

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Monday, March 18, 1968

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

HON. THELMA FORBES (Minister of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs (Cypress)) introduced Bill No. 30, an Act to amend The Department of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Act; and Bill No. 14, an Act to amend The Municipal Boundaries Act.

HON. STEWART E. McLEAN, Q.C. (Provincial Secretary) (Dauphin) introduced Bill No. 4, an Act to repeal certain Acts relating to certain Corporation; and Bill No. 11, an Act to amend The Public Utilities Board Act.

HON. STERLING R. LYON, Q.C. (Attorney-General) (Fort Garry) introduced Bill No. 24, an Act to amend The Queen's Bench Act; and Bill No. 25, an Act to amend The Gas Pipe Lines Act.

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Provincial Treasurer) (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole to consider the resolution standing in my name.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House with the Honourable Member for Arthur in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor having been informed of the subject matter of the proposed resolution, recommends it to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee proceed. The resolution before the Committee: Resolved that it is expedient to bring in a measure to amend The Treasury Act by providing, among other matters, for the arrangement of overdrafts and lines of credit for the government and for the making of accountable advances exceeding the maximum aggregate of \$200,000.00. The Honourable the Provincial Treasurer.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, the principle is quite simple: that with the expansion of the operations of the government and the number of conferences, the amount of money available for accountable advances for travelling accounts is now inadequate. Sums are also required for what would be called Petty Cash accounts in each of the departments, and the amount of \$200,000 is not sufficient for the purpose.

MR. DOUGLAS CAMPBELL (Lakeside): Mr. Chairman, does this refer only to the accountable advances then, because I notice early in the resolution that it refers to overdrafts and lines of credit. Is that being dealt with as well as the accountable advances?

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of the New Democratic Party) (Radisson): Mr. Chairman, I had a somewhat similar question to ask. The Honourable the Provincial Treasurer makes mention of travel allowances. I guess he's just bringing home to roost what we have been saying the last few days on this side of the House of travel allowances, particularly in certain departments, and the junkets, as my honourable friend from Lakeside referred to them the other day, and I guess it may be necessary to increase the advances but I'm more particularly concerned with the question, the major point it seems to me, contained within the resolution dealing with the question of overdrafts and lines of credit in excess of the present maximum of \$200,000.00. I appreciate the fact, Mr. Chairman, that when the bill is before us we will have the new suggested amount for our consideration. I'm just wondering, though, whether or not the Minister might give us some indication as to the amount that he feels is justifiable, and if the purpose is just for the question of the payment of advances for travel and other items mentioned by my honourable friend, I wonder as to the reason why we're considering the question of overdrafts and lines of credit.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Chairman, I just wonder when we're asked here for lines of credit and overdrafts are we also considering the extension of the time limit? Is this also under consideration when we're asking for advances? Secondly, under the lines of

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) credit, does capital come into play here too? Or is it just operating expenses?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I was dealing really with the reason for the presentation of the resolution; that is, the further commitment of the Consolidated Fund by raising the limit that is now set at \$200,000 for the accountable advance. It is true that when the bill itself is introduced there will be three principal principles to the bill itself. One of them deals with the effect on the Consolidated Fund, namely, the increase in the accountable advances. That was the reason for confining my remarks to the resolution in that way.

My honourable friend speaks of junkets. He doesn't define it; I'm not sure what he means by it but I would reassure the committee and him that any purpose for which money can be drawn as an accountable advance must be passed by the Comptroller-General and the spending of that money must also be accounted for to the Comptroller-General afterwards. So it is for an authorized purpose and is accounted for strictly afterwards, and I'm not sure what bearing that may have on the word "junket" that I'm not really acquainted with.

My honourable friend asks about a time limit and I'm sure that that does not refer to the additional money that's being asked for for the accountable advances. The time limits for which the accountable advances are being required will not be changed by the proposed bill or the proposed amendment. So far as I'm aware, the accountable advances will have no effect on the capital of anything. It's merely an accountable advance for expenses which later on then become a part of the revenue accounts of the government and are accounted for in that way. I hope I've answered all the questions that were asked.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I might just for purposes of clarification -- my honourable friend mentions that insofar as junkets are concerned -- and we won't ask at this particular stage for what I mean or my honourable friend means by the use of the term "junket" -- but my honourable friend had mentioned something to the effect that before the expenditure is made that they have to have the approval of the Comptroller-General for the expenditure, and then after it is made his authorization for the payment, if I understood my honourable friend correctly. Now, I want to know from my honourable friend what does he mean by the approval of the Comptroller-General before the expenditure is entered into.

MR. EVANS: It's the authorization for the person in question to draw the money in advance of making the expenditure. For example, if I make a trip, I am able to put in for an accountable advance. I state that it is for the purpose of attending such and such a meeting in Ottawa, the money will be used to pay for such things as hotel bills, meals and other expenses, and so many days are involved, and if the Comptroller-General thinks it is a suitable amount that I have asked for for that purpose, I get a cheque back. Then, when I'm finished, I put in a statement of my expenses -- I make a claim in actual cash for the expenses. So one is really drawing, getting some money in advance of a trip, as it were. But it has to be for an authorized purpose, one that the Comptroller-General recognizes as proper in the circumstances. And then when it's finished he has to be satisfied that the money was spent for the purpose.

MR. PAULLEY: But, Mr. Chairman -- I'm sorry; I just want further clarification. I take it, then, that the Comptroller-General cannot say to the Provincial Treasurer that "in my opinion you don't have to go down to Toronto or Ottawa for any specific purpose." He hasn't that authority, has he? But he has the authority, after you have said to him that you're going down for a purpose and I want X number of dollars, to approve of the X number of dollars but he has nothing to do -- am I correct in assuming that he has nothing to do with any approval as to why you are going? It's just the question of the amount of money. Is that correct?

MR. EVANS: Yes, I'm sure that's correct. I think what my honourable friend is asking is whether the policy responsibility of going to that meeting at all is the Comptroller-General's? Well, it's not. The policy of going to the meeting would be that of the government as expressed through myself, so I assume responsibility for the fact of going and then if I haven't got enough money to get away, I can ask him for an advance to enable me to do it.

MR. PAULLEY: Can he control, Mr. Chairman, can the Comptroller-General control the amount of the advance and cut down your request? If you, as Provincial Treasurer, request say \$100.00 to go to a specific meeting or place can he say, "Well, no, I'm only going to give you \$25.00"?

MR. EVANS: I assume he has. It's never happened and I'm not aware of any cases -- I've never had one of my own turned down -- but I assume he has his responsibility to see that the sum of money is appropriate to the occasion.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, again I don't pose as an expert on this subject but I would have a different interpretation to what the Honourable the Minister has given. My understanding of the situation as far as the Comptroller-General is concerned is that his responsibility is simply to see that the money for a purpose has been appropriated, and so long as that purpose comes within the terms of the money that's appropriated, I think he has in the prior arrangement no further responsibility. But that wasn't the point that I was asking a little earlier, Mr. Chairman. Did the Minister answer my question as to whether this legislation would also deal with the two earlier items of arrangement of overdraft and lines of credit? Because I would like to get that information.

MR. EVANS: I didn't reply specifically to my honourable friend. I should have made it clearer that my earlier remarks were merely concerned with why we had a resolution. It is correct that this statute, this bill when brought forward, will propose a change in the form in which treasury bills are made available to the bank to guarantee any overdraft. There's no such thing as an overdraft any more. One must put into the bank by nightfall sufficient treasury bills to balance whatever the overdraft would have been. We're now proposing a change in the form of that treasury bill, and that will be one of the provisions of the bill when it comes forward.

The second has to do with the accountable advance, and the third will have to do with the length of time that certain documents are required to be kept in the Treasury Department before they can be destroyed.

MR. CAMPBELL: Is it correct to take from the Honourable the Minister's explanation then, Mr. Chairman, that the bank requires these treasury bills to be deposited on the same day as the, what we used to call an overdraft, is required? Is that some reflection on the financial standing of the government?

MR. EVANS: No reflection on the financial standing of the government, but they go through really quite an absurd procedure now. At nightfall they have a stack of our treasury bills in the vault in one pile which says that they belong to us; then they'll say, "Well, what's the overdraft now?" And they count out sufficient treasury bills and move them over into that pile which is called "security for the loan," and that seems to balance things up. And another time if we reduced the amount and we have something to our credit, then they can take some more paper and move it back to the pile. It's an unnecessary physical step. We are proposing a means that that can be done with equal security to the bank and much more conveniently, and that will be contained in the bill when I bring it forward.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I take it that my honourable friend is not on the gold standard.

MR. EVANS: No.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, while we are at this I'd like to know from the Honourable the Provincial Treasurer: are we required as a government to have a 10 percent float too? That means that we have to have additional moneys on hand in excess of what actually is required. Secondly, what is the rate that we are paying today on overdrafts or lines of credit of this type?

MR. EVANS: The answer to the first question is no; to the second is 6-3/4 from one bank, 7 from another.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution be adopted? Committee rise. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has adopted a certain resolution and has requested me to report same.

IN SESSION

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Springfield, that the report of the Committee be received.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed to the Orders of the Day, I would like to direct your attention ...

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could now move the first reading of that bill.

MR. EVANS introduced Bill No. 35, an Act to amend the Treasury Act.

MR. SPEAKER: I'd like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery on my right where we have 85 students of Grade 11 standing, from the Miller Collegiate School. These students are under the direction of Mr. A. Schmidt. The school is located in the

(MR. SPEAKER cont'd.) constituency of the Honourable Member for Rhineland. On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here today.

Orders of the Day. The Honourable the Minister of Education.

HON. GEORGE JOHNSON (Minister of Education) (Gimli): Before the Orders of the Day, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to lay on the table of the House the report of the Department of Education for the year ending June 30th, 1967. This report includes the Annual Report of the Advisory Board, the Annual Report of the Education Department Act and the Public Schools Act, and the Teachers Retirement Allowances Act.

I would also at the same time like to lay on the table of the House the Annual Report of the University of Manitoba Board of Governors for the year ended March 31st, 1967.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I should like to lay on the table of the House a copy of each regulation filed under the Regulations Act on or after the 31st day of December, 1966 and on or before the 7th day of March, 1968, being regulations 1 of '67 to 146 of '67 inclusive, and regulations 1 of '68 to 30 of '68 inclusive; and, as well, the 44th Annual Report of the Liquor Control Commission of Manitoba, the Chairman's Report - copies of this report have been previously distributed to the honourable members.

A copy of the returns under the Controverted Elections Act for the period January 1st, 1967 to December 31st, 1967 from the Court of Queen's Bench and from the Court of Appeal:

A nil return under the Trade Practices Inquiry Act for the period January 1st, 1967 to December 31st, 1967.

A copy of the proceedings of the 49th Annual Meeting of the Conference of Commissioners on Uniformity of Legislation in Canada for the Year 1967.

A report covering the operation and enforcement of liquor laws in Manitoba for the calendar year 1967. Embodied in this report is a statement of general administrative and prosecution expenses for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1967. Copies of this report will be distributed by the Clerk.

