Sturgeon Creek would like to know. The reason is that children at different times in their educational experience require different educational experiences. In some cases you may require a totally disciplined system and at other times you go through the kind of regimented system to acquire that sense of control which is required and then have the option of being more free form later on. I think that that has been the failure in the experiments as I said before. We kind of dabble and dabble in experimentation and we don't have a clearcut objective as to what we're trying to achieve in these different innovations we've brought forward.

Rather than going at innovation in a hard practical sense of saying that we realize there are some problems in the school system, that the methods that we are using now are not succeeding to the same degree, that there are concerns by parents, let us try within the existing framework to build in those options and evaluate them and assess them properly. When we go back into the history of it, when we put in continuous progress classrooms and the open area classroom we did not evaluate them and assess them. We don't know what the results are and that's the condemnation that should be made of the Evaluation Branch. It is that in fact they tried something and they didn't look at it. It was an unexamined form of innovation really so that they didn't take the schools and they didn't do a controlled classroom and an open classroom and assess them and hold other factors constant, from a good methodology point of view.

I'm just simply saying that there are acceptable methodologies for examining and judging the performance of certain kinds of educational programs. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, we do not apply these on any rigorous basis in the Manitoba School System. We experiment without looking at ways of properly assessing the results of those experiments and innovations. That's been our failure. Mr. Chairman, I would not want to be in a position where I think the Minister and the Department have not been doing their job but I still think that any criticism that should be raised should be based upon what is there, not something that we're trying to phantasize a case.

Mr. Chairman, there are still some fundamental issues about the problem of this branch and this department I'd like to mention. One was the Minister had indicated that he was going to provide us with some information about the assessment that this branch was doing concerning the question of young adolescents in the school system and the problems that are being faced, again inquiry of schools as to the problems of work training and delinquency and truancy and what is being done in terms of assessing that particular problem and developing some means of responding to it. Again the Minister said he wants to forestall a full discussion until we can discuss that \$600,000 additional grant. Again I would think that this would fall within the proper purview of this branch

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) of the department to make an assessment of what is, if you look at the bad statistics, the ones that indicate the kids who are getting into trouble with the police, the juvenile courts, on the unemployment rolls, it is a very small group but it has a very high incidence of problems. Many of the criticisms that were being levelled can be zeroed in in many cases to a relatively small number in total but a very concentrated number of young male adolescents who should be occupying our inner city schools and are not receiving that kind of treatment. I would be interested in receiving some assessment from the Minister as to what is being done in that particular area.

A third question I would have, Mr. Chairman, for the Minister is an issue that rose last year and that is the assessment that the department had indicated they were prepared to do in terms of some of the alternative financial models that were being looked at. Again I don't think this comes under the financial section, the financial support because it is a research item. I believe the Minister indicated last year when I raised the same issue about the development of alternative financial modes - I realize he has set up a committee that was to look at this problem but I gather that it was really a committee of MTS and MAST and the rest of it. I would like to know what research has been done by this department in that particular area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, insofar as evaluation of any innovative program that may have been launched, every innovative program had, upon its completion, been evaluated. I want to draw to the honourable members' attention the fact that the vast majority if not practically all of such innovative programs were not conducted exclusively by the Department of Education but rather by the school division with financial assistance from the department. The general control of the conduct of the innovative program essentially rested with the school division. Upon the evaluation of such programs, many have now been built into and integrated into the regular operating program of the division. Others, if the division felt that the program was not worthwhile to be continued, then it is not being continued.

Insofar as providing students, particularly our junior and senior high school students, secondary school in the main, as broad a range of options as could possibly be provided, taking all factors into account, I want to draw to the honourable members' attention the fact that commencing last year and continuing into the current fiscal year there has been a secondary school alternatives program operated by the Winnipeg School Division and jointly funded on a 50 - 50 matching basis with my Department. Last year the departmental expenditure for this program was \$22,500. When I say last year, that's the fiscal year just ended 1975-76, and there's \$15,000 for this program for the fiscal year 1976-77.

This did generate considerable involvement on the part of the teachers because proposals were invited from the teachers of secondary schools for submission for the planning and implementation of alternative programs. The intent of the program was to provide start-up costs for the development of a variety of choices of programs, variety of choices for students, teachers and parents both in terms of curriculum and in terms of methodology and any combination of the two reflecting the variety of learning styles of students.

Professional development committees were established in each of the three areas of the Winnipeg School Division including a representative from Evaluation, Research and Policy Analysis, from my department, to establish criteria for the proposals and recommend to the superintendent those proposals which meet the criteria. To date over 20 proposals from more than 40 teachers have been reviewed by the committee and when implementation commences - the proposals at this point in time are at the formative stage, at the planning stage, planning and going the next step toward the formulation and design of a number of models - when the implementation commences at the beginning of the next school year in September, the program options will certainly have an impact, will have an effect on thousands of students in the secondary schools of the Winnipeg School Division.

As a further step to that, in recognition or in response to our concern about the

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) host of problems and the varied problems facing our adolescents of today, there are a number of programs in the area of work study and so forth, but those programs dealing with the type of youth that the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge was referring to are in my other department, Colleges and Universities Affairs, under some of the projects being operated or funded by the Youth Secretariat.

Insofar as alternative financing models is concerned the committee, the advisory committee which I had established did prepare a report and the alternatives that they have proposed are being reviewed and, as you will note, Mr. Chairman, when we will come to the next item in my Estimates dealing with financial supports that some of the proposals for changes in methods of funding education are in fact incorporated into this year's grant structure. The main one of course - and this is one that we always want to be very much aware of and want to be able to meet to the best of our ability and that is the provision of greater equalization between the more and the less affluent school divisions and hence the increased equalization grants. I do not want to deal with that at any length, Mr. Chairman, just simply to draw members' attention to these particular areas because they can more properly be debated under Item 3, Greater Equalization Grants, Small School Grants, Declining Enrolment Grants and so forth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 47(a) - the Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I feel I should respond to the remarks that have been made in connection with the assessments that I have presented here which I indicated, in my view, pointed out pretty clearly that the achievement levels in the structured classroom were higher than in the more informal progressive type. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge has said that the argument is illogical for reasons which he presented to you.

Mr. Chairman, I would say to the member that he is somehow relating academic ability with income level and I would suggest to him that is a completely illogical assumption and that there is in fact indications to bear out the argument that people who come from difficult circumstances are often better performers and harder workers than those who come from more affluent homes. Really there are only two or three factors involved in this equation.

One might say that we should compare the qualities of the teaching staff. I would say right away that I think we have equally good mathematics teachers in the public school system. There are no teachers in my view that have superior or better qualifications in the independent school system. If anything, we might have the edge there. So in terms of the teaching qualities, we're every bit as good.

In terms of the intelligence levels of the students I think the inherent academic abilities of the students in the public schools system is as good as, if not better than the students in the independent schools.

So what is the difference? It isn't home background; it isn't academic levels; it isn't that independent schools are getting all the smart kids and that the public school system is getting all the kids of lesser ability. That's just not true. Yet the member says that this is an unfair comparison when I bring up a test done this year where all the mathematics teachers all over the province put up their best kids and they wrote the tests and out comes the significant result, in my view, that 50 percent of the top 25 are from the little independent schools. Is it just coincidence that they happen to have the formal type of structured classroom?

The Lancaster University Research Team says, no it isn't a coincidence, it's a fact. The Member for Fort Rouge says they're wrong, in effect, they haven't got the right results, but they went to the trouble of comparing, over a period of four years, the students in 871 primary schools. They found that the formal classroom works better than the unstructured one because the kids work harder. They also found that in mathematics pupils in formal classrooms were four to five months ahead and in English the gap was three to four months. This simply says to me, they're right. This is what the university team over four years and 871 schools found out. You say they're wrong, I say they're right. I think that this is a reasonable assessment of what's going on in our schools in Manitoba today. I don't think you can, by the arguments you present certainly, dispute the fact that we have evidence here which the department is apparently choosing to ignore.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I would never forego rising to a challenge about the way they go about assessing it. I think that to begin with maybe it's just a difference of opinion. But I still state and I think that if the members to my right would like any evidence I could load up their little wheelbarrows full to show that there is a very strong, abiding and continuing connection between one's place in society and the way one performs in schools. It is not simply a matter of income; it's a matter of a whole combination of factors that really relate to the opportunities that one has. In many cases it does relate to a home background; the kind of books that are in the place, the sort of experiences that are opened up, the sort of tendering -- and I don't think anyone says that someone works harder or lesser.

I would simply point out, again for the member's edification, that a study that we completed recently in the core area of Winnipeg showed that close to 30-some-odd percent of the students were dropping out before Grade 9, that was directly correlated to family background, income, and so on. I think that to ignore that fact I think shows a highly elitist attitude towards the society we live in and that we are simply assuming that everyone starts even in the great race for life. Well we don't start even. Some start with their legs tied together and their hands behind their back and carrying an awful lot of burdens on them that it should be our responsibility to try and overcome. I think that those are the things that show up in the school system as they show up in many other activities of life. I think it can still be demonstrated that the people who populate our universities are still primarily middle class children. It's not even the lowest income, but even there are a far smaller percentage of children of working class families in our universities, much better than there was when I went. I'd say that we've gone a long way but we've got a long way to go if we expect to talk about any form of equality of opportunity, the old classic liberal position, not even equality as socialists like to talk about, a levelling experience but the sheer equality of opportunity still leaves a great deal to be desired. If you ever want to test it then again the school system is the best place of testing it. That's where it shows up most often and I think that we shouldn't ignore that fact. I'm not making an argument for it, I'm simply saying that we do ourselves a disservice if we don't take into account that particular factor.

As far as the Lancaster Study goes, Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't want to debate with the Member for Brandon West because I guess I learned long ago in some proper training that you don't start picking to pieces other people's research reports until you've had a chance read them carefully and compare them. So without knowing exactly the factors that were taken into account and the methods that were used I wouldn't want to comment upon it.

But let's talk a minute about what's logical fallacies. I understood the member to say that he was comparing the independent private schools of the province to the public school system and making the equation that the private independent schools had structured classrooms with a high degree of discipline and the public schools don't. Well that again does not accord with the facts, Mr. Chairman, because you'll find just as many structured classrooms organized in the traditional way in the public schools system as you'll find otherwise. They are not all open area, continuous progressive, or whatever particular variation of the theme you want to use. There are many class-rooms. Many of them work in between and again the visits I've taken with schools in the city -- and I've spent some time doing that -- to find out what is going on, points out that many of them, while they are organized under the traditional classroom concept that teachers because of, I think, a much higher degree of sensitivity to individual needs of children are now sort of taking that same classroom and shaping it to adapt to their problems. I think it's one of the most colourful and entertaining afternoons one can spend, just to go into an elementary class, public school, in the city, and go in from classroom to classroom and see the variation of what teachers and students are doing in those classrooms under the so-called traditional concept. I would again say the logical fallacy is to equate public schools with sort of wild-eyes experimentation and again it's not true.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)

There is certainly a good deal of it going on and in some places more than others. I think again that the Minister tried to slip by that one and if he was saying that the responsibility for assessment was the school divisions, I don't agree with that. I think that if the schools are going to introduce those methods of teaching, then it was a very clearcut responsibility of the department to say, then for God's sake find out what's going on after people have been in them and do it properly and effectively. I can state categorically that it wasn't done because I sent a group of students two years ago to find out what was being done and there was no evaluation on any kind of consistent, systematic basis being done to compare the performance of children in different kinds of classrooms, particularly assessing the continuous progress of open area classrooms versus the more traditional structured ones. There was not that kind of an assessment going on. I think the Minister probably in hindsight would have been much better off if he had been a little tougher insisting upon that because he then might have had some proper ammunition to deal with the kind of attacks that are now being made.

Really what we should be saying, Mr. Chairman, at this point I think in honesty is that we know as elected representatives that parents are concerned and to that degree I share the sentiments of the Member for Brandon West, but I don't carry it to the conclusion he does because I'm not prepared to make those judgments until I see some pretty hard evidence and facts in front of me to show one way or the other, not ones that are borrowed from here and pasted on from there. What we really should be asking for at this stage is for this Minister and that Department to get busy and do some proper assessments so that we can make the judgments next year or the year following as to what has been the relative concerns. It's on that basis if we can demonstrate with some accuracy that the traditional method of teaching has been more effective in mathematical performances, then we'll have to go along with it, if in fact we can say, as I think we've said before, the most important thing to the members of this House is that students get a couple of percentile higher on their mathematical exams.

One of the results, I guess, of being in the education system is you realize the kind of tricks that both students and teachers resort to in order to perform well on standardized tests. I have seen, Mr. Chairman, classrooms - going all the way back to the old days of departmental exams - when beginning along about November, for those teachers who wanted to hustle up a high standard on the departmental examinations, they would force feed those kids specifically to get those departmental exam percentiles up. Now that was not education, Mr. Chairman, that was the way you train a race horse to run in the Kentucky Derby. You train him; you give him a carrot to run in a straight line to beat a . . . to be more proficient than the classroom next door. But that's not education, that has nothing to do with whether those kids were going to have any mathematical or reasoning ability when they got outside that classroom. If you want to do that in our classrooms, if you want to get back to where you are simply kind of conditioning students like a group of sort of race horses, then let's say so, but let's not again simply say that when you take into account - that's the reason we got rid of those departmental exams. I've seen the same thing on standardized tests.

Do you know how it works, Mr. Chairman? The school board comes along and says, okay, this Grade 6 classroom is going to have a destandardized test in English. I think the Member for Radisson would recognize this, he's been to school . . . What does the teacher mainly do? She pounds into those kids the exact answers that they want. It has nothing to do with learning literature as a living, evolving system of thought; it's to make sure that they know exactly who Eustacia Vye was in the Return of the Native, and who she went to bed with and who she didn't. That's what they teach them to learn in order they get through those departmental exams which have all those graphic pencils. I think that that's what I did, I never quite figured it out because I never was able to finish the novel, my mother took it away from me.

