



Second Session - Thirty-Fifth Legislature  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS  
(HANSARD)**

40 Elizabeth II

*Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Denis C. Rocan  
Speaker*



**VOL. XL No. 36 - 10 a.m., FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1991**



**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty-Fifth Legislature**

LIB - Liberal; ND - New Democrat; PC - Progressive Conservative

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIB
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	ND
BARRETT, Becky	Wellington	ND
CARR, James	Crescentwood	LIB
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIB
CERILLI, Marianne	Radisson	ND
CHEEMA, Gulzar	The Maples	LIB
CHOMIAK, Dave	Kildonan	ND
CONNERY, Edward	Portage la Prairie	PC
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose	PC
DACQUAY, Louise	Seine River	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DEWAR, Gregory	Selkirk	ND
DOER, Gary	Concordia	ND
DOWNEY, James, Hon.	Arthur-Virden	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Steinbach	PC
DUCHARME, Gerry, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	LIB
ENNS, Harry, Hon.	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Clif	Interlake	ND
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	ND
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen, Hon.	Springfield	PC
FRIESEN, Jean	Wolseley	ND
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	LIB
GILLESHAMMER, Harold, Hon.	Minnedosa	PC
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	ND
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HICKES, George	Point Douglas	ND
LAMOUREUX, Kevin	Inkster	LIB
LATHLIN, Oscar	The Pas	ND
LAURENDEAU, Marcel	St. Norbert	PC
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	ND
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
MARTINDALE, Doug	Burrows	ND
McALPINE, Gerry	Sturgeon Creek	PC
McCRAE, James, Hon.	Brandon West	PC
McINTOSH, Linda, Hon.	Assiniboia	PC
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
ORCHARD, Donald, Hon.	Pembina	PC
PENNER, Jack	Emerson	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	ND
PRAZNIK, Darren, Hon.	Lac du Bonnet	PC
REID, Daryl	Transcona	ND
REIMER, Jack	Niakwa	PC
RENDER, Shirley	St. Vital	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ROSE, Bob	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Broadway	ND
STEFANSON, Eric, Hon.	Kirkfield Park	PC
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	ND
SVEINSON, Ben	La Verendrye	PC
VODREY, Rosemary	Fort Garry	PC
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	ND
WOWCHUK, Rosann	Swan River	ND

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA**

Friday, May 3, 1991

The House met at 10 a.m.

**PRAYERS**

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY  
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Mrs. Louise Dacquay (Chairman of Committees):** Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered certain resolutions, directs me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the honourable member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey), that the report of the committee be received.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Introduction of Guests**

**Mr. Speaker:** Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the Speaker's Gallery where we have with us this morning Mr. Tadeusz Awdankiewicz, who is a Consul of the Republic of Poland, and Mrs. Zofia de Witt, the President of the Canadian Polish Congress, Manitoba Division.

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

Also with us this morning, we have from the Queen Elizabeth School, ten Grade 9 students, and they are under the direction of Lorraine Arbez. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable member for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry).

Also this morning from the Kleefeld School, we have thirty-five Grade 8 students, and they are under the direction of Evelyn Webber. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger).

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

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

**Pines Project  
Minister's Position**

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, on Monday, I asked the Minister of Highways and Transportation some questions relating to his department's position on the Pines seniors' complex.

We have received information from the Transportation Advisory Council, the Economic and Regional Development Agreement transportation committee chaired by one Marshall Rothstein, that indicates that curtailed flying at Winnipeg's airport would result in severe negative economic impact on Winnipeg and Manitoba. We believe the public interest in the airport's continued unrestricted use at its present location far outweighs the private interest in one development.

I would ask the minister whether he supported the advice he received and was copied on from Mr. Marshall Rothstein and whether he, in fact, opposed the Pines Development project.

\* (1005)

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, I put on the record the other day the position of myself, and the government here, indicating that I think the process has worked the way we anticipated that it should, that we have gone through and we have allowed the development to take place on the one project.

In the meantime, we have raised the awareness of all the people of Manitoba and Winnipeg in terms of the importance of the airport and we are asking the Winnipeg planning committee to take this under consideration, under advisement when they do their planning. Both myself and the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ernst) have raised this with the city people when they do their plan that they will take into consideration and try and protect all proportions of the airport around Winnipeg.

### Winnipeg International Airport Report Recommendations

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition):** I ask the minister whether he opposed the Pines development project, and I want to table in the House today two letters where he opposes specifically the Pines development project, one letter which was copied to the Premier indicating that his department, and he states that: I am in complete agreement with Marshall Rothstein's recommendation regarding preventing the Pines development from proceeding.

A further letter, again to the Honourable Benoit Bouchard, again talks about the need to stop the encroachment on the Winnipeg International Airport by the Pines development project.

I would ask the Premier, who had copies of this letter, why he ignored the recommendations from his own Transportation ministry, and why he went with the recommendation for the Minister of Urban Affairs and Housing (Mr. Ernst) for this project, in spite of the recommendations coming from his own ministry?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, the development that exists under the flight path and in proximity to the Winnipeg International Airport has existed for some considerable period of time. There are literally thousands of dwellings that are closer to the airport, closer to the flight path than this particular development. As I indicated before, there are thousands of dwellings in that proximity and 80 additional dwelling units were not necessarily going to have any particular negative effect. This process had gone through extensive public hearings by the City of Winnipeg and had gained the approval of the City of Winnipeg for zoning and for land use in accordance with the process.

Mr. Speaker, the city was obeying Plan Winnipeg, Plan Winnipeg that had been approved by the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) when he was the Minister of Urban Affairs. It was consistent with their plan, and we have said now, for the future planning needs of the airport, that they ought to look at this whole matter as part of the Plan Winnipeg review for the next round, so that there will be a consistent policy in place for future applications, given that this one, having been through the process, was approved by the City of Winnipeg.

### Pines Project Cancellation

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition):** Well, Mr. Speaker, as we indicated yesterday, after the City of Winnipeg had approved that process, the government, itself, had an advisory committee, and three different ministries signed a report against the encroachment of the airport—three different departments which the Premier is responsible for signed an advisory report.

I would quote from Marshall Rothstein: Our committee is of the opinion that this development will eventually give rise to new and additional voices complaining about aircraft noise and asking for curtailed flying hours and aircraft relocation.

Mr. Speaker, the minister, in his own department, the Minister of Highways and Transportation, is right on record, in writing, opposed to the Pines development project for the same reasons as Marshall Rothstein, for the same reason as the advisory committee, that had many members of the government opposed to it. His own minister was opposed to this project.

Will the Premier now stop this project, cancel the Pines development project, look at alternative sightings for possible senior housing all across the province, treat all projects equally, but stop the insanity of this project when all the evidence, including his own minister's, indicates clearly that they are opposed to this project, and it is not a very good decision for the people of Manitoba?

\* (1010)

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** I have indicated many times that all areas of the province have been treated equally. In fact, in the last six months, there have been approvals to projects in Dauphin, in Niverville, in Transcona and this particular one in St. James, Mr. Speaker. There has been a consideration of all areas of the province. We always do that.

You know, I can just imagine what would have happened if we had approved the project for Flin Flon, a project that the chief spokesman is a former Tory candidate in Flin Flon. The headline and the allegations would have been: Tories favour former candidate in Flin Flon, because of the fact that that project would be approved. We are dealing with—

**An Honourable Member:** You are not answering the question.

**Mr. Filmon:** I am dealing with the question. We are treating all areas of the province equally. The people of St. James-Assiniboia strongly support this proposal, have put forward their views and did so at extensive public hearings of the City of Winnipeg, who approved the zoning, the land use and the project, Mr. Speaker.

### Nonprofit Organizations Incorporation

**Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows):** Mr. Speaker, it is getting increasingly frustrating to deal with this government, as day after day, they stand in their place and put misinformation on the record and, day after day, we have to stand in our place and correct them.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ernst) said, and I quote: It cost between \$750 and \$1,000 to incorporate an organization. It is a very simple process to incorporate a nonprofit or co-op organization. You do not have to be a lawyer. I am not a lawyer; I have done it.

I would like to ask the Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, how much does it cost to incorporate a nonprofit organization?

**Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information available here, but I will get it and bring it back for the member at the next opportunity.

**Mr. Martindale:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot wait. It costs \$85.

### Point of Order

**Mrs. McIntosh:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that Question Period is an opportunity for members to seek information of which they do not have the answers. I would like to ask you if it is correct for members to come and seek information they already have when there are others waiting to get information they do not yet have?

**Mr. Speaker:** The honourable minister does not have a point of order.

### Pines Project Incorporation

**Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows):** Mr. Speaker, to the same minister: When did Rotary Pines incorporate with the corporations branch, since they

were not incorporated at the time of application which was required under the funding guidelines?

**Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, again, I will take that under advisement, check with my department and report back to the member at the next Question Period.

### Pines Project Minister's Position

**Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows):** Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary is for the Minister of I, T and T.

Will the minister tell this House why he supported the Rotary Pines project in cabinet and at City Council when the potential impact at Winnipeg International Airport was a loss of 130 jobs and \$38.5 million?

Does the minister not realize that it is his responsibility to protect jobs in Manitoba, not just his friends at City Hall?

\*(1015)

**Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism):** I certainly do realize the importance of this particular portfolio and what it means to the economy of Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. If there was any suggestion whatsoever that this project jeopardized the long-term viability at the airport, I would not be supporting it, and our government would not be supporting it. I can assure you of that.

Mr. Speaker, I guess I had the benefit of something that the honourable members across the way did not have the benefit of doing, because as I sat through public hearings, I sat through representations from the citizens of St. James-Assiniboia. I sat through representations from the Winnipeg Airport, from the Chamber of Commerce, obtained volumes of information on this very issue, an opportunity that I wish could be afforded to the members across the way so that they would get a real feel for the real issue here.

The importance is, is that the citizens of St. James-Assiniboia recognize the need for this. There have been discussions about other developments in St. James-Assiniboia up in the north and the northwest which should not proceed because of the vacant land and what it does in terms of keeping the flight paths open for the airport here in Winnipeg. This particular project is needed; it is supported by the citizens of St. James-Assiniboia.

It will meet a need in that particular part of the city and is very important.

I take exception to the kinds of suggestions from the member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale) who has not sat through those public hearings, has not sat down at the table with the people who are most directly affected. This government would not support anything that jeopardizes the airport here in Winnipeg, Mr. Speaker.

### **Winnipeg International Airport Protection**

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition):** There are 309 citizens of St. James alone who have indicated they do not favour this project. There are citizens all across this city who do not favour this project, and there are citizens all over Manitoba who recognize the value of the Winnipeg International Airport.

My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism. This individual, before he took on his new life in this Chamber, said clearly in the Winnipeg 2000 Task Force: From an economic development perspective, airport operations are critically important to Winnipeg. Our central geographic location and our 24-hour airport operation are attractive advantages for many industries.

Why did he not defend his own Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger), instead of the interests of a narrow group of people in St. James-Assiniboia, as he is supposed to do under his oath of office?

**Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism):** Mr. Speaker, I will repeat for the benefit of the member of the second opposition party that if this government felt there was anything to jeopardize the 24-hour operation of the airport, we would not be supporting it.

