

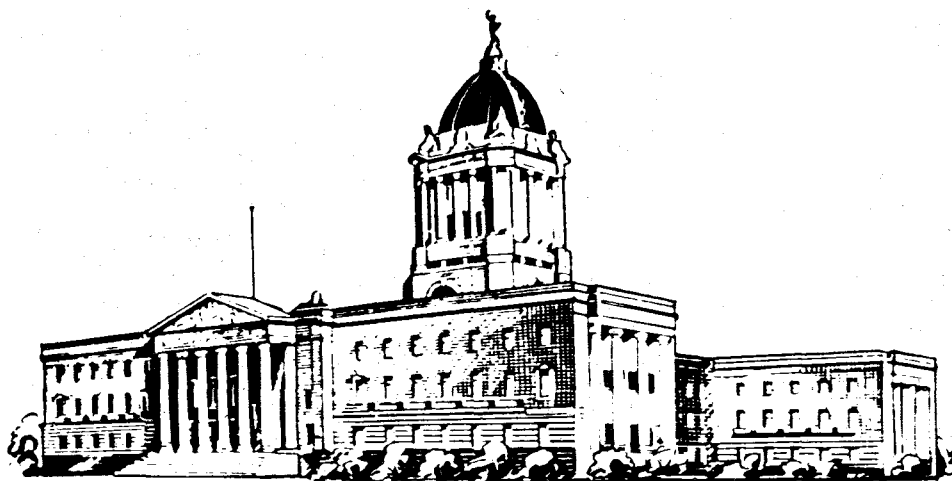


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Ben Hanuschak



Vol. XVII No. 142 8:00 p.m., Monday, July 6th, 1970. Second Session, 29th Legislature.

ELECTORAL DIVISION	NAME	ADDRESS
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	Reston, Manitoba
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	10 Red Robin Place, Winnipeg 12
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BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	11 Aster Ave., Winnipeg 17
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg 20
CHURCHILL	Gordon Wilbert Beard	148 Riverside Drive, Thompson, Man.
CRESCENTWOOD	Cy Gonick	115 Kingsway, Winnipeg 9
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtniak	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ELMWOOD	Russell J. Doern	705 - 33 Kennedy St., Winnipeg 1
EMERSON	Gabriel Girard	25 Lomond Blvd., St. Boniface 6
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	Cranberry Portage, Manitoba
FORT GARRY	L. R. (Bud) Sherman	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg 9
FORT ROUGE	Mrs. Inez Trueman	179 Oxford St., Winnipeg 9
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.
GLADSTONE	James Robert Ferguson	Gladstone, Manitoba
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
KILDONAN	Peter Fox	627 Prince Rupert Ave., Winnipeg 15
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	Woodlands, Manitoba
LA VERENDRYE	Leonard A. Barkman	Box 130, Steinbach, Man.
LOGAN	William Jenkins	1287 Alexander Ave., Winnipeg 3
MINNEDOSA	Walter Weir	Room 250, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	Box 185, Morris, Man.
OSBORNE	Ian Turnbull	284 Wildwood Park, Winnipeg 19
PEMBINA	George Henderson	Manitou, Manitoba
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	361 Burrows Ave., Winnipeg 4
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Room 248, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RADISSON	Harry Shafrensky	4 Maplehurst Rd., St. Boniface 6
RHINELAND	Jacob M. Froese	Box 40, Winkler, Manitoba
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	2 River Lane, Winnipeg 8
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	1516 Mathers Bay, West, Winnipeg 9
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	Inglis, Manitoba
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	Glenboro, Manitoba
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RUPERTSLAND	Jean Allard	602 - 245 Provencher Ave., St. Boniface 6
ST. BONIFACE	Laurent L. Desjardins	357 Des Meurons St., St. Boniface 6
ST. GEORGE	William Uruski	Box 629, Arborg, Manitoba
ST. JAMES	Hon. A. H. Mackling, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johannson	15 - 500 Burnell St., Winnipeg 10
ST. VITAL	J. A. Hardy	11 Glenlawn Ave., Winnipeg 8
STE. ROSE	Gildas Molgat	463 Kingston Crescent, Winnipeg 8
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SOURIS-KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	Nesbitt, Manitoba
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
STURGEON CREEK	Frank Johnston	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg 12
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	Swan River, Manitoba
THE PAS	Ron McBryde	531 Greenacres Blvd., Winnipeg 12
THOMPSON	Hon. Joseph P. Borowski	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulty	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	Kenton, Manitoba
WELLINGTON	Hon. Philip Petursson	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
WINNIPEG CENTRE	J. R. (Bud) Boyce	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg 3
WOLSELEY	Leonard H. Claydon	116½ Sherbrook St., Winnipeg 1

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
8:00 o'clock, Monday, July 6, 1970

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

REPORTS BY STANDING COMMITTEES

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

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Speaker, the debate this afternoon on this motion touched off considerable amount of heat, not too much light, but I think it did point up some of the difficulties that we have been facing in this session - and I don't say that they haven't been faced in previous sessions. I want to preface my remarks by saying for the benefit of the Minister of Mines and Resources, the Honourable the House Leader, that I want to direct my remarks to the reasons why this report should not be received. And if that will satisfy him that I'm going to deal with the subject matter of this motion then I shall proceed.

There is no doubt, Sir, that we have been confronted with this problem in the past and although this is my first experience with it, it does cause me some concern as to the way and the manner in which reports of this nature and indeed the business of this House is being dealt with. The Minister of Agriculture saw fit to make some pretty provocative statements, which whether or not they were calculated to provoke comment from this side I'm not sure to say, but they had that effect. I think that his comment to the effect that members of this House left the committee because they wanted to go out and have some fun was one that was unwarranted, unjustified and certainly not anything that was in accordance with the facts. All members of the Chamber from time to time are called upon to make some judgment as to what they consider to be their first responsibility and although we all attempt to regard our first responsibility in this Chamber there are times when one does have invitations and requests to attend certain functions and certain things that you feel in your better judgment that perhaps there's where you should be at that particular moment. I don't think that anyone can be the judge of where one should be at any particular time. I chose to be elsewhere because I did have a long-standing commitment, and although I regretted very much having to miss the committee hearings, there was no indication whatsoever - and this points up some of the difficulties that we face - there was no indication whatsoever at the time I left that we were even going to conclude the number of briefs and the presentations that were being presented before Law Amendments at that time, and even if there was an opportunity that most of those briefs would be heard, the hour would be so late that I thought that the government in their wisdom would surely not call any of the other committees together but rather wait until an opportunity was provided for members to be informed of the sitting of that committee, notwithstanding the agreement - and I'm perfectly willing to concede that such an agreement was made because I was in the House here when it was made with the members of the opposition - that I think was the understanding and the hope that we'd have an early conclusion to the number of briefs that were being presented and we could get on with the various committees. I had no way of knowing that Agriculture was going to be the one presented and on that assumption I met my other commitment.

In any case I think it does point out that the organizing of the business of the House which is the responsibility of the Minister of Mines and Resources leaves something to be desired. During the early part of the session many of us who were here, who have to come in from the rural areas and spend our time here, found that there were times when we could have been involved in committee work because the time was available. I think that there has to be a proper balance between the amount of time that one spends on the consideration of the estimates, for which there is a specific time limit, and the amount of time that is spent in the consideration of legislation and had there been an early consideration of some of the items of legislation then during the mornings there would have been a possibility of some of the committees meeting and dealing with some of the matters that we're now being asked to consider. But to conclude the consideration of the estimates all at once and then following that moving into the speed-up motion and then have something like 140 bills thrown at you does not in my opinion give the

-- (Interjection) -- Well the member doesn't have a point of privilege . . .

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): A point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . but we're going to listen to it nonetheless.

MR. USKIW: Yes, on a point of privilege. The Honourable Member for Morris indicated that after the speed-up motion was passed that there was some 140 bills thrown at the opposition. I just want to indicate that there were some 40 to 60 bills standing in the name of my honourable friends opposite on adjournment for about a month.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well my honourable friend's memory is faulty or he has not considered the -- and if he wants to continue to be provocative why I can get that way myself, Sir. I was attempting to point out some of the difficulties that are being faced by this Chamber, and they're practical difficulties, they're real difficulties and I think that they should be overcome.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): They're normal.

MR. JORGENSEN: The House Leader says they're normal.

MR. PAULLEY: No, no, not the House Leader.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, Sir, maybe they are, maybe they're normal, but we were led to believe, Sir, that when we entered into this session that we were entering into a brave new world and in the words of the First Minister himself they were going to discard a good many of the old ideas, traditions and dogmas in favour of new ones. They were going to do things a new way, a better way, and yet in every instance, in every instance -- (Interjection) -- and here is earthquake McGoon over there who continues to interject when somebody else is speaking and he makes some of his brightest comments from the seat of his pants. We have to continue to listen to the kind of interjection that emanates from my friend the Minister of Transportation. And I say to the Minister of Transportation, Sir, that if he'd spend a little more time, a little more energy in doing something about the roads in this province in repairing some of the mess that he has created by his policies in road maintenance, his acceptability as a Minister would be a great deal more.

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Transportation) (Thompson): You should have seen the roads two years ago.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well you see there now we've started something. But, Mr. Speaker, what I was intending to point was that we have the situation where you have the consideration of the estimates, no legislation until the estimates are completed and then all of a sudden you're asked to deal with a flock of bills, and particularly after the speed-up motion has been called, I'm sure honourable members opposite will understand the problem because they've been confronted with it, and because they're confronted with it one would have thought that they would have done something about changing that situation.

MR. PAULLEY: We used to sit until 3:00 o'clock in the morning.

MR. JORGENSEN: You couldn't expect a Liberal or a Conservative to change an old tradition that had been going on in this House for years. But surely, Sir, surely one would have expected that my honourable friends opposite who, by their own admission or their own statement, said they were going to change many things.

HON. ED SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Every time we want to change something you complain.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well you see the First Minister says that every time we want to change something we complain. What the First Minister hasn't quite accepted yet -- and here again is an indication of the attitudes of honourable members opposite -- they've forgotten, they've forgotten the role of opposition. They've forgotten that the role of opposition is to examine, is to criticize, and I might even go so far as to say even if we agree with your legislation, even if we agree with it -- because more than on one occasion have I discovered that even if we agree in principle with legislation, the careful examination of that legislation, the questioning of those people who are responsible for introducing that legislation brings out weaknesses. And by the very fact that you bring out weaknesses in legislation and have them remedied you improve legislation even if it is well intentioned, as I'm sure my honourable friend do intend that legislation should be -- we disagree on some fundamental principles of implementing legislation. But I'm not going to go so far as to say that they're not sincere about what they're intending to do. Misguided perhaps, but sincere.

Sir, I simply want to point out that in the committee report that is being offered to us today to be asked to deal with eight bills after the hour of, practically the hour of midnight as I understand it -- I'm frank to confess I wasn't there. I'm a member of that committee and I admit it -- you're asked to deal with eight bills. Some of them are amendments to existing legislation but even amendments to existing legislation can be important because as we've found

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd.) out in some bills to amend there have been some pretty fundamental changes in principle of the legislation. We found out in Bill 75 for example. But it is only if you're given an opportunity to question those who are responsible first of all for the drafting of legislation, for promoting it in the first place, that you are able to get some idea of why the bills to amend are there in the first place. And it is in the committee stage that that can be done because we do not, as honourable members opposite know, allow officials on the floor of this Chamber in order to give the Ministers the direction and advice on questions that are being asked from members of the opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Do you think it's a good idea?

MR. JORGENSEN: Well as a matter of fact - the First Minister says he thinks it's a good idea. If he'll look up . . .

MR. SCHREYER: I'm asking you, I'm asking you.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well if he'll look up the committee report he'll find -- the committee report on rules -- he'll find that there is a recommendation to that effect.

MR. PAULLEY: Ah, ah, just on estimates.

MR. JORGENSEN: That's right. My honourable friend is perfectly right, just on estimates. But even on estimates is a useful departure from the practice that has been going on in this Chamber and I'm looking forward to the implementation of that particular recommendation.

MR. PAULLEY: In that they're in agreement.

MR. JORGENSEN: But I think Sir, that the attitude of honourable gentlemen opposite in a cavalier way in which they have dealt with the problems that the agricultural community of this country is facing is an indication of their attitude. The Minister of Municipal Affairs when dealing with an issue that came up in the Law Amendments Committee on Friday referred to the rural people of this country as small-minded in that they were not -- (Interjection) -- He didn't say it in the Chamber, he said it to the legislative reporter outside the Chamber during a recess and if you'll check the Winnipeg Free Press of Saturday you'll find . . .

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. The Minister of Municipal Affairs was referring to several individuals who made certain statements that people on welfare should not vote. He was not talking about the rural people in general. The member knows that and he should not infer that the Minister was referring to the rural people at large.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well I'd better for the edification of my honourable friend, the Minister of Transportation, perhaps I should read this item that was contained in the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, July 4th.

MR. PAULLEY: Is that a factual report?

A MEMBER: Is that factual?

MR. JORGENSEN: All I know is what I read in the papers.

MR. BOROWSKI: The Free Press is not the Hansard so let's not quote it as such.

MR. JORGENSEN: My honourable friends opposite have a habit of running to the press on every occasion that they want to get something in print and I presume this is what happened to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. And it says here: "The Union of Manitoba Municipalities recommendation that tenants and people on welfare not be allowed to run for political office was categorized Friday by Municipal Affairs Minister, Howard Pawley, as small, rural thinking." He didn't isolate anybody.

My honourable friend the Minister of Transportation now is one of those rural people having taken up abode in my constituency and exerting his influence. I notice also that the road from that particular area in which he is now living has improved considerably since he arrived there, but that's the only road in the entire constituency that's . . . the rest of them have deteriorated.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. I'm sorry that the member brings this matter up at this time. The fact of the matter is that road contract was given out last fall and it would take a person of that type of mentality to come into this House and suggest that I'm fixing a road in there because I happen to live in La Salle. The fact is I bought the house a couple of months ago, the road contract was given out last fall when I never heard of La Salle, and I wish the member would not try to suggest that I am fixing up certain roads because I happen to live there. I don't operate like you rats did when you were in office.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well my honourable friend is getting extremely agitated. I didn't accuse him of anything. I just simply said that he's living in my constituency now and I'm happy

MR. JORGENSON cont'd.) to see that the road to that particular area has been improved. Now if he has a guilty conscience then I can't help that.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order please. I'm finding it rather difficult to relate that to the motion before the House, to relate the comments . . .

MR. JORGENSON: As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I'm finding it awfully difficult to relate it to the motion myself but I was confronted by a statement by the Minister of Transportation which I felt compelled to reply to. It originated with a statement that I had made that was attributed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in which he categorized the rural people as being small-minded, and that is contained in the Free Press report. Now he can deny that if he chooses but it is as I say typical of the attitude of honourable gentlemen opposite when it comes to agricultural and rural matters. The very fact that they have treated the bills -- this so-called brave new world that they're bringing in for agriculture, this "exciting" legislation that was termed by the Minister of Agriculture before the session started is anything less than exciting. The First Minister refers to a remarkable increase in the budget of agriculture; he says something like 20 percent. I haven't quite been able to find that 20 percent unless he includes within that budget the amount that was set aside for the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation.

MR. SCHREYER: One's capital, one's current.

MR. JORGENSON: There is an increase, admittedly. There is an increase. There is a \$96,000 decrease in the administration which is accounted for by the fact that last year there were some emergency programs that amounted to something like \$100 million, assistance to potato growers which has been referred to earlier, emergency assistance and miscellaneous grants which are not contained in the budget for this year. So there is a reduction there. There's an increase in the Animal Husbandry Department of something like \$412,000 and there's an increase in Veterinary Service of \$149,000 which I welcome. No one is disagreeing with that. There's an increase of something like \$400,000 in the extension service which is not bad and it goes on. There are increases all the way down the line but I wonder how that has meant to the agricultural community a greater income or anything in the way of an alleviation of the situation that they find themselves in. I think my honourable friends will be hard pressed to relate those increases to a betterment in the conditions of the farmer. Now the . . .

MR. SCHREYER: . . . 20.49 percent increase in current . . . 20.49 percent increase.

MR. JORGENSON: Yes, I'm not going to deny it. I found it difficult to find it so I looked it up myself and I find there is an increase and I've been indicating where those increases come from but my point is simply that in no way do I see that -- (Interjection) -- well here's the Attorney-General again. And the Attorney-General you know, whose contribution to the debate this afternoon was a castigation of the Member for River Heights because he was not accurate in presenting some figures before this Chamber.

HON. AL MACKLING, Q. C. (Attorney-General) (St. James): Well just use a pencil.

MR. JORGENSON: Well, at the same time he's the same Minister that termed the Crop Insurance Program that was developed by this government as compulsory. He's the same Minister that said that the Hog Marketing -- and he called it a Hog Marketing Corporation, he didn't even know the difference between a Commission and a Corporation -- he said this was compulsory. So if anyone is to criticize anybody for being inaccurate in providing information for this House, he is the last one to provide that kind of criticism.

But again, Sir, I'm being diverted by some of the comments from honourable gentlemen opposite. I'm simply attempting to point out that their consideration of the agricultural community in this province leaves a great deal to be desired. Their consideration of the legislation dealing with agriculture was cavalier in the extreme and their manner in which they have dealt with the business of this House, in which they have presented it to this House, is a great deal less than what we could have expected from this brave new world, from this government who said they were going to adopt new changes, do new things and create a better climate and a better consideration of the legislative program that is brought before this legislative Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q. C. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources) (Inkster): Mr. Chairman, I'm going to risk getting up in this debate to discuss these issues and in the hope that it's possible to do it without inspiring further comment. Maybe that's a vain hope but nevertheless I'm going to risk it because, Mr. Speaker, I want to try to bring into focus what we are arguing about. It has been suggested by the Opposition that the business of the House

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) has not been dealt with properly because Agricultural Committee apparently wasn't given the kind of attention that honourable members opposite feel it should have been given.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let us first of all determine what we are talking about when we are talking about the Agricultural Committee. We're talking about the committee to which bills are referred, and it is my impression that in at least two of the last three years - and I stand to be corrected if I'm wrong - that Agricultural Committee wasn't called at all to consider bills. I'm looking at the Minister of Agriculture, the former Minister of Agriculture, and it is my impression, Mr. Speaker, that Agricultural Committee never did get called to consider bills - the present Minister could correct me if I'm wrong - but that we did not refer the agricultural bills to the Agricultural Committee, that at the time things were in such a state -- (Interjection) -- no, we didn't; maybe in all three years, it may be in all three years. I could be wrong but I'm sure that in two out of the three years that Agricultural - the Minister of Agriculture now tells me in the last three years and I suspected rather as much - that Agricultural Committee was never called to consider bills. Now look, gentlemen, I'm not trying to provoke a debate. I am merely, -- (Interjection) -- just settle down.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if it's a point of privilege or not but I remind my honourable friend that in the last session when I sat as Minister of Agriculture that we did not get quite to the point of calling the committee, as you are perfectly aware the reason why.

MR. GREEN: Yes, but, Mr. Speaker, we left the House in May and by that time Agricultural Committee had not been called and the previous two years Agricultural Committee had not been called and the practice was -- (Interjection) -- I'm not saying there's anything wrong with it, let's not get excited. I urge members on this side to restrain themselves because what I am saying is not an unusual state of affairs that -- (Interjection) -- will you please let me continue?

