

Fourth Session - Thirty-Eighth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
Official Report
(Hansard)

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The Honourable George Hickes
Speaker*

MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Eighth Legislature

Member	Constituency	Political Affiliation
AGLUGUB, Cris	The Maples	N.D.P.
ALLAN, Nancy, Hon.	St. Vital	N.D.P.
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ASHTON, Steve, Hon.	Thompson	N.D.P.
BJORNSON, Peter, Hon.	Gimli	N.D.P.
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CHOMIAK, Dave, Hon.	Kildonan	N.D.P.
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CUMMINGS, Glen	Ste. Rose	P.C.
DERKACH, Leonard	Russell	P.C.
DEWAR, Gregory	Selkirk	N.D.P.
DOER, Gary, Hon.	Concordia	N.D.P.
DRIEDGER, Myrna	Charleswood	P.C.
DYCK, Peter	Pembina	P.C.
EICHLER, Ralph	Lakeside	P.C.
FAURSCHOU, David	Portage la Prairie	P.C.
GERRARD, Jon, Hon.	River Heights	Lib.
GOERTZEN, Kelvin	Steinbach	P.C.
HAWRANIK, Gerald	Lac du Bonnet	P.C.
HICKES, George, Hon.	Point Douglas	N.D.P.
IRVIN-ROSS, Kerri	Fort Garry	N.D.P.
JENNISSEN, Gerard	Flin Flon	N.D.P.
JHA, Bidhu	Radisson	N.D.P.
KORZENIOWSKI, Bonnie	St. James	N.D.P.
LAMOUREUX, Kevin	Inkster	Lib.
LATHLIN, Oscar, Hon.	The Pas	N.D.P.
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McGIFFORD, Diane, Hon.	Lord Roberts	N.D.P.
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REIMER, Jack	Southdale	P.C.
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SWAN, Andrew	Minto	N.D.P.
TAILLIEU, Mavis	Morris	P.C.
Vacant	Fort Whyte	P.C.
WOWCHUK, Rosann, Hon.	Swan River	N.D.P.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, November 14, 2005

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill 10—The Convention Centre Corporation Amendment Act

Hon. Scott Smith (Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth (Mr. Bjornson), that Bill 10, The Convention Centre Corporation Amendment Act, be now read a first time.

Motion presented.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, this bill reduces the number of Winnipeg city councillors on the board of the Winnipeg Convention Centre from four to two and increases the number of citizens appointed by the board from two to four. The provisions respecting directors are modernized, and the minor amendments on the administrative matters are also made.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? [*Agreed*]

* (13:35)

PETITIONS

Pembina Trails School Division—New High School

Mrs. Myrna Driedger (Charleswood): I wish to present the following petition to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

These are the reasons for this petition:

Overcrowded schools throughout Whyte Ridge, Lindenwoods, Linden Ridge and Richmond West subdivisions are forcing Pembina Trails School Division to bus students outside of these areas to attend classes in the public school system.

Elementary schools in Pembina Trails School Division have run out of space to accommodate the growing population of students in the aforementioned areas.

Five-year projections for enrolment in the elementary schools in these areas indicate significant continued growth.

Existing high schools that receive students from Whyte Ridge, Lindenwoods and Linden Ridge are at capacity and cannot accommodate the growing number of students that will continue to branch out of these subdivisions.

Bussing to outlying areas is not a viable long-term solution to meeting the student population growth in the southwest portion of Winnipeg.

The development of Waverley West will increase the need for a high school in the southwest sector of Winnipeg.

The government is demonstrating a lack of respect for the students and families in Whyte Ridge, Lindenwoods, Linden Ridge and Richmond West by refusing to provide adequate access to education within the community.

The Fort Whyte constituency is the only constituency in the province that does not have a public high school.

NDP constituencies in Winnipeg continue to receive capital funding for various school projects while critical overcrowding exists in schools in Lindenwoods, Whyte Ridge and Richmond West.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To request the provincial government recognize the need for a public high school in the southwest region of Winnipeg.

To request the provincial government, in conjunction with the Public Schools Finance Board, to consider adequate funding to establish a high school in the southwest sector of Winnipeg.

Signed by Connie Taillon, Pam Lea, Fatima Danakas and many others.

Mr. Speaker: In accordance with our Rule 132(6), when petitions are read they are deemed to be received by the House.

R.M. of Piney Windstorm Damage

Mr. Jack Penner (Emerson): I wish to present the following petition.

These are the reasons for the petition:

A severe windstorm swept through the Rural Municipality of Piney on July 31, 2005, causing extensive damage to approximately 60 residential properties of the Sandilands forest.

The R.M. of Piney was forced to declare an immediate state of emergency in response to this storm.

The estimated cost of cleanup is estimated to be between \$360,000 and \$1 million.

The R.M. of Piney can only afford to allocate \$20,000 toward the recovery and cleanup effort.

Individual property owners and residents have been forced to incur significant costs related to the cleanup of their property, which they cannot afford.

The Province of Manitoba has not declared a state of emergency in response to this storm.

Provincial road restrictions in this area are limiting the access of vehicles required in the cleanup and recovery effort.

The R.M. of Piney has contacted the Minister of Transportation and Government Services (Mr. Lemieux), the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Smith) and the Premier (Mr. Doer) to request temporary lifting of the road restrictions and the provision of provincial aid for the cleanup of the area but has received no commitment for assistance.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows: Bob Grenier, Gabe Marion and J. Blacquiere, to request the Premier of Manitoba to consider temporarily lifting the road restrictions on roads in the storm-affected area of the R.M. of Piney.

To request the Premier of Manitoba to consider providing aid to the R.M. of Piney and to the individual property owners to assist in the cleanup and the recovery efforts.

Crocus Investment Fund

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): I wish to present the following petition to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

The background to this petition is as follows:

The Manitoba Government was made aware of serious problems involving the Crocus Fund back in 2001.

As a direct result of the government ignoring the red flags back in 2001, over 33 000 Crocus investors lost over \$60 million.

Manitoba's provincial auditor stated "We believe the department was aware of the red flags at Crocus and failed to follow up on those in a timely way."

The relationship between some union leaders, the Premier (Mr. Doer) and the NDP seems to be the primary reason as for why the government ignored the red flags.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To request the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to consider the need to seek clarification on why the government did not act on fixing the Crocus Fund back in 2001.

Signed by A. Janier, C. Watson, B. Misener and many, many others.

*(13:40)

Coverage of Insulin Pumps

Mr. Ralph Eichler (Lakeside): I wish to present the following petition to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

These are the reasons for this petition:

Insulin pumps cost over \$6,500.

The cost of diabetes to the Manitoba government in 2005 will be approximately \$214.4 million. Each day 16 Manitobans are diagnosed with the disease compared to the national average of 11 new cases daily.

Good blood sugar control reduces or eliminates kidney failure by 50 percent, blindness by 76 percent, nerve damage by 60 percent, cardiac disease by 35 percent and even amputations.

Diabetes is an epidemic in our province and will become an unprecedented drain on our struggling health care system if we do not take action now.

The benefit of having an insulin pump is it allows the person living with this life-altering disease to obtain good sugar control and become a much healthier, complication-free individual.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To request the Premier (Mr. Doer) of Manitoba to consider covering the cost of insulin pumps that are prescribed by an endocrinologist or medical doctor under the Manitoba Health Insurance Plan.

Signed by Eric Hibbitt, Ryan Maartense, David Kozyra and many, many others.

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Oscar Lathlin (Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Quarterly Reports for the Communities Economic Development Fund for the periods ended June 30, '05 and September 30, '05.

Hon. Greg Selinger (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following report on the Public Service Group Insurance Fund for the year ended April 30, '05, and the Statement on Fidelity Bonds required in accordance with section 20 of The Public Officers Act.

Hon. Gord Mackintosh (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Provincial Court of Manitoba 2nd Annual Report, Civil Legal Services SOA Annual Report, The Public Trustee Annual Report, and under The Regulations Act, a copy of each registered with the Registrar of Regulations after the last registration date of the regulations that were tabled in this House in November 2004 and more than 14 days before the commencement of this session.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Transportation Infrastructure Renewal Federal Gas-Tax Transfer Agreement

Mr. Stuart Murray (Leader of the Official Opposition): Mr. Speaker, Manitoba is one of the last remaining provinces to sign a deal with the federal government to get a share of the gas tax revenue that could be put towards our crumbling infrastructure. Manitobans are fed up with the potholes, the crumbling roads, the streets, the bridges. The current state of our infrastructure is clearly a direct result of negligence by this NDP government.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has the opportunity to sign this deal that would benefit all Manitobans. My question to the Premier: Why will he not show some leadership and sign this deal on behalf of Manitobans?

Hon. Gary Doer (Premier): There is no agreement between all the participants of AMM and the federal government. The member opposite is asking us to impose one on a matter that is not related to finances within our government. It is a federal government announcement. There is no agreement in other provinces, a couple of provinces still, Mr. Speaker.

We are working through a couple of issues that have been outstanding. One was the issue of the recognition that the City of Winnipeg should get for the environmental and green policies. That matter that was in dispute over the June, July, August and September period has been resolved. There is a very small area that the AMM is working out with the national government and with part of the AMM to resolve. I believe it is very, very easily resolvable.

I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that the money that we put in our budget in the spring of 2005 did increase transit grants by some 15 percent in Manitoba. It did include more money for roads. It did include more money for sewage treatment. It included a lot of areas of infrastructure. Of course, that was in our budget and announced in our budget, was brought in a budget, passed in Estimates and flowed to municipalities. We are dealing with a different process, federal government money requiring a consensus agreement from the AMM, and that is what is still pending.

*(13:45)

Mr. Murray: Mr. Speaker, what we have just heard from this Premier is very clear. While the Premier fiddles, Manitoba's infrastructure continues to crumble. That is the issue.

It has been almost a year since the federal government, Mr. Speaker, announced that it would commit \$5 billion in federal gas tax funding to the provinces. Nine months later, Manitoba is one of the last remaining provinces to enter into this agreement. Our share in Manitoba is \$167 million, much-needed money that can go to the crumbling infrastructure in our province.

My question to the Premier is what is he waiting for. Why will he not get on and sign this deal for the good of all Manitobans?

Mr. Doer: Let me explain this to the member opposite. The money is in the federal budget. The money that was in the provincial budget for infrastructure, including the 15 percent, we had that flowing within weeks of our budget being introduced and the Estimates being passed. The member opposite is asking the provincial government, that is putting in no money, to impose a settlement on the AMM which is presently trying to deal with its own constituent parts.

Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite would want to have the AMM and all its constituent parts coming to an agreement with the federal government who is putting the money in. We are trying to work with the AMM and the federal government to do that but, as I said, there is no provincial money in this plan and there is a requirement—*[interjection]* Let me point this out to the yellers opposite. There is a requirement for consultation and agreement from the municipal group in the given province. The AMM does not yet have an agreement (a) with its own constituent parts and, therefore, (b) with the federal government. It is very close, I am optimistic, but until that happens we are not going to act like God and tell the AMM what to do for their constituent parts.

Mr. Murray: Mr. Speaker, the requirement clearly when this deal is stalled, as it is, is for this Premier to show some leadership and bring them together to get a deal. That is what this Premier should be concentrating on is how does he get people together.

The mayor of Brandon is asking for the Premier to intercede because they are frustrated of the lack of action on behalf of this government. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that Manitoba is going to be the last have-not province in western Canada under this NDP government. Manitoba is the last in private sector job growth. Now we are going to be one of the last provinces to sign on to this gas tax deal.

I ask this Premier very simply: Why does he think it is right for him to be content to sit on his laurels and always have Manitoba last? Why is that, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Doer: As I said, we were the first province in Canada to have a Gas Tax Accountability Act that made it mandatory in law that every cent from the federal government would, in fact, flow to the municipalities. Mr. Speaker, the—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Doer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The provincial government enhancement of transit grants and street repair money in our last year's budget was decided by the provincial government, enhanced by the provincial government and flowed to the municipalities. The requirement for this money is a requirement by the federal government for their money to flow to the municipalities and requires an agreement from the umbrella municipal organization called the AMM in Manitoba.

Minister Godfrey was here last week. We have discussed this with the AMM. We were discussing it all weekend with their representatives. We discussed it. I was on a conference call with Minister Alcock on Saturday morning. I was on conference calls with various mayors. It is very close to an agreement, but I would point out that the money is federal, not provincial, and the agreement is required by AMM. It is not an agreement between the federal government and the provincial government. If there was required just those two conditions we would have had an agreement six months ago.

