

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Monday, March 3, 1969

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions

Reading and Receiving Petitions

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

HON. OBIE BAIZLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs)(Osborne): Mr. Speaker I wish to present the final report of the standing committee on Municipal Affairs.

MR. CLERK: Your standing committee on Municipal Affairs beg leave to present the following final reports.

Your standing committee on Municipal Affairs was appointed by the House on the 25th day of March, 1968. By resolution of the House agreed to on the 24th day of May, 1968, the following matters were referred to your Committee for consideration and report:

- (a) A draft revision of The Municipal Act;
- (b) Bill (No. 52) - The Local Authorities Election Act;
- (c) Sections 6 and 7 of Bill (No. 49) - An Act to amend The Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation Act; and
- (d) Bill (No. 107) - An Act to amend The Municipal Act (3).

Your Committee met on Monday, October 28, 1968 and received public representation with respect to the matters before the Committee.

With respect to Sections 6 and 7 of Bill (No. 49), your Committee recommends that this matter be not reported.

Your Committee also met on Thursday, February 20, 1969 and considered Bill (No. 52) - The Local Authorities Election Act, clause by clause. Your Committee has agreed to report this Bill, with certain amendments.

Your Committee also considered Sections 1 to 50, inclusive, of the draft revision of The Municipal Act and has adopted certain amendments to the draft.

Your Committee recommends that the matters agreed to by the Committee be adopted by the House. As Bill (No. 107) - An Act to amend The Municipal Act (3) has not been considered by the Committee as the Committee has not completed its work with respect to the draft revision of The Municipal Act your Committee recommends that these matters be referred to the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs to be constituted at the Third Session of the Twenty-Eighth Legislature.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MR. BAIZLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs that the report of the Committee be received.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SAUL MILLER (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Member for Brokenhead, that the debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote, declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. NELSON SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Speaker, I beg the indulgence of the House to have the matter stand. (Agreed).

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion

Introduction of Bills

Before the orders of the Day I would like to take a moment and introduce our guests that we have with us today. We are honoured in having 20 Latvian citizens who are joining their fellow citizens in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the State of Latvia. On behalf of all the honourable members of the Legislative Assembly I welcome you all here today.

We also have with us today on my right in the gallery, 30 students of Grade 11 standing of the Garden City Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. Froese. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks. On behalf of all the honourable members of the Legislative Assembly I welcome you also today.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

HON. THELMA FORBES (Minister of Government Services)(Cypress): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to lay on the table the Fifty-First Annual Report of the Civil Service Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour

HON. CHARLES H. WITNEY (Minister of Labour)(Flin Flon): Before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to lay on the table of the House the Report of the Workmen's Compensation Board for 1968.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains.

MR. MICHAEL KAWCHUK (Ethelbert Plains): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. I'm sure all the members of this House are aware of the fact there are still substantial quantities of damp grain sitting throughout the Province of Manitoba and in particular there are some 100,000 bushels sitting in The Pas area that needs drying very badly and with the warm weather approaching I was wondering what program the government has in mind to help these farmers salvage this grain that's sitting on grain piles. It is my understanding that last week even though the weather has been relatively cold . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the honourable gentleman has asked his question.

HON. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Minister of Agriculture)(Arthur): Mr. Speaker, my department are preparing a report that I will give to the House shortly on the grain situation in the province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Hamiota. Excuse me a moment. Did the Honourable Member have a supplementary question?

MR. KAWCHUK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do have a supplementary question because this is a matter of great urgency, as I was just about to say. These piles of grain sitting out in the fields are now generating heat, the snow is melting on the north side, and I was just wondering whether the government would bring about a program similar to the program they had for drought stricken farmers by helping them by way of pumps and water lines, to pump into their dugouts water for the livestock, where the government would have similar assistance to these farmers in that area by way of bringing in grain dryers presently, because this grain is going to be no good after a few days.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Hamiota.

MR. EARL DAWSON (Hamiota): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address my question to the First Minister. Did the Premier agree to the 13 detailed points of reference for the tax structure committee approved by the federal and provincial finance ministers at your meeting in December, 1968?

HON. WALTER WEIR (Premier)(Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker I'll take the question as notice. I can't recall any 13 detailed questions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW (Brokenhead): Brokenhead, Mr. Speaker. I wish to ask the question of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Is there an agreement between Churchill Forest Products and the Province of Manitoba respecting land use or timber rights in the South Indian Lake area?

HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources)(Rockwood-Iberville): Mr. Speaker, I'll accept this question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member from Portage.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce or the Minister of Transport. If the present option on the airfield at Macdonald expires -- and, we were given to understand last week in a question that this was so -- on April 30th, will the government give consideration to selling back the land to the original owners?

HON. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (Minister of Industry and Commerce)(River Heights): Mr. Speaker, that's a matter of government policy that will be dealt with if the option is not exercised.

While I'm on my feet, may I lay on the table of the House the Annual Report of the Department of Industry and Commerce, the Manitoba Design Institute, the Manitoba Export Corporation, the Manitoba Research Council, The Manitoba Transportation Commission, the Annual

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd).... Report of the Manitoba Development Fund and the Annual Report of the Manitoba Development Fund under Part 2.

MR. JOHNSTON: I don't consider that an answer at all. The Minister has had official request to purchase the land back by the original owners. I'm asking him ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I understood the Honourable Member to have a supplementary question, did he not?

MR. DOUGLAS CAMPBELL (Lakeside): I have a supplementary question for my honourable friend, the Minister of Industry and Commerce. When my honourable friend the Minister says that this a matter of government policy that would have to be considered, is the Honourable Minister aware that the government has already announced a policy which agrees that the owners in circumstances of that kind should have the first refusal, the first opportunity to buy?

HON. STERLING R. LYON, Q. C. (Attorney-General)(Fort Garry): I think my honourable friend from Lakeside is speaking about the proposal for a new Manitoba Expropriation Act. I take it that is what he is making reference to.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, is my honourable friend answering for the Minister of Industry and Commerce?

MR. LYON: Just trying to clarify.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, does my honourable friend, the Minister of Industry and Commerce not intend to answer?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable member would repeat the question?

MR. CAMPBELL: Well, I understood my honourable friend the Minister of Industry and Commerce to say that the question of whether -- I'll wait until the conference has finished, Mr. Speaker -- I take it it's concluded. I understood my honourable friend the Minister of Industry and Commerce to say in answer to the question of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, that the question of selling to the original owners of the land was a matter of government policy, that he would have to consider. (He's getting some further coaching, Mr. Speaker, shall I ... (Interjection)... That's what I understood my honourable friend to say. Now I asked my honourable friend was he aware that the government has already announced a policy which would not only permit but approve of such an arrangement?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Hamiota.

