

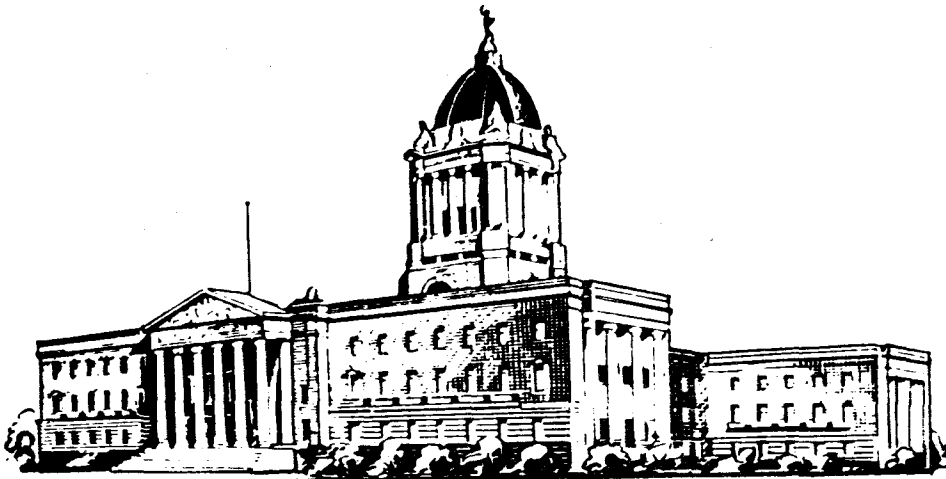


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

Speaker

The Honourable Ben Hanuschak



Vol. XVII No. 73 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 12th, 1970. Second Session, 29th Legislature.

Printed by R. S. Evans — Queen's Printer for Province of Manitoba

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Tuesday, May 12, 1970

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

STATEMENTS

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources)(Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I want leave to make a short statement. Jointly with the Honourable Jean Chretien, Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, I wish to report that one of the most important polar bear denning areas in the world has been discovered 100 miles south of Churchill, Manitoba. The discovery was made by two wildlife biologists, Dr. Charles Jonkel of the Canadian Wildlife Service in Mr. Chretien's department, and Dick Robertson of the Manitoba Department of Mines and Natural Resources. They estimate that about 60 female bears reared young in dens in this area this year and rank it with such major denning areas as Wrangel Island in the USSR, Kong Karls north of Norway and Southampton Island in the Canadian Arctic. About 25 miles in diameter, the area is 40 miles north of the deserted York Factory Trading Settlement, a national historic site. It is a flat, treeless country with deep peat beds containing thousands of small lakes.

Flying over the area in a helicopter, the biologists spotted scores of dens in the banks of just one lake, and bears were equally common near other lakes. Pregnant female bears used the dens to produce their young in winter while other bears usually roam the frozen seas hunting seals. The females and the tiny cubs leave their dens during March and travel to the sea ice where they also begin to hunt seals.

The Manitoba area is particularly interesting because the polar bears also use the dens in summer, a habit unique to southern Hudson Bay polar bears, Dr. Jonkel said. Existence of such an area was earlier indicated by Indian trappers who said they avoided the area of the bear although beaver were plentiful there. Dr. Jonkel saw quite a number of bears from the air last summer but it wasn't until the scientists made several field trips to the area last month that they realized its importance as a winter denning area for raising cubs.

The entire Cape Churchill area, of which this denning area is obviously an essential part, is the site of the largest concentration of polar bears anywhere in the world during October and November of most years. During 1968, for example, when Hudson Bay was two weeks late in freezing over, biologists estimated that 200 to 250 polar bears congregated along the shores of the Cape waiting for the formation of the ice. The Canadian Wildlife Service is conducting a major study of polar bears and plans to make a detailed investigation of the newly discovered denning area this summer.

Mr. Chretien and I share a mutual concern for this unique area and my department is actively reviewing steps to ensure its maintenance in natural state. Fear of disturbance could interfere with the polar bears' productivity rate, among the lowest of any land mammal in North America.

The area of polar bear concentration lies along that section of Hudson Bay where certain oil exploration permits have been issued and considerable interest exists with respect to off-shore oil potential. There is a diamond drilling rig near the area, moved in during the winter and expected to operate this June. Officials of my department have met with those of the oil company and the diamond drilling company and have received fullest assurance of cooperation. Stringent drilling requirements have been agreed to in order to prevent any possible damage to the terrain. Firearms will be limited and, if necessary, a department staff member will be present throughout the time drilling rights take place. The drill site is on the beach and we have been assured that the crew will not either have a cross-country vehicle or occasion to travel inland. Supply will be by air onto a strip to be bulldozed along the beach.

The drill test is an important part of the program to prove out the geology and oil potential of the Hudson's Bay area. My department will be working out proposals to provide necessary protection for the unique polar bear population while permitting continued efforts in the search for other natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, the statement and the contents of it and the release of it were agreed to jointly between Mr. Chretien and myself, so I tell honourable members that if there's some danger that we're losing business, we're gaining polar bears.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Minister for his statement with respect to the polar bears in the north. More importantly, of course, I think is the assurance that he gave us that all steps are being taken to assure that this newly found resource, although it has always been there no doubt, is not going to be disturbed, or all steps will be taken that the current activity that he mentioned, the exploration activity that's taking place up there, will not disrupt the new resource. I applaud the Minister and the governments for this joint action that the Provincial Government and the Federal Government is taking in this case and would suggest to the Minister that while it's a long way from us in this Chamber, that these kind of statements are appreciated and helpful to all members of the House. We would want to hear from the Minister what practical further steps will be taken in setting aside this general area, not just any case of today or the current exploration but for all time in the future - you know, setting it up as a wildlife protected area that we can be assured in the Province of Manitoba and in Canada that this particular wildlife resource will never be endangered, even if in future years we do not always have the same kind of concern being expressed by a Minister of Mines and Natural Resources that is now being expressed so capably by this Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): I would like to thank the Minister for his very interesting statement of discovery. My first reaction was: God help the polar bears for having been discovered by man, the way we have mismanaged our resources in the past. But seriously though, I think the Minister is on the right track when a serious attempt will be made to protect this unique area of the world and this unique form of wildlife. And having said, I believe the member, who can make the boast of having the only constituency in Manitoba with polar bears, would like to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I think many of us were aware that there are a lot of polar bear in that area, but I do gather that the Minister was not quite so successful in locating a den which would produce money for Churchill, and I would wonder if he would wish to comment on the many pockets which the Federal Government have for northern development.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I too would like to congratulate the Minister and the party concerned that discovered this find. When he started out speaking I was wondering whether he was already organizing a hunting party, but later on he changed his tune and I am certainly happy that something is being done to protect these bears up there and I hope, as has already been expressed by other members, that the area will be set aside so that the wildlife will not be disturbed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, this being May 12th, I thought it would be appropriate to make some brief remarks to commemorate the event that took place exactly 100 years ago today. I refer of course to the passage of The Manitoba Act through third and final reading in the Federal Parliament exactly 100 years ago today. There was a very fitting celebration earlier this day at the Winnipeg Civic Centre and I thought that honourable members here would want to take this opportunity to have some words of commemoration said at this time.

As honourable members are aware, the events which led up to the passage of The Manitoba Act were certainly, by standards of the Red River Colony, very turbulent times, but eventually a delegation, democratically selected, did travel to Ottawa in the month of April, 1870 and there did successfully negotiate terms which were embodied in The Manitoba Act which passed the Federal House exactly a century ago today. The Royal Proclamation of course was not effected, was not proclaimed until the 15th of July.

There are many amusing anecdotes that go side by side with the story of the passage of The Manitoba Act in Parliament. It would be a matter of interest and also amusement to know, for example, that the Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald at the time who was piloting The Manitoba Act, must have found the negotiations too strenuous because he decided to take some time off in appropriate solace of one kind or another and the Bill was then piloted by Sir Georges Etienne Cartier.

The people back in the Red River Colony, however, were not informed of the important event, at least not for another 12 days so I'm advised, that the official notice of the passage of

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.). . . . the Act was not received here until the 24th of May. All in all, in the century between now and that day 100 years ago, the area of the Red River Colony has been greatly expanded; the society and economy of the area has been greatly enhanced.

I would like all honourable members, I'm sure they would wish, to join with me in having on the record official commemoration of the event so long ago.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition)(Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that the First Minister has chosen this occasion on which to make a few remarks about May 12th and the anniversary that it celebrates. I must admit to having had a little concern when polar bears took priority at the opening before the Orders of the Day today and was wondering what action I should take if nothing came from the other side of the House. But I'm more than pleased that the First Minister took the initiative and reminded us of the event that took place 100 years ago, because certainly the things that have transpired in Manitoba in that last 100 years should serve as a challenge to all of us, particularly those of us who find ourselves in elective positions of responsibility, to do what we can to enhance the good start that people gave Manitobans with the development and the passing of The Manitoba Act just 100 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I would like to say, Sir, that I appreciated very much getting the flower that I wear on my lapel today, the Manitoba crocus that was delivered to me this morning by your daughter that was nicely dressed in old-fashioned costume, and the person that she had accompanying her, who I understand is a direct descendant of the first Speaker of the Manitoba Legislature, and I think it was a mark indeed, Sir, that you should take a certain amount of credit for, because I'm sure all members of the House appreciate it very very much, the emblem of the Province of Manitoba being worn by all members of the House today. I also think it should not go unnoticed that I understand the Speaker went out and personally hand-picked the crocuses.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I also wish to associate our group with the remarks of the First Minister and also the Leader of the Official Opposition. I hope that the school teachers have also, either yesterday or tomorrow, would take that few minutes of time to remind the students of the schools of Manitoba of that point in history which marked our development as a province.

I also would like to add my thanks to the Speaker's kind gesture this morning when he presented all members of the House with Manitoba's official emblem, the crocus.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to join with other members of this Assembly in wishing Manitoba well for the future and for the next 100 years. Certainly it's an event that is worthwhile celebrating today, that we are 100 years old as a province and I think we have grown during this period of time. I think we know that this province is made up of many minor-ities and I think this augurs well for our province as a whole. I think it makes it so much more interesting too. Not only that, but I think the number of parties that we have when elections come around, when we hear of Prince Edward Island just having two parties, it's either one, but when we have an election, it can be a party of three or four that could win the election. So I think this all adds to the interest of the people in this province.

I had planned on asking a question of the Minister of Government Services in connection with the plant that we see on the left hand side, to the right of the Speaker. I do hope that we get a plant placed on the right hand side as well, probably a larger one and one that would also represent hope on this side of the House, because I feel there is more hope in the future on this side of the whole House than on that side, and therefore I would like to see a plant in the front of the Chamber as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs.

HON. PHILIP PETURSSON (Minister of Cultural Affairs)(Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I think, following on these other announcements, it is fitting and interesting that I make a further announcement. This has to do when the decision of the committee that was set up to judge the submissions made for a memorial to Louis Riel, who in knowledgeable circles has been recognized as the father to the Province of Manitoba.

The committee has decided to recommend and does recommend the contract to carry out the project to be given to Mr. Etienne J. Gaboury and Mr. M. LeMay at an over-all price of \$35,000 including the foundation. The work will consist of an outer shell, built of concrete,

(MR. PETURSSON cont'd.). . . . 30 feet in height in the shape of a hollow cylinder split in two from top to bottom. Inside the shell will be a humanoid figure some 15 feet in height. Mr. Gaboury will be the coordinator of the work. They propose to proceed immediately with a three-foot model to be completed within one month from the awarding of the contract, this to be submitted to the committee, and then to proceed with the full scale statue and shell. In our opinion, the committee states, the best location for the statue would be just south of Assiniboine Avenue and opposite the middle of the south base of the Legislative Building. The Chief Justice met in my office this morning and made this announcement, which it pleases me to make now in this House, and particularly in connection with the notice given and observance given to the formation of this province exactly 100 years ago today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, as the member from the constituency who was named after Louis Riel, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Minister for his announcement, and I don't know if I'm speaking for all 22 of us or not but I'm certainly speaking for myself and I think I reflect the opinion of our group, in that I am very happy to hear that the plans are progressing for a statue to Louis Riel, and furthermore, endorse entirely what you're doing and I trust that we are able before the end of the Centennial Year to participate in further recognition of the contribution which Louis Riel has made to Manitoba. I would have thought possibly that the Red River may well have been more the home of Louis Riel than the Assiniboine River, however this is a compromise close to the Legislative Building on legislative property overlooking the Assiniboine River. The house, the former home of Louis Riel I trust will also be given due recognition during Centennial Year. I understand the renovations to it are well under way. These are located on the River Road in St. Vital and in the present constituency named after him.