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. Does the Honourable House Leader recognize that this is 1969.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, . . .

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I don't know whether the Honourable House . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order . . . the Honourable Minister continue.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the last time the Member for Roblin rose to his feet - and I want to say that the same applies this time - he took the floor on a question of privilege and he asked a question of the very nature that he is now asking. He has done that before in this House, Mr. Speaker. Every member in this House knows that, according to the rules of debate, he can interrupt any speaker, any speaker at all, by rising on a question of privilege, and therefore a question of privilege is really a sacred institution, if I might put it that way, and I may say that the Member for Roblin in this session on three occasions has fraudulently, deliberately, knowing that it was wrong, taken the floor on a question of privilege when he knew that he had no question of privilege.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I challenge that remark "knowingly that it was wrong."

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, if the member did not know that it was wrong . . .

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, again I challenge the remark "knowingly that it was wrong."

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, if he didn't know that it is wrong he is more ignorant than anybody in this Assembly . . .

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I challenge the remark - ignorance. Mr. Speaker, I challenge the remark, "Knowingly it is wrong" and again "ignorant" and I challenge you, Mr. Speaker, to make a ruling.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to continue with my remarks and I want to indicate - and I'm trying to get honourable members to assess what they are now talking about. In the last three years the Committee, that they said didn't properly consider the affairs in a terrible condition of agriculture, was not called at all. This year it was called and it was called under circumstances which members of the other side now complain about. I still feel that the circumstances under which it was called were very beneficial to the type of presentation that honourable members are referring to because Agricultural Committee, because it met all day on

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) Friday - and that was the design, that anybody could come to Agricultural Committee and present delegations - and they had from 9:30 in the morning until roughly 10:30 at night so that there was full opportunity for these people to present delegations and I would venture to say that that has never happened before when a committee has been called singly because quite often when a committee is called singly if it was called at 9:30 it would hear delegations for a half-hour or an hour or an hour and a half, it would go to the bill and my average calculation as to the length of time for talking about bills might have been an hour and it would be disposed of. As it was, people wishing to present delegations to Agricultural Committee had from 9:30 in the morning until 10:30 at night. Something that they had never had before.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, the members of this Assembly and the member in particular, the Member for Arthur know full well that in addition to calling Agricultural Committee this year - which has not happened in my experience the three years in the House - in addition to that there stands on the Order Paper a resolution in the name of the Honourable Member for Arthur which I know that they could have debated had they just waited till the Order Paper had got down a little and the almost showmanship display of the Member for Birtle-Russell who then moved, after having a full discussion on agricultural questions in which his colleagues have told him that he can debate anything, he sat through that debate for at least two hours or roughly two hours; he could have participated in that debate, and then after leaving that debate run its full length of two hours, he gets up and he says he has a matter of urgent public and distinct importance to agriculture. If it was, and since your colleagues had opened the debate to include anything, why was it not possible for the Member for Birtle-Russell to take up his urgent point during that debate? He knows that he could have done it during that debate. He'll be able to do it if he waits for a few minutes during the debate of the resolution that has been put by the Minister of Agriculture now standing in the name of the Member for Arthur but, Mr. Speaker, let's continue with what the honourable members have referred to as the bad conduct or the disorderly conduct of the House or the lack of business procedure in dealing with matters before the House and what they refer to as the speed-up motion.

I made it clear when I introduced this motion, and I think all members in the House should be aware that this motion does nothing more than permit us to work longer hours than we otherwise would work. It doesn't say that we should give less attention to debate; it doesn't say that we do not look at the bills that are before us seriously; it doesn't say anything of that nature and as a matter of fact, the motion has been used this year in a much less difficult fashion than it has been used in previous years, because I can remember sitting in this House till 2:00 o'clock in the morning and later than that. That has not happened this year and, Mr. Speaker, what is more important than when we come up to the committee of Agriculture, it didn't happen at all last week. Last week we started off on Monday and I believe that we left the Chamber at approximately 11:00 o'clock, on Tuesday we left at 5:30; on Wednesday we didn't sit at all; on Thursday night only Industrial Relations Committee sat; so Friday evening is the only evening and even then it was only the members of Agricultural Committee who stayed after 11:00 o'clock. We have not had the whole House sitting, we have not . . .

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. It was not just . . . members that stayed after 11:00 o'clock . . .

MR. GREEN: I understand what the honourable member is saying. Let me correct the statement that it was only the Agricultural Committee that sat at 11:00 o'clock, other members sat voluntarily because they were interested. We have not yet sat on Saturday. The House has not sat on Saturday and last week, the week that they complain about, the Agricultural Committee went on to consider bills only after 11:00 o'clock. So I want to try to put into perspective what we are talking about. We are talking about last week having sat on the last day of the week, after having - I think it was the full three nights when there were no sittings at all except the Industrial Relations Committee - we sat late. Now if that's too hard work for the honourable members, then they better reassess their position as MLA's, because MLA's are expected to work at least that hard and, Mr. Speaker, I recognize the fact that every once in a while it's good parliamentary practice for the Opposition to make a big issue even if there's nothing there to make the issue on and that's something that we experienced this afternoon, and I accept that; I'm not really being annoyed with what has happened, but I wish to try to put into perspective what has happened. They are complaining that we called on Agriculture Committee. Apparently their complaint is that it hadn't been called in the past three years and we were the first ones

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) to call it. So our real crime is having called the committee. What the previous administration did with Agricultural Committee bills and I'm looking at the Member for Lakeside . . .

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, the Special Committee on Agriculture was called during the last administration, the last session of the last administration.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, you are embarrassed by the fact that your colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, indicated that he didn't get time to call the committee last year and you were out of the House at the time but the fact is, Mr. Chairman, that the Committee on Agriculture in the last three years, it is a fact - the Member for Lakeside if he will listen - it is a fact that the committee which he has now said that has been disastrously ignored, did not meet to consider bills, not in the last three years; that this is the first year that it's met to consider bills and if they are saying, if they are saying now, that the crime of this administration relative to agriculture is that we called the Committee of Agriculture this year to consider bills which they hadn't done during the last three years, then we say yes, we are guilty of that crime, if that's a crime. Because that's what they're saying.

The Member for Morris - and I would ask the Member for Morris to assess what he said - he said that during the time that the estimates were before the House we presented no bills. Mr. Speaker, there were at least a dozen bills on the Order Paper and honourable members on that side of the House, in their anxiety to debate Bill 56 - and we did not complain, but I can bring in Hansard if the Member from Morris wants me to - and they stood all those bills, day after day and week after week and they couldn't get to committee and they couldn't be dealt with by the committee because they were being held in the names of the honourable members opposite.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have indicated that I've tried, and perhaps it will be that I have not succeeded, in trying to get into this discussion just so that the perspective can be shown; I'm hoping that we can now get on with the business of the House. I congratulate the honourable members for the issue which they made on behalf of the agricultural community; I think that that's their job. I don't feel the least bit sensitive of what we have done but I believe that it is their job, as the Member for Morris says, to crystallize an issue. I think that they have used the wrong vehicle to crystallize the issue. I think that we've come out looking very good because we have done, on this issue, better than they have done. There hasn't been, with regard to the business of the House, any indication that we want honourable members to work any less intensely or with any less degree of seriousness than they have always worked. We want them to look at the bills that are now before them to treat them as they deserve to be treated by conscientious legislators. We are prepared to continue with the Legislature as long as it takes to deal with it; we have no intention of accelerating the rate of work so that our efficiency becomes less. And I suggest to you that if ever there was a week in which this was not done during speed-up, it's last week, because last week we sat late in the evening, as far as all of the members of the House were concerned, on only one night. The other nights we were either off or sat in one committee or the other.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I really hadn't intended to enter into this debate, and I'm sorry that I wasn't here this afternoon when the debate arose. After listening to my honourable friend the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, it's incumbent on me to say a few words at this time. I want to say at the outset to my honourable friend that on Friday night when the Committee for Agriculture was called, that a motion was made that a quorum be ten. As far as I'm concerned that motion went through, and as far as I'm concerned when the government found out that there were only six members of the Agriculture Committee in committee at that time . . .

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

MR. WATT: . . . when the quorum was changed, I . . .

MR. USKIW: On a point of privilege, on a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WATT: I don't want to listen to the Minister of Agriculture at this time. He can get up and speak when I'm . . .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. The honourable member did not state the proper facts. He stated that the motion to hold a quorum of ten, Committee on Agriculture, passed, and that is not the case. The motion was that the quorum be one third of the total.

MR. SPEAKER: May I remind the Honourable Minister that that is hardly a point of privilege.

MR. WATT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not unusual for that side of the House to get up on points of privilege when there is no point of privilege. My understanding was that the quorum was established at ten and when the government found that there were only six members, we agreed then to a quorum of six. -- (Interjection) -- I was there. I was there, and there was two other Tories there with me and two NDP's, or probably three; I don't know if there was any Liberals there or not. But we proceeded with the bills, but I want to point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that the reason that we have constantly been asking for the Minister of Agriculture to call a meeting of the committee was on the motion of the Member for La Verendrye; not to consider the bills that are before the House, because the bills that are before the House, Mr. Speaker, is actually legislation that was set before my honourable friend by the Conservative Party, before he took office and we had very little disagreement with those bills, very little disagreement with the bills that were brought before the House. But . . .

MR. GREEN: On a point of order. Now if the honourable member is, as I suspected from the outset of this debate, referring to a committee which is not to consider bills, then surely those remarks are not relevant to a debate on the receipt of the report of the committee.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, there was a resolution, a private member's resolution on the Order Paper asking for that committee to sit, and to call in the agricultural community to discuss problems that are before the farmers of Manitoba that were never before, in the time that I was Minister or my honourable friend - or my friend back up here or the Honourable George Hutton, who happens to be in the loge behind me right now, never before has this province been confronted with legislation that's affecting the lives of the farmers of the Province of Manitoba like operation LIFT which was agreed to by the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture in Ottawa, and this is why we asked for a meeting. This was the reason for that resolution on the Order Paper, and I'm not accepting any point of privilege. -- (Interjection) -- We also asked for the committee to meet, Mr. Speaker, to discuss with him his position insofar as Bill 196C is concerned, and I can quite understand him running out of the House right now, because he's been afraid to meet the farmers of the Province of Manitoba all through this session. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, I know you're sick of it, and I know the farmers are sick of it, too. Because the Minister of Agriculture has not got the guts enough to meet with the farming community, to bring them before the Committee on Agriculture with presentations in regard . . .

MR. MACKLING: No matter how many times you've been told . . .

MR. WATT: . . . to Operation LIFT, and my yapping little friend . . .

MR. MACKLING: . . . the same nonsense.

MR. WATT: Okay . . .

MR. MACKLING: It's the only speech that you ever knew and you keep repeating it.

MR. WATT: My honourable friend, the Attorney-General has had a lot to say about agriculture from his seat, but he's never been able to get up before his microphone and say anything sensible. But the Minister of Agriculture at the moment, Mr. Speaker, has done exactly at this moment what he's been doing all through this session - is avoiding calling a meeting of the Committee on Agriculture to discuss the problems that confront us right now; one problem that he is responsible for, one problem that he agreed on a particular policy in Ottawa, and I'm talking about Operation LIFT.

MR. MACKLING: Tell us about . . .

MR. WATT: And he's afraid to. Do you want me to tell you about what? -- (Interjection) -- Pavlov's dogs, did you mention again? If you'd like me to go back into Pavlov's dogs, I'd love to right now.

MR. MACKLING: We've heard that speech 20 times and it gets worse every time.

MR. WATT: The more often I make that speech, the less you like it, and the more often I make it, the more the Minister dodges, but it's got to be across the Province of Manitoba now so that the farmers know that he's afraid to call that committee.

MR. MACKLING: Tell a lie, tell a lie often enough . . . and you'll believe it.

MR. WATT: At 11:00 o'clock last Friday night - called the committee with six members of the committee present to sit and discuss the bills on agriculture, and I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that even members on that side of the House got sick of it; even when there was no obstruction to the bills that were going through, a motion was made by a member of the government that the committee rise before the bills had been completed.

MR. MACKLING: Now he's lost himself. . .

MR. WATT: Probably he hasn't reported that to his colleagues in caucus, or do you hold a caucus now?

MR. MACKLING: Are you lost . . .

MR. WATT: We're not sure on this side whether you caucus still on that side of the House or not. I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, I want to make it perfectly aware to the government that insofar as the bills that are before the House, coming up for third reading now, that these were not the bills to consider that we were asking for the committee to be called, but for this Operation "FLOP" which is part and parcel of an agreement that the Minister of Agriculture made with the Minister of Agriculture in Ottawa prior to its announcement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, before the honourable member commences speaking, I'm wondering if the last speaker would permit a question? Does he really wish to insist that the Minister of Agriculture here entered into some kind of agreement with the federal authorities in support of Operation LIFT? Is that what he's trying to imply?

MR. WATT: Well, Mr. Speaker, in answer to that question, does my honourable friend the First Minister wish me to go back through my speeches and reread them too? Would you like me to refer back to the statements of the Minister of Agriculture when he returned from Ottawa the day after Operation LIFT was agreed to in Ottawa, at which time he said to the Province of Manitoba and to this Legislative Assembly that it was a step in the right direction and that farmers could look forward to new hope, and does my honourable friend want me to tell him again that he had said before that Operation LIFT program was announced, that if the Federal Government did not come through with assistance that would be effective, that he in fact was prepared to pour \$12 million into the agricultural industry in the Province of Manitoba? -- (Interjection) -- Is my honourable friend now saying that Operation LIFT is working, that it is a step in the right direction, that it is a program that farmers may look forward with new hope to? Is he saying that now? I ask him.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, would the honourable member permit a second question then, because I accept his statement that in the initial instance after the Operation LIFT program was announced, that the Minister of Agriculture gave a tentative approval; but my second question is as follows: Is the Member for Arthur not aware that the Minister of Agriculture said at the time that while the program announced by the Federal Government appears to hold out some hope of being of some benefit to western farmers, that he would be making a more definitive statement in the matter of a few weeks? Is the Member for Arthur not aware that after the passage of a few weeks, the Minister of Agriculture here did state clearly for all to hear that the program did have great deficiencies? Is the member not aware of that?

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I'm quite aware that some weeks after the program had been announced and that it had been settled in Ottawa that that would be the program, then my honourable friend, after he had been forced for several days during committee, did in fact get up and say that it was no good for the farmers of the Province of Manitoba, and if I can remember him - I think I can quote him correctly, that it would do harm in some areas. But the day he left Ottawa he had agreed with Mr. Olson . . .

MR. MACKLING: No.

MR. WATT: Well, I just go by my honourable friend's statement as he released it to the press.

MR. USKIW: . . . always been my case.

MR. WATT: I've read your statements into the record on several occasions. My honourable friend knows it, and my honourable friend knows that that is why he will not call that Committee of Agriculture and give the farming community the opportunity to come before him and ask him what his position is in regard to Operation LIFT, . . . Bill No. 196C.

MR. USKIW: Would my honourable friend submit to a question? Is my honourable friend suggesting that the Committee on Agriculture, which is mentioned in this resolution, is not going to meet?

A MEMBER: That's what you would have it do.

MR. WATT: If that is a question, Mr. Speaker, I think my honourable friend is referring to the committee, the terms of reference will be to discuss the Federal Government's Task Force Report on Agriculture and the Federal Government's Commission on the Prices of Farm Machinery. Yes, (2).

MR. USKIW: (3) - read it further.

MR. WATT: "Whereas on May 26, 1966 the Federal Government established a Royal Commission on farm machinery to grant the cost of farm machinery and farm machinery parts." Now there's one issue that we discussed. Right? And the further issue that we discussed is the Task Force on Agriculture. Can my honourable friend point out the third one? Can he say that there were other matters that would be referred - Operation LIFT for instance - or Bill 196C - no, he doesn't dare.

MR. USKIW: Read Page 4.

MR. WATT: That's why he didn't call that committee.

MR. USKIW: Read Page 4.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. USKIW: He doesn't want to read it aloud.

MR. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I heard somebody say the farmers' friend and anybody that, Mr. Speaker, Sir . . . -- (Interjection) -- anybody that lives in the Province of Manitoba, or anybody that lives in the City of Winnipeg or any metropolitan or rural area of this province has to realize that the farmer and the welfare of the farmer is the most important thing that we all have in front of us, because, Sir, I would say this to you, I would say this to you that there'll be no survival of this province when our Number One industry is in a problem, or as my honourable colleague from Swan River says, is shot. Now I assure you, Sir, that I don't intend to spend much time on this. The reason that we, or I personally do not accept the report of the committee because I was there on that Friday night, I saw Law Amendments end and I saw the Committee of Agriculture called, and I also saw, Sir, a game of musical chairs. Everybody jumped around the table and they were looking for members of the committee, and as was explained today we had three and they had not more than four or so, but the most amazing part of the whole issue, Mr. Speaker, is they went through one of the bills of agriculture with the Chairman of Municipal Affairs in the chair until somebody said . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, that is not correct. Mr. Speaker, it was - on a point - Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs -- or Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: On a point of privilege, the honourable member would surely not want to be incorrect. It was the Law Amendments Committee Chairman who was in his Chair and it is not unusual for Law Amendments Committee to deal with bills which have been referred.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I have nothing - no quarrel - I will not argue with the Minister, the House Leader, and if this is the practice that the Minister of the Law Amendments will handle everything, but all of a sudden somebody said we haven't appointed a chairman for the Agricultural Committee and all of a sudden everything went according to Hoyle and I won't argue with the fact that the Law Amendments' chairman was there, maybe he should have been there, but we went through a bill. Then there was a chairman of Agricultural Committee appointed and it happened to be the Member from The Pas. Now, Sir, I do not agree that the Member from The Pas is an expert on agriculture any more than I am. You know, my reason for standing up tonight, Mr. Speaker, is this, and I would speak to you, Sir, because I don't think the members on the other side really care, because a lot of them don't seem to realize, and I said it last fall, as a city member of this Legislature that the people of Winnipeg, Manitoba and Winnipeg, are dependent upon the first industry which is agriculture.

I said in this Legislature, Sir, last fall that the men that I call on, the companies that I call on, or the people that I know who have salesmen going about the country in the Province of Manitoba are coming back with empty order books because the situation in rural Manitoba is drastic, and at that time, Sir, I pleaded with the Minister to try and do something about it. At that time I said that the Minister didn't seem to want to listen to anybody with experience. He hasn't got it on that side and he does not want to listen to the people with experience on this side as far as agriculture is concerned. I can't give him any good advice on agriculture, Sir. I admit that right now, but I can say to him that the City of Winnipeg and urban areas are suffering because of the bad agricultural situation in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. USKIW: . . . if the honourable member would submit to a question?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: When I'm finished, when I'm finished, Sir. Sir, when I'm finished. When the salesmen, who go out from this city or any other urban area and because the Honourable Member from St. Boniface is smiling, even to buy somebody . . .

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): I'm smiling . . .

MR. F. JOHNSTON: I would say this, when they come back with empty order pads, this is a situation where there are jobs at stake, shippers, invoicers, etc., and it is happening . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: Don't forget the paper clips.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: It is happening in the City of Winnipeg, Brandon, etc., and I said last year, the Minister of Agriculture, I asked him, please do something about it and he didn't do anything about it until a quarter to twelve last Friday night.

