

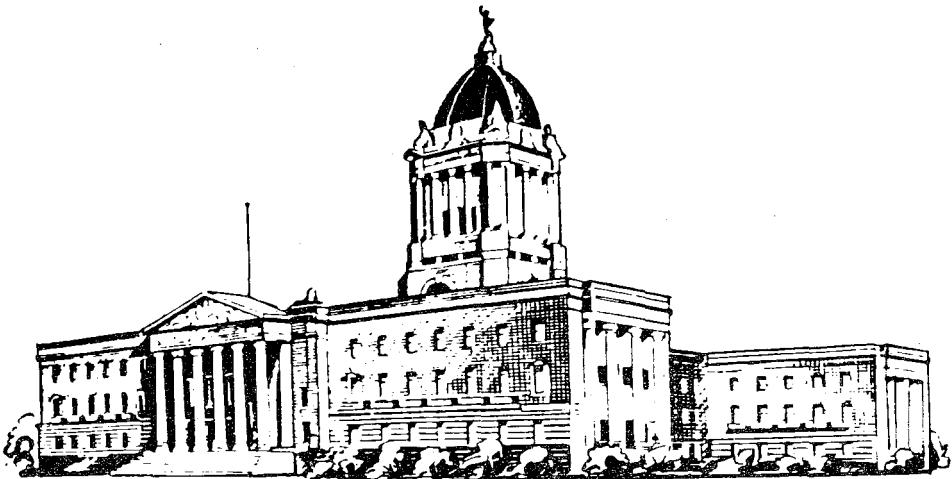


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
8:00 o'clock, Wednesday, June 30, 1971

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN: The item before the Committee is Resolution No. 48. The Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Well, Mr. Chairman, my remarks to the Minister and his salary will be very brief and right to the point. I want to ask the Minister what share of the \$33 million he's going to spend in Roblin constituency. First point, I want a list of all the people on welfare in my constituency; and the third point, I have a resolution from the municipalities of my juris. . . (Interjection) -- First point, I want to know what share of the \$33 million he's going to spend in Roblin constituency - the increase. The second question I'd like to ask: I want a list of all the people that are on some form of assistance in his department that reside in Roblin constituency; and I'd like to table a resolution from the Union of Municipalities of my jurisdiction which will draw to the Minister some of the concerns in that particular area. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Chairman, while I've spoken on welfare matters during the resolution stage, I feel bound to take a moment or two, if I may, to reiterate one or two items that concern me under this portfolio. And, Mr. Chairman, I say this sincerely because I think the Minister in himself is a sincere person, but I believe that the magnitude of the expenditure of his department totalling \$168 million with a \$30 million increase this year just simply mesmerizes him. While he probably won't accept any advice from me, I am suggesting to him that he should watch the do-gooders, the dreamers, and the others that he has around him who happen to be in the driver's seat for today. Every penny, Mr. Minister, that you spend has been earned by someone and you hold it in trust. The experience must be terrifying to you but I say, have good heart and do the best you can and see to it that every penny is spent and spent well.

Mr. Minister, will you come to this House next year - not you, Mr. Finance - and ask for \$30 million more? If you do, Heaven help this province of ours. I was interested in what the Member for Rhineland had to say this afternoon with regard to the federal contribution in social welfare and health, and I want the Minister to answer those questions. Just how much is the Federal Government providing to his department and how much the people of the Province of Manitoba are providing.

I was also interested in what the Honourable Member for Pembina had to say. He is a man, Mr. Chairman, that requires no help from me, but I think you will agree with me that his comments this afternoon were from the heart and were sincere, a man that's worked hard all his life and if he has accumulated anything he has done it by himself. When he was speaking, I noticed with some concern that the academic brain trust on the other side, those that have never produced a dollar in their lives by way of the skill of the bench or in the market place of commerce, ridiculed what he had to say, which I think was unfortunate.

SOME MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. BILTON: And I think if the Minister in his quiet hours - and I'm sure he'll have some - would recollect what the Member for Pembina had to say today, he could gain something from those remarks.

I was interested also in what the Minister of Consumer Affairs had to say and I know very well that what he was trying to do was ridiculed, a good sensible effort on behalf of my colleague. What a joke! It was a joke that was turned back on him to the amusement of us all. He questioned my honourable friend on the matter of someone on welfare having one car, if not two cars. I've got news for him. I know of people that not only have two cars but they have a truck, and I'll enlighten him a little further as to what is going on in the department just now.

A MEMBER: I've got some with five. Sure. Five cars, one family. Come and I'll tell you about it.