I cannot be any more clear on that. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I wish these members would take the time to find out about the current level of complaints vis-a-vis people living in St. James-Assiniboia about the airport noise. If you talk to the officials at the airport, they are very, very low. The people who live in St. James-Assiniboia, they know the flight paths. They move into the area; they know that the planes fly overhead.

As has been pointed out by our Premier (Mr. Filmon), there are all kinds of residences, single-family homes, apartments, all kinds of

facilities in much closer proximity to the airport. The people who will be moving into this facility know that the airport is nearby. As I have already indicated when we sat through the public hearing, and to compare the closures in other cities, the level and magnitude of complaints were dramatically higher than what was occurring in Winnipeg.

The final point, Mr. Speaker, is this. If there were encroachment into new land, the open land, and anybody who knows our airport, the vacant land to the north, to the west and the northwest, where the majority of our flights come into our airport, certainly we would not be supporting development that jeopardized that vacant land.

\* (1020)

### **Pines Project Funding Withdrawal**

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition):** My question is to the Premier.

His Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger) has told him that this is not a good project. His Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, in another life, told him it was not a good project.

Can the Premier now commit to this House that, since the funds, according to the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ernst), have not yet been given, will he now agree that—

### **Point of Order**

**Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have to correct the honourable member, the Leader of the second party, that I never did say that this particular project in another life was not a good project.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The honourable minister did not have a point of order. It is clearly a dispute over the facts.

\* \* \*

**Mrs. Carstairs:** Mr. Speaker, the monies have not yet been given.

Will the Premier now indicate clearly that the monies that have been given, some \$350,000 have been committed, will not in fact be given to this project?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, the project meets the criteria of the Seniors RentalStart program. The project is approved of by the City of

Winnipeg, who went through extensive public hearing processes, zoning and land use considerations, all of which resulted in approval. The project is supported by the St. James Chamber of Commerce. The project is initiated by the Rotary Club of Winnipeg-Assiniboine and supported by them because of the support of literally hundreds and thousands of people in St. James-Assiniboia who want to have high-quality, affordable seniors' housing in St. James-Assiniboia. For all those reasons, the project met the criteria, was worthy of support and was therefore approved.

### Seniors' Programs Government Priorities

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition):** The final question to the Premier. The Premier said yesterday that nothing the Minister of Housing had done was immoral. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is the government that has deindexed programs for seniors who live below the poverty line. Now we have learned, in the Supplementary Estimates of the Department of Housing, that they have cut \$140,000 from the shelter allowance for elderly renters.

Can the Premier of this province tell this House why he does not consider those actions to be immoral?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** I am not sure that the Leader of the Second Opposition really understands her role in this House. The fact of the matter is that we all have responsibilities in this Legislature, and we have responsibilities to obey all legislation, all regulations and all ethical and moral standards in this House, Mr. Speaker.

Every other area of this country, you have governments, including a newly elected one in Ontario, in which they have had, in less than six months, two of their ministers resign as a result of breach of their responsibilities and legislation in that province. You have had two others who were found in conflict of interest but were excused by their Premier because they did not know what they were doing, Mr. Speaker—two others. This is in six months.

Mr. Speaker, this government has not had that because this government abides by all of the highest possible standards that are placed upon us. We make decisions in accordance with legislation, in accordance with regulations, in accordance with

advice from the City of Winnipeg with all of the public hearing process and all the requirements of the program.

Despite all that, we have silly accusations being made by the member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs), Mr. Speaker, and those I do not think are worthy of our response.

\* (1025)

### Transportation Industry Safety Standards Compliance

**Mr. Daryl Reid (Transcona):** Mr. Speaker, with the increase in the number of international trucking companies operating into Manitoba due to deregulated free trade market, and the increased pressure on our own Manitoba truck transport companies to keep costs down due to competition with these foreign carriers, what steps is the Minister of Highways and Transportation taking to ensure that these carriers adhere to the national safety code, and that there is adequate staff to conduct the necessary inspections and audits?

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, when the deregulation legislation was passed—it will be approximately four years ago when the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the then Minister of Transportation, the member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman). In conjunction with that Memorandum of Understanding for deregulation, the national safety code established, and it was a progression in terms of how this would be applied over a period of time. We have been following the necessary requirements and the legislation as it was set out in the federal legislation.

**Mr. Reid:** Mr. Speaker, I have here information that I am willing to share with the minister, which shows quite clearly that the safety of the travelling public is at risk due to the unacceptable practices of a major trucking company in this province that refuses to repair many items on its equipment, including brakes on this equipment that is in his own yard.

**An Honourable Member:** What is the question?

**Mr. Reid:** Well, it is very obvious.

What steps will the minister take to ensure that necessary inspections are done and the equipment is repaired before it is allowed to go on our highways?

**Mr. Driedger:** Mr. Speaker, under the system we have in place, we have approximately

200-and-some-odd shops identified throughout the province where people can go to have their units inspected. We have inspectors who do spot checks on it.

If there is a violation here somewhere along the line, I would appreciate if the member could let me know, and then we can investigate it. Other than that, I feel our system of inspections is working well and that we have a good system in place. That does not mean that there cannot, from time to time, be some slip-up somewhere along the line. If it happens, we go out and we check the people who we have identified or the shops that we have identified. If there are violations there, we have lifted in some cases the certificate that we give them, and we will do that again if there is some problem.

**Mr. Reld:** Given that some of this equipment in question here today is from companies headquartered in the U.S.A. and that last year the number of staff in the Manitoba Transport Licensing Branch was not increased, what steps will this minister take to increase the number of inspections on out-of-province trucking equipment?

**Mr. Driedger:** Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to look into that, but I have not been aware or have not been notified that there is a problem in that regard, that we have units coming in from out of province that are not inspected properly. Certainly I will notify my staff and we will take that under advisement. The fact that there are specific issues that he can relate to, I would appreciate that information.

### Public Utilities Cut Off Legislation

**Mr. Edward Connery (Portage la Prairie):** Mr. Speaker, in 1987 the courts struck down the legislation that allowed the natural gas utility to cut off gas service to those delinquent accounts that were in arrears.

Can the Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs indicate to this House when legislation to allow them to cut off delinquent accounts will be introduced?

\* (1030)

**Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I missed the first part of my honourable friend's question; however, I did hear the second part, and perhaps if he does a supplementary, I could get the first part as well.

Regarding the lock-off legislation, I hope to have that before the House sometime this month. I would like to indicate, as well, that I appreciate the preliminary work done by the member for Portage la Prairie and his high interest in this particular subject.

### Centra Gas Delinquent Account Statistics

**Mr. Edward Connery (Portage la Prairie):** Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate to the House the number of delinquent accounts and the dollar value attributed to those delinquent accounts?

**Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the delinquent accounts at Centra Gas are now in the neighbourhood of 48,000, and of those, I believe, 6,000 are commercial and 42,000 would be residential.

**Mr. Connery:** Mr. Speaker, I would hope that when the legislation is introduced that all members of this Legislature will ensure swift passage, because today there are thousands of people who are having to pay—those who cannot afford, seniors and those on low income—who cannot afford to pay their bills. I am asking all members to support.

Can the minister indicate that she will ensure that Centra Gas makes every effort to collect those arrear accounts?

**Mrs. McIntosh:** Mr. Speaker, the reason that we are bringing this legislation in is to make it possible for Centra Gas to collect those delinquent accounts. As you know, they have been using every effort possible to date including collection agencies, even going to court in some instances. This legislation, we hope, will make it more possible for them to collect their delinquent accounts so that other consumers, other customers are not left picking up the bad debt of others.

We will, however—and I must make this point very clear. I know that the member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) has indicated that this legislation is to help our corporate friends. I want to indicate that those many customers, who have been complaining to the government about having to pay the backlog on bills, will also have the protection of ensuring that people, who for genuine reasons are unable to meet their bills, will be protected through social agencies and face-to-face contact.



### Decentralization Vital Statistics Branch

**Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, this question is to the minister responsible for the decentralization fiasco.

The whole decentralization so-called initiative, Mr. Speaker, is a farce and it is a fiasco. We saw from this budget, very few of the jobs have been transferred and 1,000 jobs are being terminated at the same time, many in rural Manitoba and some 15 to 20 of those in Dauphin. Now we see that the minister has advised the people of Dauphin that he has to decide the fate of the 18 jobs from Vital Statistics that were to be transferred to Dauphin under the decentralization initiative—before the election, of course.

I ask this minister responsible, and the Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Downey): What is there to decide regarding the 18 positions that he promised to the people of Dauphin before the last election? Is the minister now reneging on another commitment to the people of Dauphin?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question has been put.

**Hon. James Downey (Minister of Rural Development):** Mr. Speaker, I will make it very clear, the decision for the delay in activities was based on budgetary decisions. The Vital Statistics particularly were going to add some additional costs of which, at this particular time, are not able to be incurred by the province.

### Decentralization Dauphin, Manitoba

**Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, this minister is backing out on 18 positions.

I ask this Premier: Is this another example of his vindictive and petty politics to get even with the people of Dauphin?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The honourable member's question seeks an opinion and is, therefore, out of order. The honourable member for Dauphin, kindly rephrase your question, please.

**Mr. Plohman:** Mr. Speaker, is this the kind of responsibility that this Premier exercises to the people of Dauphin? He has a responsibility to provide leadership and serve all the people of this province.

I ask him when he will start living up to his responsibilities and ensure that another 18 positions are transferred immediately to Dauphin—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question has been put.

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, I have indicated a number of times in the past couple of weeks that, in total, of the proposed decentralization of jobs between the Crown corporations and provincial government positions, approximately 250 have already been decentralized and another 250 or so will be decentralized by the end of this year. That having been said, we are keeping our commitment.

With respect to the financial difficulties in which we find ourselves, it would be a lot easier to justify or have the money to spend on these kinds of projects if we had not had \$28 million squandered on a bridge to nowhere by the member for Dauphin when he was the Minister of Highways, if we had not had \$27 million dumped on the sands of Saudi Arabia when he was in cabinet, Mr. Speaker. If we did not have those kinds of irresponsible decisions made, we would have more money to spend these days on some of the things that people are very, very vitally interested in Dauphin and elsewhere in this province.

**Mr. Plohman:** Mr. Speaker, all we are asking is fairness from this minister and this Premier. He is wrong on his facts; he does not know what he is talking about. He should check his facts on bridges and every other project in this province—\$10 million wrong. I have—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is not a time for debate.

**Mr. Plohman:** The Premier does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this Premier: Will he make a commitment, since this Minister of Rural Development, responsible for the decentralization fiasco which is not taking place—will this Premier now commit to promising that those 18 positions that this minister is cutting in Vital Statistics be replaced with additional jobs, and not continue his vindictive politics to get even with the people of Dauphin for not voting right?

**Mr. Filmon:** I find it interesting that the Member for Dauphin did not quarrel with the fact that there were millions of dollars wasted. He just said I exaggerated it by \$10 million. Instead of \$55

million, only \$45 million was wasted by him when he was in government, Mr. Speaker.

We will keep our commitments with respect to decentralization. We have indicated that the numbers will not be as large as they were earlier intended to be because of financial constraints, that approximately 250 jobs have already been decentralized and another 250 will be by the end of this year. We are working towards the objective that we set, which is to have jobs, meaningful jobs, work and opportunities, outside of Winnipeg in rural Manitoba. I know that the NDP have opposed this consistently; I know that they want to drive rural Manitoba into difficulty. I find it difficult that the member for Dauphin would want to drive the rural economy down the way he does, but he stands up here every day criticizing one of the most worthwhile initiatives that has been undertaken for rural Manitoba in a long time.