A report of the Comptroller-General on the statements of assets and liabilities, profit and loss account for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1967, re the Liquor Control Commission.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, a copy of a Return to an Order of the House No. 10, dated the 14th of March moved by the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

HON. CHARLES H. WITNEY (Minister of Health) (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, I wish to lay on the table of the House the report of the Provincial Sanitary Control Commission for the period January 1st to December 31st, 1967.

HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Minister of Agriculture and Conservation) (Rockwood-Iberville): Before the Orders of the Day, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table with the House a copy of a Return to Order of the House No. 79, on a motion of the Honourable Member from Brokenhead, and I might add it also includes material requested on Order No. 12 on motion of the Honourable Member from Brokenhead, dated March 15, 1968.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Leader of the Opposition) (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Education. Could he tell me when this report, the provisional plan for the educational system at the Interlake region in the Province of Manitoba by the Boundaries Commission, was submitted to the government?

MR. JOHNSON: We received the copies the Friday that they were distributed. I received it at the same time. I note the December date on the cover. I haven't had time to contact the Chairman; it just came to my attention when I picked up my copy over the weekend to look it over.

MR. MOLGAT: . . . was the purpose of my question, Mr. Speaker, because the cover says March 1968 but the inside says "prepared by the local Boundaries Commission December 18th, 1967. The government did not receive it then, in December?

MR. JOHNSON: . . . Friday.

MR. MOLGAT: Has the Minister considered extending the time for hearing of submissions and briefs by people who are concerned about this proposed plan?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It just so happened that I phoned the Chairman of the Commission over the noon hour and he advised me that under the Act there has to be a 30-day waiting period before hearings. He advised me that he had slated seven hearings but was willing to slate further meetings as the local people desired it, desired such meetings, was willing to receive any briefs even after that date. You know, depending -- some of them were

(MR. JOHNSON cont'd.) complaining there wasn't enough time to make a submission. He said they could certainly do that and he would be prepared to give further information to any local area that wanted any clarification. So I have so informed one party. I suggested to him that this probably should be made clear throughout the area.

MR. ELMAN GUTTORMSON (St. George): A subsequent question, Mr. Speaker. Is he going to schedule additional meetings other than those announced in the newspaper because, for example, there's no meetings scheduled between Lundar and Gypsumville which is a distance of 90-odd miles?

MR. JOHNSON: As I said, he advised me that he's to date scheduled seven meetings starting a month after the report came out; he's prepared to hold whatever further meetings the local people would feel desirable.

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce. It's been reported to me that there are people in the garment industry who were imported into the province as part of the campaign that was conducted about a year ago in search of labour for that particular area of activity, and who have been in Canada for a period close to a year but who still have not acquired their landed immigrant status. Now, in view of the fact that the Provincial Government was to some extent involved, or to a considerable extent involved in this program, could the Honourable Minister give these people some indication as to what assistance they could hope to receive from the Provincial Government to clear this matter up and to set their own minds and the minds of their families at ease?

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C., (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (River Heights): Well Mr. Speaker, immigration regulations and landed immigration status is a matter of the Federal Government's jurisdiction. However, certainly the Department will co-operate in any manner it can in trying to facilitate it, if in fact they are qualified, and I would suggest if you will give us the names of the individuals, we'll meet with them and try and do what we can to assist them.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In the Throne Speech there is reference to the fact of some changes in the Dairy Act. Can you tell me when this legislation will be introduced? -- (Interjections) --

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order, please. The Honourable Member for St. George, Mr. Minister, the Minister of Agriculture, directed a question to you which I'm afraid you didn't quite get. Probably he would repeat it.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate when he will be introducing legislation with reference to the Dairy Act which was mentioned in the Throne Speech?

MR. ENNS: In due course, Mr. Speaker.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Health. Could he tell us who is responsible for the sale of debentures of a hospital district. I find that at the local hospital they've held these debentures for some years and now they have a large amount of interest to pay up. Just who is responsible, and does the Hospital Commission have a say in the matter?

MR. WITNEY: If I understand the question, Mr. Speaker, he's asking who is responsible for the sale of debentures. It's the hospital district.

MR. PAULLEY: I would like to direct a question, Mr. Speaker, to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce. My question, Mr. Speaker, to my honourable friend is: Is he aware of the fact that the Canadian National Railway Symington Yards are located within the City of St. Boniface?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, then may I have the privilege as one of the representatives from the City of St. Boniface of instructing my honourable friend, or informing my honourable friend that the Symington Yards of the Canadian National Railways are located in the City of St. Boniface, and will my honourable friend please inform his informational writers accordingly because of the fact that they invariably indicate that the said yards are located within the City of Winnipeg, which is not correct.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I will. To err is human and I must inform the Leader of the New Democratic Party that I consider him an authority on this matter.

MR. PAULLEY: . . ., Mr. Speaker, because I am not only a former employee of the CNR, I'm also the representative of part of the City of St. Boniface which contains Symington Yards.

MR. EARL DAWSON (Hamiota): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the

(MR. DAWSON cont'd.) Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. How was the public mailing list arrived at for the distribution of the Manitoba Development Fund's report?

MR. SPIVAK: This is for the Fund report. The distribution was made up of the manufacturers and business people in this community - professional people, particularly accountants, lawyers, consultants, who have the capacity of advising clients and who in their dealings and negotiations with business undertakings would possibly interest people in using the Fund.

MR. DAWSON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell us the approximate number of reports that were mailed to the general public?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I do not have that figure but I was taking the various lists that I've mentioned -- but there were several thousand.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Honourable the Provincial Treasurer. Is it a fact, or is it correct that an individual cannot sell an automobile unit unless it is licensed? This is because of the revenue tax bill?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I don't know. I think it's a question of -- I don't see why not but if my honourable friend would like me to take notice of this question, it may turn out to be a legal opinion but I'll do my best for him and reply at another time.

MR. DAWSON: I have another question, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. The advertising supplement, which was an excellent one incidentally, issued by your department in the March 16th edition of the Financial Post -- my question is this: was this advertising supplement distributed throughout the world, in the U.S.A. or Canada, or only in Manitoba?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, the supplement was prepared by the Financial Post. The Department of Industry and Commerce have placed an ad in the supplement; many other business undertakings in this province also placed ads. The information was supplied to the Financial Post for the supplement by the Information Service Branch of the Provincial Government.

MR. DAWSON: Mr. Speaker, I don't think my question was answered. I asked where was it distributed to - throughout the world, in the U.S.A., in Canada, or only in Manitoba?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, this is a Financial Post publication. It was distributed with the Financial Post. My understanding is the Financial Post is distributed in the main throughout Canada, but it is also distributed overseas and to the United States as well.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Provincial Secretary. In view of some misunderstandings about the opening of the Centennial Centre and the cost of attending some of these opening sessions, I wonder if the Minister could outline what steps are being taken to publicize the free tickets and so on aspect of this week of openings.

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Speaker, the advertisements are appearing in the public press. This matter is under the jurisdiction and the control of the Manitoba Centennial Corporation and I believe that it has been made quite clear the various functions which begin on the Monday night of the week of March 25th and continue on through until Friday. The Centennial Corporation, as far as I know, it has in addition to the public advertisements sent notices and invitations to all of the people who would normally be interested and concerned in the matter.

MR. DAWSON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address my question to the First Minister. Last session the former First Minister announced a grand scheme for medical expansion in Manitoba and he also announced the creation of a medical centre to train doctors and to do medical research. The cost of this project was going to be in excess of \$97 million. Mr. Speaker, my question is: I would like to know what concrete progress has been made to date on this program for medical development in Manitoba.

HON. WALTER WEIR (Premier) (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, I would suggest this is proper discussion for the Estimates of the Minister of Health.

MR. MOLGAT: . . . a question to the First Minister. In view of the fact that we are reaching the end of the Throne Speech debate, could the First Minister indicate when we might be into the Budget?

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that it might not be too long. Within a couple of weeks, something of that nature - two to three weeks.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Address for Papers. The Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains.

MR. MICHAEL KAWCHUK (Ethelbert Plains): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. John's, that an humble address be voted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying for copies of correspondence between the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada relative to the establishment of a Fish Marketing Board from receipt of the McIvor Report to date.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources) (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I think this is quite in order. I just wonder, does receipt of the McIvor Report -- is this the date it was tabled in the House of Commons? October 1966?

MR. KAWCHUK: That's right.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, one more provision. In inter-government dealings with other government jurisdictions it's the usual requirement to ask their permission to table their letters and so on. I presume that this is subject to this qualification.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable the Leader of the New Democratic Party. The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, when this motion was introduced by my Leader and in the subsequent discussion that took place on it, it became quite apparent that there was a great difficulty with regard to this particular department, and that difficulty, Mr. Speaker, I suggest stems from the problem that any government would be involved in if it tried to establish an informational service and tried to conduct that service such as is now taking place in the Province of Manitoba, and I don't intend here to minimize the problem. I'm not suggesting that it can be handled without any errors.

My honourable friend the Minister of Industry said "to err is human" and I assume that he expects the Opposition to adopt the adage "to forgive is divine" and he doesn't find much forgiveness on this side of the House. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the reason that he can't find what he obviously looks for in trying to get us to assume the second part of the adage to which he referred, is that in many cases what we in the Opposition have felt is that what has occurred has not been an error, and as a matter of fact, the remarks that prompted me to take the floor in what was otherwise a fairly routine debate, are the remarks that were made by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce when he asked with an innocent and boyish look on his face: "Are you suggesting that some of the material that we have produced is propaganda?" And he was very stunned and annoyed that anybody would make that kind of suggestion. Well, Mr. Speaker, any government, as I have indicated, that has within its power the finances and the administration to publish material, is going to inevitably run into the dilemma: when are we publishing something which is of interest and which is necessary for the administration of the government program which has been enacted and -- and I suggest here is where the problem comes -- when are we publishing something which is in fact the political program of the Progressive Conservative Party of the Province of Manitoba? Because at that stage, Mr. Speaker, at that stage the government runs the risk of going right at the roots of the democratic process and involving itself in using the people's money to sell a political program.

Now my honourable friend says that this hasn't been done, and I suggest that the remarks that were made by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, the remarks that were made by the Honourable Member for Portage, indicate that this is just what is being done, and I wish to refer the Speaker in this House to a more direct example, and I think a more meaningful example, because although the remarks that were made by the Member for St. Boniface and by the Member for Portage indicated an abuse of the system, I suggest that relative to what abuses can take place, the abuses were not of the serious nature.

Now they are all serious but these were less serious than some may be, and I wish to remind this House of what took place last year in a discussion of this particular subject. The Honourable the Provincial Treasurer indicated that they were going to hire a department to -- and I try to remember his expression -- "to sell the sales tax." No, that wasn't his expression. Pardon me, that came from this side of the House -- I agree; and he said this is not what the department was going to do. And I got up at that time and I said that I hope that the government is going to use this machinery, to use this administration to indicate to the people what it is necessary for them to do to be able to bring themselves within this particular tax; that this appeared to be a necessary service of government, something that we couldn't get away from,

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) and I looked forward to seeing the material to making sure that that is just what they did do and they did not try to use the taxpayers' money, my money in particular - I'm always most concerned about mine - to sell that program, because I prefer to use my money to sell the program of the New Democratic Party, and I say that at that stage, that when they start doing that, they are striking at the roots of our system and that they should be severely taken to task for it.

