

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

9:30 o'clock, Tuesday, June 23, 1970

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees. Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BUD BOYCE (Winnipeg Centre): I ask the indulgence of this House to have this matter stand, Mr. Speaker. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q. C. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources)(Inkster): I ask the indulgence of this House to have this matter stand. (Agreed)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. RON McBRYDE (The Pas) introduced Bill No. 144, an Act to Validate By-Law 1695 of the Town of The Pas.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Transportation this morning. Is it the intention of the Minister of Transportation to continue what appears to be abandonment of the maintenance of provincial roads throughout the province?

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Transportation)(Thompson): I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I didn't catch the question.

MR. WATT: I'll direct the question again, Mr. Speaker. Is it the intention of the Minister or the government to continue the abandonment of the maintenance of our provincial roads throughout the province?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, such a situation does not exist.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I direct a supplementary question. Has the Minister been out over the provincial roads throughout the province in the last week or two weeks to see the condition that they're presently in?

MR. BOROWSKI: Let me assure the member that I've seen more roads this year than the previous Minister has seen in five. I know the roads are bad and it's because of the weather, not because of the maintenance that we're giving them.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I direct a further supplementary question. Is the Minister not aware that in the western part of the province that the weather has never been better for maintenance of provincial roads. Never.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE: Yes, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transportation as well. Would he be willing to come to southern Manitoba and my riding and tour the provincial roads with me so that he could see them firsthand.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I've fairly strict orders to the districts about the maintenance of roads. I think it's very important. If you have information that our district engineers are not maintaining them, I wish you'd tell me, because if they are deliberately sabotaging the program, they're not going to work for this government very long.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the House Leader. In view of the fact that some of us have commitments on Centennial matters over the weekend, is it the intention to sit on Friday night and Saturday of this week?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, that was my understanding that we would do so, but I'm not aware of the commitments that my honourable friend is referring to. Perhaps we could discuss them at a future time. It was my understanding that we were going to continue this week, but I'd be pleased to hear from the honourable member as to what he is referring to.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for all the members of the House but I presume that many of them will be in the same position as I am where constituencies have at the request of the Centennial Corporation organized centennial events throughout the months of June and July, and I for one have commitments Friday night, Saturday and Sunday.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader has indicated that he would consult with honourable members of the House on this matter.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, if matters of the nature that my honourable friend is referring to would preclude us from sitting any Friday or Saturday, I therefore am unable to give him a commitment that we won't do so this week.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Adjourned debate on second reading of the proposed... The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the Municipal Affairs Committee was called for 9:30 this morning and it is my intention to move the adjournment so that the House will meet at 2:30; or we could if it's deemed advisable, I'm willing to hear suggestions from the opposite side, we could adjourn to come back the Municipal Affairs Committee meeting, but that would keep members here waiting rather than coming back at 2:30. Perhaps . . .

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

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition)(Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, if I might speak on the point of order. It would appear from looking at the agenda that the committees may have a relatively large agenda. There's quite a number of bills there and with it not requiring a full House there it might be as well to set the specific time at 2:30 so that people would be free to do other things.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs that the House do now adjourn.

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