### **Goods and Services Tax Sales Tax Harmonization Study**

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in the budget speech, the Minister of Finance stated, and I quote: My officials will carefully study the full implications of harmonizing sales taxes. He was, of course, speaking about the potential of harmonizing the GST and the PST.

In light of the fact that the Quebec government, in its budget of yesterday, reneged on its promise to its citizens in stating that the PST would be reduced by 1 percent when the harmonization of the two taxes took place, and in light of the fact that the federal GST is 50 percent higher in cost to the consumer than the federal government's figures given in debate, exactly what kind of study will be conducted by the Minister of Finance?

**Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, what we are endeavouring to do firstly, with respect to the harmonization issue, is to listen to the community, because the community as a whole has different views and opinions on the whole harmonization question. Certainly over the next few months, we will listen to the community and the representation they bring forward as to the benefits and, of course, the negative aspects of harmonization. Certainly that is a crucial role.

Secondly, as to the impact, we want to see what areas of the economy might benefit, which of those

would not benefit and obviously, in some way, be harmed. Ultimately, that is the basis of the analysis.

The member talks about Quebec though. In essence, we will not work towards a deficit, as Quebec did yesterday, in bringing forward the '91-92 budget of \$3.5 billion, some tenfold greater than the province of Manitoba.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** Mr. Speaker, I think it is critical for Manitobans to know exactly what kind of participation they are going to be allowed in this debate.

Can the Minister of Finance tell the House today if there will be province-wide public hearings with respect to his intention or his belief that harmonization is inevitable?

**Mr. Manness:** The member tries to put words in my mouth. I have never said harmonization was inevitable. I said it was an issue that bore study. It is an issue that obviously, if one cares about the well-being of the economy of this province, no government, regardless of their political stripe, can just unilaterally turn their back on and say that they do not have to study.

As far as the call for public hearings, right today, as I stand here, I do not see the benefit of such a request. I will say, though, that certainly the ministry of Finance is open to all representations from all sectors, from all people in this province as to that issue.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance well knows that there will be no general knowledge of the letters that he receives in his Finance office. Unless there is a genuine public participation process, the Minister of Finance is not going to hear the arguments from people who can tell him very clearly that the impact on them is horrendous.

Why will he not agree to a public hearing process so that Manitobans from across this province can tell his departmental officials exactly what the impact of the GST is on them, and the effect that a harmonization of that tax will have on them?

**Mr. Manness:** Mr. Speaker, I think our record with respect to taxation over four budgets speaks very loudly and clearly.

Mr. Speaker, this government, firstly, does not accept increased taxation. Secondly, before this last budget, I know I already had representation. I heard it in my office, for instance, from the book

publishers and indeed those booksellers in my office with respect to what they considered obviously a negative impact on their industry. I will listen to all that representation as, of course, I am charged to do, being the Minister of Finance.

If the member is saying that approach, which of course has been in place in this province literally since the beginning of this province, whereby the government of the day and its members and indeed all representatives of the people as reflected in this House bring forward the community's viewpoint on taxation and all other issues, is not good enough, given what we have done in taxation over the last four years, not increasing taxes, I say to her, there is confidence in the people of this province that this government does listen, No. 1, and does open its doors to representation made to them.

\* (1040)

### **Budget Winter Road Program**

**Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson):** Mr. Speaker, of all the areas of the province that are suffering under this government, no area is suffering more than northern Manitoba, whether it be layoffs, cuts in job creation, education cuts, \$50 surcharge for medical transportation.

Of all the cuts that have taken place, nothing could be more heartless and insensitive than the cuts in the winter road program to Thicket Portage, Pikwitonei, Pukatawagan and Bloodvein.

My question is to the Premier (Mr. Filmon). How can he justify cutting the lifeline of these communities, the only road access they have, \$73,000 in cuts out of a budget total of \$239 million in the overall Highways and Transportation budget?

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, I am just amazed at the hypocrisy of the member for the simple reason that we introduced the winter roads to these communities. Of all the years that they were government, they never did any of these roads. These were additional roads that we brought forward in '88. The Minister of Native and Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) and my department jointly brought these roads forward.

We have put those roads on hold for the future because they have services provided by air and by rail. Why would the member raise that question when they never did anything about it?

**Mr. Ashton:** This government transferred, moved the funding from Northern Affairs over to the Highways and Transportation Department and cut it, Mr. Speaker. There were winter road programs there. There will not be winter road programs this winter.

My question is to the Premier (Mr. Filmon). Will he reinstate, out of a budget of \$239 million, funding for those winter roads? Will he now recognize that it is not fair for those communities to suffer by not having that winter road access, a very straightforward question? Why will they not listen to the needs of those communities?

**Mr. Driedger:** Mr. Speaker, the winter road system is exactly what it was when I took over as the minister in '88. Nothing has changed, but we added to certain communities additional winter roads. Those have been deleted for the upcoming year for the reason that we have explained many times, that for economic reasons and budgetary reasons, the things that we had given them at that time are now being deleted.

All these communities do have services. They have either rail service or air service. The main system of winter roads is still intact.

**Mr. Ashton:** Mr. Speaker, how could the minister justify this moving from one hand into the other, moving it over from Northern Affairs and cutting it?

How can he justify saying that these communities should rely on train service, which is three times a week, when he knows full well that this is the lifeblood of those communities, it is a major positive benefit to those communities?

Will he not listen to those communities and reinstate that funding, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Driedger:** Mr. Speaker, I repeat again. The member for Thompson should have been talking to the previous Minister of Highways and Transportation, the member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman), who was the minister for endless years and never, never gave that kind of service to these communities.

### **NISA Program Participation**

**Mr. Bob Rose (Turtle Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture.

The farmers of Manitoba have been very pleased with the recent announcement extending the opportunity period to sign up for GRIP. It is an

opportunity to give everyone a better chance to understand the advantages of the program.

The producers are also anxious to know if the advantages of the second half of the safety-net program, NISA, is going to be made available to Manitoba farmers.

Is there any progress being made in that announcement?

**Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to the member that, yes, we have reached an agreement with the federal government where we will participate in the NISA program. This will allow the farmers of Manitoba to have complete access to the second component of the safety-net program of GRIP and NISA. It will give the farmers greater predictability and individualized coverage in these programs for the years ahead.

#### Financial Commitment

**Mr. Bob Rose (Turtle Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, could the minister tell us what the financial commitment of the Province of Manitoba will be, approximately, at least to this program and to the producers of Manitoba?

**Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, in the first year, in '91-92, the province will be called on for zero dollars. The federal government will make a complete 3.5 percent contribution directly to the farmer, which will amount to some \$35 million of support to rural Manitoba. In the second year we will be called upon for a .5 percent contribution, and in the third year it will be a 1 percent contribution.

#### Sterilization Reversal Operation Deinsurance

**Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lels (St. Johns):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health.

Families are always evolving. Family circumstances change; a partner may die; a couple may break up. A decision one day to have a sterilization procedure may need to be changed. This government's recent decision to deinsure the reversal of sterilization and to say that it is a cosmetic procedure is an attack on the family and a further step to move towards a two-tiered health care system.

I want to ask the Minister of Health: How does this government see reversal of sterilization as a

cosmetic procedure, and why is it denying access to medical services necessary for many families and individuals?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** The process of a vasectomy is an insured service. It is a choice made by individuals in terms of their family planning measures. That is an insured service and continues to be an insured service.

Mr. Speaker, what we did is we, after careful consideration, deinsured the reversal of vasectomies as an insured service, from a number of standpoints, but first and foremost, so that we will have resources available to pay for and to fund the daily requests we receive from members of the opposition for further services in health care.

**Mr. Speaker:** Time for Oral Questions has expired.

#### Nonpolitical Statements

**Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship):** Mr. Speaker, might I have leave to make a nonpolitical statement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the honourable minister have leave to make a nonpolitical statement?

**Some Honourable Members:** Leave.

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Mr. Speaker, last night I had the pleasure of being present when 39 outstanding Manitoba women were honoured for their contribution to our community.

Part of what makes Manitoba the fine province that it is is that we have so many people who are so freely willing to give of their volunteer time to assist others, work for just causes and improve our abilities to live and work together.

Last night, the YM/YWCA recognized five women for major contributions to Manitoba at their Women of Distinction Awards. Awards were presented to: Joan McLaren, Director of Program and Staff Development at RRCC, for her commitment to women in education; to Jeraldine Bjornson for her work as co-ordinator of the Charter of Right Coalition; to Judith Opitz-Silver, President of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, for her innovation and leadership as a school trustee; to Marvella McPherson, a registered nurse, for her contributions in advancement of nursing in Manitoba and her commitment and involvement to the community through activities, especially including the United Way; and to Gloria Penner for opening her home to aboriginal people while they are in Winnipeg to receive health care.

I would like to add the appreciation of all members on this side of the House to those nominees at last night's awards as well as add our congratulations to each of the women of distinction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask leave to make a nonpolitical statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the honourable member for Wellington have leave to make a nonpolitical statement?

**Some Honourable Members:** Leave.

**Mr. Speaker:** Agreed.

**Ms. Barrett:** I would like to rise and support the Minister responsible for the Status of Women (Mrs. Mitchelson) and join with her in her congratulations to the five women who have been honoured for the outstanding work that they have done for the people of the province of Manitoba.

I would like to add, as well, our congratulations for the other women who were nominated. It is an outstanding distinction to be nominated, even a greater achievement to be actually elected, to these five women. What struck me and our caucus about these five women was that the services that they have provided to the province of Manitoba are services throughout the range of needs that the people of Manitoba face. These women have shown, by their dedication and their outstanding work, that women truly play an enormous role in the life of our province. I think that this award is much more than a symbolic gesture of the support that the province pays to the work that women do of both a paid and a nonpaid nature. I would like to extend our congratulations and hope that women of Manitoba continue to be accorded, on all levels, the rewards and the sense of accomplishment that they are entitled to. Thank you.

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** Mr. Speaker, I would ask for leave to make a nonpolitical statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the honourable member for St. James have leave to make a nonpolitical statement?

**Some Honourable Members:** Leave.

**Mr. Speaker:** Agreed.

**Mr. Edwards:** Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand on behalf of our party to join with the comments of my colleagues the member for

Wellington (Ms. Barrett) and the Minister of Heritage, Culture and Citizenship (Mrs. Mitchelson) on this recognition of the valuable contribution made by these award-winning women. We want to express our sincerest congratulations to them as well as, as has been mentioned by the member for Wellington, to those who were nominated and, indeed, to all women in this province who participate in this process and who are striving and doing all that they can to ensure that we truly live in an equal society.

\* (1050)

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are after. We are after a society where sex will not be a determining factor in where you can go and how far you can go in our society. These women have proven again that the barriers are breaking down. We hope that it continues. We simply want to add our congratulations to all of the participants on this auspicious occasion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

\* \* \*

**Mr. Dave Chomlak (Kildonan):** Mr. Speaker, might I have leave to make a nonpolitical statement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the honourable member for Kildonan have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? Agreed.