Mr. Chairman, let's again be realistic about what we're talking about. Are we talking about performance on standardized tests or are we talking about education? I guess that problem that we have to deal with is that no one as yet has really devised a way of properly assessing the qualities of education.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) When you start resorting to statistical tests, they only give you part of an answer. As I always say to students who I teach methodologies and statistics to, I say a survey or statistics method is a snap shot. It catches a certain picture at a certain time. It doesn't demonstrate progress from one group of students to another. I would be much happier if the Member for Brandon West, for example, had tests that showed that there was a group of kids coming into the school system who were illiterate and after four or five years were then able to read a newspaper or be able to function as active citizens in the community as opposed to being able to achieve a high percentile compared to the kids from St. John's Ravenscourt. I would be much happier with the progress made by that group of kids in terms of a comment on the educational system than saying that they were able to deal with some of the esoteric questions. I wonder if the Member from Brandon West has seen those tests. Has he looked at the questions on them? Does he know what those tests contain? Because I do, I've seen them. I've helped administer them. I was involved with them, Mr. Chairman, and I'll tell you, it's a hothouse type of flower that you're trying to cultivate in terms of the standardized tests. I'm not being critical, Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to say that I've been involved in doing some of them. I'm not saying that they're useless but I am saying that they are only partial measurements of performance and that you have to use a variety of measurement if you really want to measure performance properly.

Our problem, Mr. Chairman - I'm not sure the Department of Education in this province is any more relaxed than others - is that we haven't been up-to-date in recognizing the fears and concerns of the general public about standards and have worked with any kind of zeal to develop an adequate set of measurements if there be such. That's the one thing that we haven't yet heard, Mr. Chairman, from the Minister, really. I guess maybe if I was going to put my finger on the nub of it that I would in part discount some of the criticism that has been made. But the question that we have is: what is the Minister and the department now going to do about developing ways of measuring performance in the schools so that the concerns, fears and apprehensions of the Member for Brandon West, along with a number of parents in the province, can be adequately answered one way or the other. So that we don't have to borrow sort of pirated studies from the State of Pennsylvania or the Yukon or from wherever, that we don't have to use partial kinds of examinations.

I would like to suggest at this time that if we're going to do any kind of a job we should be doing something, that if that is of public concern that as a public agency it's their responsibility to respond to it. But it must be responded to in an intelligent fashion and in a balanced fashion and in an equitable fashion which means that maybe there has to be a battery of alternative ways of measuring performance which is going to cost money, frankly. I guess we'll have to say to the members of the Conservative Party, are you prepared to put the proper amount of resources together to make sure that you get the kinds of measurement that you want so that we will then be able to honestly say to those people who are importuning you and me and others about problems in the school system, here's the facts before us. It does cost money to do those kinds of measurements, it really does. It's not a cheap thing to do. If you do it cheaply you get cheap answers and you get bad answers. If you want proper answers then it's going to take a fair amount of investment to do it effectively.

I would say, Mr. Chairman, that we should expect from the Minister at this time some indication of what he is prepared to do. What is his response going to be to this variety of critiques about standards in the schools? I don't think he can go through another session of trying to back the answers away by some sort of vague rebuttals. I think he needs some hard facts and some evidence or at least some plan of action which he doesn't have right now, quite frankly. I don't think we have that plan of action in the province. So, I would like to know exactly what he is going to do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, when the Honourable Member for Brandon West again repeated his position that there is no relationship between the student's

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) socioeconomic background and performance in school - in fact he went on to say that frequently that works to the student's advantage because it brings out the best in him and that many from the lowest rungs of the socioeconomic ladder end up doing quite well, perhaps exceptionally well in the school system. Mr. Chairman, if one were to carry that line of reasoning to its logical conclusion then what we ought to do is to drive the entire society into poverty and starvation on the premise that that would bring out the best in the performance of mankind. Maybe that's what the Honourable Member for Brandon West is in fact suggesting, I don't know.

He quoted some findings of a survey that was done - well there are many surveys done in education, Mr. Chairman. I want to refer you to another. This was a paper written by one Joseph Gramis, Associate Professor of Education at Teachers' College, Columbia University and he says the following: "The socioeconomic status of students calculated on the basis of parent occupations and education almost invariably has a strong association with attainment of education and societal goals when the average attainment of large student aggregates is examined, when we look at large student aggregates." Now it's true, looking at the performance of isolated individuals, you know, one would find exceptions but looking in terms of total numbers of students one would find that there is a very close correlation.

A research project undertaken by OECD, looking at perhaps a much broader spectrum of the world's population than we do in Manitoba, looking at its 19 member countries, the findings of OECD are as follows: "Young people from upper classes are highly over represented in the statistical sense in higher education, over represented that is in relation to the proportion of the same classes in the total labour force. Young people from the middle classes are also over represented among the students though less so than those from the upper classes. Young people from the lower classes are under represented in the student body." Why? For a variety of reasons, some of them may be economic, others, the very fact that for far too long - and I made this point before - that for far too long we've been offering an elitist type of education program designed only to meet the needs of a few, of a select few and not really designed to meet the needs of the entire broad spectrum of our population. One could go on and find - well John Porter, an outstanding Canadian sociologist, speaks of class inequalities in Canada and he points out that the father's occupation has a strong influence on the children's chances getting access to higher education. . . . and I will not go into the statistical details of the evidence that he presents in support of this statement - but nevertheless there it is. I'm sure the honourable members on the other side probably have a copy of his book *The Vertical Mosaic* and so hence they would have the same access to that information as I do or as anyone else may have.

The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, in continuing and speaking about evaluation of performance and what are we doing, well I have indicated a number of projects that have been undertaken, that are being funded, and working jointly with teachers and trustees, and I must say to the honourable member that I don't anticipate an answer to that problem within the next few weeks or months or perhaps year or two, because to develop standards for evaluation, firstly we have to ask ourselves what do we expect of our school system, what we expect it to deliver, what are we going to evaluate? Are we simply going to evaluate the basic skills and nothing more? And in saying that I want to impress upon you, Mr. Chairman, that I'm in no way underestimating the value of or under-rating the value and significance of the basic skills. Of course, they're very essential.

But the community at large tells us that the school system should be much more than that, that to prepare a person to take his place in society as one who would have acquired and developed skills to enable him to become a productive citizen, that more than just a competency in the basic skills is necessary; problem solving, analyzing information that we receive critically and then applying it to our own use in a most effective and beneficial manner, and so forth. And you know, all of which is now becoming far more important than it may have been a decade, two or three or four ago, particularly in the light of that fact that we're becoming a more transient, a more mobile society. . . . In fact with the technological advancement in the electronic

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) media the world in a sense is shrinking to that extent and we're becoming more aware of problems and issues of concern existing the world round and become more aware of the fact that they do have an impact and bearing and relevance, a bearing upon us, and are relevant to our way of life and cannot be overlooked or ignored.

So all of this really forms part of the learning process which takes us beyond just the basic skills. So it's not quite as simple as some may think, that all we need do is to devise a test in reading and devise a test in arithmetic and that's going to answer all our problems, and that will provide us with the necessary instruments to effectively and validly evaluate our education program because education consists of much more than that.

You know when we hear comments made to the effect that society at large is unhappy with, is dissatisfied with our education program, I think to put that in its proper perspective one ought to say that the public is more concerned about the education program and is more anxious to see that every dollar of public funds, whether it's one that comes by way of the provincial purse or the tax dollars that the school division raises via a municipality, it doesn't really matter, but the public is very concerned to see to it that we do get value for that dollar, and it's a perfectly valid concern. But in stating that concern, the public is not necessarily condemning, just generally condemning the education program of today. In fact, Mr. Chairman, you will find that . . . well on Friday, I believe I made reference to a survey that we did which is published now in pamphlet form, "What do parents think?" and you will find, Mr. Chairman, that by and large the vast majority of the parents of children - this was of Grade 4 children - that by and large that the response was a positive one. The parents generally are quite satisfied with the education program that they're receiving. And I hasten to add, Mr. Chairman, that having said that I'm not suggesting that we ought to be content with our achievements to this point in time but what I am saying is that, you know, it is not as bleak and as grim as some honourable members may wish to portray our educational program of today.

And similarly in a survey that was done of businessmen when asked about the high school graduates that they hired - and there again we find the response to be very positive, in fact, the interesting thing about that study that was done, that survey of businessmen, and it was conducted in two parts, both the employers were interviewed as well as the students employed who had graduated from high school, and it's interesting to observe that the students themselves were probably more harsh and severe critics of their own performance, and set goals and standards for themselves much higher than even those expected of them by their employers.

But this, as I've said, to develop a meaningful and a relevant evaluation system is not an easy task and I have on a number of occasions during the course of this debate, on Friday in particular, made reference to the development of an internal-external model for the evaluation of our education program which was commenced in three divisions in the first year and it will be used in five and now in its second year. And then when that model is developed and refined, hopefully we would devise a scheme that all school divisions would be able to apply to themselves from time to time to get a reading on the level of their performance insofar as the delivery of an education program is concerned.

Now the Honourable Member for Brandon West says, well we've lost that which we've had up until now when the field officers, formerly known as school inspectors, that they did this type of evaluation. Well, Mr. Chairman, I think it must be said and the field officers would be first to admit that at best what they were able to do on a year to year basis was merely a superficial examination, an analysis of the education program, because to do a real indepth analysis does require a team of men and women and requires their involvement over a period of some time, over a period of about a year or so, or otherwise you do end up with what the Honourable Member from Fort Rouge has referred to as a snapshot portrayal of the education program at a given point in time,

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd)at the time that the school inspector or the field officer happened to walk into the school. So, well, that was the system of evaluation which we had inherited which was developed over the years but as I have pointed out earlier, with our move toward unitary school division set-up, and with the organization rather, and with the school divisions developing a greater measure of expertise in the field of evaluation and those which may not have developed a significant level of expertise have certainly indicated the desire to do so. So therefore the thrust must be in that direction to enable the local school authority to evaluate its own operations and in that way, Mr. Chairman, we could hope to have a system operating that would be accountable, that would be responsible, and that would be responsible and responsive to the local needs of its community.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, just to respond to the latter remarks of the Minister, first I did mention the Field Officers Branch as an evaluating instrument because one year ago, as I mentioned before, the Minister spoke in such enthusiastic terms about the fact that while he hadn't been able to really complete overnight an evaluation instrument that was completely acceptable he did want to remind me that we had the Field Service Branch and that they were doing that job in the interim. Now the Minister seems to have, one year later, somewhat changed his position.

Mr. Chairman, before we leave the philosophical debate introduced by the Member for Fort Rouge, I again take issue with the sort of silver spoon theory of academic achievement, that there is a relationship between those in fortunate circumstances by birth of affluence, somehow are better academic achievers than those who had it tough. It reminds me of the truth or otherwise of the old Latin motto, "per ardua ad astra." And, you know, I think there is some relationship between adversity and the achievement levels of people who basically have the same, perhaps, intelligence quotient to begin. And I think if you took a group in society who are achievers, even to suggest the Treasury Bench on the other side, and examined the background, you might find that some of the strongest performers and achievers over there were those who had to work the hardest when they were young.

But, Mr. Chairman, that's a topic which could be pursued at great length and is not going to bring us to a conclusion in this debate. And the Member for Fort Rouge I think got around to it after bringing up the old bugaboo about departmental examinations and other strenuous statements about the past; he said, really what we need is a good evaluation instrument and he pointed out that testing doesn't provide a suitable and complete evaluation. And I agree, but I think, Mr. Chairman, what we are trying to do right now is to put to rest that increasing feeling in society that during the searching for the real meaning of education the basic skills are somehow declining. And I say to you that this is important, that we must determine if this is happening while you are musing and experimenting and moving about in various debates on education, what is happening to the basic skills in the classroom. I think we do need to evaluate that, and it may not be a complete and adequate evaluation instrument to give students tests like this mathematical test that we talked about here, it is just one indication. And, Mr. Chairman, I think this is of great urgency because if we go on in the ethereal manner in which the Minister is going in philosophical dissertations about the future of education and asking questions about where we're really going - and I try to relate those to the long-term objectives which he has already stated to us - they seem somehow to be more in keeping with the Deputy Minister's philosophy, that he doesn't have any real objectives, he merely responds to day to day pressures, and how one can achieve any overall purpose if you're busy looking after the day to day problems, is difficult to know. The Minister said that maybe what I'm suggesting is that all we need is to devise a test in reading, writing and arithmetic and that answers all our problems. It doesn't at all, but it does perhaps justify or otherwise the kind of progressive unstructured approach to your educational system and compare it with what we have had in the past.

All of the things are not bad about the present system and certainly there were many defects in the old system but I think it's basic to an educational system that we

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) can all support and pay for without the great critical comments that we're hearing if we know that the enrichments are being provided but not at the expense of certain things we feel are basically important for young people to have in order to make their own way in society. So, Mr. Chairman, we are still after two or three years of discussion searching for an evaluation instrument; why does the Minister keep putting down other temporary kinds of alternatives, at least in the evaluation of basic skills?

MR. HANUSCHAK: It's strange, Mr. Chairman, that the century of the history of province and the existence of the Province of Manitoba, from 1870 to 1970, did not develop an effective and a meaningful evaluation instrument of education nor has anyone else in the world at this point in time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Fort Rouge challenged the position of my colleague from Brandon West in part when he said that recent surveys have proved conclusively that economic background, financial background and the economic status of the family does have a very significant role to play, it does play a very significant part generally speaking in the academic performance of students of school age levels, and that as many as - I believe he said 30 percent of students in the core area had been disclosed in a recent survey to have dropped out by Grade 9. Well if that is the case, Sir, I put it to the Minister, is that not a very strong reason for rethinking the three Rs approach and for re-examining, when you're engaged in this re-examination and re-evaluation, evaluation process, is that not a very strong reason for re-examining and re-evaluating the manner in which schools and educational programs in the City of Winnipeg are supported by this government in financial terms? There is ample evidence from the trustees of the Winnipeg School Division No. 1, from the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, from various other bodies, that the support in financial terms and in terms of real dollars of this government for the public school system, the elementary and secondary school system in this province, has diminished by any standard on which you want to measure it, when we're looking at it in terms of real dollars during the past seven to eight years, and the burden on the real property taxpayer, and in large part that means the property taxpayer in the City of Winnipeg, has increased and increased and increased to the point where the costs cannot now be met.

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

MR. HANUSCHAK: I'm listening to the honourable member with great interest but I would like to know whether he is debating (2) Evaluation, Research and Policy and Analysis or (3) Financial Support Public Schools. If it's the latter then I would suggest to the honourable member that he reserve his comments until we reach that item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point is well taken. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I anticipated that point of order. I was hoping to get as much of it in as I could before the point of order was raised. I intend to go into it in detail when we get to the next item but I wanted to get partially into it on this item because we're talking about re-evaluation, re-examination, Sir. I submit that when you're re-evaluating and re-examining, there's ample evidence to show that children in the core area, in the Inner City area are suffering a diminished, a declined, a reduced standard of education and that this Minister and this government claim -- (Interjection) -- Well my colleague can speak for himself and does very well at it and I attempt to do the same for myself. That's the hallmark of the Conservative. Some of us are more skillful at it than others, Sir, but we all do our determined best.