Now the reason that I say is that sometimes this doesn't amount to an error, is that when we review what the department did with regard to sales tax, we can then state quite clearly, Mr. Speaker, that they know the difference. They published a lot of information and I say, Mr. Speaker, that with the exception of one page of the material that I have seen, with the exception of one page they stood within the limits of what a government should do. They published the rates of tax, how it's collected, how it's picked up, and they published a booklet called "General Information Guide," and just to show you how studious this government is, the questions that they asked in this General Information Guide were the kinds of questions that they had to answer and which it was quite proper for them to use the administration of the government to answer: What is the revenue tax? It is a five percent tax which will be paid. Is all tangible personal property taxable? etc., and so forth, Mr. Speaker, for 15 pages, and I say that you can look through these 15 pages and you can say that the government did its duty to the people by giving them this information.

But let's look at how they could not resist temptation when it came to Page 5, and I show you Page 5, Mr. Speaker, and it contains a good likeness, a good photograph of the Provincial Treasurer and it contains the following words: "Condensed extracts from the budget address, Manitoba Legislature, February 6, 1967, by the Provincial Treasurer, Honourable Gurney Evans." "The real concern of government is the well-being of people. This involves implementation of progressive, social and economic measures, including education, health and welfare services. We do not expect federal assumption of our provincial responsibilities but the fact remains that the financial position of the central government is expected to remain advantageous, while the province is already deficient in resources, will become increasingly hard-pressed. This is not a satisfactory sharing of the common burden."

Not propaganda? Not the political position of that government? Wasn't it directly contrary to the political position of my friends on the right and our group over here, where we said that that was not the reason for the sales tax because the Federal Government wasn't participating? But let's go on. Maybe some people over there regard this as an error. Maybe they can rationalize that statement as not being propaganda. But let's look at the next one. "Two-thirds of Manitoba's total budget is directed to education and labour, health and welfare. Since 1958, enrollment in elementary school classes has risen 21 percent, in high schools by 87 percent, in vocational and technical training by 498 percent, and university and college enrollment has grown by 140 percent. To pay these increasing costs the government has considered all alternatives." That's the only way, they say, that the money could have been raised. Well maybe that's their position, but is that a political position? Because we on this side argued all kinds of alternatives and we also said - and this more by the Official Opposition than our party - that the reason for these high expenditures were extravagances of one kind or another.

Now I don't pretend to agree with the Opposition, and I don't say that I have to agree with the government, and I don't ask others to agree with our position. What I ask this House to agree with is that these are all political positions and the government does a discredit to its position as the administration of this province when it uses taxpayers' money generally to advertise its political position, and I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that Page 5 of the General Information Guide - and I suggest that this is the one that is intended to carry the impact - is nothing else but the political position on taxation as fostered by this government. It would be impossible, Mr. Speaker, it would be impossible to print from Hansard the speech that maybe I think is the most important that was made on the sales tax. I may be vain enough to think I gave the correct reason for the imposition of the sales tax, and I think that that should be at least given equal space, or perhaps because I am vain enough, maybe I think it should be given preferential space, that if that's the way this information had to be disseminated, if we had to give all positions it would be impossible, and I suggest that the government should severely be brought to task when it attempts to use this information -- to use the information services and the power which it has at its disposal to advertise its political position.

(MR. GREEN cont'd.)

Mr. Speaker, in the hoary days that the Attorney-General likes to speak of, when they used to talk about the Socialists, they said, "One of the things that we'll do if we ever get into power is that we will control the press and we'll control information." Well, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we would know the difference, and I'm satisfied that we would err, and when we err I would ask for what my honourable friend says, "forgiveness", but these aren't errors. These are deliberate steps being taken by this government to use this service in the manner which has been suggested by the members on this side.

MR. LYON: Would the honourable member permit a question?

MR. GREEN: Yes.

MR. LYON: Was it Harold Laski, the late Harold Laski, who once said, not with reference to newspapers but with reference to the Labour Party of Britain achieving power, that if they ever got into office that the need for and the requirement for an opposition would of course disappear and that there would become one party government in the U.K. Didn't he say that once?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether Mr. Laski did say it. I don't know what relevance that has to the remarks that I made. Is my honourable friend saying that because Harold Laski once said this that it's now okay for the Conservative Government to do it?

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

MR. SPEAKER: Orders for Returns.

MR. T. P. Hillhouse, Q. C. (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I wish to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Lakeside, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing:

1. The name of the lawyer employed by the government to draft its proposed Condominium Legislation and Regulations.

2. The date that such lawyer was retained.

3. The amount of his account; and

4. Whether such legislation and/or regulations has or have been approved by the Registrar General of Manitoba.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hamiota, that a Return . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Hamiota is not in his place.

MR. JOHNSTON: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye. That an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing:

With respect to the land purchased for the Portage Diversion, the following in each case:

1. Name of the persons whose land was acquired by (a) negotiation, or (b) by expropriation.

2. The amount paid (a) per acre and the number of acres in each case and to whom (b) for buildings, (c) other improvements.

3. When the land last changed hands prior to this change and in each case who was the previous owner.

4. The amount paid in damages and in each case the name and address of the recipient.

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

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

1. Were tenders or bids called for the advertising of the Province of Manitoba's "Going to Beat 70". How many tenders or bids were received. If not by tender, what method was used to hire the advertising.

2. What advertising firm or person has the "Going to Beat 70" account and address of the firm or person.

3. What was the total amount of money budgetted for this campaign for each year 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970.

4. What amount of money is being spent in each of the aforementioned years in

(a) Billboard advertising (1) in the Province of Manitoba, (2) outside the Province of Manitoba.

(b) Newspapers (1) in the Province of Manitoba, (2) outside the Province of Manitoba, (3) names and address of publications.

(c) Magazines (1) in the Province of Manitoba, (2) outside the Province of Manitoba,

(MR. JOHNSTON cont'd.) (3) names and address of publications.

- (d) Radio (1) in the Province of Manitoba, (2) outside the Province of Manitoba, (3) names and address of stations.
- (e) Television (1) in the Province of Manitoba, (2) outside the Province of Manitoba, (3) names and address of stations.
- (f) Other means - describe.

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

MR. RODNEY S. CLEMENT (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I wish to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Carillon, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing the following information:

1. The date on which the government loan or advance to San Antonio Gold Mines was actually paid out to them.
2. The dates and the amounts of any repayments made by San Antonio Gold Mines showing separately the principal and interest payments.
3. The amount of debt outstanding at October 31, November 30 and December 31, 1967.
4. Whether all the obligations undertaken by San Antonio Gold Mines have been lived up to in accord with agreement made with the Manitoba Government.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. CRAIK: With regard to Number 1 here, does the Honourable Member refer here to — the date the government loan or advance to San Antonio Gold Mines was actually paid to them. Does he mean the last payment of the loan or does he want all payments?

MR. CLEMENT: All payments.

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

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Lakeside, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing the following information for each year starting in 1950-51 to the present:

1. The Highway Branch or Department expenditures under the following headings: (a) new construction (b) maintenance (c) grants to municipalities.
2. The number of miles of provincial trunk highways completed under the following headings: (a) gravel (b) oil (c) bituminous surface (d) concrete.
3. Same as No. 2 above for provincial and main market roads.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Second readings of bills. The Honourable the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. CRAIK presented Bill No. 21, an Act to amend The Forest Act, for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, this bill introduces new legislation which was primarily brought about by the amalgamation within the Department of Forest Management and Forest Protection, and at a later date we will also be bringing in a similar Act to amend the Fire Prevention Act to provide for this amalgamation. In addition to this the bill provides first of all for revision in the wording of several sections which has been made for the purpose of clarification and to improve the content. Secondly, when The Forest Act was before the Legislature in 1964, the period an officer could hold timber under seizure was reduced from six months to 30 days, and over the period that an officer could hold timber when the trespasser was unknown was less than six months, and the proposed amendment now reduces the period to 30 days to correspond. And the third major item here, that under certain forestry projects timber is cut at government expense for silviculture purposes, the new legislation provides for its disposal.

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q. C. (St. John's): ... if I may of the Minister. Could he clarify whether any of the sections that are changed are related in any way to any rearrangements that may be in prospect or have been made with Churchill Forest Products. Is there any relationship with that?

MR. CRAIK: I think the main changes that are made come up in The Fires Prevention Act which will come up at a later date, and brought about by the increased activity in the northern forest areas. This is not aimed primarily at Churchill Forest or any of their activities in this Act.

MR. CHERNIACK: ... affect it in some way?

MR. CRAIK: Well, it affects the whole province.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I don't rise to object to the Act, but I will have some questions when we reach the clause by clause consideration. I would hope as well that when the bill goes before the Law Amendments Committee, where I presume it will end up, that those people who have an association here in the province dealing with forest matters will be asked to be present and voice any views that they may have on the subject. I don't know whether the Minister has been in contact with them or not, but certainly where there is an association in an area I would like to know that they have either been consulted or will have a chance to voice their views.

It seems to me that some of the changes here may go further than what the bill itself indicates. Possibly not. But when I see a change of definition, for example of "officer" to include further people; when I see a change, instead of using the word "department" we use "the Minister", then I would hope when we reach the detailed discussion that the Minister will be in a position to tell us what the possible effect of these extensions could be. In a number of areas the change from "department" to "Minister" can have a very major effect. If the Minister by himself is empowered to make certain decisions, then I think the House has to know what possible impacts this will have.

In the last page, and I regret I have to go here to a clause by clause, which I realize is not normal, but it seems to me that the explanation given for Clause No. 14 has no connection whatever with the clause itself. The Clause No. 14 refers to a new clause respecting the disposition of timber cut for silvicultural purposes, and the explanation is that this has to do with the disposal of seized equipment. I don't see the connection between the two but I would hope that the Minister can give us that in any case when we reach the clause by clause.

Now, insofar as the general effect of the bill, quite naturally if there are going to be sections here that are introduced as the results of any contract between the Manitoba Government and any other operator, be it Churchill Forest Industries or any other operator elsewhere in the province, then I would trust that the Minister would fully inform the House of any of these special relationships and any effect that this might have on existing contracts.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Member for Wellington, that debate be adjourned.

MR. CAMPBELL: I assume that my honourable friend, the Member for Inkster, would not mind if I made my very small contribution at this time and have the adjournment later on.

Like the Leader of this Party, I am afraid that I shall have to refer in a couple of cases to individual sections because, Mr. Speaker, there are several principles, as I see it, embodied in this Act and they are contained in individual sections which, generally speaking, is contrary to our rules and so I shall refer to them as principles.