* (13:50)

Transportation Infrastructure Renewal Priority of Capital Projects

Mr. Larry Maguire (Arthur-Virden): Well, Mr. Speaker, we are not talking about close calls here. On Saturday, a 31-year-old Rivers resident was killed in a head-on collision on No. 10 highway just north of Brandon. When will the Minister of Transportation be open and publish his list of construction priorities for all Manitobans to see?

Hon. Ron Lemieux (Minister of Transportation and Government Services): We have commented before on the 2020 vision process that has taken place, the consultation that has taken place with all the stakeholders, Mr. Speaker, and a lot of the suggestions that came forward are that it is something that government should look at, look at projects more than just one year. We are certainly looking at that right now, at a multi-year rolling capital budget, and we continue to pursue that.

Mr. Maguire: Well, Mr. Speaker, it has been three years since this government began discussions on its 2020 vision for Manitoba roads, yet there is no way for Manitobans to know what road construction priorities are for this province. Will the minister be open and show Manitobans any plan that he may have? How many more drivers have to die before this minister will make No. 10 highway a priority?

Mr. Lemieux: The cheap shots coming from opposite will not help prevent accidents on our highways, regrettably, and we are very sorry. It is regrettable that people end up in accidents on our highways, Mr. Speaker, but we all know it is not a result of always highways not being twinned and so on. There are many factors involved in accidents happening, and I certainly take exception to the remarks made by the member opposite somehow that government can be the be-all, cure-all to fatalities and accidents happening on our highways.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, in the same note, that member is having a new highway twinned going right by his backdoor and, yet, he voted against the budget last year that we added \$16 million more to the capital budget.

Mr. Maguire: Mr. Speaker, three drivers from Rivers have been involved in head-on collisions on No. 10 highway this year alone. Will the minister tell Manitobans today whether No. 10 highway is even on any list he may have for priorities?

Mr. Lemieux: We are going through a budgetary process, an Estimates process. We take a look at all the requests, and I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, every year the Department of Transportation gets \$2 million worth of requests from municipalities and many other areas of Manitoba that want transportation addressed. As a government, we have put in a tremendous amount of money since '99, over a billion dollars, in transportation. Last year we added close to \$16-million additional monies to transportation, yet the opposition votes against these measures and, on the one hand—[interjection] Oh, is today a spending day? One day it is spending, the next day they want us to cut. Which one is it? You know, the only kind of proposals they put forward is adding toll booths to Manitoba highways. No concrete suggestions whatsoever, Mr. Speaker.

Gaming Social and Economic Impacts

Mr. Ron Schuler (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, Lotteries has reported a 57 percent increase in VLT net income. This Doer government feels it is okay to generate revenue from VLTs with no concern of the negative impact VLT expansion has on Manitobans. When will the minister call for a proper independent study to be done into the social and economic impact of gambling on Manitobans?

Hon. Scott Smith (Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade): Mr. Speaker, this government

in 1999, for the first time, did develop the strategy for assisting people who do run into problems with gaming. The member may want to go back in history. The expansion of gaming in the province of Manitoba was brought on by the former government, the Filmon government. The VLTs have not been expanded in this province since we have taken office, but one expansion has been the inclusion of the First Nations communities through the Bostrom Report.

Mr. Speaker, there is a strategy to address responsible gaming for the first time in the province of Manitoba. It was formulated by this government for the people of Manitoba, and we will continue to work with the professionals in that area.

* (13:55)

Mr. Schuler: An absolute shameful answer from this minister. He wants to give a history lesson. The highest gambling addiction rate in the country, we have teen gambling rate at 56 percent and the outcome, Mr. Speaker, is bankruptcy, family break-up, domestic abuse, assault, fraud, theft and even homelessness. This government has increased VLTs to 5300 when Saskatchewan has it down to 4000. When will they do the right thing? Do a study, do the science and then come back and have debate. We need no history lesson from this minister. Shame on him.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, again, the member opposite confuses volume of voice with fact, and I can indicate that in fact in Manitoba we have brought certainly the problem gaming prevalence rate down since we have formed office here in Manitoba.

It is now documented, Mr. Speaker, that Manitoba, out of the five western provinces, has the lowest prevalence rate with problem gamblers in Manitoba. The member opposite wanted to remove and his party wanted to remove VLTs from rural Manitoba. They did not talk about the VLTs in the large urban centres. They have no vision. They have day to day changed their view on gaming in Manitoba. We are addressing the problem.

Mr. Schuler: Mr. Speaker, studies show for every suicide, five gamblers with inflicted injuries could end up in hospital. The problem with this Doer government is they will not seek the truth because they cannot handle the truth.

Saskatchewan spends \$75 per at-risk and problem gambler; Manitoba spends \$32. Their motto

is they do not care as long as you show them the money. Is it now not time to do the proper science? Let us find out what this is costing Manitobans in economic and social costs, and then we can have a debate in this House and across this province. We know the cost is heavy. Why do they not do the science, do a proper study?

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, this side of the House has a grasp with professionals of AMM funding needs for expanding our role on responsible gaming in the province. We will take our advice from the professionals. We will not take our advice from the members that cannot even get their own party to agree on a direction that they need to go on VLTs in the province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, when the leader of the Conservative Party had said back prior to the previous election one of the issues on the radar screen would be to have upgraded VLTs, certainly we would have no problem supporting that, that is an absolute no-brainer. We would like to do that and we would be happy to do so. The critic speaks a completely different tune. If the two of them would sit down in their caucus and get a direction, maybe this side of the House, we would begin to listen to them.

Health Care System Private/Public Partnerships

Mrs. Heather Stefanson (Tuxedo): Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, I attended a national convention in Vancouver sponsored by the Canadian Independent Medical Clinics Association entitled "Saving Medicare: Strategies and Solutions." Members opposite may want to listen to this because we know they did not attend it. The main focus of the convention was reducing wait lists in Canada. Many examples were used of European countries that have been able to significantly reduce or eliminate wait lists by utilizing private delivery of health care services.

Given the absolutely horrendous wait-list problems facing Manitobans, why did the Minister of Health choose not to attend this convention?

Hon. Tim Sale (Minister of Health): Well, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that The Maples was well represented in Vancouver. There is not one single reputable study in North America that shows what the member opposite suggests to be the case. Every single study says a two-track system is more expensive. American systems now are spending

between 20 percent and 25 percent of every dollar in their system on administration, and, furthermore, private insurance companies in the United States spend another 13 percent of their revenue administering their part of the system. Only 66 cents out of every health insurance dollar in the United States goes to health care. We think that is crazy. We think 100 cents should go to the health care of citizens and not 35 cents to profit.

* (14:00)

Mrs. Stefanson: Get angry, Tim.

Children continue to wait in pain for dental surgery, patients continue to wait almost three years for hip and knee replacement surgery and wait lists for many diagnostic tests continue to rise, yet this government continues to put its ideology ahead of patient care.

If this government truly cared about providing timely access to services in Manitoba, why did they not attend this conference to learn about how other provinces and other countries are using public-private partnerships to reduce wait lists?

Mr. Sale: I think the member opposite should go and just check the current record. We asked Winnipeg Regional Health Authority to do an extra 400 hips and knees last year. They are on track to do 700, Mr. Speaker, 700.

Mr. Speaker, 70 percent of Manitobans get their hips and knees replaced according to CIHI in under seven months, 70 percent under seven months. Yes, there are a number of people who are waiting more than a year. Eighty-six percent of those people are on the long wait lists of a very few surgeons. Mostly, Mr. Speaker, they have chosen to stay there, which is their right, but 70 percent of Manitobans get their hips and knees done in under seven months. That is a pretty good record. Winnipeg Regional doing 700 instead of—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mrs. Stefanson: Well, Mr. Speaker, maybe the Minister of Health could answer the question for us. How many pediatric dental surgeries has he completed of the ones that he promised to complete? An absolutely dismal record. Manitobans are absolutely fed up with this NDP government's ideological blinders. They want access to health care services that they are currently being denied.

Even the Labour Party in Britain has realized that they need to abandon their own ideology in favour of doing what is best for patients, allowing competition in delivery of health care services. Why does this NDP government continue to refuse to put patients ahead of their own ideology? Manitobans are fed up.

Mr. Sale: This government has doubled. Doubled, Mr. Speaker, 100 percent increase in the number of pediatric dental surgeries than when we formed government. The previous government did half of what we are doing right now.

Secondly, we are on track to more than exceed the additional 600 surgeries by the end of the fiscal year. Stay tuned. We are doing very well in the area of dental surgery. I was very proud last week to stand beside the CEO of Burntwood Regional Health Authority who had committed to doing over 440 dental surgeries this year. They did none in northern Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. They could not find their way north of the Perimeter Highway.

Safe Schools Codes of Conduct

Mrs. Myrna Driedger (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, this is Bullying Awareness Week and research shows that one in five children are bullied regularly at school. I would like to ask the Minister of Education if he can tell us if all schools in Manitoba now have a finalized code of conduct in place that addresses bullying.

Hon. Peter Bjornson (Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth): Yes, Mr. Speaker, all schools in Manitoba do have codes of conduct. All schools in Manitoba do have emergency response plans. All schools in Manitoba are complying with the Safe Schools Charter and the code of conduct legislation that we brought forward.

This has been a result of a lot of consultation which members opposite dismissed. We had the member from Fort Whyte say it was a waste of time. We had the member from Tuxedo say: "Make sure you listen to the teachers." Then my critic said: "Forget everything that the teachers said, it should be zero tolerance," which is completely inconsistent with what we have done. We have consulted with the teachers, and this is an issue that has been addressed at the school level through our Safe Schools initiatives. It is an issue that is being addressed by the Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet. It is a

commitment by all members on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. Driedger: I hope when the minister indicates that the codes of conduct are in, that all the finalized versions are now in, and not just drafts.

The Minister of Education has refused to provide us with the codes of conduct on three separate occasions, and he has had several months now to analyze those codes of conduct. I would like to ask the minister if he can tell us if there is consistency in all of those codes of conduct regarding expectations and consequences of bullying.

Mr. Bjornson: Mr. Speaker, this is a local issue. School divisions—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Bjornson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Administrators should have the capacity to act as administrators. Members opposite are looking for some prescriptive omnibus legislation that will deal with everything. We have asked local authorities to develop the codes of conduct because they know what is best for their communities and they are allowed to have the flexibility. They work with parents. They work with teachers. They work with community groups to address this issue. This is not just an education issue. It is an issue that has brought several members to the table, several stakeholders to the table. Just as we consult as a province, the school divisions consult with their stakeholders to decide what is best for their children.

Mrs. Driedger: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education talks about this as being a local issue. This is his legislation that he put forward, and he has to put forward the leadership to ensure that these codes of conduct are finalized. They are on his desk.

I will repeat the question to him. In September, he said he had not had a chance yet to look at it and analyze the law for consistency. I am asking him now, he has had several months to do this. Has he looked at all of them to ensure that the codes of conduct are consistent in terms of expectations and consequences for bullying? That is his legislation and that is his job. Has he done it?

Mr. Bjornson: Well, Mr. Speaker, our government has been doing the job since we have been in office, unlike members opposite who chose to ignore the issue. We started lobbying as teachers back in 1993 when I was a member of the Evergreen Teachers'

Association. We started lobbying the provincial government of the day. They chose to do nothing. We have been very involved in this process, engaging stakeholders at all levels.

The codes of conduct are in place. Codes of conduct are an ongoing process as far as being tailored to address the needs of the different schools, and they are developed through consultation with teachers, with parents and community groups. It is the community that has input on this issue. It is a community issue.

Crocus Investment Fund Government Monitoring Process

Mr. Gerald Hawranik (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, in 2001 the Minister of Industry indicated that it was important that the government monitor the operations of labour-sponsored funds to ensure that they comply with legislation. In 2001, a senior account manager with the Department of Industry indicated that Crocus was indeed not complying with the legislation and the minister did nothing.

Since it was clearly the government's duty to ensure that the law was not broken, why did the Industry Minister not step in on behalf of 33 000 Crocus shareholders and stop Crocus from breaking the laws?

Hon. Jim Rondeau (Minister of Industry, Economic Development and Mines): Mr. Speaker, maybe the member opposite has not been aware of what has happened so far. So far there has been an Auditor's Report and investigation which provided a whole pile of important recommendations that we are taking action on. Also, there is a Manitoba Securities Commission investigation. There is an RCMP investigation to see if there are any criminal wrongdoings. There are a number of court cases that are talking about if there are any civil liabilities. Those things are an ongoing process. Our government trusts the independence and the impartiality of these ongoing experts as they continue their investigation and we will not interfere.