I can't help but add that it was partly on the efforts of the former government that the house was retained and purchased and handed over to the National Historic Sites and Monuments group, with the help of the City of St. Vital, the Metropolitan Corporation and the City of St. Boniface. And again, on behalf of our group, I would congratulate the Minister on the moves he's making.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, we too applaud the government's decision to formally mark the history of this man who by his own life and in his own time did so much for his people. I think perhaps now that official recognition has been given to an early Manitoban that some thought should be given to correcting any statements which may have been put into our history books that our school children will be studying, because as we all know, the government of the day took an extreme view of this gentleman's actions at that time. Now the Riel name is being honoured by the government so I think it is incumbent upon the government to take a look at the history book, and in the light of present day thoughts on the subject, that the history should be rewritten. I'm not suggesting that that should happen on all occasions as happens in Russia and some other countries, but I think at this particular time a look should be taken at our history books to balance the proceeding.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, I have a question in connection with the last statement of the Honourable Minister and it comes as a result of looking to the Honourable Member from Churchill as the statement was made. I wonder if the Honourable Minister could tell us whether the statue will face us - facing looking south or facing looking north.

MR. PETURSSON: In effect it is not a statue, it is a structure and it is cylindrical, and it's a problem just where you decide to have . . .

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): While we're still on foreign relations, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister. If a prairie merger should take place, would the Premier in any way consider accepting the position as Ambassador to Sweden if offered to him?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that prospect I must confess rather appeals to me. However, I think that the Honourable Member for La Verendrye would admit that it's not good practice to answer hypothetical questions.

MR. BUD SHERMAN (Fort Garry): A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Should the development that the Honourable Member from La Verendrye has referred to take place and should the First Minister of this province wind up as the First Minister of the new and large province, would he have any post or any plans for the present First Minister of Alberta?

MR. SPEAKER: I would inform the honourable member that the answer to a supplementary hypothetical question is the same as the answer to a main hypothetical question.

MR. SHERMAN: Would he even have any hypothetical or supplementary plans for us?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I have a number of hypotheses that relate to my honourable friend.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to once more, in view of the number of students who are now out of university and daily walking the streets looking for jobs, I would once more like to ask the Minister of Youth and Education whether he can provide us with some information on how many jobs have been placed through the Student Placement Bureau.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Youth and Education)(Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I'm not trying to duck the question as the honourable member seems to suggest. The reason I cannot give a firm figure is because the jobs are being checkmarked at the present time. Some have been placed, others will be starting in a week or ten days from now, others a month from now, and to therefore come up with an exact figure is almost impossible.

MR. GRAHAM: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that these students are becoming increasingly worried about the possibility of finding any job at all, could the Minister assure the student population that there will be some jobs available this summer?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, for me to give an assurance to any one that they can find a job would be completely out of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. JEAN ALLARD (Rupertsland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question of the Minister of Cultural Affairs. I hate to strike a discordant note on this day, especially after listening to what the Member of Portage la Prairie had to say, but I would like to ask the Minister what he intends to do about a publication called the "New Nation" which has been distributed in the numbers of 160,000 to the students of this province, in which the treatment of the entrance of this province into Confederation, and of Riel in particular, is a tissue of out and out falsehoods, of inversion of events, of distortion of facts and of bias interpretation.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the honourable member is well aware that this is not an opportunity to make a speech, however short he may wish it to be.

MR. ALLARD: I've asked a question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PETURSSON: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member asks me what I intend to do about this book. I don't know exactly what department saw to the printing of it or the publishing of it. I do recognize that there are errors in fact, such as stating about Louis Riel that he led an uprising in the year 1875, and I think it must have reference to the rebellion at Batoche - is that not it? It was 1885 is the correct date. And I understand that there are some other inaccuracies such as the St. Andrews Church being the first church built in the west. My understanding is that it was the St. Boniface Cathedral. I would -- (Interjection) -- I can be wrong you know. I would suggest that this publication be referred to the Honourable Member for Fort Garry who is the Chairman of the Historical Publications Committee, or to the Minister of Education.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, before Orders of the Day, I'd like to lay on the table of the House an Order for Return No. 1 dated August 26th on the motion of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, the Honourable the House Leader of the Liberal Party. I should apologize for the length of time it's taken. The reason is, quite frankly, that I'd forgotten about it, but here it is.

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to be heard on a question of privilege. Mr. Speaker, in a very few days a debate of utmost importance to the public will be heard and no doubt it will be a very intense and heated debate. I'm referring of course to Bill 56. From

(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd.). . . . time to time, in speeches made in the House, there have been references made to the occupations of certain members, and we have a member in our party who has as part of his business an auto insurance agency. I think it would be well, Mr. Speaker, if not only for his benefit but for the benefit of other honourable members in this House who are engaged in a like business, if you would take under consideration the question as to whether or not any honourable members who have a direct link to this business should be allowed to vote on the question of Bill 56.

I'd like to refer members to a speech that was made on Friday last, and when I quote this speech, Mr. Speaker, I'm certainly not imputing any undesirable motive to any member, but it's an example of what may be referred to repeatedly in the future. I'm quoting from Page 1758 of Hansard when the Member for St. Matthews is speaking and I quote: "Mr. Speaker, I've also been disturbed about the irrational reaction among the Conservatives to the auto insurance plan. Oh, I could understand if the Member from Souris-Killarney gets a bit disturbed because he's an insurance agent. He's going to lose some money if we bring in a public auto insurance plan. So is the member from Roblin. He's going to lose some money, so he's not a very disinterested commentator, nor is the Member from Souris-Killarney, nor, for that matter, is the Member for Assiniboia. All of these men have a self interest involved, money involved." Now, Mr. Speaker, I refer you to our Rule Book, Page 8, Rule 12 and I quote: "A member shall not vote upon any question in which he has a direct pecuniary interest, and the votes of any members so interested shall be disallowed."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I hope that I'm not out of order when I ask you to take under advisement my questions to you as to whether or not these members are rightfully allowed to vote on the question. Now if they are entitled to take part in the debate and to vote on the question, on the Bill, then I think it should be clear that in the heat of the debate that members should not impute motives to these gentlemen. And with those few words, Mr. Speaker, I leave the question to you.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, just on the point of order, I would like to make it clear that our group doesn't regard any person as falling within the prohibition enunciated by the rule. In other words, we regard every member in the House as being not directly financially involved in the measure any more than a farmer member would be involved in voting on matters relating to agriculture, any more than a lawyer member would be involved on matters relating to the legal profession. So that you'll have our view on this matter, Mr. Speaker, we know of no person who would be directly affected by the rule so as to prohibit his voting on this question.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as the matter raised is a very grave one, I would like to offer some observations for your consideration, Sir. I think that the suggestion, the very suggestion that the Chair should be called upon to rule whether a member of the Assembly has a particular interest as opposed to a general interest is, I suggest, is a suggestion that should not be seriously considered by the Chair. The practice over the years in Parliament and the Assembly has been that any honourable member who feels that he does have a particular and pecuniary interest then he is to declare it as a matter of honour with the elected member rather than an obligation on the Chair to so rule. I think that this long standing practice is the best guidance that we have in a situation such as this.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: If I may speak to the point of order, Mr. Speaker. I believe the First Minister is referring to the custom where a member who has something to gain through the passage of a Bill or a law should declare his interest and not take part. This is in the reverse, I suggest, Mr. Speaker, where a member may have something to lose, and this is a different point that I asked you to consider.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, further to your taking the question under advisement, the point that perhaps should just be further underlined, that was mentioned by the Honourable Member for Portage, the members mentioned have already been placed in a somewhat difficult position with respect to their carrying on actively in the debate and it's recorded in Hansard as such, that their position, whatever position - and of course it's a position known that they will probably take - is one that carries little weight and little merit for them to continue in that way. With that imputation having been made, Mr. Speaker, the position accepted by the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party is one of grave consequences.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to add my voice to one of concern towards the

(MR. WEIR cont'd.) . . . matter that has been brought up and has been discussed by the last number of speakers, and if, Sir, you take the matter under consideration, I would like to join those who would ask you to recognize the impact that there is in all forms of legislation and the manner in which it is dealt with by the House. It's something that I think all of us are required to address ourselves to from time to time and I have no objection, Sir, to you accepting that matter as long as we have an understanding amongst us as to the depth that a ruling of one kind or another has on the attitude and the ability of members of this House to carry out the obligation that is theirs as a member of the House representing quite a number of constituents within the Chamber.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, may I just point out one fact, and that is that we are governed by our own rules first of all and that only if they cannot clarify the situation that we then revert to others such as Beauchesne and so on, but I think our rules are quite explicit on this in Rule 12 as to on what matters we can vote and what not.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): Mr. Speaker, if I may on this matter draw to your attention for your consideration Standing Orders of the House of Commons, Section 11 in Beauchesne, the first chapter on page 5 and the reference thereto on page 54 of the Fourth Edition of Beauchesne, Section 66, which says this in respect of the matter raised by the Honourable the House Leader of the Liberal Party: "A member's right to vote on a question in which he is personally interested is one of those matters that must be decided by the House and not by the Speaker." So I would say in all due respect, Mr. Speaker, that it would be unfair and contrary to Beauchesne to request Mr. Speaker to make this decision; it is a decision that must be made by the House. And if I may read a little further, "An objection to a vote on the ground of personal interest must be taken by a substantive motion that the vote given be disallowed and cannot be raised on a point of order." I think, Mr. Chairman, if my honourable friends would refer to Beauchesne for the points that I raise, it would change the suggestion of my honourable friend the House Leader of the Liberal Party. Again, may I emphasize that this is a matter that must be decided by the House and not by you, Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the Fourth Edition.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, if I may speak again to the point of order. Mr. Speaker, I stand to be corrected by the Honourable Minister and perhaps I was wrong in directing my suggestion to you, Sir, but I say then to the Premier, would he consider having this matter sent to the Rules Committee for a recommendation to the House. Perhaps a special meeting of the Rules Committee could be called for that purpose.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the suggestion made by the honourable member sounds on surface to be a reasonable one but I believe that the rule is clear, there must be a substantive motion put in a particular case and then it's dealt with by the House. Now I think that the -- (Interjection) -- Right. And I think that unless there is a specific incident, I don't know that this will become really a problem. I know that the Honourable Member from Portage and the Honourable Member for Lakeside have quoted some member on this side who in the course of debate last week referred to some honourable member as having some interest. I think that clearly we can avoid any difficulty if the Chair calls the person to task at that point in time where motives are imputed. To state a fact that an honourable member is engaged in a particular kind of occupation is simply to state a fact, but to go beyond that, to say that because an honourable member is in a particular occupation that he has a particular interest which beclouds his ability to deal objectively with the subject matter before us, is to impute motives which is clearly, but completely clearly out of order, and if it is dealt with on that basis as being out of order then I foresee no continuing difficulty.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to thank the honourable members for their comments. I am prepared to take the matter under advisement. Two questions arise in my mind. Firstly, whether this is one which properly could be decided by the Speaker, which is a question I wish to consider, and if I find it's one that could, well then I'll give my ruling thereon and if I find that it cannot, I will rule on that point.