I notice that in the definition of "officer" my honourable friend is putting himself in as one of the officers. I wouldn't think that this was likely his intention to be out cruising around in the forest, making these check-ups on timber cutting and such like, but if he wants to be included I don't see any reason why he shouldn't be named as one of the officers. But what I do rather question in the same connection, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we seem to be employing a different nomenclature for senior civil servants to that which is customary. We use the term "the Deputy to the Minister" and, "the Assistant Deputy to the Minister." This is, I think, not the usual way in which we refer to these senior officers. Is it not general practice here and does the legislation itself not use the terms Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister? Is there any — I'd like to ask my honourable friend is there any reason for changing what might be called the time-honoured designation of these civil servants.

Similarly, there is another principle involved in a later section that's already been spoken to by the Leader of this Party, and I agree with the position that he has taken; but in that same section as it appears in our present Act — and there is no change intended here — I would like my honourable friend the Minister to explain to me the meaning of the term where it gives the duties of the Department — now to be changed to "the Minister" according to this bill — with respect of Crown timber, "on behalf of the Crown shall regulate and administer all matters relating to or in any way connected with forestry, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing shall regulate and administer (a) all rights, properties, interests, claims and demands of the Crown in timber." I would imagine that my honourable friend is intending to say "in Crown timber". Is that not correct? I would suggest that that be checked when we get to the appropriate section in the committee stage.

And I notice, Mr. Speaker, in another principle embodied at the top of Page 2, that we

(MR. CAMPBELL cont'd.) are now changing the definition of the branch to "Forestry Branch" rather than "Forest Management," and I just was interested to observe that this puts it right back to where it was before the last couple of amendments of this Act, and I do want to commend my honourable friends that where they've changed a lot of the legislation that was in effect in the bad old days, that they now have discovered that it's a pretty good idea at times to just erase that great progress that they've made in the interval and adopt what was the former definition. And the one thing that I -- the substance that I really do disagree with, Mr. Speaker, is the one where the seized property can be sold within 30 days. I noted the Honourable the Minister's explanation of this and apparently it's to bring it into conformity with what was done with regard to timber where the possessor is known, and this is the one where he's not known. My feeling would be that we made a mistake when we put the shorter period in the time before; that we should not compound the error by now making it apply, because surely a person who is difficult to locate should get longer than 30 days. To some of these people I would gather that this is a pretty serious position, and surely it shouldn't be cut down from the period of six months to 30 days under which that property could be sold.

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

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

HON. OBIE BAIZLEY (Minister of Labour) (Osborne) presented Bill No. 31, an Act to amend The Employment Standards Act, for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. BAIZLEY: There are several points of improvement, Mr. Speaker. First, the definition of a child is changed to conform with the provisions of The School Attendance Act, and the term "learner" is going to be deleted from The Employment Standards Act because the minimum wage regulations now set a floor on wages to inexperienced workers, and the bill is going to make it mandatory for an employer to give each employee a statement of earnings and deductions at each pay period.

The bill hopes to retain the authority for the Minister to issue permits to handicapped persons at special rates. The Manitoba Labour Board will be required to review annually its orders concerning hours of work, and that the weekly day of rest provision will apply to all workers regardless of the number of hours they work. The present provision applies to workers working more than five hours daily.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the Honourable Minister for his explanation and to support Bill 31. I do have, however, some questions that I wish to raise with the Minister at this time.

I think the bill will make the Act much easier to understand and it improves quite a few wordings in it, and I can't help but agree with the Minister that Section 4, where it is now mandatory for the employer to furnish the employee with a statement of time, paying wages and showing the hours paid for and the overtime is a big improvement in the bill itself, but I'm somewhat concerned under Section 3, Mr. Speaker, where it -- under Section 1 "the objects and purpose of this Act is to secure reasonable hours of employment in industry and to establish minimum standards and conditions of employment," where under the Act previously it requested to establish minimum proper standards, and the amendment takes out the word "proper", so I wonder, is it lowering the standard now or what does the change mean, because I see this "minimum proper standards" is now taken out.

The other part of the bill, Mr. Speaker, under Section 9 - I think it's where the Minister has just mentioned - is a good section: "where it shall at least once in one year make it an order to review the circumstances of employment affected by the order." That's the only point I wish to raise on this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I will support it, but I would like an explanation on that section number (3).

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PETER FOX (Kildonan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to thank the Minister for his explanation but myself, I too am concerned that the word "proper" has been removed from the bill. I don't know whether somebody has a guilty conscience or something that the word "proper" isn't any more right to use in the bill, but I did think that there was nothing wrong with having "the proper minimum standards" and therefore I would also like an answer to that.

Now in respect to Section 4; I must commend the government that Number 4 is an

(MR. FOX cont'd.) improvement on the old Act, and it's certainly nice to see that this kind of clean-up is being done in the Act. There are a number of other sections which also commend themselves but I won't go into them at the moment. I would certainly like to say something in regards to the hours of work which I regret has not been done anything about. Now, as you no doubt are aware, I did have a resolution on the Order Paper to bring this matter before the House. I shall instead bring in some amendments under the industrial committees at the proper time. But I should like to say at this time that if we're going to get with it in '70, we've got to get with it now too, and one of the things we've got to do is realize that the 40-hour week is here, has been here for a long time, and we haven't made any effort to recognize it here in Manitoba. I just looked at the statistics of the DBS, and for 1967 August, the Manitoba average weekly hour was 39.4 and for September 1967 it was 39.7. At that time we were a little more buoyant in our economy than we are now, so I imagine that average would be quite a bit down from what it was then. And still we have on our statutes 48 hours for men, 44 hours for women.

That brings me to my other point, that here we are discriminating. We have a different hours of work for women than for men. I've tried to find whether this was true for other provinces and I can't seem to find it. Now that's not too bad. Maybe we should discriminate against women if the government thinks so, and don't let them work as much as the men because the widows or the divorcees are working and supporting a family - they don't need as much as a man, who's supporting a family; but that's up to the government to judge. But the thing that irritates me a little more is that, as well, we get into the Act and we discriminate further. We say that if women are working in the same shop as men, then the hours that shall prevail shall be the ones that apply to men. So again we discriminate, and I think that these things should also be cleaned up in the Act if we're going to do a clean-up. I think I shall leave it at that for now, Mr. Speaker, but I shall take up these points when we get into Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Virden, and the proposed motion of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition in amendment thereto. The Honourable the Minister of Welfare.

HON. J. B. CARROLL (Minister of Welfare) (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank very much the Leader of the Opposition for raising the question about the Metis people of our province just at the time of our adjournment last. I think you will recognize that the main burden of my concern at that stage was for changes in federal policy which were reflected through letters to the Indian chiefs of our province indicating a change which strikes right at the heart of the security that was provided and the rights that were provided to the Indian people, and written into the constitution of our country.

The Leader of the Opposition was suggesting that conditions of Metis people were quite similar to those of Indians within our province and I was agreeing that that was right. And while the conditions are the same, the areas of responsibility are quite different, the fundamental difference being that the Indians had a special status conferred upon him and written into the British North America Act, and many of them were also covered by special treaty, signed and giving a special status and special rights to Indian people. The Federal Government were assuming certain responsibilities for them.

The Metis have no special status, only those rights enjoyed by other Manitobans, whereas Indians have special rights, as I mentioned a moment ago, that reflect in policies with respect to land and land use; special rights to housing; special rights affecting hunting, fishing and trapping privileges; special rights to a free education; to health and welfare services, these being in dispute by the Government of Canada today. They also enjoy the benefits of an administrative bureaucracy that I think to some extent at least has caused some of the problems that our Indian people face today. They have special rights to economic development; the provision of cattle and certain farm machinery, certain fishing equipment and things of that kind. They receive - those who are subject to treaty - certain treaty payments from time to time; they have tax-free land, although I understand that there may be some changes taking place here some time in the future. The Federal Minister assumes responsibility for the land and the transfer of land for Indian people and Indian bands. He has the right to determine how

(MR. CARROLL cont'd.) band funds are used; he has the sole right to say whether funds spent by Indian Band Councils is for the benefit of the band, and if he doesn't agree, then presumably they have no right to spend that money; and so on. There are great lists of those things, those special rights given to Indian people and special responsibilities which have been assumed by the Government of Canada.

The Metis - the Metis that we are concerned about in our province are those that are spelled out by definition in the, well you say report; a report that was commissioned by the former Government of Manitoba and for which I give them full credit, defines the Metis people as those who recognize themselves as being of Indian origin and who live the Indian way of life. Unfortunately, our Metis have many of the handicaps I referred to on Friday, many of the road blocks that prevent them from fitting easily into our white society. And as I mentioned on Friday as well, we as a province have established many special services and programs to try to help both Indian and Metis people to bridge the gap that there is at the present time between our societies.

I mentioned some of these programs that are being shared by the Government of Canada and I give them full credit for going along with these progressive measures - community development, vocational opportunities, community teachers, community education officers, friendship centres and these sort of things. And I was trying to say that there are many of these programs that we share jointly with the Government of Canada, there are many areas in which we are working at the present time, where it's essential to have Federal Government co-operation and Federal Government assistance. Our job placement program is just one of those kinds of programs, because I think Canada Manpower is vital to the success of that program and they can be responsible for its failure if we don't have that kind of co-operation. We have 2,754 people of Indian and Metis origin who are somewhere in the process of transition between the Indian community or the Metis community and our white society, as at the end of the month of February. And Canada Manpower is most important in providing payments for training, for basic training for skilled development programs, commonly referred to as upgrading, for job training programs, and we through vocational opportunities provide the beginning and the end of this process. We start with the motivational counselling, trying to help people to make up their minds, to give them the courage and the confidence that they can succeed on the outside. We try to prepare them for the kind of life they're going to face when they go through this process and end up in employment in our communities. We also have to work with that family, once this transition has been made, once they have moved into employment, and to make sure that there's a satisfactory adjustment into the community into which they move. And this is a very big gap between an isolated remote settlement and, say, an urban area like Winnipeg here.

An example of one of the problems that we run into. We have a social orientation course that has been provided at Pembina House for a number of years. This course was developed as the result of the Department of Health, the Department of Welfare, Indian Affairs Branch, and Canada Manpower getting together to provide the means by which we would train people, give them the social orientation, the cultural orientation that they need to help in this transitional program. Canada Manpower did not consider social orientation as a priority in its commitment, and as a result they pulled out disrupting a program that has had the best co-operative efforts of all of the people involved and we've had to devise new ways and means by which we can accommodate the same thing. We find that in many cases the assessment of individuals that is done by our people in the field is not always accepted by Canada Manpower, who must go through the same programs of assessment and may or may not end up with the same results. They don't consider the families in their consideration of people who are moving into employment, and this is vital because an individual moving by himself will surely succeed if his family are not able to make the same kind of adjustment in the white society.