MR. DAWSON: My question is directed to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I would like to ask, is the government providing any emergency measures to take care of the starving deer population in the Rivers and Daly area in view of the serious snow storm we had Wednesday and Thursday?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, my people are well aware of the storm that took place in the western and southwestern part of the province and are currently evaluating the effects of that storm. They have yet to bring any emergency measures to my attention that should be undertaken. We are particularly concerned also about the upland game that might be in difficulty.

MR. DAWSON: Mr. Speaker, a second question. I mention that this was an emergency. It has been brought to my attention by a number of people in the area that we can't have an investigation or a commission on this, we must have action immediately. These deer are a serious problem right now and could have starved to death by the time the Minister is prepared to move.

MR. ENNS: If the Honourable Member from Hamiota will indicate to me just in particular what area there are deer starving and require immediate help, I'm sure I'd be prepared to bring that assistance that he calls for. I'm simply saying to you that my conservation officers are investigating the matter right now. We have nothing further to report at this time.

MR. DAWSON: The area in question is Rivers and Daly - throughout there.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party.

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of the New Democratic Party)(Radisson): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question either to the First Minister or the Honourable the House Leader. In view of the fact that the Throne Speech announced possibilities of the granting of a licence in respect to South Indian Lake, and Legislation pertaining to the same, may I have the assurances of either the First Minister, the Leader of the House or members opposite that such legislation or consideration of such legislation will not be proceeded with until the great

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd.) constituency of Churchill has a representative in this House.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, not knowing the situation in so far as Churchill constituency is concerned, it would be impossible to give that assurance.

MR. PAULLEY: A supplemental question: possibly the Honourable the First Minister would look at the rule book and see that it is possible for the honourable member, whoever he may be, from Churchill, to be in this House the same time as the other three elected members, subject of course, to the decision of the County Court Judge. I appeal to him to allow the north to be represented at the time of the discussion on South Indian Lake.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the First Minister pertaining to the presentation of the Manitoba Government at the recent federal-provincial conference on the Constitution. Since the government in the Foreword to its presentation "What Tomorrow Canada" ask that readers express their opinions on the government proposals to the government, I would like to know if the First Minister could indicate the extent of the response received up to this time. Has there been a large number of submissions from the public regarding the proposals that you have put forward?

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, without going into the definition of "submission" may I say there's been considerable correspondence.

MR. DOERN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the First Minister indicate whether this has been in the dozens, or hundreds?

MR. WEIR: No, Mr. Speaker, not right off hand.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Leader of the Opposition)(Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the First Minister. Has the government given any indication to any persons outside of this House as to the details of changes it proposes to make in the school foundation program and the government share?

MR. WEIR: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Leader of the Opposition)(Ste. Rose): confirm then the accuracy of reports in both daily newspapers that the new share is going to be 75% rather than 65%, and the fact that a number of school trustees have commented on this exact increase?

MR. WEIR: No, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, as things unfold they may be proven to be wrong.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member from Burrows.

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address my question to the Minister of Consumer Affairs. Is he now prepared to answer the question which I put to him, whether or not he is going to represent the Manitoba consumers at the hearing before the Milk Control Board re an application for an increase in the price of milk?

HON. J. B. CARROLL (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs)(The Pas): No, I'm not prepared to answer at this time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. I think it's that department that has been answering questions in this respect before. Does the government have any report on the possible flooding of the Red River, and if so, are any precautionary measures being taken, such as clearing the river bed channel to speed up the flow if such a flood occurs, because I think this would be of considerable assistance to the people further south.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, if I may inform the Honourable Member from Rhineland that Water Control has moved to Mines and Natural Resources with myself, and therefore I am still responsible for the Flood Forecasting Committee. Yes, we are aware of the flood potential of 1969. I think members of the House are aware of the first report that was issued by the committee. We anticipate a flood coming close to proportions of that of 1966, which would mean intensive or fair degree of flooding in the Red River Valley although a fair amount of protective work of course has been done in the intervening years. The Legislature will be receiving regular reports from this flood forecasting committee as to the particular work and works that are being undertaken to ameliorate, to what extent we can, the damages from these flood waters.

MR. FROESE: A further supplementary question. Is consideration being given to cutting a path and it would certainly aid the flow once the flood is coming.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Education relative to a situation which has developed on the Winnipeg School Board. In view of the fact that the Board, a majority of the Board appears to be willing to proceed on passing a by-law which their own solicitor has indicated would be illegal, would the Minister of Education be prepared to look into this question. Mr. Speaker, in asking this question I want to make it plain that it has nothing to do with my position as to whether the board should consist of 15 or 9 members; I'm inclined to think it should be 9.

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Minister of Youth and Education)(St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, this sort of request made by a School Board is usually viewed after the recommendation has been made by the Board and will be examined fully in light of the legislation under which they operate as soon as we receive it. To act in advance would not be appropriate for us to do.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister not aware that this particular legislation - and I agree with him that it's peculiar - permits the number of the Board to be reduced from 15 to 9 without reference to the legislature at all, merely on the passing of a by-law - and I agree with him that that's an unusual situation which merits his immediate attention and I would therefore ask now knowing that to be the case, whether he would look into it.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, we'll be examining it closely. In fact we are, we've already been notified of it by members of the Winnipeg School Board.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, one further supplementary question. Would the Minister be further aware that the School Board intends to pass this by-law tomorrow night, in which case it would require, and this occurred last year, a court action to declare the by-law invalid, if in fact they proceeded illegally; and that being the case could I urge him to look into it possibly this afternoon with a view to perhaps using his good offices with the Chairman of the Board to hold the matter until he's had an opportunity of looking at it?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect I think that the Minister was going to answer and I'd like to have his answer if I could.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the answer is, as I have given it, if there is legislation under which we must take action which we would if it is to be referred to us, this will definitely be taken. I indicated to the honourable member that this information had been passed along by members of the Winnipeg School Board. If there is action to be taken, we'll be taking appropriate action.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Minister again apparently doesn't understand my remarks. No action is necessary from the legislature, the School Board can proceed without any action on the legislature's part, and that's why I'm asking the Minister to look into it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Labour. Has the Minister or the government any plans to establish any guide lines to limit wages in the Province of Manitoba, similar to the ones that were so strongly urged and advocated by a Leader of his federal party, Mr. Stanfield, over the weekend?