Sir, the fact of the matter is that this government and this Minister have insisted that they are striving for equality of education opportunity. What we're discussing here is evaluation and assessment, and I'm asking the Minister whether there has been any evaluation or assessment of whatever happened to the goal, the objective of equality of education opportunity. Because I submit to this Minister that there is less opportunity for a fair shot at education and education chances for many many youngsters, maybe the majority of the youngsters in the City of Winnipeg, than there was six, seven,

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) eight years ago. When the original Foundation Program was launched and structured it was structured to provide insofar as is possible that degree of equality of opportunity in the field of learning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. The honourable member is starting to stray again back into (3). Would he stick to Evaluation.

MR. SHERMAN: I think I've gone far beyond (3), Mr. Chairman, As a matter of fact I think I've strayed far beyond (3) but I accept your admonition, Sir. I will ask the Minister directly, what evaluation and assessment is being done with respect to that lofty goal of equality of education opportunity for children in the Inner City of Winnipeg. Because the results have indicated very substantially, I think, and I doubt there'd be much argument anywhere on this side of this House and perhaps not very much even from that side, that that goal is further away from attainment today than it was seven or eight years ago.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, if we're going to talk about the equality of educational opportunity in terms of dollars and cents, in terms of the financial burden resting upon the shoulders of each individual taxpayer, I really do believe, Mr. Chairman, that that question could best be answered when we come to the next item in my Estimates, whenever that should occur. At that point in time, Mr. Chairman, I think that the evidence will indicate that we have not lost sight of that as one of our goals, that is the provision of equality of educational opportunity. I think that our grant structure will in fact reflect that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Let me ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, if I may, what his views and his reaction is to that criticism that has come from public spokesmen, knowledgeable spokesmen, who have argued that with the direction being taken by the Department of Education then, in terms of curriculum, and with the kind of undefined emphasis on basics that exists at the present time that children in the core area, in the Inner City and in disadvantaged or less advantaged parts of the community are being short-changed by the system.

Is there any evaluation of what the present sort of drifting approach of the Department, with respect to curriculum, what effect that is having on Inner City, core city children? Many spokesmen who - and as I referred to them the other day, they're more aligned politically with the Minister than they are with me - but they have received some attention lately in their charges that it is the working class child, the working class youngster so-called who gets hurt far worse by this sort of goalless, drifting approach that the department is taking in curriculum than the student from the more affluent area. Because it's the one in the disadvantaged area who need the basic skills to even give him or her half a chance to complete. If they're not getting those basic skills through a system that's founded on the basics and the three "Rs" and those rudiments then they're the ones who are being the most badly hurt and the most badly short-changed. This I suggest is an argument that's been raised by social activists in the community who have had some experience in this field. I would appreciate the Minister's assessment of that charge.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Fort Garry accuses the government of taking a goalless, drifting approach to education and in particular to educational problems and concerns as they affect the core city area. But it's quite the contrary, Mr. Chairman. My department and the government is very much aware of the problems and needs of the core city area and hence is providing funding to meet and deal with problems common to it. As I had indicated in this House in this committee last Friday, with reference to the Special Grant that was paid to the City of Winnipeg - and I tried to do it within the limits of rules of parliamentary debate, limiting me to debate of this resolution because it is a matter that does come up later - that it was the identification of problems of immigrant children, problems of migrant children, problems of children of families of low and lower socioeconomic levels, which necessitate the introduction and development of the very types of programs that we have there. In the more affluent school division, in the place where you have a different societal makeup

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) of a given community than what you have in a downtown area, many of those problems don't exist. It becomes considerably simpler and easier for the teacher to proceed directly into the teaching of the basic skills. But let's not forget, Mr. Chairman, that in dealing with many of the pupils that we have to deal with in the downtown schools, that a considerable amount of work has to be done with the child to bring him up to the level at which you could proceed with the teaching of the basic skills in either one of the two official languages in this country. So that we are very much aware of and our assistance to the Winnipeg School Division, in particular, because it is the one that is saddled to the greatest extent with problems of this kind, it's in recognition of that fact that we have offered it the additional financial support. So that, Mr. Chairman, certainly is not a drifting, goalless approach to education. As I've said, quite the contrary, it's very much a recognition of the problems and needs in our school system and a recognition of our responsibility, the responsibility of the province to provide for those needs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, without in any way attempting to detract from the objectives and the goals that the Minister has just outlined as far as his department is concerned in the need to provide equality of opportunity for education for all students in this province, I rise to not necessarily take issue but to present what might be perhaps another point of view in the argument that was presented a few moments ago by the Member for Fort Rouge. If I understood him correctly or if I understood him clearly, he attempted to imply that private schools in this country were the property of the elite and that only people who came from wealthy families were able to afford to send their students there and that also they had the opportunity of selecting from among the brightest students in the country. Well I'm not familiar with what goes on in St. John's-Ravenscourt or some of the other private schools in this country but I am familiar with a couple of them that do not have that kind of criteria for admission.

One of them of course is located in Gretna, the Mennonite Collegiate. I doubt very much if the Member for Fort Rouge could accuse that particular school of catering only to those who had high incomes and were able to afford to send their children there. I'm a little more familiar with St. John's Cathedral Boys School in Selkirk. To suggest even for a moment that that particular school caters to high income families, or a certain level of student, is stretching the imagination a great deal. Students at the St. John's Cathedral are admitted from all areas of this province as well as the United States and foreign countries, a more cosmopolitan group of students never existed anywhere in any institution. Many of them assist in paying their own tuition by the kind of money raising projects that the school engages in and it's done deliberately. It's done in order to teach the students something other than what can be taught from books.

It's designed to teach them responsibility. As a matter of fact the intention of the school is to fulfill what the school itself believes is a need in society today and that is the accepting of responsibility on the part of younger people. They believe that today, although there may be as much attention provided to the child in the home in the way of recreation and other forms of home education, it does not take the place of a sense of responsibility that comes with achieving and doing something for one's self. Along with a very high standard of academic education in that school, this sense of responsibility is taught them. I don't know where else in any other private school or public schools that that is being taught. I think it's perhaps the reason for the degree of success that that particular school has had in producing students that are a credit to society.

I don't want to measure the success of the students coming out of that school in terms of how many of them, or what percentage of them proceed on to university because I don't think that that percentage is all that great. But the fact that the students are taught to accept responsibility and know how to handle responsibility is all part of the kind of education that is taught in St. John's Cathedral. I happen to know also that they don't come from wealthy families. They, to a large extent, will accept students of people who are somewhat disadvantaged and who feel their children require something

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(MR. JORGENSON cont'd) . . . extra and something special in the way of discipline and a sense of responsibility. I know that there are stories that have been written about the school that tend to create the impression that it's a very spartan and very 18th Century type of institution, but I don't think it's anything of the sort.

Education today is under severe criticism not only in this country, not only in this province but throughout the world and I don't think one would regard Marshall McLuhan as a person who has any 18th or 19th Century ideas about any subject. What he has to say about Canadian education, he calls it pathetic crap, as outlined in an article in the April 10 edition of the Canadian Weekend. McLuhan went on to say that he's a public advocate of interdisciplinarian multimedia education, privately supports the decision of a friend to send his kids off to Ireland to sweat it out in the traditional classically-based schools where students are made to work seven days a week with no TV and only a few hours off on Sunday for recreation. He goes on to point out that a good education today means leaving the country, getting out. He said fifteen years from now all the great writers will be people who got their education outside of Canada. The sort of crap they peddle here in Toronto is pathetic - and I use the other province because I don't want the Minister to think that I'm levelling this argument against him in isolation. It's a general malaise that affects all of the western world today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour having arrived for Private Members' Hour, in accordance with Rule 19(2), I'm leaving the Chair to return at 8 p.m. this evening.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. There being a quorum the committee will come to order. I would direct the attention of honourable members to page 35 in their Estimates books. Resolution 70, the Motor Vehicle Branch. (a) Management Services. (1) Salaries--pass. The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, just when we finished I believe we were being questioned by the Member from La Verendrye in connection with juveniles and their licenses and their registration, and I was wondering if you'd care to make some remarks on the comments that the Member from La Verendrye made just at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. As I mentioned, we are on Management Services debate having to do with the licensing and safety, and the Board should come later under (b) (c) or (d). I wonder if maybe we could pass (a) and then get on to the other items. Resolution 70(a)(1)--pass; (a)(2)--pass; (a)--pass. Resolution 70(b) Driver Licensing and Vehicle Registration. The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I suppose the Minister heard the remarks of the Member for La Verendrye the other day and I was just wishing he would comment on these and the regulations regarding juveniles and the way they are charged with their offences and so forth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Chairman, I believe there was, if not an entire answer, there was at least a partial answer given. However, perhaps what we should do is - the member's here now, if he wants to pursue that perhaps we can - we're talking about the Member for La Verendrye, in your absence, but now that you're here, the Member from Pembina mentioned something about the question you had with regard to juvenile drivers and the likes and I thought what we had partially answered the question Friday. Now if not, perhaps we can pursue it a little further.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Yes, I think it was mentioned at that time. The point that I was trying to make is about the maximum fine for a juvenile under - who gets caught under .08 is fined \$25 where a regular adult is fined \$250, and we were just questioning that. Here you have a young person who No. 1, shouldn't be drinking at all, is under the age, shouldn't even be purchasing the alcohol, so he more or less has two infractions at the same time and yet is penalized a lot less than the adult person is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 70(b), The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Since we're questioning that, how many demerit points would that juvenile get in his license for that case? The same as another individual?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTNIAK: Well, it doesn't really matter whether the individual is juvenile or an adult. If it is reported he'll get automatically slapped with 10 points, regardless of whether he is juvenile or not. The same if it's reported. The same as adult. And the suspension period, by the way, is the same also. It applies to everybody equally.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I wasn't here Friday night to hear some of this conversation. I didn't realize that the penalty is \$25 for, say, a 16 year old as opposed to say \$150 to \$200 for an adult. Can you indicate why that difference because he's a 16 year old?

MR. BURTNIAK: Under the Juvenile Act that is the maximum that can be levied against a juvenile.

MR. EINARSON: Right. Okay. Mr. Chairman, are we on driver licensing? I would like to ask the Minister. there's one problem here in regards to where a man loses his license because of consuming alcohol over .08. He works for the municipality. He is not allowed to drive any of the patrols or what have you, that he's employed by the municipality. And there's been some, I think some misunderstanding, by some police. One RCMP will say that he can drive the patrol if he's employed by a municipal councillor, another police will say he cannot. I would like to know if the Minister could give me some indication just where do we stand on that particular subject?

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Chairman, I don't know what practice or criteria or rules

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(MR. BURTNIAK cont'd)we have established here in committee, but that is a pretty detailed sort of a question. And when I refer to rules of the committee, I'm asking, because I was not here last year unfortunately so I don't know what has been laid down, but is it. . . I'm asking, Mr. Chairman, as Chairman, whether you will permit the Registrar because of the fact that it is a detailed question, to reply to that question, or is it the Deputy Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under our rules only the Minister is allowed to reply to questions from members. The staff may advise the Minister, but may not reply directly. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I had a case here where this man was employed by the municipality and he lost his license, and I'm given to understand that he's made application through the Appeal Board and so on, he's appealed his application to get a worker's permit to be able to operate a municipal maintainer or patrol. Now, it was told to him on one particular situation where he had to have his driver's license in order that he could get a license or even worker's license to operate that municipal patrol, or any piece of equipment that is being operated or used by a municipality. Now one RCMP said he didn't have a license to operate that municipal equipment at all, another one said he did, and that's the point of contention here, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the question. I'm wondering if it will be agreeable with the honourable member that rather than trying to get the answer through the staff now, if it would be agreeable if I would ask the Registrar to prepare the answer and give it to the honourable member, or even all the members of the committee, within the next day or so. Is that agreeable or would you insist to have it now?

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for his comments there I think that it's a complicated one, and I would appreciate that we have some - all I'm asking for is some understanding. I've had this problem, and this could happen in many other areas in the Province of Manitoba, and I would like to have some specific clarification as to just what is the score so far as these people are concerned. When they lose their license to be able to drive a car, can they operate a municipal patrol or any piece of equipment without a driver's license? I prefer to accept the Minister's decision, that's acceptable to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR (Virden): Mr. Chairman, I just would wonder if we shouldn't put the question to have the Registrar answer these questions, because it is a complicated department. We know he's a professional, he's been there a long time, and maybe the committee could gain a lot in having the questions answered directly from the Registrar now rather than as we get along in other departments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. We are working under House rules and not under Committee rules and a committee does not have the authority to overturn House rules. The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. WARREN STEEN (Crescentwood): Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. Driver Licensing and Vehicle Registration with salaries of \$668,500. Is this a service that is provided partly for the Public Automobile Insurance Corporation, and does the Motor Vehicle Branch receive a rebate or a refund from the Public Insurance Corporation for handling driver registration for them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTNIAK: No, that's all right. I would think it would be all right for the Minister of MPIC to respond at this point, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of MPIC.

HON. BILLIE URUSKI (Minister of Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation) (St. George): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this specific estimate, there is a cost that MPIC pays to MVB for handling the portion of the drivers' licenses in which they collect the insurance fees on the drivers' licenses, and vice versa the MVB pays over to MPIC an agreed amount for every transaction that MPIC handles on the Motor Vehicle registration side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

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MR. STEEN: Through you to the Minister of Public Insurance. Can he give me an idea of what figures - we're looking at 600 and some odd thousand dollars here - is 25 percent of that work done for the Public Insurance Corporation, or 5 percent, or what?

MR. URUSKI: Approximately 20 percent for the drivers' licenses.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, under Vehicle Registration, I've had a complaint come in to me about where the license plates are, that there are no license plates on the back of these truck boxes that are hauling gravel, that the license plates are on the front.

MR. BURTONIAK: The trailer, or the . . .?