Mr. Hawranik: Mr. Speaker, the only investigation that is lacking is an investigation from this minister. Clearly the Minister of Industry indicated that it was the government's duty to monitor Crocus so that Crocus was not breaking the law. The Auditor General stated that this NDP government failed in this duty. Why did he fail to see that Crocus was breaking the law? It was his duty and he failed.

* (14:10)

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, as a lawyer, the member opposite should understand the law. The law is that we should have an independent—the independent Manitoba Securities Commission should conduct an investigation. In the law, an independent RCMP would check and conduct an independent criminal investigation. Canada Customs and Revenue will do an independent investigation and, of course, Manitoba Securities will do the same.

As you understand, you said that we have allowed and made sure that everything is done that needs to be done and I concur. We have made the independent on political organizations conduct an independent process to find out wrongdoings and take action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hawranik: Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General was very clear. This NDP government failed in its duty to ensure that Crocus was not breaking the law. Clearly, this NDP government as early as 2001 knew that Crocus was breaking the law and more than 33 000 shareholders lost more than \$60 million.

I ask the Minister of Industry: Why did he fail to do his duty? Why did he so miserably fail the more than 33 000 Crocus shareholders?

Mr. Rondeau: As a lawyer, you should be aware that it is not the NDP government that goes and does the investigation and follows this out. It is the independent offices of the Manitoba Securities Commission, RCMP, et cetera.

The other thing that you should note, Mr. Speaker, is that it is an independent thing and the same people were in charge—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, the same people were in management as members opposite. It was the same system that was employed by Crocus as was established by members opposite, and Mr. Stefanson and the Premier previously had stated over and over again that it was not supposed to be a political process, and we made sure that it was not a political process.

Mental Illness Service Availability

Hon. Jon Gerrard (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, Anuj Sharma, 20 years old, stabbed a 63-year-old man at Assiniboine Park. All the indications are that Mr. Sharma suffers from a

mental illness, and he and his family have been desperately seeking help for this. Appropriate diagnosis and treatment for his mental illness could have prevented this terrible tragedy.

Because of poor planning by this Minister of Health, we have a mental health system that is not adequately serving Manitobans, and the result is problems with safety for our citizens. Why was the Minister of Health not even involved in the recent crime reduction announcement at Magnus Eliason Centre? When will this government realize that a safe community strategy without better mental health is no strategy at all?

Hon. Tim Sale (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, obviously it is not appropriate for me to comment on what is a criminal investigation in regard to a very serious incident. Our government has, in fact, increased funding for community acute mental health services by 38 percent since we formed government, to the alcoholism foundation, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba by 36 percent, an increase of over \$3 million.

Last year the AFM was able, with that money, to provide counselling in 35 more high schools in Manitoba than was the situation in 1997 when they provided only 19 schools with any support. With the early psychosis program, the PACT program, the rebuilding of Selkirk, Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on. We admit we are concerned about mental health but we admit no failure. We have increased our support for mental health significantly.

Mr. Gerrard: Not lots of money perhaps but poor management and not the kind of outcomes that we need. The minister knows full well that he has let down Manitobans with mental illnesses very badly. The PACT program is not accessible to people because there are insufficient PACT teams. Immediate access to the first episode psychosis program is not possible at the moment because of the minister's poor planning. At many steps along the way, those with mental illnesses are not being well served by this government. Perhaps we need an investigation into this minister's failures.

Why has this minister so badly let down Manitobans that we have an increase in crime because he is not adequately diagnosing and treating people with mental illness?

Mr. Sale: Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is probably aware that many people with mental health concerns present themselves to their family

physicians, and we indeed provide a great deal of support to people with mental health issues through our normal acute care and primary care systems.

In terms of the services that we have put in place, a community psychiatrist on-call system was put in place in 2005 for Mobile Crisis services, Crisis Stabilization, evening on-call service coverage for Misericordia Urgent Care and for Concordia, Mr. Speaker. We continue to make investments and, in fact, if the member remembers, we added mental health as one of Manitoba's four specific priorities for the wait-list fund which will be announced shortly in terms of the detail for that component of our wait-list strategy.

Crocus Investment Fund Public Inquiry

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, the shareholders of the Crocus Fund have been shafted by this government. It has been gross government neglect that has caused huge value drops of the Crocus Fund shares. If we look at the mess that they got themselves into because of ignoring the problems, we can talk about investigations.

The provincial auditor has looked into this problem. The inquiry has been made by the Manitoba Securities Commission. The RCMP are conducting an investigation. Canada Revenue is looking into this matter, Mr. Speaker. There is a lawsuit out against the Crocus Fund. It is a heck of a mess that this government has created and what is needed is a public inquiry. That is what is in the public's best interest.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the shafting continues, \$5 million of liability in which most of that money is going to go towards the lawyers. The share—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Jim Rondeau (Minister of Industry, Economic Development and Mines): Mr. Speaker, I am glad the member opposite went through the different levels of investigation to ensure that people get unbiased third parties, professionals get to the bottom of what happened at Crocus. That is the best thing that we can do to allow the shareholders to get back their value.

What we have done is we have acted upon all the changes of the Auditor General's report on an ongoing basis. What we have done is we have allowed the third-party experts, the experts on the criminal or the income tax or the Manitoba securities

law to do their job unfettered. We allowed the Auditor General to do his job and provided unfettered access and information. That is our job, not to control but to allow the professionals to do their job.

Diabetes Prevention/Treatment Strategy

Ms. Kerri Irvin-Ross (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, today is November 14, World Diabetes Day. Could the Minister of Health inform the House of the actions taken by this government to prevent diabetes and provide care to those living with diabetes?

Hon. Tim Sale (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I was very proud of our Premier (Mr. Doer) when he took last September the national stage and said we have an epidemic and we need to take action on that epidemic. I was very pleased a week ago to announce a \$6-million funding partnership with the federal government to take action in regard to the prevention of Type 2 diabetes in particular, and in particular in the highest risk communities, our northern and rural communities.

We would be glad to challenge the federal government to come up with the full \$8 million that they have been asked to commit to this program but, in the meantime, we are pleased with the commitment of \$6 million. Mr. Speaker, I am also proud to be the successor to the Minister of Health who established Canada's first rural and remote renal dialysis program in Island Lake, a \$5.2-million program supported by this government.

Pelican Lake Fish Stock Enhancement

Mr. Cliff Cullen (Turtle Mountain): Mr. Speaker, Pelican Lake is the largest lake in southwestern Manitoba. This lake is very important to the region for recreation and tourism. During the winter of 2003, the lake suffered a serious fish kill due to lack of oxygen.

I would like to ask the Minister of Water Stewardship if he is prepared to commit resources to the redevelopment of this particular lake.

Hon. Stan Struthers (Minister of Conservation): I know that this government has been very supportive of local entities when they have come forward looking for ideas in developing tourism and tourism opportunities and we know, those of us who live in rural Manitoba, that having lakes with an abundant number of fish available is good not only for local

tourism but for bringing in fisherpeople from around into the area.

I know that the minister has met with the people that are interested in Pelican Lake, and they have been working together to find a solution to this problem.

* (14:20)

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, local citizens realize the value of this resource and Pelican Lake fish enhancement committee was formed over a year and a half ago. The committee has been working very diligently with municipalities, the business community and also individuals to resolve the issue. This committee believes installing an aeration system would protect the fish stock. Funding for operation of aerators has been committed. However, government bureaucracy and a lack of capital funding have stalled the project. I would ask if the minister is prepared to make a capital investment in this region.

Mr. Struthers: We have been committed and we have been working with local groups in making these types of decisions. Part of the decision-making process needs to be a scientific look at the particular lake in question, Pelican Lake, to make sure that the investments that we make do actually work and do actually provide the kind of environment for the fish to survive. So, Mr. Speaker, I can say confidently that our government will work with groups who are looking to enhance the tourism opportunities in each of the regions.

Mr. Cullen: I thank the minister for his response, but something appears fishy in the Water Stewardship branch. Officials from the Water Stewardship Department have put forward proposals for the aeration of the lake. The Pelican Lake fish enhancement committee has addressed all the questions put forward by the department. The committee is simply requesting \$25,000 from the Fish Enhancement Initiative of the department. However, the department is now requesting the committee hire an independent consultant which could cost \$15,000 to \$20,000. Is the minister prepared to meet with the Pelican Lake fish enhancement committee to resolve this issue?

Mr. Struthers: As I have stated already, Mr. Speaker, our government is willing to work with local groups in order to make the best decisions possible to enhance the tourism opportunities that we have in our lakes right across rural Manitoba,

including this one at Pelican Lake. We need to make our decisions based on good science, and we need to make our decisions based on the long-term investment that needs to take place on these lakes. Thank you.

Highway 10 Safety

Mrs. Leanne Rowat (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask a question of the Premier (Mr. Doer) regarding a family that is without a father. I am asking the Premier what plan does he have for addressing the issue on Highway 10. This family and others within the community of Rivers have had enough heartache and pain. I ask the Premier, unfortunately, he has left the House—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We have all been here long enough. We know the rules.

The presence and absence of members are not to be raised in the House. We cannot forecast what other business members ever have, so that is why that rule is there. It is out of order to mention the presence or absence of members in this Chamber so I ask the honourable member to withdraw that.

Mrs. Rowat: I withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, the honourable member has withdrawn that.

The honourable Official Opposition House Leader, on a point of order.

Point of Order

Mr. Leonard Derkach (Official Opposition House Leader): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, because truly Question Period is 40 minutes long and I do not care what other business the Premier (Mr. Doer) has and neither do Manitobans. We dedicate 40 minutes of this House's time for Question Period. Surely, surely the First Minister could make himself available for that time.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable Member for Inkster, on the same point of order.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, we too recognize the value of Question Period and given—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The honourable Member for Inkster, to continue with his point of order.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Speaker, I do not share the sentiment that has just recently been expressed. If they do not recognize the value of having the First Minister present during Question Period, as being something that is important to one of the fundamental principles of the operations of this Chamber, I tend to disagree with the Premier's lack of presence during Question Period.

I do not, for one, believe that that is appropriate, and whether it is the staff of the Premier's Office, they should be making the necessary arrangements to be able to accommodate Question Period. I think that it is a valid request. There are at times individuals that are not present during Question Period and they are not present for no doubt a good reason.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable Government House Leader, on the same point of order.

Hon. Gord Mackintosh (Government House Leader): I regret, Mr. Speaker, I feel obliged to stand on this point because, quite frankly, I have to call this a cheap shot. Now what is most telling is that the second question that was asked of this side of the House by the Transportation critic went to the minister. It is interesting that the timing of this question came at that particular moment, and I think that is unfortunate.

Mr. Speaker, there is a rule. It is there for good reason.

Mr. Speaker: On the point of order raised by the honourable Official Opposition House Leader, he does not have a point of order.

* * *

Mrs. Rowat: Mr. Speaker, I was looking for an answer from this Premier (Mr. Doer) to respond, but I am looking now to the Minister of Government Services to provide some indication that there is a plan in place to address this growing issue of unsafe highways, especially No. 10 highway.

Hon. Ron Lemieux (Minister of Transportation and Government Services): We are currently twinning No. 1 highway to the Saskatchewan border which they did not do. We are currently twinning Highway 59 south which they did not do. We are currently twinning the northeast Perimeter which they did not do.

Mr. Speaker, they did not—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Point of Order

Mr. Speaker: The honourable Official Opposition House Leader, on a point of order?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think it is incumbent upon a minister to address the topic of the question that is asked, especially in a serious matter where a Manitoban has just lost his life, a family has just lost a father.

We are asking this minister to address the issue of Highway No. 10. Now, if he needs a map, we will send him a map. We are not talking about Highway No. 1. We are talking about Highway No. 10. When is he going to address it? That is the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. On the point of order raised by the honourable Official Opposition House Leader, the honourable minister has been 13 seconds into his answer so I cannot—[interjection] Order.

Members have 45 seconds to raise a question and preamble and postamble. Ministers have 45 seconds to address the question, preamble, postamble, within that 45 seconds. I am sure the honourable minister was going to direct his answer to that specific question within that 45 seconds.

* * *

Mr. Lemieux: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was and the point I was trying to make is that there are a lot of highways being twinned in Manitoba. We are currently looking at No. 10 as well as many other highways in Manitoba, but there is a budgetary process, an Estimates process which we go through. Every year we take direction from the department, with the many engineers and professionals in the department that determine where these activities should take place.

But the members opposite claim to have such a passion for safety. We are the government that brought in the interlock system. We are the government that brought in the graduated driver's licence system, Mr. Speaker. We are the government that now we see a 50 percent decrease in fatalities between the ages of 15.5 and 18 because of what we did.