MR. WITNEY: No Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the First Minister. In Saturday's Tribune, on the editorial page there was an article alleging irregularities in the Churchill constituency by-election, so my question is in the light of this public allegation, is the government going to make an enquiry into the conduct of the Churchill by-election?

MR. WEIR: Well, Mr. Speaker, my understanding is there's a judicial recount in process at the moment and pending that certainly there would be nothing from the government. My understanding of the Controverted Elections Act under which it would fall is that any citizens within the constituency within would be in a position to take any such action as they felt reasonable to do. Pending that sort of thing, I have no statement to make.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to address my question to the Honourable the First Minister. Will this House receive a report from the Manitoba Arts Council?

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, that question has a familiar ring. I think I'll take it as notice.

(MR. WEIR cont'd.) I think maybe one of my colleagues took it as notice on Friday and I presume he's not in a position to answer yet.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. WATT: Before the Orders of the Day, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might have leave of the House to make an announcement that I believe was an outstanding event. A polled heifer bull bred by Melvin Clark and Sons of Grandview, Manitoba, was declared the grand champion at the national polled Hereford show in Houston, Texas on February 21st of 1969. A national polled Hereford show sponsored by the American Polled Hereford Association is held in a different major cattle area of United States each year. It is the largest show of breeding cattle of any breed in America with 350 head shown this year. Modern techniques in judging were used with weights, weights per day of gain and fat thickness information available to the judges when making their decisions. In the sale that followed the show, one-quarter interest of this bull was sold to a Georgian firm for \$40,000.00 - that's a lot of bull, Mr. Speaker. If I may continue, this is the first Canadian championship at this show and sale and has created a great deal of interest in Manitoba stock and breeders. I'm sure all members of the House would like to join me in wishing congratulations to Mr. Clark and Sons. Thank you.

MR. BAIZLEY: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to lay on the table of the House the tenth annual report of the Municipal Board for the year ending December 31st, 1968.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Carillon.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (Carillon): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with I'd like to ask a question from the new Minister of Agriculture. In view of the rumours that are circulating and the concern of the farmers in southeast and southern Manitoba, regarding the possibility of the veterinarian laboratory testing facilities presently located at the university possibly being switched or removed to Brandon, I wonder if the Minister would care to comment on this situation?

MR. WATT: The matter of the location, Mr. Speaker, is being considered.

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

MR. SHOEMAKER: Before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I would like to direct a question to my honourable friend the Minister of Soil and Water Conservation. -- (Interjection) -- Don't we have one? The Honourable Member for Rockwood-Iberville. He has suggested that an assessment has been made that could reveal that there could be quite serious flooding in the Red River Valley. There's another area of the province that's equally as important -- and I'm referring to Gladstone. Gladstone two years ago was inundated by water, and certainly it's going to be inundated by water again this year. Now what plans has my honourable friend made to alleviate the situation to some degree?

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Speaker, the big plan of course which was announced in the Throne Speech, the three pronged attack on these two rivers encompassing the Shellmouth, the Portage and the Red River floodway around Winnipeg, will eventually have some bearing to the problem area that the honourable friend from Neepawa or Gladstone refers to. However, as also was indicated by the Throne Speech that the Portage Diversion would not be of any help to us in this current year, the closure has been made at Shellmouth, we anticipate that that will have some effect on the Assiniboine River. I can only add that we will be reporting on the Assiniboine as well as on the Red River as we continue to receive these flood forecasts.

MR. SHOEMAKER: My honourable friend apparently doesn't know where Gladstone is. Gladstone is on the White Mud River and it's the whole program within the Riding Mountain White Mud River watershed that we're concerned about and if they had two Portage Diversions it wouldn't help Gladstone. Now my question again is, what are they going to do in the Gladstone area?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister responsible for the Grand Beach area. I'm not sure who that is. I would like to know whether there is fire fighting equipment there on a year round basis?

MR. CARROLL: I'll take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster. The Honourable Member for Hamiota.

MR. DAWSON: Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to direct my question to anyone on the other

(MR. DAWSON cont'd.).... side. I wondered if the House Leader will be providing us with a list of Cabinet Ministers and explaining to us their various functions and also who is the second in command of each department; and will this be done soon?

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, we'll be very happy to provide the usual list. I'm surprised my honourable friend isn't up on his current events, but we'll see that it's done; it will give the second in command and I think maybe even third in command as well.

MR. T. P. HILLHOUSE, Q. C. (Selkirk): It's hard to keep up with the First Minister, but when are we going to get our new telephone books?

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge my friend's admission that it's hard to keep up with up with us, it doesn't come to us as a shock. The new telephone books? I don't know, but I'm sure the Minister of Government Services will be checking on that matter.

MRS. FORBES: Shortly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. I'd just like to know whether his department is able to furnish figures of total fertilizer produced and total fertilizer exported in Manitoba. Are those figures available?

MR. WATT: I'll take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. PHILIP PETURSSON (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources? It is still the proposal of the Government or Manitoba Hydro to use Lake Winnipeg as storage for the Kettle Rapids Development? Is there any activity being carried on in that direction at the north end of the lake - Lake Winnipeg?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, no specific activity is being directed towards that end at this time. I think it's generally understood and has been mentioned by Hydro of a potential use of Lake Winnipeg as a reservoir, but nothing is being done about it at this time. Hydro has made no specific requests or stated any specific requirements with respect to the regulation of Lake Winnipeg at this time.

MR. PETURSSON: Would the Honourable Minister permit a question?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I believe the honourable gentleman has a supplementary

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MR. PETURSSON: The lake then is not being maintained at any specific level?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

MR. HILLHOUSE: The question I wish to ask, has Hydro decided upon what level they will maintain Lake Winnipeg as a reservoir?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. George.

MR. ELMAN GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. There are a number of reports emanating from Brandon that the Simplot Plant is closing down. Could the Minister indicate whether this is a temporary nature or a permanent nature, or what?

MR. SPIVAK: I'm not aware of such reports.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Is the Minister not aware of any of the plans of the Simplot plant with respect to closing down?

MR. SPIVAK: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to direct a question to my honourable friend the Minister of Agriculture. A few moments ago he agreed to obtain certain figures in respect to export and import and manufacture of fertilizer. Would he undertake at the same time to get the average retail price per ton of the various fertilizers used in the province and the price per ton in the bordering states?