MR. BILTON: I know the family -- Mr. Chairman, I believe I have the floor and I have a right to expect silence when I'm speaking. Nothing more and nothing less. Just to give an illustration . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I think the Member's request is one that we should all

(MR. CHAIRMAN cont'd) . . . . . respect on both sides of the House. The Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: My colleague from Pembina spoke about debts that were picked up by the Province for the people of Manitoba and paid for. Speaking of cars, Mr. Chairman, I know of a case where a family were on welfare; the breadwinner had a heart condition; there was nothing wrong with what that family was receiving. It was good and it was keeping them and they were going along. But they bought a car and they took a mortgage on their home for \$40.00 a month to pay for the car. Coming on the welfare rolls, the Province picked up that \$40.00 expense. In due course the gentleman passed away; and rightly so, the Province took away the \$40.00 mortgage payment that they were paying. What my friend from Pembina was saying this afternoon, why should the people of Manitoba have had to be paying that mortgage in the first place? They no more needed that car than jumping over the moon in the community in which they live. Not only that, Mr. Chairman, when the sad day came and not very long after that sad day, there was hundreds of dollars had to be spent on the repairs of the home, and the Welfare people, under the regulations, they said fine and dandy, you can have it done, but we're going to put a lien on your house. "Not on your life," said this person. "I'm allowed \$125.00 for incidental expenses. Why can't you pile it up into four or five years and pay this bill?" What happened, the repairs weren't done and rightfully so, because why should the people of the Province of Manitoba take on that obligation and pay it? And who is to say that 12 months from that day the widow didn't sell that house to her advantage because of the repairs paid for by the people of Manitoba.

I know of another case where a man with six children was prepared to continue to make a living and he could only make \$200.00 a month, but he had that many children that he couldn't afford to provide the necessities for them. And his job was that he had a horse and some harness and he snaked out logs out of the bush, and he went to the Welfare and he said, "Look, I'm prepared to work, augment what I'm earning, and I'll carry on." And he was advised, "Get rid of the horse and get rid of the harness. You can do better from us." And he did, to the tune of \$125.00, so he shot the horse and threw the harness away.

These are the abuses that the ordinary people are talking about, Mr. Chairman, and these are only small things, but I'm relating them in order that the Minister will keep these sort of things in mind. You know, Mr. Chairman, the people now that visit the Welfare Office and finally get on to the welfare rolls are now called "clients." They're "clients" now.

MR. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): He should have shot the kids and kept the horse.

MR. BILTON: Would you be quiet? Mr. Chairman, I'm very serious, but I apologize to the Honourable Member for Fort Garry - he knows better. I'm deadly serious.

MR. SHERMAN: You're killing me. You're breaking my heart.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I've endeavoured to outline one or two cases that come to my attention. I know of another woman of possibly 62 years of age. She had a problem and the Department, they took note of her case but she didn't seem to be able to get anywhere at all. Ultimately she did. But you know those people, Mr. Chairman, that have never asked anyone for a dollar in their lives, who in their twilight years just can't make it any longer and they don't know who to turn to or what to do, are the hardest people to help, it seems to me, because those that come to my office are those kind of people. The other kind of people seem to get it one way or another and abuses creep in, and these are what the people are talking about.

I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister of Consumer Affairs - after you've killed the third fly and probably I could have your attention - the Minister of Consumer Affairs might very well justify the existence of his department by lending a hand to the Minister of Health and Welfare by routing out those who bleed the public purse for their ill-gotten gain. I say to the Minister over here, how about a little taxpayer protection? How about giving the Minister a hand over here and looking into some of these things? Not do I suggest for one moment, Mr. Chairman, that those that are in need, the aged and the infirm, the fatherless children and the widows and so on, as I have said before in this House, they are entitled to their fair share of the bounty of this province, but with a bill of \$168 million we've got to get serious and we've got to call a halt on these abuses. I know it's not going to be the easiest thing in the world and I don't envy the responsibility of the Minister, but nevertheless he's got to get tough, and get tough with some of these people that would take advantage. Never mind

(MR. BILTON cont'd) . . . . those that really need the help. Give them what they need and see that they are not cold or ill-clothed.

The Minister of Labour makes a great deal of my little pick and shovel remark. He ridiculed it and he's ridiculed it three times in this House, and I want to assure him and his academic friends over here that never made a dollar by the sweat of their brow, that you will be taking notice of what I am telling you one of these days. He obviously prefers to see 10,000 people on welfare in the City of Winnipeg costing \$5 million of the public purse. When I suggest to him that possibly 500 or even 1,000 of those young people getting out into the country into a camp, and I vision with a doctor and a cook and everything else; you ridicule that and you'll live to rue the day, mister, because if our economy keeps on going down you'll have to do something. The Minister of Finance last year appealed to this House to support him for a debenture issue of \$30 million, and he told us at that time that it was to be held in abeyance depending on the economy of this province; as it went down it would be there. I asked him and I ask you, the Minister of Labour, and I ask the Minister of Welfare, what plans have you made with that money in order to do the simple thing that I suggested that you should do? Are you satisfied to see these young people on drugs loafing around here down on the park? Why don't you offer them something to do? Busy hands are better for them all and they'll be better men and women, and they'll thank you if you attempt to do something for them. They could have been up there this spring, but you had no plans and those plans are still missing. As I said before, and you're old enough to know, Minister of Labour, as I said the other day and I want to impress upon your mind again, that the grandfathers of these young people did that in Riding Mountain National Park, as they did it across Canada, when the economy of this nation was depressed. I ask you to look at that suggestion, as ridiculous as it may appear to you, to look at it seriously and see if something can't be done for those young people. Get them off the street; for heaven's sake get them off the street. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Rouge. Does the Minister have a question? The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I believe the Honourable Member for Swan River was attempting to make some distinction between consumer protection and taxpayer protection. Are not, in his opinion, are not taxpayers consumers?