**Mr. Chomlak:** Mr. Speaker, it is a great honour to have the opportunity of rising today to speak about one of the great moments in the history of democracy and of Poland.

Today is the 200th anniversary of the May 3 Polish Constitution, Mr. Speaker. One does not have to be of Polish background to realize the significance of this event. All of us in this Legislature and in all democracies around the world owe much to the Polish people and this historic document.

This constitution was the first in Europe and only followed, by a few years, the American Constitution. It was truly a remarkable achievement and has been praised, lauded and emulated for the past 200 years.

Mr. Speaker, this event and the constitution served as a spark of hope for the Polish people through many dark years and served as a beacon of democracy and liberty for people all across the world. As I understand it, celebration of the May 3 constitution ceased in Poland in 1939. These

celebrations have again begun in Poland now that democracy has returned to this great people.

I should like to add that shortly after the adoption of the constitution, Mr. Speaker, Poland was partitioned by its outside enemies. One of the reasons was their fear of the profound effects this document would have on all peoples of Europe. My point is that, while Poland's enemies outside of it succeeded in destroying it for a time—one of the reasons being the constitution—we in this country can learn a message from this as well, because we are in a constitutional debate, and if something should happen to our country, it will be internal, not external, from our outside enemies.

I am sure all members of the House will join me in celebrating this historic occasion and in offering congratulations to the Polish people for their historic event and for what they have done throughout the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

\* \* \*

**Mr. George Hicketts (Point Douglas):** May I have leave to make a nonpolitical statement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the honourable member for Point Douglas have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? Leave. Agreed.

**Mr. Hicketts:** I and my party would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Tommy Abraham Andrews from Gods Lake Narrows, who was accepted into the Aboriginal Constable Development Program. He is the first in that small reserve, and there are only three aboriginals in Manitoba who have entered into that program.

If I could just read a little piece here, what the family of Mr. Andrews state, it says, the son of a trapper who died seven years ago. Andrews had to help his widowed mother raise her three other children while she scrubbed floors to support them.

I think, by Mr. Andrews being accepted into the RCMP program, it shows that the aboriginal peoples, once given the chance, have and will provide essential services—and they have in the past—and will benefit all Manitobans.

The mandate of the program, Mr. Speaker, is to have 2 percent Native representation on the force by the year 2003. That is 2 percent of the force. We realize that it is a small number, but you have to start somewhere. I applaud the RCMP for taking these steps, and in the future, they will probably increase those numbers.

On behalf of all aboriginals, I would recommend to other police forces, especially the City of Winnipeg, to look at their participation of aboriginal constables in the city. When you have an aboriginal constable who is working with his or her own people and other aboriginals, they have a better understanding of the values and the cultures. It is much, much easier to understand where a person is coming from, their problems, instead of just taking that person off the street and throwing them into jails.

There is a much better understanding, and I applaud the RCMP for this, and I would like to offer congratulations to Mr. Andrews and his family. I am sure his community and his parents are very, very proud of him, as we are. Thank you.

**Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for Native Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, may I have leave to make a nonpolitical statement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the honourable minister have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? It is agreed.

**Mr. Downey:** Mr. Speaker, I want to rise on behalf of the government as well and congratulate Mr. Andrews on his entry to the RCMP, and say that I believe very strongly that it is role models like this individual who will in fact encourage the Native youth to go down a path in life that is more constructive and in fact more encouragement to the young people within the Native communities. The role model activity, I think, is extremely important, and I congratulate him heartily.

As well, I want to acknowledge the leadership within the Government of Canada and the RCMP for their efforts and their activities in encouraging the Native people of this province and of this country to become fully involved in all walks of life and careers that will show leadership to their people. Thank you.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would call the bills in the order as shown on the Order Paper, namely, Bills 5, 6, 8, 12 and 20.

## DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS

### Bill 5—The Mental Health Amendment Act

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), Bill 5, The Mental Health Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la santé mentale, standing in the name of the honourable member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis). Stand? Is there leave that this matter remain standing?

**An Honourable Member:** Leave.

**Mr. Speaker:** Leave. It is agreed.

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to speak on this Bill 5, The Mental Health Amendment Act.

Before I go on to speak on the various issues concerning this particular bill, I want to pay a special tribute on behalf of my caucus to all the Manitobans who are involved in the delivery of mental health services such as professionals, families, volunteers and, above all, Mr. Speaker, all patients. Without the contribution of all these groups, nothing can be achieved.

Mental health services must be discussed in a very open and very human way, so that we can achieve quality of life for those who suffer from mental illness and try to bring back self-respect and dignity which is very crucial to their existence, and then ultimately to achieve the definition of health which is described by the World Health Organization such as: health as a complete physical and mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity; thereby achieving the definition for complete mental health which is the definition given by the CMHA branch of Ontario in 1981. I quote from the definition: ultimately to achieve a style of living that allows the individual to develop his or her ability to pursue goals, to meet the needs and cope with life's problems without undue emotional stress.

Mr. Speaker, this definition of mental health can be only achieved if all the elements in the society are functioning to protect the patients with mental illness, protecting their rights, protecting their privacy, protecting the privacy of their families and thereby providing the necessary environment to reach their full potential. Their advice is very crucial that not only we must provide the necessary care, but we must have laws that will protect those who

need the most and provide safeguards for patients with mental illness.

\* (1100)

Mr. Speaker, the present Bill 5 is a positive step forward but not a complete answer to a very complex issue. Why I say that it is a very complex issue is because with the changing patterns, with the openness in the mental health and various organizations and the various health care professionals, everyone is trying very hard to develop a system which will provide the best possible care. This a maturing process, and I think Bill 5 will go a long way to help that process.

(Mrs. Louise Dacquay, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair)

As the minister said in his opening statement, it is not the complete answer. While we go through the debate here and then have the committee hearings, we will listen from various individuals, various organizations, and I am sure that we will achieve a better bill than what we had in 1987 and for the last three years. I think that is very important.

I think that is why, in my opening statement as I earlier stated, it is very important to make it very clear that we must pay tribute to all the individuals, professionals, the patients and the families and all the organizations who are working very, very hard on a nonpolitical platform not only to improve the mental health services but also, as I said, to protect those patients who need the help most.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am told that considerable work has been done for the last two years to put forward the present status of the bill. As we met with the minister very briefly along with the member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) in December of last year, it was made very clear that at that time, because of the shortage of the time in that session, even though the amendments—I will go into that—some of them are simply technical, but I think would have not given enough time for the presentation to be made.

Now I think it is very crucial that we should get this bill as soon as possible at the committee stage so people can come and make presentations, and we do not repeat the same episode of 1987, as the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) pointed out in his speech. I think it was a very sad way of doing things. I think that was a closed-door policy of dealing with the mental health bill. It is not a political bill. It is not a bill sponsored by one organization or

the other. It is a bill for a lot of people who suffer from mental illness. That is why it is so important for any minister or, in fact, for all members of this House to work with their best intentions to make sure that this bill ultimately achieves what we all are here for, to protect those people who cannot speak for themselves, to protect those individuals whose rights must be kept to their utmost importance and also to protect the caregivers who are providing the care, so the balance has to be achieved. That balance, as I said, may not be 100 percent achieved in this bill, but we are going through a maturing process.

It will be probably a number of years before everything will be, not 100 percent to the best satisfaction of everyone, but at least will satisfy the majority of the patients, their families and the community groups.

I want to commend the minister for having a consultation process which has been very well accepted. We have tried to meet with the various organizations, not all of them. It is not possible. We have met with some individuals. Most people would feel that they had the opportunity to discuss some of the options, but there will still be many individuals who would like to come and give their perspective on the committee stage and make sure some of the amendments or some of the changes can be made.

I think it will be very important to listen to some of the patients, some of the organizations. We want to hear their views, how they would like us to make some changes. Not that changes have to especially come from any political party, I think it could come from the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) or his officials ultimately because, as I said, I want to emphasize, this bill is not a political bill. It is for the people who need the most protection.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the one component I want to talk to today, which the minister did outline and some of the community groups have expressed to us—and I was disappointed that the community component of the bill was not there. Even though there has been a consultation within the minister's Department of Health, it would have been nice to see that aspect of the mental health so that the stated policies of this government and stated policies of the Liberal Party, as well as the New Democratic Party, saying that we must have a balance between the community care as well as the institutional care.

To provide the balance, we must have the tools to protect patients in the communities and provide them with dignity and all the necessary care in the community, but that component is missing. I am hopeful that the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) would bring that component of the bill either in this session or next session, otherwise I want to make it very clear that we will. As a private member's bill, we could bring that forward. We discussed it, and we thought that probably we do not have enough tools to develop a whole structure, so we will encourage the minister to bring a bill, have a wide consultation and discuss with all the groups, make sure that we learn from the Ontario experience.

There was a community mental health bill by a private member. The bill did run into some difficulties, and now they have struck two committees. We could learn from that. I think it will be worthwhile, and it is a necessity. It is not a luxury that we have to have that component. We will ask the minister to work toward having that major component of the bill either in this session or in the next session.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to review some of the history of The Mental Health Act since it is very important, because when we speak in this House, when we put things on the record, they must, not only be right, but they must also be backed by some statistics, some research and some of the things that have happened in the past. I have heard many members of the NDP speaking on the bill. I can go and speak for hours and hours on the problem. The mental health problems are here and there, but so far I have not heard any major substantial points dealing with the substance of the bill, a bill which is to protect the patients of mental illness, make sure that their rights are protected so that they can get the best possible care. Instead, we have heard this closed-door policy that this bill underwent.

I am sorry to say, Madam Deputy Speaker, that I, in my right conscience, cannot support that aspect, because there was a consultation, if not 100 percent right, but consultation is based on the many organizations. Sometimes it is not possible to get each and every individual. That is why we have a committee stage, ask them to come at the earliest date, make all the presentations so that we can change some of the amendments or improve on some of the amendments.

The NDP, the way they have spoken on this bill is a major disappointment, because I expected



something different. I thought people are here on this bill at least to speak on a nonpolitical basis and make sure we can make some changes, make sure we can get this bill to a committee stage, but as official opposition they were supposed to speak on this bill. We have waited long enough, and I think it is about time that there is pressure on them to make sure they speak and the bill goes to a committee stage.

I want to overview some of the history which is very fascinating, because the current version of the mental health was first enacted in 1965. Then they had a few amendments in 1970 and then there were large amendments in 1987. The 1987 episode is very clear to a large public, but I think it is not clear to some of the members in this House how the bill was achieved in the morning hours and how the amendments were made.

\* (1110)

We were dealing with a very sensitive issue. When you are dealing with such an important issue, you do not rush things. You do not push things, and that exactly happened. They passed this bill, and then it was challenged and some of the amendments had to be brought back. So I think that is why it is so crucial for them to learn a lesson and not repeat the same thing. That is why, let us go to the committee stage as soon as possible and make sure people can come and give their views and not restrict them to the extent. Let us not restrict the number of presenters. How many want to come, let us listen to them and see if we can make those changes.

It is very sad when we hear of members spending 40 minutes on discussing something which is not there, which is not the history of this bill. Go through the bill of 1965, '70, '87. Just go through 20 pages, get somebody to read for you if you cannot do it yourself. They can give you a breakdown of what has happened. So I think the consultation process was not there, and I think they should learn a lesson and let us not repeat the same mistake ever again.