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

MR. ALBERT VIELFAURE (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Hamiota, that an humble address be voted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying for copies of all correspondence between the Manitoba Government and the Government of Canada since August 1968 with regard to the very serious problem of wet and damp grain in Manitoba in this last harvesting season.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. DAWSON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Portage la Prairie, that the debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders for Return. The Honourable Member for St. John's.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, may I beg the indulgence of the House to have the honourable member's request for an Order stood?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders for Papers. The Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party.

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of the New Democratic Party) (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, it's an Order for Return and I'd ask the indulgence of the House to have this stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave. Agreed.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, may I have the privilege of the House of explaining why. I know that there is a penalty for having this stood in accordance with some sections of our rules but the return is appearing on government days and under our new rules it becomes debatable, or if it is debatable it goes on the next day, or on the next private members' day, and I'm wondering whether or not it may be advisable for us in view of this -- and this is the first day really of the session we will have this -- that the Whips may get together, preferably with yourself, Your Honour, to consider the position we're in due to the penalty feature of having these resolutions or Orders for Return stand for one day.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, if we're speaking to a point of order -- (Interjection) -- Yes, I think if the Orders are moved, if they're accepted by the government, that puts an end to it. On the other hand, if my honourable friend is suggesting that they are to be used as vehicles for debate, that's another question and that's why the rule exists.

MR. PAULLEY: We have the privilege, Mr. Speaker, the mover of the resolution, of wanting it debated, irrespective of the action of government, and this is the point that I'm raising. Because of the peculiarity of the new rule, I'm raising the question of the penalty imposed because we do stand them in order that they go to a private members' day which may be tomorrow, or is tomorrow, that they would be debated. I'm sure even my honourable friend will eventually understand what I'm talking on.

MR. SPEAKER: To complete this discussion, is it my understanding that I await the pleasure of the Whips to discuss this matter?

MR. PAULLEY: raise the point for your consideration Your Honour and I ask the indulgence of the House at this time to allow this resolution to stand.

MR. SPEAKER: And I'll call on the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party for the second Order for Papers, on Page 2.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that Order stands in the name of the Honourable Member for St. John's.

MR. SPEAKER: My mistake.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, can I ask for the indulgence of the House in this matter also to have the matter stood in his name?

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed. The same stands for the next item too.-- Agreed. The Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains, that an Order for the House do issue for a return showing the amounts of money received by the Government of Manitoba from the following companies in the last complete year for royalties, ~~stumpage~~ licenses and rentals:

- (1) Canada Cement Company;
- (2) Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company;
- (3) International Nickel Company;
- (4) Manitoba Paper Company;
- (5) Churchill Forest Industries Ltd. ;
- (6) British American Construction Materials Ltd. ;
- (7) Winnipeg Supply and Fuel.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, in accepting this Order for Return, I voice no serious objection here except to draw to the attention of the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party that the wording may be somewhat ambiguous. We have accepted these orders in the past with reference to royalty stumpage. The question, the word "license" - does he pertain to all

(MR. ENNS cont'd.) licenses which we attach to companies, motor vehicle licenses and what have you - it could take some time in coming up with these figures, but -- (Interjection) -- fine, I'm just drawing that to your attention. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party.

MR. PAULLEY: May I have this order stand, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. SHOEMAKER: I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing:

(1) How many teachers taught on permit in Manitoba in each of the years from 1962-63 to 1968-69 inclusive;

(2) How many teachers taught with letters of authority in Manitoba in each of the years from 1962-63 to 1968-69 inclusive;

(3) The percentage of qualified teachers now teaching in urban areas of Manitoba;

(4) The percentage of qualified teachers now teaching in rural areas of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing the amount the provincial government will contribute to the Medicare Program out of general revenue.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, that an order for the House do issue for a Return showing:

(a) What year the Riding Mountain White Mud River Watershed authority was established;

(b) The amount of money the provincial government has spent on the project since its creation;

(c) The expenditures planned by the various departments on the said Watershed in the fiscal year 1969-70;

(d) The percentages of the overall costs of any envisaged project which the rural municipalities will be expected to pay;

(e) The date the Water Control and Conservation Branch expects to inform those participating municipalities of the proposed plans for the ensuing year and the cost-sharing proposals;

(f) How many municipalities have this date agreed to co-operate or participate in projects within the Watershed.

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MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honorable Member for Rock Lake for an Address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in answer to his speech at the opening of the session. The Honorable Member for St. George.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Speaker, I adjourned the debate for the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, many changes have occurred in this House since we last met some nine months ago. It is with regret that we note that four of the members of this House have left since then for various reasons. I find myself at this stage in the impossibility of welcoming the four new members as they have not yet joined officially our ranks. Our long time member from Morris, Harry Shewman, will be remembered in a more formal way later in the session, as is the custom of this House, and I will have more to say at that time. Our former Premier has moved on to another stage, and although it was my responsibility for some years to oppose him in an official capacity, I can say most honestly that I wish him very well in his new endeavors. The member for Churchill left us under somewhat more mysterious circumstances, and I find that the news reports of this morning even deepen the mystery as they seem to indicate that he may now be trying to return here under some new flag. Time will tell.

I am sure it will be understood, Mr. Speaker, if I say a special word about my own colleague, the former member for Birtle-Russell, Rod Clement. Rod entered the House a little time before I did. We became very close friends as backbenchers on the government side in those days between 1953 and 1958. After an absence from the House, Rod returned, and in his new role on the opposition side he participated with his usual customary vigor and frankness. As is common, however, one frequently does not measure a man until adversity strikes, and it is really since his illness the past few months that I have fully appreciated Rod Clement's courage, and I know that all the members of the House will wish him the very best.

Since our last meeting, as well, we have one brand new Minister, the then Member for Arthur and now Minister of Agriculture. I wish him the very best in his portfolio. He in that portfolio represents the major industry in Manitoba. He represents geographically a very large part of the province. He has a big job and we as Manitobans will be looking forward to some big results.

Since then as well, Mr. Speaker, there has been a rather major shift of portfolios on the far side, so major in fact that we may have difficulties for a little while remembering which name applies to what, and if the ministers will bear with us in the first few days until we get the whole matter sorted out, I trust that we can get the questions addressed to the right individuals as time goes on. I don't know what the outcome will be of the complete shift, but I wish all of them well in their individual responsibilities.

(Mr. Molgat spoke briefly in French. Translation will appear in a later Hansard.)

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to once again compliment you at the opening of this Session and wish you well during the course of our debates.