Another area vital to our Metis people is in the field of housing, and as we know the Federal Government has been in the housing business for a long period of time under the National Housing Act. They have been the housing agency providing the funds for housing for Canadian people. It is vital, then, in the consideration of housing for a group of our people, that we form a partnership with the Government of Canada; and while the Government of Canada feel that it's proper and in the best interests of the Indian people to build in uneconomic areas on reserves, they won't share with the provinces in the development of housing in Metis communities that do not have a proper economic base. The Metis must have employment or the

(MR. CARROLL cont'd.) immediate prospects of employment before the Government of Canada will consider a financial arrangement for the provision of housing for Metis people. They've limited their contribution, therefore, to growth centres and to people who are apt to succeed in employment in the growth centre. At the same time the Government of Canada has a very large housing program on Indian reserves, housing and other capital investments of some \$112 million, and at the same time their commitment to off-reserve housing for Indian people is limited to a million dollars. This will provide, over the space of a number of years, 25 new houses in Manitoba at a time when we have over 1, 600 people, Treaty Indian people, who are somewhere in the stage of this process from the Indian reserves to our white community. We say the program is completely inadequate with respect to the off-reserve housing, and we don't recommend that they cut back on reserve housing but we do recommend that they give much greater consideration to the problems of housing in areas outside of Indian reservations.

We think, too, that are many other programs that have been developed by the Government of Canada, like winter works, maybe ARDA, maybe work activity programs if they ever get around to preparing those regulations, that might be useful in helping to train people, in helping to meet one of the areas of real priority that are being called for by Metis people in our province - and that is the development of housing. We can have winter works to go out and cut down trees along highways and in park areas and things of this kind that have some economic advantage but which really doesn't meet the real needs of Indian people who are living, in many cases, in very deplorable substandard housing accommodation. So we think that much greater effort should be given to ways and means by which we can tailor our programs so they begin to meet some of the real needs of not only our Indian people but our Metis people as well.

So there are many programs at the federal level and at the provincial level, all working to help to meet this special program. There are many Federal Government departments involved and I listed a few of them here a moment ago; Health and Welfare; Labour; Manpower; Forestry; the ARDA program; the Company of Young Canadians. All of these people are involved in Indian programs. Indian Affairs; the Housing Corporation itself; and many of our programs are vulnerable to changes in Federal Government policy or shortage of funds available to the various programs that the Government of Canada have to offer. And of course these are some of the reasons why the Prairie Economic Council and the ministers in charge in the western provinces were suggesting that we get together with the Government of Canada to try to look at the problems of Indian people, to try to co-ordinate our programs to get the best results so that our money would not be wasted, so that we wouldn't find people falling between the stools, that there would be money available to meet on a priority basis the very real needs of this group of people. And of course the same ideas came forward from a Conference of Welfare Ministers that took place a couple of months ago. The same sorts of concerns were being expressed for the native people of Canada, and it's our hope that along with the message of the other day that we should try to restore the rights of Indian people to their traditional health services, we should also look to convene a conference that would help to establish priorities, help to establish the kind of co-ordination we need as between the Federal Government and the provinces of Canada, all of whom are concerned about meeting the needs of our native people.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I look forward to your direction for the second year in a row, and I might say since you've taken over this post at the beginning of the last Legislature that there has been quite a good feeling amongst the members of the House and the debate is being carried on in a very fine manner, and I think you, Sir, can take a great deal of credit and I wish you well for the future in this regard.

Also, I would like to say to the Honourable Member from Virden and the honourable member who seconded the Throne Address, the Honourable Member from St. Matthews, that you two honourable gentlemen seem to have set quite a distinct tone for the Throne Speech debate in that almost all members with the exception of one or two on your side of the House who have spoken, have spoken about the omissions and the lack of content in the Throne Speech, and perhaps if other members are taking the same line it is because of your leadership in this regard.

I would like to address myself, Mr. Speaker, for a few moments to some of the problems and concerns we have in the constituency of Portage la Prairie before I talk about the broader picture of the province of Manitoba. In the past year in Portage la Prairie, the citizens of that constituency have entered into a number of programs that required no help from government, or very little help from government, and I would say that this would be an exemplary form of

(MR. JOHNSTON cont'd.) . . . self-help. The first one that happened in our constituency in the last year, that had wide participation amongst the citizens and the elected representatives, was the entering in of the Pan American Games in conjunction with the people of Manitoba in general and the people of Winnipeg in particular. In Portage, when it was found that Portage la Prairie would be given a number of the baseball games, a voluntary group of citizens and elected representatives were quickly formed in about 55 days from what was termed by one Winnipeg reporter a ploughed field. From a ploughed field to one of the best baseball stadiums in Canada was the result of the volunteers of the people of Portage, and I believe that the four or five games that were played in Portage la Prairie in the Pan American series of baseball, there was nothing but complimentary remarks from the teams who participated and from their officials, and so at this time I would like to pay tribute to their Chairman Mr. Stevenson, and his committee Mr. Gerald Cobbe, Jack Forsythe, Glen Ellwood, Reeve Adrain of the Rural Municipality of Portage who contributed equipment and manpower, and also to our other community in the constituency of Portage which is the Canadian Forces Base at the south port, to Group Captain Stewart-- I guess now it is Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart - and his men; they added to this great contribution in Portage in the last year.

The second project that was taken on by our people and turned out to be highly successful was the construction and the opening, and now the use of, a new hockey rink, a new Centennial Arena it's known as, and it is giving wide use to the community in both summer and winter use: figure skating, hockey, public skating, public meetings and any sort of activity along those lines. To show that from one good work comes others - in the first year that the Centennial Arena was open in Portage la Prairie, an old and historic name in the sporting field came back to life in Manitoba, namely, in the Portage Terriers Hockey Club. The Portage Terriers, as many of you will know, won the Memorial Cup in 1941 and '42, and shortly after the war, due to pressure from no artificial ice and lack of sponsorship, this organization had to disband. Now the Portage Terriers are back in action with another Manitoba League - Selkirk, Dauphin, and Fort Garry - and this league seems to be going to go and grow for years and years to come, and I pay tribute at this time to the public-spirited citizens of Portage la Prairie who activated this team, and within 42 days of the decision that was made to form the team there was a team on the ice with their uniforms and equipment fully paid for, and they started the league and won their first two games. Don't ask me what happened after that, but we have revived the Portage Terrier tradition in Portage, and I might say with a policy that will be good for our young people. We are going into this with our eyes open, that we do not hopefully look forward to ever winning a Memorial Cup again with our finances and our population, but we intend to give the chance to our youth of Portage and district to participate in Canada's national game, and our policies are such that we will not stand in the way of any boy going on to higher education or going to a better job. This is the aim and the direction that this new hockey league has taken and I think that citizens of Selkirk and Dauphin and Fort Garry are to be commended for taking on this project.

The third item in Portage that is going forward year by year, and is now in its fifth year, is the winter carnival. We have had a three-day carnival - it was just completed about two weeks ago - under the directionship of Mr. Omar Pappos, and this year, through skidoo racing and outdoor events, there were about 7,000 people in attendance and this again is growing, to make a better place to live and our citizens have better opportunities to enjoy our winter climate.

The fourth matter in which I take great pride in Portage is our Manitoba School for Retardates. We have an outstanding example of a civil servant who goes far beyond what he is expected to do in developing and working towards a better world to live in for the people who are under his care, and I'm referring at this time to Dr. Lowther who has innovated quite a startling new plan in that he is taking out of the home the moderately retarded people, who through testing and through experience he has found that they can go together and go into a smaller home and come out of the institution and try to come back into society, and through the Kinsmen Club of Portage la Prairie, and Dr. Lowther and a committee of the Local Branch of the Retardate Branch of Manitoba, this has already been done in the past year, and I know many of you will have seen on television and in various news articles where this project is highly successful to date. There is an intention on the part of the local committee to expand this, and for those of you who are not only interested in the humanities of this project, I might say that Dr. Lowther tells us that in the economics of this situation, in the home atmosphere, a moderately retarded

(MR. JOHNSTON cont'd.)..... person can be maintained for \$97.00 a month as compared to the institutional cost of \$150.00 a month, so for more than one reason this is quite a feat.

Now, we do have in our area some concerns that year by year some of them may have been coming nearer to solution, but others are no nearer to an answer than they were a number of years ago. The first one I will mention and direct to the Minister of Education, and that is that the people in Portage, the Council, the Rural Municipality Council, and the school board would like to know where they stand in the matter of a vocational school. As you know, for long-term planning in a community that is responsible for the educational needs of about 20,000 people, there has to be an answer given to this problem and we would like to know. I would also like the Minister of Public Utilities to help out with this answer because in his own constituency he was quite emphatic that the Cabinet would be making decisions regarding the Boundaries Commission recommendations, and I think that Portage la Prairie is one of the areas that should be seriously considered. Now I know that you are seriously considering it but I think that time should not be allowed to go, should not be allowed to drag too much longer before the answer is given. I know in talking to school board members that they are seriously being held up on their planning. The school population is going up year by year and they have made their representations to this government, they have made their representation to the Boundaries Commission, and they are patiently - or should I say impatiently - waiting for this answer.

.....continued on next page.

(MR. JOHNSTON Cont'd.):

Another concern in the Portage area is the lack of an all-weather highway that links up south to the Border. As you know, in the past year I have had on the Order Paper a resolution to have this highway undertaken and the resolution has been amended and voted down. Now we have through the formation of a development corporation where 15 municipalities are now encompassed in the one corporation, it is more important than ever that Portage which is the hub of this development corporation should be linked up to their neighbouring people in the south. Now the Minister of Highways may say that provincial road No. 240 does this job. Outside of changing the designation of the road to a provincial road, really there has been nothing done to make this into an all weather highway. If there is no snow in the winter time it can be navigated but most winters it's blocked or partially blocked during the winter.

Another concern that we have in Portage - and I notice some other cities have the same concern in Manitoba - and that is the fact that cities and towns who have a large concentration of provincial buildings and institutions are finding it extremely difficult to carry on and supply the full municipal services that are required without the proper amount of tax dollars coming back in from these institutions. It's well known that some years ago the Federal Government all across Canada now pays full taxes on their buildings and on their properties in towns and cities and I think it is high time that the government of Manitoba took this same approach. Perhaps 10 or 15 years ago when the concern for high taxes was not as great as it is now, this may have been a minor detail but I can mention to the honourable members here that in the case of Portage la Prairie it's a matter of about \$106,000 in revenue - lost revenue to the city. Translated into mills, and into our mill rate, this is about 7 mills that the other people, businesses and property owners in Portage la Prairie are subsidizing. We already have one of the highest tax rates in Manitoba and this is part of the reason. So I would suggest to the government that they seriously consider correcting this inequity. I know Selkirk and Brandon, The Pas as well as Portage la Prairie and possibly some other centres are affected and I know that all these municipal councils have made representations in the past year to have this corrected and I sincerely hope at this session that there will be legislation introduced to change the method of giving taxation to the municipalities and cities in this regard.

Well, Mr. Speaker, throughout the province what are the people really talking about these days when they talk about government? Are they not talking about two things? They are talking about industry or the lack of it, and they are talking about taxes, high taxes. Now governments are being called upon to pay for more services all the time, we know this, and like the Premier has said, and I've heard him say it, that the time has come when we must separate our needs from our wants, but aside from that, I feel that in these two particular fields the government has to really concentrate. There are some other areas that are quite important we know, education and the looking after of our people who are not fortunate enough to be able to look after themselves. We know that these are priorities, but I come back to these two points that I have mentioned, and only through industry can we get in more income.