Now, there are all kinds of things in agriculture could be talked about. I may be called an urban member and I could talk about municipal affairs until it comes out of my ears. If you want to talk about the problems of cities and what have you, etc., but there has been no time, no time since I have been elected to this Legislature, last fall we asked for it; this session we have been asking to please sit down and try and solve the problems of the farmer in the Province of Manitoba. The only thing we have received from this government is we've spent more money which is not that big as my colleague from Emerson stated. -- (Interjection) -- No, Mr. Speaker, my honourable good friend from St. James, the Attorney-General, I will answer his question later. But the thing is, the Honourable Member from Emerson stated you provided the money; it's a big thing but it wasn't that much administration, and there are many more things wrong. You know, we've been sitting here for two sessions since this government has been involved. The Honourable Minister of Finance keeps saying, we have made the biggest tax shift there's ever been. And do you know, do you know, Sir, he'll be walking down the street when he's eighty years old with a cane, saying I made the biggest tax shift. And you know there will be a hundred thousand people behind him saying when you made it, you turned around and took it all back. You've taken it back in taxes, you've done nothing to help the farmer, we have added taxes everywhere, recreationally, wherever it may be, every place where anybody can enjoy themselves in this province has had taxes added to it; and every place where the first industry of our province, which is agriculture, has had no consideration whatsoever until 11:10 or 11:45 last Friday night, and at that point, Sir, they played musical chairs to find a chairman. Now I may have a lot of support and I expect a lot of support from this side and I want it to be there, but I certainly should expect a lot of support from that side from the people that are in the farm industry, from the people that live in urban areas who really need support from the rural area of this province, should be supporting me and saying right now let's do something - I can't go along.

You go along and say we'll make a policy. Really, you can make policies. We had the Liquor Act, we made a policy for a situation, several situations. We do many things for several situations, but we have never seen from the government of this province at the present time any consideration or a situation which is drastic at the present time, it hasn't come forward; and, Mr. Speaker, I say to you as a city member, I say to you, Sir, if this government does not start to help the rural Manitoban, the farmer of this province, we will all be walking around looking for trouble and we'll have it right up to our ears and it's time you started thinking about -- and the Minister of Agriculture, he doesn't seem to give a damn. He really doesn't seem to give a damn. He just says, Okay, I'll take care of it. Politically he's taken care of some marvellous things but let's get down to earth where people are eating bread and butter and see what he's done, and he's done nothing, Sir. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the honourable member a question. Apparently he said he would answer the question. Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the learned expert across the way in farm matters, the Member from Sturgeon Creek. With the exception, with the exception, Sir, of the one suggestion that has been made that the Minister of Agriculture call the committee, can you name me one specific suggestion that either you or any member of your caucus has made in respect to a concrete proposal for agricultural policy in this House?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first part of the question was he referred to me as the expert from the rural area. I say to him that I haven't tried to do as much studying as my honourable friend the Attorney-General from St. James has, because I haven't really tried to get as learned as he has in agriculture, and I don't really think he's that good at it. My answer to that first part of the question is I am concerned about the people of the urban area when the urban area is suffering.

Regarding the suggestions from this side of the House, Sir, I can say to you that if I were to read Hansard and if I go back to last fall's session and I go back to this summer session, and

(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd.) I can only name about three of them - and we've had some suggestions from their side that the Minister hasn't even accepted - I can mention the Honourable Member from Rock Lake, I can mention the Honourable Member from Morris, I can mention the Honourable Member from Gladstone and the Honourable Member from Roblin who have had some damn good suggestions that have never been taken up.

MR. MACKLING: What were they?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: . . . and the only reason the Member from St. James, the Attorney-General doesn't recognize a good suggestion, is because he's the same as me, he's not a rural member.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I wonder now, Mr. Speaker, I wonder now if the honourable member would answer my question. What were these suggestions? Just one of them. There were innumerable suggestions. Just give me one.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I pride myself on my memory, but I cannot quote Hansard verbatim.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to answer the question that the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. MCKENZIE: He's the Minister of Pizza, is it, Mr. Speaker? I'd be glad to answer

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. USKIW: I wonder if the member would submit to a couple of questions? The honourable member made mention of a number of suggestions that were made by members opposite on how we might deal with the agricultural crisis. I wonder if he would undertake for me to canvass his members on the other side and bring for me a catalogue of items which they have announced in this House as positive suggestions.

A MEMBER: Look it up in Hansard . . .

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, to answer that, and I will not take your time, Sir, I know that the questions I'm receiving are not relevant to what I have said, but I assure you, I assure you this, Sir, that I will speak to my colleagues and they in this debate will give you the answers. Right?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I have two more. One is, does the honourable member not know that the tax shift which he mentioned in his remarks was really a saving of four million dollars for the farmers of Manitoba?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I know, I will answer that that I know it is a saving, but when I see the tax assessors and the reassessment that's going on in the Province of Manitoba rurally and urbanly at the present time, I say to you this, I will go back to my statement when the Minister of Finance is 80 years old with a cane, he'll have a lot of people walking the street behind him saying you did this but you did nothing else.

MR. USKIW: The last one, Mr. Speaker, is why is it that the honourable members opposite have found out since they have become the members of the Opposition of this House that there is indeed an agricultural problem in this country?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the only answer I can give you to that is I was not in the House when the Honourable Minister of Agriculture was in the Opposition; but he had all the answers then, he has none now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member . . .

MR. WATT: . . . directed to anyone across here? Oh it wasn't? You wouldn't like an answer from me right now?

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

MR. BUD SHERMAN (Fort Garry): On a point of order. The Minister seemed to be having some difficulty recalling the suggestions made by members on this side - four members on this side were mentioned. -- (Interjection) -- The point of order is if the Government House Leader would grant leave, our members will make their suggestions over again.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Under those conditions, can I speak?

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition) (Minnedosa): Ayes and Nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Bilton, Claydon, Craik, Einerson, Enns, Ferguson, Froese, Girard, Graham, Henderson, G. Johnston (Portage la Prairie), F. Johnston (Sturgeon Creek), Jorgenson, McGill, McKellar, McKenzie, Moug, Patrick, Sherman, Watt, Weir and Mrs. Trueman.

NAYS: Messrs. Allard, Barrow, Beard, Borowski, Burtniak, Cherniack, Desjardins, Doern, Evans, Fox, Gonick, Gottfried, Green, Johannson, McBryde, Mackling, Malinowski, Paulley, Pawley, Petursson, Schreyer, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, Usiw and Uruski.

MR. CLERK: Yeas, 22; Nays, 26.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion lost.

Notices of Motion; Introduction of . . .

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, how about the main question?

MR. SPEAKER: . . . question on the main motion? The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say at the outset that it's indeed encouraging, Mr. Speaker, to see the first indication from this government that they want to discuss agriculture. This is the first indication that we have had that they want to discuss agriculture. Mr. Speaker, I was trying to be a little lenient on this government and get on with the business of the House but I was willing to wait till the next sitting to carry on the debate. However, if we want to discuss agriculture tonight, let's go ahead.

Mr. Speaker, the committee that met on Friday night - I was there - was only evidence of the confusion, especially in the field of agriculture, that this government has. They have no idea, in fact they had already started to discuss the agricultural bills under the Law Amendments Committee when they realized that they were supposed to be sitting as an Agricultural Committee. Now, Mr. Speaker, that came as much of a surprise to me as it did to anyone else because I was under the impression that the morning session when the Agricultural Committee was supposed to have sat and listened to briefs, that once they had listened to all the briefs and then they went on with other committees, the Municipal Committee and then into Law Amendments, that that was probably all the Agricultural Committee would be called on for that particular day. However, near the hour of eleven o'clock the House Leader announced that the Agricultural Committee would meet to discuss the various bills clause by clause. Not being a member of that committee and at the invitation of the House Leader that those members that were not on the committee would be excused for the remainder of the evening, I was very tempted to leave but there were some phases of the legislation that I was quite interested in so I stayed. However, Mr. Speaker, today I was accused by the Minister of Agriculture of having no interest in the affairs of the Agricultural Committee. Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. Agriculture is my livelihood and when I say that the agricultural industry in Manitoba is in a sad state of affairs I'm speaking from personal experience.

This Agricultural Committee which was called on Friday night was called to discuss bills. The problems of agriculture are still there; the committee has still not had the opportunity to discuss them and we have the Honourable House Leader saying that there is a special resolution or a resolution introduced by the Minister of Agriculture to call a special committee but I say this to you, Mr. Speaker, that the terms of reference for that committee literally tie the hands of the committee members. What the Agricultural Minister proposes to discuss is only the subjects that have been discussed for years by other jurisdictions and it's just a re-washing of old linen.

Mr. Speaker, in the agricultural community there is much ground still to be ploughed and it doesn't appear as though this government is intent on ploughing it. There has to be changes made and now we find this government trying to put more restrictive measures on those farmers who are endeavouring on their own to maintain their independence. We find that by punitive and restrictive measures, by legislation, they may very well force the farmer out of existence. And, Mr. Speaker, when that happens there will be a real uproar in the Province of Manitoba because if there's one group of people in this province that cherish their independence and their relative freedom, it's the farming community. They have chosen a way of life that may not be the most remunerative in dollars and cents but it does offer them some form of freedom, even

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd.) some form of isolation which they, as individuals, prefer to the rat run of urban living. Mr. Speaker, these are proud individuals, very proud people and all they ask is that government lend them at least a sympathetic ear to some of their problems. But what do we find? We have had one meeting of the Agriculture Committee. They're not interested in discussing or listening to the farmers. All they wanted to talk about was a few agricultural bills which could be handled by the Law Amendments Committee in any event. Mr. Speaker, the bills, eight bills that were referred to that committee, could have been handled by the committee which embraces almost the entire House and that's the Law Amendments Committee. No member of the Agricultural Committee would have been denied clause by clause examination and everyone would have had a note. And the members of that side of the House, Mr. Speaker, would then have had the privilege of gaining some experience at first hand from the members on this side who have had agricultural experience.

The problems in the agricultural field today, Mr. Speaker, are varied and many and from time to time members of this side of the House - and I'm including other members, other than members of my particular party - have attempted to bring these problems before this House. Mr. Speaker, I would dearly love to be able to state that they have been able to do so but I must confess that on occasions they have been prevented from doing so and in doing so, I sincerely hope that the members opposite fully realize what they are doing to the farmers of Manitoba. We find many well-intentioned programs, Mr. Speaker, introduced both by this House and by the senior government in Ottawa which probably initially do have the intention of improving the lot of the farmer. But, Mr. Speaker, somewhere along the line down through the chain of command the intention becomes distorted, twisted and the original intention becomes aborted so that the initial intention becomes in fact a detriment to the farmer. This, Mr. Speaker, was what I meant in a magazine article earlier this year when I stated that the farmers in Manitoba, after many years of experience, now have a basic distrust of any form of legislation proposed by any type of government. And I include the former government of which I was a member, Mr. Speaker, when I say that. We have evidence of plans that were introduced by governments in the past, the previous administration of this province included, which did not work to the best interests of the farmer and I would say again, Mr. Speaker, that some of the plans that are being introduced by the present government will not work to the interests of the farmer.

The First Minister made a big issue out of the fact that the Department of Agriculture increased their estimates 20 percent this year. They made a big issue of offering the farmer more credit, at this time when the farmer is already overloaded with credit. Mr. Speaker, the farmer is not looking for additional credit, he's looking for some form of relief, possibly in the field of municipal taxation, possibly in the field of school taxation. So what do we find in parts of my constituency, Mr. Speaker? The total school tax paid by some of the farmers in my area this year has increased 58 percent and the Minister of Finance said we have made the most massive shift in taxation that ever occurred in the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, the farmers of Manitoba will remember that statement when they look at their tax bill this year and they won't be too proud of this present administration.

Mr. Speaker, I've had representations made to me by farmers almost every weekend on problems of some form or another. Some of them I have attempted to solve myself; some of them I have attempted to raise in the House but, Mr. Speaker, I must admit that perhaps I do love to brag a bit but the problems that I've attempted to solve myself have seemed to have got better results than those that this government has attempted to solve. It came to my attention over the weekend, Mr. Speaker, that some farmers are now being discriminated by the fact that because they have taken part in the LIFT Program that was instituted by the Federal Government and that same program being somewhat at variance with the provincial program under the Crop Insurance Plan, they find that they might have to pay into the PFAA even though they have already paid into crop insurance on the crop that they will be marketing and it has been the long accepted practice that if you are a subscriber in the crop insurance program that you are exempt from PFAA payments. I refer, Mr. Speaker, specifically to the case of a farmer who has been a contributor to the crop insurance program for several years, in fact maybe from its inception, and has continuously supported the program with his yearly premiums - maybe not insuring his entire crop but maybe just insuring his wheat - and then this year finds himself with a feeling of responsibility to support the federal LIFT Program and put his entire wheat acreage into summerfallow; and in filling out his form which has now just come back to

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd.) him in the last two or three days, finds that his permit book does not include the familiar crop insurance endorsement and he will now have to pay into PFAA, even though every bushel of grain that he sells in the coming year he has insured under the crop insurance program.

Mr. Speaker, I think it would be a relatively simple matter for the Minister through regulation to cover the farmers with probably just a token premium of perhaps a dollar where he has all his land under summerfallow, to allow him to carry on his continuity in the Crop Insurance Program. This, Mr. Speaker, would entitle him then next year when he does have some crop to be able to reap the benefit of continued membership in the Crop Insurance Plan and have his premiums reduced by as much as possibly 30 percent; but if he breaks the chain he has to start over all as a new member and pay the fullest premium price. I raise this as a matter which I realize doesn't cover every farmer in the Province of Manitoba because every farmer isn't in that position. Every farmer still enjoys some freedom and they make their own decisions on how they will make the best possible use out of the facilities they have at hand and the natural resources before them. So, Mr. Speaker, I know that it doesn't cover all farmers, but it does cover the whole province and it covers some farmers in most areas. These are problems that are relevant, Mr. Speaker, because they are problems that come about through change and change is necessary, and as long as we have change we will continue to have problems, and where is a better place to air those problems than at a legislative committee set up specifically for that purpose, namely the Agricultural Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the report that is proposed here by the Member for The Pas in my opinion does not in any way express any of the conditions that exist in agriculture, nor does it in any way delineate the problems that exist in agriculture. It is just a token report dealing with some of the specifics, the few amendments dealing with specific sections in each bill. If it is recorded as such, Mr. Speaker, as just a token report and there's a promise that the committee will meet again very shortly, then I will accept that. But the report as given in this House, Mr. Speaker, gives no indication of that whatsoever, and I as a farmer and a member of this Legislature must voice my opposition to this type of report at this particular time.

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

MR. MOUG: Mr. Speaker, I just want to rise to mention in regard to attendance of committee meetings and the late call of the Agricultural Committee being called on Friday night between 11 and 12 p. m., in that neighbourhood. I felt that if the speed-up motion is justified to bring members in here 9:30 in the morning and keep them until such hours as beyond midnight on Friday night when I'm sure everybody enjoys the opportunity to take their children, their families out to the lakes and the like of that, I thought that it warranted some mention. If the - Mr. Speaker, and the members of the House could remember the Member from La Verendrye bringing in a resolution early in the session asking that the Agriculture Committee would meet in the near future and a member from the government side of the House, I believe it was the Member from St. George, brought in an amendment to say that rather than have this committee meet, he took the meat out of the entire resolution and amended it to say that we should commend the Minister of Agriculture for the representation he made at Ottawa on behalf of the farmers of Manitoba. Now when he mentioned "on behalf of the farmers of Manitoba", I wasn't sure whether he meant that we should commend him on behalf of the farmers of Manitoba or commend him on behalf of the job he had done at Ottawa. But I would say that owing to the fact that we debated that here for six afternoons, Tuesdays and Fridays, I think that if he took into consideration the cost of keeping this House open which is probably six or seven thousand dollars a day and the end result of \$40,000, I think if they would have caucused it a little further and got the Minister of Finance with them, found out what it was going to cost us to do this, that we could have got the seventh floor of the Fort Garry Hotel, went down there and held this mutual admiration society effort at that particular time, patted him on the back, shook his hand or his head, whichever was necessary, and this would have been far cheaper.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion. Introduction of Bills. Orders of the Day. Adjourned debates on second reading.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, will you call Bill No. 115, please.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 115. The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, in resuming my remarks on Bill 115, The Act to amend the Mining Royalty and Tax Act, I'd like to again say that I regard this as a very important piece of legislation in the tax field and most important to all of the members because it affects an industry to which we are looking in the future for a great portion of the wealth that is developed in this province.

I should make it clear, too, at this stage that I'm not intending to oppose an increase of mining royalty taxes. If it can be established that the industry is able to live with an increase that would almost double the revenue from this source, and also that it can be established reasonably that to increase the royalty taxes at this stage and also to phase out the incentive program for new mines that has been a part of the Manitoba tax picture for some years, to phase out at the same time as taxes are being doubled, if it can be established that such a move, will not be a deterrent to the development of the industry in the north, I think that an industry of this importance, of this size, one that is growing and expanding throughout the north, it would be a step that we should regard with considerable concern if it is going to have the effect of in any way reducing the rate of expansion of the mining industry in the north.

Now in this respect Mr. Speaker, the words of the Minister of Finance are somewhat reassuring. In the press on Thursday July 2nd, he's quoted as saying that the mining companies have been consulted on the changes which he is now proposing in Bill 115. I would hope that the operative word in that quotation is the choice of the Minister and that the word "consulted" does mean that there have been meaningful discussions prior to the drawing of this legislation with the -- (Interjection) -- Mr. Speaker

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance)(St. Johns): I'm sorry, I just wanted to get clear - are you reading from Hansard and could you give me the Page, so I can

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, to again refer to the press report of the Tribune of Thursday July 2nd, the Minister is said to have said that the mining companies have been consulted on the changes, and I would hope that the choice of the word "consulted" is the Minister's and not that of the reporter entirely, and that there have been prior to the drawing of the legislation some meaningful discussions with the representatives of the major companies in Manitoba. And I would assume that if that has taken place then the Minister is reasonably satisfied that these companies can live with the increases which he now proposes.