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I think the Honourable Minister - I count him as one of the academics but far removed, and he knows better than that. If he wants to make a speech he'd better make one and rebut what I've said and I'll give him the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Chairman, if I put on my dark glasses as I'm trying to follow my notes, it's not because I find the members on the other side so dazzling. It's simply because in my haste to share a birthday cake with one of my 27-year old sons, I came off without my glasses this evening.

There are a couple of further programs that I would like to discuss and hear opinions on from the Minister, since we seemed to be able to get quite a lot of debate into the two hours and fifteen minutes which were left when we came back this afternoon. We would like to hear something more about the government's plans for the children who are born with hearing deficiencies. For those who live in the rural and remote areas, the diagnostic facilities are entirely inadequate. It's extremely important that children who are deaf should be detected before they begin to try to learn to speak. Their ability to cope with their handicap is greatly enhanced if they get any treatment, and about half of them could be cured completely before they develop other disturbances as well. Where deafness is not recognized, a child can become severely disturbed because of his inability to understand and communicate. In the School for Deaf there are many children who have multiple abnormalities. They may have visual defects and cerebral palsy and even heart disease. Now, early assessment of the deaf is not an end in itself. A follow-up, and particularly working with the family, cannot help but ensure the child's good progress. A child may appear to have a low I. Q. or even to be retarded, and the parents may feel guilt or shame and this leads to a great deal of stress within the family and the resulting disturbed child.

Now if the children in the remote areas are fortunate enough to be picked up at an early age and diagnosed, they must resort to correspondence courses for their education, and these courses . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I regret that the Chair was remiss. The member is

(MR. CHAIRMAN cont'd) . . . . . soft-spoken so I wonder if we could keep it lower than we usually do. The Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. TRUEMAN: I was pointing out the necessity for the deaf child in the northern areas, if he was fortunate enough to have been diagnosed at an early age, would find it necessary to take his education by a correspondence course, and that these courses have to be brought in from the United States. The School for the Deaf has been a facility of high quality and many of the children who are there, the deaf children, are very intelligent, but my information is that now the school is also being used for the retarded deaf; and this could be quite a handicap to the more intelligent children and I'm not certain that it's a good idea to mix them in with the brighter children who were previously able to make very good progress. I would also like to hear from the Minister any information he might have regarding testing for impaired hearing in well-baby clinics and in the public health units, and what specialist he's able to provide, particularly outside the Metropolitan area.

Now, during the past few weeks, my colleagues and I have had an opportunity to visit several of the correctional institutions. We were impressed and a bit shocked to find how youthful most of the inmates are. Most of the 300 or so who were at Headingley when we were there, were between the ages of 19 and 25 years. For the most part they had juvenile records, and 60 to 80 percent of them were repeaters. This emphasized the need for greatly concentrated efforts at a much earlier age to try to correct the problems of a juvenile delinquent. Now, in spite of efforts to improve the present Vaughan Street Detention Home, it still is a hopelessly inadequate facility. There's been talk, I guess for three or four years now, that a replacement building would be started soon. I hope that the Minister's statements which I have noted in the newspaper in the last day or so, means that the work is to be begun in the very near future.

In every institution that we visited, we found staff that was keen and full of good, sound, progressive ideas. However, they don't have the necessary funds always, or the facilities with which to work. Now the Minister mentioned briefly, in passing, the program of day paroles and the pay that inmates were receiving for work performed within the institution. Now our findings are that only about 15 percent of the inmates cannot be let out into the community, and also there apparently is no shortage of employers. A day parolee is able to earn enough to support his family and can be quite certain of having employment when he leaves the jail when he is released. Now this program is only in its beginnings and I do hope that from these estimates the funds are available to step up this program as rapidly as possible. It probably is one of the soundest ways to rehabilitate an offender.

For those who were working within the institution, the earnings were apparently between 10 cents to \$1.40 a day and they were doing work by way of maintenance or kitchen work, jobs of that sort, within the institution. Now some of that money that they earned had to be saved towards the day of their release. No one's going to get very rich earning 10 cents to \$1.40 per day. I think it's well worth considering giving the men a minimum wage for a proper job of work and allowing them by that means to help to support their families at home and also to have some money when they leave, and with such a provision it might be that not so many of them would have to resort to crime again in order to get the necessary money to live.

The Manitoba Home for Boys, which is an open institution, seems to receive most of its publicity because of the runaways. We were, although perhaps we shouldn't have been, surprised to find that the population of the Manitoba Home for Boys was away down. At the time we were there there were 40 boys and 10 were AWOL. Apparently it's no longer delinquency to run, and we understand that the police at this point are really not bothering to pick the boys up after they have escaped in the same manner that they used to. Now this is partly, I think, because of a situation concerning the Review Board. Apparently after a court decision is handed down, the Review Board then may reconsider the case and disagree with the court's decision. Now after committed, young offenders may still be held at Vaughan Street and I understand some have been sent to Calgary, even to Texas, or to foster home care. This Review Board, I believe, is supposed to have a judge and at the present time may not even be legally constituted since Judge Saunders resigned. We did feel some concern at the liberty that this Board takes in overruling the court, and we think that the Minister should carefully look into this matter.