I stand before you, Mr. Speaker, for the last time in this debate in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition. I hasten to add that while I have tendered my resignation, I am very far from having disappeared. My Party and myself will continue to fully perform our responsibilities in this House, that of providing a responsible opposition. The decision to retire as Leader was mine and mine alone. My Party urged me to stay, for which I sincerely thank them. In my view, however, it was time for a change. I greatly admire the British parliamentary structure; it's based on the party system. In my view, if this system is to function properly, parties must always be able to renew themselves, and I came to the conclusion that it was time for me to step aside as Leader. I intend to continue in the House, obviously, during the course of the session as the Leader of my Party - the Leader of the Opposition - and subsequently when a new Leader is chosen, as a backbencher. The mantle of leadership is one to be cherished and honoured but not coveted for personal ambition. And so, Mr. Speaker, I shall go my way, proud to have served in this capacity, thankful for having had the opportunity to do so, and enriched by those years of service.

During the course of the recent by-elections, Mr. Speaker, we in the Liberal Party tried in every way possible to discuss the major problems facing Manitoba at the provincial level. The government, on the other hand, tried in every way possible to evade Manitoba issues. It is obvious that the Speech from the Throne is a continuation of these same sort

(MR. MOLGAT Cont'd.) . . . of deliberate evasions by this government of the key issues in this province. Last year when this House heard the Speech from the Throne we took into account the fact that the new Premier had only been in office for a few months and could not have been expected to have formulated his own policies. We were therefore patient in dealing with a Speech from the Throne which contained no programs, no promise of action, and no solutions to the many problems facing this province, for which this government must shoulder the blame and face the responsibility of solving, but it is now almost a year and a half since the Premier took office and the people of Manitoba are entitled to action by this government. We therefore awaited this year's Speech from the Throne with considerable interest because we quite properly expected a series of programs to cope with the urgent problems of the day, programs of a provincial nature to deal with our rural, urban and northern areas; but, Mr. Speaker, much of what was read to us in the Speech from the Throne was sound, but mere sound. It promises that the government will - and I quote from the Throne Speech directly - "to continue the investment in our provincial trunk highways and provincial roads throughout the province; that it will continue the high level of tourist activity within the province; that it will continue water control and conservation measures throughout the province; that it will continue the construction of new educational buildings; and that it will continue the spirit of 70 program".

Well, Mr. Speaker, these are hardly revelations of a nature which need inclusion in the Throne Speech. It would be surprising indeed if the government were to cease any of these basic activities. Their inclusion in the Throne Speech makes one wonder whether it is merely an attempt to add length and bulk to that document or is it an attempt at what we have seen before in this House, a manner of preventing the opposition from having resolutions on any of the topics that happen to be mentioned in the Throne Speech.

Mr. Speaker, industrialization and tax reform are the two most pressing problems facing Manitoba, and yet there is no comprehensive program to deal with them in the Throne Speech, only a number of unrelated comments and proposals. In these fields, and others, the present government has followed a policy of confusion and indecision which has resulted in Manitoba not moving ahead as quickly as other parts of Canada which are enjoying the fruits of economic prosperity. It is not negative but merely realistic to face these facts squarely. It is also realistic to expect that after 11 years in office this government should be prepared to cope with these problems and to present this House with appropriate legislation. Instead of a blueprint for the 1970's to chart Manitoba's second century as a province, we again have been presented with a collection of ad hoc ideas strung together in a package of fancy words which pretend to be a planned program. The Speech from the Throne is truly a monument to this government, a monument to its bankruptcy in the field of ideas. To the opposition it is a monumental disappointment.

The Throne Speech points with pride in its opening paragraphs to the extensive reorganization of government departments and of the cabinet itself, which was announced by the Premier late last September. In announcing the reorganization at that time the Premier said its purpose was, and I quote, "to increase effectiveness, to improve results, and to give the taxpayer the best value for his tax dollar". These certainly should be the objectives of any government, and I welcome the announcement, Mr. Speaker, after 11 years, that these should be the objectives of this government, but what an indictment of the government by the government itself to make this sort of an announcement after 11 years in office.

This year's Throne Speech is also notable for its inclusion of many past programs, now disguised as new material. The announcement that the revision of the statutes will be completed in 1970 is hardly news. It's been in process for four years.

The announcement of new expropriation legislation fits into the same category. It came before the House three years ago and was referred to a committee for study. The same is true of the Local Authorities Election Act and the draft Municipal Act, which were previously introduced in this House and referred to committees; and the ten-year development program for the Interlake, which was signed in 1967, can hardly be called news. Yet these are proudly paraded in the Throne Speech as new programs of this government.

Now the Throne Speech again this year announces that the government plans to introduce legislation to establish the office of the Ombudsman in Manitoba. Well,

(MR. MOLGAT Cont'd.)... Mr. Speaker, an interesting tale lies behind that announcement by this government. Members will recall that I first introduced the resolution in the Legislature in 1962, calling for the appointment of an ombudsman, and that this government voted down the proposal to a man; gave us vigorous speeches, in fact, telling us how this was going to destroy the whole legislative structure, do away with MLAs, and it was a shocking piece of business. Well, we didn't despair, Mr. Speaker, and we kept on bringing in the resolution every year. Finally, in 1965, the government saw some merits in an ombudsman and it included a vague reference to it in that year's Throne Speech. As a result of that very vague reference, the Liberal resolution was ruled out of order in 1965 on the grounds that it was anticipating government action. Anticipating government action, Mr. Speaker, in 1965. Some anticipation! Some action! Here we are in 1969, four years later, and we find that the government now includes it in the Throne Speech as a proposal.

But, Mr. Speaker, the question now arises: is the government really going to act this time? Because we have a quotation from the Minister of Consumer Affairs in mid-January, warning us that even if the government pass legislation at this session, it was unlikely that an ombudsman would be appointed this year. He questioned whether money was available for the project in 1969. What nonsense, Mr. Speaker! Why, the amount of money spent redecorating the Premier's suite last summer, would have covered the whole salary of the ombudsman for a couple of years. One wonders, Mr. Speaker, about the priorities of this government. One wonders about the actions of this government. Do posh quarters rate higher than people? The ombudsman, after all, would be a servant of the people, appointed to protect the citizen against government bureaucracy.

I want to make it clear as well, Mr. Speaker, that if the government is proceeding with the ombudsman legislation, it must give the ombudsman full power to investigate grievances against all government departments and agencies, with the authority to deal directly with the citizen. Some three years ago, when my honourable friends introduced their White Paper, the government planned then to have an ombudsman which was restricted in power, forced to deal solely through MLAs, and limited in jurisdiction. Such an ombudsman would be a phoney and would not be able to fulfill his functions properly.