Mr. Speaker, the other question of whether or not to eliminate or phase out incentives for new mines at the same time as an increase of this size is offered or proposed and the effect which it will have on the growth of the mining industry in the north is one that cannot be answered quite as simply and I would be interested to know if any comments were made by the Manitoba mining companies in consultation with the Minister in respect to new developments which they may have undertaken under the present regulations and which they might perhaps have reconsidered or not have undertaken had the present regulations been in effect, or had the present regulations been in effect, or had the present regulations as they are proposed in Bill 115 been effective. I'm wondering if, for instance, the representatives of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company would have perhaps considered the bringing to production of the Anderson Lake Mine or the Mine under the new proposals. I'm wondering too, Mr. Speaker, if new and independent companies will have the same incentive to bring into production properties in northern Manitoba that they may now be considering or that they now have actually embarked upon a program of bringing into production. The question really is one of whether or not we can continue a rate of expansion under the new tax proposals.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated that it is not his intention this being a money bill to refer it to a Standing Committee of the House, but I would think that as a consideration of the economic development involved here that this might be a subject which well could be referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Development. I think any tax proposal of this scope affecting an industry of such importance could well be the subject of hearings before the Standing Committee on Economic Development. I hope that we would not be in such a hurry at this stage in the session that we would not have time to take this step and we would not have time to hear those people, not only in the industry, but others who are equally as concerned as to what they feel would be the result of the phasing out of an incentive for new mines by the government at a time when the Federal Government is also indicating its intent at least of taking some similar steps in regard to new mining operations. These two coming perhaps reasonably close together

(MR. MCGILL cont'd.) would I think, provide enough difference in the economic climate for independent mines and the possibilities, the decisions that are to be made with respect to bringing them into production, that they should warrant some very careful consideration and some representation. I'd be interested to hear what the people in the industry are saying here. No doubt the Minister has heard from some at least of the people who are concerned now by the implications of his proposal but it would be a subject upon which anything that can be said, anything that could be used to direct and to enable a committee on economic development to take a position with respect to the necessity or otherwise for continuing incentives for new mining ventures in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, certainly tax revenue is important and we are in favour as all members are in favour of achieving a maximum revenue from this source, but not at the expense Mr. Speaker, of in any way inhibiting the growth of this industry in northern Manitoba, because a broadening of the tax base in the long run will be greater than any preoccupation at the present time with increasing the total revenue from royalty taxes.

I would like to Mr. Speaker, briefly comment on the new section contained in Bill 115 and it has to do with the new concept really of establishing a mining community reserve. One cannot help but applaud the sentiments behind this move by the government to provide for a community which suffers loss, unexpected perhaps, in the phasing out of a mining activity and where the corporation responsible is not able to perhaps provide for the welfare of the people involved. This in sentiment at least is a most worthy one and we certainly applaud the interest of the government in the welfare of the people involved in mining. But Mr. Speaker, there's somewhat of an anomaly here in that the proposal would set up another form of welfare in the province and in an industry which at the moment is expanding quite rapidly. Surely money that is received from the mining industry itself might well be spent in encouraging the further expansion of the industry so that people who find themselves employed at a mine site that has been depleted would reasonably move to another site where the same operations would take place.

I think too, Mr. Speaker, that responsibility for people employed by a mining corporation rests completely with the corporation itself and this has always been I think one that has been undertaken by the mining companies and because it has not in this particular instance, the case of Bissett, I'm wondering if it is proper to assume that there will be occurrences of this type in the future where a mining corporation when it finds its ore reserves depleted is unable to look after the people who have served it over the years during its productive period. Surely the name of the game in mining is to run out of ore and surely this is anticipated over the years. There are reserves for depletion of ore and a responsible mining corporation must equally take care of the other facets in their operation, and they are looking long before the day comes when they must shut down their operations for new properties to develop, and with the state of the industry in Manitoba that we can expect is really in its adolescent stage - compared with Ontario it's much less mature, there are much greater areas of the Pre-Cambrian Shield that have been relatively untapped - surely there is the possibility with the proper economic climate of providing for the expansion that will take care of the people who might be at a mine site where a depletion of ore requires that the operation be then moved.

So, I am wondering if it is a good direction to be going to set up a reserve for an occurrence which should be anticipated by responsible mining corporations and which should be a part of their whole operation. I think perhaps it's almost a criticism of the whole industry when we say we are going to do this for you. And does it perhaps indicate that they are relieved of the responsibility? I think the whole industry has accepted these responsibilities in the past and are prepared to accept them in the future. So again, in sentiment I agree; in principle, I am wondering if we are going in the right direction in the setting up of a Mining Community Reserve. I would hope that this major responsibility would remain with the corporations in mining.

Mr. Speaker, to return to the principal parts of the Bill - and in my view they are those which make the rate of taxation 15 percent instead of the graduated scale we had previously, and I won't go through that again, and the intent of the Bill to phase out that concession that Manitoba has made for new mines to allow them a 50 percent forgiveness over the first three years of their life - I am wondering if these in combination, and these at a time when notices of intent at least from the Federal Government have also indicated removal of incentives for new mines, I wonder if our timing is right here. Maybe the Minister has in mind getting in first, or giving the industry all the bad news at one time. Maybe it's easier to take it all in one period than it

(MR. MCGILL cont'd.) is to have it over a number of years.

I would like to again appeal to the Minister to consider that economic development, if it's involved in any Bill in front of this House at the moment, is certainly involved in the tax proposals that are now before us. To air the industry and to those connected in the committee would be most useful and I think would underline the proper decision or otherwise that is now being taken. If the government - and I don't say for a minute that the government is taking this position - but if they are losing some interest in encouragement for private industry and mining, then perhaps we should look at the authority granted to them in Bill 17. Maybe these are to be considered together, and maybe if it develops that the greatly increased tax position which will confront the mining industry in passage of this Bill, if this does become a deterrent to private industry, then possibly what the government has in mind is to use Bill 17 as their instrument of taking up the slack, and perhaps there is more feeling on the government's side at this stage that this can be done as an instrument, as a public corporation, and that we should be getting into the mining business by means of a Crown Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this is not the trend; I hope that this is not the way we are going in mining in Manitoba. I think that the corporations, the big three in Manitoba, have done a tremendous job. Two of them are native sons in a sense. Sherritt-Gordon and Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting now have developed into international corporations with exploration going on in many parts of the world. International Nickel has established the largest integrated nickel operation in the world, as was pointed out by the Honourable Member from Churchill, and in that respect I think -- well, to mention again his reminder to the Legislature, that there are other ways to provide incentives to the mining industry than to provide tax concessions, and those that we think of immediately are those that would provide better communications.

Maybe we should be handing the Mining Community Reserve to the Minister of Transportation so he could build more roads to resources, so that he would have more mines in case any mine is depleted and requires a re-establishment of the people involved. There are training programs that can be used for the original people in the area, and personnel qualified and trained in mining will certainly assist and be an incentive to these mining industries.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of the thoughts that occur to me as we make our decisions in respect to a major tax increase for the mining industry, as we decide whether or not we will impose upon the industry a tax which will double perhaps the revenue that will be achieved by the province. If we can do that without inhibiting the growth of this industry then perhaps it's the right step, but I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Committee on Economic Development could do much by hearing the representations of the industry and of others in ensuring that a proper decision is made at this time. I would ask the Minister to consider this seriously and I hope that his decision will not be tempered by the fact that we are pressed for time - if we are pressed for time. This is a decision that is an important one for the province.

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

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance shows me four fingers, indicating I have four minutes, and I think that is about the length of speeches I like. I can't go beyond that, but I think in this instance as a member coming from a constituency whose sole livelihood comes from mining, I think it would be unforgivable if I allowed this bill to go through without commenting on it. The Minister of Finance has a lot of figures and statistics that he will read into the record so the members can make an intelligent decision when they vote on it and understand the reasons why we are doing what we are doing.

I want to comment on the Member from Brandon's comments, and he is in a position that I am when I want to speak on farming or medicine. You know, we don't know beans - if I can use the word -- (Interjection) -- Well, I was born on a farm but I've been off the farm for quite a while, and unlike the member from River Heights, although I married a farmer's daughter, I have forgotten what little I did learn from farming, and I am not going to parade and pretend that I am an expert on farming. But I do know something about mining. I have spent a good many years mining and I would just like the Member from Brandon to know that whoever gave him the statistics and main meat of his story, he didn't know too much about it because if he had any conception of what mining is all about and why certain decisions are made, you would never have made the statement you have. The fact of the matter is that in mining there is, just like in any other business, profit and loss picture. It doesn't really matter whether it is in mineral taxes, income taxes, in wages and the cost of material used, like

(MR. BOROWSKI cont'd.) blasting powder, drilling machines which wear out after a year's use which are very expensive, when a company makes a decision to mine or not to mine, to close down because it is not profitable, they take the whole picture into consideration. It doesn't really matter to the mining company who gets it, who's getting that money.

Recently, the steelworkers concluded an agreement with the International Nickel in Thompson. That agreement is worth 23 million dollars over a period of three years. Now, I didn't hear anybody from the Opposition, in fact not even the company, suggest that just because 23 million dollars of their profits are going to be diverted into the pockets of not even of Manitobans, in fact not even to the people of Thompson but just the men who are working underground, a handful of men about 3,600 in number, are going to get 23 million dollars in extra pay - in extra pay, this is over and above what they have been receiving up to now - and nobody was saying that you are going to drive industry out, that the mine is going to fold up or that the ore body is not going to be productive.

The fact of the matter is the company is making a lot of money. They happen to have, through no credit to you or to us, a rich ore body which the good Lord placed there. They're mining it and they are making money like a farmer makes hay and they are going to continue to make it as long as there is a profit. When there isn't a profit, it wouldn't make any difference if you removed all the mineral taxes, because the mineral taxes in the overall picture are, as I said before in the House and I still say, are peanuts. They come out to - what is it now - a million and a half or two million dollars from International Nickel and their total mineral sales are about 120 million in Manitoba, so percentage-wise it's less than two percent, and the wage increase package was worth over a period of three years about 40 some percent, I believe.

The company is not complaining. I spoke to the manager, Mr. McCready, and he wasn't too happy naturally about the increase in mineral taxes - nobody is - but he wasn't crying gloom and doom and he wasn't concerned that this was the wrong time to bring it in. When you bring in a tax increase, like a wage increase, no time is the right time because they have to pay, and as a one-time shareholder and one who has worked in a mine, I am very concerned about what's going on. But we know that when you are talking about the type of money we are talking about here, it is really not worth the time of day to discuss it, and I want to tell you very frankly I am not proud of this bill we are bringing in. When the Conservatives were in power I said that the money we were getting from mineral taxes is peanuts. It's still peanuts, but instead of one bag of peanuts we'll now get two bags of peanuts, and there is nothing to be proud of on this side, but it's a bag more than we received before. -- (Interjection) -- Shelled and salted, yes.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, I simply rise to point out to the members in the Opposition that what we are doing in the tax field is so small and so insignificant that it is hardly worth mentioning when you put it alongside what it costs them to pay the wages and what it costs them to pay for the agreement that they voluntarily signed. There was no threat of a strike; they sat down with the union and negotiated an agreement for a period of three years which is going to cost them 23 million dollars. Nobody twisted their arm, nobody said by legislation you must pay it; they voluntarily and of their own free will signed it. So I would suggest to the members in the Opposition that, if anything, they should be pressing this government to take a bigger chunk of the pie. I really don't believe we should settle for what's in that bill. It's a step in the right direction but it's a very small step, and I hope that before our term runs out in four years that we will get something that we can stand up in this House and brag about. Thankyou.

. Continued on next page

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member from Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, you know, I'm prepared at this hour of the evening to rather accept the comments of the Minister of Transportation in a humorous vein. He may be very serious but he kept smiling throughout the time that he was telling them, and we now have the analogy that we have what consisted of one bag of peanuts a little while ago now is two bags of peanuts.

But really, Mr. Speaker, the question matter that we are dealing with is far more serious and I would like to refer just very briefly to the International Nickel Company of Canada Limited submission to the Federal Government with respect to the problems that this company, the major company that we have in Manitoba, looks at and considers it's facing with respect to some of the implications of the White Paper. There are some very interesting comments in this report that I would hope that members opposite, particularly the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, has had an occasion or time to pursue. I know his schedule is very busy.

But let me just read a few -- and I haven't ever attempted to stand up and be a tax expert or a mining expert in this House, but these are written in very plain and simple terms to understand. I recognize that when I refer to the problems that the mining industry -- or situations, I should maybe not use the word problems -- the situation which the mining industry faces here in Manitoba as a result of the possible implications of the implementation of the White Paper, then you add on top of it what we are doing here in this Legislature by Bill 115 and what we've done a year ago in the Minister of Finance's last budget, 3 percent corporation rise, you see one can never take these things in isolation.

I'd like to quote from this report just very briefly, Mr. Speaker, to indicate to you that in their opinion, International Nickel Company of Canada, the White Paper's proposals result in Canadian mining taxes being far heavier than the taxes imposed on mining in foreign jurisdiction. For example, the income tax burden on Inco's Coleman Mine in Sudbury, which is presently being developed, would be 55 percent higher in Canada than it would be if it were located in the United States.

It goes on to say a number of things, but interestingly further down it says, "the result would be that the company rather than being a dynamic stimulator of the economy, a force in regional development" -- and we are very concerned, particularly in this part of the country, with regional development -- "a growing employer, a growing exporter, would become a relatively static entity." I agree with the Honourable Minister of Transportation that what you want to do with the mining royalty tax, bump it up 5 percent, 10 percent, 20 percent or 30 percent, insofar as having a drastic reaction on the current investment that you now have at Thompson, that they would have to accept the burden willingly or unwillingly, it doesn't really matter, but they are there to make money. Just as they negotiate in good faith with labour and if the package costs them an extra 20 million dollars, that's a fact of life and it's realistic.

They essentially bear this out even with respect to their reaction to the White Paper's proposals, but they go on to say that what the effect would be, they would become a relatively static entity. Projects it is currently developing, such as the new mine and mill at Sh. . . ., Ontario, or ones -- and this is significant, Mr. Speaker, to us -- or ones currently considering, such as the Moak Setting Belt Area in Manitoba or the North Range Area in the Sudbury district, would or could not be undertaken.

Now, let's leave all the rest of it out but let's concern ourselves with the possible potential that we know is there in the Moak Setting Belt Area in Manitoba. Now, I don't know, I'm not a representative of the company, I'm not speaking for the company, but this in what I would assume to be a serious effort put forward by the chairman, Mr. Wingate of the International Nickel Company of Canada Limited to the government, indicates that the taxation measures proposed, proposed in the White Paper currently before the Federal House, could well stifle development, further development in the Moak Lake area in our nickel belt.

I have heard nothing, Mr. Chairman, from the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources to indicate any alarm or any concern or any consideration about it. I have heard nothing, Mr. Speaker, about the position that this government has taken with respect to the White Paper proposal on this particular area, and as it particularly concerns International Nickel, a major company, a major employer, a major employer in Manitoba. We have it before us, Sir, that the considerations that the Federal Government are contemplating could well be highly restricted. In addition though we blindly close our eyes and pursue our course and add

(MR. ENNS cont'd) on in Bill 115 additional costs to the mining industry which, Mr. Speaker, I'm not really prepared to argue with my friends opposite whether or not they are justifiable, whether they should be there, or whether they should not be there.

MR. SCHREYER: Would you answer a question?

MR. ENNS: In a moment, Mr. First Minister. I have just limited ability at this time to concentrate my thoughts and I'd like to, if I may, knowing the First Minister's astuteness in interjecting with a speech, usually rather than a question, to pursue the one or two thoughts that I want to say.

It's common knowledge, Mr. Speaker, that companies such as the International Nickel, they have vast holdings in other areas, holdings, New Caledonia, of minerals far more attractive, far more attractive, Mr. Speaker, from a point of exploitation of them in terms of richness in mineral percentage-wise and so forth. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, Mr. Speaker. Well they say -- Fine, I accept my learned friends, the professor from the University of Manitoba or the Minister of Transportation who naturally worked in the mines so he knows a great deal about it, but we want to call these people -- well, I won't use the term because I get in trouble in that term -- but are they simply just pulling the wool over our eyes? Is that the suggestion in this report? When they say that the fact that we are taxing, we will have, with the imposition of the White Paper taxation ideas, that International Nickel will be paying 55 percent more in the nature of general taxation than for the same mine in the United States? Well, in the words of the Minister of Transportation, and I agree with him, these boys are in it for money, and so why -- and I don't say there is anything wrong with it, I would agree with my social friends opposite that I could become exercised about unconscionable profits. -- (Interjection) -- Oh yes, but the fact of the matter is what we are looking at is this same company has -- I don't know what it is -- they may have a hundred, two hundred, or three or four hundred million dollars at their disposal as a result of the growth of the company for new mine development, and if the directors of that company are doing their job they will direct that money into those areas most profitable to their shareholders. That's elementary arithmetic, there's no wisdom -- (Interjection) -- Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult not to . . .

MR. SCHREYER: The question is, Mr. Speaker, that inasmuch as the Member for Lakeside claims that the Benson White Paper will have a very deleterious effect on the operation of mining companies in Canada, Western Canada, could he indicate to the House what is wrong with the Benson White Paper proposal that would permit mining companies to charge off against profits their actual expenditures on exploration and development. Does that not seem fair enough? And that is contained in the White Paper.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I make no assumption and have made no statement or claims of position, or a position that I take with respect to Mr. Benson's White Paper. I am trying to indicate, or trying to suggest to you some of the things that International Nickel Company has said about Mr. Benson's White Paper, and when the International Nickel Company says on page -- well, they don't number their pages, it's a double "j" -- but when they say that the situation would endanger the development of Moak Setting Belt area in Manitoba, then I as a Manitoban get concerned, and I would think the member representing the Thompson area should be concerned. I would think he should be concerned.

Now, it's one thing to be quite happy and to be happy with the status quo, and of course this is where, Mr. Speaker, our friends opposite really, you know -- and they do such a tremendous job of fooling the public at it -- they are the status quo small "c" conservatives in this kind of sense, if we are talking about development and economic development. They are unwilling to accept the risk of exciting, imaginative, enthusiastic roles in our economy because to them it augurs up all kinds of social ills that they haven't got the imagination, the stamina and the courage to tackle and to solve, so they rather say, as they have been telling us -- and I would epitomize it no better than by them attacking our slogan "Going to Beat 70", and I admit perhaps it's a little bit of a crude growth slogan but they are worried about that because they can't solve the problems that go along with the growth and they haven't got the heart to try to solve those problems. -- (Interjection) -- You people, because you have suggested in this instance -- Mr. Speaker, I don't just accuse the members opposite, but this is evident throughout the whole concept philosophy of the new left that is feeling, this idea of turning back progress, holding up the business where we stand at; this idea of stopping all paving projects tomorrow because one acre of Virden grass may go under asphalt; this idea

(MR. ENNS cont'd). . . . of stopping cars moving tomorrow because we have a problem with pollution. They are not prepared to accept the problem of solving the pollution problems of cars; their answer is simply to stop whatever it is because it is.

And in this sense - and I am getting carried away but it is in this sense that they are saying, because they are satisfied to accept International Nickel's present stature as it now stands. They are not prepared to even give themselves the chance or the opportunity of fully developing the potential that's in the Moak Setting Belt Area in Manitoba.

Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether this is true or not, but when the Chairman of International Nickel of Canada tells Mr. Trudeau and his Cabinet that his company, and that his responsibility - and I think the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources agreed with me just a moment ago - if we just look at it purely from the point of view of directors, the people responsible for the management of the International Nickel Company, they say to their directors that the cost of doing business in Canada as a result of the passage of the White Paper will be such that we will reconsider our development plans currently under way. The reason why I raise it in this particular conflict is because some of those plans, very important plans, are of course slated, or have been slated for Manitoba.

So, Mr. Speaker, when the director of International Nickel faces that problem with his own directors and with his own shareholders and says that I've got two hundred million dollars to invest in new exploration, if I invest it in New Caledonia or some United States property or Venezuelan property, these and these are the returns; if I invest it in Canada after the White Paper, or in Manitoba after the White Paper plus Bill 115, these and these are the returns; Mr. Speaker, it is a simple arithmetic problem. The computer spews it out, where are the returns, where are the calculated prospective returns best, and on that basis, not on the basis of politics, not because they don't like my honourable friend the First Minister or his Minister of Transportation or the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, simply on the arithmetic of the equation that comes out of the computer and that's what it will be decided upon.