Now at this institution, punishment is minimal and a credit system instead allowed a boy to earn so many points per week. A school is conducted five half days a week on basic subjects and some of the boys are there for one or two years, and in their case some are being placed

(MRS. TRUEMAN cont'd) . . . . in apprenticeships in the community. Again, we found a good progressive staff attitude. Unfortunately, the gym had burned down - I'm not certain, I think it was a year ago or so - and it has not been replaced. I think the institution is in an uncertain sort of state as to whether they will be still continuing or whether other methods of taking care of the boys will be found.

We would like to see the development here of programs such as British Columbia's "Outward Bound" program and the Ontario "Development through Adventure, Responsibility and Education." These involve outdoor education, work projects, and vigorous outdoor adventure. A small beginning has been made at North Island in the Interlake at Lake St. George, but this is a program towards which much more funds need to be directed.

Our institutions such as Headingley can be crime training centers and there are still such practices as jailing people who can't pay their fines on liquor charges. It costs the public \$10.00 a day to keep them there and I think this is another matter which should be reviewed, and hopefully the jail population could be reduced to a very considerable extent.

Now, I expect the Minister will want to answer some of the questions that have been raised, and I believe that's all that I have to say, at the moment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just a few brief comments to make with respect to the estimates on the Department under consideration at this time. They concern generally, Mr. Chairman, the tenor of remarks that have been made in the past hour, half hour, or prior to adjournment, by members on this side of the House. I would like to think, Mr. Chairman, that while perhaps in some instances lacking, you know, the kind of constructive advice in terms of what the Minister should do about what we all seem to recognize as a mounting social problem, they nonetheless very seriously represent a very genuine frustration on the part of a good many of our citizens who pay the tax bill in this province for this department's expenditures, about a problem that we don't quite know how to tackle, don't quite know how to resolve.

We know there are abuses. We know there are some serious errors and pitfalls in how we are presently managing these programs, and I would be the first to suggest that this administration under the Minister presently responsible is applying essentially and basically many of the same techniques that we applied when we faced the problem when we were in administration. In fact, Mr. Chairman, before comments made on this side of the House are taken out of context, I think it's proper to put on the record that certainly the Progressive-Conservative administration, particularly the administration here in Manitoba, in many instances led in the kind of humane, progressive social administration programs, not just in this province but for this nation. The kind of progressive administration programs pursued by a Conservative administration in Ottawa under the Honourable John George Diefenbaker, in many ways led and still ranks as one of the great reformers in the recent history of this country. So that before we -- (Interjection) -- I won't answer that remark because I was never against him - before we take out of context the kind of genuine frustration that is being expressed at the apparent failure of our programs in meeting the need, and these I would submit are some of the expressions that have been heard here in this Chamber tonight, and they are correct to a point, to a point that it shows that the programs to date that have been evolved are not satisfactory.

I don't want to take offence with my honourable friend and colleague, the Member from Swan River; the answer isn't as simple as providing picks and shovels. What it obviously needs is a program that makes a kind of meaningful or productive life - and I don't even like to use the word "productive life" - worthwhile and one that should be pursued by most people, or most citizens of this province, and that's our challenge and that's the challenge of the Minister of Health and Social Development. It doesn't really come down to the matter of dollars and cents that we spend, while those of us who pay have a most legitimate reason to be concerned about how these monies are being paid. We have a most legitimate reason to be concerned about it when we read in our daily newspapers that some \$10,000, which is an insignificant amount in the total budget of this department, but we read just lately that some \$10,000 of monies that this government humanely provided for aid for our young people through that organization known as CRYPT, has somehow gone astray, and we don't quite know where it is. The people that are in charge of administering this money don't quite know where it is and can't be held accountable for it, and so for these reasons and many other reasons, the kind of frustration that you hear from the Member from Pembina, the kind of, you know, anxiety

(MR. ENNS cont'd) . . . . . expressed by the Member from Swan River, is perfectly in order and I make no apology for it. It's genuine and it should be taken in that context. What it means for all of us, Mr. Chairman, is that we somehow, you know, at least in this particular department, in this particular department, find ways and means of improving the human condition.

Mr. Chairman, I'm not averse to suggesting to you that governments of the day, governments of my day, that found \$100 million to invest into private development of our natural resources, governments of this day who can find massive amounts of money to invest in the defence - which sometimes is held to be a kind of mythical defence but one of tradition perhaps - that to really seriously re-examine our posture, traditionally and otherwise, to re-direct some of these resources of the public treasury, and into developing somehow, somehow, the kind of - and again I know, just when I'm getting to the members opposite that I'm going to offend them because words like "incentive" offends them; that smacks of the free enterprise system; that they, you know, like to pay lip service to but don't quite -- aren't quite prepared to accede, have in my judgment and in my opinion, the greatest and the single possible hope of lifting humanity up to that final development of the individual that I think is a most and the only single goal that government, or people representing people in government, should strive for.