The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I was absent yesterday from the House when the Honourable Minister of Transportation made his contribution to the debate on the Task Force Report. I would make reference to Page 1790 of Hansard when the Honourable Minister referred to my performance and to me as that of a performance by "Las Vegas Lil." Now, Mr. Speaker, I really do not know what that means. I know what "Lil"

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.). . . . infers and I know I'm not that. The point of privilege I think is worthy of being mentioned. I withdraw it because I accept in the case of the Minister of Transportation that ignorance is a good excuse.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order - on a point of order rather than a point of privilege, I'd like to ask what was the foundation for that alleged point of privilege? The honourable member seems to indicate that he was insulted because of some expression used and then he confessed openly that he didn't know what the expression meant, therefore how could he feel as though he has a point of privilege. It's a spurious point of privilege obviously.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Transportation)(Thompson): I'd like to speak on the same point of order. I'd like the Member from River Heights to know. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Is the Honourable Minister speaking to a point of order?

MR. BOROWSKI: I'm speaking on a question raised by the Member for River Heights and I believe I should answer since it referred to me. I'd like him to know that "Las Vegas Lil" is an excellent performer and I don't see why he should be insulted. I would like you to read from Hansard, No. 260, when this remark was made by the Member for Lakeside and was never withdrawn and it wasn't challenged and it's a much more serious statement and I quote: "Now, Mr. Speaker, that group over there is held together by everybody from Judas Liberals in this room, from kooks, Marxists and Trotskyites and honest-to-goodness good social democrats and moderates," and then he went on for half a page calling us various types of names. I notice the Member for River Heights at that time didn't object and I'm really surprised that he should be so sensitive when we suggest or call him certain names. If there's going to be any apologies, I suggest those two should be the first to get up.

MR. SPEAKER: I wonder if we're not getting ourselves into a situation where the use of the rules is becoming somewhat abused.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Morris. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I beg the indulgence of the House to have this matter stand. (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the indulgence of the House to let this matter stand. (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate -- I'm sorry. Order for Return. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I would ask that this matter be allowed to stand. (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: Order for Return. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. LEONARD H. CLAYDON (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Charleswood, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing the following information relative to the sale of the Winnipeg Auditorium by the City of Winnipeg to the Province of Manitoba:

1. Copies of correspondence between the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba.
2. Was the building appraised by appraisal authorities? If so, the name of the person or corporation conducting the appraisal.
3. The results of any appraisals.
4. The assessed value of:
 - (a) the land
 - (b) the building
5. The total estimated cost of renovations.
6. Did the purchase price include all existing furniture and fixtures?

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . the Order, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Address for Papers. The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the House Leader of the Liberal Party, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye, that an Humble Address be voted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying for copies of all correspondence between the Government of Manitoba and/or any of the Crown agencies or corporations and the San Antonio Gold Mines Ltd. in respect to monies owing to any provincial agencies or Crown corporations by San Antonio Gold Mines Ltd.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance)(St. Johns): We're willing to accept the Order, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Private members' resolutions. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we could first of all go to the bills standing in the names of private members on Page 10 and see whether we could clear those.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on second reading. The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Logan, Bill No. 36. The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, we have examined this Bill, No. 36, and in our opinion we should let it go through to Law Amendments for further discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. George, Bill No. 64. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BARKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg the indulgence of the House to have this matter stand. (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for The Pas, Bill No. 51. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have examined Bill No. 51 and believe that the material which is contained in it is worthwhile and probably should receive our approval. However, I think in any instance in which the welfare of children is concerned that we must not only consider a single aspect of their well-being, and that the Honourable Member from The Pas might very well also have given some consideration in preparing this bill to outlining the need for day nurseries. I note that in Ontario the Child Welfare Act is strengthened by what is called a Day Nursery Act. This Act enables the Province of Ontario to contribute up to 80 percent of the cost for operation, maintenance or renovation of day nurseries. This money comes out of the Consolidated Fund. The provisions of the Day Nursery Act also apply to Indian bands and I think that it might have been very appropriate for the Member from The Pas to give consideration to adding this sort of provision to his bill.

Also, I think that one of the most important aspects of any child's welfare is that it should be a wanted child, that its mother's health should be good, that it should be in a family which is well-adjusted and not subjected to too great financial strains or the strains of living in overcrowded quarters and so on, and for this reason I think that when we're speaking of child welfare, we might very well again have given a little promotion to the family planning services which I feel are not being adequately promoted by the present government. Apart from these two omissions which I feel are very serious, I find that I can be in agreement with the bill on general principle.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, during the winter of '69 when I sat in the opposition for two months, this same resolution came up and at that time the Member for St. Boniface and myself were involved in a very heated debate. We're both Catholics and bull-headed, and unfortunately we held opposite views on this particular subject. I have discussed the subject over many years with clergy and interested people and unfortunately our church, the Catholic church, takes the view that the mother that bears the child is the mother forever and the

(MR. BOROWSKI cont'd.) . . . religion and everything else goes with it. I have said and still say that it's nonsense, that I believe that the real mother is the one that's going to change diapers and wipe the bum and bathe it and look after it and educate it and eventually marry it off. The mother who legally abandons the child I don't think has any rights. She has the right to bring up the child as she sees fit, but once she takes it to an adoption agency and tells them I can't look after it or I don't want to look after it, whatever the reason, she legally abandons that child and I think she abandons all rights that go with that child. Therefore, I think that the rights should be placed with the mother that's adopting it.

The bill in here gives three-months' time to find a home, a suitable home. Now this is kind of a compromise, and as far as I'm concerned, I would like to see the provision taken out completely and that the child be placed in a suitable home as soon as possible. However, three months I think is not too unreasonable. I am prepared to swallow half of my argument and go along with the three-month provision.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, Bill No. 52. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PETER FOX (Kildonan): May we have this matter stand, Mr. Speaker? (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, again, if it's the disposition of members to permit us, I would like to move to the Committee of the Whole House to consider and report the bills for third reading so that those could be passed today if possible, if there is no objection.

MR. CRAIK: I think it's fine by us, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PATRICK: Agreed.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Labour, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the Bills now standing for third reading.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Each of us have a private Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PAULLEY: The Honourable Member for Elmwood may start as Chairman of the Committee and then be replaced by the Honourable Member for Kildonan, or the Bills be reversed. It doesn't matter.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Bills Nos. 20, 33, 46, 55, 4 and 45 were each read section by section and passed.)

MR. GREEN: Move the Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee Rise. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has considered Bills Nos. 4, 20, 33, 45, 46 and 55 and wish to report the same without amendment.

IN SESSION

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Elmwood, that the Committee's report be received.

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

BILLS NOS. 4, 20 and 33 were each read a third time and passed.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kildonan, that Bill No. 45, An Act to incorporate Seven Oaks General Hospital, be now read a third time and passed.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, before we pass this Bill on third reading - I don't wish to hold it up - but I would take the occasion to put on the record that I was approached by the group, the organizers of this Act, the sponsors of this Act and requested whether or not I would consider seconding the Bill as it passed through the House, both by letter and in person. I indicated to them that I was more than pleased to do so. It's a situation that arises from time to time where an organization feels that it's in their interest to have a bipartisan approach to a matter such as

(MR. ENNS cont'd.) . . . envisaged in this particular Bill where they're incorporating the Seven Oaks General Hospital, or the organizational work.

I merely wanted to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, and indeed to those persons that approached me, that my failing to appear as seconder of the Act should not in any way be described as a reluctance on my part on taking on that assignment. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I would have to say that it rather indicates the very partisan approach that the members opposite choose to take on a matter such as this. I regret it. I would have been pleased to have seconded this Bill. With those few remarks, I have no objection of course to seeing the matter passed.

MR. DOERN: On a point of privilege or a point of order, I would be happy, if it's possible, to change that. I only in my haste used the Member for Kildonan as a seconder. I certainly did not intend in any sense to avoid using the seconding of the Honourable Member for Lakeside. If it's possible to go through the motion, then I would move that Bill No. 45 be amended to be seconded by the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Speaker, - I'm looking at the House Leader to see if either you or somebody might be ruling us out of order. I accept, by leave, I accept the Honourable Member for Elmwood's statement that he just made. Perhaps I just exhibited a degree of sensitivity on my part that perhaps prior to a day or two before the introduction of the Bill that I read motives into the actions on the part of the Member for Elmwood which did not exist. I don't think it's necessary, Mr. Speaker, to go through the procedure that was suggested by the Member for Elmwood. I think what has taken place is recorded in the Hansard of the day but I leave that to the mover of the Bill. I would only ask him to respect my feelings on the matter after having been approached by this group to be asked to second this Bill.

MR. GREEN: I think by unanimous consent we could certainly have the seconder substituted and that's the way it will appear in Votes and Proceedings.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the intention of the House then that

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, before you put that to the House, I believe there has been a seconder on the first reading and the second other than the Honourable Member for Lakeside, so I think you're going to confuse the issue.

MR. GREEN: I was just talking about the situation as of now, the third reading.
-- (Interjection) -- Just because it's too difficult to go back. We can't change Votes and Proceedings.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak on this in light of the remarks made by the Member from Lakeside

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, before my honourable friend goes ahead, can we have it understood that by leave, and by unanimous consent, on third reading the seconder will be shown as the Member for Lakeside and it will thus appear in Votes and Proceedings.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that you referred to me as the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks because really that's the position which I'm taking when speaking on this. The Member for Lakeside feels somewhat sensitive about this. As the Member for Seven Oaks who was the Chairman of the Committee which first was created to establish the Seven Oaks General Hospital and who served as Chairman of this body until July of last year when I withdrew myself from the committee but was involved in the piloting of the committee initially to the point where they were ready to launch the hospital and take the necessary steps to become incorporated as this bill has now done, I want to assure the Honourable Member for Lakeside that we all appreciate his encouragement and support of this Bill. If he feels that he has been somehow by-passed, I perhaps might suggest to him that having sat through this without any comment on my part at all, was not a seconder to the motion, but nonetheless, I'm sure he felt as I did that this was an important bill and should be approved by all sides of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say a few words on this because it has been discussed in the House before, not under this particular -- well in this Bill as well as on other occasions. The concern that has been expressed in the House before is that with the trend in hospitals to very large sizes and the efficiencies that are gained and the added services that are gained, there has to be a pretty long look with the trend that is changing so rapidly as to whether or not smaller hospitals are justified. At this point I'm not speaking against the formation of this, this is not the intent at this time, but I would ask specifically if whether transportation links, and changes in transportation links don't change the picture as far as this

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.). . . . proposal is concerned, as far as the General Hospital is concerned which will in effect, if the Minister of Transportation is able to carry forward his plans for straddling the CPR tracks, the inter-change goes right through the middle of the best hospital that we could possibly have, and of course it services the north end of Winnipeg better than it services any other area of the city.

I have stood here and asked for some more valid rationalization behind even cancelling the Inner Perimeter Highway, or the inner beltway, because in the south end of the city this again makes an existing hospital available to a community, and of course if this is without that transportation link, I have just as much right to stand here and ask to incorporate a hospital for St. Vital. I make that point because I think it was short-sightedness not to consider what's going to happen to the General Hospital if the transportation links go across the CPR tracks, and I trust that the Minister of Transportation is well in communication with the Minister of Health and Social Services before this goes too far.

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

BILLS NOS. 46 and 55 were each read a third time and passed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debates on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose and the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources in amendment thereto and the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce in amendment thereto. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, actually this is quite a delayed-action participation for me because I had really intended to speak some time ago and I want to try to recall the circumstances that existed at that time. The Member for River Heights had spoken at length about the position of the Minister of Industry and Commerce relative to the resolution that had been put, and after the member finished speaking he had an amendment which was subsequently ruled out of order by yourself, Sir, and subsequently that amendment has not been brought back to the House.