I have read in a press release where the Honourable Minister of Industry & Commerce is going to Ottawa with a group of people to try and have that area included in the designated area plan and in this regard I wish him well. I myself have tried through correspondence and speaking with Ottawa to have something done about this. Our Member of Parliament, Mr. Sig Enns has worked on this problem also and so when the Minister goes to Ottawa to try to have some changes made in a designated area in Manitoba I certainly wish him well. However, if nothing comes of this, because I was told at the time that I had tried, that the legislation would not be changed for a number of years and then they would consider a change, I say that if there is no hope for a change for a year or more, that the Minister look into the Ontario plan where they are supplementing the designated area plan put forward by the Federal Government -- and I'm thinking now of areas like Portage la Prairie and I believe Steinbach where because they are administrated through the Manpower Centre administrative area, there has been some inequities here. I hope perhaps that your department will - and I don't necessarily mean with money or concessions - but your department will make an effort to bring into these areas industries that could quite well go ahead without the designated area assistance. Now I'm thinking for example in the Portage area in the last number of years the row crop part of the farming industry is becoming a very good type of agriculture to have

(MR. JOHNSTON cont'd.): in the particular soil that is in that area and we have found from development of the row crop industry as it relates to market garden produce, onions, carrots, potatoes and so on, we find that the other plants come and their first concern is not whether its a designated area or not, their first concern is the availability of the product, the quality of the product, and the continuity of the product year after year. So I hope that the Minister will give some thought to looking at these particular areas that I have mentioned and trying to bring in an industry that is particularly suited to the pluses that are there in that area.

Now as far as the taxes go, talking about taxes, everybody wants to talk about taxes but I guess not many people can do a great deal about them, but I have here in my hand a copy of the Portage Leader that's dated August 17, 1967, and the headline is: "Mill rate hits business community". Well, Mr. Speaker, when the government announced its Foundation Program a year ago, I was asked for comments by one of the radio stations and I said at the time, that it did not seem fair to me that industry and commerce in particular should be singled out to carry a greater load than anybody else. Now I know this can be interpreted to say that I'm standing up for certain business interests and so on. Well, I'm sorry if that interpretation is taken; but Manitoba's industrial base is not that strong and healthy that we can place an undue load upon industry. As a matter of fact, I would say it's still in a pretty fragile state and we really should not be singling out industry to carry a 33 mill load as against nine for other types of property. And in this article that I'm quoting to you, and I know it's the same across Manitoba, that the industrial community of Portage la Prairie is paying a mill rate of almost 87 mills. This year there's an increase again and I think that the taxation on industry is so high now that small business in particular find that their yearly cost of meeting taxation is one of their prime concerns in their budgeting for the coming year. If I may mention one firm, and this is in Winnipeg on Portage Avenue, a small business by modern standards. About four years ago the owner of that business was paying \$900.00 a year property tax; two years later it had gone up to \$1500.00. A year later, under the Foundation Program and through some increase in taxation in his municipality, that man is faced with a \$2300.00 tax bill. Now that is in a period of 4 to 5 years, and this has got to stop. You're going to drive people out of business; you're going to put less competition in the field; there's going to be fewer outlets - the larger corporations are going to have fewer outlets and the small businessman is being squeezed out. So I would ask this government that when they're looking for ways and means of doing something to really assist industry in this province, that they look at this 33 mill bit. It's going quite a bit too far when you see a tax increase that in five years' time can over double, over double.

I was down in Turtle Mountain for some time in the recent by-election and I ran into quite a few of the honourable gentlemen opposite during that time, and I think we would all agree that what was on peoples' minds most of all was where the high tax situation was going to end. Almost every farmer I talked to, or businessman I talked to, this was his concern, and I know there were other issues in that by-election but I'm sure the Premier of this province and his Cabinet are going to have to take a very close look at this because they know that in Turtle Mountain part of the reason that they didn't gain that seat was because of high taxes and what we on this side have been talking about in the past few weeks - government waste in certain areas; and the one main area of course is the propaganda system that is coming to life under this government.

I thought, when the Honourable the First Minister first took office, I thought he would sort of leap on this one as one of the first items that he would crack down upon. But perhaps he inherited a situation that was already in the making and he was not able to cope with it, because it was only shortly after he took office that we found the Department of Government Information expanding and flourishing like it never has before. So I sincerely hope that it's not too late for the Premier to take a second look at this department and cut back on some of the spending there.

MR. PHILIP PETURSSON (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to follow the precedent set by other honourable members who have risen to take part in this debate by adding my congratulations to you on your continuing in office in the none too easy position which you hold as Speaker of the House, a position which during the last session you filled with distinction and with dignity. A special touch I feel is added by you gracing that Chair, by your wearing of the tricorne at a jaunty angle, western angle, dipped slightly over

(MR. PETURSSON cont'd.)one ear but not enough to detract from the dignity of the office, but still enough to give emphasis to the fact that we are a Legislature in one of the western provinces where men are allowed to swagger just a little bit.

It is my pleasure also to present a verbal laurel wreath to both the mover and the seconder of the Throne Speech, the Honourable Member from Virden, and the Honourable Member for St. Matthews. They both made a brave effort considering the rather meagre content of the subject with which they were dealing, the subject to which they were addressing themselves, and supporting.

I thank the Member from Virden for that little bottle of oil and the piece of cheese from his constituency. The thought occurred to me that if any member comes, is elected to this Legislature from a constituency in which gas is produced, we might have some gas also added to the House.

But having said this I shall say no more less I diminish in any way my good wishes to the Premier -- who I wish were in his seat so that I could speak to him and pay my tribute to him -- to the Premier on his assumption to the leadership of his party and of the government. I even, in his absence, extend to him my congratulations in having gained the confidence of his party to the point that it was convinced that he would serve that party and the government of this province well -- even though, as some are predicting, his reign may be a short one.

In speaking of the Premier, I recall that prior to his election to this House he worked as an undertaker, or had an undertaking establishment or as some would prefer, held the office of funeral director. This was brought to my attention when I saw a small report in a paper, it was in the Tribune I think, which referred to such a thing as a drive-in funeral-viewing building or institution. I was rather intrigued by this report and then later I saw the picture in the same paper showing a man far less handsome than the premier of the province standing before the windows by which motorists could drive to view the remains of some of their friends. I don't know how any undertaker could get to be that bad looking when in this House both men who have followed that profession are particularly good looking men.

The reason given for having this particular drive-in funeral-viewing building was that people won't have to dress up to view the remains, that is, they don't have to shave, they don't have to put on a necktie or a clean shirt, they can come in any old way that they feel, but just sit in the car and drive past the window and look at poor old Tom or Jim or whoever he happens to be and then drive on. Some members in discussing this subject thought that this might be added to by having perhaps a hot-dog stand and a drink dispenser somewhere in the neighbourhood so that people could spend a little time there and eat their hot-dog and have the drink while they were looking at the deceased -- (Interjection) -- a real wake, yes. They could have something of that sort. I was wondering whether the Premier of the province would follow suit now and institute something -- he has the authority and power -- institute something of a similar nature but even more progressive in this province, which is governed of course by a progressive party. I was going to ask the Premier whether we might expect some innovations here. After all why should we let the Americans outdo us in things of this sort.

In connection with the practice which he carried on, there might be instituted such things as special sales, for instance, such as the department stores have, special sales of coffins or year-end clearances or reduction offered on floor models, anniversary sales, and then they might also offer . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I wonder if the honourable gentleman would mind me reminding him that the First Minister is no longer in that business and hasn't been for some time.

MR. PETURSSON: May I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that when he leaves this House he may return to it. We don't know. But in the event that he does and in the event that he buys a Cadillac for a hearse, and may have other hearses as well, that the people may be given a choice of car in which they are driven to their last resting place, Cadillac, Chrysler, or a Dodge, Ford and so on, depending on the make of car that they had been used to driving in during their days of life. Personally I have seen coffins with the body enclosed transported in all kinds of ways, even on a railroad pushcar down the line to a cemetery, but in any event, Mr. Speaker, I don't propose to pursue this any further, but I wait with expectancy the Premier's word on any changes or adjustments that he may think proper in funeral customs in the province. -- (Interjection) -- I didn't get it.

But leaving that and getting on to more serious matters, he will recognize as others who

(MR. PETURRSON cont'd.): have preceded him in his office that it is no small honour to be the leader of the government of this province, to preside over the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly in this beautifully appointed Chamber, in this what we can't but regard as a magnificent building. I know in saying this it may appear that I am doing a bit of Chamber of Commerce promotional work, or even that I am copying one of the high salaried government appointed publicity heads, but it isn't either of these, and it isn't meant to be; it is simply a reaction that I have whenever I enter this building or view it from outside. It is unique on this continent, as we are told in the brochures that are handed out at the door; it has no equal and I feel a great personal pride in being a member of the Legislature that sits in it.

Last summer I showed a visitor from overseas through this building and his reaction gave some indication that he must have held Winnipeg as being rather a remote and out-of-the way place. On leaving the building and looking back, he said "I can't understand why they built this building here, so far away from everything." The government may have to do a little bit more promotional work to let it be known that Winnipeg is no small city. A lady visitor from Boston last summer was impressed in another way and by many things that she saw, but she said the most impressive thing to her was how clean this building was, how well it was kept and she continued: "In the United States I have never entered a public building that wasn't littered with paper and cigarette butts, but here" she said, "everything is clean and shiny." And so different people visiting Winnipeg see different things but all agree that this building is a noble edifice and a memorial to men of a venturesome and far-sighted and progressive spirit. In our day there is no need of another building of this nature but there is a need for building in another way, building programs that will fulfil the needs of the people of this province. Among these and foremost in line is the plan much talked of, long talked of and legislated for up to a point but which this provincial government pulls fearfully away from, or seems to. I wish that the present government had the will and the daring and the venturesome spirit that the men possessed in the earlier day when - of the same political stripe, as a matter of fact as the government is today, who saw a need and took firm steps to fill that need - that is by the construction of a legislative building that will stand for years as a memorial to them and the spirit that they then showed. The opportunity now is wide open to the present government of this province to institute a plan, a medical plan, medicare plan, which will be a milestone in the history of this province, a milestone marking a forward step never to be regretted, a milestone marking this government as being not merely conservative but progressive also. It is in their hands to go down in the history of the province as a government group that has achieved things needful to the people and necessary in our time.

Others have spoken on the subject of Medicare and I don't propose to repeat their arguments. The leader of my Party, the New Democratic Party and the Honourable Member for Inkster and St. John's, and others, have very ably presented the case for Medicare and I add my voice only now by mentioning it but refrain from repeating all the arguments already presented but to be found nevertheless in Hansard for any who wish to have their minds refreshed.