So, Mr. Chairman, there are many points, particularly points that the Honourable Member from Osborne is making with respect to the Minister of Health and Social Development's Estimates that are valid, that should give us great cause for concern. There are many points that may appear to be very much diverse with some of the points raised, some of the programs suggested by other members from within our same group. They represent a most genuine and a most worthwhile position. I'm only suggesting to you, Mr. Chairman, that in this particular department we face, probably head-on, all the conflicts of an age that doesn't quite know where they're going; of technology facing the human factor; of private greed facing public need -- say, that's a good line -- of many of the unresolved, you know, problems that face mankind, kind of meld into this particular Department and the kind of work that this kind of Department is doing - on the one hand accepting the challenge, accepting the responsibility that in this nation, that in this province, there is no need for any man, woman or child to do without, and at the same time accepting the challenge, accepting the expectation that in this province and in this city or in this country, that the doors of opportunity and initiative and challenge should be open to all.

Now how do we find that middle ground, that course that will prevent robbing from either side of it? Because it can be done very easily. It can be done very easily. That social worker that makes it a routine habit of dropping off the welfare cheque into the many thousands of homes in Manitoba is, in the same interest that is bringing the very thing that person needs for sustenance and for living, is at the same time robbing him of the kind of manliness in the case of a man, and the kind of initiative in the case of a family head, and the kind of incentive that is required to bring out the best in that person - and I believe that there is always a best in all of us. It served only for us, for us who are fortunate, Mr. Chairman, to sit in Chambers like this and to hold, sometimes with some questions, but in most instances, I sincerely believe, the respect of our fellow men, as leaders of them, to find the ways to solve the problems that we face in this particular respect and try to make this particular Department perhaps the most meaningful department that any government of any day can provide . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Chairman, my remarks will be very brief. I just have a few questions to ask the Minister. I know that his Estimates have increased, and when they say it's a tremendous increase, perhaps there may be some reason for it because the government had taken over some of the welfare dependents that were the responsibility of municipalities, and this is perhaps one reason for it and there may be some other obvious reasons; but I do have some questions and I hope the Minister will be able to, in the short time that we have, maybe tell us something about it. I know that he has gone on a safari to the Scandinavian countries and has produced a report. I don't know if he was able to elaborate on it or not. We will have an opportunity to read it and I hope he was impressed with it. I have not had the opportunity to read it as yet.

I know the First Minister has prided himself when he had taken over as the Premier of this province that he would build Manitoba, or model it after the Swedish model of economic development, and I'm sure that he is somewhat, since that time, somewhat disillusioned due to the fact what's happened this past winter. As he knows himself, that almost in every area,

(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . . in every group, from teachers to firemen to policemen, even to the army, everyone has gone on strike in that country complaining about one thing: inflation and high cost of living and the high taxes they have to pay. I know at one time 50,000 people have gone on strike and protested that they had to pay 44 percent of every dollar they made, they had to pay a tax and this was their complaint, so perhaps maybe, you know, their society isn't a model to follow. Maybe the model that we should follow is something we can build ourselves, what's required and what's needed in Manitoba, and I'm sure that he would be much more successful than trying to build or follow or copy somebody else, because even those areas where we thought were great examples have somehow begun to crumble and the people are beginning to reject it and saying, "We cannot tolerate it; inflation and tax has taken everything we're making." And I know that many of the professional people that come to this country, be it the engineers and the teachers, almost completely reject that model and I'm not saying it's an incorrect model. I'm not saying -- but all I'm just paraphrasing is what the First Minister had to say when he first became Premier, that he was going to build it on the model of Sweden, and perhaps what's happened during the last year, maybe he is somewhat disillusioned, at least a little bit.

MR. SCHREYER: Will the honourable member accept a question?

MR. PATRICK: Yes.

MR. SCHREYER: If the honourable member is making reference to the statement I gave, the lengthy statement I gave after the election of June, 1969, I admit that I made reference to the Swedish, the Scandinavian model of social democracy which he referred to. Does the member recall, however, that I also said that model would be applicable in certain respects and not in others?

MR. PATRICK: I will not disagree with that; he perhaps did - I don't know. But I know that he said he would build it on the model of Sweden - if I'm not mistaken, I think the word "Sweden" was used and I know they have some problems. I hoped that the Minister would be able to tell us of his experience but I don't think we'll have the time, but I am concerned about a few areas and I have some small experience. I spent some ten years with at least one organization, Canadian Paraplegic Association, and the problems that these people had for so many years. They were shut away sort of in back rooms, and it's only in the last few years when you provide some transportation and you provide opportunities in the way of education, and if you can provide transportation facilities for these people they become useful people and they can perform a function and they play their part in society - and this has been happening and I have no argument with that.

So, my question would be to the Minister: there has been a social service audit; there has been a considerable amount of money spent on it, and I am concerned in respect to all social service agencies because they are, all of them are very concerned what will happen, and I wish that the Minister would at least make some kind of a declaration or a statement in respect to all these service agencies, what will happen. Will they all disappear? Because, as you know, at the present time many people with a lot of ability spend a lot of time, and I think that if you do away, I think a lot of this will be lost; you will have to spend a considerable amount of money to hire the type of work that's being done at the present time by many people who are donating their services.