But it appeared, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Industry and Commerce was being criticized by the Member for River Heights for not in fact implementing the program that the previous Minister thought had been outlined for him. That appeared to be his main criticism because he wanted the program to proceed on the basis of the TED Report, and on that occasion members will recall that he quoted rather extensively from the TED Report, which reminds me of the story, Mr. Speaker, about the movie actress who was talking to her boy friend about what she wanted for her birthday. Her boy friend suggested that he would buy her a book and she said she already had a book. I think this is the attitude that has been displayed by the Member for River Heights, that he already has a book and that there is no point in looking at anything else, and I think that that really was his substantial criticism of the present Minister.

However, that's not the main substance of what I wanted to say. The Member for River Heights does have other members in the House, particularly the Member for Assiniboia who is now walking in, the Member for Portage la Prairie, and other people have been very critical of the fact that the committee that is designed to look into the question of economic development met I think on only two occasions. Those were the complaints, that it met on two occasions, that one was a rather formal meeting to name a Chairman and the other was a meeting to report, although the first meeting did have some extensive discussions. I think, Mr. Speaker, that the former Minister does have a point that the committee did meet on very few occasions, that this did not enable it to do as extensive a job as it might be expected to do and that there are many many things that should be considered by the committee. And I think that the present Minister agrees with that.

However, Mr. Speaker, I think that certain things have to be taken into consideration when one looks at what this committee did. The first thing that should be taken into consideration is that the present Minister of Industry and Commerce became Minister of that department only in late December of last year so that it would certainly be allowed to him a short time to become acquainted with his portfolio, that this would take him into the year 1970 and that the House proceedings and the matter of new legislation were then passed upon him. So the fact that he met twice, only twice under those circumstances is perhaps not forgivable, and members on the other side are not in a forgiving mood and we don't expect them to be. It's their job to criticize the government and we accept the fact that they will take the most sensitive areas and make criticism of all those points.

(MR. GREEN cont'd.)

It appears to me that the most sensitive area in their opinion with regard to this particular subject matter is the fact that the Committee on Economic Development, which wasn't a committee in recent years, which was just formed by this government in October or November of 1969, that that committee only met twice.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just examine how sensitive an area that is because the opposition has laid great stress on the fact that this occurred. And when considering just how strong a criticism that is, I think, as I said on previous occasions, it's usually good to have a measuring rod by which you criticize either your own actions or another person's actions or you evaluate your own actions. I think that in view of the fact that it's the honourable members who are criticizing, the Member for River Heights and others in his party who are criticizing, that perhaps they would accept as a standard their own standard. In other words, if they would look to themselves, I would think, as having done the right thing, and therefore when they criticize us for not having done as extensive a job as we should have, I would think that they would be willing to accept, as the measure of our productivity in these areas, the standard that they themselves have set.

And I would like, Mr. Speaker, for a few moments, and I'm not going to belabour this, but I think that the fact should appear on the record as to just what standard did they set in the previous year, because Standing Committees are not an invention of this government although this particular committee was an invention of this government. We know that they didn't even have a committee on economic development. So that's the first standard, that their committee didn't meet at all because it didn't exist. So by that particular standard, meeting twice, although it's not a great achievement and we have never looked at it to be a great achievement, at least it's an infinitely more frequent time than the previous Committee on Economic Development met. But, Mr. Speaker, I see that my honourable friends are smiling and I realize that this is a facetious comparison and I won't dwell on it. It's not a good comparison because this is a new committee and it should be gauged by the work of other committees, not by the fact that it is new and they didn't meet at all in the past.

So let's look, Mr. Speaker, at what the other committees did and let's use again the standard of the previous administration. Well, Mr. Speaker, I find that between March 7, 1968, when the committees were set up, to February 27, 1969, which is a period of over one year, that the meetings that were held by the previous administration were as follows - and I won't deal with the meetings that were held during the session, I want to deal with the meetings that were held between sessions.

The Standing Committee on Statutory Regulations and Orders is the first committee that started to meet after the House, and they met, Mr. Speaker, on three occasions during recess, three occasions but they did not submit -- three occasions and they did submit a report.

The other committee they had was the Special Committee on Automobile Insurance. That was a very interesting committee. That, Mr. Speaker, met twice, on February 23 and February 27. This was just before the House opened. They had two meetings and did not submit a report, and when I say that I mean a report which contained some suggestions or recommendations.

The Special Committee on Farm Machinery met on five occasions and submitted no report.

The Special Committee on Professional Associations held one meeting, Mr. Speaker. In a year's time they held one meeting and submitted no report.

The Special Committee on Law Revision held four meetings and submitted no report, Mr. Speaker. That committee met between November and February 25th. And I want to emphasize that this is taking a year's time into consideration.

So during that year, Mr. Speaker, the committees that met between sessions met for a total of 15 meetings, and if we ignore the period of time that the House was in session during which they were constituted, there was 8 months in which they held a total of 15 meetings and submitted, Mr. Speaker, submitted I believe one report, and either the report was insignificant - and I'll give them the benefit of the doubt - but I can't recall what was in that report which was of great consequence. So this is the yardstick, Mr. Speaker, that we are going to measure the work of the new government when it comes to committee meetings.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the new government set up committees and those committees could not meet until after the session ended - and I'm only going to deal with the between session committees - so that the session ended, I believe it was sometime in the middle of October of

(MR. GREEN cont'd.). . . . 1969, and the House then came into Session on March 12th which was a period of 5 months, or five-eighths of the time that the other committees had to meet. And what was the situation with regards to meetings, Mr. Speaker, of this government, which apparently the opposition accused of not doing its job properly, not having enough meetings, not doing enough work.

The Municipal Affairs Committee met between sessions, Mr. Speaker, on twelve occasions and submitted a draft bill to the Legislature. We have one committee, Mr. Speaker, that met almost as many times, as all of the committees of the previous administration met, in a period of five months.

But, Mr. Speaker, that's not the end of it. The Landlord and Tenant Committee met on six occasions and submitted a report containing recommendations to this Legislature.

The Committee on Dental Services met on five occasions and submitted a report containing recommendations to this Legislature. This is a Committee that tackled one of the most difficult subjects that has caused a dilemma to various legislative members for years. That committee met five times and submitted a report.

The Committee on Law Revision had one meeting and submitted a report.

The Committee on Professional Associations had two meetings but I don't believe that they submitted a report that the Legislature can really act on.

The Committee to choose an Ombudsman met on four occasions and came out with an Ombudsman -- (Interjection) -- and chose an Ombudsman, yes. And I think that members opposite will have to agree that everybody's point of view was considered, that it was a real working process. Nevertheless, they did their job; they chose an Ombudsman.

The Committee on Rules met on eight occasions and made a report which is not standing on the Order Paper but which we have not arrived at as yet.

The Committee on Northern Affairs which, Mr. Speaker, received quite a bit of criticism -- I was frankly very surprised that any committee that would operate as quickly as it did and do as much as it did would receive criticism. However, that's legitimate and I don't expect that there should be no criticism. But nevertheless that committee, Mr. Speaker, met 61 times between the sessions, after the session was over and the time that this session began, and submitted a report which was printed and tabled in the Legislature.

The Committee on Privileges and Elections met on two occasions and, Mr. Speaker, I believe that that committee did not come through with a report that could be really dealt with by the Legislature although I may be wrong. I don't remember the exact contents.

And then of course we come to the delinquent Committee on Economic Development that met on two occasions. But, Mr. Speaker, it was at least as good or as bad -- and I hate to make that comparison -- as the Committee on Automobile Insurance that was set up by the previous administration, and the Committee on Automobile Insurance had three years in which to get ready for that last particular session.

So in composite, Mr. Speaker, the committees that sat between sessions, and I'm only dealing with those, I'm not dealing with the Automobile Insurance Committee which was an added amount of work but was not a legislative committee, they had 103 meetings, Mr. Speaker, in five months -- 103 meetings and submitted reports on some of the most sensitive areas that the Legislature has had to deal with. I deal with landlord and tenant; I deal with dental services; I deal with the Ombudsman; I deal with the Northern Affairs and other matters of that kind. But 103 meetings in five months as compared with 15 meetings in eight months.

But meetings aren't the real gauge. The real gauge is that during those five months that the present administration had people meeting, there were submitted to this Legislature a draft bill, a report on landlord and tenant, a report on dental services, an Ombudsman, a report on rules, and a Northern Task Force Report as well as the other reports which are more in the nature of formal reports to the Legislature. And so, Mr. Speaker, I merely give this material to the Legislature so that they can gauge, in considering arguments as to the laxity of this government in dealing with the matters which they have to resolve, I ask you to use as a gauge the standards that were set by the previous administration. I ask you to use as a lesser consideration, and I don't think that the Minister of Industry and Commerce would throw this out as a consideration, that he became Minister three months before the Legislature met and therefore the fact that he held two meetings with this committee, one of which I understand was a very volatile and active one, is to demonstrate that he certainly is not justified the criticism which the honourable members opposite have directed at him relative to the meeting of his group.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, it's always a delight to listen to the Honourable the House Leader, but perhaps it would be well to read at least some of the subject matter which we are supposed to be dealing with here and let me just read the one into the record. "Whereas economic development must have the highest priority in Manitoba to provide job opportunities for our people, improve our standard of living and broaden the provincial tax base; and Whereas the Report of the Commission on Targets for Economic Development analyzed the Manitoba economy and established objectives;" and then to the resolved, you know, what are we doing about it. My friend the Honourable the House Leader - and the difficulty when you make the same suggestion over and over again is that it very quickly becomes old hat - but he gave us again a marvelous example of how cleverly he can divert the House's attention from what in fact the subject matter is.

Now, Mr. Speaker, he went through a very long list of our past failings with respect to the holding of committees. Mr. Speaker, of course that's one of the reasons why old governments get chased out and new governments come in, to instill into the system a new virility and they very obviously have. I wonder sometimes just what the activity around this place was in 1959 and 1960 with respect to it. -- (Interjection) -- Well maybe. But that's really all irrelevant, Mr. Speaker, to the subject matter under discussion and I rise really on some timorous ground myself because I'm not so sure that I can contribute a great deal to the relevancy of the resolution before you. But I thought that the House Leader was so irrelevant that I could be a little bit more irrelevant by drawing your attention and the House's attention to that simple fact, Mr. Speaker.

Now the suggestion of course that it leaves in my mind is that the necessity for the resolution being considered in far greater depth than it up to now is, is that when the response to the resolution spurts in three or four different directions around the heart of the matter, and as the last speaker indicated, there is of course a very natural assumption on the part of the members in the opposite that we do believe that this is a sensitive area, not just specifically tied to the TED Report, to the recommendations of the TED Report, the government's action with respect to the TED Report, but in the general area of economic development in this province, the general area of providing jobs in this province. And it's in that light and that sense that I am sure the mover, the Member for Ste. Rose, put the resolution on the Order Paper and it's for that reason that the debate really should be -- or it's in that area or on those general grounds that the debate should take place.

We've had a great deal of discussion as to what the government's position, reaction or lack of reaction has been to various recommendations on the part of the TED Commission, and I couldn't help but thinking that while - particularly in his opening remarks - while the last speaker in his own inimitable style indicated the fact that the Standing Committee on Economic Development had considerably improved its record over its past performance because of course there was no past performance to record it against, surely, surely, Mr. Speaker, that the efforts on the part of the past administration, particularly the efforts on the part of the now absent Member from River Heights generally in the field of having meetings with, consulting with, drumming up dialogue with, if you want, with the general business community in the interests of economic development in this province, is one that needs very little repeating in this House. In fact there might have been a suggestion on the part of the members opposite that there was, if anything, too much activity in this field when I think back to the highly successful Business Summit Conference that was held under his leadership, when I think back to just the tremendous involvement, the hundreds of meetings the Minister of -- the House Leader had made a point of using arithmetic in adding up numbers of meetings held as such. Well I would suggest that the number of meetings held by members of the government - now I recognize we're comparing apples and oranges and we're not talking about a legislative committee here - but when I think of the hundreds, indeed, Mr. Speaker, I would probably think thousands...