As I stated earlier, in our views from our party point of view, we think that mental health is a priority. It is not just to say in election time. It has been said a number of times, and we will continue on the same course. That is why even though when sometimes it seems like we are supporting the government or we are saying good things, but I have no hesitation in my conscience to support when we have the

same policy, they have the same policy on mental health. What is wrong with saying what is right?

I think it is very hypocritical. I am trying to have very soft language here. I do not want to annoy anyone, but I think it is very hypocritical to speak on a major bill without reading the content of the bill, without reading the past history and without having any future plans and then blame somebody who is not here. Ultimately, who will suffer?

People with mental health will suffer. They have suffered in the past and they will continue to suffer if we do not put the conscious effort to make this bill. As I said, it is not 100 percent perfect, it is not going to be possible. At least put it on a maturing process, and maybe over a period of a few years we will have a bill which will be widely accepted.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as I have already pointed out with Bill 59 in 1987 and then the court appeal in January 1988, it delivered a unanimous decision that several sections of the bill were violating the fundamental values of the Charter, and last night would be the history again.

I think the members of the official opposition must—not only do they have obligation but they have moral responsibility to put these things on the record which are correct, because mental health patients are not going to be able to read all the stuff that we are saying here, but their family, their advocacy groups may read it. I think that is why we have more responsibility for someone who cannot be here or cannot speak for themselves to protect them. That is very crucial, and I think it is a very emotional issue for us to make sure that the best possible regulations are achieved for those people who cannot protect themselves.

One issue I want to discuss here today, and I have pointed to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) that the present act, according to a report of Indian mental health research—The report is dated August, 1985, by the First Nations Confederacy, Brotherhood of Indian Nations and Manitoba-Keewatin. Madam Deputy Speaker, they did an excellent study on the future of mental health services in Manitoba for the aboriginal people. It is an excellent report, and that report was reviewed by the independent lawyers.

On page 8, in the final section of that report, it clearly states that—and I will read from the report and quote from the report. Under Section A, the federal government, the only sections of The Indian

Act dealing specifically with Indian mental health are Sections 1 and 5 and under the provincial governments, under Section B.

It is interesting to note that there are specific provisions in the provincial mental health covering Indian people, Section 9(1) and Section 51 of the act and read as follows—I want to read to the minister here: Section 19(1), an Indian within the meaning of Indian act (Canada or Eskimo) may be refused admission to a psychiatric facility unless the expense of his maintenance or other charges are guaranteed by the minister having the control and supervision of that part of the public service of Canada administering the medical care and hospitalization of Indians and Eskimos.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is quite clear that the main focus of the provincial act concerns, not the mental health of Indians, but who is ultimately going to pay for services given to the Indians at provincial mental health institutions. I think this must be clarified, because it could be eventually challenged. I do not know whether somebody has challenged it or not so far.

I will read the last part of the report there, on page 11. The legal company who gives a legal opinion, they have said that in their opinion that should either of these discriminatory provisions of The Manitoba Health Act be challenged after the April 16 date, that Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms goes into effect, they would likely be struck down by the courts as being discrimination on the basis of race. I think that should be clarified.

I was unable to get a legal opinion on the present bill, but I think we still have time to make sure that part is addressed. Even though it is the moral responsibility and the provincial government is providing all the health services to the Natives, the funding comes from the federal government. We do not want to see the same repetition as happened with the Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gillehammer) that government is renegeing on some of the promises, and that could happen very well with the Indian people.

Then there could be a problem in terms of who is finally responsible for delivering the Indian mental health act, especially because the component of the mental health for Native people, and how their services will be provided, is entirely a different issue. Their problems are very complex. They are very different.

I want to quote some of the statistics why I think the mental health for the Indian people in Manitoba are basically nonexistent. Madam Deputy Speaker, I just want to give some of the ill effects or some of the manifestations of the current mental health system for the Native people. It is coming from the statistics from all the recent papers and some of the work done by the Department of Community Health Sciences, by Dr. Brian Postl and his colleagues. They are saying that the Native mental health problems in the Native communities are more prevalent than the rest of society like: alcoholism, solvent abuse, depression, suicide, psychosis, anxiety, child and sexual abuse, fetal alcohol syndrome and violence in many forms.

According to the Manitoba statistics branch, between 1980 and 1985 the Indian suicide rate was three times as compared to the national average. There are a number of other statistics which are worth quoting, but I think the main reason for me to outline some of the problems is that the mental health for Indian people has never been addressed and various governments have really played the policy of divide and conquer.

Some of the treaties signed in '67 are not very clear, and some of them were challenged in Saskatchewan. Ultimately, it has become more a moral obligation than a legal one according to the federal government. I think it is worthwhile in the present mental health that we must have a section that will clarify that the—it does not matter what your race, sex, religion or your beliefs are, you will be given services like anybody else, and this should not be based on the principle of who is going to ultimately pay it. I think we should treat the patient equally and not worry about which government is going to ultimately pay because some of these sections will be well challenged ultimately in the court. I would like the minister to investigate that aspect of the present Mental Health Act.

\* (1120)

Madam Deputy Speaker, some of the other amendments—there are 58—are very minor. Basically some of them are very technical, and I think in the committee stage we can go through one by one and discuss that. For example, I will give you the first example.

They say that in the present amendment you have to see a patient within 24 hours and they have to assess him as soon as possible, but still within 24

hours. It does not specify ultimately who is responsible to make that decision when a patient has to be seen. I think some of the health care providers may come and try to have a better explanation, what it means by 24 hours. What exactly does it mean by as soon as possible? So that section to me is not very clear, I think, as it was before.

Likewise, there are other sections where some of the professionals may have some objection, and some of the community groups would have objections. One section, under the Section 26(4) under Section 6, who will be member of the board. I have difficulty with that. I think what we should add is that a health care professional, a psychiatrist who is part of a specific hospital should not be part of the panel for the patient who is coming from the same hospital. That really puts an apparent conflict, I think, and it does not really convey the right message of what we are trying to do here. We want impartial board members, but that could be clarified.

The other issue here is the six month—no, let me deal with that—the other component is there has to be a psychiatrist, a lawyer and a lay person, and I know that all these people on the Mental Health Review Board have a period of training, but I think we should look for people who have families who have suffered from mental illness or a patient who has suffered from mental illness, somebody who has some better information so that they can provide the continuity of care and they can—not the continuity of care—at least have some insight as to what they are dealing with in a review panel. I am not saying that the people who are on the panel now do not know what they are doing, but I think it will be worthwhile to get individuals who have some experience, some background in terms of the third member on the panel.

Also, there should be a mechanism of rotating those panels in different settings so that broader views of the problems can be addressed. The other issue here is that the compulsory review of six months. That is in the act that a patient who is in a psychiatric institute, their status has to be reviewed by six months. I think we should give them the option of three months, so that it should be up to the patient whether they want a three-month review or six months. Six months is a must, but there should be options so that if some families do have objections and they want three months review, that

should be left up to the family rather than to the panel to decide.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the other issue in the whole process in terms of what should be the role of a peace officer, as the minister pointed out, we should not try to make them clinicians when they have no clinical knowledge, and we should make sure that their rights are also protected. Their time is valuable. How that issue is addressed, I am sure at the committee stage I would like to hear from them personally in terms of seeing how they feel. It is very difficult for them at times to go and pick somebody up and then bring them back to the hospital; they have to wait so many hours, then ultimately they have to take them back, and who is responsible? There are a lot of practical problems in the whole act, but that could be dealt with at the committee stage when we have people to hear from who have really worked within the present Mental Health Act for the last three years.

But, Madam Deputy Speaker, above all, I think the most important thing is to achieve what is best for the patient, and in that way I think the more consultation at the committee stage, meeting with more groups, inviting more professional groups. Either they can meet individual caucus members or they can make presentations. I want the minister to make sure that all the interested parties are given adequate notice for the committee stages so that they can come and make their presentations.

I just want to end my remarks by saying that we are going to be very open. We want to hear the individuals at the committee stage. We would urge the minister to bring forward the community component of the act, either in this session or the next session, and we will encourage the minister to continue to have consultation at a wider base of the community component and make sure that the best possible bill is brought to this House, looking forward to meeting with the individuals who will come for the presentations and once again paying our tribute to all the individuals who are working very hard to make sure that we have the best possible bill for mental health for the people of Manitoba.

**Mr. Daryl Reid (Transcona):** I would like to leave this bill standing in the name of the member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis).

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** As previously agreed, this will remain standing in the name of the honourable member for St. Johns.

### **Bill 6—The Mines and Minerals and Consequential Amendments Act**

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld), standing in the name of the honourable member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes), Bill 6, The Mines and Minerals and Consequential Amendments Act; Loi sur les mines et les minéraux et modifiant diverses dispositions législatives.

**Some Honourable Members:** Stand.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Is it the will of the House that the bill remain standing in the name of the honourable member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes)?

**Mr. Reid:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I would like to request that this remain standing in the name of the member for Point Douglas.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Agreed? Agreed and so ordered.

### **Bill 8—The Vital Statistics Amendment Act**

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gillehammer), standing in the name of the honourable member for Transcona (Mr. Reid), Bill 8, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les statistiques de l'état civil.

**Mr. Reid:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to speak on Bill 8, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act. I am glad that the members opposite are so interested in the comments that I am about to put on the record here today and that they are showing such keen interest in this discussion here today.

This is an important bill, of course, where it provides a chance for the harmonization—

**An Honourable Member:** It is vital.

**Mr. Reid:** It is very vital. It provides a chance of harmonization for The Fatality Inquiries Act to harmonize the two pieces of legislation.

There are many areas of this bill that one can speak upon, and I hope to capture some thoughts on the record as I continue with my comments. Of course, the vital statistics itself can include many areas. There are many statistics that are very important that one should keep in perspective. Of course, a lot of those can relate to my own community in Transcona which I represent.

\* (1130)

I have put some of these comments on the record in the past, and I would like to do so again. That is the statistics concerning the number of families that are presently making use of the food banks in Transcona, Madam Deputy Speaker. These statistics are very vital to this community of Transcona. These 106 families are currently using the food banks in Transcona and unfortunately, through circumstances beyond their control, have lost their employment and have no opportunities to gain new employment that will enable them to move off the rolls of food banks and welfare in the community.

Now this is an unfortunate situation that we see. We have seen no new initiatives taken by this government to make changes that will allow these people to seek employment, and of course these people have been left to fend for themselves with no input from this government. We keep bringing these matters to the attention of the government, but of course it seems to fall on deaf ears.

**Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources):** No, no. We are listening.

**Mr. Reid:** Well, if the honourable member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) was that interested in the families that are making use of the food banks in Transcona, then he would have encouraged the members of his own caucus and his government to take the necessary steps to create the employment opportunities for these people and their families.

**Mr. Enns:** I did.

**Mr. Reid:** Unfortunately, we have not seen any progress in this area, and I doubt that we will see any significant progress in these areas through the course of their mandate, which may indeed be very short, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Well, it is interesting to note that every time I seem to hit home with the points that I raise here that they revert to cheap shots, although I am very proud of my name of Daryl. I put that on the record in the past, knowing that I am the first Daryl to sit in this Chamber for my party and for any party that is in this House.