Instead of elaborating on that, Mr. Speaker, I wish briefly to make reference to my constituency, the constituency of Wellington, a certain aspect of it. Wellington is in the centre of the west end of Winnipeg, a compact area bounded by straight lines formed by Ellice Avenue on the south and Notre Dame Avenue on the North; by Sherbrook Street on the East and the city limits on the West - a very compact area. Within this area, and especially between Arlington Street and Sherbrook Street in the Eastern end of the constituency, there are a large number of small homes most of which are now grown quite old, built some 50 to 60 or more years ago - a great number of them, most of them, on 25 foot lots. Many of them are occupied by pensioners and people on fixed incomes. It is over this area that assessment officers have recently reigned, that is during the past several months, and in almost every case have raised the assessment on these homes, the land on which they stood and on the buildings, far beyond what can be regarded as reasonable or just. In a few instances even up to a figure that is only a few hundred dollars short of the assessment placed on far more pretentious homes in other parts of the city and in many cases built on 50 foot lots rather than on lots that are only 25 feet wide.

One comparison presented to me was the land assessment of a 25 foot lot on Simcoe Street that has now been raised to \$1300 and the comparison was made between that and a 50 foot lot in a more pretentious part of the city that was now assessed at \$1700. 00.

(MR. PETURSSON cont'd.)

One lady phoned me in deep desperation, having just received her assessment notice showing that there had been a very sharp increase in the assessment on her home. She owned the small cottage in which she lived but she lived alone. Her husband had died a couple of years ago and a son had died more recently. Her only income is the Old Age Security cheque that she receives monthly and the \$30 supplement. Many of these people very similarly situated are in desperate straits - they feel they are in desperate straits. A delegation numbering over 400 attended on the City Council a week ago but they were given the usual run-around that they receive there, they were referred to Metro but these people had already been to Metro and Metro had already refused to meet them.

The mayor referred them to the Legislature and told them that this was where they could come. But we know what reception they would receive here and the people themselves knew what reception they would receive here - they would be referred back to Metro or back to the City Council. I spoke to some of the people in the delegation at City Hall but what hope could I hold out to them? This whole area could conceivably as a result of an unbearable tax burden, deteriorate into a slum area. If the people try to sell, who will buy? The assessment has gone up and the mill rate will probably also go up, taxes will be increased in proportion. City ordinances do not permit new building on a 25 foot lot and improvements in existing homes mean higher taxes and so these people are caught out on a limb; no one professes to be able to relieve the position in which they are caught. So I refer this to the government and ask whether the government doesn't have a concern in this regard, whether there is not some action or some proposal that the government can make. These are the citizens that are represented in the Legislature just the same as citizens are represented from say River Heights or Silver Heights, the more affluent parts of the city.

I know that the same condition exists, the same condition as the one I have been describing exists in the Constituency of St. Matthews. I know that the Honourable Member from St. Matthews has already made reference to this, briefly. The same situation exists in the constituency of Logan to the north of my constituency and I'm sure that the same situation exists farther afield in other constituencies. I would wish that someone could point out for me some solution, even a partial solution to this problem which has been imposed on so many people who can ill bear it, that comes as a tragedy and a threat to their security.

The Member from Portage was feeling very sorry for businessmen in his constituency because they were having to pay higher taxes, but they are not on fixed incomes as so many of these people are, and I think that before we begin to weep large tears for businessmen, that we give some thought to people who are in the situation in which these people I have been describing find themselves. This tragedy that these people suffer, because it is a tragedy, there are some who simply don't know where to turn or to whom to turn so I call it a tragedy, and this tragedy seems to point logically to another tragedy that another segment of our population suffers -- and I refer here to the Indian population in Manitoba. I express my thanks to the Honourable Member for Roblin for having brought this matter to the fore, in his excellent presentation, and also to the Honourable Minister for Welfare who devoted his whole presentation almost to the consideration of the plight of the Indian population. That is another matter that cannot and should not be ignored or passed by except by adding to a deepening tragedy, a tragedy for a people who at one time alone peopled this great land, ranging its broad expanses at will as free men, free to come and to go as they wished. And in this connection I would like to make mention of a book that is even now in process of being printed, that will be on the bookshelves within about three weeks, perhaps by the end of this month. It bears the title, "The Heart of a Continent" and presents the history of Manitoba. The author is a man that's known to most or all of us I think by reputation if not otherwise, Ed. Russenholt. This book centres on the Province of Manitoba and traces its history in heroic and romantic terms and I don't believe that any other book could be found that would come at a better time - could better delineate the story of this province as it approaches its Centennial year in 1970 and not so very many months away.

This book - and I'm saying this without urging on anybody's part, neither by the author nor any other, I don't know who the publishers are, but I understand that they are a Winnipeg or a Manitoba firm. I don't know of any other book that would more fittingly or could more fittingly be adopted as the book to be pushed by whatever Manitoba Centennial Committee is to be setup or has been setup.

(MR. PETURSSON cont'd.):

The author says, for instance -- and he brings out here a point that hasn't usually been brought out in history books covering Manitoba -- he says that Manitoba history did not begin with the coming of the white man into the west; he says that this part of the continent has a long and heroic history stretching back for many centuries that long preceded white settlement, that history he said covered the centuries in which the Indian roamed the broad prairies freely, as a free man, proud in his prowess and brave in his deeds. The land was his and all that was in the land was his. He lived his life as he believed it should be lived, and he worshipped as he believed he should worship and no man denied him that right. He was a man as independent and as free as the air that blows. Then came the intruders, men with strange ways, alien ways, and the whole picture changed. The intruders did not always agree among themselves and they quarrelled with the Indians who felt the effect of the encroachment and sometimes resisted it. The white man sold the Indians guns and rum. The white man carried disease such as smallpox and the author of this book says that as a result of war, smallpox and rum, over the years whole bands of Indians were decimated and some were wiped out completely, whole bands disappeared, and it is the descendants of the few that survived who now face tragedy in our time. They are no longer the proud Indian riding freely over the plains, pursuing his own way of life. He has become the victim of the white man and the white man's ways. He has been ghettoized on Reserves; he has in many cases, been turned into a non-Indian, a stranger both to Indian ways and a stranger to the ways of the white man.

He is a nobody, a non person. He has suffered a shameful degradation and the white man is responsible. If an Indian receives training in a job, it isn't enough that he do the job as well as a white man. As one man in speaking of this has said to me, the Indian must always have a margin or show a margin of excellence - there always must be a margin of excellence. The Indian cannot hold the job simply by being as good as a white man at the same job; he must always be a little bit better than a white man in the same job, otherwise the white man is given preference. He has been made subject to our laws, he has been made subject to our rules, our regulations. He has had no voice in determining what these should be. He has been deprived of his religion, he has been made dependent on the white man's largess handed out in very small proportions and he has become a problem to the white man. He has become a degraded, a third class being. And I wish I could say it as well as the Honourable Minister of Welfare said it on Friday and again today, but lacking that ability I re-emphasize everything that he said about the plight of the Indian and with him I deplore the proposal that now the Federal Government has made to withdraw funds which had in previous years been earmarked to operate Indian Health Services. The Indians have been made a subject race, they have been made a dependent people and now the government plans to degrade them still further than they have been degraded by withdrawing funds which had been earmarked for health services to them and seems to offer no substitute plan or solution.

It was first denied by the Federal Government that it had made these plans or had them in mind, but it appears on closer reading of communications that the Federal Government had had the thought that the provinces should take over a greater responsibility and I understand, I believe that the provinces had not been consulted in this matter. In any event the Federal Government may perhaps wish, or indicate by this withdrawal, wish that war and smallpox and rum had in reality succeeded in their work so that it now would be free of this problem, would no longer have to deal with it, or in what can't but be regarded as a very direct way, is directly injecting itself into this problem by withdrawing from the Indian the aid which the Indian earlier received and had come to respect so that in effect disease and starvation will do the work that war and disease and rum did not do earlier.

As I came into the House today I had some documents placed in my hands, dated March 6th - and that's only 12 days ago - and here it seems to me that it is quite clearly stated, this is a letter that is addressed to all Chiefs and Counsellors, Manitoba Indian Bands. It is marked as File #100-1 (M1). The Federal Government, it says, in writing to the Chiefs and Counsellors, the Federal Government has been forced to reduce many of its programs and the resources available for health services for Indian people has also been greatly reduced and so it proposes to withdraw from the aid that had previously been given, and it refers the Indian to the welfare agency in his district. It says the Indian person must obtain a statement from the welfare agency to the effect that he actually requires assistance to pay for

(MR. PETURSSON cont'd.) personal health services and present this statement to a doctor, druggist, hospital before receiving service; otherwise the Indian person will be billed for such services. What in effect the Department of National Health and Welfare is saying is that when the Indian becomes ill or if he suffers an accident, before he can receive help he must go to the welfare agency in his area, inform the agency of the services that he needs and either pay them or if unable to, he will be billed for the service. I'm tempted to go on and read the whole thing but -- (Interjection) -- Somebody says you all have it. Then it isn't necessary that I go any further with it.

There is another communication addressed to all hospitals. March 6th also - the same file number. "Due to Financial crises faced by the government of Canada it has been necessary for Parliament to curtail the funds allowed to the Department of National Health and Welfare. Consequently the Director of the Medical Services has placed each zone and region in Canada on a fixed budget which cannot be increased." And then goes on "We regret to inform your hospital that effective on April 1st" - you see that's only 12 days from now - that was only what, 25 days from the time that this letter was written. That's pretty short notice for a drastic step of this kind - "We therefore regret to inform your hospital that effective April 1, 1968, we will not be responsible for over-stays in hospital incurred by anyone of Indian status. You will be required to collect all such bills directly from the patient, or if a child, their parents or guardians. This department will not be responsible for. . ."

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I must remind the honourable gentleman that he has only four minutes left.

MR. PETURSSON: I hadn't realized I was taking so much time, Mr. Speaker. I am finished in any event. "This Department" it goes on, says, "will not be responsible for tax bills incurred in taking patients to and from hospital. Should you require further information, please contact your area director."

Now in addition to this I read some interesting but frightening statistics in an article on the editorial page of the Free Press that appeared several days which gave the death rate, the infant mortality, the life expectancy of Eskimos, and it was indicated that the same figures applied pretty well for Indians. In one place -- I won't read the whole article, I couldn't do it in four minutes, "The average death year for Canadians who are Eskimos in the Northwest Territories is 20.9 years - that means the life expectancy of an Eskimo is 20.9 years. The writer says I am informed by a source entirely competent to know that the reason for this is substantially the infant mortality rate, one of the highest in the world, and he refers to Keewatin and Northwest Territories and he quotes the death rate among infants - infant mortality rate in Canada in 1964 as being 24.7 - and I take that to be 24.7 per 100,000 births - or 1,000 births? Is that right? He just doesn't say, but this is the way in which these statistics are given. The infant mortality rate among Eskimos in the Northwest Territories in 1966 was 108.8 by comparison and the article intimates that the same statistics apply to Indians. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Health Minister in Ottawa said that the infant mortality rate had been cut from 240 per 100,000 live births, I take it - whether I'm right in that or not - in 1956 to about 100 in 1966, and that 100 is still five times greater than among the white population. But I won't go on, Mr. Speaker. I simply suggest that the Indian population is treated shamefully by the Federal Government and probably to a lesser degree by our Provincial Government. I was very happy to hear the Honourable Minister for Welfare get up and say the things that he did. He seems to indicate that he has a real concern and I hope that he may impress the Department of Indian Affairs or the Federal Government in Ottawa with the seriousness of the situation which he sees so clearly. I feel, Sir, that in closing it would be a credit to this nation and all of its people if we were to occupy this land as a civilized people and not act towards the victims of our being here in an uncivilized way. Thank you very much.