MR. CHERNIACK: Tens of thousands.

MR. ENNS: ... would not be stretching the truth. Meetings, organizational meetings, in depth discussions, what have you, that took place by some 400-plus people, both government and private, that worked together in the compilation of the TED Report. Now this surely in the broader terms of holding meetings, of discussing with interested groups in both the private and the public sector as to what to do for the economic health of this province, surely we can't be that narrow that we can't say that that constitutes a tremendous effort on the part of those who

(MR. ENNS cont'd.). . . . initiated it and led it, and nobody would argue that this was initiated and led by the former Minister of Industry and Commerce and the former administration, and that in this particular field of economic development here in Manitoba that in that light, on that general subject and topic, there is no question as to the amount of activity that took place.

Now if you want to compare it to the lack of activity that took place on some other matters that face the government of the day such as the dentist problem or something like that, that's I suppose fair game, and this is essentially what the Honourable the House Leader was doing in his remarks to this resolution, comparing our questionable performance in some of these areas in terms of activity, in terms of bringing the subject matter to a head, bringing reports into the Legislature and having reports acted upon. He listed a wide range of committees, the whole gamut I understand, but, Mr. Speaker, that's not what we're talking about with respect to this resolution. We're talking about the economic development of this province in this resolution. So if we want to talk and measure the efforts of this government or the past administration - which, Mr. Speaker, I suggest is a futile game to exercise in at any time - I always regret that the honourable members opposite continue to do so. I suppose perhaps it would take - what? four, five, six years, seven years before that wears off? I don't know.

MR. GREEN: Let's try it.

MR. ENNS: You say let's try it. You know, I'm trying to be fair myself, Mr. Speaker, because it seems to me that I can remember even just a few years ago, as late as '67, '68, the honourable member that used to sit in that very seat, the Honourable Member for Gimli at that time, used to be able to lean over and tell the Honourable former Member from Lakeside what still wasn't being done on those occasions. So I suppose, Mr. Speaker, we're going to have to live with the fact that when the honourable members opposite feel that they have a diversion to create, they can always count on some area where the past government, past administration, failed to hold a meeting or failed to bring a subject matter to the point where a report was documented into the Legislature and action taken.

I don't want to belabour the point, but the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable the House Leader, who normally on very few occasions rises to his feet without making a fairly meaningful contribution on any given subject matter, perhaps his greatest contribution to the debate on this resolution was to once again divert our attention from the importance of the resolution, to divert our attention from what in fact is happening with respect to economic development in the Province of Manitoba and take us on a little merry-go-round trail about the failures of the past administration with respect to legislative committees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question on the amendment? The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose and the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance in amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BUD BOYCE (Winnipeg Centre): It's all in vain, Mr. Speaker. I adjourned this debate the other day because of just a question in my mind, but I'd be willing to let it go to a vote now.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question on the amendment?

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to adjourn that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I move, seconded by the Member for La Verendrye, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye and the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. George, which I am holding. I perused the motion to amend proposed by the Honourable Member for St. George and I have taken under advisement comments made by honourable members on the admissibility of the said amendment. I find that Citation 201 of Beauchesne Fourth Edition, 1958, allows an amendment by moving the deletion of any portion of the main motion and substituting other words in place thereof.

I also find an amendment creating a very similar effect, reported in Manitoba Journals Second Session, 1959, page 86. The motion of Mr. Paulley as reported therein reads as follows: "Therefore Be It Resolved that in the opinion of this House the Government should give consideration to the advisability of the establishment of compulsory motor vehicle insurance in Manitoba with the government as the insurer." Mr. McKellar moved an amendment thereto, which amendment reads in part as follows: "Therefore Be It Resolved that the Manitoba Government be commended for its efforts to reduce traffic accidents through the driver training and driver improvement program." In my humble opinion, there is a very close parallel between the motion and amendment cited and the motion presently before the House and the proposed amendment thereto. Therefore I rule the amendment of the Honourable Member for St. George in order.

Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BARKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I will accept your ruling; I will try not to speak on the ruling because that has been made, but I would like to say a few words on the amendment in that case.

I perhaps should thank the Honourable Member for St. George that he has at least left in a little part of the resolution and I think by leaving the part in that he has, clearly and definitely admits that his amendment -- I don't want to call it sick and I don't really have the right word for it, and I'm sorry that the honourable member is not here because I think so highly of him that I can hardly visualize the fact that an amendment like that would come from the honourable member. I am glad that the amendment at least includes and admits that the diversities and the trials and the tribulations that exist with the agricultural problem today are still in the over-all resolution. I'm not glad that they exist, Mr. Speaker, but I am glad that the honourable member acknowledges, of what is left of the resolution, that they exist and I thank him for leaving that evidence in the total resolution, to which I strenuously object.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that very much could be said on this type of an amendment. I'm not going to be lengthy on it but I want to clear myself in a few fields at least, because when you start forming a resolution and spell out very clearly the many problems that farmers have today, and just about in a joking manner come back and say that I wish to commend the Minister for the kind of position that we have in Manitoba today, I think the Minister himself is embarrassed with that kind of an amendment, and knowing the type of fellow he is, I think he would be because I can't see in the world, regardless how hard the Minister may have tried -- I think he has tried -- but I don't think that you start throwing and commending people for a situation that we have in agriculture today. I'm also sorry the Minister isn't here because I think he's embarrassed with this type of an amendment. I'm sure this is what he would feel like. Pardon?

MR. BOROWSKI: Did you read the amendment?

MR. BARKMAN: Yes, I read the amendment. I hope you did too; and it spells it out pretty clearly and unless I've read it wrong, and I don't think I have, but I do think that the honourable minister, if he were to be paid by the selling of wheat today, for example, and much has been said about that, and perhaps there would be no minister's salaries or indemnities. Perhaps then he would be working for no money at all. Perhaps then it would be in order if the Member for St. George would say, "Yes, we should commend the Minister for at least putting in some time." And I'm not trying to disgrace what the Minister has done. I think he's done what he could do. I'm not at all blaming him for that, but I think this kind of an amendment -- and while the Honourable Minister of Labour mentioned the other day that these kind of amendments had been in this House before, I'm glad that I can't remember one, although I must say that after certain facts were mentioned I perhaps do remember one or two now, but that doesn't change the principle of the whole thing at all.

As far as I'm concerned, this amendment, the type of amendment that the Honourable Member for St. George suggests, will this in any way help solve the problem that exists? The idea of the resolution was that a committee, that a Standing Committee on Agriculture be called

(MR. BARKMAN cont'd) in the type of an emergency situation that we have today. No, that standing committee is not even supposed to take place. We're supposed to say, "We want to thank the Honourable Minister for doing what he has done," and that's the end of the story. I can't buy that, Mr. Speaker, and I don't think that if the honourable member that suggested this type of an amendment, if he's really serious about the matter, I think he'll take a different view. He must, if he considers; and he's leaving in the part where it says: "Whereas Manitoba farmers are facing a serious shortage of cash income; And Whereas many farmers will be unable to pay their bills and taxes; And Whereas this situation is already having a serious impact on the economy of rural communities, and will adversely affect the entire provincial economy." Then he says that if this all takes place, now let us fold our hands and say, "Mr. Speaker, we want to thank the Honourable Minister for this kind of problems we have in Manitoba today."

I can't visualize -- Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the Honourable Minister of Finance did not draft that resolution, that amendment. I feel certain that he didn't. I don't think that he could get that over his heart and I don't -- I would be very surprised if he would like to stand up and see himself defending this type of an amendment.

MR. CHERNIACK: If you sit down, in one minute I'll do it.

MR. BARKMAN: Well I might just do that in a little while and you get yourself ready. If you can defend that kind of amendment, I want to hear it. I really do. Perhaps you want to do it now before I'm finished . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: When you're through.

MR. BARKMAN: But in seriousness, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that the Honourable Member for St. George, I think he's serious as being a farmer, and I think he's serious as far as considering the problems that exist in agriculture today, I don't know why he would try to, in the manner that he has here, "that this House commend the Minister of Agriculture for his initiative and representation to the Government of Canada on behalf of the farmers of Manitoba."

I don't know how many trips or what the honourable minister has done as far as representing himself to Ottawa. I know he knows, and I think most members in this House know, that most of the problems, as far as agriculture is concerned, are originated or Ottawa's responsible for most of the agricultural problems. I don't think any of us, most members in this Assembly, realize the fact that the main problems are with Ottawa, but we have our own Manitoba problems and the problems that I've mentioned in the resolution. They are spelled out very clearly and some of that responsibility lies on this present government, lies on the present Minister, and I think he's tried to do a fair job, but to start throwing roses around in an agricultural situation that we have today, I think is just going a bit too far.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: I think I should defer to the farmer. All right. Mr. Speaker, I was invited to comment on this resolution. As far as I can recall, this is the first occasion that I've had to speak on agricultural problems and I was getting ready to make a major contribution which would push very hard at the 40-minute mark, but unfortunately I must leave and therefore I will have to postpone the opportunity to another occasion when I can make my major effort on the serious situation on the farms.

But Mr. Speaker, I would challenge the speaker on this, and I'm quite prepared to indicate that, in my opinion, and in spite of what is being said by members on the other side, and in recognition of what has been said by those members when they sat on this side, the Province of Manitoba as such cannot do a great deal in connection with this serious situation which is recognized by all of us as being serious for the rural elements of Manitoba - and this is not confined to the farmers alone. And I have heard members on this side, including the two former Ministers of Agriculture who are here -- I realize one was only part-time, I believe, but nevertheless in his clever method of debate, with his great ability to speak, with his enthusiastic method of speaking, he sometimes, I think, neglected the other department for which he was responsible, so I refer to both as being past Ministers of Agriculture who acknowledged then, and who I seem to think lately have forgotten, that the major effort in the agricultural field has to be one of negotiation and discussion with the Federal Government, and this I can attest to has been an undertaking that the present Minister of Agriculture has done, that he not only talked a great deal about the problems when he was in Opposition, but the minute he assumed this responsibility he did very seriously and very energetically and as frequently debate the question of agriculture as was depicted today by the former part-time Minister of

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) Agriculture was done by the former Minister of Mines and . . .

MR. ENNS: Will the . . . correction at this time?

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes, I will.

MR. ENNS: I have no objection to him referring to me as a part-time Minister, but it was a part-time Minister of Highways that I was. I was a full-time Minister of Agriculture and a part-time Minister of Highways.

MR. CHERNIACK: I recall that, and of course when we debate the department, his contribution to highways, we will learn that he was then a full-time Minister of Highways and a part-time Minister of Agriculture.

I started to say that the efforts of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture today are not beyond comparison with the efforts of the former Minister of Industry and Commerce, who is depicted to be running all over the place whilst he was the Minister, consulting with so many people. Of course in that case he didn't consult with members of the Legislature; indeed he did not even have a committee to which he could report and with whom he could consult. But I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that the suggestion in the main resolution is not one that is as meaningful as the work that can be done by the Minister and is being done by the Minister, and let me tell the Honourable Member for La Verendrye that every person who gives a good deal of his effort and time, his energy, can do with some commendation and encouragement, and I interpret this to be a commendation and a recognition of confidence in the Minister of Agriculture for the fact that he is working hard in the interests of the farmers of Manitoba, and I for one intend to support this amendment.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Would the Honourable Minister of Finance submit to a question? The question that I am going to ask him, I've asked constantly across the House. Does he agree that the Minister of Agriculture in his negotiations is part and parcel with Operation Lift?

MR. CHERNIACK: I can only answer that I believe that the Minister of Agriculture is doing his best for the farmers of Manitoba, and I will make my major speech on agriculture on a later occasion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to object most strenuously to this amendment which was presented to the House by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye, because I think this is in fact an insult to the agricultural economy of this province whereby a member, supposedly a farmer, would add an amendment of that nature to a resolution which was meaningful . . .

