



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 20

THIRD SESSION, THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

Mr. Speaker presented:

Certificate of Elections respecting Hon. Mr. Bill BLAIKIE, the newly elected Member for Elmwood and Mr. Frank WHITEHEAD, the newly elected Member for The Pas.

(Sessional Paper No. 30)

Hon. Mr. BLAIKIE, Member for the Electoral Division for Elmwood, was conducted by Hon. Mr. DOER and Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK, to the floor of the House in front of Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. DOER then said:

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Hon. Mr. Bill BLAIKIE, Member for the Constituency of Elmwood, who has taken the Oath and signed the Roll, and now claims the right to take his seat.

Mr. Speaker thereupon said:

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I wish to welcome you to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba and to wish you well in your parliamentary career.

Hon. Mr. BLAIKIE then advanced to the Chair, shook hands with Mr. Speaker and took his seat.

Mr. WHITEHEAD, Member for the Electoral Division for The Pas, was conducted by Hon. Mr. DOER and Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK, to the floor of the House in front of Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. DOER then said:

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Mr. Frank WHITEHEAD, Member for the Constituency of The Pas, who has taken the Oath and signed the Roll, and now claims the right to take his seat.

Mr. Speaker thereupon said:

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I wish to welcome you to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba and to wish you well in your parliamentary career.

Mr. WHITEHEAD then advanced to the Chair, shook hands with Mr. Speaker and took his seat.

On motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER, Bill (No. 12) – The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la location à usage d'habitation, was read a First Time and had its purposes outlined.

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mr. BRIESE – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Minister of Health to consider prioritizing the needs of these communities by ensuring they have access to a family doctor and to consider promptly increasing the use of nurse practitioners in these communities in order to improve access to quality health care. (L. Ryzner, P. Sul, W. Cabak and others)

Mr. PEDERSEN – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Premier to consider reversing his decision to increase Pharmacare deductibles by 5 percent in Budget 2008 and to consider reducing health care bureaucracy, as previously promised, and to consider directing those savings into sustaining Pharmacare and improving patient care. (T. McCreery, M. Manness, P. Wanklin and others)

Mr. LAMOUREUX – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request that the Premier of Manitoba consider how important it is to have the Seven Oaks Hospital provide full emergency services seven days a week 24 hours a day. (J. Craig, D. Belcher, W. Melnyk and others)

Mr. SCHULER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request that the Minister of Transportation consider the immediate twinning of the PTH #15 Floodway Bridge for the safety of the citizens of Manitoba. (D. Nichol, D. Dumas, K. Heard and others)

Hon. Ms. MCGIFFORD presented:

Annual Report of the Adult Learning Centres for the year ending June 30, 2008.
(Sessional Paper No. 31)

Annual Report of the The Manitoba Student Aid Program for the program year ending July 31, 2008.
(Sessional Paper No. 32)

Hon. Mr. ASHTON, the Minister responsible for Emergency Measures, made a statement regarding the flood conditions throughout the Province of Manitoba,

Mrs. STEFANSON and, by leave, Hon. Mr. GERRARD commented on the statement.

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Messrs. ALTEMEYER, GRAYDON and SARAN, Mrs. DRIEDGER and Mr. CALDWELL made Members' Statements.

The House resumed the Adjourned Debate on the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER:

THAT this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

And the proposed amendment moved by Mr. MCFADYEN as follows:

That the Motion be amended by deleting all the words after "House" and substituting:

therefore regrets that this budget fails to address the priorities of Manitobans by:

(a) increasing our province's debt to an all time high of \$21.1 billion, which creates a credit card bill of \$18,380, for every man, woman and child in the province. Hard working Manitoba families will be forced to pay off this bill in the months and years ahead; and

(b) gambling with incomes and social programs by increasing our dependence on Ottawa handouts to a record level of \$3.8 billion, more than double the handouts we received in 1999, which is like a family with a \$60,000 income relying on neighbours for \$22,000 a year, when those neighbours are now in serious financial trouble; and

(c) running a deficit, and misleadingly calling it a surplus, by using the misleading accounting practise of calling Crown income "revenue" when in fact that income is not available to government because it is required to meet obligations such as Manitoba Hydro's record \$7.4 billion long-term debt; and

(d) attempting to introduce a new misleading accounting practise with a proposal to reduce by over 80 percent the minimum payment on Manitoba's credit card debt, taking that repayment to \$17.54 per person this year on a bill of \$18,380; and

(e) failing to announce a plan to tackle corruption, waste and mismanagement within government by:

(i) endorsing the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority "brown envelope" tendering scheme; and

(ii) failing to repeal the "vote tax," leaving the New Democratic Party in line to pocket one million dollars over four years at the expense of Manitoba taxpayers; and

Monday, April 6, 2009

(iii) failing to cancel the reckless and environmentally harmful west side BiPole III project and instead proceed with the east side line, which is supported by the vast majority; would protect the Boreal forest; would protect the Riding Mountain UNESCO biosphere reserve, provide a far more reliable back up to BiPole I and II; save forty megawatts of line loss which will allow for the closure of a coal-fired power plant and save Manitoba Hydro ratepayers a minimum of \$640 million or \$2,000 for every family in the province; and

(f) failing to offer a plan to create opportunity and wealth, so Manitobans can feel hope that we will one day emerge from the hole of debt and dependency and see a brighter future.

As a consequence, the government has thereby lost the confidence of this House and the people of Manitoba.

And the debate continuing on the amendment,

And Messrs. WHITEHEAD and FAURSCHOU, Hon. Mr. BLAIKIE, Mrs. MITCHELSON and Mr. MARTINDALE having spoken,

And Mr. PEDERSEN speaking at 5:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in his name and by leave, in the name of Hon. Ms. Irvin-Ross.

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.