MR. HENDERSON: On the trailers. The way I got this complaint was that somebody had had a stone come off of one of these vehicles and it went right into their windshield and they couldn't even get the license from the vehicle when they followed it because it wasn't displayed. Like it's in the upper part of it I guess, or else there is not one at all at the back, I don't know which way it is. And he claimed this way, when he goes to Autopac to get it fixed he has to pay so much because he can't blame it on anybody else because he hasn't got the licence. So I was wondering, would you comment on that?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, that is quite true, that sometimes it is very difficult to very quickly spot the licence plate on a vehicle of that type because it does not carry the plate on the box but rather on the tractor itself. So sometimes it does become invisible, so to speak. When the box covers the front of the tractor so you cannot see the license. Of course we have discussed this situation, this type of problem before, and when you look at it you get six of one and half a dozen of another. Because what happens if you have the plate in such places where it might be easily visible, the ideal would be the back of the truck box, but on the gravel trucks, or any other vehicle of this type, that licence plate would get dirty and bent and defaced, that in no time flat you would not be able to recognize or be able to read the number in most cases anyway. So, I realize that it is not the most conspicuous place to have the plate, but that's the best we could think of at the present time. I realize that this has caused problems at times to any individual who wants to get the licence number of that particular vehicle, sometimes it is difficult for him to read it, but it would be just as difficult if it were somewhere else I would think.

MR. HENDERSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, he was also claiming that because it is a fact that he couldn't get the licence plate when he went to Autopac that he had to pay more on his own bill because he was considered partly to blame, and if he could have been able to get the licence plate I guess he wouldn't have. So I was hoping that something could be worked out to take care of this.

MR. URUSKI: That certainly is possible, but, there always could be a dispute on the other party's part which is certainly open to him to dispute the liability that he or she was in fact liable for the cause of that stone flying off that truck. So that while the licence number may have been obtained, there still could be a denial of liability on the part of the other motorist.

MR. HENDERSON: Well, I just don't like to give up on the ship. Because in this case the person said they were coming behind, they knew it was a stone off the vehicle in front and they felt they'd have no bother if they could have got his plates, proven the whole thing. But the only way would be to keep following him forever and in that dust and that you can't do it. And I was just hoping that something could be worked out. Some people haven't got windshield insurance on at all and if something like this happens they've got to pay a lot more money, their insurance doesn't cover them very well for something like this. --(Interjection)-- Well, they have to pay, have to pay the first \$50.00. I'm talking about the first \$50.00 they have to pay themselves.

MR. URUSKI: If he has extension insurance - of course then we're getting into the insurance aspect, Mr. Chairman, we'll have a chance to go at that on Thursday - but if he has extension insurance, his comprehensive deductible on a passenger car would be \$25.00.

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MR. HENDERSON: And he has to pay that \$25.00 and he has to go to all the trouble and be without his car. He was complaining about that. Well, if he could prove the fellow was at fault he wouldn't have to pay anything, this is the point. And because he can't get the licence he can't prove the other fellow was at fault and so he has to pay and this is the problem.

MR. BURTONIAK: We recognize that fact.

MR. HENDERSON: Well if you're trying to work out something and haven't been able to do it, I don't suppose I can suggest anything. I just hope you could work out something because I believe that there are probably many people like this. I know a couple of times I've been coming along behind a truck and I think myself in one case it was just a stone that had stuck in a tire and then it came out later on and all of a sudden there's quite a bang on your windshield and you can't do anything about it.

MR. BURTONIAK: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the concern of the Member for Pembina and I think he's being too modest. I think if he has any suggestions in regard to the placing of licence plates on these kind of vehicles, or whatever, I would suggest that we would be only too glad to hear them.

MR. HENDERSON: That was all that I have under there. I think probably when we come down to Licence Suspension there'll be more questions. This is Licence Registration, and I don't think this . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, I see this year that we have our new licence plates and they're all starting with three letters and then followed by three numbers. Is this for a computer purpose? That's question one. Question two is, what is the lifespan of the licences? You will go with this plate for how many years? That's the two questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTONIAK: Mr. Chairman, so far as the first question is concerned, the three letters and three numbers, that is correct, that is because of the computers. This has become almost standard all across Canada and the United States, and I suppose some other areas, but especially in the North American Continent, because of computers. So you'll notice that most of the States in the United States and the provinces in Canada all have gone to that three number, three letters.

The other question was the lifespan of the licence plate. As you know they are reflectorized. They do cost a little bit more because of the reflectorization than they would without being reflectorized and we have the assurance as a matter of fact, from the manufacturer, that they will be able to last six years. Mind you there are cases where, I guess it's up to the individual himself, where the licence plate is pretty badly defaced or bent and the likes of that - mutilated, that's the word I was looking for, thank you - then I suppose the onus would be on him to have that plate replaced. But all things being equal they should last - at least we have the assurance that they should last at least six years. As a matter of fact they say possibly even seven but we'll have to make that decision, or whoever is in government at that time will have to make that decision when we reach that point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. STEEN: Hopefully, Mr. Chairman, we'll be making that decision for them. Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. These plates are manufactured privately and I believe - am I correct in that? If I am, I believe that Manitoba was one of the first provinces to get away from using people in the penal reform institutions for manufacturing plates. Is this a standard move in most provinces?

MR. BURTONIAK: I am informed that that is correct, sir.

MR. STEEN: Are other provinces and states getting away from using penitentiary personnel to manufacture them and going to private manufacturing concerns?

MR. BURTONIAK: That's correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. PHILIP M. PETURSSON (Wellington): . . . question that the Member for Pembina raised and I had raised it before because I thought he was describing the accident that I had, with my windshield broken. It's the licence plate, for one thing,

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(MR. PETURSSON cont'd)that the trucks do not display and they not only don't display licence plates they display no marks of identification by which a truck can be identified. When I reported my accident to the Mounted Police at Grand Beach - I was on Highway 59 - and the truck obviously was coming south from the Gull Lake quarries and the shower of stones came off the top of the load. The Mounted Police asked me whether I had been able to get his licence plate. They were very casual about the whole thing and said it happens all the time and that was the response that I got from Autopac, that it's happening all the time. They didn't seem to be particularly concerned. I think it's a thing that we should be concerned about. Why should we allow vehicles to travel the highways which are a danger to other traffic that is travelling on the highways? And then travelling without identification.

A MEMBER: And without a tarp.

MR. PETURSSON: And without a tarp on top that could be a protection against the flying gravel. It seems as though the truck drivers are being given some special concessions that other motorists don't have. If I, as a driver of a passenger car, am picked up on the highway for having my licence all covered with dirt so that the numbers can't be identified, then I have to pay a penalty for it. But the truck drivers not only don't have the licence plates but they would be excused if their licence plates became too dirty. The onus should be on the truck driver to have a licence plate or some identification and have it in clear view at all times so that it's visible.

The truck drivers are being excused also for rocks between the dual wheels or on the rails. Why should they be excused for that? Why should the people who travel the roads have to suffer the consequences of something of that sort? If they can't take a few minutes to knock the stone out from between the dual wheels or in the tire treads even, or on the rails along the truck box, then they should suffer some sort of a penalty for that neglect.

The other alternative is to rule passenger cars off the roads and give them over to the trucks.

I complained about the mounding of the loads in the trucks. Now whether it was that or whether it was the licence plates, somebody made a study of it and they found - I think it was the licence plates - that seven out of ten trucks had no licence plates in view and others are travelling along the highways almost with impunity with the loads mounded up. At our last meeting the Honourable Minister was indicating that the truck loads had been increased to - what is it, 80,000 pounds? Which means in certain boxes they would mound them up to be able to carry the maximum. That isn't so? --(Interjection)--Okay. In any event the trucks seem to have the command of the highways and the motor cars have to just trust to luck that they don't become victims.

On the occasion that I had the stones spill out over my car and smashed the windshield - it broke in several places - I wondered if a motorcyclist had been in my place instead of me that could have killed him or if an open car had been in the same spot. A motorcyclist could have lost control of his vehicle and an open car, the driver certainly could have lost control and he would have been sent off into the ditch.

Why should truck drivers be given some special privileges that passenger cars don't have?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTONIAK: Well, Mr. Chairman, the truck drivers are not given any special privileges as such. --(Interjection)--No, that isn't correct either because the way the Act is written now, and we are introducing some amendments to the Act as I believe the Member for Wellington is aware, that will hopefully correct some of these problems.

In the case of stones between the rear wheels or wherever, if it can be proven that that is from this particular truck or this particular owner of the truck, if they prove it was him, then he's charged like anybody else. But as I say the way the Act is written now it is rather vague. You have to see this actually happen. The police cannot charge the individual unless they see this flying rock or whatever actually take place. That's the way the Act states now. That is the reason why we are trying to make certain changes in the Act to overcome that.

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(MR. BURTNIAK cont'd)

Now the other part, particularly about the overloads as the member alluded to, the fact that he said it was overloads because of the increase in the gross vehicle loadings. That is not quite correct either because we have made provisions whereby when we extended these loads there is also a stipulation whereby there has to be a certain length between the two axles and it's got to be ten feet. There are some trucks which we have found that the two axles are less than 10 feet apart, 9 feet, 9 feet 6 inches or whatever - then for, I believe it was every foot or any fraction thereof less than ten feet then they're penalized by reducing their load by 2,000 pounds, by a ton. So therefore the shorter the wheel base the less load he can put on that truck. So we cover that part of it through the measurement of the axle assemblies. That was not the case before. That just came into being this last year. So that is the protection that we use.

We must also remember the fact that all trucks in all cases no matter what they haul, they don't always happen to be where there is a weigh scale. It happens. So sometimes we have to leave it up to our roving inspectors to check them up and of course we only have so many people and so many scales so that we can't be everywhere throughout the province. So no doubt some of them get away with it. But it's like anything else. But that does not mean that they are a privileged lot or get away with certain things that other people don't have the privilege of getting away with if there is such a thing. As I say we are looking at the possibility of covering these loads by putting in certain amendments and other amendments to help overcome these sort of problems that the Member for Wellington suggested.

MR. PETURSSON: I'd like to raise the question about the covering. There were reasons given earlier on about why truck drivers could not be compelled to cover their loads, that the wind got under the cover and so on and that the rocks could blow out from underneath and things of that sort. But is there a compulsion on farmers when they're hauling grain to have a covering on it?

MR. BURTNIAK: No.

MR. PETURSSON: That isn't compulsory?

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure of other provinces in western Canada but I believe in Saskatchewan it is compulsory for farmers hauling grain on the highways to have a tarpaulin over their loads, for the simple reason that certain weeds and the likes do get blown off with the grain and it adds to the cost of maintenance of the highway. But at the same time more so I think it's for the benefit of the farmer himself. Now I've farmed for many years and I know when I haul grain I would have been stupid not to cover my load especially on a windy day. It doesn't have to be a very windy day. If you get out on the highway and you're travelling 50, 60 miles an hour with a load of grain, you're going to lose 10 or 15 bushels on that road scattered all over the place by the time you get it to the elevator. So it's only to the farmer's advantage to have a tarpaulin over the load in order to prevent the grain from blowing away. Also as I say, I know in Saskatchewan they have this compulsory legislation because also of the weeds that are blown off along with the grain and naturally they grow on the shoulders and in the ditch and that of course adds to the maintenance cost of mowing the grass and the weeds.

MR. PETURSSON: The Honourable Minister mentions or speaks of the protection of the highways and the shoulders of the roads against weeds but the truck drivers driving gravel they aren't being checked or disciplined for the protection of other people who are travelling on the roads. I've heard arguments given of why they can't or why it's difficult for them to carry a tarpaulin. But it's the simplest thing in the world. I have seen trucks with a tarpaulin on and boxed as it were, that to simply slip down over the box and a rope that goes all the way around that would hold any kind of a load in. I think that the truck drivers probably have rather a powerful lobby and make themselves heard and make their strength felt which, for the benefit of the travelling public, should be resisted. Otherwise the travelling public will have to develop a lobby of its own for its own protection against the truck drivers.

May I ask, Mr. Chairman, how are the loads checked? How are the trucks checked or are they checked? Are they allowed to drive the highways free and easy without being disciplined or coming under the disciplines of . . .

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MR. BURTNIAK: Well I'd like to know what the member means, loads checked for what reason. Are you talking about licences and . . .

MR. PETURSSON: Loading, overloading.

MR. BURTNIAK: Well they're checked at our weigh scales. But as I say there are times where there are certain haulings of gravel or whatever that may take place where there are no weigh scales, where you don't pass any weigh scales. That could happen. But this is the report that I had received recently from the weigh scale inspectors where they were checking the truckers for gravel and for other material that they hauled, such as lumber and other things, and that's where the checks were made for weights and the things like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. PETURSSON: Trucks can travel quite a distance along the roads before they get to weigh scales. For instance, from the Gull Lake Quarries down to the weigh scales near Selkirk, it's pretty near 40 miles, 35, 40 miles. They could spill a lot of gravel and break a lot of windshields in that stretch. And the same thing would be on Highway No. 6, wherever they come from. I don't know where they get the limestone that they haul in, the rocks. They would stop at the weigh scales down somewhere fairly close to the city. Is it near Stonewall, Stonewall, somewhere in that area. They could spill a lot of rock off onto the road and do the same thing as they did to this fellow early this spring. And my thought was at that time that while during the winter we hadn't been aware to any great extent of broken windshields because of gravel hauling, the first thing that happens when the season opens, is a big rock flying off and not only going through your windshield, but breaking the rear window in the truck that the man was driving.--(Interjection)--A light delivery. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to bring this to the attention of the Honourable Minister and hope, for God's sake, that something is done, otherwise the passenger cars will be ruled off the roads and we'll have to take side roads to avoid the trucks and give the paved highways over to the trucks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to close discussion. I think we've had a pretty good run and as I indicated, there is legislation being proposed to deal with these matters. We're going to be dealing with them very shortly. It'll be introduced, so I don't think we should pursue this any further, I think the points are well taken. I appreciate the Member for Wellington's concern and others. We have taken a good look at the situation and we are going to try and see if we can solve that problem, at least to some degree. I don't know if we're going to be able to solve it 100 percent, but certainly we can try doing it by legislation, by talks and the likes of that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I have two different points I'd like to raise on this particular item. Number one is: I understand that the department is sending out notices for people who have existing drivers' licences to take medical check-ups. How is this being done? Is it being done by computer? Are there certain age groups that are being singled out? In other words, is somebody 30 just as susceptible to have to go for a medical check-up as somebody 60 years old? And when this medical check-up is taken, does the Manitoba Hospitalization cover it or is the person forced to pay for it himself?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Chairman, let's take the last part of your question first. I am just as concerned, I want to assure the members of the committee, I'm just as concerned about that part as other members are, because I have looked at it from getting complaints, and I must admit that there have been some complaints about that, where the people are asked to go for a medical and they have to pay the medical themselves. It doesn't seem right. However, I am told that the individual has one free check-up anyway. Now we don't know how the doctors will take that, which one they will say is a free one and which is not. So that becomes a problem. But then I believe that there is something to do with the third party in here. Now I'm going to elaborate a

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(MR. BURTNIAK cont'd) little further on that. First of all, we're talking about the class licence system that we have established in the province to sort of coincide with this kind of policy in other provinces in Canada. And these people are those who have a Class Licence 1 to 4 because of the types of vehicles that they drive. Once you're into Class 5 there is no need for that because you're able to drive your personal car, half ton truck, smaller farm trucks and so on. So there is no need for any medical when you have a Class 5 licence, as compared to Class 1 to 4, because you're driving sophisticated type of vehicles, different types of vehicles other than a car or a small truck. I believe the Minister responsible for MPIC was going to add something on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of MPIC.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I know there have been complaints with respect to - I know my colleague has had concerns about the taking of a medical. But the taking of a medical as requested by a third party, whether it be the Motor Vehicle Branch or any other third party, for example, an individual applying for a job, if he would be going and applying for a job and the employer required a medical to be taken, he would have to do so at his own expense. And this matter of requiring the motorists of having a medical in varying stages, dependent on the age of the motorist and also dependent on the class licence that he takes, varies with the age of that motorist and the class that he takes. It's no different than would be the case of any third party requiring a medical. For example, a life insurance company may request a medical be taken of an applicant who wishes to purchase insurance and the cost of that would have to be paid or borne by the applicant himself.