MR. BILL URUSKI (St. George): Not "supposedly" - not "supposedly" a farmer.

MR. MCKENZIE: I think, Mr. Speaker, that the record will speak for itself, that anybody that would be interested in the farming population of this province and would add an amendment of that nature to a resolution which has meaning and has some meat for the farmers of his province, that the record no doubt will speak for itself.

Let us be very serious, Mr. Speaker, about what this amendment has said, and it's interesting: that this House commend this Minister of Agriculture. What can we commend him for? I know of nothing since this session has started. I know of nothing from the previous session of this Legislature. What has he done? He made a trip to Rome - I remember that one quite well. He made a couple of trips to Ottawa. But what has he actually done, outside of using up 10 to 15 hours of the House's time in his estimates, espousing at great length? And what did he do? What did he say, Mr. Speaker? Has he done anything to alleviate the problems in my constituency? Absolutely nothing. Absolutely nothing. And yet this member over here will stand up and commend that Minister.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): It's an insult.

MR. MCKENZIE: An insult is right, Mr. Speaker, an insult, and I object most strenuously to this type of an amendment to a resolution. For the love of me, I can't think that the Member for St. George is seriously concerned about the farmer, because he wouldn't otherwise have presented such an amendment. And he goes on and says, "for his initiative," and I challenge the Member for St. George to stand up and tell to this House what initiative this Minister of Agriculture has laid on the table for the farmers of this province. Lay it on the table or stand up and speak after me. I'd like to hear it. I'd like to hear one thing this Minister has done that has helped the people in my constituency. This so-called loan that's

(MR. McKENZIE cont'd) supposed to be going out to the farmers in this province under the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation, where's the money? Where's the money? Do you know of one loan that's being processed today? I don't know of one. I had three farmers come to me yesterday asking me, where's the loan? Where's the money?

MR. PAULLEY: Have they made application?

MR. McKENZIE: Made application, absolutely made application - some months ago. Nothing has happened. Nothing has happened; nothing is going to happen; because this party over here, Mr. Speaker, don't know what agriculture is all about. Who in that group over there, Mr. Speaker, could sit on the Agricultural Committee of this House? And that's the reason they haven't called the committee. There's no other reason. Because they haven't got a knowledgeable person to sit at the table and discuss the problems of this province.

HON. PETER BURTNIAK (Minister of Tourism & Recreation)(Dauphin): I beg your pardon. I would like to tell the honourable member that I have farmed for the last 25 years and I still farm, and the honourable member knows this.

MR. McKENZIE: Well, I humbly appeal to the Honourable Member from Dauphin to call the committee. Let's call the committee. The House Leader this afternoon espoused at great length about all the committee meetings that have been held by this government. I think it was over 100. He finally counted 100, I think it was. He never mentioned the Committee on Agriculture. Not a word. Not a peep out of him. So I submit to the Honourable Member from Dauphin: Call the committee. Call the committee tomorrow, or as quickly as it can possibly be called.

MR. PAULLEY: Will the member permit a question?

MR. McKENZIE: Certainly.

MR. PAULLEY: Wasn't, in effect, the Committee on Agriculture of the House called when we considered the estimates of the Department of Agriculture, which gave an opportunity to every member of this House to discuss every aspect of agriculture?

MR. McKENZIE: I'm talking about the special committee. I don't think the Minister of Labour really realizes the seriousness of the problem in rural Manitoba today. I really don't. A big smile on his face and he's standing up here chuckling away to me about "did we not have a chance?" I'm asking him to call the special committee so that we can hear these farm people come in and present their views. You've heard our views, but we don't get through to you people at all. Now, I want the farmer to come in and appear before the special committee and let this government know what is in fact going on out in the country. It's interesting, you know, in this resolution, in the resolution as presented by the Honourable Member from La Verendrye. They let the "Whereas the farmers are facing a serious shortage of cash" - he agreed with that. "And Whereas many farmers will be unable to pay their bills and taxes" - he agreed with that. "And Whereas this situation is already having a serious impact on the economy of rural communities and will adversely affect the entire provincial economy" - he agreed with that. And then he says . . .

MR. HARRY SHAFRANSKY (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, would the honourable member submit to a question?

MR. McKENZIE: Certainly.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: I'd like to hear your views. You're doing a lot of talking but you haven't offered any concrete views or ideas. Would you -- well, I'm asking what are his views on agriculture.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, has the honourable member been asleep?

MR. SHAFRANSKY: You're a farmer. I'm asking your views.

MR. McKENZIE: If the honourable member would just stay in his seat long enough and read into Hansard, I think you'll find my views; I don't think there's any problem. I asked you to call a special committee. I asked you what's this great deal about the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation? What happened to it? -- (Interjection) -- Well, I'm asking you. These are things that were supposed to be happening in this province. The cash advances for the stored grain that you were talking about. Where are they? We don't see them. And on and on. There's no end to the things we can talk about that this government has talked about. Sure, they'll continue to talk but I wanted some action.

But anyway, let's move down into this resolution and try and determine where the Member for St. George went wrong when he amended it. So he comes and says, "And Be It Resolved That" - then he says, no dice. The standing committee will not be called. And I ask the

(MR. McKENZIE cont'd) Honourable Member for St. George to give me one reason, give me just one and then I'll say we shouldn't call it - one reason why we shouldn't have the standing committee called immediately. Well that's fine.

Then it moves on down and it says be it further resolved that representatives of the Canadian Wheat Board, the Grains Council, the Grain Growers, the Pool Elevators, and all other concerned public and private agencies be invited to appear. Why should they not be invited to appear? I submit maybe he's been listening to -- what's this chap that runs the Farmers Union and walked out? Atkinson. He must have been listening to him. -- (Interjection) -- I'm sure his views would be very closely related to the views that they don't support the work that's being done by these people by the Grains Council. . .

MR. BURTNIAK: Would the honourable member permit a question, Mr. Speaker? I would like to ask the honourable member, is he a member of the Farmers Union?

MR. McKENZIE: No, I'm not a member of the Farmers Union.

MR. BURTNIAK: Well, you should be.

MR. McKENZIE: In fact I was never asked. Anyway let's move on. And it says, "And Be It Further Resolved that the Committee be instructed to report back to the House at the earliest possible time during this session recognizing the urgency of the problem." A simple, honest, forthright resolution, and the member from St. George gets up and amends it and says, "that this House commend the Minister of Agriculture for his initiative and representation. . . ." --(Interjections)--that's only the start, Mr. Speaker, just wait till you hear the nuts and bolts of it coming out here. "And representation to the . . ." --(Interjection)--Mr. Speaker, here's where his brain is really starting to work, and he says, "and representation to the Government of Canada on behalf of the farmers of Manitoba."

What a farce! What a farce! What a joke! Have you heard anything that this Minister has done in Ottawa that's changed their policy down there? He agrees with this Uplift program - he said it was a step in the right direction, a great thing for Manitoba. Then he waffles and then he jumps on the other side of the fence and he says, "Oh I'm sorry I said it. I didn't mean it that way. I didn't mean it that way. I've changed my position." This is the type of a Minister of Agriculture that we have, and this is the type of minister that the Member from St. George is supporting, Mr. Speaker. So I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, there's no way that I can support this amendment. I think it should have been out of order; however, we'll not debate that. The Speaker has made his decision. I object to it; I think it's wrong; I think it's untimely, and I think it's an insult to the farmers of this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, despite the very suitable remarks just made by my honourable friend the Member from Roblin, I would like to rise and indicate my support for the amendment. Mr. Speaker, maybe it's because the memories of being a former Minister of Agriculture are still relatively short in my mind, but I wish to goodness that I would have had fellows around me that would have thought enough of me to pass an amendment that would commend me for the hard work that I was doing on behalf of the Province of Manitoba. So, Mr. Speaker, I think that just from a position of a vested interest, or a former vested interest, as a former holder of that portfolio, I'm in a very difficult position not to support the Member for St. George's amendment here, because really, how could you expect a former Minister of Agriculture not vote for an amendment to a resolution commending any Minister for the fine job that he's doing?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I said I would like to support that kind of resolution, because if -- you know I may well do that, because Mr. Speaker, I rather suspect that that will be really the net contribution that that whole caucus and that whole government will be able to make to the agricultural industry, in periodically rising in this House and expressing, either by formal means or otherwise, by resolution or amending a resolution, a vote of thanks to the Minister of Agriculture for doing the hard work that he's doing in the Department of Agriculture. And it is a tough job in the Department of Agriculture; always has been, always will be, when you're faced with the diverse problems that agriculture represents in this province. But Mr. Speaker, -- (Interjection) -- yes, kicking manure off tractor wheels. That could be a very difficult job this particular spring when they're covered with five inches of mud as farmers try to get into the fields to start their seeding operations.

But Mr. Speaker, more seriously to the resolution, I would honestly want to give the Honourable Member for St. George an opportunity to find, or maybe consult with you privately, to find some means of changing his mind about offering this amendment; find some way, and

(MR. ENNS cont'd) we would perhaps even be helpful in trying, giving him leave to withdraw the amendment, because Mr. Speaker, I'm not satisfied that the Honourable Member for St. George, whom I have every reason to grant, you know, a degree of respect to, and I know he's a practicing farmer, and I have every reason to give that government opposite, you know, sufficient intelligence that they would not want this kind of a situation to be left in our hands to go back to our farmers and to go back to the farming community generally in the Province of Manitoba and hold up the agricultural plank of the New Democratic Party in this light; that in a year, that in a year that probably will go down at least in this past decade as being the most serious crisis-borne year in agriculture in the Province of Manitoba, in a year, where the cash shortages are going to become -- if we think they're acute now, they're just starting, because it's beginning to look day by day as though that crop is not going to be put into the ground all that well in this province of Manitoba.

MR. PAULLEY: Would my honourable friend permit a question?

MR. ENNS: No, Mr. Speaker. I'll finish. In a year, in a year where, although he's had great promises made even in the last session -- we heard them from as far away as Quebec -- that already the Manitoba farmers had received \$6 million, and when we came back in this province at the beginning of this session, that the \$15 million, additional million dollars of credit were fully subscribed. Well, Mr. Speaker, what the Member for Roblin says is correct. To date, unless I'm challenged, I don't think there's been more than one and a half million dollars of farm credit given to the farmers of Manitoba. Not more than one and a half million dollars.

We talk about deception in this House on occasion and we get smeared up of course all over the barn. Now I know, I know that -- I know that the loan monies, the capital monies that have been granted to the Credit Corporation, the Credit Corporation has been subscribed and . . . subscribed. But Mr. Speaker, farmers are coming to us, as they are coming to you. They're in my constituency; they're in every constituency; they have yet to receive a final approval of many, and the major and the greater portion of this supposed \$15 million or \$21 millions, that this government keeps repeating on every occasion that they've already put in the hands of the farmers of Manitoba. And the farmers need it now. They needed it last fall.

Mr. Speaker, what was the response of the Opposition, which these fellows always like to colour as being so irresponsible, when late in the session the Minister of Agriculture introduced major revisions which would enable the Credit Corporation to get back into direct borrowing? We passed that major piece of legislation within three or four days. We recognized the difficulty that farmers faced. When we wanted that legislation passed in a hurry, there was no opposition here, no obstruction on our part; that legislation passed. I don't think ever has there been a major piece of legislation change passed that quickly as the revisions of the Farm Credit Act in the latter stages of the session last year. And it was only in the latter stages it was brought in.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what that enabled this government to do was to start the machinery rolling and getting the cash shortage that we referred to here into the farmers' hands in time for Christmas, if they wanted to, Mr. Speaker. In time for Christmas. Because the First Minister had already indicated in Quebec that \$6 million was there for the farmers. All that was needed was the mechanics. Well we passed the bill -- or we passed a bill . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if my honourable friend would permit an interjection. What my leader said in Quebec, that this money was to be available to them, and surely my honourable friend will give the government the credit for a necessary time lag in order that this may be processed.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, there is no objection. I recognize, I accept that. I'm just suggesting what was our action in the House. The Minister brought in a bill; it was passed, multi-fast, and the wheels could have been turning. What happened? Some time in January or February the actual regulations finally got to a stage of them being prepared.