I am suggesting to you, Mr. Speaker, that while I am not really prepared to take a position or argue against the current Bill, Bill 115, as such, but as I said earlier at the beginning of my speech, I must agree that that in itself is possibly a picayune measure in the overall costs facing the International Nickel Company; but, Mr. Speaker, I cannot deny and I can't overlook what is happening in total with respect to the possible situations the mining company faces with the White Paper, with respect to what has already happened with the Minister of Finance's budget of the first session of this government - and of course he has told us, and he's told industry, a three percent rise in corporate tax and he says that is just a beginning. That's just a beginning. I don't know, are they expecting 10 percent next year? -- (Interjection) -- Well, maybe he'll tell me, but the fact of the matter is we know, or at least Mr. Wingate must know that this company will be the company that will pay for that, and the First Minister has indicated to him, told him directly, that his company will be the one who will have to pay the major portion of the next major tax shift that the Premier of this province has indicated in this province.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I know that the Honourable Member from Lakeside likes to speak in parables from time to time, but for ordinary lay mortals like myself, I need an explanation. The honourable member indicates that I am reported to have said something to Mr. Wingate. Well, he had better give me the exact statement that I made, or am reported to have made.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to elaborate on that. The last major tax shift of 23, 24 million dollars in the medicare system was taken from what he termed - and quite frankly, Mr. First Minister, I agree with you to some extent - a not all that equitable system of premium collections. However, there were reasons for that being that way. You have taken your choice and said now we are going to apply the ability-to-pay principle, and you have demonstrated that what you mean by that is in the higher income groups and in the corporation tax. You have also said with some, from your point of view, with some measure of pride and justification, that that was a pretty good step in one year. Next year, or thereafter, we are considering another major - I am referring specifically, Sir, to the discussions that we have had with the problems of real estate, real property taxation - that this government was considering a further major step and that that would be in keeping with the principles as laid down by the shift in the medicare tax, so I say to you I speak in parables, but Mr. Wingate has just been told that he can expect another three or four percent rise in corporation tax.

MR. SCHREYER: It was a parable.

MR. ENNS: Well, there was another man who spoke in parables and the other day I was far removed from even approaching anywhere near his generosity and skill in speaking, but nonetheless I make no apologies for speaking in parables.

Mr. Speaker, I am belabouring the point, but I think I am getting the point across. I'm getting the point across. We are not an island unto ourselves. No matter what certain members of that caucus and that party wants to believe, that they can carve out of Manitoba a Cuba of North America, we cannot do that, Sir, I humbly submit without -- (Interjection) -- Well, Mr. Speaker, I think if I am given due opportunity I can indicate to you and show you a candidate of your party and your group that had that as part of his written campaign literature in the last election, to make Manitoba a Cuba of North American. Mr. Speaker, if you think that doesn't concern certain individuals then you have another think coming.

MR. SCHREYER: Was he elected?

MR. ENNS: The fact of the matter remains, you see, the fact of the matter remains that we are discussing a very serious situation, a very serious situation right now that concerns the job opportunities of many thousands of Manitobans in an area that should be particularly dear to the Member for Churchill, particularly dear to the Member for Churchill generally in the north, mining and social, but I find that when the Member for Churchill has an opportunity to express himself as he so often expresses himself eloquently and at great length about the things that should be done for the north, the job opportunities that should be created for the north, I would hope that the Member for Churchill who may have spoken at some length on this speech -- (Interjection) -- Well then, of course that is one of the penalties that I have paid for not having read my Hansard accurately and I apologize and retract all my remarks. I don't know what he said but I'll be watching how he votes. I must assume that he has indicated how he votes and I take from the smiling face of the Minister of Finance that I have also got the answer as to how he is going to vote.

MR. CHERNIACK: I'm just smiling because I'm looking at you.

MR. ENNS: I want to indicate to you, Mr. Speaker, that I am not at all satisfied, not that that necessarily concerns these honourable ministers, that they know the consequences of their actions. You know, the sad thing is, Mr. Speaker - and I'm deadly serious at this point - the sad thing is, Mr. Speaker, it's not that their actions are all that bad -- (Interjection) -- They're bad enough. But they know not what creates confidence; they have yet to learn that the most nervous thing in this world is not a cat on a hot stove or a husband as he is pacing a maternity ward, or a wife as she brings home a new dress for approval to her husband's charge account, the most nervous thing in this world is a million dollars worth of investment capital. It's fine if they have the alternative -- Arnold Beaton, I believe, Mr. Speaker, made that statement -- if they have some concept of that.

I know that what I am saying is completely off the mark to a goodly number of the members opposite, that radical leftist wing of that group, because of course they don't want any of this investment capital. It's tainted; it's American or it's Swedish or it's West German or it's British. They want to do it all with the people's money here in Manitoba. The simple fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, we haven't got enough of it. We haven't got enough of it to begin to sustain the level of life that we have been led to believe we could sustain and have a right to expect in this province.

MR. SCHREYER: Would you permit one question?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I permit the question at the close of my remarks. I am suggesting to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is with some concern that a relatively important piece of legislation such as this - and it's a piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, that quite frankly I expected early on in the Session, because after all, Mr. Speaker, this Minister of Industry and Commerce before he was the Minister of Industry and Commerce, and others in the early stages of the New Democratic Government, indicated that one of their first priorities, one of their major priorities was to sit down with a mining community to re-negotiate a better deal in their mind for benefits accruing to the people of Manitoba relative to the mining activity in this province.

Now we went through last session, and I accept the position taken by the government generally that not all things could be done or should be done in that kind of haste, particularly when new steps, new fields are being ploughed; but, Mr. Speaker, to bring this in in this Session with kind of the last rustle of bills that were placed before us, well, Mr. Speaker, I

(MR. ENNS cont'd) am not satisfied. To what extent, to what extent really are we going to have without being accused of filibustering - without being accused of filibustering. I would want to have, I would want to certainly have the most knowledgeable people in the mining community before us when we consider this bill. I would want to have all kinds of people talking to us and giving us representations, not only from the mining community but from the mayors and the councillors and so forth that have concerns about the bill. But I know, Mr. Speaker, just as we are faced with Bill 56 to some extent, the almost threat that I believe was made by the First Minister that if we even go to the end of listening to the public representations on this matter that there'll be a charge of filibustering levelled at the opposition, and I think, Mr. Speaker

MR. SCHREYER: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The honourable member makes the statement now that I have made a threat that if we listened or heard the briefs that were to be presented, are still to be presented relative to Bill 56, and if he would have listened carefully he will have heard that I said nothing of the kind. In fact I said that I assumed that we would have to find the time to hear the presentations that are already on record to be made relative to Bill 56. I believe I'm on record in more places than one on that point.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I didn't wish to drag in or bring in Bill 56 or reference to it. I happened to catch part of the First Minister's comments on the newscast and it was my interpretation. I'll certainly reserve any further comment in that respect. What I'm suggesting though is that on legislation as important as this, and recognizing the realities of the situation, we're at the stage in this session where any exhaustive or any complete and full examination of the bill through private and outside representation begins to seem as an opposition tactic of obstruction, or as an opposition tactic of filibustering, and that is certainly not the case, Mr. Speaker. In fact I suggest that this bill will probably - you know, the bill that we're dealing with, Bill 115, will be dealt with in a fairly summarily manner without the members of the committee, without the members of this Legislature realizing its full impact.

Mr. Speaker, really the gist of my whole effort tonight was to suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the government does not fully appreciate - not the implications, I'm not charging that the implications of Bill 115 are of such dire or major importance - but that again the combination, the combinations of the legislation that the mining industry faces, not only from your government but from the Federal Government and generally the economic situation in the country, could have most serious consequences for the future development of such very important areas as the Moak Lake area here in Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance?

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (River Heights): . . . be closing the debate?

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: If the Honourable Minister is closing debate, Sir, I'd like to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the last speaker a question, if he wouldn't mind, since he brought my name into the debate. I chose to announce to the House my stand on this question of taxation. I understood twice in the member's speech that he said he really wasn't against the taxation. Is he going to vote for the bill or not?

MR. ENNS: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, in my efforts to indicate to the House that I did not feel that the specific conditions of Bill 115 in themselves were all that unbearable or intolerable or would put such kind of a load on the bill, that I may have left the impression that I was in favour of the bill and that I would vote for the bill. No, Mr. Speaker, I will not support the bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can remember last fall when I came into this House and had an opportunity to look at a graph that was involved as part of the resource value of the northern areas or resource income of the Province of Manitoba. It had all different colours and what have you and it was basically done from an actuarial point of view. It was done on very great study, and when you looked at it very seriously - and I'm sure the present government must have had this graph at their disposal - it basically said that we have a resource in the Province of Manitoba and we were competing to sell that resource in an international or world market, and that we had to charge X number of dollars. Sir, I explain this this way, that if they've got the same resource in the Province of B.C. or Alberta or in the Province of Quebec or in the Province of Newfoundland or what have you, and it

(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd) could be got out of that province and to the sea or to the transportation easily, then they charged a certain amount of royalty upon the resources. Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you're in Manitoba and you have a resource which is in competition to the resource of these other areas and you're dealing with a transportation problem, etc., and many other problems of working in northern Manitoba, you may have to give a concession to the people who are working in the Province of Manitoba over and above the people who are working in other provinces.

I could say to you this, this is straight common sense, and that this was worked out actuarially and presented to the previous government, etc., as to what the people or the Province of Manitoba or the government of Manitoba could do as far as royalties was concerned to be competitive with the other provinces that we are in competition with. Sir, I won't argue that we've got more - I think we have got more - but while the others have it, you're in competition and there's no way around that - you're in competition.

But I say again, the Honourable Minister of Finance has made the statement that he made the biggest tax shift ever, and when he's eighty years old with his cane he'll be going down the street saying the same thing, that I made the biggest tax shift ever, but he does not say that he taxes the resources of our province, whether it's swimming or trawling or whatever you do in this province, or the assessment on houses or real estate, he taxes them. He says I made the biggest tax shift, and now in this bill he says I'm going to tax the resources, the people that are dealing with the resources of our province. And what's he saying?

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

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Privilege?

MR. GREEN: Yes. Mr. Speaker, I want to get it clear as to whether the member said that the Minister of Finance is responsible for increased assessments on homes. Well, I heard those remarks and I hope that he didn't say it.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I don't know that that's a point of privilege, but if I said it I referred to the increase in taxes in this province and in any way, shape or form or assessments, whether it comes from the Ministers along the bench and what have you, the Minister of Finance has to be the man responsible, so I am sorry if -- (Interjection) -- Mr. Speaker, I don't want to get into any debate with the Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources, the House Leader, but in my impression, in my impression when there is dollars to be collected by any government, if the Minister of Finance doesn't know what's going on -- Sir, I'd like to know if he does or he doesn't right now. Would you tell me? Would you tell me?

MR. GREEN: This is indeed a point of privilege. Does the member suggest that the Minister of Finance has anything to do with increased assessments, let us say, in Greater Winnipeg? -- (Interjection) -- Well this is what he is saying.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, on several occasions today there . . .

MR. SPEAKER: . . . on a point of order?

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, on a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. On several occasions today we've had challenges, statements made on the basis of the question of privilege. If I may, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to refer to Citation 105 of Beauchesne and I will quote only from the last paragraph and the first sentence: "A dispute arising between two honourable members as to allegations of facts hardly fulfill the condition of a privileged question." Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is not a question of privilege and I think the honourable member should be allowed to continue.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on the question of privilege, this is not a dispute as between two members as to an allegation of fact. I am asking the member whether he is suggesting that the Minister of Finance has anything to do with increased assessments, let us say, in Greater Winnipeg. If he is suggesting that, then I would ask him to withdraw the suggestion.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Certainly. Mr. Speaker, I would agree that the increase in assessment in the City of Winnipeg is done by Metro, the cities and what have you, and schools, etc., but if the Minister of Finance does not want to have any responsibility over this jurisdiction, it's entirely up to him. If he doesn't want to watch it, fine, so I would withdraw that.

Well, we'll get back to the point of view of mines and resources, and when I told you about the graph which was coloured and what have you, and you had to make certain reservations as to what resource would collect this and what resource would collect this - and these resources are all sitting there and we're in competition with other provinces - but what does the Minister of Finance automatically do again, as he has automatically done since this

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(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd) government took office? Percentage increase it would seem across the board. Now when I say it would seem across the board, he has said that this mining resource will pay more and that will pay more, and if you X number of dollars you will pay more, which boils down to almost, what I can see as far as the bill is concerned, is close to double. And what is double? What is double? You're talking about \$3 million previously, you're talking about \$6 million approximately now if it's double. And what are you talking about when your budget or your increase in budget was up \$50 million? When you're talking about that, when we're talking about that particular point of view, why discourage the people who want to move and work in our resources for this increase that you're speaking of. It's not going to mean that much to the province, but it would mean a lot to the province if these people were encouraged, but this government has done nothing but discourage private investment in this province.

MR. GREEN: I wonder if the honourable member would permit a question?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Oh, gladly.

MR. GREEN: Would the honourable member suggest that we eliminate the royalty and pay them royalties?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Well, my only answer to that, Sir, from the Honourable House Leader, I have a hard time trying to evaluate some of the House Leader's questions lately; it seems to be a little beyond me. No, I don't suggest that we pay them nothing and we pay them. The Honourable House Leader last fall made some tremendous speeches and earlier this fall made some tremendous speeches, but in the last while it seems to be his job to take anything that anybody said was good and, for God's sake, don't let it get it recorded, have him twist it around. This is what his job has been lately, and when he says to me, I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I'll answer the question later, would he . . .

MR. GREEN: Would he answer the question?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: I'll answer this. His job is to please twist it around. You know, my honourable friend the Member for Morris said I would like to have him defend him, I would like to have him defend me if I'm wrong - you know, really if I'm wrong - but if I'm right, God, I don't want him to defend me because when he twists it up I will be wrong. That's what he's doing. He completely twists the story all the time. So this is the story.

So I don't agree that we should be paying these people, and he can bring all the industries he wants into it that's involved, but it boils down to this, it boils down to the very simple fact that in Manitoba at the present time, Sir, since this government has taken over, has done nothing to help people to invest or build in this province. They have done nothing that way. They continually turn around and they discourage investment in this province; they discourage the development of resources; they are discouraging the import of people who we need; they discourage the import of people who, I might mention - and I must mention the Honourable Minister of Finance once said to me that the productive people of this province are the working man, and I agree with him, but they discourage everybody who can help that man; and they are discouraging people who are willing to come in to this province, develop and help the working man, the backbone of this province, and that's what this bill does. Go ahead - Mr. Speaker, have them laugh at me, have them pound the desk, I don't care what they want to do; but prove me wrong. Go ahead, prove me wrong. When I say to you that you've got more taxes in the Province of Manitoba for the benefit of increased production, for the benefit of increased investment, for the benefit of people who are knowledgeable to come and work here, prove me wrong. They have done everything to discourage it.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce)(Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, there's no difficulty at all in proving him wrong. If he wants me to prove it, I'll prove it to you.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, before you leave, Sir, would you have it recorded that the Minister of Industry and Commerce has spoken on this debate.

A MEMBER: Oh, he's got it over there.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: He didn't ask for a point of order, a point of privilege or anything. Would you have that recorded please, Sir?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Thank you.

MR. GREEN: The Minister could only have spoken if the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek had stopped, which would be acceptable. If he says he's stopped . . .

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, fine, I will leave it up to your discretion. I heard no point of order, I heard no point of privilege, I just heard somebody get up and yelling, and I'd like it recorded that he spoke.

Mr. Speaker, speaking of the investment of this province, of the industry and the resources which the Minister of Finance has put before us, really the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources should be fighting. You know, I enjoy, I would love - and even in my own caucus we have it all the time -- (Interjection) -- Really, we do, when somebody says to me that this wrong or that's wrong, but in that caucus, in that caucus over there there is no argument from the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources when the Minister of Finance is hurting development; there is no argument from the Minister of Industry and Commerce when the Minister of Finance is hurting development; there's no argument whatsoever. They just say, go along boys do what you like. You know, it's there. The back bench, the caucus hasn't read most of the bills that have been put before them, and we see that continually in Law Amendments. Sir, most of the arguments - and I know you're not there, Sir, but I'd like to tell you - most of the arguments in Law Amendments are between members of that caucus over there; they're not between us. But really -- (Interjection) -- well, if you would like me to sit down and talk with you, Mr. Attorney-General, I will any time you want.

But, Sir, when we start to talk about the development of this province and we end up with Mines and Resources agreeing with the Minister of Finance to increase royalties to the point that he has - and it hasn't been done in my opinion on any actuarial graph - it's just pathetic, do it, and the Minister of Industry and Commerce who keeps beating his chest like the great ape saying this is what we should do, we're in trouble. We're in trouble and I will tell you this right now, the people of Manitoba know we're in trouble and they know it very well.

Sir, I only say that the government at the present time is not doing anything as far as bills are concerned with any thought. They are doing it for political talk only and it's going to gain nothing and it won't gain anything for them either. Thank you.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm almost convinced by the debate that's taken place that the only government that's ever increased our royalty tax is an NDP government. I'm not really sure, but it seems to me I recall back in 1952 Premier Bennett, before he became Premier, in that election went to the people and said in effect that the government of the day was giving away the resources of the province and that if he was elected he intended to do something about it. So that's what happened, Mr. Speaker. As I recall, he became the Premier and one of his first acts was to increase all forms of royalty tax on forestry products, mines and non-renewable resources of that ilk.

So I don't think that any government can be harshly charged by being difficult to live with when it comes to dealing with mining companies or people who take the resource, the forest product companies. I think that it's the duty of any government to always be vigilant and watch, and as times change and prices change and as the product becomes more valuable, they have a duty, a duty to the people to see that the people are getting their fair and just share to help finance our needs in this province. So I certainly do not fault the government for doing that.

Now if they've made a mistake and gone too far and the odd marginal mine has to close down, well then I guess they can be criticized, but it's pretty well known that Manitoba has some extremely wealthy mines; it's pretty well known also in the last year or two that the product, the finished product that they produce in nearly all cases has gone up greatly in price. So I see nothing wrong with the government saying: Well, we want to keep in line, our costs are going up, we know you're making a reasonable profit and we want our share for the people of the province. I see nothing wrong with that.

The charge has been made that some of these mining companies that have large pools of investment may decide to pause here and look around somewhere else. I'm sure that they have this in their minds anyway all the time. They're going to put their money where they'll do the best by their shareholders, and I don't see how - and I think I have said this to my friends opposite - you can scare away a business, a business will pick up and move if you frighten it enough and tax it enough and show it an uncertain future, this happens, but a resource like a mine or a forest, if it's profitable, the people will come and do business, and it's the responsibility of the government to take - well, it sounds crude to say it - all they can get. They have a duty to their people to get what is fair and just, keep the people in business, keep

(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd) them coming, keep them investing, keep them exploring for new mines, and I think that any government would do this.