MR. BANMAN: A further question then. Is this done by computer selection or is it done at random?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTNIAK: The computer prints out the forms, but then it is up to the individual to decide what sort of class licence he requires, so that he applies for that particular class of licence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of MPIC.

MR. URUSKI: Yes, everyone would be subject to it based on the age of the motorist and the class that he takes, and that would dictate the frequency of the test.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: So that the existing people that are driving are summoned to . . . if you don't change your classification on your driver's licence, in other words, if you're only classified to drive cars and you're not going to drive anything over 34,000 pounds with air brakes, you won't be asked to take that medical check-up. In other words, it's not being done like the car safety checks are where the computer will throw out X number of cards a year and those people have to go.

MR. BURTNIAK: That's right, no. As I said, if people that have Class 5 licence which enables them to drive a number of different vehicles, then that doesn't apply. However, if a person who has a Class 5 licence decides to get a job to drive a semi-truck, then of course he has to apply for this other class licence and that of course will enable him to also drive all the vehicles under Class 5.

MR. BANMAN: Another question I'd like to ask the Minister and see if his department is doing anything in this particular regard, and that is to include the picture of the driver on the driver's licence. Now Alberta is moving in that direction, and I also note in my travellings in the States that most of the States have that particular practice, like California and other States. I realize that maybe the Highways Department wouldn't be the biggest benefactor from this particular type of thing and that people like the Department of Tourism would benefit because of the drinking age. Also, I think a lot of the consumers as well as the store owners would benefit because it would be an instant I.D., as now we get a birth certificate and there's no picture on it. I could be using your birth certificate as long as our height and eye colour and that was the same, and that causes a fair amount of problems with regards to the use of credit cards as a whole. And as we know, we've got sort of a credit card society. I think as far as the Minister's department is concerned, it would also probably help the police in catching some of the suspended drivers. We have quite a few people that are suspended right now,

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(MR. BANMAN cont'd)if not for having too many speeding tickets, then for being caught by .08. I know it's a practice, and we've had - I remember hearing that accident up at Dauphin where he had borrowed somebody's driver's licence and away he went. And really unless the RCMP know exactly who it is, they can't go ahead and do anything. So I'm wondering if possibly the Minister's department has done a cost analysis on it or if there is any contemplation towards going to that type of a system.

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Chairman, yes we have. We have been kicking this thing around for a few months and I do believe that there is some cost analysis available. We're very much concerned about the fact that perhaps we should have what you might call instant I.D. card which would go with your licence plate. Except the only thing now this might sound a bit funny and you may think it's not too relevant to the discussion, but nowadays with the wigs and all that you know it may be a little difficult, because a person can come in, appear in the picture as a blonde and then come back and be a brunette or black hair. So that really makes a person look a lot different, depending on the colour of hair. But you know, I just throw that in as an aside. This applies all across Canada and all over the world, and I believe that some States of the United States have I.D. cards on the licence. But I must say to the committee, and it's no reflection on the Minister responsible for MPIC, but we have had to get our computers set up for so many other things properly that we just were not able to go into this kind of a program at the same time which would cause perhaps more confusion than already has been caused. But we are certainly looking towards the possibility in the near future of making available for the people of Manitoba to have their own identification cards on their licences, something similar to some of the States in the U.S.A.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Member for La Verendrye pretty well covered mine in connection with the driver testing, but I'd like to go back to this thing with the truck drivers and the tarps and the farmers and the tarps. I'd hope that we wouldn't come to the day when they would legislate compulsory use of tarps for farm trucks because, as the Minister said, when the grain blows off and he sees it he's pretty likely to put a tarp on the next time, and a lot of times he's going with a part of a load or he's going a different distance and if you ever start checking them, well, you'll just have to have so many more civil servants out on the road that it wouldn't be very good.

Another thing, in connection with this gravel - I know it weighs different amounts according to the moisture content in it, and it surely will vary a lot in a load. And generally speaking truckers aren't going to be hauling more than they're getting paid for anyway, so I think it's just a matter of maybe a little bit of how they're loaded, if they're getting paid by the yard, it's the form in which they're loaded. I think maybe what could help is if where, either working at a gravel pit and there's a large amount of trucks going out, if they had somebody check on certain occasions to see that one maybe hadn't been loaded, maybe shall we say too much in the back end with stones probably higher near the railing, if they could just be checking. I don't think that putting tarps on gravel trucks would really be very good in a lot of the cases because of their short hauls and the trouble and the time it takes with tarps, but I think if they had a supervisor at the pit that would see that would see that their load was levelled reasonably enough, mounted up in one place, would help a lot.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it's the proper place under Vehicle Registration to ask this question. I did as the Minister in the House about licencing of Mo-peds and I wonder if he has given any further consideration to that. Because since that question I raised in the House, I have a stack of mail that I'm not able to keep up with, and I believe one of his colleagues the Minister of Tourism and Recreation told me the same thing. Now the question that I'm raising, there's quite a few people that are using these vehicles without proper licencing and they're getting picked up by the police almost every day. Now a Mo-ped, all it is; is a small motor-cycle similar to some of the Japanese motorcycles, and in my opinion if they're equipped with standard motorcycle equipment, that they have brakes and the lights and proper cross bars and rear view mirrors and everything else, maybe the Minister should be giving consideration, because in today's paper I notice that it indicated, I don't know how

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) accurate it is, that all the provinces have licenced them. I don't know if that's true or not.

The other point is, we're talking about the conservation of energy and so on, these run apparently 200 miles to a gallon of gas and they're easy to operate, they're very economical. And it's not only young people, but some of the letters that I'm getting - I know one individual that holds a pretty high position, is a manager of one of the larger insurance companies, and he says: I'm using mine to work and now I can't use it. And so it looks that some of the older people are using these vehicles as well. So once they meet a set of regulations that the government would establish, maybe the Minister should be giving consideration to licencing, because all it is, it's a small motorcycle as far as I'm concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTNIAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is correct, that two weeks or so ago when the honourable member asked a question about the licencing of these so-called Mo-peds, I had indicated to the House at that time that more than likely we would not proceed with any legislation in this particular session. Now since that time we have been flooded with - not only the Member for Assiniboia himself but the Minister of Tourism and also the Minister of Highways, and I don't know who else - and it is I guess a great deal of concern to a lot of people who have these so-called Mo-peds. The thing is, when I made that statement in the House, I was of course thinking of the problems that sort of developed in the Province of Ontario. They passed legislation in regards to Mo-peds last year or a year ago or so, and I guess it was done in a hurry and all aspects were not considered at the time and they had run into some problems. So they have had to make numerous amendments to the legislation, as well as some of the other provinces.

I am told that at the present time in Quebec City, and that was another thing that I was thinking of, that there is a Canadian Conference of Motor Transport Administration dealing - one of the things they're dealing with is the question of Mo-peds, and they're trying to sort of look at all the various aspects to be able to suggest to the provinces in Canada to bring in the type of legislation that will hopefully be sufficient to cure all the ills at the beginning instead of having to pass legislation and find that there's so many things that were left out or probably weren't legislated properly, and bring in amendments. So I was thinking of that conference, to see what they will come up with, what suggestions they'll have, and also to look at some other provinces that have passed this particular legislation, what problems they actually had run into so that we wouldn't make the same mistakes. Now, as I said, I'm looking at it perhaps in the near future, perhaps next session, but in view of the tremendous interest raised, we may have to reconsider. That's all I can say at this time.

One other thing I'd like to mention, Mr. Chairman, and I don't want to prolong this debate. But I saw the article in the paper that the member alluded to earlier about Manitoba being the only province in Canada that does not have legislation making Mo-peds legal in the province. I also would like to point out to the members of the committee that Manitoba also is the only province in Canada that does not have compulsory legislation for wearing of helmets for motorcycles. So therefore I think that it doesn't mean that either we're wrong in not bringing in that legislation or we are right in not bringing it in, but to say that because something is not existent in this province in comparison to other provinces, there may be reasons for it. But I would think that if we're going to - and I'd like to put this on the record - that if we're going to talk about Mo-peds, if we're going to talk about compulsory wearing of seat belts, we're going to talk about compulsory wearing of seat belts, we're going to talk about reduction of speed limits and all that, I would also try to throw into this whole ball of wax the possibility of legislating the wearing of helmets for a motorcyclist.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: I agree with the Minister that, you know, you have to come up with proper regulations and I believe that some of the other provinces that did get into trouble, for instances, Ontario I believe licenced drivers at age fourteen without requiring the necessary proper licence that could drive a motorcycle, and I would consider this as nothing else but a small motorcycle and they would have to qualify for a proper driver's

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) licence and there must be set up regulations that will deal with registration, they must come up with proper equipment, and that's the only way, and I hope the Minister is giving consideration in that respect.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, it'd been so long now I've almost forgot what I was going to say, but I was interested in listening to the Member for Wellington make his comments, and then my colleague from Pembina, in regard to the damage that is caused by flying stones on hitting windshields. There was a comment made by the Minister, and I want to make sure that I didn't misunderstand him, and this is maybe sort of a legal aspect of this whole thing, that if I'm going down the road in my car and it so happens that an RCMP officer happens to be following me, and he sees one of my tires throw a stone at an on-coming car that meets me, and that stone hits his windshield and bruises it, am I liable for the damage of that car that I meet, if that stone from my tire hits his windshield?

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Chairman, if whatever slides off a load, say a piece of lumber, or a rock, and the officer notices at that time, then the trucker becomes liable, but in a case of a stone that was jammed in between the two wheels and then, if that can be determined, I think that would be determined by the courts because it would be pretty hard to definitely say whether that rock came from up between the tires or it came off the load. But if it's definitely, if it can be definitely proven that something fell off that load while in motion, then of course you can be held liable for the damage.

MR. EINARSON: Then, Mr. Chairman, we're talking about two different things here this afternoon where flying stones can come from a car - or a truck, it doesn't matter, and I've seen it happen many times - hit somebody's windshield that's being met --(Interjection)-- or headlights, that's right - but flying stones off a loaded truck of stones, I think you very seldom every see it come off a load of gravel, which is a different thing, but off a load of stones that's another matter, and I think we must be sure that we differentiate between the two, and we're not going to establish a law, a blanket law, where tarps have to be put over every truck that's travelling no matter what they're carrying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): It's been some time since I indicated . . . I think my question has been answered a couple of times so I really . . .

I would just like to comment though, Mr. Chairman, that I stand to be corrected, but I think there is legislation covering tarping of grain, but maybe the Minister of Agriculture has an answer to that, but several members have spoken about gravel and covering loads of gravel. I simply suggest, Mr. Chairman, that wherever this gravel is going I don't think that we should do anything to prohibit the . . . put the Minister in a position where he would stop some of this gravel being spilt on the roads.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley:

MR. WILSON: If we're under driver licencing and vehicle registration, I do share of the comments made regarding safety and that, but I'll wait until that section.

I did want to go into the area of vehicle registration. I'd asked a question earlier under, I think it was under Minister's salary, as to how far behind his department was in the record keeping, or the records of serial number registrations and drivers' licence registrations. If you remember I asked the question. In other words, you have a computer type, I believe it was under the computer section that I had . . . I wondered, is the Minister behind 30 days or 60 days? The records that you keep pertaining to, if you give a person's name there should be a car registered to that person's name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTNIAK: Are you finished?

MR. WILSON: Yes. I have more questions but I . . .

MR. BURTNIAK: Well Mr. Chairman, I am not aware at this point in time that there is any backlog, made by the honourable member in regard to registration and the likes. I'm not aware that there are any backlogs. I think they're normal that exist you know, just day to day sort routine transactions, but I am not aware of any kind of a

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(MR. BURTNIAK cont'd)backlog that exists pertaining to this particular part of the program that the Vehicle Branch is responsible for.

MR. WILSON: To the Minister. My own personal experience is that I've been waiting up until just recently for the '76 registrations to be compiled because many of these records were not available and yet I believe March 1st was the time when most people acquired their plates.

Another concern that I have, talking about records, the Federal Government at one time was under a great deal of criticism because their passports were so accessible. I wondered if the Minister could comment on the fact that anyone can mail money from the United States, or Ontario, or anywhere, and get a Manitoba licence plate, because in my dealings with the Canadian Customs they tell me they're having a great deal of problems with the Province of Manitoba because you're giving licence plates to many American vehicles which may or may not, or should or should not have had customs moneys paid on them.

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Chairman, I don't know. Here again I always keep saying in reply to the Honourable Member's questions there is no such problem in Manitoba. I don't know where the member gets his information from. The person has to clearly establish his residence and the likes before he can get registration on his vehicle, otherwise there is just no way. Maybe the Minister for MPIC can respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister for MPIC.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, you know, if a motorist in declaring his residence fills in his registration by compiling, giving a false declaration, then there is no doubt a likelihood where a plate will be mailed out, either sold to him, would be sold to him but based on his declaration. The length of time of updating records, both vehicle and driver's licence, are normally usually within a week of the transaction being completed, they are updated and put on the system. When the new plates were issued and the transfer from the previous system to the new system, I believe it's been indicated that it has taken about three weeks to update the system at the time of change-over from the old plates to the new ones.