Mr. Speaker: Time for Oral Questions has expired.

* (14:30)

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Valour Road Commemoration

Mr. Andrew Swan (Minto): Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 5, I had the privilege to attend the opening of the Valour Road commemoration.

Nearly a century has passed since three young men from Winnipeg, who all lived in what was then called Pine Street in the city's West End, were awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery during battle in World War I. Leo Clarke and Frederick Hall died in action, and Robert Shankland lived until 1968. In recognition of their sacrifice and courage, Pine Street was renamed Valour Road in 1925. The new plaza will further immortalize the contribution of these soldiers and their comrades.

I was joined by the family of the Victoria Cross recipients, a contingent from the Minto Armoury, representatives from the community who were members of the project working group, the Member for St. James (Ms. Korzeniowski), as well as Councillor Harvey Smith.

This plaza will ensure we never forget the valour and bravery of thousands of Canadians. Designed by local landscape architect David Wagner, the Valour Road Commemorative Plaza includes a striking Tyndall stone monument in the shape of the Victoria Cross and silhouettes of First World War soldiers.

Last Thursday, students at nearby Clifton School held their Remembrance Day commemoration at the plaza. On Friday, several hundred people attended the Valour Road Remembrance Day service there.

The project was undertaken and funded through the Building Communities initiative, a \$14-million capital infrastructure program funded equally between the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg. The program funds community improvements in older neighbourhoods of the city after extensive community consultation and planning.

The Building Communities initiative has funded the completion of 56 community infrastructure projects in six neighbourhood areas. A total of 96 community projects will be completed by the end of the program in 2007.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Diabetes Month

Mr. Cliff Cullen (Turtle Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize that November has been declared Canadian Diabetes Month. The purpose of Canadian Diabetes Month is to raise awareness of the disease and to help to forward the cause of preventing, detecting and treating instances of diabetes so that those affected by it can live longer and healthier lives. Canadian Diabetes Month also coincides with World Diabetes Day which is celebrated today, November 14.

Diabetes is a disease that currently affects over two million Canadians. The incidences of diabetes in Canadian society, particularly Type 2 diabetes, are dramatically increasing over recent years due to a number of factors including an aging population base, an increase in obesity rates and sedentary lifestyles. Recent research suggests that a child born in 2000 may stand as high as a one-in-three chance of being diagnosed with diabetes in his or her lifetime.

Leading the charge in the fight against diabetes is the Canadian Diabetes Association. The association is a major source for people with and affected by diabetes as well as a major contributor to the fight against diabetes in general. The CDA runs a number of programs focussed on prevention and awareness, and the recognition of National Diabetes Month is just one of the many ways that they work to help stem the tide of what has been a growing problem in recent years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Canadian Diabetes Association for their tireless work and inform all the members of the Legislative Assembly that November is Canadian Diabetes Month in an effort to promote awareness for a disease that is a part of many lives of Manitobans.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Council on Aging Award Recipient

Mr. Cris Aglugub (The Maples): Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Dr. Roland Guzman, a recipient of a Manitoba Council on Aging annual recognition award. This award is meant to recognize the exceptional contributions made by individuals or organizations to the betterment of the lives of seniors and of their communities.

The Manitoba Council on Aging is an advisory body to the Minister responsible for Seniors (Ms. Oswald). By providing public input on issues

relating to seniors, as well as informing the public about the aging process, it provides an important public service to both the government of Manitoba and its citizens. Seniors are one of the fastest growing segments of the population. This council established the award to recognize those extraordinary individuals and their efforts in bettering the lives of seniors.

Dr. Guzman was one of the earliest Filipino immigrants to Canada. He came in the late sixties together with wife Irene. Already the Honorary Consul General of the Philippines, Dr. Guzman was honoured for his many efforts and activities within the Filipino-Canadian community, his tireless work in the promotion of positive and improved connections between the Philippines and Canada and his diligent work in developing seniors' wellness seminars that promote healthy aging. In his work, Dr. Guzman has been much aided by his medical background as well as by his expertise in the field of pathology.

I would like to commend Dr. Guzman for his important work. Also, this award is especially significant as it took place during Seniors' and Elders' Month, a time when we recognize the important contributions made by the seniors to our communities. In that spirit of recognition, I call on all members of the House to congratulate Dr. Guzman and all the other recipients of the award for their good works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Seven Oaks General Hospital

Mrs. Heather Stefanson (Tuxedo): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today and congratulate the Seven Oaks General Hospital on being rated, for the second year in a row, one of Canada's top 100 companies to work for. Every year, Mediacorp Canada compiles this list to bring attention to companies that promote exceptional workplaces. The Seven Oaks General Hospital was one of only two hospitals in Canada to make the 2006 list.

Employees at the Seven Oaks General Hospital enjoy a workplace that gives them access to fitness facilities and health promotion programs that allow them to balance work, personal and community life. Almost 1500 full, part-time and casual staff are employed at the Seven Oaks General Hospital. Hospital administration has done extensive research on what it takes to retain and attract skilled workers. It is gratifying to see local, qualified Manitoba workers staying in our province and working in our hospitals because their work environment is

respectful and conducive to their professional needs. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Lions Manor Residents

Mr. Rob Altemeyer (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful group of seniors in my constituency of Wolseley.

On October 12, I had the opportunity to spend a truly fun, entertaining and instructive afternoon with residents of Lions Manor. It was an event held to celebrate Seniors' and Elders' Month and to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of Manitoba seniors to their communities. On hand for the celebration were approximately 90 Lions Manor residents and the manor staff, plus nine children from Lions Gate Child Day Care and a man who has a remarkable resemblance to Charlie Chaplin but who also responds to the name of Jack.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the residents of Lions Manor for the many things they have done for this province and for the things they continue to do for their neighbours, their community and each other. I am proud to be part of a government that has taken several important steps to respect and value our seniors and to improve services available to them.

Mr. Chaplin's workshop entitled "The Use of Mime in the Silent Film Era," a hands-on workshop, featured Charlie entertaining the crowd with a clip from his movie days, followed by a live performance. He then went on, ably assisted by the children from Lions Gate Child Day Care, to teach the crowd how to perform mime. It was fascinating to watch as Charlie led one child through a complete costume change to become a miniature Charlie Chaplin. I want to thank Mr. Chaplin and the children for their fine efforts.

I also wish to say a special thank you to Laura Devlin, director of social care at Lions, and the manor staff for their initiative and their co-operative attitude in putting together a lovely afternoon. It was a great privilege to honour the Manitoba seniors and elders that they work with on a regular basis. The cakes, I might add, were also delicious. I want to thank the staff at the child care office for their part in bridging the generations that day.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude today by officially thanking and putting on the record the respect and admiration with which I hold all seniors in Wolseley. Congratulations on their ongoing achievements and contributions. Thank you.

Matter of Urgent Public Importance

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the member from River Heights, that under Rule 36(1) the regular business of the House be set aside to deal with the matter of urgent public importance, namely, the need to consider the current status of the Crocus Fund and why it is critically important that a public inquiry be called in order to protect the interests of the taxpayer and to uncover the reasons as to why the government chose not to act on problems with the fund dating back to 2001.

* (14:40)

Mr. Speaker: Before recognizing the honourable Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux), I believe I should remind all members that under Rule 36(2), the mover of a motion on a matter of urgent public importance and one member from the other parties in the House are allowed not more than 10 minutes to explain the urgency of debating the matter immediately.

As stated in *Beauchesne*, Citation 390, urgency in this context means the urgency of immediate debate, not of the subject matter of the motion. In their remarks, members should focus exclusively on whether or not there is urgency of debate and whether or not the ordinary opportunities for debate will enable the House to consider the matter early enough to ensure that the public interest will not suffer.

Mr. Lamoureux: I do believe that this is of urgent importance and in the public's best interest that we allow for debate to occur on this issue. In fact, Mr. Speaker, you will see that agreement of the House in the past has been supported when we have seen that the public interest would be best served. I look to the member from Emerson when he made reference when we talked about the BSE crisis to the 10 500 livestock producers and the impact it was having on those, a huge impact, as he points out.

Mr. Speaker, what we are talking about here is the impact of 33 000-plus Manitobans that had a direct investment in the Crocus Fund, let alone the investments that all Manitobans had in the Crocus Fund as a direct result of the tax breaks that were being provided. I truly do believe that that is the primary reason why we need to hear from the government as to what is happening on the Crocus file and their position, to be able to elaborate a

position, as to why they have not called for a public inquiry.

Earlier today, I made reference to the amount of concern from other groups, other interested stakeholders out there. Whether it was the provincial auditor, whether it is the Manitoba Securities Commission, whether it is an RCMP investigation, whether it is Revenue Canada, whether it is now a class action lawsuit, Mr. Speaker, all of these actions, significant actions, have been taken in order to try to figure out what has happened on that Crocus fiasco.

None of those investigations, Mr. Speaker, really adequately address two issues that I believe are critically important and need to be debated and therefore define the urgency of us debating that today. The No. 1 is the issue of government neglect. We know that the government neglected the Crocus file, and that is what, in essence, led to this whole fiasco.

Number 2 is the relationship between the Premier (Mr. Doer) and a number of the members of the union movement, Mr. Speaker. We need to get that sort of clarification. Something has happened here, and the people that have been paying the price of government neglect and incompetence are, in fact, our shareholders; they are, in fact, our taxpayers. Those are the individuals who, I believe, need to hear from the government, in particular, from the Premier.

I have used Question Period twice now to try to get the Premier to come clean on the need for a public inquiry, to comment on the need for a public inquiry, Mr. Speaker. He just has not done that. His silence has been deafening. We believe that the Premier, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Selinger) and this government as a whole need to put on the record very clearly what their position is in regard to the public inquiry.

If they do not believe a public inquiry is necessary, then they should be standing up and defending their argument, Mr. Speaker. What I believe is happening is that they are hoping that this issue will just kind of die and wither away. The fear, of course, is that within days there could be significant amounts of dollars going from an insurance company to lawyers in which the shareholders will lose out.

We can see a potential settlement where this government might be involved. We do not know what this government is up to, Mr. Speaker. That

settlement could be used as a way to prevent information from being released to the public. I believe that the merits are there for a public inquiry, and we cannot allow the government of the day to stand by and say nothing and do nothing in hopes that the issue disappears. There is a responsibility of this government to stand up and speak out and say what they believe, to give the rationale as to why there is not the need for a public inquiry.

We believe the argument is there to justify a public inquiry, and there is no excuse that the government has put on the record in any fashion whatsoever that justifies the position or the lack of a position on the public inquiry. If we take a look, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech debate is over. The Government House Leader (Mr. Mackintosh) might say that I could still use my grievance. Yes, I could use my grievance, but more important than hearing me and my position on this issue or the Liberal Party's position is we need to hear from the government side.

We need to hear from the Premier (Mr. Doer) and the ministers who are responsible for this particular file. They need to get on the record. That can only occur legitimately through a good healthy debate, and what I look for is the government to acknowledge the importance of this issue at the very least, the importance of 33 000-plus, plus our taxpayers, and allow for that debate to occur. We have done that through the BSE when we recognized the impact that that was having. We have done it on other issues, Mr. Speaker, since the last provincial election, have allowed that debate to occur.

If you have nothing to fear, then allow the debate to occur, Mr. Speaker. That is what I am asking from the Government House Leader. If you have nothing to fear on the Crocus file, then why not allow the debate to occur? It is not like if you take a look at the Order Paper that there is a substantial listing of bills which is going to consume the entire afternoon. All we need to do is just look at last Thursday where we had adjourned early. We have the time inside this Legislature to give it debate.
[interjection]

Well, the minister says why not shut up and talk about it. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am trying to get the government to talk about it. It is the government that sits on their back-end, on their hands, and chooses to say nothing on this critically important issue to all Manitobans in hopes that the issue is going to disappear. That is irresponsible, and this government

needs to stand up and needs to support this matter of urgent public importance. The time will allow for that debate to occur today. The only reason why it will not occur, I believe, is if we have a government that wants first and foremost to protect the interests of its relationship with the union movement, the few within the union, and is not prepared to stand up to the best interests of the Crocus shareholders and the public as a whole in this province.

So my challenge is to the Premier and to the Government House Leader to allow the debate to occur. The time is there for us to do it. The Government House Leader knows full well that the time is there for us to do it. Accept the challenge. Allow the debate to occur and let us start talking about this critically important issue that all Manitobans need to hear more from in regard to the government's side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Leonard Derkach (Official Opposition House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I believe that an issue that is raised as a matter of urgent public importance should be taken seriously by our House because these are issues that are important to Manitobans. In this particular case, this issue is probably of greater significance than many others that have been raised in the past.