The other point that I have briefly touched on under the Minister of Education's Estimates and it was just mentioned here recently; I've met on a few occasions with people, with organizations who have children who have some disability, hearing disability - not total disability - and also speech disability, and the problem is if it's not properly diagnosed when they're young they're usually sent to the school, to the Tuxedo School for the Deaf, and they quite easily learn the sign language, and it's not fair and proper for these children to learn the sign language if there's any hope for them to be able to learn the speech, to have proper teachers to teach them speech therapy. So I say this is a very important subject. I know the group that I have met on a few occasions, they're greatly concerned, and I hope that the Minister will at least give this some consideration so that these children can be diagnosed at the proper young age and if there's any hope for them being able to learn to be able to speak, I think they should be given that opportunity.

The other point, and I will just briefly mention it. I would like to know the Minister's response in respect to policy about youth hostels. Does he encourage the establishment of youth hostels to be financed by the government and probably run by the young people, or does



(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . . he not? I would like to know. I think there is probably a need at the present time, a need for capital funds for youth hostels.

The other point is day care and day nurseries. I would like to know just how adequate is our day nursery facilities at the present time. I know they are of very high standard of calibre, but I'm not so sure that we have a sufficient amount because I know I've had experience that I've had mothers working in our office, because of the day care centres they were able to work and be employed, and I think this could be multiplied and applied to many, many people if there are sufficient day care centres, so I would like to ask the Minister: has he done any kind of research?

The other point that I would like to ask him, have funds been made available for expansion of our residential facilities for disturbed children? I think it's very important. The other point is also that I think that prevention services probably today are the most important thing. It seems that we spend millions of dollars on cure; on the other hand it may cost a small amount on prevention, and are we -- well, I could just use one small example: the Big Brother Organization, which is strictly a prevention program and I believe it's doing a tremendous work at the present time.

I also would like to know if there is any kind of a home care service for people that are discharged from a hospital and discharged, say, early enough that they don't have to occupy a bed in the hospital, is there any kind of a home care service at the present time or not, when one is discharged?

These are a few of the things. I was somewhat concerned that the government perhaps was not putting as much weight in the prevention, as I mentioned, because it was just, I believe, quite recently that the funds for one program was turned down. That was for -- I know that there was a request made to the government for -- (Interjection) -- No, it was turned down for, you know, for what do you call it? The Crisis Centre, that's right. I think it's unfortunate that the government did turn this program down because I think that in most of our cities, if not in all, I believe there are such programs that do exist and I think it's most unfortunate that, you know -- again, this is a preventive program. I believe the cost probably would be 1/20th of one percent that would have been required. The costs would have been so small of the whole budget. Again, let me say the cost would have been maybe 1/20th of one percent for the Crisis Centre. So again, I feel that the Minister should have reconsidered and probably done something about that.

I know, as well, I believe the Department of Education has turned down a school for some 700 emotionally disturbed children, and if there's anything most unfortunate I think this is most unfortunate. I will not ignore the -- I know in many areas there's human misery and there's many areas that emotionally disturbed -- and areas, as I mentioned right now, the school that was turned down for emotionally disturbed children, The Crisis Centre, and it's almost hard to believe a government that prides itself so much, and I think the concern is quite evident that nothing has been done in this area, and I am to some extent disappointed. What happens to the untreated disturbed child? If you don't catch it at the proper time in the delinquency age, finally this person gets to be an adult, he gets to be a drop-out out of the educational system, and I think that he will quite likely join the unemployed like the rest of them, and the drag on society at that stage will be much greater and will cost much more money than if something would have been done at the proper time. Because the hard core that are unemployable surely come from the early drop-outs, from the problems that stem at their early and their young age.

So, Mr. Chairman, these are a few of the things that I'd like to bring to the Minister's attention, and I would hope that he would be able to give us some answers. I think the three points that I raised are most important; the Crisis Centre, the School for the Emotionally Disturbed that has been turned down. I think that he should answer. I know that our budget is going up tremendously and in some instances I think that there is reason to believe that there are some people probably receiving welfare that shouldn't be. On the other hand, there's many who deserve programs what I mentioned now -- there is no program for them. And I know it's been brought to my attention where a man lives in a side by side duplex and he tells me, well the man, my neighbour is driving a fairly good car and he's got nice furniture and he lives much better than I do and he's on welfare. On the other hand, I'm struggling, trying to work, and so perhaps there is some inconsistency as far as the welfare programs are concerned and maybe there's a need to have some better supervision and better check than we

(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . . have at the present time.

But again I stress to the Minister, I hope that he will make a statement on Social Service Audit; I hope he'll give consideration to children with hearing and speech disability. I think it was wrong not to proceed with the Crisis Centre in the city. And I think a most unfortunate thing, the school that was turned down for the emotionally disturbed which involved somewhere in the neighbourhood of six or seven hundred students, because if you don't give them the right protection now - and the First Minister said to me, what do you mean by prevention - this is what I mean by prevention, because the 600 students now, the type of education or prevention we can offer them now, in later years in life they may be a greater drag on society, they will be on the welfare rolls and it will cost a lot of money. So I hope that the Minister will give at least some answers to the questions that I raised.