MR. WILSON: Would then the Ministers or this government consider if it's become morally acceptable to make these false declarations that something be put in under the Canada Evidence Act where they could be brought to trial or fined for this offence because as I have pointed out there has been a suggestion by members of the Federal Customs Department that they are having a great deal of problems because of the laxity of registration of vehicles that may or may not be qualified for registration in Manitoba.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, first of all it has not ever, and will not be acceptable to make a false declaration, and if in fact it is found that motorists do make false declarations they will be prosecuted, and have been.

Secondly, the customs people, the enforcement of the Customs Act, which is a federal statute, is done by the RCMP and I'm sure that if there is a problem at the border of declaring settler's effects or importing of automobiles, the RCMP would be investigating it, and the Customs people would be dealing with them. There has been no indication to us directly that this has been and is a problem.

MR. WILSON: I wonder then if under this registration if the Minister could give some thought to Autopac agents, who seem to be extremely well paid for their work - has any thought been given to the responsibility being put on the agents to go out and look at the cars which they are insuring. I think in the area - I'd like to know from the Minister some time, if not today, the total number of cracked windshield claims. It has been suggested to me that if the Autopac agents went out and checked that many cracked windshield claims could be avoided, because if a person is taking out a registration on a vehicle and he registers it as a 72 Chevrolet and if the Autopac agent doesn't look at that particular car, it could very well have had a cracked windshield, or a bruised windshield, and this could lead to a particular cracked windshield later on. I recall from experience a car that I purchased and ended up selling with a cracked windshield, but at the time I purchased it it was bruised in two places and when it was sitting out in the change of weather it one day just cracked, just by sitting there without any . . .

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) obviously an Act of God, but it cracked. It sort of drew to the attention of myself that here I had been able to buy insurance with two bruises on the windshield, and I think that there would be a big saving to the taxpayers of Manitoba if the Autopac agents were to examine the car to see if the windshields or windows were cracked, because I think that they are making a reasonable return and maybe some thought should be given to some onus being put on them that if they are insuring these cars, and are getting a commission, that the day is soon arriving when we have to say, it's all coming out of our taxpayer's pocket and that we need as many citizens as possible to safeguard us against knowing or unknowing people who might very well be insuring a car as being in perfect condition, where in fact it has a cracked windshield.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Chairman, I have several questions. The first question, and it may be because the Member for Wolseley raised the issue, I would like to address this question to the Minister in charge of MPIC. This relates to the enforcement officers in vehicle road checks, if they issue you instructions to replace a windshield, is that sufficient, is that ticket sufficient for a body shop to replace a windshield without an adjustor's approval or not, because I took it to a body shop to have it done, and they told me no they couldn't do it until the adjustor appeared there, that I would have to be there and make a statement . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order please. We are on driver licencing and vehicle registration. If the honourable member wishes to debate Autopac he should bring it up at a later time.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, the reason this does relate to vehicle registration because they told me that if I didn't have it done by a certain date that they would cancel my licence, that the vehicle registration office would cancel the licence, and I was unable to take the vehicle to the body shop at the time that the adjustor would be there, because my duties in the Legislature prevent me from being in two places at one time, so I just asked the --(Interjection)--Yes drive a farm truck 200 miles to Winnipeg to . . . There has to be a certain amount of reason I suggest and I would suggest that if a law enforcement officer orders something like that to be done I think that should be sufficient reason.

The second question that I wanted to raise, and it was with the Minister of Highways, and it relates to the subject that was raised by the Member for Assiniboia dealing with Mo-peds. Now I am one who has ridden Mo-peds in the past, before they were outlawed, and I get a little concerned in this province where, if things aren't registered, there's a tendency to make them unlawful. It seems that we're moving, fast moving to a point where everything has to be spelt out in law, that everything has to be registered, we have to cross the t's and dot the i's in all of our legislation, and I think there is some things that, for instance, bicycles, now I think we're not too far away from where every bicycle is going to be registered and the owner is going to have to be licensed as well, and I'm not that uptight about that; I think there should be some freedom; I think that there should be some vehicles we can use without registration and this is . . . I know there are vehicles that I use that are not registered, and I use them of necessity, I'm referring to farm tractors and things of that nature, so when it comes to the question of Mo-peds I have to say that I'm not too concerned about registering them. I think once you hit a certain cubic capacity or certain horse-power in a motor, yes, after that period maybe you should register it, but if it's under that horse-power I don't think it should be registered, but I don't think it should be illegal to use it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTONIAK: Mr. Chairman, I would think that if the honourable member were to discuss it in his own caucus I bet you any money that he wouldn't get complete agreement on the stand he's taken, because when you're talking about vehicles and bicycles, as such, not being a Mo-ped, just a bicycle, it is considered as far as the Highway Traffic Act, it's considered a vehicle. And now if we allow a certain vehicle to be registered, and certain vehicles they don't have to be registered, I don't think that we could really keep tab on what the circumstances might be when they run into accidents - how are you going to trace it? And if that were the case, then all other provinces in Canada

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(MR. BURTONIAK cont'd)and there's ten of them, would look at it from the same point of view, but I think when you have to administer a certain law they have to make sure what in the world they're administering, and I don't think there is these kind of provisions anywhere else really that the member is referring to. I am told that the Province of Ontario, for example, tried and they had to change because of the tremendous public pressure that was brought to bear. So, we're pretty well guided, governments usually are guided by their own experiences or experiences of other provinces or other countries, and I think it's only right.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I point this out at this time, that I think we have to be very careful when we start trying to cross the "t"s and dot the "i"s and register everything that moves practically in this province. I think that there are some things that should not be registered. There should be some freedom left for the individual, and if he wants to ride a bicycle without registering it, then I say, let him. I still maintain that he has to abide by the rules of the road and that, but I wouldn't like to see the government getting into the registration of every vehicle that moves in this province.

MR. BURTONIAK: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to prolong this any further, but I don't see how an individual loses any kind of freedom because the vehicle that he has is going to be registered. And furthermore, if that is the case, what about other freedoms of those people who are going to be involved in some way by getting killed or being injured by this unregistered vehicle owner. I think they have certain freedoms as well. So it works both ways. I can appreciate the member's thinking, but in this day and age it just isn't practical any more, and I don't think that, as I said before, by registering a vehicle that an individual loses certain freedoms. I would say that he gains some rather than loses some.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 70(b)(1)--pass; (b)(2) - the Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: I wonder if the Minister could break this down and indicate just where these moneys have been allocated to, \$4,094,700.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTONIAK: This is for licence plates, also the portion that we pay to MPIC, agents' commissions, and also, as I stated earlier when I started with the Estimates on Thursday, certain computer charges as well are in here. So that's what totals up to that particular figure.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, this indicates an important estimate to me, when he says a portion of this \$4 million goes to MPIC. Can he indicate of that total amount here, how much is being allocated to MPIC?

MR. BURTONIAK: Of the \$4 million or what?

MR. EINARSON: Yes.

MR. BURTONIAK: I thought I was being conservative in my estimate but it's just a little higher than that, it's about \$2.7 million.

MR. EINARSON: 2.7 million of this total goes to MPIC for the operations of MPIC.

MR. BURTONIAK: Yes, that's right.

MR. URUSKI: For the handling of the transactions. That does not include the agent's commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: You mentioned under this \$4 million that part of it was for licence plates. At one time those were made in the penitentiaries. How does the system go now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTONIAK: Well, it's tendered out, and it's on a bid basis.

MR. WILSON: Well, how much last year did the licence plates cost, as you say, or is there any . . . ?

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MR. BURTNIAK: This is not for the new plates. They don't show up as yet.

MR. WILSON: Oh, they haven't. Oh, yes, I see. But in other words, they are tendered out to their private section, they're no longer done in the penitentiaries.

MR. BURTNIAK: No.

MR. WILSON: That's too bad.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 70 (b). The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: I'd like to get back on the licence plates here. Can the Minister indicate just how much more the licence plates are now than they were say, three years ago?

MR. BURTNIAK: Per pair?

MR. EINARSON: Yes. Or per hundred. I don't know, just however you buy them.

MR. BURTNIAK: There is a little more variance because of the fact that the previous plates were reflectorized and so are these. We kept the reflectorized plates for the new sets. So because of the fact that they were reflectorized, I don't know exactly how much additional cost but there was some additional cost because of reflectorization, the value would be from about 85 cents to \$2.00 from the previous to now.

MR. EINARSON: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: One brief question. The question has been asked of me, why the present colour of the licence plates and who chose it? What was the reasoning behind it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTNIAK: Well, first of all, I think it's a very good colour. I think it is a very good slogan. I believe that we've had nothing but good remarks from the people, good comments about the slogan and the colours, and I think that the reason basically, the orange and the so-called purple, is because of the reflective material. So those are the best colours, and naturally to distinguish from the other provinces.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 70(b)(2)--pass; (b)--pass. Resolution 70 (c) Safety (1) Salaries. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this item I'd like to ask him, Safety, I see that we're spending quite a bit of money. Perhaps the Minister can explain what the program for Safety is, is there such a thing as a prerequisite for a driver's licence of all applicants under 18, that they must complete the driving safety course? Or what other is there? Re-examination of the accident ratios that certain drivers have? Is there a penalty? What is the penalty, say, for a suspension of driving without a driver's licence? We seem to have quite a few of those and those result in very serious consequences.

MR. BURTNIAK: I'm sorry, which one?

MR. PATRICK: Driving without a driver's licence. Those seem to result in serious accidents, either being chased by the police or something. So, under this item of Safety, where we still have senseless slaughter on our highways, so many accidents, perhaps the Minister can give us some indication what is the program and where the money is spent. And the people that have their driver's licence reinstated, do they have to write an exam or take a driving test or something? So I think that the whole safety program by the government should be looked at. Maybe there could be some kind of advertising, because if I may say at this time to the Minister, I believe that the Liquor Control Commission does fairly good advertising during Christmas holidays. I know that some object to it, but you talk to people in the Safety and you talk to people in the different provinces, they thought it was a good program. Can the Minister in this area, where we come to Safety, spend some money on advertising? I know we're spending quite a bit already on the Safety, so perhaps he can describe and explain the program, what takes place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTNIAK: Well, not to elaborate too long on it, but there were several programs in regard to the different questions the member asked. One, I did refer to briefly in my opening remarks, the pilot program with the Alcoholism Foundation

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(MR. BURTNIAK cont'd)of Manitoba that we have. Then of course, they go into Snowmobile Safety, the Bicycle Safety, the Vehicle Inspection Program that I am referring to, the Defensive Driving courses, the Driver Education courses.

MR. PATRICK: The Vehicle Inspection Program, can the Minister indicate how extensive is it? I believe the Minister in his opening statement, if I recollect, I wrote it down somewhere where he indicated 73 percent of the cars have to be - these were not old cars, they had something wrong with them. So if that's the case, I think that we have to expand that program because this is maybe where it's costing us so much money for the Minister of MPIC. So maybe he should expand the Inspection Program. And how many cars do you test a year, what percentage?

MR. BURTNIAK: Yes, I think I referred to the figures. I don't know if I can find them very quickly here, but I believe our expectations for this coming fiscal year is to inspect somewhere in the neighbourhood of 40,000 vehicles. And I am just as concerned as the honourable member is about this program, and enthusiastic too, because I feel that based on the statistics that we have as to the number of vehicles which are not in very good condition, that's right, that's right, that concerns me, I think it concerns everybody. So we are moving towards expanding that program further as much as we possibly can, with the bodies that we require and all the other equipment and so on. So we are moving in that direction. As a matter of fact, I am going to be bringing in - I'm telling tales out of school here, but I'm going to be presenting other amendments to the Highway Traffic Act No. 2 which is coming up shortly, which we'll deal with partly with this kind of program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: I don't want to interrupt the Minister, but can he indicate as well, under the Safety Inspection, when you go in to inspect, say, in the year '76, you have 40,000 cars - I believe, you inspected 28,000 in 1975 - under the 40,000 cars, do you pick say more older cars in the 60s, late 60s and early 60s, or do you average them out every year the same? What happens, are you inspecting '75 year models and '76, or are you concentrating more on cars that are 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 years old?

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Chairman, the program up to now, we felt that we wanted to concentrate on the older type vehicle, so with what we were able to proceed with, we had to do it that way and we were taking cars in 1974 and older, '74 down. If we will be able to expand the program somewhat, then probably sometime in the near future we'll be able to inspect some newer models, more than we have been able to inspect so far. But it is an enormous task, it is going to take a lot of work to be able to inspect the - but we feel that some of the newer cars, the manufacturers recall them if they discover some defect, the manufacturers themselves, as I'm sure that all members are aware of. There are times when they recall thousands of vehicles, brand new vehicles if they detect something wrong. So we've stayed away from those type of vehicles. As I say, whatever funds we had, and the bodies we had, we had to try to work on the older type vehicles, which 1974 and older, but I appreciate the concern of the member, because I know that there are some newer vehicles that that also have some faults.

MR. PATRICK: Can the Minister indicate where the vehicles are inspected, what stations have you got?

MR. BURTNIAK: We had 12 in the rural areas, I believe. I'm talking about what we've had so far. There will be more this year, but so far we've had 12 in the rural areas and 4 in the City of Winnipeg.

MR. PATRICK: Are they government stations, or are they private?

MR. BURTNIAK: They're government. Mr. Chairman, while I'm at it, I believe, to make sure I don't forget, there were some questions asked here by the Member for Assiniboia and also by the Member for Ste. Rose, very similar questions, earlier, I believe Thursday or Friday, in regard to the number of accidents by age groups and also whether they occurred in daylight or night and so on. I have some information in this regard, age group as well, and whether they were fatal or non-fatal. So, under age 16 years to 19, the age group - well anyway, we'll do it this way then. In 1974 . . .

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose on a point of order?

MR. ADAM: It's not a point of order. I'm just wondering whether the Minister will be breaking this down, Territory 1, Territory 2.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member was right, it's not a point of order. The Honourable Minister.