MR. SHYAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm flattered. Mr. Speaker, may I at the outset offer my congratulations to you on the assumption of your responsibilities again for the Session. I also at this time express my congratulations and best wishes to the Premier on the assumption of the stewardship of this government, and to my colleague, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, who is presently absent from the House, and to the Member of Turtle Mountain, who is also absent from this House, congratulate him on his victory, a personal victory for himself.

I intend to cover several subjects that have been brought up in this throne debate,

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.): including the Department of Industry and Commerce, the Information Service, the Manitoba Development Fund. Because I have a wide range, I hope that you will bear with me as I try and attempt to deal with the items that have been raised in this House so far.

For the past week this House has spent considerable time on what was supposed to be the Members of the opposition's constructive criticism and debate on the Speech from the Throne, and really what has turned out to be a rather lengthy discourse on what some of the Opposition thinks of some of the programs of the Department of Industry and Commerce. I'm honoured to receive such attention, but I'm left in rather a singular position. I and the Department of Commerce stand judged by my peers, accused of various crimes by such prosecutors as the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party, and other honourable members of this House. For a few moments I would like them to permit me to judge them. I wonder whether any tribunal of justice in this country would listen to them for a moment without laughing. For my major crime, my most heinous and nefarious deed, has been simply at every opportunity that I have had or have been able to create and develop, to enthusiastically attempt to beat the drum for Manitoba, and project what I believe is the fundamental quality that's going to be necessary for our province to continue to maintain and sustain the momentum we now have in our economic life - the quality of optimism.

It's obvious to me that the members of the Opposition are marching to the tune of a different drummer. I stand accused of promoting Manitoba. I stand accused of initiating new immigration programs. I stand accused of encouraging investors to come to this province and I stand accused of persuading Manitobans to understand the realities of where we stand today, to try and maximize the opportunities for them to reinvest in this province. And I stand accused of using the most offensive weapon to accomplish this objective - advertising.

Well I plead guilty. I plead guilty to using one of the most effective and sound business practices to stimulate the growth and development of business in this province. I plead guilty to realizing that this is the 20th Century. I would like the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the New Democratic party, who is off on one of his junkets right now, to point out that in no other province. . .

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. I think that the Leader of the NDP party is attending a meeting of St. Boniface Hospital and it is certainly not a junket, I think it is something well worthwhile, I believe he is buying his own gas to get there.

MR. SPIVAK: I would like to point out that in no other province in Canada has the issue of promoting and advertising for the economic growth of a province, been in debate. In Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, and I can quote the Toronto Telegram on its description of our summit conference - this is old hat. Now in my private daydreams in the past week, or even in my nightmares, I see the Leader of the New Democratic Party as Minister of Industry and Commerce. No junketing for him - oh no; he would simply stand still like a ruddy faced Buddha with a lotus flower in his hand and no doubt investors from all parts of the world would descend on Manitoba like a shower of petals. Indeed some of the remarks made in this House would lead us to believe that the New Democratic Party are flower children who have in effect turned off reality and dropped out. If they honestly believe that results cannot be achieved without programs to develop them, then they must be suffering from hallucinations and delusions and one wonders what kind of trips they would propose as alternates to my so-called junketing.

Now in the Honourable Leader of the Opposition's terms of reference, from what I can gather, since no constructive choices are offered to this House, the best way to acquaint potential investors with the opportunities in Manitoba is to keep absolutely silent about them. Do not say a word; do not spend any money.

Now let me talk about our budget for just a few moments. The estimates, the budget, will be coming up shortly. But the budget of the Department of Industry and Commerce for the next year for the entire industrial and business development, advertising and promotion appropriation, including advertising in Canada, in United States, in Manitoba, in Overseas publication and the business missions altogether will cost the people of Manitoba less than 35¢ per person, less than the cost of one completed mile of the Trans-Canada Highway. -- (Interjection) -- Well if you can't figure that out, ask someone next to you -- (Interjections) --

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.) Well I have lots to hear and I'm prepared to listen and I hope you will listen to me.

Now let me deal with the Information Service for a few moments. -- (Interjection) -- Well it appears for the lack of any other matters of importance, a large portion of the present session is going to be spent on making up humorous anecdotes out of paraphrasing, and misreading releases from the Information Service. Now the Opposition is to be congratulated on unearthing what appears to be the source from which all trouble flows in Manitoba, the public information service of the government. This must be the tenth or twentieth time that this matter has been raised in this House, but I would like to deal with the Information Service, and I would like to deal with it on three basic principles. The provision of information to the public is a recognized function of government. It is recognized by the Parliament of Canada; it's recognized by almost every province in Canada; it's even recognized by the Leader of the New Democratic Party - and there could be no higher authority.

But having recognized that the provision of information is a proper function, its incumbent on the part of government to perform their task in a professional way at an efficient and effective level and having recognized that task, that it must be performed effectively, it must be performed economically, and the fact is the Manitoba government's Information Service is one of the most economical in Canada.

And now I would like to, if I may, spend a few moments on what other provinces do and make some comparison. I have been concerned as to why the New Democratic Party has this pathological concern for information service and of course the only terms I guess that they can think of is in terms of the CCF government in Saskatchewan, and that's a very interesting story, because the record shows that in the years before the CCF Government was out of power they in turn did have an Information Service, that its budget was 2 1/2 times our budget; that its staff was double our staff and the fact of the matter is that the Liberal Administration that did come in did in fact cut it down. But the truth of the matter is that that Liberal administration's budget on Information Service is still considerably higher than ours.

Now let me travel with you through Canada and we'll deal with the staff and the budgets of the Information Service branches in British Columbia and the other areas, and these are the figures that I have. In British Columbia there's a staff in the Information Service of 36 with a budget of \$582,000; in Alberta a staff of 24 with \$492,000; in Saskatchewan a staff of 17 with a budget of \$226,000; in Ontario, without a central system but with each department having its own information staff, 22 departments, the budget is over \$2 1/2 million; in Quebec with a central staff of 40 and 76 departmental information officers its budget is over \$2 million; in New Brunswick with a staff of 14, \$194,000; in Nova Scotia with a staff of 19, \$462,000. We have an establishment of 17; our budget is less than \$150,000. Last year we had an establishment of 11; we have added 6 new members to the staff.

Now I'd like to if I may deal with the Manitoba Development Fund. We know from the pronouncements of the Leader of the New Democratic Party, outside this House, that it's the intention of the New Democratic Party to harass the Fund. We also know from the remarks of the Honourable Member from Inkster that insofar as he's concerned an issue with a Fund is an issue that he wants to take to the people. And I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Opposition has intentionally tried to create the impression that something is amiss with the Fund and that the Fund is conspiring against the best interests of the people of Manitoba. The government -- (Interjection) --

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. The Minister has made an aspersion against members of this Chamber, and I would ask him to take it back.

MR. SHVAK: The government has a right and a responsibility. . .

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I would ask you to give a ruling on whether or not the Honourable Minister is using a parliamentary expression when he makes aspersions such as he has done.

MR. SPEAKER: . . . the honourable member's opinion - the Honourable Member for Portage and at the moment I do not believe the Minister has broken any rules. I would ask him to continue.

MR. SHVAK: The government has the right and the responsibility to ensure that the funds have been properly and prudently invested in accordance with the Act.

Before I go on let me point out certain facts. The Manitoba Development Fund has helped create more than 4,300 new jobs, carrying an annual aggregate payroll of more than

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.) . . . \$17 million in Manitoba. They've increased annual factory production in tourist receipts by more than \$93 million, and they've retired each year a net profit on the public moneys used to help generate our economic growth. And I would ask those who deprecate the Manitoba Development Fund to consider two fundamental questions: Would the people of Manitoba have received these benefits if the Fund had not existed? And would the Fund have performed so outstandingly if it were not wisely conceived and efficiently managed? Performance I suggest is the only realistic measure of this enterprise and the Fund, Mr. Speaker, has served Manitoba and the people of Manitoba exceedingly well.

Now I do not believe that the people of Manitoba are proud of the way in which some elected representatives try constantly to undermine this effective instrument of growth in the hope of gaining some petty political advantage. By their actions I suggest, Mr. Speaker, they prejudice the very thing they profess to want - continued economic growth. Now everyone recognizes that the Opposition has a profound responsibility but those who jeopardize the economic advancement of the people in this province are guilty of abdicating that responsibility.

Now let me repeat in this House once again three unalterable principles that guide the Fund in all its activities.

The first is to protect the Fund's investments. These investments are made with public money and every reasonable precaution necessary to safeguard them and to ensure that they can be repaid must be and is taken.

The second is to keep the enterprise in which the Fund has invested operating at a profit. The economy of Manitoba and the safety of the public moneys invested will not be served unless the clients of the Fund operate efficiently and profitably and every reasonable step to ensure that must be and is taken.

The third is to safeguard as far as possible the interest of the other shareholders of the enterprise and their interest and the interest of all Manitobans can be served only if the enterprise is soundly managed. The Fund is not an investment fund buying blue chip securities nor is it a philanthropic institution dispensing financial handouts to mismanaged enterprises. It was never intended that the funds were to be used by the Fund to speculate in enterprises that are incompetently or inadequately managed. The Fund is designed to give loan assistance to successful operators; not to compensate for failures. And even though the Industrial Development Bank of the Federal Government has gone further in this province in enforcing its own securities than the Manitoba Development Fund, not one word of criticism or of any of its loan transactions have ever been raised in this House. The Fund provides risk capital in a highly competitive field of industrial development. The Fund must take risks, well calculated risks to be sure, but risks nonetheless. The very nature of industrial development, the facts of economic growth in this province makes risks unavoidable. But look at the record again: over 4,000 new jobs; more than \$17 million annually in the pockets of those workers; 200 firms have been helped; a net profit every year; no losses and only 1/6 of 1 percent of all loans due in arrears as of March 31st -- a performance that any development agency in North America might well envy.

The Fund observes the traditional practices of all financial institutions in protecting the borrowers and I wish to confirm at this time the commitment of this government that the privacy of loan transactions will not be violated by public disclosure apart from whatever disclosure is necessarily involved in the registration of security documents in public registration offices in accordance with the stipulations in each individual loan agreement. This privilege of privacy, this privilege which has been discussed in this House, is for the benefit of the borrower and not for the benefit of the Fund. The matter of disclosure, the right of confidentiality has been a favorite target for the innuendo of some of the honourable members who sit opposite in this House. But I wonder, Mr. Speaker, how many on the other side have borrowed funds for their personal or business reasons. I'm sure that they have taken for granted that the facts and details of the transaction would remain a confidential matter. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, how many on the other side have either borrowed or been with people or advised people to borrow money from the Agricultural Credit Corporation and they have also taken into consideration that these facts were confidential.

MR. SPEAKER: I regret that I must interrupt the Honourable Minister. It is now 5:30 and I'm leaving the Chair to return again at 8 this evening.