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition):** It could be worse, Daryl. You could have the first name of Gary, and that is a real problem.

**Mr. Reid:** Well, my Leader, the honourable member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), may not be aware, but my middle name is Gary. That is an important statistic that I would like to put on the

record. Of course, that name that has been given to me by my parents has been part of the records of Vital Statistics in this province for some 40 years, Madam Deputy Speaker. It is an important statistic for my family and, of course, for myself and I am proud of that name as well.

There are several Gary's in this Chamber here, and I think some of them have some good standing and good stature in the communities that they represent, particularly the Leader from Concordia (Mr. Doer).

We have the opportunity, speaking of statistics and Vital Statistics, tomorrow in the constituency of Concordia there is going to be a stretcher race with the members of government hopefully partaking in this activity as well. I know that the member for Concordia and myself and other members of our caucus are going to be taking part in these activities and, of course, the challenge—

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. May I remind the honourable member for Transcona, the debate on the second reading of the bill should be strictly relevant to the contents of that bill under discussion.

**Mr. Reid:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I was just about to get to my point talking about Concordia, when we were going to talk about hospitals and the statistics of the people that are in those hospitals, so I thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Taking part in these activities of Concordia and the stretcher race, of course, is in support of the facilities of the Concordia Hospital and the people who work in these facilities and the patients who are in them. I think it is important for the community that government partake in these activities. This hospital provides very necessary services to this portion of Winnipeg and Manitoba and particularly my community of Transcona, so I am proud to take part in those activities tomorrow.

This Bill 8, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, as I indicated earlier, is basically a housekeeping bill, but there are several areas that I think are important in it that should bear some mention. Of course, there are changes in the procedures in it, where medical certificates or the procedure for issuing medical certificates in the case of death is being amended to allow that the last attending physician will have 48 hours to report the deaths and to complete the necessary medical certificates. This is a separation from the point where the Medical

Examiner will have an opportunity to issue medical certificates immediately. This separates the two jurisdictions in this area.

Of course, Vital Statistics provides us with many services and my colleague, the member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale), has mentioned some earlier in debate on this particular bill. Some of the services that they provide are birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates and legal changes of name. But they also provide many other areas of expertise and service to the community. They provide genealogical searches for those who may wish to search back for information pertaining to their own history or their family's own history. These are very important to people who are seeking out this information, and it is good that the Vital Statistics branch is there to provide this information for these people.

In the case of birth certificates, these birth certificates of course are issued at the time of birth of the children in the different institutions and hospitals throughout the province. The parents at that time are given the opportunity to fill out the necessary registration for birth certificates. Of course, this is the necessary paperwork that is to be sent to Vital Statistics by the hospital itself. Then after that the Vital Statistics branch will issue the certificates, the actual birth certificates themselves.

For those parents who choose to name their children or to provide the necessary details after, of course they will have to mail in the information that is pertinent to the birth of their child or children.

In the case of marriage certificates, of course, these certificates are provided by Vital Statistics, but they are also provided by other facilities throughout the province. Should a couple choose to marry and go through the process of fulfilling the legal requirements of the Province of Manitoba, they can obtain these certificates at various facilities, including florists and jewellery shops, not to exclude others, but there are many other facilities that also provide opportunities to obtain the necessary certificates.

The member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale) earlier in the debate on this bill mentioned some unusual facts that many of the members in this Chamber were not aware of. He talked about the opportunity for couples seeking to marry not necessarily having to go through the process of obtaining a marriage certificate from the province itself. There is a

procedure in place that is not too widely used anymore that the member referred to, and that is the fact that couples could, through their own church that they are in regular attendance at, have their vows stated three times at three different church gatherings, have their vows and their interest and intention known and stated by the minister at three different sittings, and after this these couples would be considered married.

This is something that was unknown to myself before the member had brought this to my attention and to the attention of the members in this Chamber. I am not sure how many of the married couples in the province or the couples seeking to get married make use of this type of vows, but knowing for myself and speaking for myself and I am sure for my wife, there seems to be something a bit more permanent in the fact that you have to sign a piece of paper.

**An Honourable Member:** You are not married?

**Mr. Reid:** Yes, I am married, and happily so, for many years. The signing of the piece of paper that is necessary for the registry of these vows is very important and seems to add a certain sense of permanence to the decision that is made. That is probably the reason why a lot of couples, mostly only young couples, opt to go the route of having the necessary papers filled out and signed by the parties giving their vows.

\* (1140)

The Vital Statistics branch, of course, provides a legal change of name and the opportunities for individuals wishing to do so. There are many reasons why one wishes to choose their name. Of course, these are personal decisions that these people make that give them the opportunity, for whatever reasons, to register the name changes through that.

There are many people we have seen—even in my own community of Transcona, we have people who have immigrated to this country, this province, and have come to the community of Transcona and settled there. These people have, for whatever reasons, opted to change their surnames. Some of the ones that I have spoken to have felt that it makes their life much simpler to have a surname that is easily recognizable in the community and would put them in line with the mainstream, the thinking of the community itself. That is unfortunate that people coming to this country have to take those matters

into their own hands, that they cannot remain with the surname they were born with and that they have to change their names to make their lives more comfortable in the community.

We have members in this Chamber who I know have taken those steps, or parents have taken those steps, to have their surnames changed to make their lives more comfortable and to eliminate the opportunities for conflict for them in the future. It is unfortunate they have to go through that.

There are many reasons why one would seek to change their last name or their first names. Some of the youth, when they grow to adulthood, do not like the given names that were given to them by their parents. They too have to of course go through the process of a legal name change. I have in my working career had the opportunity to know a few people who have taken these steps and have changed their given names.

I find it unusual that one would not be proud of a name that was given to them by their parents. Their parents were quite proud of the names that were given to their children but, for whatever personal reasons, these people seek to change their given names. This of course is the opportunity I guess for them, when they reach adulthood, to make their first and major decisions in many cases, and they choose to take this course of action.

Of course there are many stats, Madam Deputy Speaker, that one could place on the record, and I will move into some of them now. I raised the issue today with the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger), talking about statistics in the trucking industry. These of course have a great bearing on what happens in the Vital Statistics branch, because if these issues are not raised with the ministers who are responsible for these departments, these will create fatalities in the province of Manitoba or in other jurisdictions of this country. These will add to the unwanted work of the Vital Statistics branch in having to keep these facts and figures.

The issues that I raised today had to do with the trucking industry and some of the safety inspections that are supposed to be done and that have been done, to the best of my knowledge, and yet the necessary repair work on this equipment is not completed. Of course, these pieces of equipment are then allowed to move onto our highways and roads throughout the province and the country, of

course putting a great number of citizens in this province, in this country at risk.

I do not think that is proper, and the people that I have communicated with over the last few weeks are very concerned for the fact that these pieces of equipment are allowed to move out of the shop and repair facilities after inspection where the defects are found, and then move onto the highways, putting at risk the citizens of this province who are travelling on these roads.

I can assure you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that as I travel on the highways of this province, every time I see a truck approaching me from now on there is going to be a certain amount of fear as I think about these matters. Probably, I will pull over to the shoulder to avoid a lot of these trucks for fear that—I am going to have a certain amount of trepidation, and move away from these big pieces of equipment and move off onto the shoulder to avoid any hazards to my family. I hope that the honourable members in this Chamber as well will pay heed to these comments, because, of course, they will or could be at risk when they travel these highways as well, knowing that there could be pieces of equipment travelling there that could put them at risk.

I hope that the minister takes the necessary steps through his department to ensure that there are adequate numbers of staff to prevent any increases to the numbers that the Vital Statistics already has on record. I think it is very important that we take the opportunity to put in place the necessary safety inspections to prevent an increase in the Vital Statistics rolls that the province already maintains. So we have to keep fatalities down in this province, and we have to make sure that the necessary steps are taken to bring these firms into line to do the necessary repair work.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

One of the other areas that is important as far as Vital Statistics is concerned, Mr. Speaker, is to do with the number of job opportunities. Of course, we see the honourable member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) many times in this Chamber raises issues concerning the unemployment rolls of this province and this country. Of course, that is very important to my community of Transcona, where we have witnessed just recently the major announcements of permanent and temporary-permanent layoffs.

We have seen cutbacks in the transportation industry, in Transcona particularly the rail industry at CN Rail, where we have lost some 1,806 jobs in a very short period of time, in less than five months, Mr. Speaker. These jobs will go, possibly, out of this province. Some of them we have already seen that have been transferred to the province of Alberta, particularly the city of Edmonton. That is unfortunate for the province of Manitoba and the community of Transcona. These jobs were relatively well-paying jobs, and are going to be very difficult to replace.

Once you lose this type of employment opportunity for these people, you create other problems that then become vital statistics for the province of Manitoba and, in the fact that these people will then move on to the rolls of unemployment insurance, these people will then have to reduce their standards of living while they are on unemployment insurance.

We all know, as the member for Brandon East has pointed out many times in this Chamber, that the opportunities for jobs in this province are decreasing at an alarming rate. As for the chances for these people who have received their layoff notices from the CN plant in Transcona, they are not going to very likely have the opportunity to gain new employment. Looking at the aspect of vital statistics, these people should not have to go and become part of the statistic itself. There should be new opportunities and new ventures taken with the province and with the federal government to ensure that the transportation industry is enhanced in this province and this country.

We have not seen any initiatives taken by this government to take those necessary steps. It is unfortunate that this government would not take those steps. I mean we have been stating, all parties have been stating, for a number of years now how important the transportation industry is in this province. Rail, air, trucking, bus, whatever—they are all important, and yet we seem to take for granted the important role that they play in the province of Manitoba.

\* (1150)

It is unfortunate that we take this information for granted. It should be incumbent upon us to do everything that we can in our powers to enhance the stature of the transportation industry in the province. There are a lot of good quality jobs that are at stake.

I asked the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger) to take the necessary steps to consult with his federal counterpart and to build for a better future for the transportation industry in this province, to stop taking for granted the good quality jobs that we have here and to bring back the stature of Manitoba being a leader in the transportation industry in this country.

Talking about vital statistics, Mr. Speaker, it is also important for us to talk a few moments on how the airline industry has been faring in this province and how they could become another figure in the vital statistics of this province.

The airline industry, I have seen, has been going through some changes in this country, and of course we have talked in this Chamber many times about the impact that the loss of this employment would have on the province of Manitoba. We have talked about the 3,600 jobs that are at stake here, and I talk at stake with respect to the open skies issue that is presently being discussed or negotiated with the United States.

If we were to lose these jobs through negotiation because this government has not protected, these people will then fall back on the rolls of unemployment insurance and back onto the rolls of welfare, and of course that adds to the vital statistics numbers that would be kept in this province and in this country.

I think this minister should have taken the necessary steps to send people to the negotiations that are ongoing, and it is unfortunate that he did not take those necessary steps and that he left it up to the control or the wishes or the will of the federal government.

We cannot be reliant on the federal government to protect our interests here in Manitoba. We have to defend our own interests, and we have to send people to take part in these negotiations to make sure that Manitoba's interests are looked after and that we retain the employment levels or enhance the employment levels in the airline industry in this province.

Airline jobs have always been good quality jobs. I hope that will continue for the future. It would be an unfortunate turn of events if we were to lose employment in the airline industry, and if these people would have to revert to the unemployment insurance rolls or to the welfare rolls in this province.