Another proposal in this year's Throne Speech which bears comment is the one to establish a Provincial Auditor. This government pretends on many occasions that it is interested in holding the tax line. I say "pretends", Mr. Speaker, because the facts, of course, are very different. During its term of office this government has raised taxes on every imaginable front, without concern about their effect on low income people and on the long-range development of this province. It has given Manitobans the dubious honour of being amongst the highest-taxed Canadians. During the last year alone, after promising - a clear-cut promise, this should be the whole spirit of the leadership campaign by my honourable friend the Premier - that he would hold the line, what did this government do? Well, it instituted an 80% increase in hospital premiums - pretty fair tax increase, 80% at one crack. Then it raised hydro rates by as much as 150% with the biggest impact on low income people, and then it imposed a 4.1 mill rate increase on the municipalities - didn't give them a choice; told them this is what it's going to be - 4.1 mills. In the meantime, it increased the taxes on alcoholic beverages. What, in the meantime, has this government done, Mr. Speaker, to reduce waste and extravagance in government? For years, the Liberal party has been proposing the establishment of an Auditor-General in Manitoba as a financial watchdog for the people of Manitoba to ensure that they are getting the best value for their tax dollar. For years, this government has bitterly resisted this progressive measure. For years, it has blocked the appointment of an Auditor-General in fear of its spending habits being exposed to public scrutiny and criticism by such an independent officer of the Legislature. Yet it has been proven elsewhere by other governments that the appointment of an Auditor-General is a key method of reducing waste and extravagance in government. The federal government, for example, finds its spending practices subjected to public report each year, with cases of inefficiency and imprudent spending being brought to light.

Now it would be welcome news indeed if the reference in the Throne Speech actually means that Manitoba now will have a similar Auditor-General to protect the taxpayers of this province. But Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech fails to make clear just what the government does have in mind. It merely refers to proposed legislation for the appointment

(MR. MOLGAT Cont'd.)... of a Provincial Auditor. Mr. Speaker, I warn the government that if this is just a sham appointment with restricted powers it will be totally unacceptable and it will be just a waste of money instead of being a measure to eliminate waste. What is clearly required is an Auditor-General with the same broad powers and responsibilities as the federal Auditor-General, not just an auditor who makes internal audits for the Manitoba Government with no public reports, but a full-fledged independent officer of this Legislature, independent of the government or of its influence and charged with the responsibility of protecting the taxpayers and making his reports public.

This government, Mr. Speaker, has never shown itself inclined to control its own expenditures, while being very much inclined to preaching priorities to all other levels of government. There's no doubt that the mounting cost of education is one of the grave concerns of Manitobans. Manitobans are asking, "Are we getting value for our education dollar?" The mention in the Throne Speech that the government now plans to control all spending of unitary school divisions, raises the question whether this is the first step in a complete take-over of education by the province and the abolition of school boards. If this is the government's intention it should be made clear at this time, so as to receive the closest scrutiny by the House to ensure that the long-range implications are fully explained by the government. In the course of the past 11 years we've had many changes in education presented by my honourable friends. At one stage we even found out that they're operating by phases. They were well into Phase 2 before we'd ever heard of Phase 1, but be that as it may, there were many changes proceeded with but there didn't seem to be a planned program, and we now want to know what exactly is in the government's mind.

However, control of school costs should not be confused with the method of financing now employed in this province for basic education costs. The burden of education costs, which now falls on property owners, is a serious problem and we must design a more equitable method of school financing in Manitoba, and I will have more to say about this later in my comments.

Now about a year ago this government announced that it would not be introducing Medicare in Manitoba on the 1st of July, 1968, when federal grants first became available to the provinces, despite the fact that it had earlier promised to implement this plan and at one time had even promised to go into a Medicare plan even if Ottawa didn't go into it. Now the Provincial Government subsequently changed its mind, once again, and now it intends to proceed with Medicare on the 1st of April. However, Mr. Speaker, two important things have happened in the interim as a result of this government's indecision. First, Manitobans have lost about \$18 million in federal grants to which we were entitled. Meanwhile, Manitobans paid their own medical costs while paying federal taxes which provided medicare grants to Saskatchewan and British Columbia. This loss of \$18 million is attributable, purely and simply, to the failure of this government to act. They could have acted; the legislation was there. They failed to act.

The second development in the interim period, which has cost Manitoba residents a great deal of money, was a very substantial increase in doctors' fees. Although our Medicare legislation had been on the statute books since 1967, the government failed to negotiate a fee schedule with the medical profession and thereby had no control over the increase in fees which took place.

Before dealing with the method of financing Medicare which has been chosen by the government, I want to comment on the \$50.00 deterrent plan which it first proposed to Ottawa and which it continues to hail as the hallmark of excellence. Under this plan, which was rejected by Ottawa, Manitobans would have had to pay the first \$50.00 of medical costs out of their own pockets and then would have been required to pay 20% of subsequent bills up to another \$50.00. On the face of it, Mr. Speaker, it sounds good. And it's understandable, I suppose, Mr. Speaker, that Cabinet Ministers earning \$22,800 per year with tax-free allowances, plus expenses, plus free cars provided by the taxpayer, would not consider a \$50.00 deterrent fee as unreasonable. I am sure it would not deter them from getting medical care. But for the average Manitoba family, Mr. Speaker, which scrapes by on four to five thousand dollars a year and less, a \$50.00 deterrent fee would have been a heavy burden and in many cases would really have prevented people from going to the doctor for proper medical care; and to be crowing about this plan now can only be proof of how very far removed this government is from the people and from the realities of life in Manitoba.

(MR. MOLGAT Cont'd.)

After having had it rejected, the government moved on to the present plan, which was the financed by premiums. This plan still fails to take into account the wide gap that exists in incomes in Manitoba. With the exception of old age pensioners, everyone is charged the same premium regardless of ability to pay. No consideration has been given to those on low incomes, and it is for this reason that the Liberal Party has introduced the resolution calling for an immediate review of the method of financing chosen for Manitoba's Medicare plan.