I think if my friends to my right were in office today, I'm sure that their expert advisers would be telling them to examine what's happened to the price of nickel, to examine the finds that have been made, and then to make the decision as to whether or not the people of the province are getting their share. I, for one, don't think that all the mines and all the forests should be torn out of the ground in the years that we are here. There's many many generations coming after us, I hope, and I think they have some rights too.

So that when we're talking now about Bill 115, I see nothing wrong, and I place some trust in the government and their experts that they haven't gone too far, but I see nothing wrong in asking mining companies that are producing the profits that some of them are producing in this province in paying their fair share to help finance what's going on in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I know that . . .

MR. MCKENZIE: The Minister isn't closing debate is he? I'd like to ask a question of the Minister -- the Leader of the Liberal Party. In his remarks there, I wonder would he support the government and the Honourable Member for Churchill, who would indicate that they should take over the Hudson Bay Company today.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, this has entirely nothing to do with what I was speaking about, but I would think that there are some problems in the north when a company has come from another land and, by an acceptable method of those days, built up a large business on a monopolistic basis, I see nothing wrong with re-examining that to see if it's still fitting today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I know that many times when I speak and wax excited, I get carried away with my own words and I usually carry myself out of the Chamber for a rest. I'm indeed sorry that the Member for Brandon West and the Member for Lakeside and the Member for Sturgeon Creek, all of whom spoke this evening, left the Chamber, not because they're not going to hear me but because they missed the opportunity of listening to the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party, who certainly was not speaking the way I might be accused of speaking to defend the measure, but rather more objectively.

One of the last things he said was one of the points I wanted to make. I was thinking while the honourable members of the Conservative Party were speaking, I was thinking of that mining operation that's being carried on in British Columbia where they are -- is it the Kaiser resources? -- where they are cleaning, stripping the ground, strip mining so that they are just taking all the coal from the surface and leaving devastation behind them, and I was thinking about what was being said about the fact that we are not encouraging exploration. I thought, as did the Honourable the House Leader of the Liberal Party, that I hope to have grandchildren and great grandchildren who live in Manitoba and I kind of hope that there will be resources in this province, non-renewable resources from which they will still derive benefit.

In the short time that I've been learning and talking about mining business, I've learned of the quick advances that are being made to make it possible to get production out of low grade ore and even lower grade ore, and I was also most interested to learn that when a mine is closed off as having been depleted, then it is finished, you can no longer go back once you discover a means of dealing with low grade ore. I didn't know this, but I've just learned that once you close off a mine you can't reopen and say we'll go back now and get to the lower grade.

I'd like to think that we husband our resources, that we don't rush to give it away, and I think the Honourable Member for Lakeside gave me the impression that we rush to give it away because we want to go ahead with it. Was it the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek who was so enthusiastic about it? I really was listening more carefully to the Honourable Member for Lakeside because he was a member of a Cabinet which did make decisions to give away, to lend money on very small suggested equities, to encourage development with an enthusiasm, with a headlong speed with a blinded eye, which I feel sure they still regret. But of course the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek was not part of that group as he himself explained. -- (Interjection) -- The Honourable Member for Roblin still hasn't learned to stand when he speaks. Maybe he finds it difficult, because the truth is when he stands he seldom says anything worth listening to.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I've learned the habit from the members of the government.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, I'm glad he interrupted me while I was making a nasty remark about him and maybe he didn't hear it, so he will not have to search deep in his heart to forgive me.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that on one side I hear that what we're suggesting is insignificant, and on the other side we get a picture, especially from the Honourable Member for Wingate who spoke on behalf of International Nickel and read from their brief, and said, "Look what they say is the danger to us in taxation". Well, I picked up the newspaper on Saturday, Tribune, and do you know what is said by the President of the Mining Association of Manitoba, who is also -- no, I don't want to misread - he's also the Assistant General Manager of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited. Do you know what he said, Mr. Speaker? He said, "We are definitely not in favour of further taxation." Now that's what he said, and that amazing statement coming from a person who is subject, liable to be taxed is exemplified by that long book that was read by the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

I recall just the other day - was it on Saturday when we sat in Public Utilities? - when a lawyer was appearing there and he was asked, do you agree with a certain type of taxation. He said I oppose all taxation. That was understandable. But, Mr. Speaker, we are entering into a time of rising cost, we are entering into a time where there are needed things, things that have to be done. We are in a period where we hear today and heard today hours and hours of discussion at what has to be done about people who need help in the farming community. There isn't the slightest doubt in the minds of any of us that with the normal increase in cost, with a normal growth in our population, that the demands that we find for the need to educate our children, for the demand for help, that increased revenue is going to be needed as we go along.

The Member for Sturgeon Creek said out of mining royalty tax - Oh, no. Well, we know the solution of the Conservative Party, except for the Member for Lakeside who admitted, I think he admitted today that the flat rate premium tax wasn't the right way to raise additional revenue. -- (Interjection) -- Well, from the talk in the corridor, none of them were in favour of it and maybe they defeated those who forced it through. But the fact is that we still have a few Cabinet Ministers from the former government with us and they certainly voted in full strength for the flat rate premium tax. I wish that the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek were here when he would have to listen to my present quavering voice where I would give him a preview of what I'll be saying when I'm 80 years of age about the massive shift of taxation that occurred last year.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, I have confidence that I'll be able to say in 81 years from now that something took place today, we passed a bill increasing mining royalty tax, almost double but not quite, and I will always know that the Honourable the Minister of Transportation said that it wasn't much, and the truth is it isn't that much, and I won't talk about when I'm 81 because it was only a step to keep abreast and that's all it is.

Really, I honestly believed the Honourable Member for Lakeside was going to vote for this bill. The way he was talking I felt like I was on a teeter totter - this way, that way - and I did come to the conclusion that he was going to vote for it and I think he discovered after he finished talking --no, I think he discovered later that the party had decided not to vote for it so he was given the opportunity by the Honourable Member for Churchill to say so.

Well, I'm looking again at that Tribune report that appeared last Saturday. I note that last year - I'll quote this - "mining is rapidly becoming one of Manitoba's leading industries, with mineral production last year amounting to \$245,595,701" - and it's maybe a coincidence that the increase involved in the bill before us is very close to one percent of the mineral production of last year. One percent of the mineral production of last year is the amount of the increase which this government says the people of Manitoba are entitled to for the use of the mineral which belongs to the people of Manitoba. For that mineral that I speak of, if it is not exploited this year, will be exploited in ten years, and if not in ten years, will be exploited on behalf of the grandchildren and great grandchildren of those of us fortunate enough to have them living in Manitoba.

I want to touch for a moment on what was said by the Honourable Member from Brandon West about why this matter was left so late in the session. I thought I'd explained it but unfortunately we have received a Hansard of the morning before the afternoon in which I introduced the bill, so I can't quote from what was said, but I can quote, and that was June 30th, I can quote from April 30th, two months - two months prior to the date of the introduction of this bill wherein my budget presentation I said, and I quote from Page 1459: " And may I say

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) in passing there was mention made today of the question of mining royalty tax, the possibility of changes, and I must say we are studying this problem, this question, and I'm not ruling out any possibility of changes for the following fiscal year." That was over two months ago that I made that statement. And when I did report I mentioned that I had had an opportunity with the Honourable the Minister of Mines and Resources of discussing our thinking with the mining industry - that was at least three weeks ago, maybe more - and I don't know if I used the word "consultation" but if the Honourable Member for Brandon West thought that we were there to get the approval, consent and support of the mining company to an increase in taxation, I want to disabuse his impression; because what was said in Saturday's Tribune, was said then, "we're not in favour of further taxation". But what was said was an understanding of our point of view, and we discussed it. And may I say I was interested to see, and I quote again from the newspaper - Mr. Sadler is quoted. Mr. Sadler is the person who is the Assistant General Manager of Hudson Bay and the President of the Mining Association. He was at the meeting. And in Saturday's Tribune he is quoted as saying - well not a quotation but I quote from the comments: He added, "that the Mining Association does not plan any further representation at present." Now, oh yes he said: "We've already spoken to several Cabinet Ministers", which I've already indicated as so.

Now, in the interval I would think it's possible that members of the Opposition Party met with mining companies. I think they probably had an opportunity to talk to the mining companies to get the point of view of the mining companies about this - and I'm assuming that that's what happened - so that I would think that there has been an opportunity presented to the Honourable the Member for Brandon West to ascertain just what it was that the mining companies feel about it. And I'll quote again, it's a rather lengthy article from Saturday's Tribune. These are quotations of Mr. Kane. Mr. Kane is the Vice-President of the Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited.

MR. BUD SHERMAN (Fort Garry): . . . a question? Is the Minister suggesting that the Conservative Party would not be inclined to make further representations on a question like this unless it had the green light from the mining industry?

MR. CHERNIACK: I'm quite sure that I used the expression that the mining companies had every opportunity to appear before the members of the Conservative Party, and I would guess that they did. Now I'm not for a moment suggesting that the Conservative Party is the servant of the mining companies.

MR. SHERMAN: Would it not be possible for the Conservative Party to come to its own philosophical conclusion about this legislation without any direction from - without any consultation with the mining industry?

MR. CHERNIACK: I'm convinced that the Conservative Party is so static in its operations and its philosophy that it doesn't have any problem about arriving at a philosophy without the help of the mining companies. But I want to make it clear that I did not suggest - I do not suggest . . .

MR. SHERMAN: Well, you implied it.

MR. CHERNIACK: No, I'm sorry. I almost invited somebody to say we did or we did not meet with the mining companies. But what I am saying and did say, was that the mining companies had every opportunity to talk to the members of the Opposition. If they didn't, I don't take responsibility for it. If they did, I do take responsibility for it because we gave them an indication of where we were leading and I think that they would have every right and every privilege to discuss it with - oh yes, they appreciated meeting with us and they would have every right to discuss it with members of the Conservative Party and the other parties of the Opposition. And the reason I'm mentioning this at all is the suggestion that this was brought in late in the session. I assure honourable members that this bill was brought here the moment it was printed; and it was printed as soon after it was drafted as could be printed, and I said that when I brought it in. I said that I didn't want to rush this through; I knew we were in the dying stages of the session; and I'm quite prepared that when it appears as it will before committee that it can sit lower down in the agenda in order to give honourable members further opportunities to discuss it.

I did want to read this, quoting from Mr. Kane: "The royalty increases are not large enough to force us to drop Ruttan Lake, but it'll be difficult to get financing, we may have to scale down our plans." Well, Mr. Speaker, to the extent that any plans are scaled down, the ore will rest for another developer. But I would say that it won't rest there because we're

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) not doing anything so disadvantageous to any of the mining companies. I've indicated that the increases roughly equivalent to one percent of last year's production. And I don't think that that is so difficult to . . . so harmful.

And I was really surprised to get this violent reaction from some of the members -- I don't include the member for Brandon West, who spoke in a reasoned way and was just a little concerned as to whether or not we were doing any harm. Of course he spoke about the native sons, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting - I don't know how long ago the Native Sons developed that company. I do know that a number of years back I had some dealings with the company when their orders came from New York, from some gentleman named Whitney - I never knew if he was the horseracing man or the brother of the horseracing man - but I knew then that it was a New York based company. And I must say now that it has its ownership based in Johannesburg, South Africa. It's hardly a native - it may have been native born but it certainly has moved around. And I might say to their credit that their reputation, this company of South Africa is considered good by those who deal with them.

The reputation of Manitoba is excellent as far as -- (Interjection) -- in Manitoba, their reputation of the - I forget the name of the company - Anglo . . .

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting.

MR. CHERNIACK: Hudson Bay Mining is one of our good mining companies whose management carries on to act as a good corporate citizen and has indicated that it is prepared to continue to be a citizen and a corporate citizen of Manitoba as far as I know, and as of the last time I had occasion to deal with them. So their reputation is good with me -- and I believe our reputation is good with them, though that remains to be seen, as the Honourable Member well knows.

I don't want to spend any more time in this kind of discussion except to deal with the question of the mining community reserves, and try to understand just what it was that the Honourable Member for Brandon West was saying. He was implying that he would think that any responsible mining company would be setting aside reserves to take care of the occasion when their ore would run out. And I don't want to use those terms "responsible mining company" because I believe that the companies we have operating in Manitoba are responsible. But by the same token I am not aware that any of them have set aside any reserves, or given any undertaking or pledges that they will see to it that a community that is left to die as a ghost town will be taken care of out of the resources of these mining companies.

I did want to ask the Honourable Member for Brandon West if he knew of any such companies or of any such reserves? And at the time I wanted to ask him I think he was not accepting questions, and when he concluded I didn't take advantage of the occasion. But certainly we're not inviting them in any way to give up their responsibilities. But I lived through Bissett because I was sitting on that side of the House at the time when the then Premier called in the Leader of my Party and the Leader of the Liberal Party, and he said, "We're in trouble in Bissett, and if we talk too much about it publicly that will really endanger the town." And he appealed to the two opposition parties to act responsibly with the government to attempt to settle the problem of Bissett in such a way as to help prolong its life. And we supported him, and we worked together in an effort to prolong the life of Bissett, and we worried about it and we did manage for some time to do it, but in the end it failed.

And honourable members must know what happened in Sherridan, and must know what happened in many other places, and these things happen. And all we're saying is we're not going to take away any moral responsibilities, certainly not a legal one, from the companies that use up a mine, take out the load, and then say, "Well, we're off to greener pastures" and leave a town or a community in bad state.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I sat only because the Honourable Member for Brandon West wanted to . . .

MR. MCGILL: I wonder if the Minister would accept a question. Is he suggesting that in the case of Sherridan, that Sherritt Gordon Mines did not take care of their employees at that stage, and . . . ?

MR. CHERNIACK: I'm not for a moment suggesting they didn't take care of their employees. They moved them to Lynn Lake. What happened to the other people in Sherridan? What happened to the barber in Sherridan? What happened to the butcher in Sherridan? What happened to the hotel in Sherridan? Now I don't know that you want to blame Sherritt Gordon for not looking after them, but I know that a government has the responsibility of seeing to it

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) that when this kind of catastrophe takes place they can look after it, and that is the purpose for the Mining Community Reserves.

I can just see the delight with which the Honourable Member for River Heights is looking forward to pounce on a point, and do you know, Mr. Speaker, because he didn't give me the courtesy of listening to what I had to say, I'm not going to answer whatever question he's anxious to ask. -- (Interjections) -- So, Mr. Speaker, I have tried to the best of my ability . . . and again, Mr. Speaker, like the Honourable Member for Roblin, the Honourable Member for River Heights speaks better on his feet than on his seat, and when he's on his feet I have difficulty understanding him.

MR. SPIVAK: . . . standing . . .

MR. SHERMAN: Would the Minister accept the question of the Member for River Heights if it were advanced through me?

MR. CHERNIACK: No, I would not, but I would gladly . . .

MR. SHERMAN: Well, may I ask my own question?

MR. CHERNIACK: I would gladly accept a question from the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, in light of what the Minister has had to say about the sense of responsibility for the government when a disaster hits an area, I wonder if he feels the same rationale should be applied to the community of Wawanesa.

MR. CHERNIACK: I think, Mr. Speaker, that I will, and have debated that question in the past and may again, but may I say that I am not sure the extent to which the Town of Wawanesa will suffer, should suffer, or whether or not the Wawanesa Insurance Company has . . . The Honourable Member for River Heights is still speaking well from his seat . . .

MR. SPIVAK: What about the painter, the barber, the . . . and everyone else?

MR. CHERNIACK: And I would suggest that he stay on his seat and keep his mouth quiet and see if both parts of his anatomy could rest at the same time.

MR. SPIVAK: What about the painter, the barber, and everyone else in the community that you were so worried about before . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I know you can't control the Honourable Member for River Heights. I know the members on his side can't control him either, so I think what we'll all have to do is suffer his braying for as long as he wants to bray knowing full well that pretty soon he's going to find the need to leave this room as he does usually after a few minutes, and we will be spared the further interruptions.

But Mr. Speaker, I don't want to take up the time of this House just in responding to these attacks by the honourable members, so I think, Mr. Speaker, that this would be a good time to call for the vote on this measure.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Yeas and nays please, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Allard, Barrow, Beard, Bilton, Borowski, Burtniack, Cherniack, Doern, Einarson, Evans, Ferguson, Fox, Froese, Girard, Gonick, Gottfried, Graham, Green, Henderson, Jenkins, Johannson, G. Johnston, Jorgenson, McBryde, McGill, McKenzie, McKellar, Mackling, Malinowski, Molgat, Moug, Patrick, Paulley, Pawley, Petursson, Shafransky, Sherman, Spivak, Toupin, Turnbull, Uskiw, Uruski, Watt, Weir and Mrs. Trueman.

NAYS: Messrs. Craik, Enns and F. Johnston.

MR. CLERK: Yeas, 45; Nays, 3.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion carried.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, will you call the resolution moved by the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture and now standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Arthur on Page 4.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: I really thought it might be in the best interests, Mr. Speaker, considering the debate today, if I stood this resolution and we probably adjourn.

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition)(Minnedosa): We're doing pretty good. We're getting on to Agriculture at 11:30 tonight, fifteen minutes earlier.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't know why the honourable member would have that understanding. I did indicate to him that I was going to call this resolution. We've had lots of debate on this issue today so we might as well complete it.

MR. WATT: Well, Mr. Speaker, it is a long time since we've heard of agriculture in this House so probably it might be just as well if we said a few words at this time.

Mr. Speaker, a great deal of debate has gone on in the House in the past months of agriculture, and I want to say to you now that most of the debate could have been eliminated from the House had we had an agreement with the Minister of Agriculture to simply call the committee and call in the agricultural people and discuss our problems, particularly our immediate problems, and the debate would have come to an end there, the farmers would have been a lot happier, and I am sure the Minister of Agriculture would be in a much more comfortable position than he is now.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that actually I am really surprised to find this resolution appearing on the Order Paper in view of the speech that was made in this House some time ago by the Member for St. George. Speaking in opposition to a resolution presented to the House by the Honourable the Member for La Verendrye at that time, a resolution that was defeated, Mr. Speaker, at that time, calling for the Committee on Agriculture to meet and to bring in all segments of our agricultural community to discuss our problems and particularly our immediate problems. I was surprised to find the Member for St. George at that time saying that there was no need of calling the Committee on Agriculture, a committee of the government of the Province of Manitoba, because other segments of our agricultural community were looking after the interests of agriculture in this province and that there was no point in the government being involved, the government of the Province of Manitoba. In view of the statements made by the Member for St. George at that time, I was surprised to find the Minister of Agriculture bringing this resolution before the House calling for the Standing Committee on Agriculture to meet between sessions and to discuss agricultural problems.

Now I am not speaking tonight, Mr. Speaker, against this resolution, it is my intention to support the resolution, but I am a little disappointed to find that the resolution is somewhat restrictive. It deals particularly with discussions centering around the report of the Task Force on Agriculture established by the Federal Government and around the Royal Commission established by the Federal Government on prices and uses of farm machinery, and in the light of the fact that the organizations referred to by the Member for St. George are presently going throughout the province discussing with farm communities, particularly the Task Force recommendations, and since these are the people the Member for St. George was referring to, I am at a loss to understand why the Minister should call a Standing Committee between sessions to discuss matters which the Member for St. George has indicated clearly are the responsibility of our organizations and interested people instead of the government.