Of course, the government talks many times about the strain that is placed upon the system and the tight money, the tight fiscal policies that they are bringing forward. Should we lose these jobs, that will create even further strains upon the system. That is why it is important for this government and its Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger) to ensure that people sit in at these negotiations to protect our interest. -(interjection)-

The member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) likes to point out that his own Minister of Highways and Transportation has been a little slack. Where he is slack from time to time, we will bring these matters to his attention, and we hope that he will—

**An Honourable Member:** He's an old railway man, so that should be interesting.

**Mr. Reid:** Yes, I am an old railway man. I guess you could say that after over 20 years in the railway industry.

**An Honourable Member:** Twenty years in the railway industry?

**Mr. Reid:** Yes, I have some experience in the railway industry, and I am quite proud of it.

**An Honourable Member:** You are too young for 20 years.

**Mr. Reid:** Actually I was into my 22nd year in the railway industry, and I was quite proud of the history there. I am from a third generation railroad family and, of course, we were quite proud of our roots in the community of Transcona and roots in the railway industry itself in Transcona. Of course, we have seen many changes in the railway industry in the years that my family has been involved with them, and my family started with the railways when it was Grand Trunk Railways in the community of Transcona and, of course, in the country.

Since then it has moved and changed to take on the name of CN Rail. It has provided good opportunities for employment for the people in the community of Transcona. We have seen a watering down of those opportunities over the last decade and, of course, more recently in the last year to six months, where these opportunities have been significantly decreased. Of course, when I talked a few minutes ago about the pending 1,806 layoffs to this particular plant, this is a devastating blow to the community of Transcona. I am not quite sure how these families are going to be able to manage.



We know that there are opportunities for them to go and seek out unemployment insurance. Of course we all know that the unemployment insurance has been amended in this country, and the opportunities for these people to take advantage of these social assistance programs have been watered down. These people are then going to have to, because there are no employment opportunities currently available, probably revert to the rolls of welfare, hence again becoming more statistics that the good people in the Vital Statistics branch are going to have to deal with.

Going back to the Vital Statistics branch for a moment, we talked about the jobs that the people performed in this operation of Vital Statistics. There used to be a method of reporting that used to take place, so I am told, some time ago. Apparently, their records go back to the year of 1882, which I thought was fairly significant recordkeeping that they have had to do over the years. Of course, in the past we used to rely a lot on the county clerks to do a lot of the reporting and the keeping of the records in this province. Over the years, those records have been amalgamated into one branch and one operation that would then oversee the keeping of all the records.

A lot of the recordkeeping also fell to the responsibility of the local churches, the churches in the different communities throughout the province of Manitoba. The clergy in these churches used to keep track of the births and the deaths and the marriages that would take place in their different parishes throughout the province. These statistics then were rolled into the Vital Statistics branch and, of course, became part of the process now where we can all go and seek out records for any of our parents or our grandparents that went before us. If we had to do any genealogical searches, that is where we would go for the information now.

Dealing with vital statistics, there is one other major area that plays a significant role in all the people in the country, not just the people in Manitoba. That is the area of social insurance numbers. We have seen, over the years, the importance of social insurance numbers gain in its stature and that they have become pieces of identification, to a large degree, for a great many people in the country, even to the point of sometimes being abused by those requesting identification.

It used to be policy where one did not have to issue their social insurance numbers to anyone other than to government agencies. Now it has become more predominant that merchants, more times than not, where they are requesting identification, will actually ask for and accept nothing less than a social insurance number. I do not think that this is the proper step for any responsible business merchant to take, although I can understand the predicament they are in if they are looking to cash cheques or accept payment for goods or services that they may be selling. The social insurance number was something that was supposed to be for the personal use of the people to which it was issued to allow them to conduct their affairs with the government that had issued this to them.

\* (1200)

There are several reasons why Bill 8, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, is before us here today, to make necessary changes, and I said earlier, housekeeping changes, to The Vital Statistics Act. One of the things I think we take for granted is that when we live in urban centres we have the opportunity to have the services of doctors or attending physicians or medical examiners; but, when we move into remote areas of the province, there become less opportunities for us to have the attending doctors there or medical examiners present in the cases of death. Funeral directors or lay funeral directors must now immediately notify a medical examiner upon death of an individual where they are not in attendance in a hospital or a facility like that.

There has been a list of circumstances where the reporting reasons have been expanded. We talked about death by violence or negligence, et cetera, and there are many areas here where the deceased persons died as a result of accidents or by an act of suicide, negligence, or homicide, also in areas in an unexpected, or unexplained manner, or as a result of poisoning. It goes on to list many areas where it is necessary now to do the reporting and to have a cause or determination of death.

This bill will give the Vital Statistics branch now the power, I suppose, to have the necessary documentations filled out that will explain the causes of death for those who died through unfortunate circumstances without medical assistance. That means that in all deaths now certificates are required and that the causes have to

be listed and that the medical examiner will be responsible for this information that will go to the Vital Statistics branch.

We talked also how the role of Vital Statistics is played in births, marriages, deaths, and legal name changes. Of course, these are all very important areas for us as we keep statistics in this province. Government, in many ways, keeps statistics on different functions of government and that all of these statistics are important to make determinations or decisions on the direction that government will take.

We have, of course, seen through our budget process in this province, Mr. Speaker, where the role that statistics can play, and also how statistics can be changed—

**An Honourable Member:** Manipulated.

**Mr. Reid:** No, I would not want to use the term "manipulated," but changed to suit the present—

**An Honourable Member:** No, manipulated.

**Mr. Reid:** All right, you have convinced me.

**An Honourable Member:** If the shoe fits.

**Mr. Reid:** Yes, if the shoe fits—we will use the term "manipulated." To show how facts are manipulated to show the picture that one wants them to show, and when I mention that I talk about the budget that was recently brought down in this province here. The government talks about the deficit in this province and, of course, they like to always refer back to the New Democratic Party, when we were in government, and it is unfortunate they do that because they have a tendency to distort the figures.

I mean, the record is quite clear that the governments that have been in power in this province have, from the information that I have seen, always been in a deficit position until 1987-88 when the New Democratic Party was in government. We had the opportunity, when we were in government -(interjection)- and the members opposite seem to be a little bit sensitive about this issue that I am about to put on the record. I state this information for the students that are in the gallery, as well, because they are citizens of the province of Manitoba, that it is important that they should know these facts as well as other members in Manitoba and the members of this Chamber.

In 1988, Mr. Speaker, of course, we brought down a budget in this government here that, I must say, was a step in the right direction. We went for

balanced budgets. This is one of the things that this government can never say, that they have ever—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I hesitate to interrupt the honourable member, but I would remind the honourable member that what is before the House at this time is Bill 8, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act. What we are amending here, or what should be before the House, is the issuing of death certificates.

I would ask the honourable member for Transcona to keep his remarks relevant to the question before the House.

**Mr. Reid:** Mr. Speaker, it is—

**An Honourable Member:** They are killing this province.

**Mr. Reid:** That is exactly what they are doing. They are killing this province. Of course, this Vital Statistics bill that we are talking about here today is very important to the province of Manitoba. I am trying to draw a relationship between the two on how it relates in the budgetary information that the province has brought to us and how the statistics come into play there in relationship between the two, Mr. Speaker.

I notice that the gallery has filled up significantly since we started talking about this, Mr. Speaker. All of the young people who are here today to listen to this speech, of course, are quite important. It is quite important to them to know that when we were in government, the New Democratic Party was in government, that we had a balanced budget. Looking at what this government has done with its vital statistics and the role that the vital statistics plays in this province, these people should know that we had a balanced budget.

You are right, Mr. Speaker, when you say that we were talking about death certificates. I hope that this province does not move in the direction where we have to issue a death certificate for the opportunities for this province, because they are going to kill the economy by the budgets and the laws that they bring into the province of Manitoba. They are going to kill the opportunities for the people of this province. -(interjection)- They are going to gut the economy, as my honourable colleague says.

We have many areas, of course, we talk about under vital statistics. My honourable colleague for Burrows (Mr. Martindale) when he was talking about the Vital Statistics bill, Bill 8, talked about marriages and the marriages that he has conducted over the

years and how successful he has been in the number of marriages that have stayed together. I am sure that is, in a large part, due to the counselling that he provided for these young couples who were getting married, and that that is a good reason why he was so successful in having these marriages remain together through all the years that these people have been married.

That is something that we have not seen from this government, because you have to be able to work with people to advise and to counsel them on to the ways. Of course, if you compare that to the lack of actions that this government has shown, there are opportunities that they should have taken to consult with the people of the province, instead of taking some of the courses of action that they have.

There are many examples that you can give to the people of this province.

**An Honourable Member:** Look what they did to the foster care, the day care.

**Mr. Reid:** The day cares, they have watered down the programs for day cares now. We see the latest introduction for the day care bill in this province, of course, where they have changed the procedures for the young families that have to have both parents working in this province. That is a vital statistic, Mr. Speaker, because these people now are in a position where they have to decide whether or not they are going to have both people remain employed in the work force, because they cannot afford to pay for the increase in the day care fees that they are going to have to pay now as a result of the actions of this government. That is unfortunate that they had to take those steps.

\* (1210)

I have tried to show, in a sense, the Vital Statistics role and the role that they play in this province, Mr. Speaker—I know that you have called me to order on several occasions talking about figures, but I tried to show a relevance between the two.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The honourable member's time has expired.

**Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a contribution to the debate on the amendment to The Vital Statistics Act, an act which incidentally has a lot of implications for the province of Manitoba. It has many implications beyond that which are evident at first glance.

I am sure most people who would think of this particular bill read the title, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, brought in by the Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer), Bill 8, at first glance and think that it is a very dry and technical subject. It is a technical subject but it is far from dry because if you think back for a moment, the basis for our vital statistics in Manitoba is the legislation that we have before us and preceding pieces of legislation that provincial Assemblies have passed over the years. This is only one in a series of many amendments to The Vital Statistics Act that has occurred since the late 19th Century.

I have done a bit of research back to 1880 to indicate to this House, as I will shortly, the importance of this legislation and how it has been changed over the years, and how the focus of responsibility of issuing death certificates has changed over the years as well.

I would remind members the basic information that we have when we talk about population growth or decrease in this province, one of the critical factors in that estimate of population level or population change is what has happened to deaths.

The information we get on the deaths in Manitoba is related to this kind of legislation, to the death certificates that are issued to give us simple numbers of how many people died in a particular point in time. Of course, the certificates give us a lot more information enabling various kinds of research to take place because the additional information goes on to tell us where the death took place, the age of the person who died, the cause of the death and so on. You can do various kinds of analyses based on the information collected by these certificates.

I say, even though it seems very dry and technical, this provides information for basic research in various fields, not only medical research but also demographic research, that is projecting population changes in the future. Certainly it is basic because it gets into current estimates of population changes, so it has relevance for current economic policy making.

Mr. Speaker, dry as it may seem at first glance, it is nevertheless important and it has a lot of implications. As I understand, the bill provides for four changes to The Vital Statistics Act, to reflect the changes in the new Fatality Inquiries Act which was passed last year on May 14, I understand. The

changes, as I understand, are that, because the new Fatality Inquiries Act requires attending physicians to complete medical certificates of death within 48 hours, it was deemed advisable by the minister and his department for consideration by this Legislature now that we have the same time provision in The Vital Statistics Act. In other words, we want to ensure that the Vital Statistics branch is able to get the information as quickly as would be provided by The Fatality Inquiries Act. So we are going from a period of a wide open time frame to 48 hours.