Mr. Speaker, this government's lack of concern for people shows up clearly in another section of the Throne Speech dealing with South Indian Lake. Some people have referred to the government's handling of this whole affair as inept. I think the proper terms are: shocking, arrogant, high-handed and dictatorial. In February of 1966, copies of the Nelson River Investigation Report were distributed to members of this House. Shortly after that, the Public Utilities committee convened to review the Nelson River hydro-electric power developments. It was made clear at that time that diversion of some of the flow of the Churchill River into the Nelson River and the control of Lake Winnipeg were part of Phase 1 of the development. It was also indicated that if South Indian Lake was chosen for the Churchill River Diversion instead of some other alternative, South Indian Lake would be raised by some 35 feet and that one Indian community would require resettlement. It was further indicated at that time that studies were continuing on an alternative diversion route, and that effects on other resources of flooding South Indian Lake also were being studied. About two years later, in May 1968, Manitoba Hydro disclosed that it was applying for a licence to flood South Indian Lake. On the same day, it was brought to my attention that the effects of flooding South Indian Lake would be much greater than originally anticipated and that there were other methods which might have less damaging effects on the Indian population and on natural resources.

After bringing this information before the House in an emergency debate, my colleague, the Honourable the Member for Portage la Prairie, requested four things: that other methods of diverting the Churchill River be studied; that public hearings be held before a licence was granted; that the South Indian Lake community be supplied with the best legal counsel available to fight for their rights; and that the Public Utilities Committee be reconvened so that Manitoba Hydro officials could present tentative solutions and explain their position.

The government did not see fit to grant any of these requests at that time and took the position that the matter had been settled two years previously despite the fact that the 1966 Nelson River Investigation Report indicated no final decision had been made on South Indian Lake and further studies were continuing. On the 25th of May, 1968, I formally requested here in the Legislature that the government make public all studies and reports with respect to the proposed diversion of the Churchill River. This was refused by the government in a recorded vote with every single member opposite opposing it. Subsequent to that the government did appoint legal counsel for the Indian people. It was not until December of 1968 that the government announced that public hearings would be held, and the first one took place at South Indian Lake in early January, 1969. Counsel for the Indian people rejected the government's proposal at that time.

Before the second hearing could be held, Mr. Speaker, in Winnipeg, a meeting that had been announced at the same time as the first one in South Indian Lake, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources suddenly announced that he was proceeding with the grant and interim licence. Only as a result of the public outcry against this high-handed attitude, only as a result of this, the Minister reviewed his stand, and then proceeded to announce that Manitoba Hydro would have to prove its case beyond the shadow of a doubt at the second hearing.

The second hearing was held with a large number of representations bringing out a good deal of new information, particularly the briefs from a group of university professors. It was shocking, Mr. Speaker, to see the hearings held without any participation by the responsible Minister. The Director of Water Control, a provincial civil servant who acted as Chairman at the hearings, reported that he had no authority to insist that the Minister testify, and the hearings concluded with the understanding that the Chairman would be making a recommendation. This recommendation was still being awaited when the Assistant General Manager of Manitoba Hydro disclosed last month that the development of the Nelson River may not proceed beyond Phase 1. In other words, that the project may only generate 1.2 million kilowatts instead of 6.7 million kilowatts, which is a pretty significant disclosure.

(MR. MOLGAT Cont'd.)

On February 27th, the day the current session of the Legislature opened, counsel for the Indian people at South Indian Lake initiated court action to prevent the issuing of the flooding licence. Suddenly, in the Throne Speech that afternoon, the government announced that it was going to dump the whole matter into the lap of the Legislature. Having jumped in every conceivable direction on this question, the government apparently has decided now on yet another course of action without even waiting for the recommendation of the Director of Water Control to be made public. Nothing has come out as to what the Director has recommended or if he has recommended, Mr. Speaker. The government, without paying any attention apparently to those hearings, is proceeding.

Mr. Speaker, the position of the Liberal Party has remained unchanged throughout this whole incredible exercise. It has simply stated: Give us all the facts; give us all the information; let the people of Manitoba know what the facts are. While the human factor is the Indian community, some will say that 650 people cannot stand in the way of progress. The issue goes beyond that, however, into the whole question of the multiple use of our natural resources. In the long run, what is in the best interests of Manitoba. That is the question. We have insisted from the outset that all information on the Nelson River project should be disclosed.

Prior to the opening of this session we submitted a resolution asking that the whole question be referred to the Public Utilities Committee for thorough study. The Throne Speech says that the government has decided that South Indian Lake should be flooded and that they will introduce legislation to grant the licence. Mr. Speaker, I warn this government that the only way in which such legislation can be considered is if the government makes a full disclosure of all the facts, the studies, the correspondence, and the reports produced by or on behalf of the government or any of its departments, boards, agencies or outside consultants. To persist in keeping part of the information secret, as it has to date, will make it impossible for this House, and for Manitobans, to properly judge this serious question, and it will make it impossible for this House to deal with the legislation. If this House is to be asked to make the decision for the government, then this House must be in full possession of every scrap of information available to the government and to Manitoba Hydro.

Mr. Speaker, earlier I stated that industrialization and tax reform are the two most pressing problems facing Manitoba; the two go hand in hand. The tragedy of the past 11 years is that this government has proceeded to increase taxes tremendously, while failing to create a corresponding increase in economic development to spread the load of taxes over a broader base. The result is that the same taxpayers have been called upon to carry an ever heavier load. Now what does the government Throne Speech propose in the way of programs to reverse this situation? All it says is that the government will continue on the course it has followed to date with respect to economic development. It will continue on the same course. Mr. Speaker, this just isn't good enough.

Now in due respect to the Minister of Industry and Commerce, I commend him for his attempts. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, his is a lone, lone voice in a government which has failed to produce results in 11 years in office and which still hasn't caught the Spirit of '70 in spite of the thousands they're spending on advertising.

Mr. Speaker, the job of economic development can not be that of one minister alone; it must be the responsibility of the entire government. It must be the primary job of the Premier himself, just as has been done in Saskatchewan, and we need to have programs to deal with the situation in Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, if we recognize that there are regional disparities in Canada, we must also recognize that they exist within Manitoba itself. We need policies for regional development in this province to meet the particular needs and problems of our rural areas, the north, the urban centres, and to provide job opportunities for Manitobans everywhere.