This is an issue where Manitobans have lost their hard-earned savings because of government neglect. There is not a better time to debate this issue than today because Manitobans are looking for answers. They cannot seem to get answers from the government when they phone directly. The Minister of Industry (Mr. Rondeau) has proven that he is incapable of answering any questions in the House or on this file.

* (14:50)

This is an issue where the government has crawled into bed with the union leaders and has decided to sweep this thing under the carpet, and that is shameful. This is a matter of urgent public importance. Mr. Speaker, 33 000 Manitobans have lost \$60 million. Now, if we do not consider that to be a matter of urgent public importance, what do we consider then to be a matter of urgent public importance?

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that it would be important for us to set aside the business of the day to look at a reasonable and a knowledgeable and an intelligent debate on this issue so that Manitobans who are watching, who are listening, who are

wanting information about their hard-earned savings can then hear what the government has to say about this issue because, indeed, it is their obligation to respond to a matter of urgent public importance to defend their position. In our view, it is not defensible.

In our view, Mr. Speaker, they should be calling a public inquiry. This is Manitoba's Gomery inquiry. This is the scandal of the 2000s, where we have a Premier and his Cabinet who are so intertwined with the labour union leaders in this province that they are prepared to do unworthy acts to sweep this thing under the carpet, and Manitobans will never, ever understand what really happened in this. It is our obligation as members of opposition to hold the government accountable, to ensure that they account for what their actions are to the public of Manitoba. That is why it is important for us to be able to set aside the business of the day.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that is a big task. If I look at the Order Paper here, the government is out of work. I can justify a matter of urgent public importance debate on the basis that last week we had to adjourn the House early because the government ran out of work. On Wednesday we adjourned the House at 3:20. Why did we adjourn the House at 3:20? Because the government ran out of work.

An Honourable Member: No agenda.

Mr. Derkach: No agenda. So, Mr. Speaker, on that basis alone I do not think the government will object too strenuously to us having a debate on this matter, but this is a matter that is fairly important. I think the member from Inkster does bring a legitimate case forward where I think we should be able to set aside whatever business we have on this Order Paper and debate this and hold the government accountable like we are supposed to in this Chamber. So, with those few words, I support the member from Inkster and his bid to have this matter debated in the House today.

Hon. Gord Mackintosh (Government House Leader): Well, Mr. Speaker, I know the opposition has been kicking around this matter for a few months. I certainly do not see any evidence presented by the honourable member from Inkster in terms of urgency at this time or, in particular, on this certain day.

Mr. Speaker, I note that the Throne Speech has just passed. Members opposite had full opportunity

during that wide-ranging debate to raise concerns about this matter. The issue is before independent entities and, just in conclusion, I will just note that in the class action lawsuit that has been launched, the government is not even so much as named as a defendant and that is a lawsuit by the shareholders themselves.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Our rules state that we hear from one member of each party. I have heard from the honourable—

An Honourable Member: We did have more.

Mr. Speaker: I hear from one member of each party to convince me that we need to debate this today. If we were debating it, yes, other members could speak to it, but right now our rules state that it is one member from each recognized party.

I thank the honourable members for their advice to the Chair on whether the motion proposed by the honourable Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) should be debated today. The notice required by Rule 36(1) was provided. Under our rules and practices, the subject matter requiring urgent consideration must be so pressing that the public interest will suffer if the matter is not given immediate attention. There must also be no other reasonable opportunities to raise the matter. I do not doubt that this matter is one that is of serious concern to some members in the House.

I have listened very carefully to the arguments put forward. However, I was not persuaded that the ordinary business of the House should be set aside to deal with this issue today. Although undoubtedly this is a very serious issue that the member has brought forward, I do not believe that the public interest will be harmed if the business of the House is not set aside to debate the motion today.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Additionally, I would like to note that there are other avenues for members to raise this issue, including questions in Question Periods and raising the item under grievances. In addition, members had the opportunity to raise this and many other issues during the recent debate on the address in reply that was concluded last week. Therefore, with the greatest of respect, I must rule that this matter does not meet the criteria set by our rules and precedents, and I rule the motion out of order as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

ORDERS OF THE DAY GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. Gord Mackintosh (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, would you please call second readings on Bills 2 and 3 and then debate on second readings in the order they appear?

SECOND READINGS

Bill 2—The Private Investigators and Security Guards Amendment Act

Hon. Gord Mackintosh (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Energy, Science and Technology (Mr. Chomiak), that Bill 2, The Private Investigators and Security Guards Amendment Act, be now read a second time and be referred to a committee of this House.

Motion presented.

Mr. Mackintosh: I am pleased to introduce these amendments for second reading. Mr. Speaker, The Private Investigators and Security Guards Act is being proposed to be amended to provide for the inclusion of previously exempt security guards for licensing and for training.

In-house security guards are those working exclusively for a single employer who is not in the business of providing security guard services. Previously, The Private Investigators and Security Guards Act did not apply to security guards working in-house or to members of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires employed as security guards.

The act would now, if this passes, require that in-house security guards meet licensing requirements set out in the act. The amendment will help to ensure then that all security guards in the province have satisfied the same licensing requirements.

In addition, the act would require all employers of in-house security guards to register with the department. Registered employers would be required to employ licensed security guards to ensure all employers in the security guard industry are held to the same standard.

The act was previously amended to require completion of training prior to application for a security guard licence. Expanding the scope of the act to include previously exempt security guards ensures that all security guards will have satisfied the same licensing requirements. Industry participation

has been integral to the development of the made-in-Manitoba 40-hour Security Guard Training Program.

The new training standard is based on the Canadian General Standards Board basic security guard training program, which is a nationally recognized training standard. The training program includes topics such as professionalism, public relations, legal authority, which includes both the laws and the Charter, traffic control, bomb threats, personal safety at work, fire detection and prevention. Also, issues such as note-taking are included. This legislation, Mr. Speaker, would also require companies engaged in the business of providing private investigators and security guards to have liability insurance.

Mr. Leonard Derkach (Russell): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Emerson, that debate on this bill be adjourned.

Motion agreed to.

Bill 3—The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act

Hon. Gord Mackintosh (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): I move, seconded by the Minister of Energy, Science and Technology (Mr Chomiak), that Bill 3, The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act, be now read a second time and be referred to a committee of this House.

Motion presented.

* (15:00)

Mr. Mackintosh: Mr. Speaker, we live in an increasingly mobile society, and whether it is for family reasons, employment or business opportunities, it is not uncommon for people to move from one part of Canada to another, and, of course, Canada is also an economic unit. Provinces and territories have certainly recognized the need to remove barriers between Canadian jurisdictions with respect to such things as trade and commerce and the delivery of everyday goods and services.

Mr. Speaker, we must also break down barriers in the way of public safety. It is important that our legislation reflects the reality of a mobile society, so today I am pleased to introduce The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act, which will allow for the recognition and enforcement in Manitoba of civil judgments granted by courts in other Canadian

jurisdictions. This bill, which is based on a model uniform act developed by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, will provide recognition to Canadian monetary and non-monetary orders on what is called a full faith and credit basis. I should just add as a note that the Uniform Law Conference is comprised of jurists, of lawyers, of Justice officials from across Canada and provides an invaluable role in developing legislation that is recommended for passage by every Canadian jurisdiction so that we can have some uniformity across the country and some common approaches to issues that are of concern to Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will have particular significance for civil orders of protection and other non-monetary judgments granted by courts in other provinces or territories by enabling these orders to be enforced here in Manitoba. Currently, Manitoba, like other Canadian jurisdictions, has reciprocal enforcement of civil judgments legislation, The Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act, which allows for monetary judgments from reciprocating jurisdictions to be registered and enforced in Manitoba. However, the registration process can be complicated and requires that a party seeking enforcement must apply to the Court of Queen's Bench for registration of their judgment. Thereafter, enforcement may not be permitted on a full faith and credit basis. This bill will significantly improve the process to register and enforce civil judgments granted in other Canadian jurisdictions. It will simplify the process to register an out-of-province Canadian judgment in Manitoba and will also extend the ability to obtain recognition and enforcement to non-monetary judgments.

One of the most important aspects of the bill is its provisions respecting Canadian civil protection orders. Where a person who has been subjected to domestic violence or stalking, for example, has obtained a civil protection order from another province or territory in Canada and then has relocated to Manitoba, their order will be deemed to be an order of the Manitoba court under this new legislation. As such, it will be enforceable in Manitoba whether or not the order is registered with our local courts.

Mr. Speaker, the bill provides for enforcement of a Canadian civil protection order by Manitoba law enforcement agencies, regardless of whether the order then has been registered with the Manitoba court. This is a significant feature because it will allow victims of domestic violence and stalking to obtain prompt enforcement assistance from local

police agencies. Law enforcement agencies will also be given protection from liability for any actions taken in good faith in the enforcement of a Canadian protection order or an order that on its face appears to be a valid order. The legislation will allow a party to a Canadian civil protection order to register it with the Manitoba court in the event that they wish to seek enforcement of specific provisions in their order through the civil courts. Once this bill comes into force on passage, and I hope it certainly will receive speedy passage, it will apply to all existing or future Canadian protection orders.

I might add that court rules will have to be changed, Mr. Speaker, during the proclamation period. I am proud that Manitoba is introducing this progressive legislation to specifically recognize and accord special provisions for the enforcement of civil protection orders granted in other provinces or territories. Apart from its particular treatment of civil protection orders, the bill will also provide a clear process by which both monetary and non-monetary judgments from other Canadian jurisdictions can be easily registered with the Manitoba court and afterward enforced in the same manner as a judgment of the Manitoba court.

The bill specifies time limits for the registration and enforcement of Canadian monetary judgments. It will allow parties to apply to the Manitoba court for directions, respecting enforcement of a registered Canadian judgment, if necessary.

As the intent of this legislation is to provide recognition to Canadian judgments on a full faith and credit basis, the court's ability to provide direction will not allow Manitoba court to look behind the Canadian judgment. If the parties to the judgment have concerns with the basis of such a judgment, those concerns would have to be raised in the province or territory where the order was granted.

Mr. Speaker, this important new law will notably improve the process by which civil judgments granted in other Canadian jurisdictions will be able to be recognized and enforced in this province. This bill's special provisions respecting the enforcement of Canadian civil protection orders will continue Manitoba's role as a leading Canadian jurisdiction in legislative initiatives concerning domestic violence and stalking. Thank you.

Mr. Leonard Derkach (Official Opposition House Leader): I move, seconded by the member from St. Rose, that debate on this bill be adjourned.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Andrew Swan (Minto): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The debate has been adjourned. The member would have to have leave of the House. Is the honourable member asking for leave?

An Honourable Member: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have leave?

An Honourable Member: No.

Mr. Speaker: No, it has been denied. Leave has been denied.

DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS

Bill 5—The Dental Hygienists Act

Mr. Speaker: We will now resume debate on second readings on Bill 5, The Dental Hygienists Act, standing in the name of the honourable Member for Pembina (Mr. Dyck).

What is the will of the House? Leave it standing in the name of the honourable Member for Pembina?
[Agreed]

Mr. Jack Reimer (Southdale): Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to put a few words on the record in regard to Bill 5, The Dental Hygienists Act, that was introduced a while ago by the Minister of Health (Mr. Sale).

Mr. Speaker, the bill itself is a bill that has the establishment of the College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba, is something that is a new direction, a new development by the Health Minister and the government as to how they want to approach the dental hygienists and their contribution. It also establishes a governing council with public representation. I believe the number of members on the council is nine members, and the government would have the ability to appoint three of them. So, in a sense, the council of three would have three members appointed by the Minister of Health as their representatives on there.

It also requires for the registration of dental hygienists here in Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, I really do not know how many that entails, but I would think there is a fair amount of them in regard to the number of dental hygienists in Manitoba, and it also gives them the process for handling complaints and discipline within their profession.

The whole area regarding dental hygiene and the presentation that this government has made is the fact, Mr. Speaker, that what has come to light in the last little while is the tremendous amount of waiting lists and the anxiety and the unfortunate sorrow that a lot of children have to go through to get their teeth fixed. A lot of times it is unknown as to the numbers until you really get into finding out how many children are waiting and what the wait list is involved. I understand the wait list can be up to a year for some children to get teeth fixed or looked after in a proper manner. That has to be terribly, terribly painful for children that are on the list waiting for that.

* (15:10)

The government has made a lot of announcements in regard to the waiting lists and trying to bring the waiting lists down. They talk about bringing in 600 pediatric dental surgeries that were to be completed by 2005, but we know that the waiting list as of July of this year was over 1000 children waiting for pediatric dental surgery. The anxiety and the amount of pain that these children must be going through in regard to trying to get this type of treatment is something, I think, that we would all identify with.