To me, Mr. Speaker, if this is possible, and that may not always be possible, because there are sometimes strange circumstances surrounding deaths, such as deaths by drowning, deaths by accident in northern Manitoba, an aircraft crash or some other mishap in a remote area where that information is not readily available. It would be very difficult therefore to provide a medical certificate of any kind within a very short period of time. Nevertheless, I would suggest that most deaths occur where the medical profession is involved, and therefore it is not unnecessarily unreasonable to require a death certificate to be issued within 48 hours.

The other change in the bill, as I understand it, is that—well, I touched upon the time. I believe that I stand to be corrected. The medical certificate of death will be 48 hours. Previously it was 14 days. So it was not wide open. There was a 14-day limit given to the doctor to issue the permit. So the doctor had up to 14 days. I stand corrected on that point.

The other change relates to the additional types of information being asked. Previously only nine categories of death were required under The Vital Statistics Act. Now this is being expanded to again be parallel to The Fatality Inquiries Act, which includes 22 types, as I understand. Therefore, we will have more information on causes of death, including various kinds of deaths of infants, of young people, more information on poisoning types, contagious diseases, deaths in the workplace or from employment, deaths during pregnancy and so on. So there will be a lot of additional information provided.

I say that because what the forms try to do is to categorize the types of death on the form. If you had an open-ended form, as they had when this business of collecting statistics first took place in the 1880s, of course the physician or the clergyman or whoever was responsible at that time, the municipal

clerk, would simply write in his or her interpretation of what the cause of death was. So it was wide open. For various reasons, it was deemed advisable to try to categorize types of death so that you could bring some rhyme and reason into the process, because if you do not have standardized descriptions of causes of death, then it is very difficult to tabulate the data, it is very difficult to make the comparisons.

The other change relates to again to harmonize it with The Fatality Inquiries Act. That particular act allows the chief medical examiner to issue death certificates in certain cases where the body is not found, such as in drowning and aircraft crashes. Previously the relatives would have to apply to a court for a certificate. This certainly is an improvement, because where it is clear that a plane crash did take place or some drowning did take place, the person was obviously drowned but nevertheless the body was not found, that the family would not have to be put through a lot of additional grief and turmoil by having to go to court to apply for a certificate. Now it will be done as a matter of course by the Chief Medical Examiner.

I might add that this may be an improvement, as well, for insurance purposes because in many insurance policies proof of death has to be provided before the insurance company will make a payment on a life insurance claim.

So there are these areas to be harmonized, that is, the harmonization between The Vital Statistics Act and The Fatality Inquiries Act. I agree with those who have stated, including the minister, that these changes will increase the information that we have. It will add to our body of knowledge both for individuals on a personal level, as well as for society as a whole and, as I was indicating earlier, in terms of the benefits to medical research.

Hopefully, it might add information to help medical researchers finding cures for various kinds of diseases leading to death, for example, the higher incidence of pregnancy deaths in northern Manitoba or in lower socioeconomic levels. If you look at some of the statistics put out by the Vital Statistics branch on deaths, where they occur and whom they occur among, you will find that there indeed is a difference, depending on the location of people in Manitoba and certainly on age.

We do not have information relating the deaths to the socioeconomic status, but we do certainly have

information relating the deaths to the region of the province and to the age and sex, or gender, of the individual.

\* (1220)

There is a long story, of course, of collecting statistics, death statistics, all kinds of statistics, even going back to the Domesday Book, to all kinds of historical episodes where governments attempted to collect statistics. I guess the word "statistics" comes from the noun "state." It relates to a governmental body or a king or a monarch, or someone in authority wanting to gather data. So you get the word "statistics" coming out of the noun "state." I guess you had, even at the time of the birth of Jesus, the fact that people were requested to be in town, to be where they were, in order for a census to take place. I might add, Mr. Speaker, just as a footnote, that the federal census will be taking place this year, 1991, the decennial census, and various kinds of vital information will be collected.

I might add that the death certificate that we are talking about in this legislation was not always the first and direct responsibility of the Vital Statistics branch. As a matter of fact, the earlier legislation that I have had an opportunity to look at shows that municipalities had more responsibility than they have today, the clergy had more responsibility and, indeed, the medical profession had some additional responsibility.

In fact, the province directly did not have a Vital Statistics branch. It was not until 1882 that the Province of Manitoba saw fit to establish a Vital Statistics branch. Originally it was located in the Department of Agriculture, but I think the full title was the Department of Agriculture and Immigration. But, for whatever reason, the government, the Legislature of the day decided that is where this particular branch should be located. As I indicated, it was a very important role for the municipal government because, even though the branch was established in 1882, the actual collection was not done as it is today, but was done by the municipal clerks. As a matter of fact, they were paid monies by the province for the collection, the filling out of the forms and so on required to register the information.

In 1882, another important event, and that is, it was that year, not only did we establish the branch, but in 1882, this is when we made the issuing of information, including death certificates and other

vital certificates, registration was made compulsory in 1882.

There have been other changes over the years. One other one that I might mention that affected collection of statistics was a federal or provincial agreement signed in 1920, regarding all kinds of data collection to make it consistent within Canada. This goes back to the fact that the federal government, in its wisdom, passed the Statistics Act in 1918.

In Ottawa we had the passage of the first Statistics Act which formally set up a statistical collection agency in Ottawa. This was the beginning of it, the origins of it. There were some statistics, I might add, collected in Ottawa before then, but it was done on a decentralized basis. Some were collected by the International Trade Department, others were collected by the Department of Labour, others were collected by various departments, particularly the Department of Agriculture.

By 1918, when the legislation was passed it made it possible for the federal government to set up what is today called Statistics Canada, what was then called the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, so we have had a central statistical agency since 1919, based on the legislation passed in 1918.

I mention that, Mr. Speaker, because the Vital Statistics branch that collects the death certificates and the other information does provide the data on a co-operative basis to Stats Canada. It is important also, I might add, that there be uniformity of definition, a uniformity of classification from province to province in order for us to make the adequate comparisons.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, we have had—I have referred to some historical legislation, and I can talk about that further later. I might add that I had the pleasure of amending this act as Minister of Community Services in June of 1983. I brought in—

**An Honourable Member:** I remember that one.

**Mr. Leonard Evans:** You remember that?—The Vital Statistics Act and at second reading—it was Bill 70—second reading, and one very important measure we did was to enhance the status of women in Manitoba. What this did, it allowed husband and wife or one or the other to provide the surname of the child in the name of the mother rather than automatically in the name of the father. Prior to that time, you had to automatically put the child's

name using the father's surname. You would have to apply subsequently to your Vital Statistics branch to change it over. This is as of 1983. In other words, a single parent or two parents could decide that they wanted to put the surname of the child in the mother's last name rather than the father's, or they could also make it hyphenated and do it when they registered the birth as opposed to having to register it in the father's name and then weeks or months later go to the government and inform, saying they would like to change the name.

I think that was maybe symbolic, but it was a step forward. It was well received by women's groups of the time, and indeed it had been recommended by the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, and something that we thought should be done. Small as it may seem to some members in this Legislature, it was a significant step, and it did enhance, I believe, the status of women in that sense in Manitoba.

So there have been many changes to the Vital Statistics operation in the province. There have been many pieces of legislation. I might add that while I am on thinking of the branch itself, I might say that I regret that the government is dragging its feet on decentralizing the Vital Statistics branch to Dauphin. I did not know whether this was necessarily a good move in the first place, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is important that some government jobs be moved to Dauphin. I want to see that decentralization, but whether it should have been this branch is another matter. In fact, I think you can maybe make an argument that it should not have been moved in the first place. To me, this indicates just total lack of planning on the part of the government in decentralization.

Decentralization is an excellent idea, one that should be pursued, but one that should be planned and worked on with the employees involved, worked on with the municipalities involved, not to one day announce we are moving people to town X, town Y, town Z and then find out later that there is no accommodation available for the particular branch or the particular employees involved.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, just as a footnote, a digression, that it is regrettable that there was no planning, and now we have this backtracking, and I think the government is losing. I think it is a good

idea, but the government is losing on this because of the very poor way of handling this.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, as I was saying, there has been a shift in responsibility of collecting death certificates, believe it or not. Originally, if you look back at the early legislation, and I have legislation here back to 1880, where it is very interesting that the chief responsibility, as I can read it, was put on the shoulders of the clergy. It says in chapter 16 of The Vital Statistics Act of that year, page 359, that the minister of every church and congregation is to keep a duplicate register of baptisms, marriages and burials. It is stated quite clearly why they wanted to do it back 111 years ago, because they wanted uniform and authentic registrations of births, of marriages and of burials in the province to secure the peace of families and to ascertain various civil rights of Her Majesty's subjects therein. The registers kept in every parish, church are designated as such by the proper and competent authority of the Roman Catholic Communion and also in each of the Protestant churches or congregations or other religious denominations within Manitoba shall be reputed authentic. Well, I do not want to read all this, but the point is that the clergy were given the primary responsibility.

The other point is that there was provision in the legislation that the priest or the minister involved had to utilize adequate paper for the purpose, that there had to be good quality paper, because it was a very fundamental document. Also, they had to make duplicate registers. Every priest or every minister had to, not only make a duplicate, but make an alphabetical index of the names of the persons baptized, married or buried.

I would just say—I guess, my time is running out, but it would be interesting. I would like to explain to you how this shifted from the clergy to the municipalities to the provincial government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. When this matter is again before the House, the honourable member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) will have 20 minutes remaining.

The hour being 12:30, this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 Monday.

# Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Friday, May 3, 1991

## CONTENTS

<b>ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS</b>			
<b>Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees</b>		Decentralization Plohman; Downey; Filmon	1573
Committee of Supply Dacquay	1567	Goods and Services Tax Carstairs; Manness	1574
<b>Oral Questions</b>		Budget Ashton; Driedger	1575
Pines Project Doer; Driedger	1567	NISA Program Rose; Findlay	1575
Winnipeg International Airport Doer; Filmon	1568	Sterilization Reversal Operation Wasylycia-Leis; Orchard	1576
Pines Project Doer; Filmon	1568	<b>Nonpolitical Statements</b>	
Nonprofit Organizations Martindale; McIntosh	1569	Women of Distinction Award Mitchelson	1576
Pines Project Martindale; McIntosh; Stefanson	1569	Barrett	1577
Winnipeg International Airport Carstairs; Stefanson	1570	Edwards	1577
Pines Project Carstairs; Filmon	1570	200th Anniversary, Polish Constitution Chomiak	1577
Seniors' Programs Carstairs; Filmon	1571	RCMP Aboriginal Constable Development Program - T. A. Andrews	
Transportation Industry Reid; Driedger	1571	Hickes	1578
Public Utilities Connery; McIntosh	1572	Downey	1578
Centra Gas Connery; McIntosh	1572		
		<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
		<b>Debate on Second Readings</b>	
		Bill 5, Mental Health Amendment Act Cheema	1579
		Bill 8, Vital Statistics Amendment Act Reid	1584
		L. Evans	1591