MR. BILL URUSKI (St. George): Would the honourable member permit a question?

MR. WATT: Yes, certainly.

MR. URUSKI: Does the honourable member know that the studies that are going on now throughout the province on this Task Force Report are workshops in preparation for submissions that could be made to the Task Force.

MR. WATT: I'm quite aware, Mr. Speaker, of what is going on throughout the province and I'm quite aware of the Farm Bureau, and I believe that this is possibly one organization that he was referring to when he did say to the House that these were the people that were looking after the affairs of agriculture in the province and making representations to the Federal Government and the fact that it would be silly for us . . .

MR. USKIW: Just on a point of clarification, I think the honourable member doesn't intend to say what he is saying. I just want to correct him. The activities that are going on at the present time with the farm organizations have been sponsored by the Government of Manitoba through the Department of Agriculture. There is a forerunner to this.

MR. WATT: This may be so, Mr. Speaker, but my understanding is that the Farm Bureau are conducting such meetings throughout the Province of Manitoba and it is in this respect that I referred to the remarks that were made by the Member for St. George.

MR. USKIW: But if I may, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the honourable member doesn't want to misinterpret what is happening. The meetings are sponsored by the government and

(MR. USKIWI cont'd) the Farm Union and Farm Bureau are participating.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I don't think that there is any point of privilege here whatsoever, but I am not misinterpreting what the Member for St. George said when he made his speech in the House. However, as I said at the outset, I am not speaking in opposition to this resolution but simply, Mr. Speaker, to point out that as far as I'm concerned that it is window dressing. The Minister of Agriculture has found himself in a very difficult position in this province and within this Legislative Assembly through the past month in that he has deliberately refused to call the Committee on Agriculture to discuss those problems which we were asking for and which was presented through a resolution by the Member for La Verendrye.

Now the resolution does set out discussions on the Task Force recommendations and the Royal Commission on farm machinery prices, usage of course and sales, and makes reference in the resolution to changes in our Farm Machinery Act which I quite agree that there are changes necessary, but I want to point out to the House, Mr. Chairman, that there is considerable in that Act now that has advantages to the farmers in the Province of Manitoba who I've discovered as Minister of Agriculture were unaware of and that very little use had been made of.

There is a third resolved in this resolution, Mr. Speaker, and it refers "that the House Committee on Agriculture include in these hearings an opportunity for any interested organizations and individuals to present their views on the problems of and opportunities for rural adjustment and development." Now I'm not sure what he means by this. If, Mr. Speaker, we can get some commitment from the Minister of Agriculture that those organizations wishing to make presentations on areas such as the federal Bill 196-C presently under discussion in Ottawa now, a resolution that I am given to understand that the NDP Party in Ottawa are supporting and which I know for a fact that the Conservative Party there are very strongly opposing, and rightfully so because that bill, as I read it, will in no way bring any advantage to the farming community of the Province of Manitoba and will lead I believe ultimately to put us in a very disadvantaged position relative to the central provinces.

Now, if we have some indication, Mr. Speaker, that representations to discuss these areas will be taken up in committee, if we have some indication that the committee will be called at an early date, that we can have discussions with the farmers throughout the province exactly how Operation LIFT is affecting them, to give them the right to be heard, and through the Minister of Agriculture and the Government of Manitoba make their presentations to the Federal Government, who will oppose through the Minister of Agriculture a program that has been established and, admittedly now by the Minister himself, one that will do very little for the Province of Manitoba.

I have little more to say on the resolution, Mr. Speaker, other than I intend to support it, but I would expect that the committee would be called at an early date and those areas of discussion, or areas of problems that I have mentioned will be taken into consideration and notices will be sent out to those organizations who I'm sure will be here to make presentations.

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

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, it is somewhat difficult to speak at any great length on this resolution after hearing the discussion that's been going on on agriculture this evening. I'm sorry I wasn't here this afternoon, I had another engagement to perform in my own constituency and it wasn't that I was shirking my responsibilities. I didn't hear what was said or what went on this afternoon but it appears to me that there has been a great deal of debate which seems to have come very suddenly after our committee meetings last Friday night when we were discussing, or at least the hearings were completed and then we went into Agricultural Committee on the resolutions pertaining thereto.

Insofar as this resolution before us, as I see it now, it is something that we've been requesting for a long time. I think if one stops to think and realize that we have been here in this House in this session for just four months, and after almost four months of continuous sessions we suddenly are becoming concerned about the industry of agriculture.

I want to say that I was interested in hearing the comments from my colleague the Member for Sturgeon Creek speaking as an urban member, and I'd just like to reiterate the words that he stated, to say how important our agricultural industry is not only to the farming people of rural Manitoba, the towns that are in those areas, but also to the urban centres of this province. I think if the honourable members opposite were to go around and visit some of the business areas they would certainly find out just what is taking place in this province,

(MR. EINARSON cont'd) the recession that is taking place in the agricultural industry and the way it's having its effect on the rest of our economy.

I would also say that if one has this thought in mind and has it understood in the proper perspective, you would realize that something has to be done about it. I know the Minister himself - and I recall when he was on this side of the House how he used to stand up and ask for leave to move for a special debate as an urgent matter of the day in regards to agriculture, criticizing us when we were government of the things that we did not do and what probably in his opinion we should have done. We had our agricultural committees on such things as farm machinery, artificial insemination programs for those farmers who engaged in the industry of livestock, and he was fully aware of the problems. But suddenly those meetings when the House prorogued, and then following the last election things have changed somewhat, and the fact that he was fully aware of the serious problems that were connected with these particular matters, he didn't seem to see fit to bring those committees together again to continue the progress insofar as such things as farm machinery was concerned.

I know of many farmers who are still telling me of the problems that they're having in that area, and I can think of one of them which is very important. The farmer, when he needs a repair for his machine, if the dealer doesn't have it, through no fault of his, they have to be back ordered and that back order is still a waiting list of sometimes three weeks to a month. This is something that I think if we'd been dealing with it possibly we could have delved into it still further and probably come up with some results as to an improvement in that area.

Insofar as this resolution further is concerned, I also want to state that as my colleague the Member for Arthur has stated, in the last Resolved on this resolution, I'm not particularly clear myself on this matter. I can think of one area which I think is very very important. We have talked so much about Operation LIFT and how that particular aspect of that operation, which is a federal matter, how it's affecting the farmers of Manitoba, but there's another important matter that a lot of farmers are asking themselves, what is the program that is to come for the year following. This is something I think that farmers should have been discussing, because if one understands the farmer's position, you can't discuss a matter of policy where the government becomes involved with the agricultural industry today and expect the farmers to be prepared for it, to accept it tomorrow. This is something that has to be discussed a year at least ahead of time.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are many farmers who are very concerned, because of the results that they are now seeing of what is happening in the Operation LIFT area, they are very concerned that the next step that the Federal Government may have to propose could be even more serious. There has been much debate going on back and forth in this House as to where the Minister of Agriculture of this province stands with Operation LIFT. I'm sorry I don't have the document with me, but if my mind serves me correctly, the Information Services offers to all members of this House, information is sent out every week to all members, and if I do remember correctly I believe it was on February 28th last where the Minister of Agriculture and the First Minister indicated their approval of the Operation LIFT and what it stood for. Unfortunately for him I might say, or for both of them, that possibly some guidance - they look to certain agricultural organizations - I don't know who was most responsible for this, but I think that if the farm organizations were allowed to come to meet with us prior to the announcement of the Federal Government coming out with this thing, I believe that it would have been much better for all concerned. For there we would have had a better understanding; we would have known what the organizations were thinking - if in fact any of the organizations were consulted with the Federal Government - and I don't think that we'd have seen the situation that we're faced with today.

And therefore with those few comments, Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is very important that we do have the Agriculture Committee hold their meetings as soon as possible to discuss with all the farm organizations; and I do want to commend the Farm Bureau whether it was because of the Minister of Agriculture's direction, or otherwise, for going out throughout the province to meet with the farmers and listen to how they feel about these various problems.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Brandon West, that the House do now adjourn.

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

MRS. TRUEMAN: Yeas and nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Bilton, Craik, Einarson, Enns, Ferguson, Froese, Girard, Graham, Henderson, F. Johnston, Jorgenson, McGill, McKellar, Moug, Sherman, Spivak, Watt, Weir, and Mrs. Trueman.

NAYS: Messrs. Allard, Barrow, Borowski, Burtiak, Cherniack, Evans, Fox, Gonick, Gottfried, Green, Jenkins, Johannson, McBryde, McKenzie, Mackling, Paulley, Pawley, Petursson, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, Uskiw, and Uruski.

MR. CLERK: Yeas, 19; Nays, 23.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion lost.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I was paired with the Honourable the Minister of Youth and Education. Had I voted I would have voted in favour of the motion.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I was paired with the Premier and had I voted I would have voted in favour of the motion.

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

MR. McKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to you, Mr. Speaker, for the lateness of the hour. I think the last debate that I recall in agriculture was 12:00 Friday night or a quarter to twelve Friday night, and here we are Monday night back in agriculture again at two minutes to twelve, Mr. Speaker. And while I would have supported the Honourable Member from Ste. Rose -- Ste. Rouge -- for Fort Rouge in her motion to adjourn the House, Mr. Speaker, but in all fairness to the agricultural economy and to my constituents, I think it's only fair that I voted with the government so we can carry on with the problems of this province, and especially agriculture. Mr. Speaker, I humbly submit to you if the hour is 6:00 o'clock in the morning, I would still be prepared to stand on my feet . . .

MR. WATT: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. McKENZIE: . . . for those that I represent because I don't think . . .

MR. WATT: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker? I'd like to correct my honourable colleague from Roblin. The last debate that took place about 2:00 o'clock in the morning last Friday, he wasn't present.

MR. McKENZIE: Well I maybe could support the . . . which started at a quarter to twelve and ended at the other hour.

But in all seriousness, Mr. Speaker, all seriousness to you and to the people of this province, how many members were in their chairs over there when we were debating this resolution? I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to ask the members of the government who were there listening to this resolution being debated to stand up and let me count it. Who was there? -- (Interjection) -- Eight, eight -- (Interjection) -- eight, eight. There was eight, Mr. Speaker, and if that is not an insult to this Legislature, if that's not an insult to this province, and all this day we've been debating agriculture and the House Leader has deliberately brought this resolution in at the end of the debate today, and I submit that we could much better talk about the Northern Task Force, but here we are back in agriculture, 12:00 o'clock at night. Is that fair to the people of this province, Mr. Speaker? Is that fair to the people that I represent? Is that fair to the problems of agriculture in this province, Mr. Speaker? I say it's dirty pool. I say this is a poor government. And I again ask the Member for The Pas to come down and take the Minister of Agriculture's chair. I asked it this afternoon. Because there's no way, Mr. Speaker, that this Minister is going to lead this province out of the problems they have in agriculture today. No way. No way. He's wearing a nice yellow jacket and a nice yellow tie. Why not put on his overalls and go out and see my constituents and talk to some of the problems we've got in this province. But there he is all dressed up like King Tut -- (Interjections) -- smiling back, but I again appeal to you. I support this resolution . . .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, is the honourable member inviting me to his constituency?

MR. McKENZIE: Not at all, not at all.

MR. USKIW: I'd be pleased to accept the invitation.

MR. McKENZIE: Any time, any time, Mr. Speaker, if we could ever get out of this Legislature and deal with some of the serious problems of this province rather than debating matters here at 12:00 o'clock at night that are very serious. I ask the Minister of Agriculture again to tell me: Is every farmer in this province going to be able to deliver his four bushels?

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): No, he can't tell you that.

MR. MCKENZIE: Well he doesn't know. Simple as that. This is the kind of a Minister of Agriculture that we've got. I ask you how many farmers in this province has sowed wheat today.

MR. USKIW: Will it rain tomorrow?

MR. MCKENZIE: The resolution was brought on from the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. How many farmers can honestly fill out a permit in this province here? -- (Interjection) -- He don't know. -- (Interjection) -- He's the Minister. This is the man that's supposed to be leading us out of the wilderness though. This government with their new ideas, their new philosophy, you know, the great new day, who debate agriculture at 12:00 o'clock or later at night. They never would see it in the daylight hours of the day. And this is . . .

MR. USKIW: You're never here.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, maybe he takes sleeping pills and he just wakes up this time of night. I humbly submit if that is a fact there's no way we can -- and I again appeal to the Minister of The Pas to come down and join him; even if he can't take his chair, join him. Take your chair, Mr. Speaker, right behind him. That would be helpful. Much better than it is today.

But I do support the resolution, even if the hour is late. Just wait till I go back and tell my constituents that this resolution was brought into the House when was it? -- at two minutes to twelve on a Monday night. The only time -- the first time the committee met was on a Friday night at quarter to twelve -- (Interjection) --

But other matters when they're discussed in the House other than agriculture, the members are all in their chairs. But when the member of this side were talking about agriculture a few minutes ago how many members were sitting in their chairs, Mr. Speaker?

MR. USKIW: Would the honourable member submit to a question, Mr. Speaker. Would the honourable member submit to a question?

MR. MCKENZIE: Not till I'm finished.

MR. USKIW: Not till you're finished. Fine.

MR. MCKENZIE: The Member for Crescentwood he was hidden behind you; he was maybe dozing back behind his chair, but nevertheless he was there and I give him credit. But in all, you know, give everybody credit, give every dog his day. But I humbly submit, Mr. Speaker, that this is not fair to the people of this province; it's not fair to the taxpayers of this province; it's not fair to the farmers of this province; it's not fair to the Opposition, to bring a resolution in on agriculture at 12:00 o'clock at night. Well I will support it, you know, and I supported you so that I could speak tonight. In fact I would have spoke at 6:00 o'clock in the morning if I had to, to try and get this resolution passed because I'm all for it. I am the guy who asked the Honourable Minister -- how many times, Mr. Speaker, did I ask him to call the committee? You will likely remember ten times, and I remember ten so that's twenty. That's twenty times I've asked. And we've finally called the committee on one Monday night at two minutes to twelve with a resolution. Is there any way, Mr. Speaker, that this Minister -- he has no right to occupy that chair. He definitely has not. And I humbly submit to you, and to the House Leader, to move the Honourable Member from The Pas down, take that chair over and maybe we will get some place with the problems of agriculture in the province. But in closing my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution and I hope you will call the committee 8:00 o'clock in the morning, Mr. Speaker, not 12:00 o'clock at night.

MR. USKIW: You won't be there. You won't be there.

MR. MCKENZIE: The farmer is fresh and so am I at eight o'clock in the morning but 12:00 o'clock at night, no way.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a few brief comments dealing with the resolution that is now before the House. And I would hope that the Minister would undertake to insure that during the course of the sittings of this committee, if indeed it is to sit; we've passed resolutions before in this House authorizing committees to sit and they never have. I was on such a committee last fall and it did not sit until the last day - that's the Economic Development Committee. I understand from the remarks made by the First Minister -- you know, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture, if there's one thing he is not capable of doing very much, as was so adequately pointed out by the Member for Roblin, but if there's one thing that he persists in doing is sitting in his seat and constantly interjecting. I don't know why they can't listen to what somebody else has to say. I listen intently to whatever is being said on the other side without interjection and I wish I could be extended the same courtesy just once in a while in this Chamber - just once in a while. If it isn't interjections then it's stupid questions, and when you're talking about stupid questions, there are about as many that come from that side of the House as I've ever heard in this Chamber. -- (Interjection) -- Here we go again. I just wish for once that I'd be able to make a few comments, and I didn't intend to get controversial tonight, but the honourable gentlemen opposite never seem to be able to pass up an opportunity to question, to ridicule, or to make themselves heard at all times as if they were the only ones that had the right to be heard in this Chamber. That to me, Sir, is pure arrogance, and they have plenty of it on that side of the House.

As I was about to say, Sir, I would hope - and I understand from the First Minister, his comments earlier in the session, that the Economic Development Committee would be sitting during the recess, if indeed there is to be a recess, and there are a number of members who are on each of those committees I think who would like to, inasmuch as possible, to attend the meetings of both of them. I would hope that the chairmen of those two committees could get together rather early and work out a schedule of meetings so that you don't have the dates conflicting, and so that they can work out a schedule of meetings that is suitable, or reasonably suitable - I don't suppose you're going to be able to please everybody - but I would hope that a schedule of meetings could be arranged in such a way that there will be, as far as it's possible, dates for those meetings that are not conflicting.

I hope also that the Minister's comments earlier when the Member for Arthur was speaking is not an indication of the sort of rigged meetings that he is contemplating. He suggested earlier that the series of meetings that is being conducted by the government now are designed to prepare for the committee meetings that will be held later, and that it's his intention to instruct anyone as to what they should say or should not say at these committee meetings, and I must tell him that he is going to be in for some disappointments. It was his own words that suggested that the purpose of the meetings that are being conducted now was to prepare farmers and condition them so that when they appeared before the committee they will be able to present the kind of suggestions, the kind of briefs that have been implanted in their minds by the government, and it's called -- (Interjection) -- yes, some countries, as my leader says, some countries call it brainwashing, and if that's the intent, why then the whole exercise is not going to be worthwhile.

Well, the Minister says I'm not supporting the motion. Of course I'm supporting the motion because we have asked for a long time that the Agriculture Committee be given an opportunity to examine the particular problem that it's being faced with today. There are many changes that have been taking place in agriculture and it is only when you have an opportunity of coming in contact with actual producers that you can acquaint yourself with the difficulties that they're facing and to bring in legislation, insofar as it is possible to bring in legislation, dealing with the particular problem.

I recall last year -- and maybe I should like to reply to the question that was asked by the Attorney-General when he wanted to know what suggestions were made by this side of the House. I recall one suggestion I made and that was that the Agriculture Committee meet, not in the sense that was indicated by the Minister of Agriculture but rather to determine the extent of the agriculture problems. I pointed out during the course of my remarks that the people that were in grave difficulty were the grain producers, and not all the grain producers because there were some that were able to take care of themselves, but what I suggested during the course of my remarks at that time was that we find out to what extent it would be necessary to provide assistance, and I believe that that had been done. A lot of unnecessary measures that

(MR. JORGENSON cont'd.) have been taken, and I'm thinking particularly of the LIFT Program, could have been dealt with in a far better way than that particular policy on the part of the Federal Government, and the Minister of Agriculture would have been in a far better position to evaluate that program at the time when it needed evaluation.

I suggested also, if the Attorney-General is looking for suggestions that I made, or that were made from this side of the House, I suggested also that it would have been far better for the government to have simply involved themselves in an "offer to rent" program, and it would have been far more acceptable; it would have done the type of work that it was intended to do; it would not have created the ill feeling that exists in the farming community today, not only against the Federal Government at Ottawa but against in many cases the Provincial Government here. The suggestions that I was offering them, Sir, were suggestions that were calculated to place them in a favourable position with the farmers, but they failed to accept any kind of that advice.

I made further suggestions, if the Attorney-General wants to know of any suggestions that were made on this side of the House, with regard to the dairy industry. We made suggestions concerning matters that should be done insofar as property taxes are concerned in agriculture and this is one of the problems that the government are going to have to deal with. -- (Interjection) -- Well, he said they are, and I hope that they're doing it soon because there'll be no farmers left if this continues, with assessment going up at the rate it is going up and no relief in sight, at least there has been no indication from the government up to this point that they're planning to deal with the particular problem.