To a large degree, most of us had children or have children, and when they are small like that, any type of pain that they go through, I think, the parents or the guardians can identify very much with, and it has to be very, very anguished for them to watch their children or their child go through that type of suffering, only because, Mr. Speaker, to a degree there is an ideological difference between getting the surgeries done in a timely manner and the ability for the government to always be involved with the process.

I think we are well aware that some of the programs that are being offered in some of the other areas in regard to making themselves available to try to bring down the pediatric surgery time is something that this government should be looking at. They seem to be revolving around the supposition that they are the ones who should be doing it all the time and that there is no room for additional surgeries through some of the other facilities that are available here in Manitoba. I would think that anything that brings down the surgery list is something that the government should be willing to look at to try to take advantage of, instead of being

bound by their philosophies and their idea of always having it done through the system that is there.

They have announced additional surgeries in other areas, in Thompson, in the Burntwood area I believe it is, the Burntwood surgical district, and also in Beausejour, which is to a degree welcomed, but the list keeps growing. As was pointed out, if it is close to where the children need the service, that is more commendable. They do not all have to come into Winnipeg. There are other facilities throughout the province that can certainly do this, but if there are also facilities that are made available to the children, then they should be taking advantage of that, and that is something that we all would agree to.

Mr. Speaker, The Dental Hygienists Act is something that is brought forth in one area. It relates very closely to the hygiene and the dental applications that children are waiting for, so there is a correlation between having good dental hygiene and the ability to have children looked after in their dental surgery. So we look at the bill at the same time as we look at what is best for the children, and we would recommend that the government go along the line of additional surgeries, look at all the strong alternatives that are available in the market and try to keep the children's welfare and the pain away from them as long as possible.

So, with those short words, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks to Bill 5.

Ms. Kerri Irvin-Ross (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, The Dental Hygienists Act, Bill 5, is very important. It is going to be important for all Manitobans. It is going to help support children, youth, adults and seniors. With their expertise, they are going to be able to provide information on prevention and advice on how to make sure that we keep our teeth at their utmost, as well as they are going to be able to provide for us important treatment that will help with our hygiene. They are very skilled professionals who will be involved in making sure that Manitobans will have healthy teeth.

Mr. Conrad Santos, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair

This act is going to create greater accountability for Manitobans. The college will allow citizens to come forward and bring concerns and complaints to a responsible body, and this body will have the ability to deal with those complaints. They are also going to be providing information to the Province, to the Minister of Health (Mr. Sale), in the form of an annual report and the information that is going to be

provided is going to give us information on the structure of the college, its committees, the details of the number of applicants that have registered, the number of complaints and dispositions, the number of members disciplined and the reason for the discipline and the sanctions imposed.

Manitoba is home for over 500 dental hygienists that are practising in Manitoba. This new act is going to provide people and Manitobans, as well as the dental hygienists themselves, with a professional identity. This identity will promote respect among their colleagues as well as other people in the profession and, as I said before, accountability, Mr. Speaker.

We have made this commitment in the Speech from the Throne in providing better care for children's dental health, and this is one means by which we are going to be able to do that as they provide that very necessary information to the children and give us information on how we prevent these painful dental problems.

The act responds to a long-standing request from the hardworking professional to allow them to govern themselves, and this they are going to do. This legislation will allow them to join 92 percent of their colleagues across Canada who are already regulated under a college.

I think that, in our mind as we think about dental hygienists, we all have memories, some of them good, you know, some of them painful sometimes. Scaling can be difficult, but, as I said before, it is very important that they have a professional body to support themselves and Manitobans. It is going to be in the best interests of us all. Also, what is going to be happening on their council is that there is going to be public representation on their committees, and this is going to help them make linkages into the community, from the profession to the community.

I am very proud to be part of a government that values dental hygienists and the work that they do, and have brought forward this legislation for them.

I think, in my closing, I would just like to say how important it is, dental hygienists in our health care system, and what they do for all of us. I would like to thank the many dental hygienists that have supported myself and my family in the many years that we have been going to see them for prevention and advice. So, again, I just urge the opposition to help us take this legislation forward so we can take it to committee and have it passed so dental hygienists

can get the professional body to govern themselves and the respect that they do so deserve in our community. Thank you.

Mr. Ron Schuler (Springfield): It brings me great pleasure to put a few comments on the record in regard to Bill 5, The Dental Hygienists Act. As we have heard from other speakers, this is an important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we know that this bill defines a practice of dental hygiene and, for the first time, provides regulations for that profession, and it has many provisions in it, as we have heard from others, to establish College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba. It has a governing council with public representatives, the registration of dental hygienists, which is also very important, and a process of handling complaints and discipline.

*(15:20)

We know that in society we certainly do value oral care, probably like never before in the history of civilization. As we go through our schools and we see our children with their shiny, healthy teeth, we think back to those individuals who helped us maintain dental care.

Over the years, we have seen the developing of how to properly brush our teeth. We know it is very important to floss. We know that it is very important to maintain your teeth because, after you lose your baby teeth and you get your adult set, you get one set, that is it. Knowing at home I have three little children who are now getting their second set of teeth, we clearly want them to protect their teeth in such a fashion that they will be with them for the rest of their lives.

That is where we find that the system that is in place, we have got excellent dentists and probably now is not the time to put a little pitch in for my dentist, Dr. Peter Bertram Wilson and his staff, the hygienists in his practice, who do an amazing job. In fact, I have been going to him all my life and the individuals who have worked in his office, and for a while I was living somewhere else and I went to see a dentist and they could not believe the quality of the dental work that I had. They just could not believe the hundred-percent quality of the dental work, and that has a lot to do with the dental profession.

We know that dental hygienists promote oral health through education, assessment and treatment of teeth. For those of us who go on a regular basis,

and I assume that is all 57 of us, Mr. Speaker, because we are leaders in our community and we want to lead in all aspects of life, we know that the practice of dental hygiene includes administering oral anaesthetic, applying dental sealants, performing orthodontic and restorative procedures and many, many other things. I see my dental hygienist far more than I see my dentist. He comes in a little bit, asks me how things are going and then seems to leave, whereas it is really the hygienist who has the hands-on work and does just an amazing job.

We also think that it is—*[interjection]*

My one colleague across the way says, and he comes in and asks you questions, you have that suction in your mouth, and somehow seems to understand this. It is called dental chair language, and even my hygienist, she has this complete conversation. It is interesting how she actually remembers from every six-month visit what we discussed the last time. She understands it all. I think obviously they go to dental-speak-as-a-second-language courses because they really do know how to understand and, of course, do just a great job.

It is also very important that this bill creates a college of dental hygienists and that is important because then if individuals have questions about the profession, if individuals have questions about an individual, they know exactly where to go, Mr. Speaker. It provides a lot of different areas that will make the profession a lot more professional. It gives it its own body and we think that is important.

We, however, would like to take the government to task that, over the years, it has been an area that they have neglected in a serious way and that is with the promises made and promises broken with all the announcements on dental hygiene for children. We know that on December 1, 2004, the Minister of Health issued a press release promising an additional 600 pediatric dental surgeries that would be completed at Misericordia Health Centre by the end of 2005, which was not done.

Nearly one year ago, this Premier (Mr. Doer) and this Minister of Health made a promise to children waiting in pain that an additional 600 pediatric dental surgeries would be completed in the province by the end of this year. Last week, the Minister of Health admitted that those targets may not be met and more than likely will not be met.

The number of children waiting for pediatric dental surgery in Manitoba as of July 2005 totalled

the incredible sum of 1018. That is just a horrible number of young children that we need to get in. We have got to get them in, get them proper dental care, get them to have proper dental maintenance so that they too can understand the benefit of having healthy teeth, Mr. Speaker. It is very important that that be done.

More than 1000 children continue to wait in pain for dental surgery as a result of this government's inaction, despite announcement after announcement after announcement. Freedom of Information requests received revealed that as of September 30, 2005, Manitoba Health was short of their 600-surgery goal at Misericordia Health Centre by 283 surgeries. Freedom of Information requests also indicated that the number of pediatric dental surgeries performed at Children's Hospital as of September 30, 2005, was far short—475 surgeries—of reaching the total number of surgeries performed at the hospital the year before.

These are very serious issues, and I think, as we go through this legislation, Mr. Speaker, we should be looking at these numbers because, on the one hand, we see very important work going forward, recognizing the work that is done for dental health, and then, on the other hand, we see a government that breaks their promises actually for the service delivery.

We understand also that Maples Surgical Centre, a private clinic located in Winnipeg, submitted a proposal to the NDP Doer government last year in which they offered to complete 900 pediatric dental surgeries a year ago. The government refused to even consider the proposal. Now what I find just amazing, myself needing some serious dental work—I broke a tooth and I had to have a cap on, and the pain is excruciating. I just have never had that kind of pain in my life. These children, at such a young age, live with this, day in, day out, and the government sits and neglects them, pays no attention to them, lets them suffer in their pain, Mr. Speaker, when there is a solution so easily available and at basically no extra cost to government. Unless this government is rationing health care, then this is something that should be looked at and should be gone into.

Mr. Speaker, if the private clinic's proposal had been accepted, the pediatric dental surgery wait list in Manitoba would have been eliminated. So, in other words, all of those children who are in pain, who are suffering, that could have been dealt with. If this government was really serious about reducing

waiting lists in this province, public-private partnerships for the delivery of health care services would have been included in the five-point plan that was released. Promises made are promises broken in Manitoba. That seems to be the mantra.

This Premier (Mr. Doer) and this Minister of Health (Mr. Sale) have failed Manitobans who are waiting in pain. They have broken their promises made a year ago. Why should Manitobans believe anything they say right now? Last week the Manitoba government promised to complete an additional 200 pediatric dental surgeries per year in the Burntwood Regional Health Authority to help reduce waiting lists for children in need of surgery. More promises, Mr. Speaker, to children waiting in pain that they cannot keep. This government has not fulfilled the promises it made a year ago. Why should Manitobans believe them now? These children deserve better. Let us get them in to these dental hygienists. Let us get them the dental care that they need. Let us help them with their pain in the time of their need, and let us help these children because, certainly, that is what this is all about.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair

Anyway, I look forward to hearing some more additional comments from the other side of the House. This is important legislation, and we know that members opposite are more than willing now to get up and also debate this legislation and certainly looking forward to hearing them put some comments on the record in regard to this legislation. I thank this House for the opportunity to speak to Bill 5. Thank you.

Mr. Andrew Swan (Minto): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to put some comments on the record about this excellent piece of legislation, which will recognize and support the over 500 dental hygienists who are practising their profession in the province of Manitoba.

Now, Mr. Speaker, at the present time, the Manitoba Dental Association has the complete authority to regulate dental hygiene under The Dental Association Act. But this new piece of legislation will create, to reflect the maturity of the profession of dental hygiene, a separate college of dental hygienists of Manitoba, which will have delegated authority to regulate the practice of dental hygiene. The duty of the college to act in the public interest, which, of course, is also most commendable, will be clearly set out in the act.

* (15:30)

Mr. Conrad Santos, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair

The act will require that any person who wishes to practise dental hygiene and hold themselves out to the public as a dental hygienist, oral hygienist or registered dental hygienist will have to meet the qualifications set out in the legislation and also the accompanying regulations.

Now this act will also give the college the authority to investigate complaints about the practice of a hygienist. We hope that those will not be very often. I could have made one when they kept sticking banana fluoride treatments in my mouth, but we will not go there. If necessary, of course, they can hold a formal discipline inquiry.

The act, of course, is not created in a vacuum. It is modelled on the recent Medical Laboratory Technologists Act, which was a further development to recognize another respected profession here in the province of Manitoba. Now, public representation on the council and all of its committees will be at least one-third. As recommended through consultation with the Manitoba Law Reform Commission, public representatives will be appointed by the minister.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I understand that the complaint and discipline processes will be consistent with other recently proclaimed health profession legislation, such as nursing, such as physiotherapy and the soon-to-be-proclaimed medical laboratory technologists legislation. There is a wide range of possible dispositions of a complaint, including informal resolution and mediation, which we certainly appreciate is a much more appropriate way to settle complaints if at all possible.

Now, the possible errors that can be made following the inquiry would allow for remedial action, such as requiring the investigated member to limit his or her practice or to undertake a further course of studies or supervised practical experience. As with any other regulated body of any profession which seeks to have this power, there will be accountability to the government, which we certainly think is appropriate. The college will be required to submit an annual report to the minister that will include information on the structure of the college, its committees, details on the number of applicants for registration, the number of complaints and their disposition, the number of members disciplined and the reasons for the discipline and the sanctions imposed. The act also provides for the establishment

of a traditional council to get the new college up and running.