. . . Continued on next page

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Chairman, if anybody had the answers in this Chamber or any other legislative Chamber or Assembly of this type to the welfare problems besetting our society today, the rank of the First Minister of this province would be under serious challenge, because it's the kind of experience and expertise and inspiration that no human can be expected to command on the basis of the jungle that we find ourselves in in welfare terms. I say the rank and status of the First Minister of the province would be under challenge because the man or woman who had the answer to welfare problems would be a veritable Messiah, in North American terms at any rate, with the message and the solution that 220 millions of people in North America have been searching for and will continue no doubt to search for for some substantial time. Mr. Chairman, there's nothing wrong with the welfare program in the Province of Manitoba, or in the nation of Canada or on the North American continent, except for the fact that it's a jungle.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. It is my understanding that, by leave, it is the wish of the committee to proceed. The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is nothing wrong with the welfare program in our society except that it's become a jungle, Mr. Chairman, and no man or woman, no collection of men or women has found the inspiration or the expertise to discover a rational path to a position where there can be some command and control of the difficulties that have grown up like weeds around us in the past few decades.

The only way to measure the success of any welfare program, as all in this Chamber would concede, Mr. Chairman, is to measure the number of people who have been taken off welfare rolls and restored to a productive place and role in society. The only way to measure the success and effect and impact of a social worker is to determine and measure the number of people he or she, the number of clients he or she have put into productive work, put into jobs that return something in terms of pride and self respect, not by measuring the number that he or she has been able to place and keep on the dole.

The problem it seems to me, Mr. Speaker - and I have less expertise in this subject probably than anyone in the Chamber - but as an observer, the problem, it seems to me, may be that a heavy emphasis on administration of welfare programs and funds and revenues has been placed in the hands of formalized government structures, has been placed at the level of professional government at the provincial and federal level, and perhaps the solution lies, because welfare and dependency are human problems, perhaps the solution lies in decentralizing the administration of the massive welfare programs that we have and bringing them down to the local level where local individual people can deal with local, individual and easily recognizable problems.

This does not represent a clash of ideologies or philosophies between me and the government, Mr. Chairman, this is not said because I am pitting decentralization against centralization as a philosophy, I am simply suggesting that the mechanics that all of us, of whatever political persuasion, in Canada and in North America have applied to the problem of welfare in the past few decades may be wrong; maybe the centralization at the highly structured clinical level of government is the wrong way to go about it. Every individual who is on welfare is on welfare because of an individual problem. Every man or woman on welfare can give you the individual reasons for his or her dependency, and in government, particularly at the level of highly structured government when one is encountering what really are the trappings of bureaucracy, it's well nigh impossible to identify and understand those individual problems in dependency which are at the root of the whole welfare community. It's a human problem, it's a problem concerned with individuals and it should be, it seems to me, perhaps administered by individuals rather than by collective professional governmental structures.

It may well be that it's in that area we should be searching, Mr. Chairman, for some of the solutions. It's easy to feel superior to those who are on welfare if you've never been locked into the cycle that put you there and that keeps you there, and I think the most destructive and unproductive attitude that anybody can take towards the whole question of welfare, welfare services and administration of welfare programs, is a superficially critical one that regards those who are on welfare as being drones in terms of society. It's easy to feel superior about it when you're fortunate never to have had the difficulty, the challenge, and the immense handicaps that those locked into it face every day.

The task given an individual like the Minister of Health and Social Services in this

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd.) . . . . province is an impossible one, Mr. Chairman. No man or woman can possibly come up with the solutions to the problems or even a sensible rational administration of the massive kind of budget that the Minister in this case is confronted with in the Province of Manitoba. It's too huge, it's too overpowering, it's too insoluble, and I would hope that the Minister and his department, and all members in this Chamber, can bring, in the course of the next little while, can bring an examination to bear on permanent solutions to the problem, not superficial and hasty judgments that are founded more in prejudice than in anything else, but in permanent solutions to a problem that afflicts every part of the western world, certainly every part of North America. There is no easy solution and the Minister has probably the most unenviable job of anybody on the treasury benches in this Chamber, but I hope he'll look for local solutions, local pathways, local opportunities, and attempt to seek the solutions in a decentralization so as to get down to individual problems which only individuals can understand and deal with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I only had a minute or so before and I wanted to make a few further remarks to what I said before. I feel that we should have given much greater scrutiny to this particular department of government because here is where we are spending a very large amount, and probably the largest increase percentagewise of any department, and it seems to me that there is no way of controlling the costs in health and welfare.

I think this has largely come about because of centralization over the years, that we are centralizing all the control, the central office is here, and then doling out from this same office. I feel that we should, in our reports, have - and I hope the Minister listens - hope that we have budgets of the various hospitals in our report so that we can compare and check. We should also, as members, have some idea as to how much welfare is being paid out in our various constituencies and also in the various areas of Manitoba. How can we as members contribute anything in the way of assistance to this government, and to the department, if we are not given the information on that basis. We have to have the information otherwise we cannot assist him, and I think this is what the government should realize. I think centralization is the big curse. It's the one that is to blame for so much cost increase and we should be decentralizing. Why not give some authority back to our municipal councils? Why not give some more power back to our hospital boards, because these are the people that are directly concerned and they should exercise more authority and have greater autonomy in their work.