But apart from all of that, Sir, there are changes that are taking place in the agricultural community that must be evaluated, and for that purpose the committee can do useful work. First of all, as suggested in the resolution itself, to have a look at the Barbour Commission Report on farm machinery. I don't think that there's too much in that report that most farmers didn't know already, but it would be interesting, for example, to get the opinions of some actual producers as to what they think of the report and what they think could be done in the light of the revelations that were made when the report was tabled.

There are some rather unusual suggestions that are made in the Task Force on Agriculture, and it could be that an examination of some of the recommendations of that commission as they apply to the Province of Manitoba could serve a very useful purpose, and again for that reason it would be appropriate to have the Agriculture Committee of this House examine the Task Force report which was tabled some time this spring. -- (Interjection) -- Well, the Member for Birtle-Russell speaks for himself, and I think he speaks with considerable experience and with some deep convictions about the inadequacies of the present Minister and in that respect I support him wholeheartedly.

But there are certain things that should be considered in this province insofar as laying the groundwork, or at least gaining some knowledge of the peculiar problem and the particular problem that exists within this province, and insofar as it is possible for government to assist, then the government is better off by having that kind of information and that kind of a guide to go by when they are bringing in legislation, if indeed as I say before - and I must qualify that - if indeed it is possible for the Provincial Government to bring in the kind of legislation that can be of any assistance.

It is extremely difficult, and I don't think that there's anyone in this Chamber, at least there shouldn't be by this time, that has the idea that there are any simple solutions to an industry that is subject to as many changes in technology, subject to as many changes in markets, and subject to as many changes in actual production conditions. Those who have not been engaged in agriculture in the past five years, for example, have probably not been aware of the changes that have taken place in production conditions. I don't recall the last year when it was possible to plant a crop at what was considered to be a normal time of the year. This year, later than ever.

This poses not only problems during the summer operations, but it poses most difficult problems in the fall. Early frost can ruin a crop; harvesting conditions are much more difficult; and if these weather conditions continue, then farmers are going to have to seek new crops, new crops and perhaps new varieties of existing crops that will withstand the kind of weather conditions that we have been subjected to. I understand that there has been some work, some considerable work done on the possibility of a perennial wheat plant which would eliminate the necessity of seeding every spring, and for conditions in the Red River Valley particularly, this

(MR. JORGENSEN cont'd.) would be an ideal kind of a crop. I don't know to what extent these experiments have been carried on, but I would hope that the Research Department would continue to carry on that kind of experiments because it would meet some of the conditions that farmers are experiencing in growing crops at the present time.

So for many of these reasons, to determine just what is being done, to determine what can be done, and to evaluate and study the reports that have already been submitted relating to agriculture, the adoption of this resolution in setting up the committee and permitting it to sit when the House is not sitting is a useful one and we intend to support it.

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

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I endorse many of the sentiments expressed by my colleague the Member for Morris. However, there's one or two things I would like to say and they're going to be very brief. For one thing, I'm going to commend the Minister of Agriculture, maybe against my better judgment, but I'm going to say this, that at least he is one on that side of the House who was willing to let members of this Legislature, and any committee set up by this Legislature, to study the reports that were prepared by other jurisdictions and other committees. The Barbour Commission and the Federal Task Force are two in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be able to say the same about the Pawley Committee that was set up to study automobile insurance. I don't think that they studied any of the work that had been done by the committee of this Legislature, that had done quite a bit of work on automobile insurance, so in that respect I do commend the Minister of Agriculture. He is at least willing to look at some of the work that has been done by other committees.

In the field of agriculture though, there are many things that he has not given the powers of the committee to investigate. He has said that they can hear representations from interested parties. However, he has given them no authority to proceed on their own in the investigation into certain fields which maybe some members of the committee feel should be investigated. If the representation comes from individuals to the committee then it's quite all right, but the committee, as I read the resolution, has no power to investigate on its own other than in the specified fields laid out in the resolution. So I feel that he has in some respects tied the hands of the committee.

But, Mr. Speaker, the situation in agriculture is so desperate at this particular stage, that even on the terms laid out by the Minister in this resolution, I will still support the resolution because we must, with all possible haste, carry on any investigation that could be of benefit to the agricultural community in Manitoba. The situation is such that we can't wait any longer, so I support the resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I feel that I should make a few comments on the resolution that is before us. After all, I'm deeply interested in the agricultural community of this province, even though at this hour I might not feel so strongly about it as I did earlier - not today, yesterday I guess.

We had a Committee on Agriculture sitting in previous years that studied the matter of farm machinery and I think there was a consensus of opinion already formed by the committee at that time. However, they were awaiting the report from the federal commission which is now available to honourable members once the committee is formed.

I find in looking at the committee setup, that last year we set up a Northern Task Force Committee and now we find some of the very members of that committee on the Committee on Agriculture, which in my opinion should be a southern committee. I find such members as the Member for Rupertsland and the Member for The Pas on the committee going to study agriculture. Mr. Speaker, I think we have more members in the south that could be put on this so that we needn't have any duplication there. Certainly the Member for Souris-Killarney and the Member for Emerson could serve on this committee . . .

A MEMBER: And Birtle-Russell.

MR. FROESE: Birtle-Russell, sure. So why have some of the northern members who will be busy on the other Task Force, and they haven't completed their work, why give them double duty when we have other members who are not on a committee at all and who have a great interest in agriculture. While I am not on the committee myself, I certainly intend to attend some of the hearings to get to know what the feeling is of the people and what they have to say, but I imagine Social Credit doesn't merit being represented on a committee of this type so we will forego that one.

(MR. FROESE con t'd.)

I think there are also other matters that this committee could well look into. The matter of rail line abandonment, certainly this is not a matter that is finished and I feel that this is very close to agriculture and should be a matter that this committee should certainly look into, whether we are getting fair treatment; and if the lines are abandoned, whether we are getting satisfactory highways in their place or whether other arrangements are made so that the farmers are getting a fair deal as a result. Certainly the eliminating of the railway stations earlier this spring I don't think was quite fair, because this means that forever now the passenger trains will no longer be functioning. Why were these stations eliminated? That is one reason the stations were there, and certainly this will be now a thing of the past. Didn't that merit the attention at least of the members of this House to a greater extent than what it was given? I certainly felt it did.

I think there are other matters, such as the matter of pricing of grains. Some may feel that this is a matter for the Federal House. I certainly don't because I feel we are far too much dependent on the Federal Government and the Canadian Wheat Board, which is a Crown agency, as to the prosperity of the western provinces, the Prairie Provinces especially. Our income as farmers are so much dependent on what this Crown agency decides for us, and this pertains to pricing as well.

Then also the Grains Council, it's a newly established organization, I think should also receive the attention of this committee and probably the - what is the other one called, the Board of Grain Commissioners? Certainly we've had some Acts passed in the Federal House that should be looked into by this committee to see what the result could be in this province as a result of its passing. No doubt this legislation will have far-reaching effects the same as the other legislation that was passed in connection with co-operatives, and I think marketing boards and so on. I feel these are matters that are of very great importance and that this committee should take it to hand and report back on, because if they are detrimental then we should make representation to the Federal Government to have them improved or remove the parts that are detrimental.

The resolution before us instructs the committee to hold hearings, farmers, farm organizations, and other interested parties. I feel this is good. I think it should be valuable. We should get the reaction. We should have two-way communication so that whatever we do in here, we know whether we have the support of the farm people in this or not.

So I will support the resolution, and I do hope when the Minister of Finance is authorized to pay the bills that there will be money to pay them.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member from Souris-Killarney.

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. I haven't spoken on agriculture today and I think that I'll only be saying a few words regarding this resolution. Last Wednesday, the first of July, when the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Olson, attended Glenboro, he informed us at that time that the final meeting dealing with the Task Force would be held in Ottawa in November, and while we know this is only four months away, I understand the final meetings of the type of meetings that have been held are going to be held in August, so they can prepare the final report for the Minister here and submit it to the Minister in time for his concurrence.

Now, I don't know how these meetings dealing with the Task Force can really be of any benefit if we are going to sit here until the 1st of August. There won't be hardly sufficient time for this. I would think that the best method would be to get together after the other groups submitted their reports and deal with it on that basis, but that will be up to the committee and I am not one of the members on that committee although I am interested, as the Honourable Member from Rhineland has just mentioned.

Now, I think there are two very important things that need to be studied and I would like you to add these. One is the alternative delivery point, the alternative delivery point that each individual producer will be allowed to use this coming year. Another one is protein grading, because I think if anything needed study it is protein grading in the Province of Manitoba, because I think this will really have great effects on the farmers in Manitoba. With the exception of south-western Manitoba, I can see great difficulties with the rest of the farmers in the Province of Manitoba coming up with high enough protein requirements to meet the demands of future.

(MR. McKELLAR cont'd.)

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that is about all I have to say. I am glad that you are going to deal with the Farm Machinery Act. I think it is long overdue. There was much work done. I was on that committee at the time and I hope that you can give serious consideration to alternative delivery points. I know what's going to happen on many of the rural railway lines. They are presently on the side off the main line, and I know in our area, which is 20 miles away from Brandon, everybody is going to use Brandon as the alternative delivery point, and I know from past experience they have at least a three bushel quota and we have one, and I can see great difficulties. Many of us in our small points might lose out, and this would be very serious because of the high cost of farming at the present time. My voice is getting squeakier and squeakier, so I think it's about time I sat down.

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

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Member from Birtle-Russell, that the House do now adjourn.

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

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Yeas and Nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

MR. GREEN: Does the honourable member have support for a Division?

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

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the rules require three members to rise in their place at one time.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Bilton, Craik, Einarson, Ferguson, Froese, Girard, Graham, Henderson, Johnston (Sturgeon Creek), Jorgenson, McGill, McKellar, Moug, Sherman, Spivak, Watt, Weir, and Mrs. Trueman.

NAYS: Messrs. Allard, Barrow, Borowski, Burtniak, Cherniack, Evans, Fox, Gonick, Gottfried, Green, Jenkins, Johannson, Johnston (Portage la Prairie), McBryde, Mackling, Pawley, Petursson, Schreyer, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, Uskiw and Uruski.

MR. CLERK: Yeas, 18; Nays, 23.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion lost.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I was paired with the Honourable the Minister of Youth and Education. Had I voted, I would have voted in favour of the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question on the motion of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I don't intend to speak at great length in closing debate. I simply want to make a couple of observations emanating from remarks from the opposite side. Two members of the opposition were quite consistent this evening, the Member for Arthur and the Member for Roblin, consistent only in the area of misrepresentation of facts which I'm not going to bother to delve into at this point. I must give a bit of credit to the Member from Morris and the Member for Birtle-Russell for sticking a little closer to the truth.

MR. WATT: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, did my honourable friend say that we had misrepresented facts?

MR. USKIW: Well, when my honourable friend was in the House a few moments ago, or a while ago, he indicated something about we met at 2:00 o'clock on Friday and midnight tonight and all this sort of thing, and he was as accurate about that as he was about LIFT and everything else over the last three or four months . . .

MR. WATT: Tell us about LIFT.

MR. USKIW: . . . and as accurate about that as to the question of when the subject matter of the Committee on Agriculture to sit and to hear representations on matters referred to in this resolution. I want to point out to my honourable friends opposite that this resolution was before the House for a very long time. That members opposite saw fit to keep adjourning or standing the debate on that resolution. The Member for Arthur is one of them, and then to have the audacity to come here this evening and suggest that it's midnight and we're introducing a resolution on agriculture, it's a little bit more than the average person wants to pay any attention to.

(MR. USKIW cont'd .)

Now the Member for Morris and the Member for Birtle-Russell did add something more positive to the debate in that they recognized that there was a great deal to learn from this kind of a study, that the House would benefit from having some discussion with the people in agriculture, whether they be farm people or in the services to the agricultural community, that indeed this is probably a good idea.

I simply want to point out to members opposite that one of the reasons why I took very lightly the resolution which was before us earlier, the resolution which was placed on the Order Paper by the Member for La Verendrye, the reason I took that resolution very lightly, Mr. Speaker, is because of its content. Members opposite ought to appreciate the fact that that resolution asks this committee to sit and discuss problems of agriculture with Mr. Runciman, with the Grains Council, etc., and so forth, the same people which have been very much involved in the so-called LIFT Program that my honourable friend is objecting to, and what nonsense it would have been for the Agricultural Committee of this province to waste their time listening to the same people that made their views known in representations to the Government of Canada long before now on this very question. Seriously, Mr. Speaker, one could not take that too much to heart.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Would the Honourable Minister permit a question? Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture if he has made his views known to the Minister of Agriculture federally?

MR. USKIW: I want to say to my honourable friend opposite that we have always had a line of communication. We don't always agree; there are very significant differences of opinion between Manitoba's approach and that of the Federal Government, one of them being . . .

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I would ask him then why are we in the mess agriculturally that we are now?

MR. USKIW: That's very simple, Mr. Speaker, because over the years we've had no planning in agriculture. For a hundred years there's never been a national policy either by Conservative or Liberal administrations federally and provincially. There has never been a dovetailing of policies between provincial governments and federal governments. I don't want to . . .

MR. F. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which is my last supplementary question, and I ask: what is his policy?

MR. USKIW: My honourable friend ought to read Hansard. He can go back to 1966 if he likes or he can read the pages out of this particular session and the one we held last fall, and he might find that there are some very important revelations. But I'm not going to take the time of this House this evening to answer questions to my honourable friend who knows absolutely nothing about the subject matter.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: All I know is people are suffering because of agriculture in this province.

MR. USKIW: That's right.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: And you've done nothing about it.

MR. USKIW: Ah, my honourable friend says we haven't done anything. We have done more . . .

MR. F. JOHNSTON: You've done nothing about it.

MR. USKIW: We've done more insofar as provincial capacity goes than my honourable friends opposite would have dared to do in any one year. I'm not going to . . .

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Tell me there are farmers happier now than they were before.

MR. EVANS: On a point of order, is the member entering in the debate?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order. I know of no rule that allows an honourable member to interject in that way.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to you, Sir, but not to him.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I'm not looking for any apology, I can assure you of that. I appreciate the corner from where it comes, the area from where this kind of innuendo comes, and we'll let it go at that.

I simply want to say that it is true that there are some deadlines with respect to consideration of the whole problem of agricultural adjustment, and one of the unfortunate things about that is the fact that the Government of Canada wants to move apparently very quickly into the adjustment process and they have set a target date of November for the calling of another

(MR. USKIW cont'd.) agricultural congress which is going to deal with the specific recommendations of the Task Force on Agriculture. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, it is important that we do become very busy over the next few months to try and ascertain what the feeling is in Manitoba so that the Government of Manitoba can more properly reflect that feeling and more properly put its case before the Government of Canada, and indeed in time to influence at least to some degree the subsequent legislation that I'm sure will be forthcoming.

There's just one other item I'm going to mention, Mr. Speaker, that will only take me a minute, and that is contained in this resolution is one important aspect and that has to do with problems and opportunities for rural adjustment and development. My honourable friend didn't think that was important. I happen to think that's one of the most important which will likely take more than one year to conclude. With that I want to thank members opposite.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would entertain a question? Is there a genuine possibility that the farmers who have been unable to seed because of weather conditions this spring will be obtaining some kind of compensation from the Manitoba Government?

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to just direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture before the question is put. Would the Minister indicate if he did present a submission to Ottawa in regard to Operation LIFT, and if he did, what was . . .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I hate to even respond to such an incredible question.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Attorney-General speaking in this House referred to a submission by the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the honourable member a question?

MR. WATT: Yes, I'm asking did he present a submission to Ottawa in regard to Operation LIFT?

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the honourable member had placed that question.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, will you call Bill No. 146, and this will be the last bill that we'll call.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading, Bill No. 146. The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Selkirk) presented Bill No. 146, An Act to amend The Municipal Act, for second reading. (Referred to Municipal Affairs Committee)

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, these are changes to the Municipal Act which have already been dealt with originally when we were dealing with Bill 39 in committee stage. These particular changes are required due to the fact there may be a gap between the actual proclamation of Bill 39 and the present, so that these changes may be written into the present Act prior to the passage of Bill 39.

They relate to first the question of debentures and spells out that a municipal corporation issuing debentures may pay a higher rate of interest than the maximum rate -- will not be able to charge a higher rate of interest than the maximum rate thereof that is approved by the Municipal Board. At the present time the ceiling is 8 percent; this ceiling is being lifted under this amendment.

The second amendment deals with the question of cemeteries. There have been recently some -- (Interjection) -- at this late hour of the night it's good to speak in a morbid sense. There have been some recent legal difficulties that have arisen due to the fact that a cemetery upon transferring ownership to various plots within that cemetery have had difficulties in respect to the assessment of taxation; the taxation has been assessed against the individual plots. This provision spells it out very clearly that despite the transfer in respect to ownership to the plots in question, the ownership for purposes of taxation assessment will remain

(MR. PAWLEY cont'd.) with the cemetery itself, entire cemetery rather than with the individual plots.

The third change relates to personal property, and rather than personal property being charged at the full 100 percent assessment value as at present, in the future the personal property shall be assessed at two-thirds value.

Three major changes. They've all been presently discussed in the committee stage and been written into the old Act.

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

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, -- (Interjection) -- at least. No, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to speak 40 minutes on this bill. Sir, the question regarding the cemetery plots and what have you is right and this should have been done a long time ago. I think there's nothing wrong with that part of the bill. With regard about the two-thirds part of the taxation on buildings, this was agreed to in the Municipal Affairs Committee.

There's just one part that I am concerned about. I'm not that overly concerned about it because the Municipal Board has the right at the present time to approve or disapprove any application for a municipality to make a loan or sell debentures for monies received for the benefit of the community. There is just one item and I will question this in Committee, Sir, that the Municipal Board under this Act, the way it reads - it reads just a little bit funny to me - that they will have, the Municipal Board will have the opportunity to approve or disapprove any loan. Now this is being done at the present time because of the discount rates or the market rate of money, and the municipalities and cities at the present time are not able to sell debentures at the present market rate so they're having to go a little higher and make discounts. I don't agree with this, Sir. I think that they should have an authority to come to. The Municipal Board can approve or disapprove at the present time, but this particular bill does give the Municipal Board really a little more authority than I'd like to see them have, in that if a city or a municipality were going to the market, at the market price they could still say no. Now I'm not too sure whether the bill reads this way or not, but if it is going to give the Municipal Board more control over the municipalities while they are still going at the market rate, I cannot agree with it. But I will discuss this in committee. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In speaking to this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, I want to voice an opinion that I have expressed in this House before. I've said it repeatedly that the time has now come, in fact it's long overdue when we should have a complete look at the assessment picture at the practices in this province. I have urged that a tax structure committee be set up to study the whole problem of assessment with representation from the municipal people, and I would also like to see people from the school boards on that committee. I don't believe that a piecemeal approach to the question of assessment by taking little dabs here and little dabs there is going to solve the problem, and while this may be a matter of expediency, I don't think that in essence we are really solving anything as far as the question of assessment is concerned.

I do agree with the part dealing with the lifting of the ceiling on municipal debentures, but on the question of assessment I would like to see the whole picture studied and a complete new approach taken to the problem of assessment rather than just nibbling away as is done in this particular bill.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister for 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 9:30 Tuesday morning.