I am quite fortunate to have a dentist who is a good friend, and he was a very wise man because he married a dental hygienist. He certainly was ahead of things. My friend Dr. Jeff Hein practises dentistry in the lovely village of Ste. Anne. He is a constituent of the honourable Member for La Verendrye (Mr. Lemieux) and an all-around good guy.

Certainly, I have had some discussions with Dr. Hein about this bill, and as well his wife, Mireille, who is a dental hygienist and performs a very important role in his practice, of serving patients in the Ste. Anne and surrounding areas. I understand that people all the way from Steinbach to Giroux, all the way north to Richer, and even north of the Trans-Canada find their way to the Seine River Dental Clinic, to be practised upon by Dr. Hein and Mireille Fiola, who, as I say, is a top-notch dental hygienist.

She and her fellow dental hygienists have certainly taken great steps over the years to make sure that dental hygiene is as painless as possible. I agree with my friend the Member for Fort Garry (Ms. Irvin-Ross) that scaling is a painful part of life, but necessary for all of us to retain our teeth. But, as other members of this House have said, hygienists practise their trade with a great deal of compassion. I think dealing with most of us in the chair, probably a great deal of humour and certainly do their job in a most commendable way.

So I am very pleased that this government is continuing to modernize the practice of these various professions. Certainly, it is time for the dental hygienists to step forward and be fully recognized as a self-regulating profession with all of the responsibilities yet all of the rights that that entails. So I am pleased that I will be supporting the passage of this bill as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Bill 6—The Dental Association Amendment Act

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Second reading, Bill 6, The Dental Association Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Association dentaire, standing in the name of the honourable Member for Pembina (Mr. Dyck).

Is it the will of the House that this bill remain standing in the name of the honourable Member for Pembina?

An Honourable Member: Yes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The matter will remain standing in the name of the honourable Member for Pembina.

Mr. Glen Cummings (Ste. Rose): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, on Bill 7?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the Member for Ste. Rose speaking on this bill?

An Honourable Member: No, 7.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Then we are going to move to No. 7.

Bill 7—The Architects and Engineers Scope of Practice Dispute Settlement Act (Various Acts Amended)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On second reading of Bill 7, The Architects and Engineers Scope of Practice Dispute Settlement Act (Various Acts Amended); Loi sur le règlement des différends portant sur le champ d'exercice des architectes et des ingénieurs (modification de diverses dispositions législatives), standing in the name of the Member for Springfield (Mr. Schuler).

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Stand. Is it the will of the House that this bill remain standing in the name of the Member for Springfield? [*Agreed*]

Mr. Glen Cummings (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, on Bill 7, I rise today to speak on this bill knowing that this is a most troubling circumstance that the people of Manitoba find themselves in right now, never a happy event when there is a disagreement such as we have seen between the architects and engineers, both professional groups held in very high regard.

In bringing forward this bill, the government knows, at least they ought to know if they do not, that there are a large number of people and a lot of projects and a lot of dollars at stake that we do this process properly, because we probably have already lost some tradespeople out of the province. I think we have probably seen some skilled workers in this province who have probably lost wages, and certainly it is not easy to have an opportunity to sit on this side of the House and have the government talk about how they believe this is a problem that they inherited from the previous administration.

* (15:40)

This is a problem that has been around for a long time, which was brought to a head recently because of a court ruling, and now we as legislators have an obligation to deal appropriately with it on behalf of our constituents and our constituencies.

Certainly, I received a missile, and I can describe it no other way, from a very frustrated project co-ordinator who happens to be resident in my riding. He wrote a couple of letters to the public media. I am not sure if he was on the electronic media or not, but he certainly felt passionately that this was something that need not have reached this stage, that need not have caused the upset that has indeed occurred.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair

Undoubtedly, there is disappointment all the way around that some projects have been slowed down as a result of the situation that we are now faced with. Overall increased project costs could end up being passed on to consumers because as this person who wrote to me indicated, he felt a high level of frustration working for a community project where people were raising funds on a volunteer basis within the community, in many cases long hours of volunteer work, trying to bring together the funds to make a project happen, a project that was going to be weather-sensitive or project costs would go up. That, of course, was his source of frustration, that we as legislators should never have allowed this to deteriorate to the situation that we are now faced with.

Let me say for the record, Mr. Speaker, I believe the government, any government while in office, has the responsibility to deal with known problems. Some of them are problems that come forward during their administration. Some of them are problems, such as this one, that seem to come to maturation, if you will, during the period of a particular administration, and others are ones that may unknowingly come forward and could not have been predicted.

In this case, however, we have to look squarely to the government and ask them how it is that they allowed it to deteriorate to this level, and now as we go forward with the bill, we are now facing a situation where any kind of reticence or any appearance of reticence on the part of this House to deal with the legislation would be interpreted very badly by all of the professionals out there who will be impacted by this legislation, because the frustration level is rising every day.

I think that on this side of the House we are very conscious of the fact that we have a responsibility to do due diligence and make sure that the government has properly considered this legislation, that it has had sufficient input. This is really why I have contextualized my remarks in the manner that I have. We are not sure that the government has, in fact, received all of the input that it should have from the most affected parties that have been disadvantaged, affected, whatever term you want to use, by the situation as it concurrently sits. It is costing people and businesses hundreds, maybe even hundreds of thousands of dollars, and that is a direct result of having construction slow down on a number of projects.

Mr. Speaker, grinding Manitoba projects to a halt is counter-productive to all of us. At this stage in the game, of course, it is very easy for me to stand in opposition and ask: So what has the government done and what have they been doing to avoid coming to this situation or to try and bring an understanding to the matter before they introduce legislation?

We would like some clarity on that. I think the minister has a responsibility to explain how much consultation she has had, whether or not that consultation was real, whether or not it embraced the wide spectrum of people who will be affected by this and whether or not it is being driven by her desire to do the right thing for the people of this province and for the professionals impacted by this bill or whether it is being driven by a sense of urgency that speaks more to the fact that there is some embarrassment on the part of the government for having let this get to the stage that it is at.

Either way, we know that there are a significant number of people who want to speak out and be heard on this bill at committee, but I want to assure anybody who might read Hansard somewhere down the road—and I often say that those who have time to read Hansard perhaps do not have enough to do—but the truth of the matter is, on issues like this, people will read Hansard. They will want to know whether there is a will in this House to proceed in the best interests of the public, the best interests of people who will be directly affected by this legislation. I think it is very important that we make it clear that that is the goal that we want. As we seek information from the minister about her consultation, about the input that she had in designing this act, and as we get feedback about whether or not the affected parties believe that this bill does a fair and equitable job of solving a dispute that is certainly of long standing,

that should not be interpreted as anything more than doing the job that we are responsible for doing in this House, and that is making sure that good legislation is passed on behalf of the people in this province. I think we all share the view that it is very unfortunate that the government did not aggressively deal with this issue a while ago, and we would not yet have had to come to this state of affairs where we are dealing with legislation where people are looking over our shoulder and wondering how quickly we can deal with it because that never leads to good legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Larry Maguire (Arthur-Virden): Well, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to put a few words on the record on this Bill 7 as well, The Architects and Engineers Scope of Practice Dispute Settlement Act, and I think that pretty much, various acts amended, it says, I think that title of the bill pretty much speaks to itself, Mr. Speaker, in that this government has had a reactionary vision of how to deal with business in Manitoba, as they have reacted to other circumstances. There is no vision in this government. That was seen in the Throne Speech, and we continue to debate bills like this where the government could have dealt with the circumstances in this particular case at least a year ago. I think it is a concern of all Manitobans that to bring legislation in to deal with these kinds of circumstances after the fact is a detriment to the future development of this province.

Mr. Speaker, having said that, we know that there was a requirement to try to straighten out the dispute between the architects and the engineers in Manitoba and that the very best that I can say about the way the government has handled this one is, is one word that comes to mind, and that is mismanagement. This government has mismanaged this affair as they have mishandled other areas of concern, and I would just list a few of them, one being the agriculture crisis that we are faced with today, another one being what we raised in Question Period today in infrastructure development and highways and, of course, the prime example is the health system and how they have not utilized the dollars that they have had as a government responsibly in developing the best impact that could be gotten for those dollars for Manitobans. Of course, just handling the debt itself, allowing it to increase, allowing \$1.5 million to increase every day in Manitoba, is something that this government does not seem to care about.

* (15:50)

So that is why I say that this particular piece of legislation, Bill 7, that has come forward could have been brought forward, something that could have been brought forward to this matter some year ago at least, and it would have alleviated a lot of the concerns that many Manitobans have had through the circumstances that we have been dealing with.

Mr. Speaker, architects, the numbers being much smaller than engineers in the province, as you know, are very concerned about their future, and, of course, the act that the engineers have in Manitoba allows architects and engineers to operate in being responsible for developing plans in Manitoba. So we need to look at legislation that does not stall and delay construction projects that are going on over a certain size in this province. I think that, with the slow action of this government, the fact that they delayed dealing with this until it became an issue on the steps of the Legislative Building the day of the Throne Speech, the day the House opened, all through the summer it has become an issue that could have been dealt with much sooner.

Obviously, it is an embarrassment to the government to have to bring this forward at this late time. It impacts companies that are thinking of coming to Manitoba. It impacts those who are already here in an effort to try to build facilities for corporate development, even for community development, whether it be arenas or community halls or facilities of those types that can be used to expand and enhance the lifestyles of our citizens in our rural areas as well as the city of Winnipeg and other cities, Mr. Speaker, but this government has allowed the delay to take place.

Mr. Speaker, I must commend the Member for Springfield (Mr. Schuler) on our side of the House for the work that he has done in regard to getting this bill forward as far as it is and listening to both sides, the architects and the engineers in Manitoba, and acknowledge his work that he has done in regard to making sure that these professional organizations know full well that Manitoba should be allowed to move ahead and that he pressed the government to make sure that this kind of bill came forward.

Mr. Speaker, we have asked that they reply to us as quickly as they can so that this legislation can pass and move forward, but, you know, at the same time as the government has done that, there were no spreadsheets available to even deal with this issue. So the government was ill-prepared again in regard to being able to be straightforward with the critic for

this area in regard to how he has handled this professionally. I would say that it is a great concern that one of the government's own former members had to be dealing with this with the engineers in Manitoba so that they could actually even get the attention of this government. I see now that Ms. Mihychuk is taking a job in Toronto, but I understand that she worked very hard in an effort to try and bring this to the attention of the government and the Premier (Mr. Doer) and to make sure that they were more aware of how this delayed decision to bring legislation like this forward has caused many construction projects to be put on hold in Manitoba.

When you put a construction project on hold, maybe it does not seem like much to this government to put a small project on hold, but when you are dealing with contracts the size of the new Hydro building, with contracts the size of future contracts that will be let on a major project that they feel strongly about, the floodway in Manitoba, these add major costs. Any time you have got a delay in time in these kinds of projects going forward, once they have already been determined that they will move forward, it is a cost. We know that Manitobans are the ones that pay for those increased costs.

So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I would just close by saying that I would urge the government to be more expeditious in dealing with these kinds of issues in the future and not cost Manitobans future tax dollars by adding further delays to the types of implications, I guess, if you will, for want of a better word, on projects that delay the development of Manitoba's future and unload those costs onto Manitobans.

With those few words, I will look forward to hearing from the government if they have anything to say on this as it moves forward, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Any other speakers? When this matter is again before the House, it will remain standing in the name of the honourable Member for Springfield (Mr. Schuler).

Bill 8—The Official Time Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: Resume debate, Bill 8, The Official Time Amendment Act, standing in the name of the honourable Member for Arthur-Virden (Mr. Maguire).

What is the will of the House, to remain standing in the name of the honourable Member for Arthur-Virden? Stand? Is there agreement? *[Agreed]*

Mr. Cris Aglugub (The Maples): Mr. Speaker, this bill seeks to amend The Official Time Act to extend daylight-saving time in Manitoba by four weeks starting in 2007. This means that the daylight-saving time would start on the second Sunday of March and end on the first Sunday of November. This change will mean that clocks would be advanced three weeks earlier in the spring and one week later in the fall.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment to the act became necessary when the U.S. president, President Bush, on August 8, 2005, signed into law the Energy Policy Act of 2005. As you know, 80 percent of our exports go to the United States market. With this high level of interdependency between Manitoba's economy and the U.S., the high volume of cross-border trade, the change in the date of the daylight-saving time will harmonize and ensure that trade with the U.S. will not be affected or have significant economic consequences. If Manitoba was not synchronized with the United States, there would be a negative impact on trucking schedules, delivery services, interrupted supply chains, delayed border crossings and on airline schedules and so on.