I would also like to know what is the situation in connection with welfare - city versus country. There is always a spread here. What is the difference? How much more does it cost to maintain an individual or a family in the city compared to the country? And yet we find, and I'm sure that the cost is much greater in the city, yet we find that there is an increased number of people moving from rural areas to the greater urban centres and this is contributing to the cost. Not only is that the case, but when it comes to providing new homes or apartments or places where people can reside, these are not built in rural communities, they are always built in centralized areas, and this also no doubt contributes to the cost.

I don't mean that we should go out witch hunting, but certainly we could learn from what other provinces are doing. British Columbia set up a special department under the Honourable Mr. Gagliardi who is trying to do a job in this respect, trying to bring back a spark into those people who probably for years have been on welfare and don't have the courage to try to get back on their own feet. I think we should try and make some effort in this regard. The matter certainly has also been working because of the economy that we are facing today. Because of the depressed economy, this means that there are fewer jobs; this also means that the costs of welfare will be higher, that we have more people to look after; and when we only have a given amount of money with which to deal, and when we see salaries go up, wages higher, this means that fewer people can be employed. So this also has its effect.

Certainly the matter of the economy that we are faced today does also show up with our mental institutions, the number of people that are being cared for by way of in and also out-patients. We have a large number of out-patients today who are serviced by our mental institutions, far greater than what it was before this, and surely enough a depressed economy is one part of it. The financial problems that our people face certainly has a bearing on this. But how can a community contribute to controlling costs in health and welfare? How can they possibly assist? We have many people in Manitoba who would like to assist in this matter, but how can we give them an opportunity to do so? As long as we keep centralizing the whole

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) . . . . system they have no way of assisting, and I feel that we must decentralize in order to give these people an opportunity to help.

I also feel that with the economy the way it is going in Manitoba that we should desist from bringing in any new programs, because every program, once it's set going, it will cost more as it is increased. We have no report of the per diem rates paid in the various hospitals in Manitoba. I would also like to see that in the report, Mr. Minister. A few years ago I had in an Order for Return on this very matter and I got the rates at that time, but I think they should be included in the book, in the annual report, so that we would have them without having to go for this detailed information.

Certainly, Mr. Chairman, when we see welfare costs rising the way they do, and when you take a look at the Estimates, you have some very large increases. We find that the Manitoba Health Services Commission has an increase of \$11 million. We find that the Social Allowance Section has increased from 20 million to 32 million, an increase of 12 1/2 million. Municipal Assistance increased \$4 million; Financial Assistance under the Care Services Program increased \$1.7 million. These are large amounts and they add up to very very substantial amounts that have to be brought up by the taxpayers by way of taxes in order to pay for these services, and I feel that we must bring in some measures to control these costs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, one of the things that I think we should give some consideration to, is should people that belong to unions that are on strike be able to receive welfare? I'd like to hear the Minister's opinion on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Chairman, first of all I wish to thank all honourable members of this House who have presented complaints, critique, constructive suggestions for changes in the Department of Health and Social Development.

I'm quite appalled by the remarks of especially the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge in the sense that I think she was constructive in a few cases but yet there was the suggestion that we were spending too much money, a budget of over \$168 million, but when we come forth and make the recommendations to government that we should actually increase grants to different associations, that we should try to have more planning and research in the Department of Health and Social Development, we must realize that at the offset this will definitely cost the government more funds, but I have to agree that eventually this will help lower the costs of the delivery of health and welfare in this province. We've actually tried to say that the Province of Manitoba is in a very bad state because of the over-expenditure in welfare. I would like to mention in the very few minutes that I have remaining - I have material here for about an hour and I won't be able to answer your questions unfortunately, I would have loved to.

First of all, let's talk about case increases in other provinces in Canada. Ontario had an increase of 48.4 percent; Manitoba - 33.01 percent. Increase in expenditure in 1970-71: Ontario - 56.1 percent; Manitoba - 43 percent. I'm not giving figures from Alberta or British Columbia because I don't really like to look at these figures too much. To me, they don't mean that much in a sense. Because of the provinces in question, Ontario and Saskatchewan do. We are the second lowest, Manitoba has the second lowest of population on financial assistance.

There was a comment made by more than one member of the House pertaining to decentralization of services in either health or social development, and I have to agree that in actually wanting the unification of the Department of Health and Social Development under one umbrella, under one portfolio, that I will be working in the future, and so will my department, in decentralizing services.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The 80 hours have expired. (Resolutions Nos. 48 to 55, 28 to 31, 39 to 42, 111 and 112 were read and passed.) Order, please. Before Committee rises, I wish to thank all honourable members for their cooperation in some difficult times in this my first experience in the Chair. Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

#### IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to move, seconded by the Member for Crescentwood, that the report of the committee be received.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is a general disposition to waive Private Members' proceedings tonight. Therefore, I take it we will not be sitting again until Monday at 2:30. I wish all members a very pleasant long weekend and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the House do now adjourn.

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