MR. PAULLEY: The money wasn't available.

MR. ENNS: And we are now sitting in March, May, approaching June, and farmers are going out on land; they're being asked to diversify; they're being asked to get into cattle, into hogs and other things. Money is still not available.

MR. PAULLEY: Oh, it's just been passed.

MR. ENNS: Still not available.

MR. PAULLEY: Passed a week ago.

MR. ENNS: Fine.

MR. PAULLEY: Only a week ago because of your delays in the . . . That's right. It was only passed a week and a half ago. Now if you delay this as much as the rest . . . --(Interjections) --

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I do want to continue for a moment. Now on this, you know on the strength of this kind of a performance, and let me repeat, at a time when Manitoba farmers, along with the other farmers of western Canada, are facing their most serious kind of a situation, where there's the most serious kind of an alienation between the farm population, not only to the Federal Government but also to the Provincial Government, because of what appears to the farmer to be a lack of concern of this primary important industry, we are actually going to accept and pass a resolution that commends the Minister of Agriculture for his initiative and representation to the Government of Canada on behalf of the farmers of Manitoba, and that is going to be -- the members opposite actually want that to be -- Mr. Speaker, they may well want to pass this kind of a resolution once some of their proposed programs are successful. If in fact, if in fact the proposal of the Manitoba Government and the Minister of Agriculture to get additional cash flow into the hands of farmers as a result of the initiative on the part of the Manitoba Government, additional advances, as has been mentioned from time to time by the Minister, if it's successful, maybe I'd go along with this kind of a resolution. But we've just heard the Minister of Finance very correctly, and very correctly, as has the First Minister indicated to us, that these are discussions that have been advanced by the Minister of Agriculture in this province, by this government, that there's been no indication yet as to their acceptability on the part of the Federal Government, and that really, without that cooperation on the part of the Federal Government -- and I understand it; I accept it -- without that cooperation that that kind of program can't be forwarded, but we're already passing a resolution thanking the Minister for representations that, you know, we haven't even given him a chance to see whether he's successful or not.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm satisfied, I'm satisfied that if the members opposite want to give us that opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to go back to the hustings -- and it looks like we may be there sooner than some of us have perhaps earlier thought; it couldn't be too soon for most of us, I can assure you . . .

MR. PAULLEY: You want to go into retirement?

MR. ENNS: If they want to leave that as their plank on the agricultural policy of Manitoba, I couldn't thank them enough.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if my honourable friend would permit a question now? Would he not agree that if the proposals advanced by the Minister of Agriculture of the Province of Manitoba to Ottawa were to be adopted by the federal authorities, the plight of the farmer in Manitoba and western Canada would not be as precarious as it is at the present time?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, they could well be worse. It shows a lack of understanding on the part of the Deputy House Leader as to what is involved in this suggestion of cash advances. All you're doing is loaning the farmer a little bit more of his own money, you know, at a time that he's just about up to there, and whether or not that will be all that helpful is questionable. However, be that as it may, be that as it may, let's assume, let's take the assumption that it will be a beneficial program to the farmers of Manitoba. It hasn't happened yet, and I'll tell you right now the likelihood of it happening is very slim, and if the Minister of Agriculture were in his seat he'd probably agree with this. He's -- you know, unless the Minister or somebody is prepared . . .

MR. PAULLEY: My Honourable friend . . .

MR. ENNS: I'm answering the question. It's very slim that it will happen, but you're asking us to now express a vote of undying gratitude and thanks to the Minister of Agriculture for having made an effort, whether it was successful or not. Bunch of nonsense.

MR. PAULLEY: If I may ask my friend a supplementary question -- and he hasn't answered my first question, because I asked him would he not agree that if the proposition of the honourable the Minister of Agriculture were accepted by Ottawa, would not the plight of Manitoba farmers be changed from what it is at the present time? Namely . . .

A MEMBER: What is the proposition?

MR. PAULLEY: A number of propositions -- two-price system for wheat . . .

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): We got it. We got it.

MR. PAULLEY: You haven't got it now.

A MEMBER: We've got it now. Read the papers. Don't you know . . .

MR. PAULLEY: You take part in the debate and I'll reply to you, but my question is directed to the Honourable Member of Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member asks me a question, I have to give him the answer. Had the Honourable the First Minister had the courage to call the Standing Committee on Agriculture at the last session and could have been able to call in some of these people, the representatives of the Canada Grains Council, United Grain Growers, the Manitoba Pool Elevators, along with the Farm Bureau, along with the Farm Union people, and sat down and suggested to them, "Now I'm going shortly to Ottawa and I want to know what kind of a position I should put forward for the Manitoba farmers." He didn't do any of that. He, the potato grower from Beausejour, knew what to do for the Manitoba farmers and went off by himself. Now I'm not in a position to tell you, not in a position to tell you whether the farmers of Manitoba genuinely would appreciate, even if the results were successful. I'm suggesting to you that we've sat all through last session without calling the Agricultural Committee and we're into our eighth or ninth week of this session without calling the Agricultural Commission when we have very pressing problems, even other problems such as improvements and modification of the Farm Implement Act or what have you, on the books and waiting to be done.

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Honourable Member for Lakeside a question here in regard to the statement he made insofar as cash advances are concerned. I'm interested to know what the honourable member's position was when cash advances were first implemented in Canada. Was he in favour or opposed to that policy?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I make no question that a degree of cash advances is proving beneficial. I think it's entirely wrong if it's to be used as a means of acknowledging an acute temporary problem. If you want my answer to how that should be acknowledged, I'll go back to Honest John's method. A straight acreage payment. Infuse the dollars into the economy where it's needed rather than a complicated program that we're now looking at, for instance the Lift, where the headlines say \$150 million will be put into western Canada and it's doubtful whether \$25 or \$30 million will actually be put in there, in terms of direct and immediate help. Mr. Diefenbaker's response to the agricultural crisis that he faced when he was in office, was in my judgment still a better one and a more effective one.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

HON. AL. MACKLING, Q. C. (Attorney-General)(St. James): Mr. Speaker, I rise to participate in this debate in the absence of my honourable colleague the Minister of Agriculture, who at this time is out, as I understand, with the Honourable Member from Rock Lake, out at Pilot Mound on an agricultural matter. Now I question, I question whether the Honourable Member for Roblin -- (Interjection) -- Now I have the floor and I did . . .

MR. MCKENZIE: I heard you up before when I had the floor too.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, I recognize your proprietary interest in speaking at the time and although I tried to add something to the worth of your debate, or your contribution, I admit that I didn't improve it all that well. I try to assist you from time to time and I appreciate your assistance likewise, but I question that he was really speaking with any real purpose when he was questioning the worth of the amendment, because the amendment does indicate a measure of appreciation to the singular efforts of the Minister of Agriculture, who was the only Minister that, I understand from reports that were made in the press, and we don't have a federal Hansard with the statements that were made to the Federal Government in Ottawa in connection with the crisis in agriculture, and that's what it is -- but his was a proposal for an immediate cash injection of money in agriculture in western Canada that was a clear distinction from any other programs of proposals that had been made; and that would have meant an immediate infusion of millions of dollars into western agriculture, not on the basis of loans, not on the basis of charity, but on the basis of an advance of a crop that had been grown with the understanding that the federal marketing agencies could sell that grain, and I submit that that was a sincere, dynamic effort on the part of the Minister of Agriculture, equalled by no other representation in Canada. And certainly, certainly, the Honourable Member for Roblin, or the Honourable Member from Lakeside, made no constructive suggestions in respect to any program that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture should take with him to Ottawa. And I've sat in this House and I've heard the honourable members asking, well, why don't you do

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) more? Why don't you do more? But no constructive suggestions such as the Minister of Agriculture took to Ottawa. No, no. "Call the Committee. Call the Committee." Apparently the honourable member feels that he has some wisdom that he can impart before a collection of representatives from the agricultural industry, but he can't give sound constructive advice in this House. "Call the committee." That's the continued call. It's like the baying of a calf.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Would the Minister permit a question?

MR. MACKLING: Yes.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Could he obtain for us a copy of the proposals that the Minister of Agriculture took to Ottawa?

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister permit another question along the same line? I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is referring to the proposals as in Hansard, Page 1535, as stated by the Member for St. George. Did the Minister still propose to the Federal Government a cash advance program in the amount of \$2,000 with, of course, the understanding that Ottawa would permit the province to collect first on the repayment of this when the grain was delivered? Is this the program? Surely not . . .

MR. MACKLING: That's the proposal, exactly. Well, just have a seat. Just have a seat.

MR. MCKENZIE: Would the Minister permit another question?

MR. MACKLING: I think the honourable member should have the courtesy to take his seat until I have answered one honourable member's question. -- (Interjection) -- I'm afraid the dinning over there - you'll have to repeat your question, I'm sorry. The braying distracted me.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: My question was prompted by the fact that under questioning, the Minister of Agriculture, I thought he advised this House that he did not take a formal presentation to Ottawa but rather had a verbal conversation with some people in Ottawa, so the Minister is saying, well, you know, give the Minister a chance; he's made proposals. So I'm asking the Minister if he can give us a copy of the proposals that the Minister of Agriculture made in Ottawa.

MR. MACKLING: The honourable member knows, and has heard from the Minister of Agriculture, that at the meeting in Ottawa there was a frank exchange of opinion and he put to the Federal Government a proposal, a firm proposal, in respect to additional cash advances which this government would pay out and the additional cash advance would be collected out of the earliest marketing of the grain. Now that was the proposal, and it was a firm proposal, and that was the only realistic proposal that has been made to the Federal Government. My honourable friends over there bray and make great sounds about the plight of agriculture, but they refuse to come up with any constructive program and that is the mark . . .

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. I challenge that statement.

MR. MACKLING: You challenge the statement. What's your point of privilege?

MR. MCKENZIE: I ask you for a \$10.00 acreage payment right now, without any . . .

MR. MACKLING: Oh, now listen. Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair missed the honourable member's point of privilege.

MR. MACKLING: He didn't have one.

MR. MCKENZIE: I sure did.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, again, in the absence of my honourable colleague, the loud protestations continue from that side of the House without any valid, constructive argument behind them, the continued call "Call the committee" so that they can demonstrate their continued lack of constructive programming and suggestions before a larger audience. We've heard them day in and day out in this House asking the Minister whether there has been any change, and they know, they know what limitations there are on the effectiveness of a provincial government's change in federal marketing of grain. They know the limitations. They know the limitations that exist, but they're not interested, they're not genuinely interested in the plight of the farmer. They have a political interest - make a lot of noise, make a lot of noise and in some way try to embarrass the Minister of Agriculture. -- (Interjection) -- Well, we don't become embarrassed by noisy protestations. We would be much embarrassed if the honourable members would come forward with constructive criticism that merits serious consideration, but that we are still waiting to hear.

The honourable member across, who frequently interjects, continues to try and suggest

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) that my honourable colleague has endorsed unequivocally this federal program called "Operation Lift" and he says, "That's right" and he nods his head. Keep on nodding because it may shake something in place and then we may have a more distinctive contribution to the debate in respect to agriculture in this House.

But that isn't what he said at all. He said, "At least this is some measure of help. At least it's a small measure of help. It's a first step, but there are miles to go in this program." -- (Interjection) -- That's right and we'd like to hear some direction from the Honourable Member from Roblin instead of his constant braying. But they try to suggest, the honourable members try to suggest that the Minister of Agriculture has endorsed this program unequivocally. Not at all. He has indicated the great reservations that exist in respect to the federal approach to these problems. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, yes, you'll have your opportunity again some day to show us your erudite articulation of the farmers' problem. -- (Interjection) -- And the Honourable Member from Lakeside has hit and run again. I don't know what we can charge him with on this occasion, but -- oh, here he is; here he is.