Mr. Speaker, there is wide support for harmonizing with the U.S. daylight-saving time coming from many industries and stakeholders. From the business community's perspective, it is very important to be in step with the U.S., said Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce president Dave Angus, and I quote: "We have such an integrated economy in North America, it is tough enough to do business across multiple time zones." He called the Province's decision to extend daylight-saving time fantastic and said he was also glad Manitoba was one of the provinces leading the way on the issue. Angus said he would like to think that the rest of the provinces will do so as well.

Bob Dolyniuk, General Manager of the Manitoba Trucking Association, said it is critical for his industry. There are as many as 450 for-hire trucking companies based in Manitoba, directly and indirectly employing more than 33 000 people and contributing \$1.2 billion to the provincial gross domestic product. Trucking companies run on such tight schedules now that any breakdown in time zones would cripple the industry because delivery schedules are sometimes timed down to the minute. "It would be a horrendous problem," Dolyniuk said.

The Canadian Bankers Association and the Canadian Capital Markets Association have both

expressed support for harmonizing the DST to mitigate the potential impact related to time-sensitive transactions in the financial services sector, that is, banking and capital services.

The move to extend the daylight-saving time was lauded by the Canada Safety Council, a long-time proponent of the change, and I quote, "It's the right thing to do," CSC president Emile Therien said, and I quote again, "We are going to have fewer pedestrian injuries and fatalities." The majority of pedestrian accidents occur after 3 p.m., according to Mr. Therien. He said the additional daylight hours would help drive those numbers down.

* (16:00)

Mr. Speaker, adding daylight to the evening could also improve road safety with more people going home from work in daylight, and it would give kids a chance to do some of their Halloween trick or treating while it is still light outside also improves safety.

Mr. Speaker, with the change in the official time, Manitoba has a lot to gain. As you may be aware, Manitoba is a hub or centre location for trade and is a member of the North American Super Corridor Organization. Through this body, NASCO, Manitoba participates in projects addressing key issues including border relations, sustainable transportation, transportation technology and transportation financing. This transportation corridor is the mid-continental corridor that runs from the Port of Churchill, Manitoba in the North through the Canadian and U.S. heartland straight south, Texas and into Mexico. Our businesses have access to 50 million consumers. A common time zone and excellent transportation connections will ensure the movement of more than \$190 billion or nearly 70 percent of the U.S.-Mexico trade.

This corridor has a huge economic significance for Manitoba, now and in the future. The U.S. currently accounts for 80 percent of our trade. Nearly half of our trade is with the corridor states. Manitoba-Mexico trade has grown by 47 percent in the past five years. North America must continue to move forward together and strengthen our collective prosperity for the benefit of our businesses and, ultimately, for our farmers, nurses, teachers and truck drivers whose livelihood depends on a prosperous economy.

Manitoba is very proud to have been selected, as well, as the host of the second annual hemisphere

conference that is going to be held May 31 to June 2, 2006. This important and high-profile event is aimed at developing and strengthening economic partnership among regions located along the mid-continental trade and transportation corridor.

With these comments, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the House to support and pass it. We have to continue to move forward with our neighbours to the south to strengthen our collective prosperity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Marilyn Brick (St. Norbert): Mr. Speaker, Manitoba is the longitudinal centre of the continent, and it is the centre of trade in our country. Our Province has shown leadership in ensuring that trade receives the type of commitment and support it requires. The expansion of the Manitoba airport is, in large part, precipitated by the anticipated growth of additional freight traffic that is expected in the next 10 years.

Our Province is an enthusiastic participant and member of the North American Super Corridor Organization. Through this organization we have taken an active part in addressing border relations, sustainable transportation, transportation technology and transportation financing.

In March of 2005, I was provided with the unique opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., on a parliamentary exchange visit. I was surprised to find out how important trade with the United States is to Canada and Manitoba. In 1989, Canada exported \$101,592 million in trade with NAFTA countries, as measured in millions of Canadian dollars. In 2004, Canada exported \$348,142 million in trade with NAFTA countries, as measured in millions of Canadian dollars.

In the last 15 years, we see that export of Canadian goods to NAFTA countries has more than tripled. In 1990, Manitoba exported \$3,244 million in trade with NAFTA countries. In 2004, Manitoba exported \$10,010 million in trade with NAFTA countries. In the last 14 years, we see that Manitoba is matching the trend followed by Canada and tripling the amount of Manitoba goods that are exported to other countries. When you factor in the fact that our trade with the U.S. currently accounts for 80 percent of our trade, it is easy to see how very important our trade with the United States has become.

On August 8, 2005, President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The act makes changes

to the manner in which daylight-saving time will be implemented. Changes to daylight-saving time, which will take effect in March 2007, will change daylight-saving time to run from the second Sunday in March and run it until the first Sunday in November. This change will extend daylight-saving time by four weeks, three weeks in spring and one week in fall. With the close connection between Manitoba and the United States in trade and with the increased exchange of scientific information and the importance of scientific research in our province, it is easy to see the chaos that would be created if we were on a different time zone than our major trading partner.

One of the big successes in industry has been the introduction of just-in-time delivery of parts and goods that are used in the production of a variety of manufactured products. If our province operated on a different schedule than the United States, it would be very difficult to time the delivery of products to allow the success of our manufacturing industries. Having parts arrive late because of a different time zone would be a catastrophe. Can you imagine trying to calculate the timing of a teleconference between a scientist in Manitoba and one employed south of the border? The scientists would have to keep a calendar close at hand to refer to the four weeks in question and then add or subtract an hour from their current time to arrive at the correct time to be available for a conference. Not only would our province experience difficulties in arranging meetings and exchanging information, our economic prosperity would be significantly impacted.

Other problems we would encounter relate to trucking schedules, airplane flights and border crossings. There are as many as 450 for-hire trucking companies based in Manitoba, directly or indirectly employing more than 33 000 people, who contribute \$1.2 billion dollars to the provincial gross domestic product. With these issues in mind, our government has proposed amendments to legislation that will extend daylight-saving time in 2007 to synchronize our time schedules with the United States. The change will result in daylight-saving time starting three weeks earlier, on the second Sunday in March, and end a week later, on the first Sunday of November.

In the United States, this amendment is being proposed in hope that this change will cut energy consumption by reducing the need to turn on lights when people arrive home after work. In Manitoba, the business community is supportive of these

changes. Dave Angus, President of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, said, "We have such an integrated economy in North America. It is tough enough to do business across multiple time zones." He called the Province's decision to extend daylight-saving time fantastic, and said he was also glad Manitoba was one of the provinces leading the way on this issue. The Canadian Bankers Association and the Canadian Capital Markets Association have both expressed their agreement.

Mr. Speaker, in 1989, 18.5 percent of Manitoba's gross domestic product was exported. In 2004, 38.1 percent of Manitoba's gross domestic product was exported. In the last year, 9500 private-sector jobs were created in Manitoba. This job growth is a 2.2 percent increase. It is above the national growth rate of 1.3 percent, and it makes us the third best among provinces. It is very important to note that in 2004 private-capital investment increased by 8.1 percent in Manitoba.

It is very important to see that this amendment to daylight-saving time synchronizes our province with the United States, and allows our province to continue to grow our export market. I am proud to be a part of this government that is proactive in responding to the changes occurring south of the border and it is encouraging the expansion of our export businesses. It is my pleasure to speak in favour of this bill, and I await the comments made by the members on the opposite side of the House. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

*(16:10)

Mr. Andrew Swan (Minto): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to put a few comments on the record about the importance of the speedy passage of the official time act and, really, to speak about the importance of co-ordinating with other provinces and other states. I think really to understand why it is necessary to pursue this legislation we need look no further than a place which does not co-ordinate with the rest of us, and, of course, I am talking about the province of Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan is the land of living sky. It is a beautiful place. I am sure all of you watch *Corner Gas* on television. It is a hilarious show. I am sure you have visited the lovely Qu'Appelle Valley where, in fact, I proposed to my wife. You may not know that. I am certain that many of you would appreciate visiting the Wanuskewin National Historic Site north of Saskatoon, which is a tremendous facility that tracks the history of our

Aboriginal peoples who used that site some 6000 years ago. I love visiting Saskatoon, the city of bridges, and, indeed, my in-laws lived for many years in the lovely town of Weyburn.

Saskatchewan is also an astute province when it comes to their politics, and, indeed, Saskatchewan is the home of social democracy in Canada, the place where the Regina Manifesto was passed in 1933, and, of course, where the first social democratic government in Canada was elected in 1944, under the leadership of Tommy Douglas, who, we all know, is our greatest Canadian. Of course, the good people of Saskatchewan have had the wisdom to elect to a fourth term an NDP government, and the people of Saskatchewan also had the wisdom to entirely disband the Progressive Conservative party in that province.

So, in many ways, the good people of Saskatchewan are quite astute, but, unfortunately, not all, because Saskatchewan is one of the few places in the world which does not actually recognize daylight-saving time. Half of the year, the lovely city of Regina is on the same time as Winnipeg and half the year it is not. This becomes incredibly important for one of my annual pilgrimages which, of course, is to go out to the great Labour Day football game between the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and the Saskatchewan Roughriders, and it is always necessary, Mr. Speaker, to be very careful about whether it is an hour time change or not, because Saskatchewan does not keep up to us in that respect.

Now, I know that I have now awoken some of the opposition members from their slumber. I can tell you that it may be that Saskatchewan's refusal to go in lock-step with the other provinces may be one of the reasons why the Saskatchewan Roughriders probably have the worst record over their history of any team in the Canadian Football League and even yesterday, of course, the Roughriders were bounced in the playoffs, early yet again, and, in fact, the Saskatchewan Roughriders have the longest Grey Cup drought of any team in the Canadian Football League except, of course, for Ottawa, who only recently rejoined. The poor Riders have not won the cup since 1989. They have not even hosted a playoff game since 1988. They have only won the Grey Cup twice in their entire history.

An Honourable Member: Say something nice about them.

Mr. Swan: The Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) wants me to say something nice about them. I certainly cheered for them in 1989. It was one of the most exciting Grey Cup games in history, but it was only their second win in a century of football, as opposed to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, who make their home in the beautiful constituency of Minto, who have won the cup 10 times.

Now, the point of this, Mr. Speaker, the point is that when every other team in the fall is getting their extra hour of sleep when they are falling back, the poor Roughriders just have to keep toiling away on Central Standard Time. So perhaps the bad football that has been seen in Saskatchewan over the past 100 years would be somewhat ameliorated if Saskatchewan would follow Manitoba and adopt daylight-saving time. certainly, with our hockey Moose playing well, with our Goldeyes participating most years quite well in the Northern League, we would not want to put any disadvantage on our sports teams by losing their hour to fall back.

Certainly, for these reasons which I think I have fully articulated in a way that my members across the hall can understand, I would certainly urge the speedy passage to committee of this bill so that we can go ahead and get the bill passed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Any other speakers? Okay, when this matter is again before the House, it will remain standing in the name of the honourable Member for Arthur-Virden (Mr. Maguire).

* * *

An Honourable Member: Five o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it five o'clock?

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I am prepared at this time to enter into discussion or debate on the Crocus Fund, something that I thought was appropriate.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have already ruled on that matter.

I am asking the House: Is it the will of the House to call it five o'clock?

An Honourable Member: No.

Mr. Speaker: No? There is no agreement.

Mr. Lamoureux: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I believe I have made my point, and I would be prepared to allow it to be called five o'clock if the government still wants it to be called five o'clock.

House Business

Hon. Gord Mackintosh (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, two matters of business. I would like to announce the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations will meet Monday, November 21, at 9 a.m., to consider the annual reports of Manitoba Hydro for the years ended March 31, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

As well, I note the Member for Minto (Mr. Swan) had risen to speak to Bill 3 earlier, and I wonder if there is a will of the House to revert to adjourned debates on second reading of Bill 3.

Mr. Speaker: It has been announced that the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations will meet on Monday, November 21, 2005, at 9 a.m., to consider the annual reports of Manitoba Hydro for the years ended March 31, 2003, March 31, 2004, and March 31, 2005.

Is there agreement to revert to resumed debate on second reading of Bill 3, The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act? Is there agreement?

Some Honourable Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: No, there is no agreement.

* * *

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it five o'clock? *[Agreed]*

The hour being 5 p.m., this House is adjourned and stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow (Tuesday).

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, November 14, 2005

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