The Regional Development Corporations are a good beginning, but they must be strengthened and be given the kind of support from the government that is necessary if they are to do their job effectively. The Manitoba Development Fund must be remodelled to make it an instrument for development and not merely a banker of last resort. Much more emphasis, Mr. Speaker, must be placed on having Manitobans themselves invest and share in the development of Manitoba. While we're obviously not going to turn down any large corporations that wish to locate in Manitoba, we must place much greater emphasis on the

(MR. MOLGAT Cont'd.) . . . development of many small and medium sized businesses throughout Manitoba to strengthen the entire economy of the province. We must reverse the trend of the last few years which have seen a steady erosion of our position as a major centre for head offices of Canadian companies. Too frequently we read in our newspapers now that such and such a head office has been moved from Manitoba to some other province. Too little effort has been put into the task of converting the excellent and successful research of our universities into the development of industries and products which can provide opportunities for the farmer and businessman to grow and to provide more employment for Manitobans. Insufficient attention has been given, Mr. Speaker, by this government, to the problem of maintaining the leadership of Winnipeg and Manitoba as the commercial, financial and distribution centre of western Canada. They have allowed this to erode constantly.

Agriculture and its related industries remain the biggest business in Manitoba, and yet they are dismissed in the Throne Speech with vague expressions of concern. The government is concerned about damp grain and it's concerned about lagging sales of grain. Well, the farmers will be delighted to hear the government is concerned, but what's the government going to do about it? The problem of grain sales is obviously a serious matter throughout western Canada, but Manitoba is in a much better position than the other provinces to shift its agricultural emphasis to livestock production and to the production of finished foods. The Department of Agriculture needs two separate and distinct programs to meet the needs of our changing agricultural economy. One, to provide a climate where commercial farms can operate effectively; and the other, to meet the special needs of the smaller farms faced with extreme disadvantages. Yet none of these problems are dealt with in the Throne Speech.

Likewise, the problems of the urban areas get short shrift in the government's program. Three years ago now this government established a Boundaries Commission. One of its priorities was to study the reorganization of municipal government in Greater Winnipeg. To date it has yet to report. As of the last session it had already spent \$365,000 of the taxpayers' money. By now this bill will be even higher. Strangely enough, the Throne Speech doesn't even refer to the existence of this costly enterprise which has just become an excuse for government inaction. Not a word about the Boundaries Commission, Mr. Speaker. I said a year ago, Mr. Speaker, in this same debate, to the Premier, that the commission should be abolished, and I repeat that statement. Fire them; do the job yourself. It's your responsibility. We've been waiting for three years and they've produced nothing. By the way, it would be a good way to start cutting expenditures for the Manitoba government.

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(MR. MOLGAT cont'd):

Mr. Speaker, three-fifths of our province lies in the Pre-Cambrian Shield and this great area is still virtually untouched. It is the key to Manitoba's future. This is where we can look forward to the type of development that Saskatchewan and Alberta have had in potash and oil and natural gas. They don't have the Pre-Cambrian Shield, and yet with the exception of a couple of road projects which were announced last year during last year's program, with the exception of that and a reference to mineral production, there isn't a single word in the Throne Speech about northern development. It's little wonder, Mr. Speaker, that the previous Conservative member of the Legislature for that area resigned his seat in disgust over this government. It's a shocking commentary on this government's interest in the north. The affairs of northern Manitoba are relegated to a part-time Commissioner of the North whose greatest interest in the area is displayed at election time. They've never seen more of him than in the last month and they never will again until the next election. What is needed is a full-time Minister of Northern Affairs under whose jurisdiction would come all the existing programs now scattered through the maze of government departments, someone who would be responsible for developing the north at a greatly accelerated pace. This Minister, as well, should be responsible for the development of the Port of Churchill which has been for so long ignored by this government.

Industrial development in all parts of Manitoba is imperative if we are to retain our young people in this province, if we are to provide job opportunities and if we are to reverse the brain drain. But it's also important for the long range solution of our tax problems. A broader economic base is the only way we can absorb the rising cost of government without constant tax increases.

Tax reform is imperative in Manitoba, and yet the government offers only band aid treatment in its Throne Speech. I welcomed the announcement of an increase in the provincial share of the Foundation Program for Education; I welcomed the announcement of short-term measures to aid municipalities; but, Mr. Speaker, much more is needed in Manitoba and the Liberal Party has proposed, and is proposing by resolution, a two-pronged attack on this problem. First, we must call a provincial-municipal tax and fiscal conference. Second, we must have a complete review of our entire tax structure in this province and we must design a more equitable tax system.

The government in the Throne Speech proposes a Provincial-Municipal Finance Structure Committee. Mr. Speaker, we have seen the inactivity of this government's committees much too frequently. They have been used as means of delaying decisions instead of solving problems. Let us have instead, at the municipal-provincial level, the same type of open conference as is held regularly at the federal-provincial level. Elected representatives of the provincial and municipal governments should participate in such an open conference to discuss all aspects of municipal finance, provincial grants to municipalities, and the sharing of tax fields between the two levels of government. This review should not be conducted merely by a closed committee of individuals appointed by the provincial government and not directly responsible to the taxpayers. Surely if this principle applies at the federal-provincial level, there is even more reason for it to apply at the provincial-municipal level - an open conference. For too long now our tax structure in Manitoba has weighed too heavily on the property owner. Many other taxes as presently applied also are inequitable and unfair in whole or in part, and it is for this reason that I have urged that along with the provincial-municipal conference there should be a complete review of all taxes in Manitoba by a committee of this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I have shown today that this government is out of touch with the problems of Manitoba, out of touch with the people of this province, and I therefore beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Member for Lakeside, that the motion be amended by adding thereto the following words: "But this House regrets that, after almost 11 years in office, this government: 1. Has failed to recognize the urgent need for complete tax reform in Manitoba, and has failed to institute a more equitable tax structure based on the principle of ability-to-pay. 2. Has failed to alleviate sky-rocketting property taxes which place an undue burden on property owners and tenants, particularly pensioners and those on low and fixed incomes. 3. Has failed to broaden Manitoba's tax base by increasing economic development in proportion to rising government expenditures, thereby placing additional tax burdens on the people of Manitoba. 4. Has failed to recognize and cope with the problems of regional disparities within the province and has failed to industrialize the province to provide job opportunities

(MR. MOLGAT cont'd.) in all regions of Manitoba. 5. Has failed to institute a Medicare plan which takes ability-to-pay into account. 6. Has failed to alleviate the cost-price squeeze in agriculture and other primary industries in spite of its promise to do so. 7. Has failed to deal adequately with the problems of urban centres, and has failed to provide leadership to reform the structure and financing of local government. 8. Has neglected northern Manitoba and has failed to produce an adequate program for northern development. 9. Has failed to take adequate measures to eliminate waste and extravagance in its own operations.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. John's that the debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I judge there would be general agreement to a motion for adjournment at the present time. I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Provincial Treasurer, that the House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House adjourned until 2:30 Tuesday afternoon.