MR. BURTNIAK: No, the information we have here is the age groups, the number of accidents and when they occurred, whether it was daylight or nighttime - and these are for 1974, these are the latest statistics that we have available to us. In 1974 in daylight hours, there were 69 fatal accidents, 4,598 non-fatal, 17,323 property damage, for a total of 21,990. At dawn, there was one fatality, 121 non-fatal, 431 property damage, for a total of 553. So the overall total in 1974 for daytime fatalities were 70, 4,719 for non-fatal accidents, 17,754 property damage, for a total of 22,543. Then maybe I shouldn't - unless the members want me to go again for the same procedure for nighttime, I can give them the totals if they'd like, it would be faster. Nighttime fatalities were 90, for the same year 74, non-fatal at night were 3,123, property damage 11,223, for a total of 14,436. There were three fatalities, 91 non-fatal and 722 property damage for a total of 816 which we don't know under what conditions they occurred, whether they were night or day or whatever. So the provincial total was 163 fatalities, 7,933 that were non-fatal, 29,699 property damage for a total of 37,295. I believe that's the information the members wanted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: I'm finished. I thank the Minister for getting me those statistics.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Under the Safety Education first, I appreciate the comments made already, but I wondered, has the Minister ever thought of a better co-ordination or a better communication with the doctors of the province. There seems to me there should be some moral obligation, if not a legal one, to supply the department with a list of known AAs so we could get some of these alcoholics off the road. I'm sure that stats would bear me out that alcohol-related accidents are a very large percentage of these numbers. It would seem to me that also people that have a fainting or a serious or continuing heart problem, that information should be, with this huge government computer we have, should be easily made available, if we had the moral obligation and the medical profession to supply governments with this information. I think these people should be kept off the road, in light of the alarming figures that we have, and if we do cherish human life. Another thought, too, is that the police possibly could give the Minister's department an indication of some of the drug addicts and acid heads who definitely should have their drivers' licenses suspended. I wanted to deal with that particular area, but I see I'm running out of time and I'd like to speak on it tonight if I could because safety is an area which for some reason or other I've had a lot of people writing me and expressing their concerns.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. In accordance with our Rule 19(2) I'm interrupting the proceedings for the Private Members' Hour to return at 8:00 this evening.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The first item, Resolution 14. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. Stand.

RESOLUTION 15

MR. SPEAKER: Resolution 15 --(Interjection)-- . . . can't stand, I either put it to the Floor of the House, or someone else picks it up --(Interjection)-- That's what I said. Are you ready for the question on 15? The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the rules provide for a closing of a resolution and I would like to make just some short remarks because of the statements that were made when the resolution was introduced on this particular resolution. The Minister of Industry and Commerce seemed to be at two minds as I understood him: One was the . . . he said there was certainly a need for better co-ordination, better planning, better management of energy planning in the country, but that he didn't see the necessity of having a group of people to do it, and he said that there was already quite a number of meetings between Ministers and already a great deal of communication back and forth. The point that we are trying to make in the resolution, Mr. Speaker, was not that there wasn't enough meetings but the meetings weren't accomplishing anything, that we seem to be sort of jumping from lily pad to lily pad, and from crisis to crisis, from problem to problem, without ever being able to develop any kind of cohesive strategy towards it. It was simply emergency fire fighting in the energy field, trying to deal with today's problems without anticipating tomorrow's, and that one of the difficulties with that kind of inter-governmental ad hocery, is that it usually ends up being short-term decisions with short term results and oftentimes the results are costly, wasteful and inequitable. And what we pointed out, Mr. Chairman, was simply that there were a number of areas which begged, literally begged for much more substantial analysis and the development of recommendations and proposals that could then be properly considered by inter-governmental Ministerial Conferences, and that there was no one group in the country who was doing it, that each of the respective provincial, federal, departments were churning away their research reports and their particular statements of position, but they were all geared towards self-interest, what was the self-interest of Alberta versus the self-interest of Ontario, versus the self-interest of the Federal Government. And I didn't think it would be anyone who was other than in that kind of bargaining situation being prepared to take a somewhat longer view and say, look, in the field of energy we can no longer afford to deal with the energy problems like a group of amalgamation of fiefdoms that are going to get together on a periodic basis and divide up the kingdom, that we have to do something on the basis that this is one country, with one set of energy problems and that we could no longer afford the kind of fragmentation that now existed.

I, frankly, Mr. Speaker, find it reprehensible - and that's a relatively mild word these days - that in effect the Province of Alberta simply by God's gift of nature, they happen to have drawn a political boundary around a large pool of natural gas and oil wells, can be amassing - I heard on the radio this morning - a capital investment fund close to \$2 billion for the sake of the future betterment of the residents of Alberta - God bless them - while at the same time the residents of Nova Scotia are experiencing 50-60 percent increases in their fuel bills. Now, is this one country or not? And the fact that we as a country are insisting that the oil states of the Middle East put a large part of their oil dollars to help the underdeveloped world and to provide capital investment for trade and aid, that we don't insist on the same thing with Alberta. It boggles me that somehow we've managed to create this curious system of - I guess if there is ever going to be a change, I guess, if I can be personal for a minute, I think probably at some stage we're going to need a constitutional amendment frankly, that the issue is just too big and too large to allow this kind of pig pokery that is going on right now, sort of defending the battlements against those onrushes called Manitobans, or Ontarians or Nova Scotians, that it just doesn't make sense, and I think that the only way you can bring those changes about is not necessarily always in the arena of intergovernmental, inter-provincial bargaining, there has to be some ability to provide a national point of view,

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) which the federal government tries to do but I guess it isn't always trusted.

And I would simply put forward for argument, Mr. Speaker, the example of the Economic Council of Canada, which was set up with representation from a variety of communities, and which over the years has provided an understanding of very important economic problems from a national point of view. They have provided probably the first major assessment of housing that was done in this country and indicated many directions which were later taken up by both federal and provincial governments, but they were able to provide good, solid, hard, objective research and analysis and guidelines. It would seem to me that that kind of development would be very important in our own field.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, there are areas where no decisions at all are being taken, where a secretariat working on a continuous basis could provide the direction and inspiration, things like the allocation of energy research. We hear multiple speakers from all kinds of Ministers about the need to develop biomass institutes here, and wind-mills there, and solar energies there, large amounts of capital being invested in these with no co-ordination being done at all. It would seem to me that a secretariat would make eminent sense in bringing those kinds of areas which are not controversial together, but at least bring them to a head, at least bring them to some decision. And again I would use by way of analogy the example of the Secretariat that served the European Economic Commission as far as the common market, which provides a very very important direction, guideline and analysis for the coming together of those separate units of the common market, and while the common market is not one government, the Secretariat in Brussels wields a very strong influence in bringing together the identification of common problems and the proposal of common solutions, that are then considered by the Council of Ministers. So in effect, Mr. Speaker, if members of the House are looking for some previous example, I would suggest that the Secretariat in the European Economic Commission is a good example of what I mean, and that the kind of work that they have done to bring about a closer integration in critical policy areas in the common market is one that would serve well our own particular federal state at this present moment, and we should look towards it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to deal with the problems or the issues brought forward by the Leader of the Opposition in commenting on this resolution. He made some pretty violent statements, exaggerated statements I would suggest about the problems of energy policy; he said some very curious things, Mr. Speaker. He was saying, for example, that the real problem with energy policy is the failure of the National Energy Board to make any decisions. Well, first, as someone who I gather takes pride in his knowledge of the way the energy policy is made, he would realize that the mandate of the National Energy Board is not to make energy policy, it is to provide a juridical or semi-juridical licencing of certain acts of the provinces and the Federal Government, primarily those dealing with inter-provincial transmission. It is not the energy body at all. So the full weight of energy problems on that poor National Energy Board is something that I think is misplaced, and in fact if you take the logical . . . of this argument, it probably argues well for the thing that we're talking about. Let's get so we're making policy, so that we don't rely upon the tribunal to do it for us, a tribunal which has a very specific isolated sort of mandate.

It then went on to charge the National Energy Board, and I think somewhat properly, that they were the one after all who blew the whole thing way back when they made the estimates about the oil and gas reserves, they were away off base. They had no basis for making those and as a result governments acted on the basis of these false reports that the National Energy Board said that we had vast amounts of reserves and now we find out that we don't have nearly as much. Well, Mr. Speaker, if there was ever an argument for an Energy Secretariat it was that, because the real fact of the matter is if you want to know where the National Energy Board got its facts and figures from, they didn't develop them on their own, they got their facts and figures from the oil companies and from the Government of Alberta. That's where they got their information from, because they did not have the facts or the staff to develop their own research, they were

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) not set up to do that, and that those false estimates, those exaggerated conclusions about where it came from, and I would refer the Minister to two interesting books that have come out of the Province of Alberta, one dealing with the Oil Sands Proposal, and one dealing with the McKenzie Valley Proposal - which I'd be glad to lend to the Member for Riel any time he'd like. It says, that if there is any problem in the assessment of energy policy it is that for too long the Federal Government and the provincial governments relied upon private industry and the Province of Alberta to tell them what was going on, and it was only then that we found out that they weren't exactly playing straight with the Canadian public, they weren't giving real information about what really was happening. Now it may have been the failure of their own estimates, but I heard an interesting radio program this morning that emanates from the Province of Alberta, and the senior civil servants there were saying, when posed with that question, that well, the oil companies have a tendency to become optimistic. Now they also have the tendency to become very optimistic just about the time that they are applying for export licences. That tends to be when their optimism is at its highest peak, and that there seems to be an interesting coincidence of optimism in the evaluation or assessment of energy reserves and the requirements to get a larger licence for exporting into the United States.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would simply say that we really shouldn't rely any longer solely upon industries' assessments for what our energy reserves and capabilities are. Someone else should be doing it. Someone else should be providing a check and balance against that information and research, and that's why we suggested a secretariat, Mr. Speaker, someone that could gather the information in an independent more objective basis than Exxon or Imperial Oil, whichever name they go under in this country and therefore be able to make public decisions based upon public information, not upon information totally gathered from industrial sources.

So, Mr. Speaker, the conclusions drawn by the Member for Riel, the Leader of the Opposition, was that the National Energy Board failed and therefore we should have a secretariat, somehow again made some . . . in logic, and I guess I've made that comment about that particular group several times this afternoon. Maybe logical consistency is not one of the strong points in our debates these last few days, but the fact of the matter is, that it would seem to me that the logical conclusion from the observations he made was that we should find somebody who would be able to give us the kind of information that we need in a way that can be trusted. That would seem to me to make only good sense.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think that this resolution first was introduced for the reasons of highlighting the importance of developing a National Energy Policy in this country, and pointing out the weaknesses in the present way that we go about making National Energy Policy, that we cannot get a National Energy Policy purely and simply by relying upon the interprovincial method of conferences, because that necessarily or often-times leads to confrontation on why I don't issue or forego the political bargaining aspects of it, political bargaining is often enhanced or facilitated if behind it is some pretty good proposals, some pretty good research, some pretty good information, to indicate what we should be doing; that if there is at least a common identification of problems, and a common basis of knowledge to work upon, then it may more nearly or easily lead to answers rather than simply allowing each of the different provinces and the Federal Government to dredge up its own particular case, based upon its own isolated concerns.

So, Mr. Speaker, those are the reasons that would recommend, I think, this particular resolution from being passed, and I think it would indicate from our point that the Province of Manitoba is in a peculiar position in the sense that we are often torn by our allegiances to support our western brethren, at the same time we're kind of on the consumer end of the oil and gas shortage. I don't think that our bargaining has been very effective; I don't see where we've gained anything in the last few years by all those inter-provincial conferences. We've kind of taken the end rump on most of it, and it would seem to me that there is a degree of serving our own interests if we support this resolution as well as providing some indication of how the Province of Manitoba feels that we could overcome in a sense the historical accident that our constitutional structures and

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) framework as it evolved had not dealt with the problems of energy in developing the organizational framework to allow it to happen, and we think that this particular resolution if adopted and eventually carried out, would help us in what will be one of the most difficult and continuing public policy problems in this country in the next several decades.

QUESTION put, MOTION lost.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, can we call for the Ayes and Nays please.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members. Order, please. The Motion before the House is Resolution 15, being presented by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS

Messrs.	Axworthy	Jorgenson
	Banman	McGill
	Bilton	McKenzie
	Brown	Minaker
	Craik	Patrick
	Einarson	Sherman
	Enns	Steen
	Ferguson	Watt
	Graham	Wilson
	Henderson	

NAYS

Messrs.	Adam	McBryde
	Barrow	Malinowski
	Bostrom	Miller
	Boyce	Osland
	Burtmiak	Pawley
	Derewianchuk	Petursson
	Desjardins	Schreyer
	Dillen	Shafransky
	Doern	Toupin
	Evans	Turnbull
	Gottfried	Uruski
	Hanuschak	Uskiw
	Jenkins	Walding
	Johannson	

MR. CLERK: Yeas 19; Nays 27.

MR. SPEAKER: In my opinion the Nays have it, I declare the resolution lost. Resolution No. 12, the Honourable Member for Thompson.

RESOLUTION 12

MR. KEN DILLEN (Thompson): We'll let that go to a vote, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Anyone else wish to speak to the resolution? The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear the comments of the Honourable Member from Thompson, but I think the resolution that the Member for Assiniboia has in dealing with our trade relations insofar as Canada is concerned and other countries of the world, I feel this is a topic that merits the concern of all members of this Chamber. I know we talk about trade barriers - there are certain countries I suppose that can afford to apply that kind of attitude within governments but I feel, Mr. Speaker, that such as

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) Canada, we are an exporting country, and I speak as one of a certain segment of society, namely agriculture, where we have to compete with the rest of the countries of the world when we talk about prices for the goods that we receive, that we produce, and I, Mr. Speaker, have been one who has advocated that I think we should have a freer trade with other countries and I think, Mr. Speaker, when I say that it throws a greater onus of responsibility on not only management but labour as well for all walks of life. And I don't think it makes any difference what commodity that we choose to follow in production of, I think that in a country where we have to depend on trading with other countries of the world, I think that we have to open our borders to a freer kind of trade. I know, Mr. Speaker, it happens from time to time when manufacturers of certain goods and services are being produced - and I find this more prevalent in eastern Canada than I would in western Canada because our whole trade pattern in this nation seems to be geared to protect our eastern concerns, and I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that as far as our agricultural industry is concerned, probably have something to gain from this if our Economic Council of Canada were to be given some support in the thoughts that they have towards this whole subject matter.