He says the Act was passed in a hurry. Oh, what great measure of cooperation we had from the other side of the House. By this, apparently, they're taking credit for doing such a great thing for the farmers of Manitoba, but it was that same administration that allowed the credit arrangement to die and wither away. Do you know why? Because they weren't concerned; they weren't concerned for the conversion, and they had -- surely, surely their department and these agricultural experts had seen the difficulties that were coming in respect to agriculture in Canada. -- (Interjection) -- No, oh no. They say that they weren't aware of it.

MR. ENNS: . . . was blooming.

MR. MACKLING: They weren't aware of the necessity for conversion. They weren't, of the necessity for conversion or the need to urge and assist farmers to convert from straight grain crops, so they emasculated; they destroyed the credit arrangements of this province in respect to the farm community.

MR. ENNS: You're out of order.

MR. MACKLING: I'm not out of order. You don't know what you're talking about.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

MR. MACKLING: No, no. You just sit down in your seat.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

MR. MACKLING: All right. What's your point of privilege?

MR. ENNS: The Honourable the Attorney-General said we destroyed the Credit Corporation. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is not correct. The Credit Corporation remains essentially intact. Some revisions were made that took it out of direct loaning into guaranteed loans. But there wasn't a person laid off. The machinery . . .

MR. MACKLING: That's not a question of privilege.

MR. ENNS: . . . enabling this government to carry on . . .

MR. MACKLING: That is no question of privilege.

MR. ENNS: Well, it's a point of privilege when he says . . .

MR. MACKLING: No, it isn't. No.

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, . . . a point of privilege of an individual member of the House, if you get down to the proper conduct of the House and only have one man on his feet at one time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, obviously, Mr. Speaker, the honourable gentleman is sensitive, and well they may be, because what in effect the previous administration had done would show a complete disregard, a complete disregard for the necessity of conversion of agriculture in Manitoba to a finer balance of mixed and grain farming, and that's a fact. That's history. That's not innuendo or braying; that's fact. -- (Interjection) -- Now, you just listen a moment and you'll hear more. You'll hear more. But we moved quickly albeit we did have a measure of cooperation, and why would they cooperate so earnestly? Simply because they were ashamed of the fact of what they had done before, and the least they could do is expedite this government to make arrangements for advancing, of further advances through the loan. This isn't the type of program that we're zealously concerned to take all credit for, this loan programming, because loans aren't good enough; it won't answer the problems for agriculture; but at least we moved as quickly as we could.

The honourable member says, "Where's the money? Where's the money?"

MR. MCKENZIE: Well, where is it?

MR. MACKLING: They know where the money is. As my honourable colleague the Minister of Labour has indicated, no money can be advanced until this House passes Supply.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance . . .

MR. MACKLING: Now if the -- Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member has a point of privilege or a point of order, I will allow him to interrupt. Otherwise he should have the courtesy of taking his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: . . . please continue.

MR. MACKLING: Now I think it's quite clear, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Member from Roblin is very sensitive because he's been caught out; he's been caught out. He's been caught wandering outside the fence.

MR. MCKENZIE: . . . by the roadrunner from St. James.

MR. MACKLING: That's right. That's right, and I'm sure his expertise as a farmer is equally matched for his expertise as a businessman. -- (Interjection) -- Get down? Now, you'll have your opportunity; you'll have ample opportunity to tell us about the expertness that you have in this field and I'm sure that I will listen very earnestly as you come forward with specific constructive suggestions as to what the Minister of Agriculture ought to do in making representations . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order. May I remind the Honourable Minister that it is a rule of the House that in the course of debate remarks are addressed to the Chair.

MR. MACKLING: Through you, Mr. Speaker, I again implore the honourable member to make a contribution to the debate if he hasn't already done so, and God forbid that that has taken place because I would be very unhappy to have missed his contribution, but I look forward with earnestness to more contributions from the honourable gentlemen from the other side, bringing forward, bringing forward salient, constructive advice that we may then cogitate and consider for future programming.

But I have awaited, I have awaited ten months to hear any constructive advice from that side of the House . . .

MR. MCKENZIE: We've been waiting for this government. We've been waiting; we're still waiting.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, the honourable gentleman who continues to bray . . .

MR. MCKENZIE: It requires a lawyer to stand up and give us an agricultural policy. That's what we're getting today, from a lawyer - a lecture in agriculture. Interesting.

MR. MACKLING: I think, Mr. Speaker, I can advise the honourable member that I know a good deal more about grain than he gives me credit for. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, that's right. But the honourable member will have his opportunity to give us some constructive advice about the plight of agriculture and I await that earnestly. And I'm sure that my honourable colleague, if he were here, would be more than anxious to hear these pearls of wisdom, and when we hear them we will consider the accuracy and the intent of them. -- (Interjection) -- That's right. That's right.

And so I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that far from being a casual thing, the amendment is a sincere indication of at least this government's acceptance of the fact that our colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, has bent every effort in his submission to Ottawa - and it's been a flexible position. We're willing to accept some variation in the approach to the Federal Government, and my honourable friends react appreciatively to what I say; and that's true, Mr. Speaker, because we're not in a position to force the Federal Government to decide on a course of action either way. We've certainly used some pressure. We've suggested that we're willing to do this and hoping that the Federal Government, who doesn't seem to have, that regime that's in office in Ottawa, doesn't, Mr. Speaker, seem to have the care and concern about western agriculture that they ought to have.

My honourable colleague has been doing his utmost to influence the Minister of Agriculture in Ottawa and members of his Cabinet that they must do something more effective in respect to the assistance for agriculture in western Canada, and to my honourable colleague I give full credit for the representations he has made, and I can assure you, I can assure you that his is one of the clearest and most concise spokesmen within the Cabinet in respect to agricultural programming in Manitoba - and he is not alone; he is not alone. And I, Mr. Speaker, I, Mr. Speaker, find myself sometimes ill at ease, containing myself when the honourable member particularly from Virden, I think it is -- (Interjection) -- Pardon me?--

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) continues to question the Honourable Minister of Agriculture about whether or not there has been any change in the position between Ottawa -- (Interjection) -- Oh, yes, the Honourable Member for Arthur. He's been asking a "flux-y" question for some weeks now . . .

MR. WATT: It's been a "flux-y" situation.

MR. MACKLING: . . . and I'm sure that the honourable member really ought to be talking about flax. Maybe he's got something constructive to say about that but it never comes out that way. It never comes out that way. He never talks about diversification or programming or what they ought to be doing. He never brings forth any constructive proposals. All he does is try to provoke the Minister of Agriculture. I've remarked many times myself, Mr. Speaker, on the patience and the exhaustive concern for accuracy on the part of my honourable colleague, particularly under these trying days.

So, Mr. Speaker, with these few brief remarks, I am happy to say how pleased I am with the amendment that was made by my honourable colleague the Member from St. George.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. ENNS: Would the Honourable Member permit a question?

MR. MACKLING: Oh I'd love to answer your question.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, would the last speaker care to express himself . . .

MR. MACKLING: Make it a question now.

MR. ENNS: . . . as to his awareness of the inflationary problems that were arising out of the limitless long-term extension of credit to agricultural land, particularly at a time in '66, '67 where you had a buoyant farm economy and what effect . . .

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to answer that question. Mr. Speaker, I'm one of those who happen to have taken some interest in the plight of particularly the western grain farmer over the years in respect to the continued erosion of his real equity in the value of the goods that he has produced. All the prices of the commodities which he must purchase have continued to rise in every way. The Barber Commission recently indicated the fantastic costs of farm machinery, and we know that farm machinery and all the parts, all the gasolines, all of these things have continued to force up the cost of production of the farmer. We know of all the factors -- (Interjection) -- Yes, including taxes, taxes that were imposed by governments here, elsewhere and throughout the many years, that have had the effect of again narrowing the profit margin of the western agricultural producer.

Despite the fact that they have taken full advantage of better technique, more sophisticated equipment, better techniques of fertilization, weed spraying and the many other advances that have been quickly taken up by western agriculture, still they have to face the continuing pressure of increased costs, marketing costs, freight costs and so on. It's been a position where the western grain farmer has really in effect, through the limitations on the prices that he has obtained for his goods, has been providing indirectly a subsidy to other people in Canada. And there's no question about the fact of the historical perspective of the plight of western agriculture. And I'm fully aware of the inflationary aspects that have affected farmers, or at least agricultural producers' costs, and yet at the same time the prices of the goods which they market have been withered away by many forces, some of which are without the control of our own economy.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. The Minister has indicated some awareness of what we farmers call the cost-price squeeze and quite correctly expounded on them, but my question was: did he have any similar awareness of the direct inflationary pressures that long-term agricultural credit was applying to agricultural lands during the years from '66 to '67? You had long-term credit available from the Federal Government; you had long-term credit available from the Provincial Government; and as a result of this virtually limitless credit capability there was a very acute land inflationary pressure developing to the point that you had to question yourself as to the advisability of continuing that program. --(Interjection) -- I'm just asking whether he had some awareness of that program.

MR. MACKLING: I have some awareness of that, Mr. Speaker, but also I think that the honourable member over-simplifies the problem. It's a very serious problem. The Honourable, the former Honourable - or maybe I should say still honourable, he's a very honourable gentleman in any case - Alvin Hamilton is one of those who elicited response from the Western Canadian grain farmer particularly to grow as much grain as possible, because on the basis of the policy of two particularly large producing countries they were buying large quantities of grain - and I refer to the USSR and mainland China - and on the basis of those very substantial

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) export agreements there was indicated to the Western Canadian farmer that as much grain as he produced could be sold, and this sort of thinking was carried forward into the succeeding Liberal regime.

And it's true, it's true that very sizable sales of grain, a quick, relatively quick and marketable cash crop produced a pressure within Western Canada for the purchase and development of more and more land for grain growing. But of course we don't recognize, this country has never recognized Mainland China and we have only some limited exchange with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, and obviously to depend upon these markets as a basis for continued expansion of grain marketing was folly, absolute folly. But that dependence was created and that was a large part of the inflationary pressure in respect to the development of more and more lands for grain farming and resisted the development, or arrested any change in conversion of western lands to more diversified cash crops. And this, I suggest, was the largest single factor in the economic pressuring in Western Canada.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have two questions for the honourable member and I would just like an answer of yes or no if he would be kind enough. The first question I'd like to ask the honourable member: does he support acreage payments? And the second question: does he support the Operation Uplift?

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Speaker, -- (Interjection) -- No, I would appreciate your coaching me. I find myself oh, deeply troubled by these very sage questions, Mr. Speaker, very sage questions. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has adopted a policy of acreage payment short of a more effective program. No government in Western Canada can deny that this, although a limited program, must be accepted and hopefully encouraged until a more complete and exhaustive program to answer the problems of western agriculture is developed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. J. R. FERGUSON (Gladstone): I beg to move, seconded by the Member for Charleswood, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose and the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Riel in amendment thereto. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . Mr. Speaker, may this be allowed to stand? (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I know I will not be able to complete my remarks but maybe I could . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Someone suggested a moment or two ago we might call it 5:30. I was reluctant to do so because we were in private members' resolutions for this afternoon. It's indicated to me by the opening remarks of my honourable friend the Member for Rhineland that he is desirous of speaking on this resolution. I'm just wondering in view of that circumstance, Mr. Speaker, whether it would be acceptable to call it 5:30 so that my honourable friend is first up when we next come to private members' resolutions.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, if that's your choice that would be quite agreeable to me, so that it would be open in my name.

MR. SPEAKER: I call it 5:30. I am now leaving the Chair and will return at 8:00 o'clock tonight.