I know, Mr. Speaker, we can now as farmers go across the line into North Dakota and we can buy machinery there, bring it over duty free - to some extent it is competing with our manufacturers say in Manitoba and in eastern Canada, but this also enters a complex problem when we talk about opening up our borders between say the different provinces and our neighbour country the United States to the south of us and also to other countries of the world, we are concerned probably about the goods and services that we produce here in this country and what effect it will have on our own well-being, and I realize that say some 30 or 40 years ago there was more thought given to a more protective attitude than we have today.

And I for one, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to comment in length on this but I think that this resolution merits consideration and support insofar as the intent of it is concerned. And I feel, Mr. Speaker, that while I'm a free enterpriser, I think it is a challenge put upon all of us to try to produce more, or maybe I should put it another way, to make sure that for the dollar we receive that we are going to produce those kind of goods and services that I think will put individuals and the people as a whole of this country in a more sounder economic base than what we are if we're trying to create a protection for some segments of our community, which could develop, Mr. Speaker, if we were to try to protect the various groups in certain parts of this country.

I feel that to open our doors to allow freer trade into this country merely creates a sort of competitive attitude. And I know my colleagues on the other side of the House don't take too well to that phrase because I think that they are not prepared to accept a challenge in whatever walk of life they endeavour to follow. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, that that kind of philosophy, if I may use that term, in years gone by, and we have recently celebrated our 100th birthday, and I feel that that kind of attitude is what has made this country.

And I think it is in order to also say, Mr. Speaker, that the challenge for which each and everyone of us choose to take in life is being lost because of the protective attitude that is being taken by far too many people and far too many corporations shall I say, and far too many unions shall I say, so I'm not going to isolate any one group. And this leads to, Mr. Speaker, to governments getting involved in trying to create a protective attitude for certain or maybe all of the people if they so want to do so, if they get sufficient controls.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Member for Assiniboia in presenting this resolution and say to him that I support him wholeheartedly on this matter that he is trying to put forth to the members of this Chamber, because I think it's a step in the right direction.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour of the resolution - the Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a few points in closing debate. I wish to thank the members that took part in debating this resolution,

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) Mr. Speaker. I indicated when I introduced the resolution that at one time I believe the fight and debate was led by the farmers from western Canada for removal of trade barriers for many years, and I know that this certainly would result in a large amount of savings to many consumers in western Canada and the Province of Manitoba. It was indicated by the Economic Council of Canada that there would be savings as high as 30 percent on many articles, and this is certainly a large saving, Mr. Speaker. I know it was indicated that it's not a simple thing, and I agree. You know, there would have to be a period of, perhaps a period of time for the transition period to eliminate the trade barriers, but I believe this is the direction that we have to move. I know that the Autopact agreement between Canada and the United States certainly was a great benefit to Canada and Canadians in the way of employment and in the way of trade.

Mr. Speaker, I see the Member for Morris in his seat and perhaps I would like to make one remark. He indicated in his remarks, speaking on this resolution, that he noticed me several times this year instead of trying to decrease the - I believe he indicated that I always tried to increase the disparity between the productivity in this country and the United States, and I don't know where he's inclined to believe that this is what I'm trying to do. It means that when I talk to increase the minimum income in northern Manitoba, I believe this has got nothing to do with trade barriers and productivity, Mr. Speaker, because it has been indicated by many people, by experts, that Nova Scotia and the Province of New Brunswick had studies made to attract more industry to their provinces and their findings were - and I believe, as perhaps many other provinces have found out, that it isn't the sweatshop salaries or the sweatshop wages that attract industry and trades productivity, that isn't it at all, and it isn't the minimum wage that creates productivity, Mr. Speaker, it's the technical know-how, it's very skilled labour, Mr. Speaker, that improves the productivity, and skilled labour certainly doesn't work at minimum wage.

I have indicated in this House several times that I am concerned about the decreasing productivity in this country. It was just indicated in today's paper, Mr. Speaker, that we again dropped by three percent in productivity from I believe the United States this year. We lost some two percentage points last year, and in the matter of two years we lost something like five percentage points. So I am concerned and I believe, I have pointed out in this House on several occasions, I spoke on the Budget, spoke on the Throne Speech, and I indicated on both occasions that I'm concerned about productivity. This is one of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, that I feel that some action had to be taken, and this is the reason that I believe the governments across Canada indicated their support for anti-inflation legislation because our . . . well, our productivity was decreasing which invariably would increase unemployment. On the other hand, our wage settlements in 1975 averaged some 20 percent across the line while in the United States the wage settlement averaged between eight and nine percent and the productivity was higher; on the other hand our productivity was dropping. So what happens in an exporting nation? We lose our markets and the end result, Mr. Speaker, is unemployment or higher unemployment.

Now, again I don't put the total blame on labour or on workers, on employees, on productivity because there must be other problems too, I think that the management should be responsible just as well, as much as the employees. But the whole thing, Mr. Speaker, I would believe that the higher minimum wages that I've asked for in this House on several occasions for northern Manitoba, I feel it's got nothing to do as far as productivity is concerned because certainly you need very high skilled employees; you need very high skilled workers to have good productivity, and the high skilled people don't work at minimum wages, they work at a prettysubstantial higher percentage than minimum wages. So I believe that . . . Mr. Speaker, I wanted to put this on the record and wanted to point it out to the Member for Morris.

Now I do feel that the resolution has validity. I know it's been indicated that this has been the Liberal policy for many years and why haven't they brought it about, why they haven't done it, and I'd like to ask the same question and I'm sure all the other members would. But it's not that simple because I did have an occasion to talk to at least a

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) few MPs that were from western Canada, and not necessarily from the Liberal side, and they said as much as we'd like to do it, as much as it would be beneficial to western Canada, it's not that simple because you have more MPs representing the area of Toronto than you have in the whole of western Canada in all parties, and that's where the stumbling block is. So I believe if enough pressure is put to bear on the Federal Government from all provinces in western Canada, perhaps at least we'll start moving, maybe moving slowly but I feel that move would be in the right direction because at the present time I believe the structure, the tariff structure is discriminatory as far as the western provinces are concerned, and I know the Economic Council of Canada indicated that we should remove all trade barriers, and I say even if we remove them on a regional basis, I'm sure it would be acceptable to western Canadians and to western Canada, so I feel that if we allow for a transition period of so many years, we'll have to do that.

I know there's an argument made that what happens to our manufacturing industry, you will displace many workers and some of the industries may not be able to stay alive. Well it's been indicated by the Economic Council of Canada, Mr. Speaker, that the manufacturing industry at the present time is . . . the employees in the manufacturing sector is decreasing every year, so they are not competitive at the present time, they have to become much more competitive. And maybe that's the only way we'll make them more competitive if we remove some of the trade barriers so that they'll have to shape up and be able to compete with some of the other manufacturers in the North American continent. So I feel that this is a good topic for debate and I hope that all members of the House will support this resolution.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Resolution 16 - the Honourable Member for Thompson has ten minutes left.

RESOLUTION 16

MR. DILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'll try to proceed from where I left off. I believe I was talking about the position of the opposition on this resolution, in particular the Member for Sturgeon Creek, who I believe simply introduced this resolution knowing full well that within a year or two there is the distinct possibility, given the increases and everything else in the province, that the exemption on restaurant meals will naturally escalate and he will be able to come back into the House a year from now and say that you know, I was the person responsible for having the exemption increased again. And I don't fault him for that because there isn't very much that has occurred in this House while the Conservatives were the government or since the Conservatives are no longer the government that he can take credit for. And I believe that, you know, we should give him the chance to at least take credit for something, and if that is the only thing that he can possibly lay his, sort of, his name to fame on that one resolution, then I think that we should allow him that privilege. You know, he doesn't get many chances to take credit for very much.

But, you know, the manner in which the resolution was introduced again leaves me a little bit cold because they attempt to put across this idea that somehow that it was for the benefit of assisting the working man in increasing the exemption. And I think I explained that in my previous remarks that this resolution has very little impact on the working man. What would have been more significant on the part of the Conservative Party while they were in power was that if they were really concerned about the working man, that we would not have had to wait until this government came to power before adequate safety and health provisions were introduced before there were amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Board that are more meaningful to the working man. You know, that's what the working man identifies with. He doesn't identify with an added increase in the exemption on restaurant meals.

You know, to illustrate the difference between the philosophy of the parties is that the exemption has been raised in the last year, but on the other hand the Conservative

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(MR. DILLEN cont'd) government in Ontario I'm sure that they share the same concern for the working man as the Conservatives on that side of the House, but they increased the sales tax by 10 percent, an additional five percent on restaurant meals in Ontario. You know, there's a kind of hypocrisy between the Conservatives, and I assume that Conservatives are the same wherever they may be. Once a person identifies himself as a Conservative, I'm sure that, you know, Conservatives have the same philosophy whether they're in the Northwest Territories, whether they are in Ontario, whether they are in Manitoba, or whether they are in the Maritime Provinces. You know, Conservatives are Conservatives, are they not? Well the Member for Wolseley says Conservatives are the same all over.

That suggests to me that if the Conservatives were in power in the Province of Manitoba that they would illustrate their concern for the working man on the question of restaurant meals by increasing the sales tax to ten percent. The Member for Wolseley said Conservatives are Conservatives wherever they are - that if this Conservative opposition were the government in Manitoba that they would - you know it not only follows the original but the same pattern - that they would impose a medicare premium in Manitoba, because they have really got a concern for the working man and they think that the working man should be the one to pay the premiums, you know.

You know, the Conservatives in Ontario didn't introduce an insurance program on automobiles similar to Autopac, so I would assume that if Conservatives are the same wherever they are, if that Conservative opposition came to power in the Province of Manitoba, that we could expect a return to the good old free enterprise system. --(Interjections)-- Well, you know, well I've seen an illustration of the Conservative so-called social conscience and I know that Dr. Kasser and his cronies will agree with me, that you had --(Interjection)-- his cronies will agree with me that you had a social conscience and he really benefitted from your social conscience. If you're trying to convince the working man that you had the same social conscience as you have for Dr. Kasser and his group, they're not going to fall for it. There's no working man, no thinking working man who will accept that kind of social conscience. I'm sure that if we looked across any part of the province we will find that . . . I'm sure that the mining companies would believe that you had a social conscience as well. After all almost all of the province was given over to them. And if Imperial Oil was in the same position, they would also believe that you have a social conscience. But your social conscience only applies to those that have much already, not to those who have nothing, that is the difference between these two parties.

Mr. Speaker, I see that the Member for Wolseley has given some indication that he wants to speak on this resolution and I would like to give him that opportunity, but before I sit down, Sir, I just want to say that I don't believe that we have any difficulty with this resolution. I think it only follows that within a given period of time that exemptions will increase on restaurant meals, but I don't want the Member for Sturgeon Creek to come back in a year and say, well I was successful in getting it increased again to whatever, to \$4.00, and come back with a resolution the year after saying it should now be \$5.00. You listened to me last year, increase it again by one more dollar. --(Interjections)-- I would have no difficulty supporting this resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: I rise, Mr. Speaker, in support of my colleague from Sturgeon Creek who is attempting to bring home a local problem and one which certainly would benefit those of us native Manitobans who occasionally, despite the alleged jealousies and high taxes, who seem to indicate vacations . . . It would seem to me the last time this resolution was presented in the House that the members opposite supported this resolution and I guess this was probably before the introduction of the formula of two and a half times one, because I would hope that this wouldn't affect this resolution and we would indeed get support from members opposite. I think the whole problem has been caused by inflation and certainly both the Federal and Provincial Government have contributed to that and when one thinks of the inflationary factor related to wages, we think of how our wages have gone up in comparison to purchasing power. And what I mean is that our

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) wages can buy more today when you consider that wages have gone up over 100 percent and if the cost of an automobile has only gone up 15 or 18 percent, then you would think that some system is working and obviously where the automobiles are being made, south of the border and in Ontario, we have a good free enterprise system and the automobile industry is healthy again, and I would submit that it's unlike the aircraft industry in Manitoba.

So I would think that if you were to compare the automobile industry to the situation as it would pertain to inflation say in a country like Cuba where Mr. Castro indicated that the people would cut sugar cane or go to jail and the result was that the jails were full and production was down. So I think it indicates that our system, the free enterprise system is one which works. --(Interjection)-- I do. Well the member is . . . I'm only attempting to point out my belief that the production in a free enterprise system is better than one which supplies the tools for people.

I feel that people who have their own tools are very capable of showing that they can produce, and so therefore I'm saying that when it comes to a resolution that in all intentions just happens to be made by the Conservative Party member for Sturgeon Creek, I think it lends itself and should be supported by all members of the House because it's the working man who goes out and has a meal and basically I don't think there's even a fast-food operation today where if it was your turn to - picking up a lottery slogan - it's my turn to pick up the meal and I would think that even McDonald's or Kamps, or any of those, no longer advertise a full course meal for a dollar. Those ads seem to have disappeared from radio and TV and I would think it doesn't take much today to get to the \$4.00 mark. And I feel that anyone that comes into our more illustrious eating establishments, and certainly we have a number of good eating establishments in Winnipeg - this is something where the tourists bring in the money. They're spending far in excess of \$4.00 for a meal, probably today I believe in the Winnipeg Inn the drinks start at \$2.90, or something like that. So I would think that again one of the benefits of the free enterprise system, they are bringing fresh new dollars into the province and these moneys are then transferred as a benefit, as revenue to the province.

But I think the intention of the resolution from the Member for Sturgeon Creek is to talk about the working people, the office workers, the people that do go out after a hard day's work and sit down and have a meal, and it would seem to me that if you were to raise it to \$4.00 you could avoid a lot of this hanky-panky that's going on in some of the restaurants where everybody is given an individual restaurant chit in order to avoid paying the taxes. In fact, sometimes there's even four people sitting down but there's five bills in order to get underneath the . . . to save the bookkeeping and the collection of these. So I think a lot of these restaurants would appreciate the government giving them a break so they wouldn't have to do all this book work, and I would think that if you do raise the limit to \$4.00 you will be benefitting native Manitobans who . . . we're talking then on a day in and a day out basis of eating patterns and it wouldn't affect the revenue that comes in through our tourist dollars and that type of thing. So again I think the Member from Sturgeon Creek has a good resolution here and I look forward to it passing.

I would if I haven't run out of time like to speak . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member will have an opportunity to speak the next time on this resolution.

The hour being 5:30 I am now leaving the Chair and the House will reconvene at 8:00 p.m. in Committee of Supply.